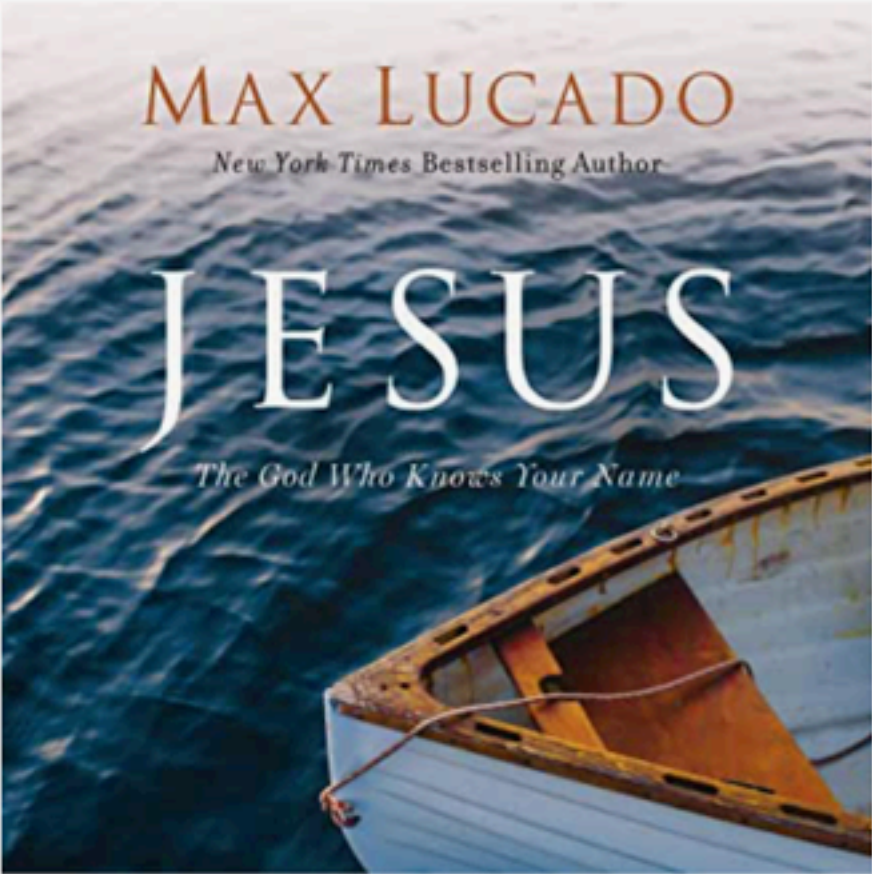


Jesus As (MY) Friend!


March 26, 2023



Amazon



Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name
by Max Lucado, Ben Holland, et al.

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Jesus Wrote My Name...

Chuck Wagon Gang



Luke 10:20b. "Rejoice because your names are written in heaven."



THE BLESSED SAVIOR WROTE MY NAME WHEN I WAS BORN AGAIN, HE WROTE IT WHEN HE SAVED MY SOUL, HE WROTE THAT I HAD MADE RIGHT MY EVER SINFUL WRONG HE WROTE MY NAME ON HEAVEN'S ROLL

(CHORUS)

HE WROTE MY NAME WAY UP IN GLORY. HE SAVED MY SOUL FROM SIN AND SHAME, I NEVER SHALL FORGET THE DAY, THE BLESSED SAVIOR WROTE MY NAME

2. IF I SHOULD LIVE A THOUSAND YEARS UPON THIS EARTH BELOW. I NEVER COULD FORGET THE DAY THAT JESUS WROTE MY NAME WITHIN THE BLESSED BOOK OF LIFE AND TOOK MY MANY SINS AWAY.

Jesus At The Wedding!

Why did Jesus go to the wedding at Cana?

It was because he and his followers were invited to the wedding.
John chapter 2.

I think we can assume that Jesus was a friendly person
and having him at the wedding would be a good thing.



Is Jesus King or Friend?

If Jesus is just king
then we are only
servants.

There is very little
closeness.



Before Jesus' death he
gathered his disciples.

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not
know what his master is doing: but I have called you
friends, for all that I have heard from my father I have
made known to you. John, 15:15



Jesus, The One Who Laid Down His Life For His Friends!

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. John 15:13-14

Medal of Honor recipients
Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig
John Adams and Thomas Jefferson
Paul after Mark (John Mark) had deserted him.

Jesus Is A Friend To Sinners!



I have not come to call the righteous but the sinners. Matthew 9:13.

What About Matthew?



Collecting taxes made him a not well liked character. Jesus calls him and Matthew invites Jesus and his followers to a dinner.

There were many other tax collectors and their friends eating.

The religious leaders criticized him for eating with sinners and tax collectors.

Luke 5:29

I have come to heal the sick. Those who are healthy have no need of a physician.

What Was It Like To Follow Jesus?

Unconventional

The crowds were everywhere.

Friend to those of low reputation.

It was so bad that Peter could betray him.

We expect a Messiah & a government overthrow.

Consider Zacchaeus! Swindler Extraordinaire!



Jesus had perceptibility!

The ability to see beyond the exterior.

Zacchaeus is willing to return...fourfold
anyone whom he had defrauded.

And give half his possessions to the poor.

Jesus Befriends The Lonely! The Woman At The Well!



Why?

What encapsulates the Gospel more than being a friend to someone who has no friends?

Three reasons why a man (an average looking man) would not speak to a woman:

She was a woman.

She was a mixed race person, a Samaritan.

She was an immoral person.

The disciples were surprised to find Jesus talking with the woman but didn't say anything! John 4:4ff

On An Academic Level, We Know This! What Then?

Jesus can be and is OUR friend!

There is not one of us that doesn't need Jesus.

But we are Jesus who befriends the lonely.



Story of drunk who prayed for the Klingons.

Coming Along Side...

It's all rather academic when we read about the woman at the well, or eating with Matthew, or staying with Zacchaeus.

How does it filter down to us?

Jesus has no hands but our hands.

He has no feet but our feet.

He has no money but our money.

There is only one antidote to loneliness & "lostness"!
Friendship.

“Coming Along Sideness”!



Jesus has no hands but our hands
no feet but our feet.

Being receptive to the vulnerable
And being vulnerable...

Risky, dangerous, costly.

Story of woman at Rose Park

Disclaimer

I am not a psychologist!

I do know a little bit about friendship.

And what loneliness is!

And why, drawing near to Jesus is important!

And seeing Jesus as a friend and confidant is essential for the believer.

And...Seeing Jesus in people around us.

*Venue where a person asks if she could be my friend.

There's Not A Friend Like The Lowly Jesus!



There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus:
No, not one! no, not one!
None else could heal all our souls' diseases:
No, not one! no, not one!

Jesus knows all about our struggles;
He will guide 'til the day is done:
There's not a Friend like the lowly Jesus:
No, not one! no, not one!

2

No friend like Him is so high and holy,
No, not one! no, not one!
And yet no friend is so meek and lowly,
No, not one! no, not one!

3

There's not an hour that He is not near us,
No, not one! no, not one!
No night so dark, but His love can cheer us,
No, not one! no, not one!

4

Did ever saint find this Friend forsake him?
No, not one! no, not one!
Or sinner find that He would not take him?
No, not one! no, not one!

5

Was e'er a gift like the Savior given?
No, not one! no, not one!
Will He refuse us the bliss of heaven?
No, not one! no, not one!

Would You Be My Friend?



Why did Mr. Rogers
and his song(s)
resonate with children?



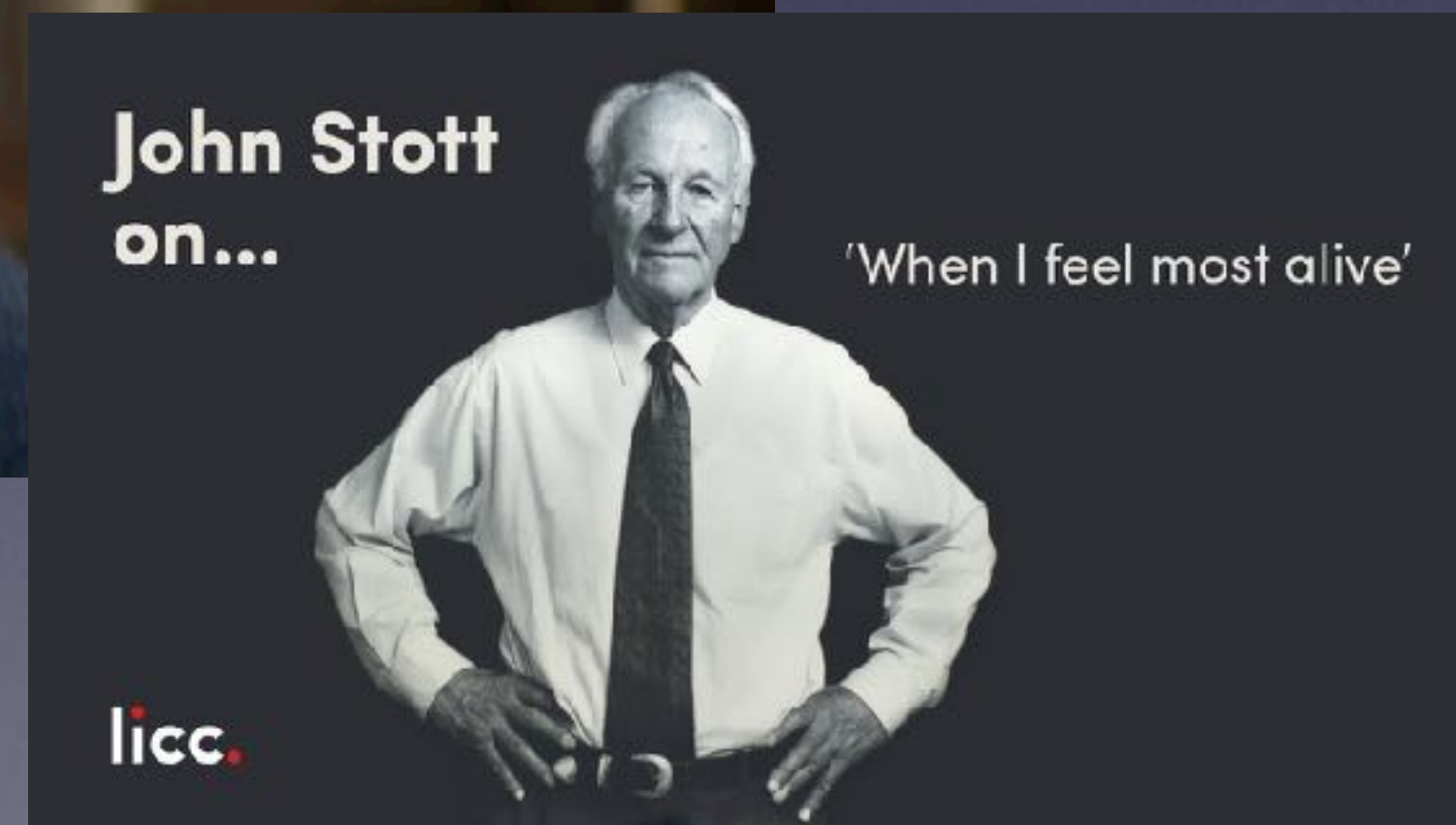
**No One
Dines
Alone!**

“When Do You Feel Most Alive?”



John Stott's response:

Bird watching
Ornithology was in his blood.

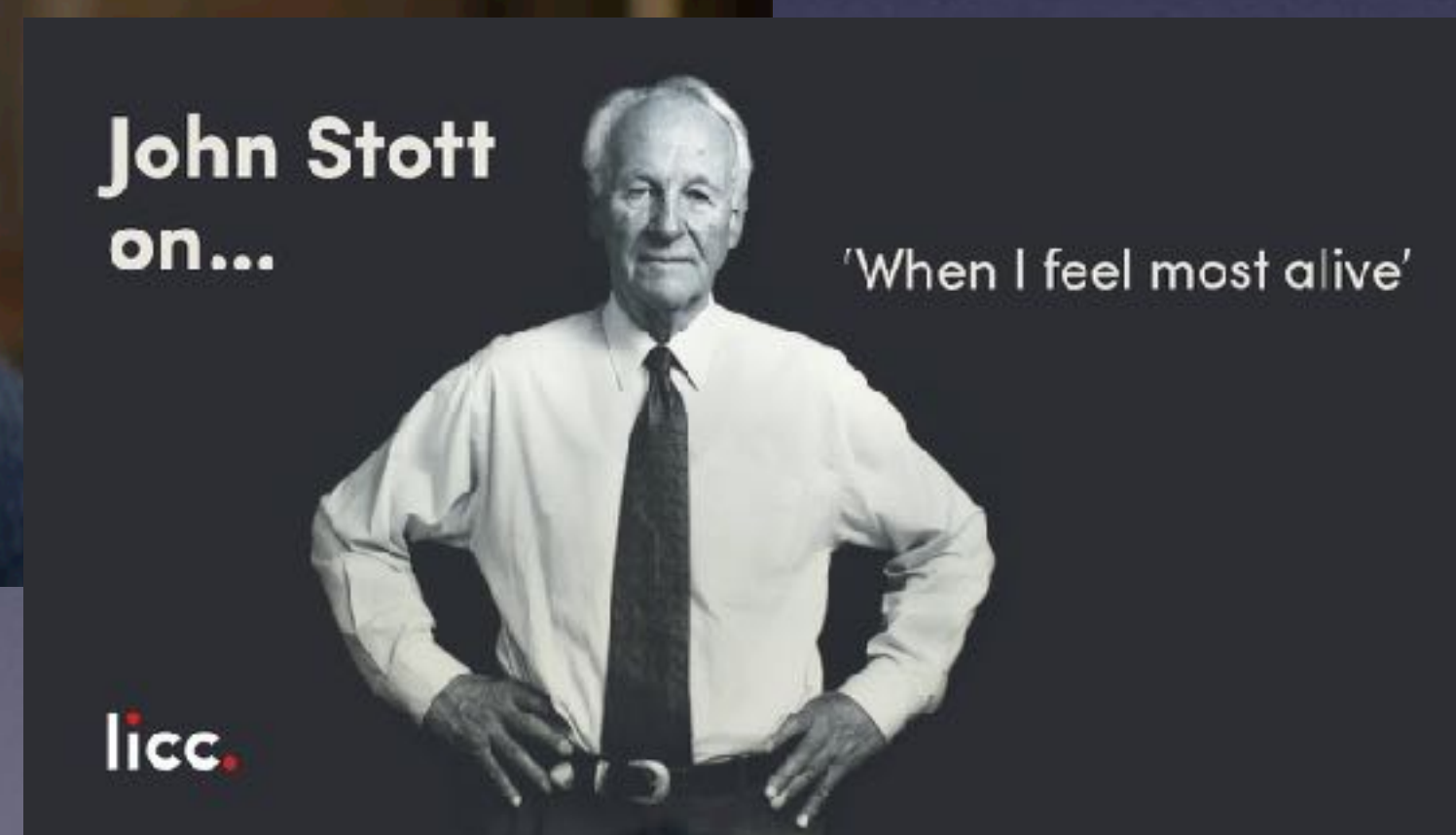
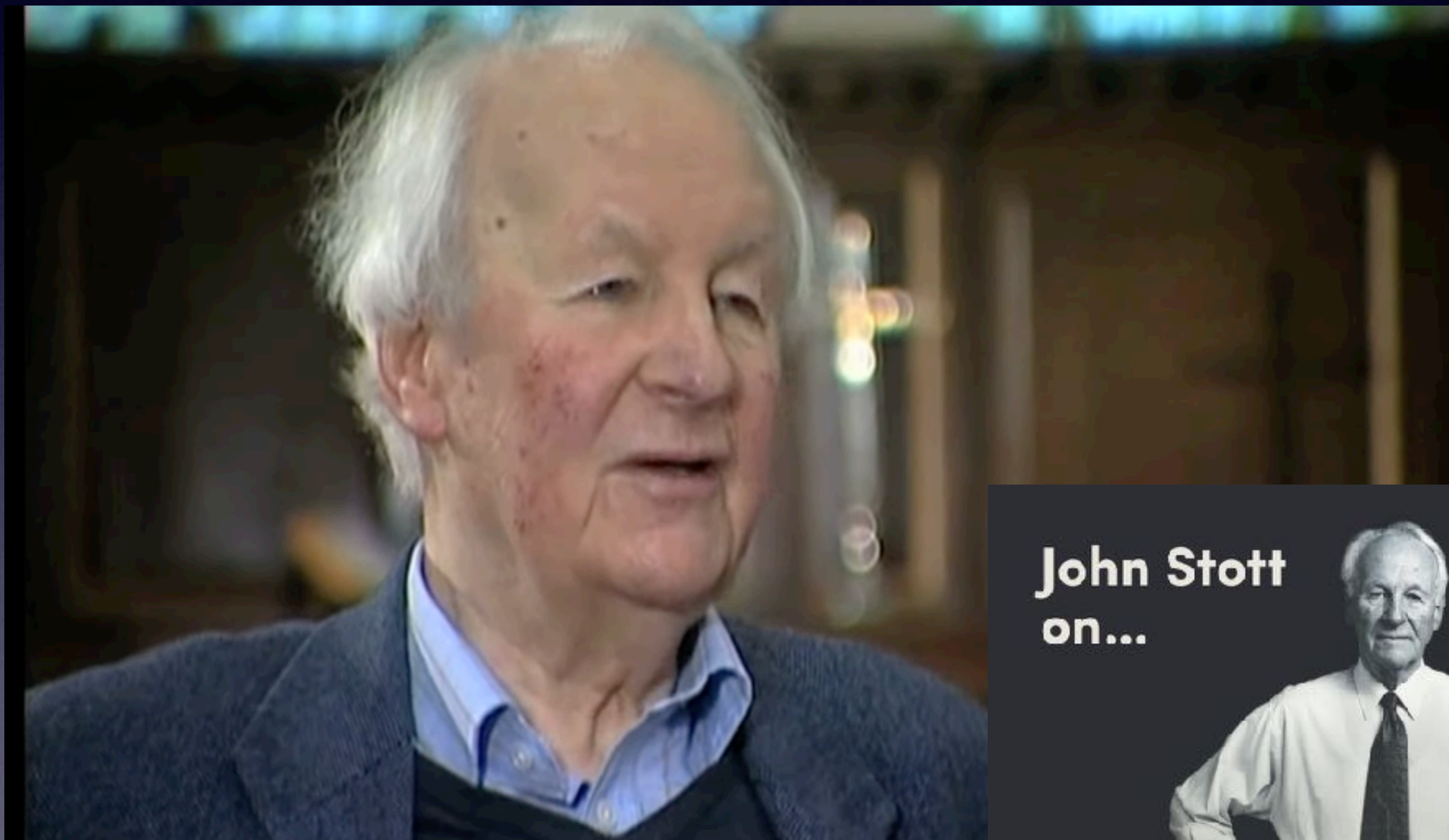


“When Do You Feel Most Alive?”

John Stott's response:

Bird watching

Participating in
public worship.



“When Do You Feel Most Alive?”

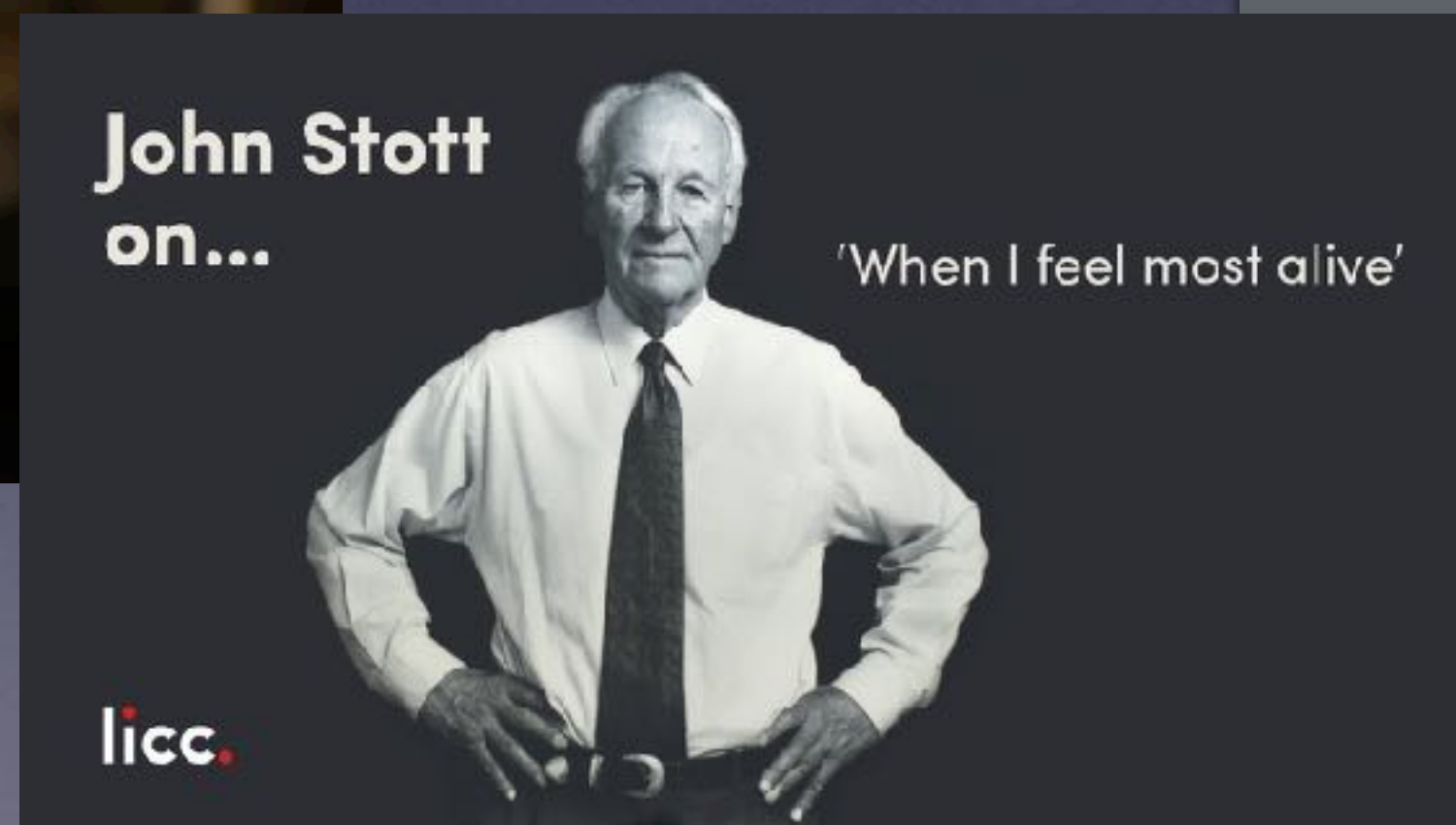


John Stott's response:

Bird watching

Participating in
public worship.

... among friends.



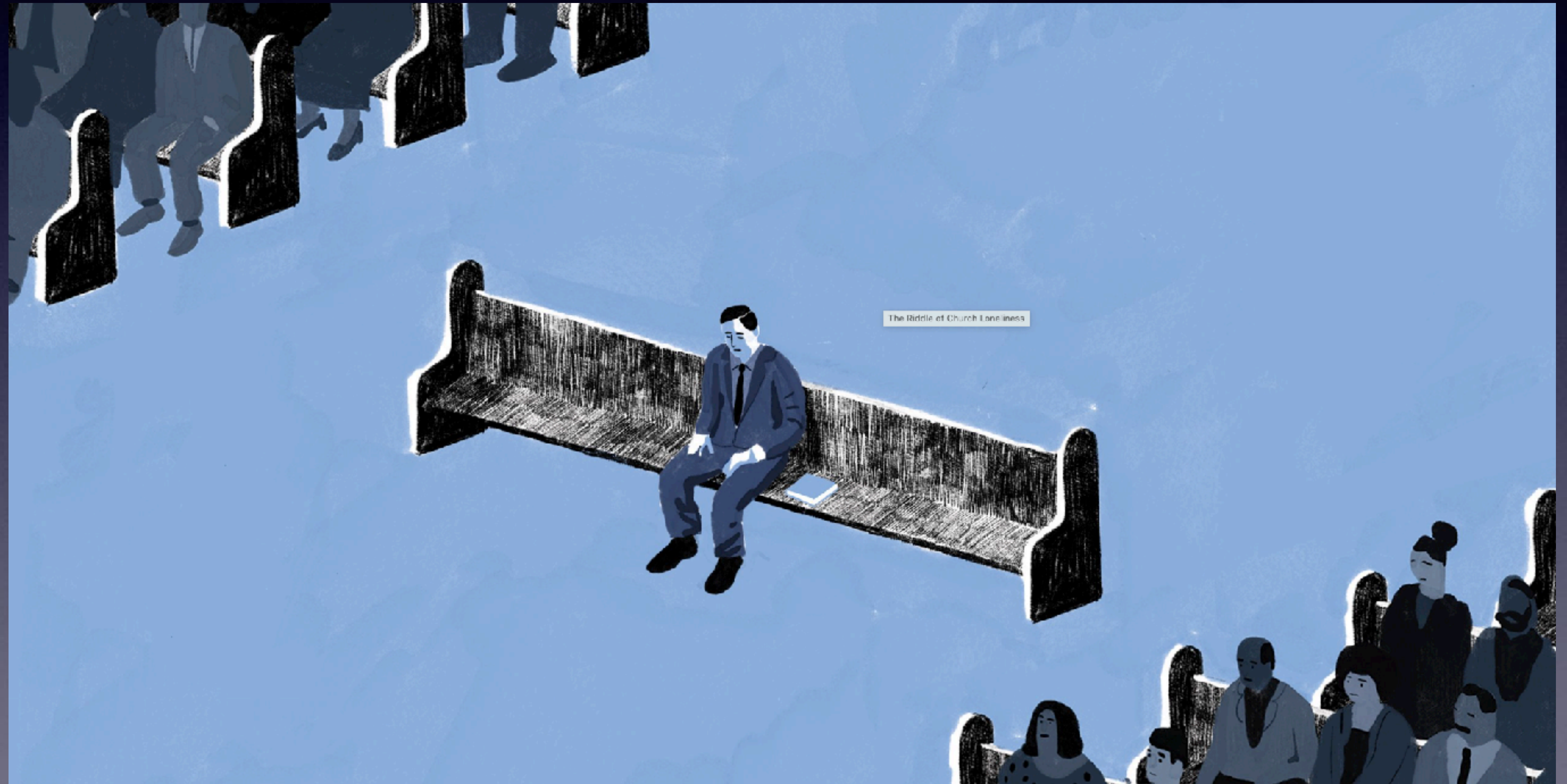
Public Worship For Others.

The Riddle of Church Loneliness

Why were evangelicals as lonesome as everyone else before COVID-19, but less so after?

SUSAN METTES | OCTOBER 19, 2021

Christianity Today



Churches Are Full Of Lonely People!

10 Reasons Your Church is Full of Lonely People

[Anne Peterson](#)

Crosswalk.com Contributing Writer

2017

26 Jul



Why?

People step back when people want to share.

Churches make groups with walls.

Illness makes it difficult for one to connect.

People who are different or who have less feel on the outside.

Divorced people have lost their identity.

Grieving people feel alone even in a crowd.

Even lonely people can cover up with a smile.

Some people are very introverted.

People who are new to church feel that they "stick out"!

The pastor's wife can be a lonely person.

**“I Would Go; But I
Don’t Know Anyone!”**

People Everywhere Are Looking For Friends!

Is loneliness a major reason for suicide?

Is loneliness one of the reasons social media profits so well?

Is violence in our society an outgrowth of loneliness?

Is it one of the reasons churches don't grow?

"I don't know anyone!"

Can church be a lonely place?

Individuals who lose spouses tend to lose friends.

"Can I be your friend?
Would you be my
friend?"

The Ability To Perceive!



If I needed you, would you come to me?
Would you come to me for to ease my pain?
If you needed me, I would come to you.
I would swim the sea for to ease your pain.

Is The “Door” Open To The Stranger?



What would encourage
a stranger to open
these doors?

Song: There's a stranger at
the door! Let him in...

Story of Houssein
“They are going to arrest me.”

Contemplative Worship Style

Roman and Anglican styles of worship
are different from our style.



Dictionary

con·tem·pla·tive | kən'templədɪv | adjective
expressing or involving prolonged thought: *she regarded me with a contemplative eye.*
- involving or given to deep silent prayer or religious meditation: *contemplative* [more](#)

Could it be that the “friend” style
with visiting and greeting may work better?
i.e. Quaker Friends.
“Friendship evangelism”

A Friendship Style!

Before Jesus' death he gathered his disciples.

"No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing: but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my father I have made known to you. John, 15:15



He Walks With Me And Talks With Me!

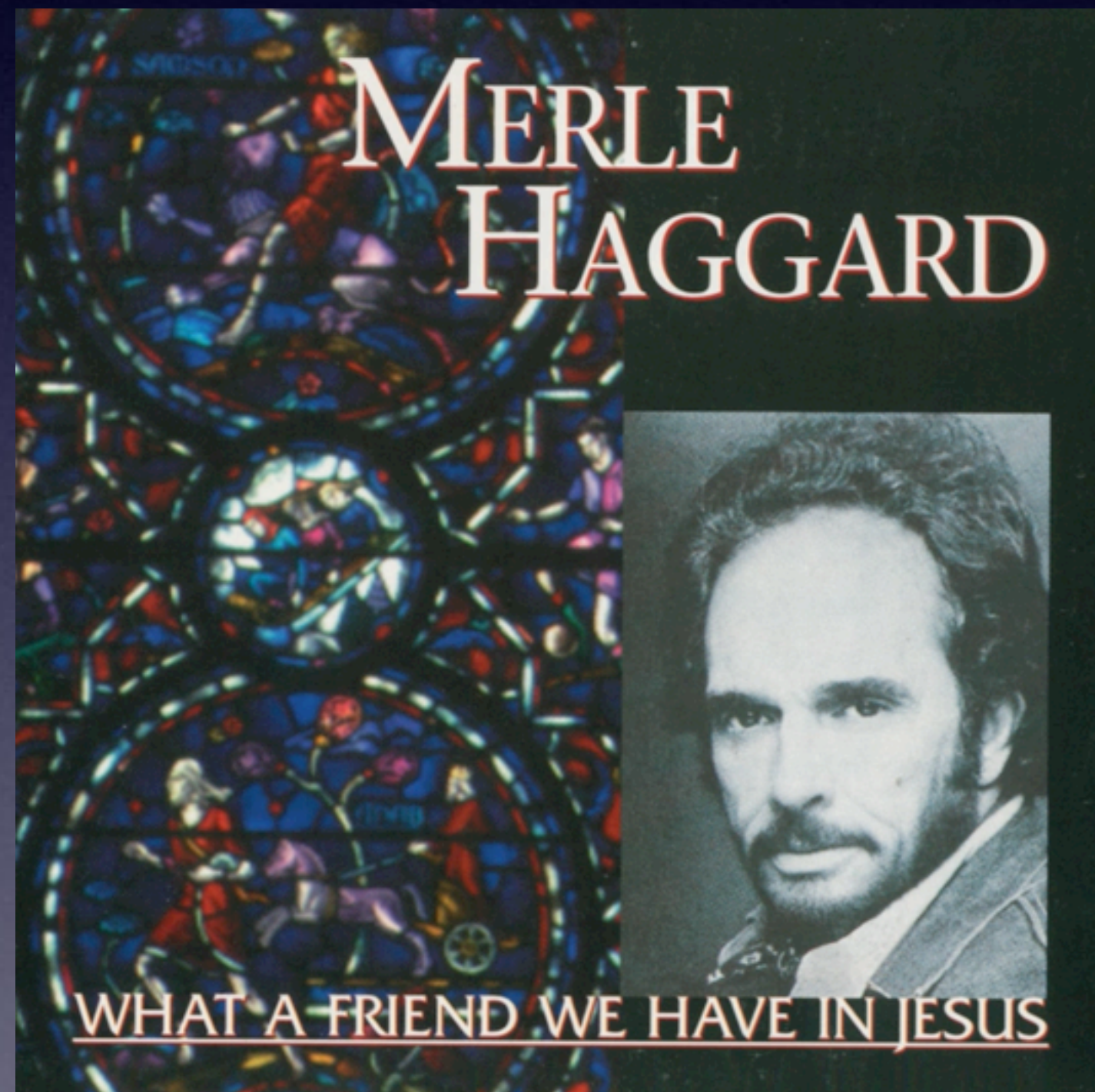
I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; through the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.



Would You Like To Be This Person?



Conclusion

Help us to find Jesus as our source of comfort and solace!

Help us to be You to those around us!

Woman receiving guests at her
husband's funeral...

"This really s___ks!