

COUNTER CULTURE

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



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The Heart of Anger and the Priority of Repentance

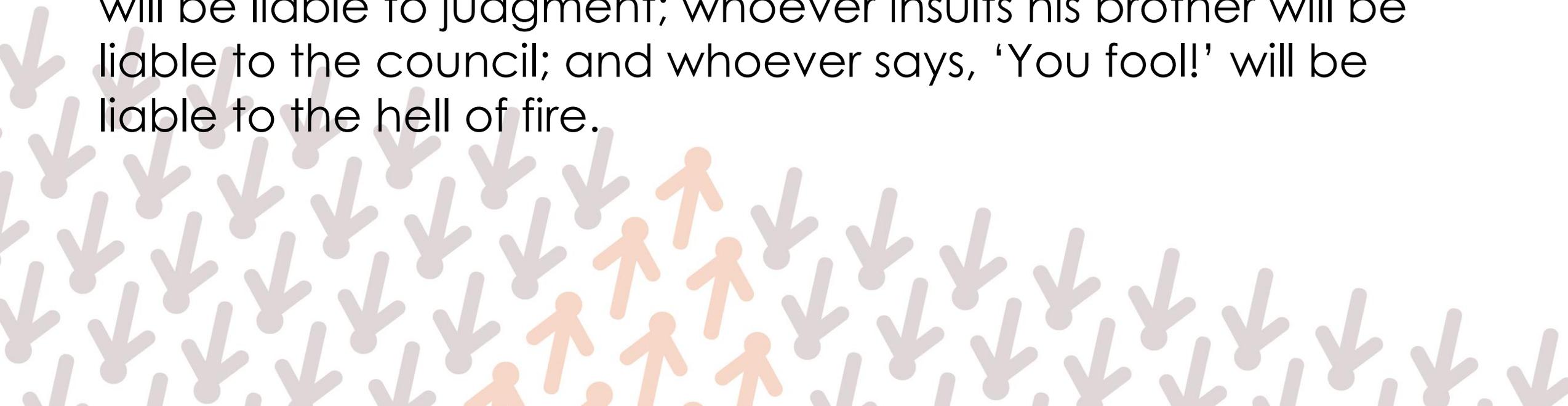
Matthew 5:21–26



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21 “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

22 But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire.



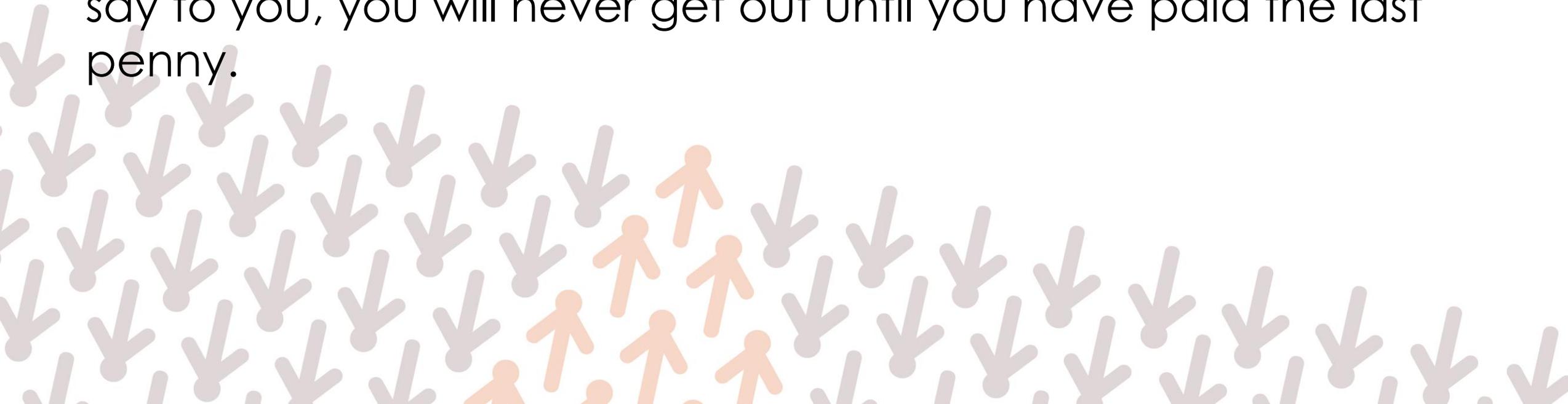
Matthew 5:21–26

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.



Matthew 5:21–26

²⁵ Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. ²⁶ Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.



1. Recognize that sin begins in the heart (5:21–22)

²¹ “You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’

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James 3:9

With the tongue we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.



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2. Make relational repentance a radical priority (5:23–24)

²³ So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you,

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Cain in Genesis 4

4:5 “So Cain was very angry”

4:7 “sin is crouching at the door... you must rule over it”

4:8 “Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him”

4:11 “now you are cursed”

4:16 “Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD”



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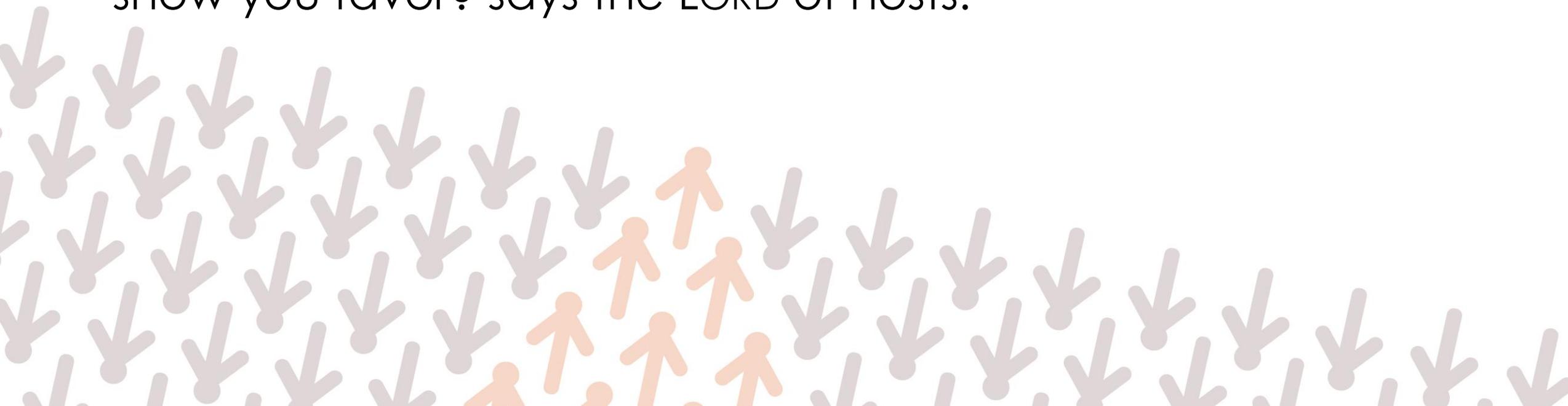
“How many of our churches would or should be temporarily emptied if these commands were taken seriously?”

—Craig Blomberg



Malachi 1:8–10

⁸ When you offer blind animals in sacrifice, is that not evil? And when you offer those that are lame or sick, is that not evil? Present that to your governor; will he accept you or show you favor? says the LORD of hosts.



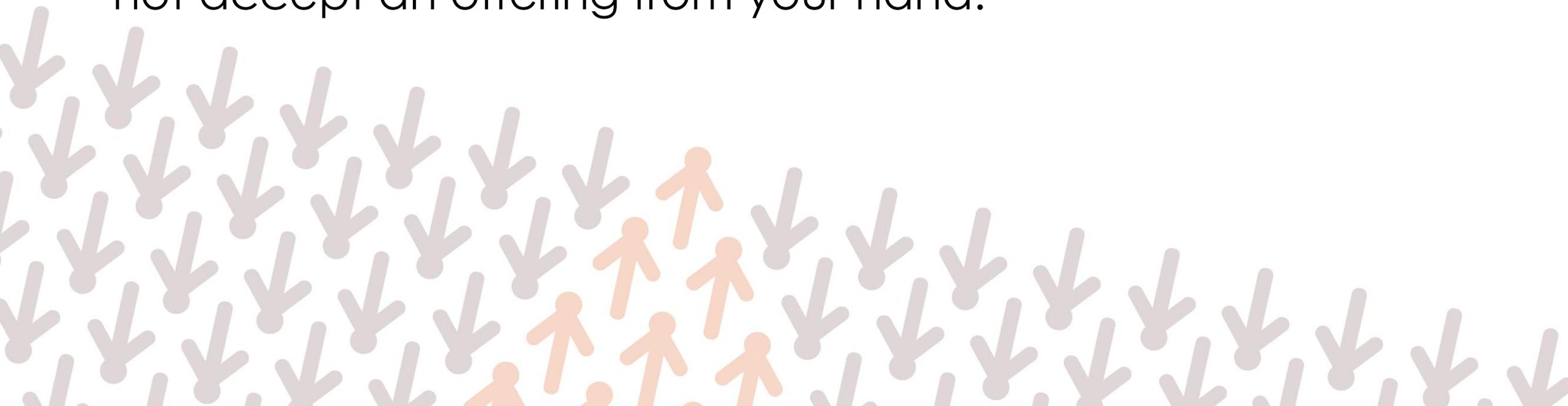
Malachi 1:8–10

9 “And now entreat the favor of God, that he may be gracious to us.” With such a gift from your hand, will he show favor to any of you? says the LORD of hosts.



Malachi 1:8–10

¹⁰ Oh that there were one among you who would shut the doors, that you might not kindle fire on my altar in vain! I have no pleasure in you, says the LORD of hosts, and I will not accept an offering from your hand.



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Psalm 51:16–17

¹⁶ For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it; you will not be pleased with a burnt offering. ¹⁷ The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.



3. Pursue reconciliation with special urgency (5:25–26)

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Proverbs 18:19

A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city,
and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.



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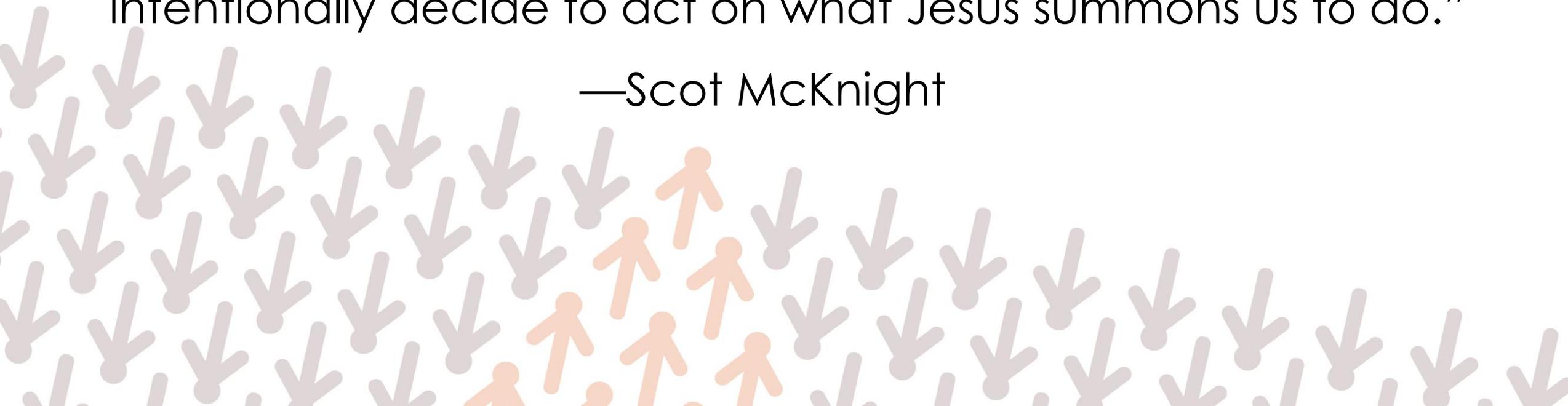
1. Recognize that sin begins in the heart.
2. Make relational repentance a radical priority.
3. Pursue reconciliation with special urgency.



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“The hard work is acting on the intention and then living with the tension that is created by the action, but there is no way to create reconciled relations with those around us until we intentionally decide to act on what Jesus summons us to do.”

—Scot McKnight



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