

THE GOOD LIFE?



COUNTERINTUITIVE

IT IS MORE
BLESSED TO

give

THAN TO
RECEIVE.

ACTS 20:35

“The idea that giving away money and possessions equals happiness is a paradox. Human reasoning says that spending money on ourselves is in our best interest – and to a degree, that’s true. We all need food to eat, a place to live, clothes to wear. But once our basic needs are met, money can easily stop helping us and start hurting us.”

Randy Alcorn – “Giving is the Good Life”

SURVEY SAYS



Department of Sociology
The University of Hong Kong

Congratulations to Dr Satoshi Araki

Dr Araki's new paper "The Societal Determinants of Happiness and Unhappiness: Evidence From 152 Countries Over 15 Years" has been published in Social Psychological and Personality Science



www.sociology.hku.hk

People who are GENEROUS:

1. Are happier, healthier, have lower levels of depression & anxiety.
2. Are more interested in personal growth, have better relationships.
3. Have longer life expectancy and literally laugh more!

SURVEY SAYS

THE PARADOX OF GENEROSITY



GIVING WE RECEIVE, GRASPING WE LOSE

Christian Smith &
Hilary Davidson

“People rightly say that money cannot buy happiness. But money and happiness are still related in a curious way. Happiness can be the result, not of spending more money on oneself, but rather of giving money away to others ... the data examined here show this to be not simply a nice idea, but a social-scientific fact.”

SURVEY SAYS

Author of *Celebration of Discipline*

RICHARD J. FOSTER

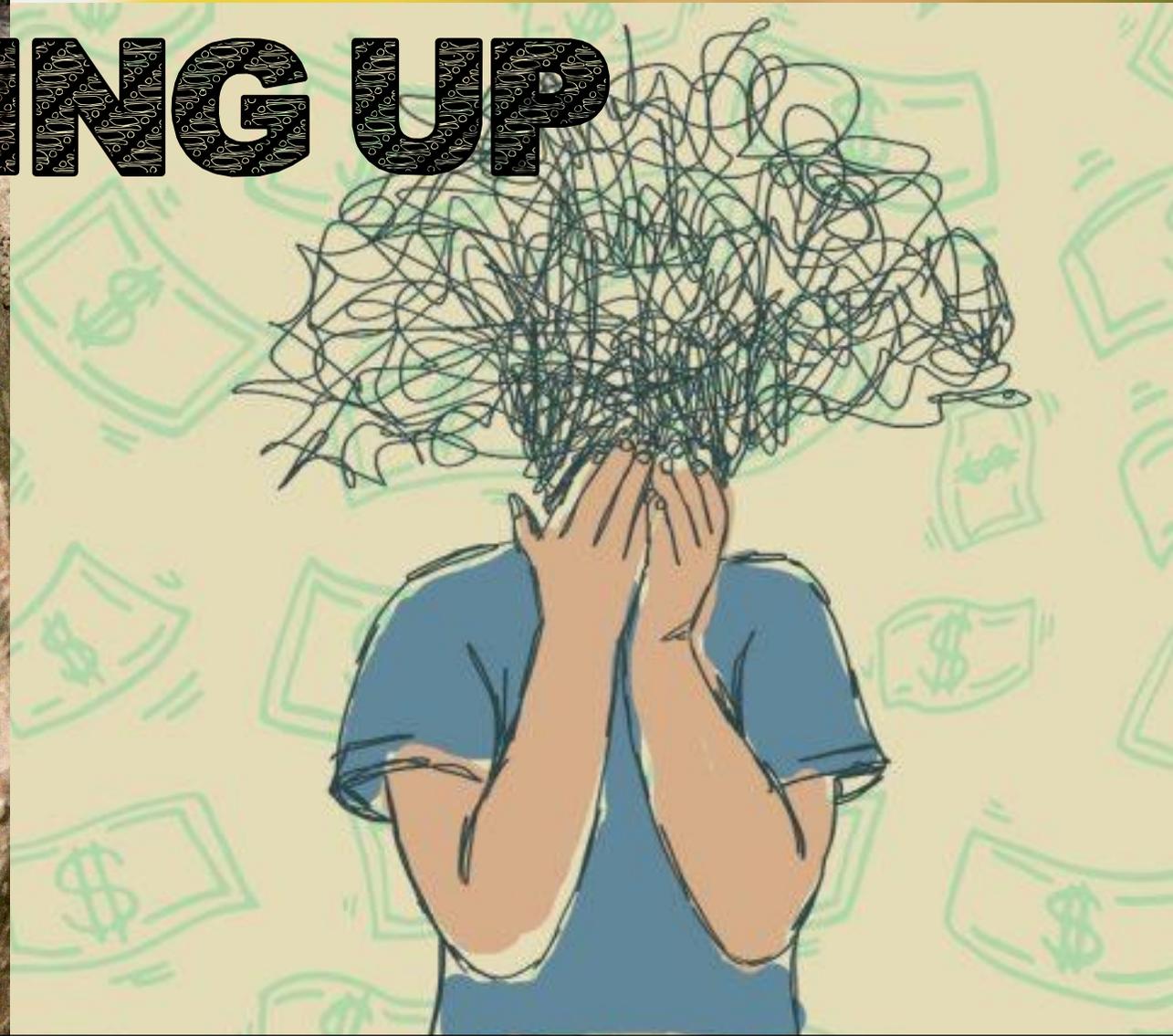
Finding Harmony in a Complex World

FREEDOM
of
SIMPLICITY

REVISED AND UPDATED

“The unreasoned boast abounds that the good life is found in accumulation, that “more is better.” Indeed, we often accept this notion without question, with the result that the lust for affluence in contemporary society has become psychotic: it has completely lost touch with reality.”

STORING UP



“Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure for you in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.”

Luke 12:33-34

ABUNDANCE vs SCARCITY

scarcity thinking

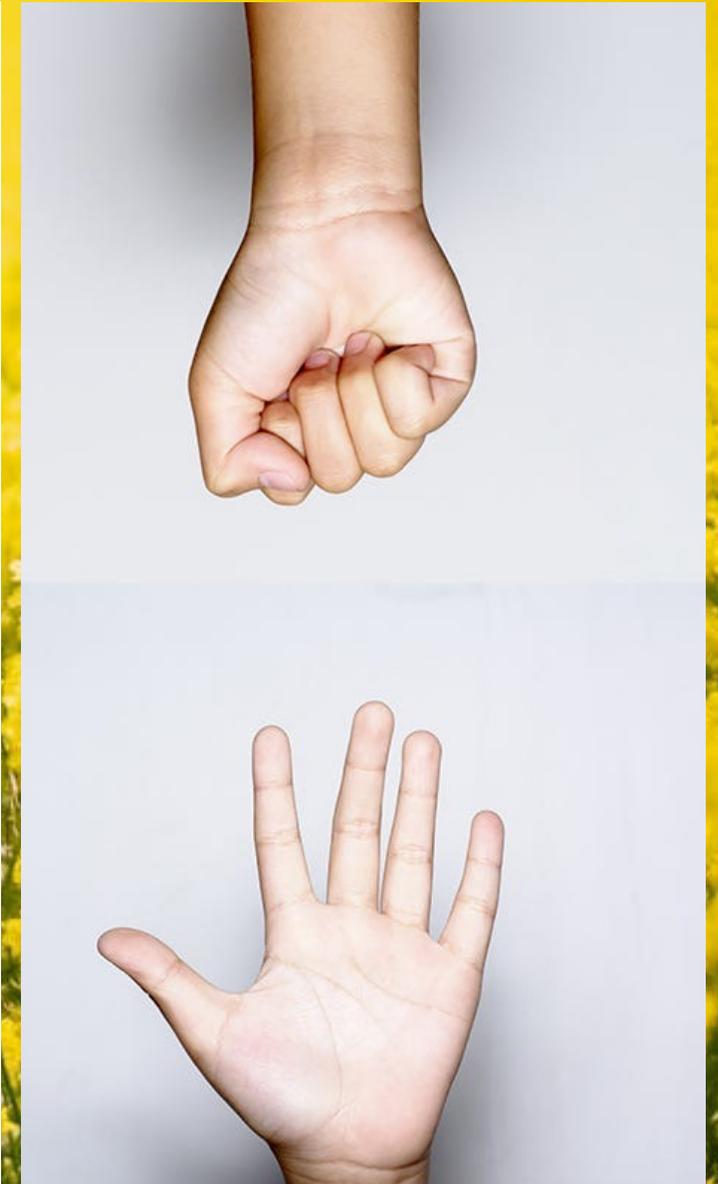
"There will never be enough"

- Competes to stay on top
- Hoards things from others
- Won't share knowledge
- Won't offer help to others
- Suspicious of others
- Resents competition
- Afraid of being replaced
- Believes times are tough
- Believes the pie is shrinking
- Thinks small and avoids risk
- Fears change

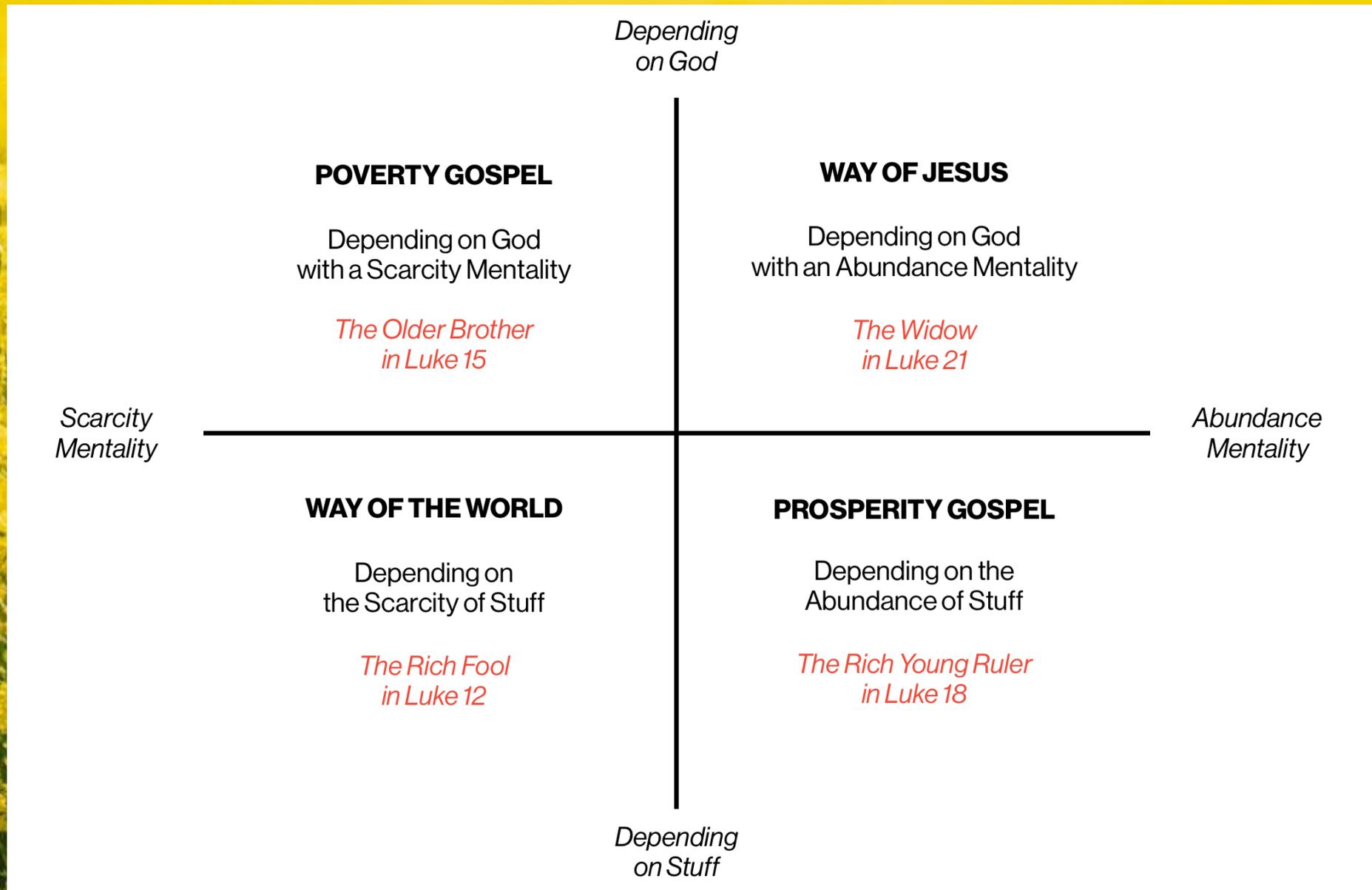
abundance thinking

"There will always be more"

- Collaborates to stay on top
- Generous with others
- Shares knowledge
- Freely offers help to others
- Trusts and builds rapport
- Welcomes competition
- Strives to grow
- Believes the best is yet to come
- Believes the pie is growing
- Thinks big and embraces risk
- Takes ownership of change



ABUNDANCE vs SCARCITY



TWO MASTERS



“Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected. In the wilderness God gave Israel the manna every day, and they had no need to worry about food and drink. Indeed, if they kept any of the manna over until the next day, it went bad. In the same way, the disciple must receive his portion from God every day. If he stores it up as a permanent possession, he spoils not only the gift, but himself as well, for he sets his heart on accumulated wealth, and makes it a barrier between himself and God. Where our treasure is, there is our trust, our security, our consolation and our God.

Hoarding is idolatry.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945)

The Cost of Discipleship

**YOU CANNOT
SERVE BOTH
GOD AND MONEY***

- JESUS -

“The love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. And some people, craving money, have wandered from the true faith and pierced themselves with many sorrows.”

1 Timothy 6:10

OUR FATHER'S WORLD

THAT IS WHY I TELL YOU

not to worry

ABOUT EVERYDAY LIFE—WHETHER
YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOOD AND DRINK,
OR ENOUGH CLOTHES TO WEAR.

MATTHEW 6:25



If a person gets
his attitude
toward money
straight, it will
help straighten
out almost every
other area in his
life.

Billy Graham



GENEROSITY DARE

Exercise: A spontaneous act of generosity

- Set aside a specific amount of money. It can be a little or a lot, whatever you decide. But before you name an amount, pause and open your heart to God and see if a number comes to mind.
- Take cash out of an ATM to carry with you, or earmark the amount in your debit account to have ready when the right opportunity comes.
- Ask God to give you an opportunity to bless someone.
- Then, just keep your eyes open.

We're not trying to solve global poverty or be heroic in this practice, but to tap into the outflow of the Trinity's generous love to all.

Here's a few ideas to spark your imagination:

- Buy someone in line behind you coffee or lunch.
- Anonymously pay for someone's meal.
- Drop off groceries or a gift to someone you know in need or in a time of suffering.
- Send cash digitally to help a friend with medical bills or expenses they can't currently pay.
- Buy a gift for someone to encourage or bless them.
- Give away one of your possessions.

"Generosity is more than giving financially. It's an attitude of love that flows from our hearts into our actions."

SHANA SCHUTTE

