



NO MAN IS AN ISLAND ENTIRE OF ITSELF;  
EVERY MAN IS A PIECE OF THE CONTINENT,  
A PART OF THE MAIN;  
IF A CLOD BE WASHED AWAY BY THE SEA,  
EUROPE IS THE LESS,  
AS WELL AS IF A PROMONTORY WERE,  
AS WELL AS A MANOR OF THY FRIENDS  
OR OF THINE OWN WERE;  
ANY MAN'S DEATH DIMINISHES ME,  
BECAUSE I AM INVOLVED IN MANKIND.  
AND THEREFORE NEVER SEND TO KNOW  
FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS;  
IT TOLLS FOR THEE.

-JOHN DONNE (MEDITATION XVII)

THE WORD COMMUNITY  
GENERALLY EXPRESSES A CERTAIN SUPPORTIVE AND NURTURING  
WAY OF LIVING AND WORKING TOGETHER. WHEN SOMEONE SAYS,  
"I MISS A SENSE OF COMMUNITY HERE; SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE  
TO BUILD A BETTER COMMUNITY," SHE OR HE IS PROBABLY SUFFERING  
FROM ALIENATION, LONELINESS, OR LACK OF MUTUAL SUPPORT  
AND COOPERATION.





THE DESIRE FOR COMMUNITY  
IS MOST OFTEN A DESIRE FOR A SENSE OF UNITY,  
A FEELING OF BEING ACCEPTED,  
AND AN EXPERIENCE OF AT-HOMENESS.



IT IS THEREFORE NOT STRANGE THAT FOR QUITE A FEW  
CRITICAL OBSERVERS OF THE CONTEMPORARY SCENE,  
THE WORD COMMUNITY HAS BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH  
SENTIMENTALISM, ROMANTICISM, AND EVEN MELANCHOLY.

- HENRI NOUWEN, *COMPASSION*









GOD CREATED MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE,  
IN THE IMAGE OF GOD HE CREATED HIM;  
MALE AND FEMALE HE CREATED THEM.  
GOD BLESSED THEM AND SAID TO THEM,  
"BE FRUITFUL AND INCREASE IN NUMBER;  
FILL THE EARTH AND SUBDUE IT.  
RULE OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA  
AND THE BIRDS OF THE AIR  
AND OVER EVERY LIVING CREATURE  
THAT MOVES ON THE GROUND."

-GENESIS 1:27-28



CREATION - - - ALIENATION - - - INCARNATION - - - REDEMPTION



# CREATION

- SEEING COMMUNITY WITH THE TIDE OUT
- SEEING OUR CONNECTEDNESS





# ALIENATION

- SEEING COMMUNITY WITH THE TIDE IN

- SEEING THE ISLANDS WITHOUT OUR CONNECTEDNESS



INCARNATION

- SEEING COMMUNITY WHILE WALKING IN THE MUD





# REDEMPTION

- SEEING COMMUNITY WITH THE TIDE OUT
- SEEING OUR CONNECTEDNESS AGAIN





HE (JESUS) IS THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD,  
THE FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION.  
FOR BY HIM ALL THINGS WERE CREATED:  
THINGS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH,  
VISIBLE AND INVISIBLE,  
WHETHER THRONES OR POWERS OR RULERS OR AUTHORITIES;  
ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM AND FOR HIM.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20



HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,  
AND IN HIM ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER.  
AND HE IS THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH;  
HE IS THE BEGINNING  
AND THE FIRSTBORN FROM AMONG THE DEAD,  
SO THAT IN EVERYTHING  
HE MIGHT HAVE SUPREMACY.

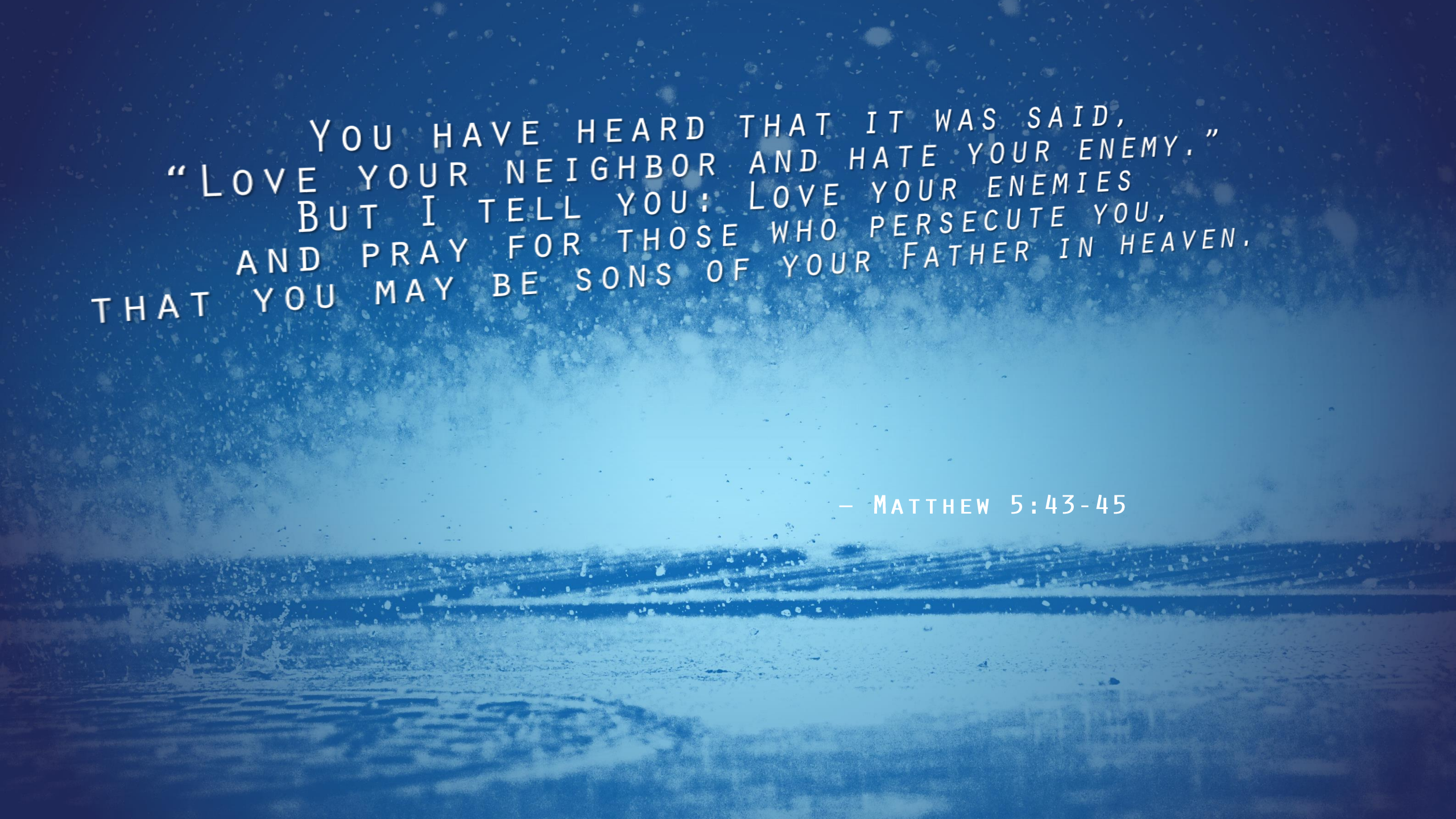
COLOSSIANS 1:15-20



FOR GOD WAS PLEASED TO HAVE  
ALL HIS FULLNESS DWELL IN HIM,  
AND THROUGH HIM TO RECONCILE TO HIMSELF  
ALL THINGS ON EARTH OR THINGS IN HEAVEN,  
BY MAKING PEACE THROUGH HIS BLOOD,  
SHED ON THE CROSS.

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20





YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT WAS SAID,  
"LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AND HATE YOUR ENEMY."  
BUT I TELL YOU: LOVE YOUR ENEMIES  
AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU,  
THAT YOU MAY BE SONS OF YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN.

— MATTHEW 5:43-45



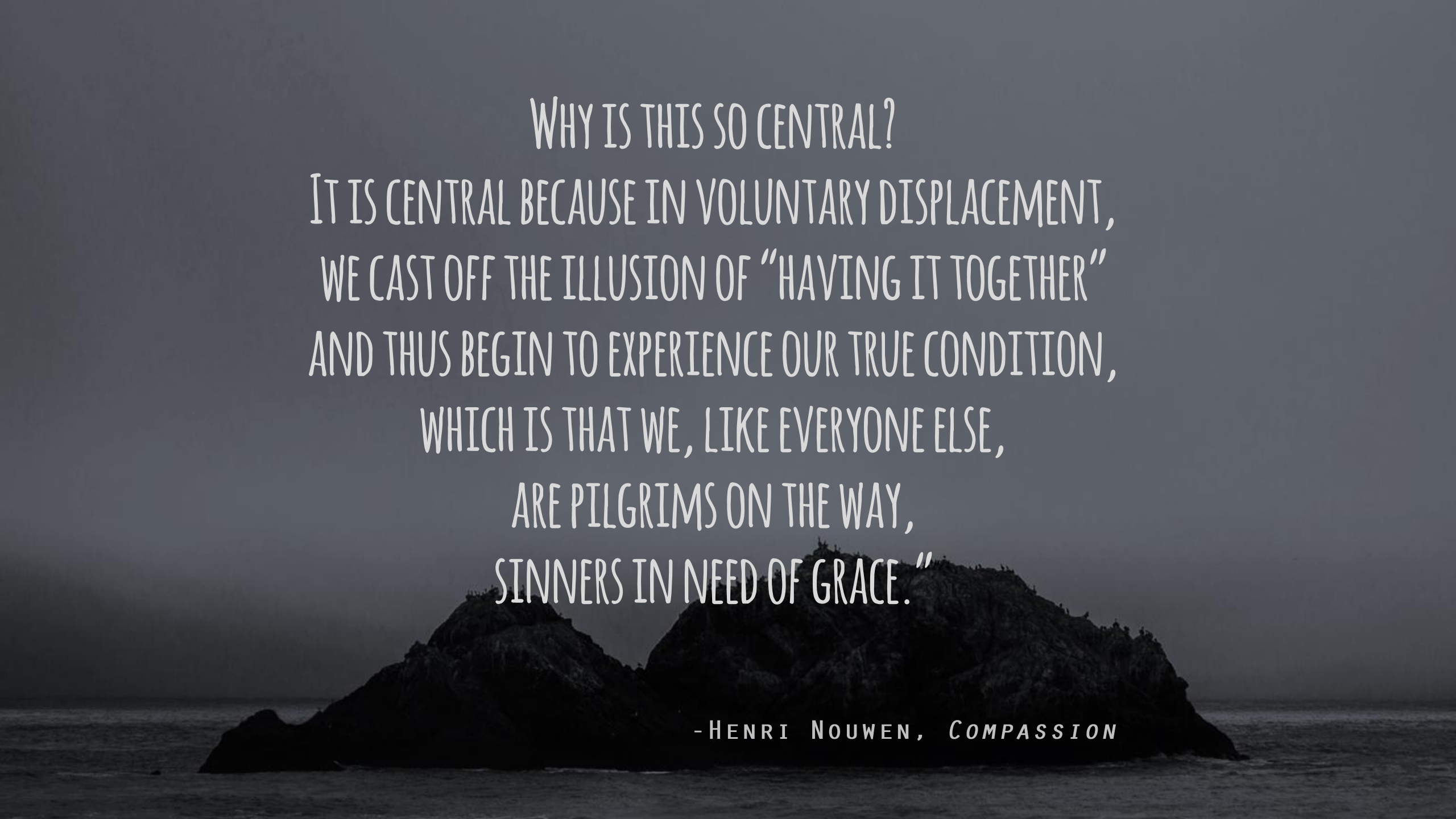
HE CAUSES HIS SUN TO RISE  
ON THE EVIL AND THE GOOD,  
AND SENDS RAIN ON THE RIGHTEOUS  
AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS.

— MATTHEW 5:43-45

"THE PARADOX OF THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY IS THAT PEOPLE ARE  
GATHERED TOGETHER IN VOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT..."







WHY IS THIS SO CENTRAL?  
IT IS CENTRAL BECAUSE IN VOLUNTARY DISPLACEMENT,  
WE CAST OFF THE ILLUSION OF "HAVING IT TOGETHER"  
AND THUS BEGIN TO EXPERIENCE OUR TRUE CONDITION,  
WHICH IS THAT WE, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE,  
ARE PILGRIMS ON THE WAY,  
SINNERS IN NEED OF GRACE."

- HENRI NOUWEN, *COMPASSION*





