

**POSSESSED OR
POSSESSING?**

POSSESSIONS...

6:48 AM

Bruce Coles

'If you possess something that you can't give away, then you don't possess it, it possesses you'



Ask

How might I follow Anthony's example (and indeed Christ's command), with my money and material possessions this Lent?***

Pause and pray

Am I challenged by Anthony's love for God? Has the fire of my passion for Jesus grown dim? Is the prospect of worship less thrilling than it once was? When Jesus speaks, is my posture open and eager like St Anthony, or reluctant and resistant like that of the rich young ruler? I talk with Jesus honestly now about the state of my heart.

Pause and pray

LENT

What is Lent?

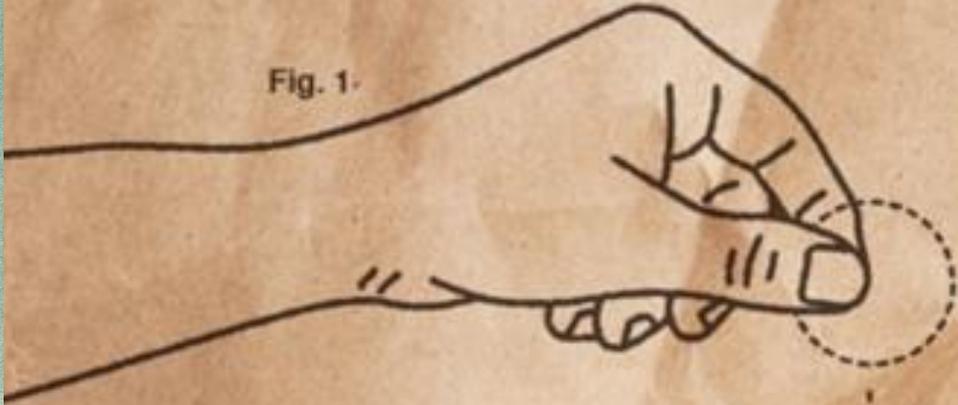
The **40-day period** of Lent commemorates the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying.

Christians from many different theological backgrounds choose to observe Lent as a way of **focusing their thoughts** on Jesus in preparation of **Easter** and the celebration of his resurrection.



HE WENT AWAY SAD

Fig. 1



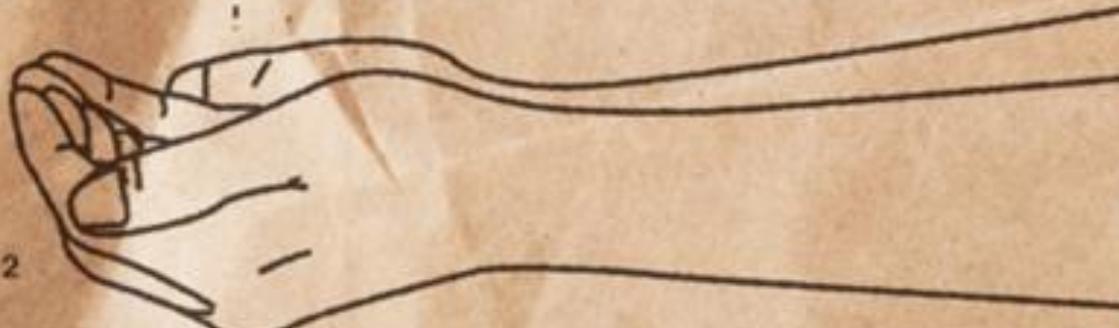
And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him,

YOU LACK ONE THING:	FIG. 1	GO, SELL ALL THAT YOU HAVE
	FIG. 2	AND GIVE TO THE POOR,

and you will have treasure in heaven;
and come, follow me.

Mark
10:21

Fig. 2



ABANDONING LESSER GODS

DO NOT STORE
UP FOR
YOURSELVES
TREASURES ON
EARTH.

Matthew 6:19

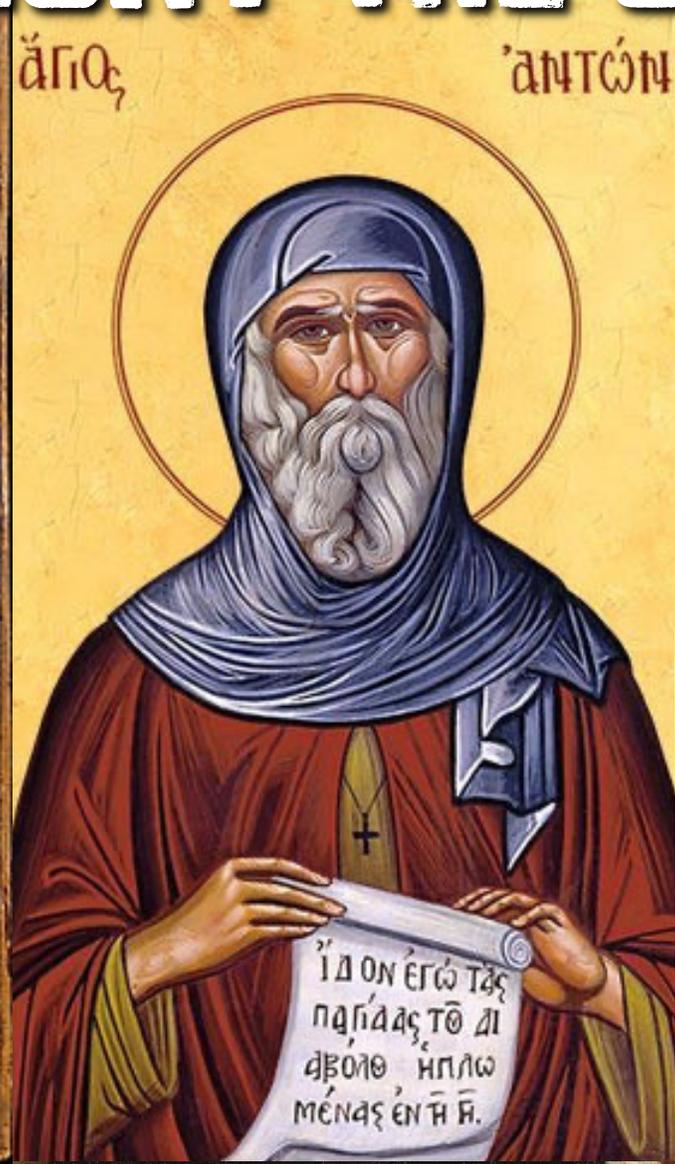


"THE GOD OF THE
BIBLE IS TOO LOVELY
TO ABANDON FOR
LESSER PURSUITS."

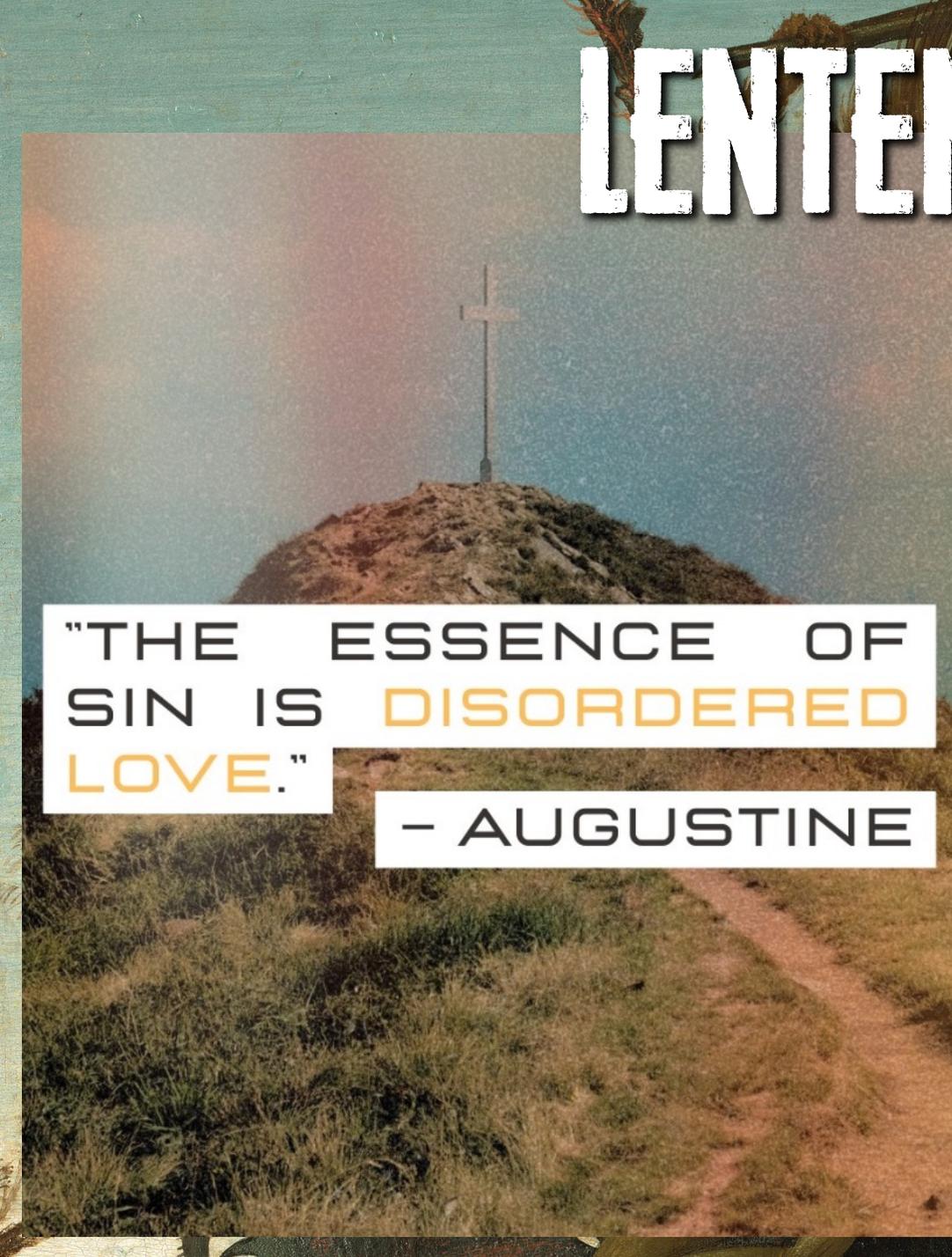
- Jen Wilkin

WHAT WOULD I HAVE A HARD TIME GIVING UP IF JESUS ASKED ME TO?
WHAT DO I POSSESS THAT ACTUALLY POSSESSES ME?

ANTHONY THE GREAT



LENTEN CHALLENGE



"THE ESSENCE OF
SIN IS DISORDERED
LOVE."

- AUGUSTINE

"WHAT THING IN MY LIFE, ASIDE FROM YOU, DO I LOOK TO FOR COMFORT, IDENTITY, & PROTECTION?"

Then lay it down...

- If it's money - give more than feels safe.
- If it's relationships - spend daily time in solitude.
- If it's your time - serve where it costs you something.
- If it's power - volunteer under someone in a menial role.
- If it's pleasure - fast from the things that bring it.

Not because those things are evil. But because the freedom that God brings is better... Whatever you give up, redirect it.

- If you fast media - spend your time in pray and study instead.
- If you fast spending - give instead.
- If you fast comfort - serve instead.