

An Implication of The Gospel of the Kingdom

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6-6-2021

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As I continue on my journey of maturing as a son, I'm more and more drawn by Father into understanding that our life in the Kingdom is all about being **home** in his family

That's Father's perspective

AND

That's the essence of the Gospel of the Kingdom – coming back into Father's family, not salvation from sin and punishment



**The 'Parable of the
Prodigal Son'**
*(or 'the prodigal father' as I
like to call it)*

**It's all about the
concept of living in
Father's family as
sons**

**The parable is not about
salvation from sin**

Get ready to hear about
'The gospel of the goat'

This is the gospel that many believers live by and they miss out on much of what the Kingdom has for them

Listen to or read what Rob Bell says about this wonderful family parable

Ignore what he has to say about HELL or you'll miss the message in the parable

SUNDAY TIMES BESTSELLER

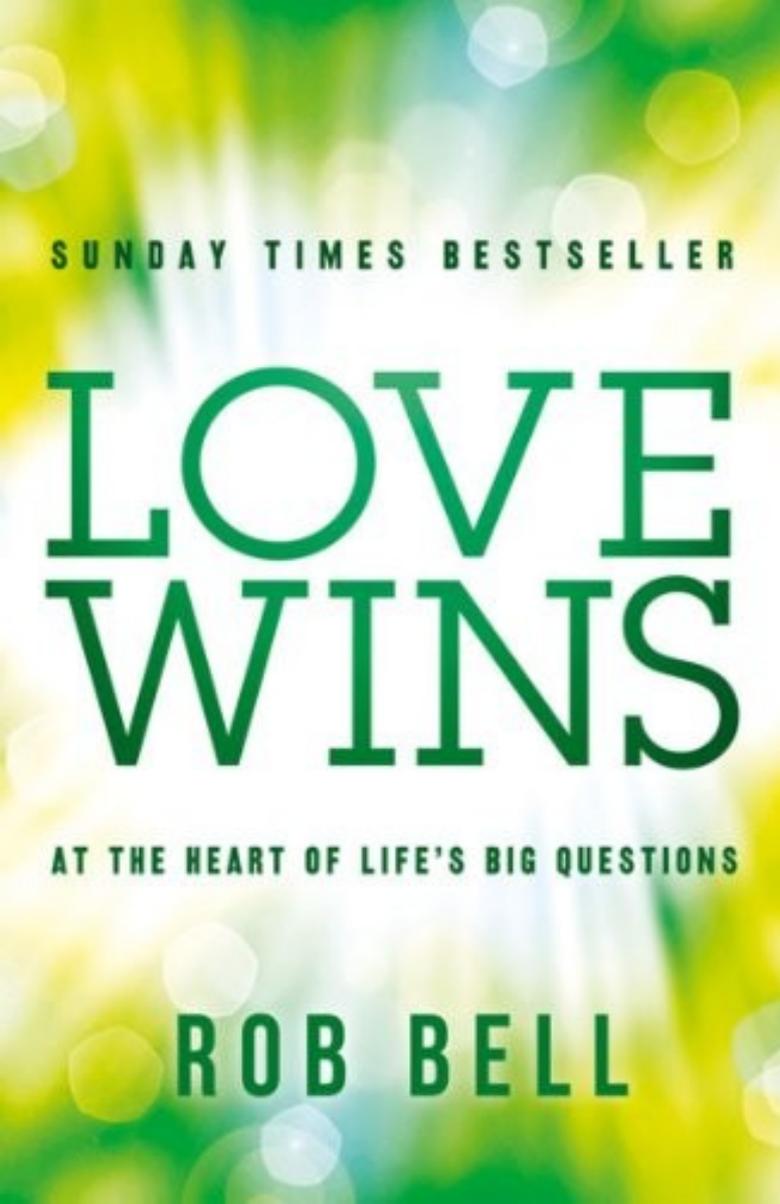
LOVE WINS

AT THE HEART OF LIFE'S BIG QUESTIONS

ROB BELL

Chapter 7 *(chapter 8 on audio)*





Chapter 7

Listen to it by buying the audiobook



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‘The Gospel of the Goat’ is the wrong belief that believers have about Father and the Gospel they live under.

Here's what Rob Bell says about this error in reasoning...

“There is another truth here, beyond heaven and hell and anxiety and violence. It is a truth at the heart of the gospel, a truth both comforting and challenging, both healing and unnerving. →

→ Each brother has his own version of events, his own telling of his story. But their stories are distorted, because they misunderstand the nature of their father - we've seen that. →

→ But there's another reason their stories aren't true, a reason rooted less in the nature of God, and more in the sons' beliefs about themselves. →

→ The younger brother believes that he is cut off, estranged, and no longer deserves to be his father's son, because of all the terrible things he's done. His badness is his problem, he thinks. →

→ He's blown the money on meaningless living until he was face down in the gutter, dragging the family name through the mud in the process. He is convinced that his destructive deeds have put him in such a bad state that he doesn't even deserve to be called a son any more. →

→ Now, the older brother believes that the reason he deserves to be a son is because of all of the good he's done, all of the rules he's obeyed, all of the days he's "slaved" for his father. His goodness is to his credit, he thinks. →

→ The younger brother's wrongs have led him away from home, away from the family, deep into misery. This is true. His sins have separated him from his father. →

→ The second truth, one that is much more subtle and much more toxic as well, is that the older brother is separated from his father as well, even though he's stayed home. His problem is his "goodness". His rule-keeping and law-abiding confidence in his own works has actually served to distance him from his father. →

→ What we learn in his speech to his father is that he has been operating under the assumption that his years of service and slaving were actually earning him good standing with his father. →

→ He thinks his father loves him because of how obedient he's been. He thinks he's deserving because of all the work he's done. He thinks his father owes him. Our badness can separate us from God's love, that's clear. But our goodness can separate us from God's love as well. →

→ Neither son understands that the father's love was never about any of that. The father's love cannot be earned, and it cannot be taken away. It just is. It's a party, a celebration, an occasion without beginning and without end. It goes on..."

We must completely comprehend life
in Father's family

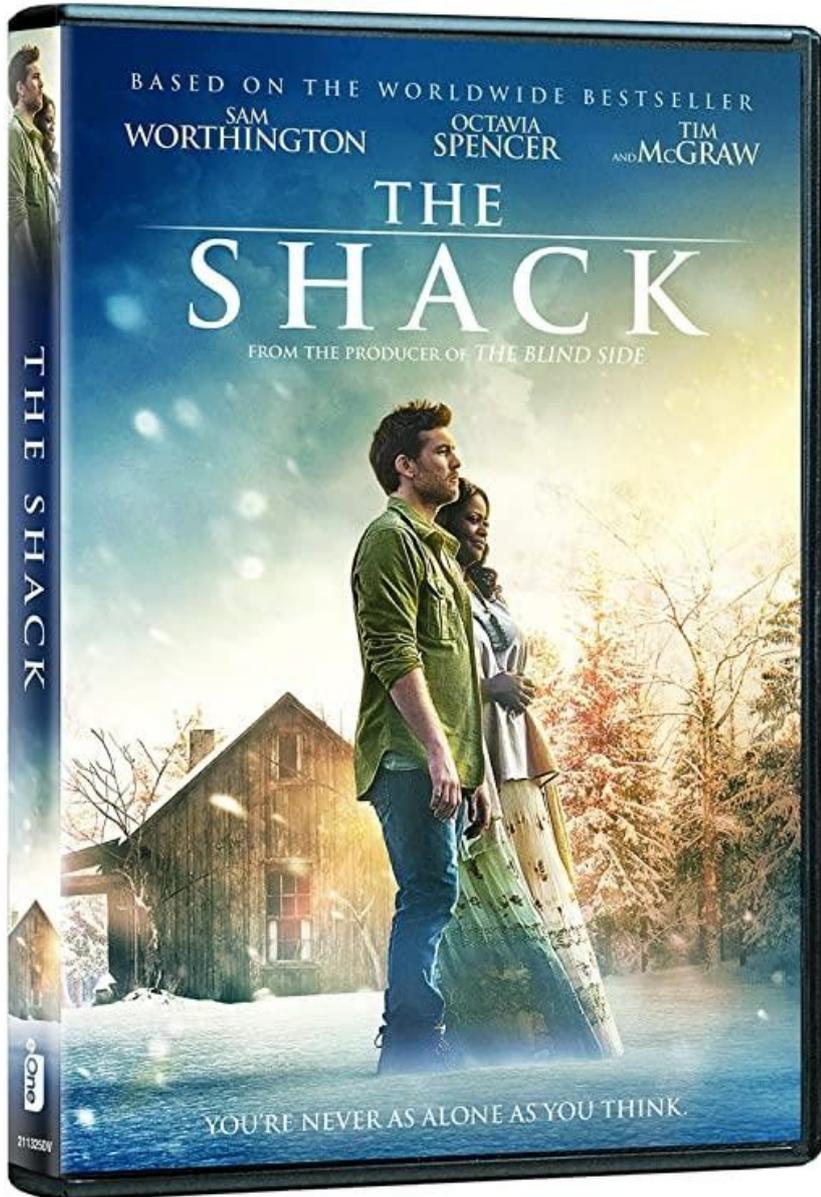
That's the only way we can live it to
the full

We must see the joy, benefits and the family
"party" or we short-change ourselves

Religion has stifled the benefits of
the Kingdom for us and we need to
get them back

If we don't, we won't be able to present the right invitation to others to join us

We also won't be able to properly encourage believers who are struggling with life



The Shack really brings out the joy and pleasure of being in Father's family

It's worth watching the movie again just to get a taste of that enjoyment

So what's the implication in the
Gospel of the Kingdom?

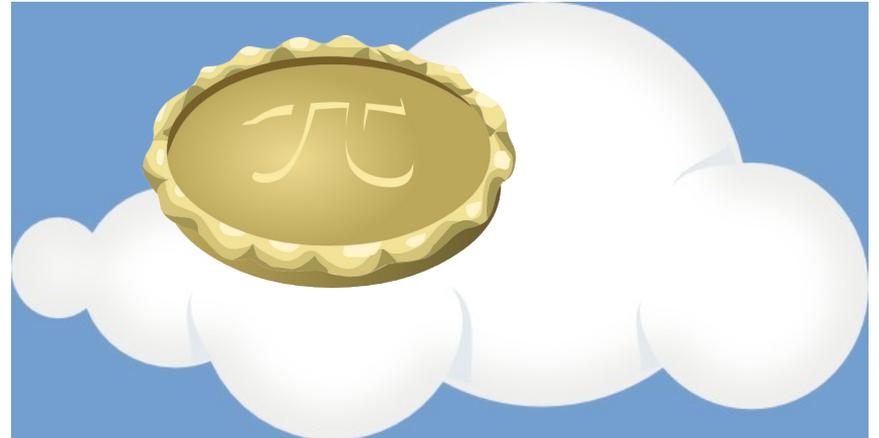
What's implied or suggested as
naturally inferred or understood with
this Gospel?

It's the great benefits, here and now, that the Trinity want to give us access to – if we let them



Steak on the plate
right now

Not pie in the sky
when we die



On top of that, the wonderful
reality that we need to
comprehend is this...



**We're
Home**



Relax...
Breathe...
...Enjoy life

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