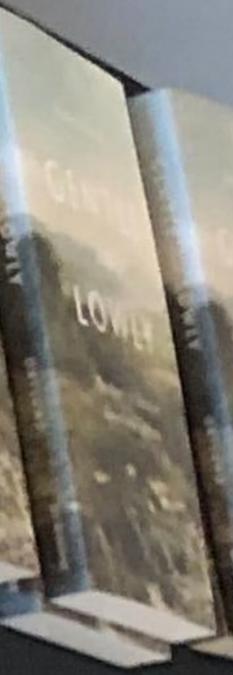
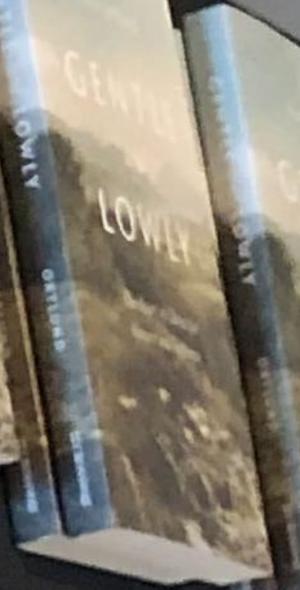
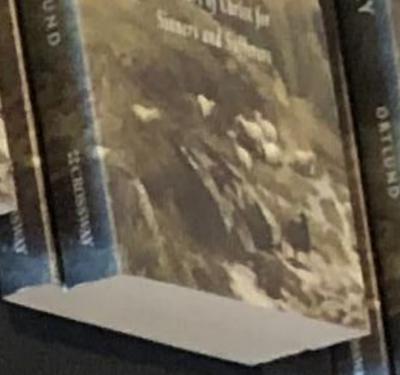
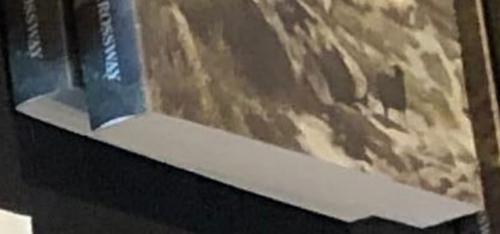
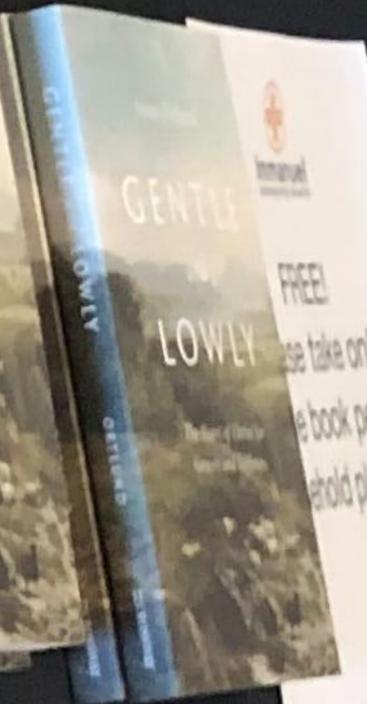
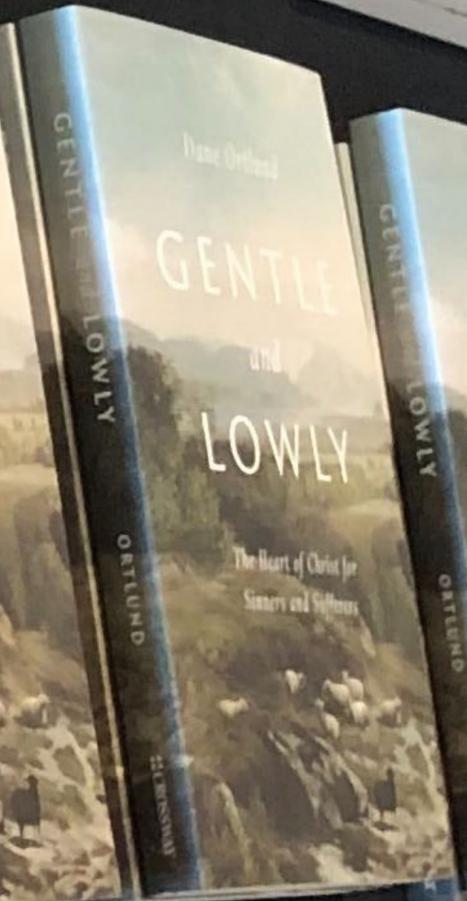
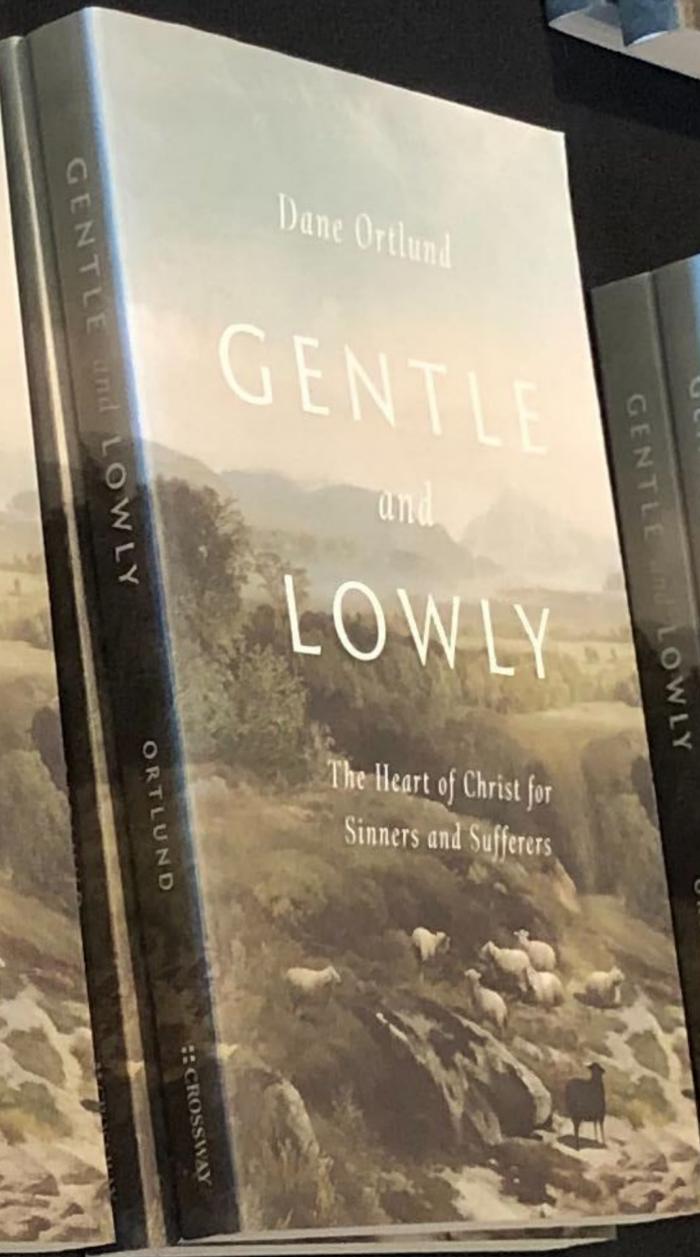
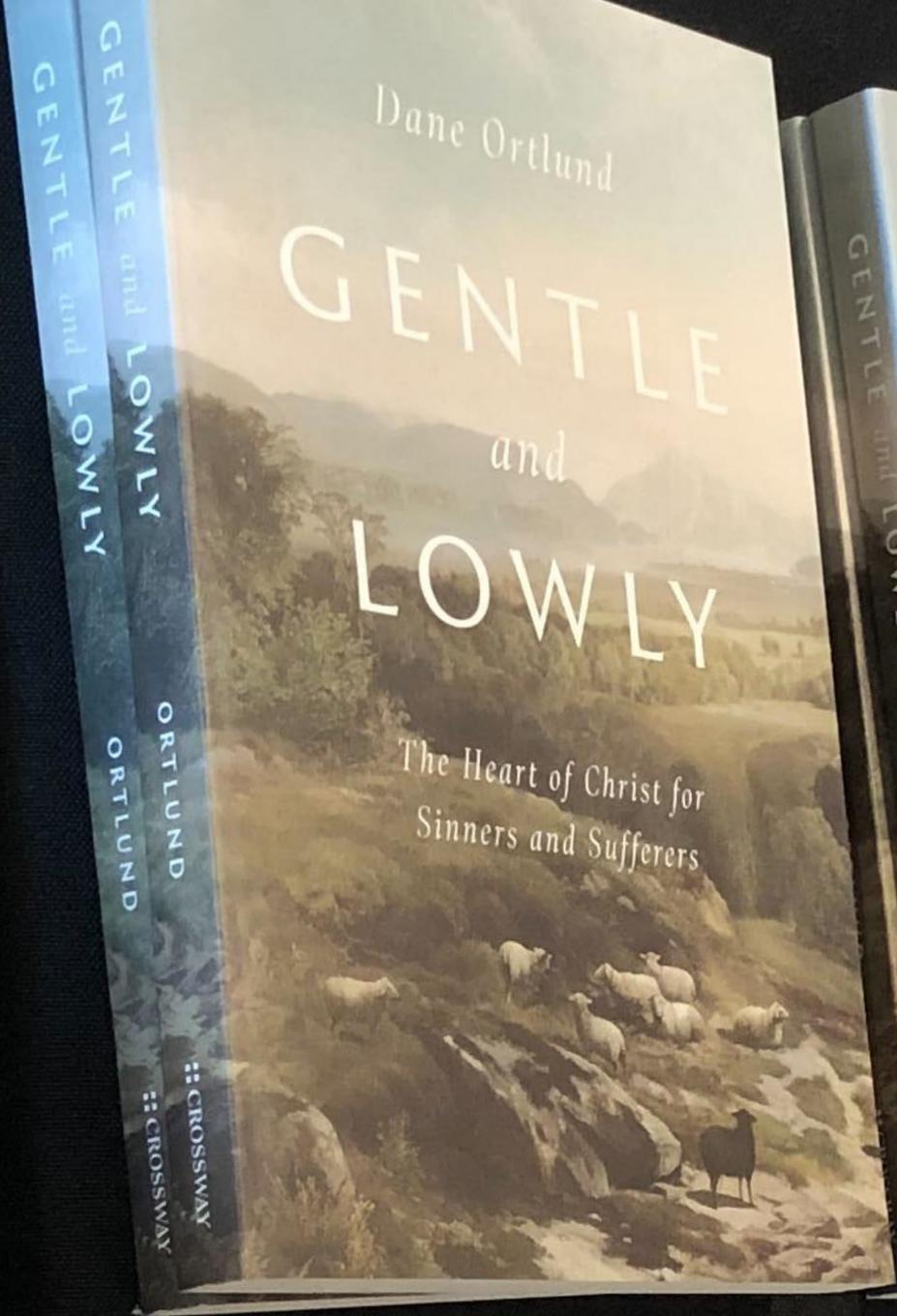
A detailed landscape painting of a valley. In the foreground, a flock of sheep, including one black sheep, is gathered on a rocky path. The middle ground shows a lush green valley with a small lake and a stone building. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a soft, hazy sky.

GENTLE
and
LOWLY



ADVENT
2021

“Overtaken by God’s
Kindness & Mercy”

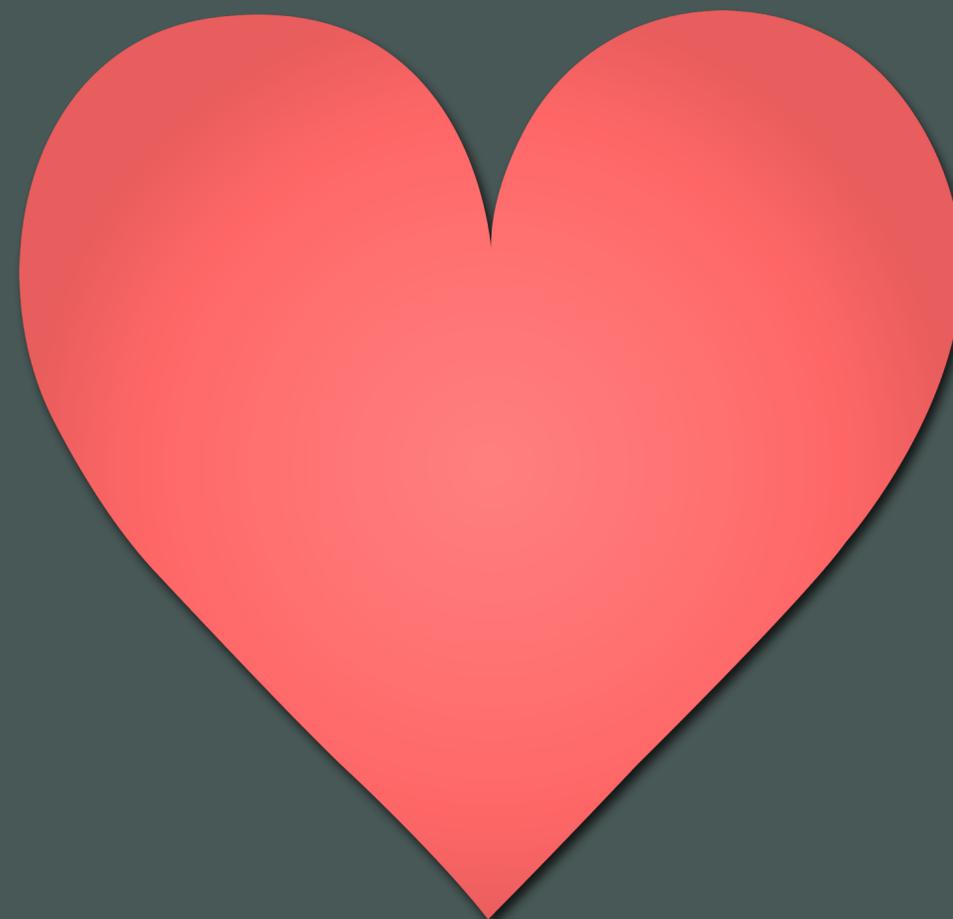


“Overtaken by God's Kindness & Mercy”

- ▶ Ch.1: His Very Heart
- ▶ Ch.2: His Heart in Action
- ▶ Ch.15: His “Natural” Work and His “Strange” Work
- ▶ Ch.16: The Lord, the Lord
- ▶ Ch.17: His Ways Are Not Our Ways



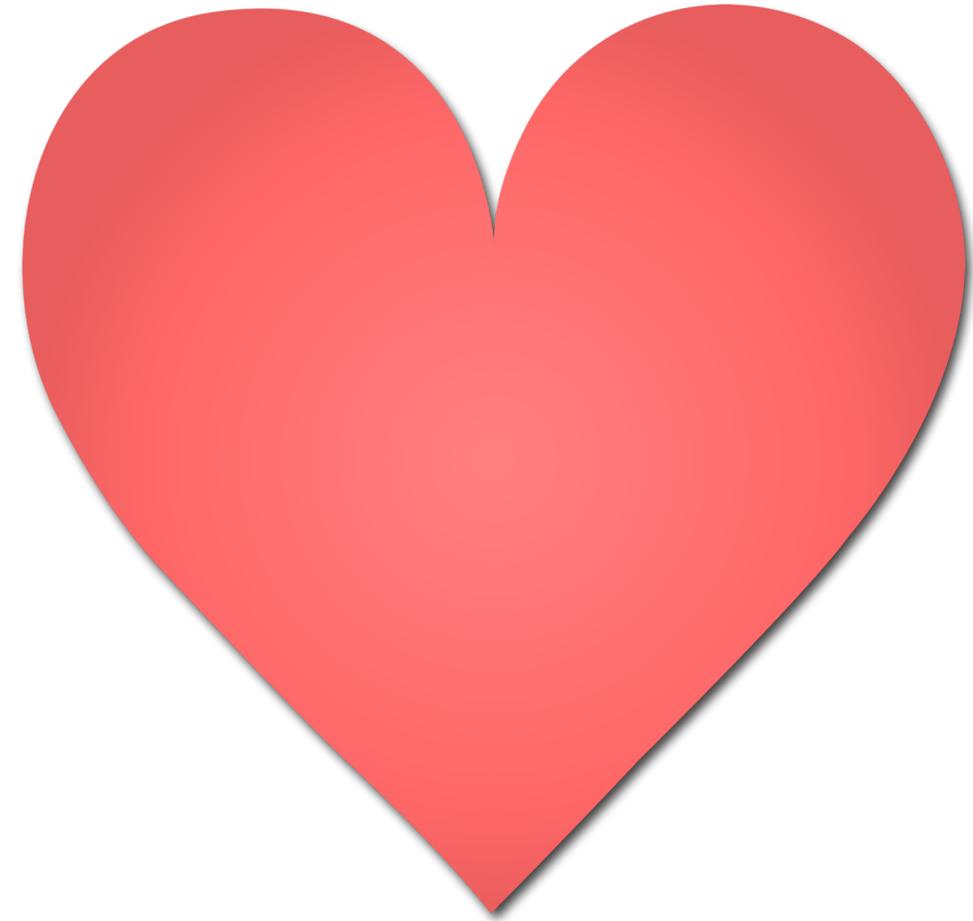
HEAD
(thinking)



HEART
(feeling)



HEAD
(thinking)

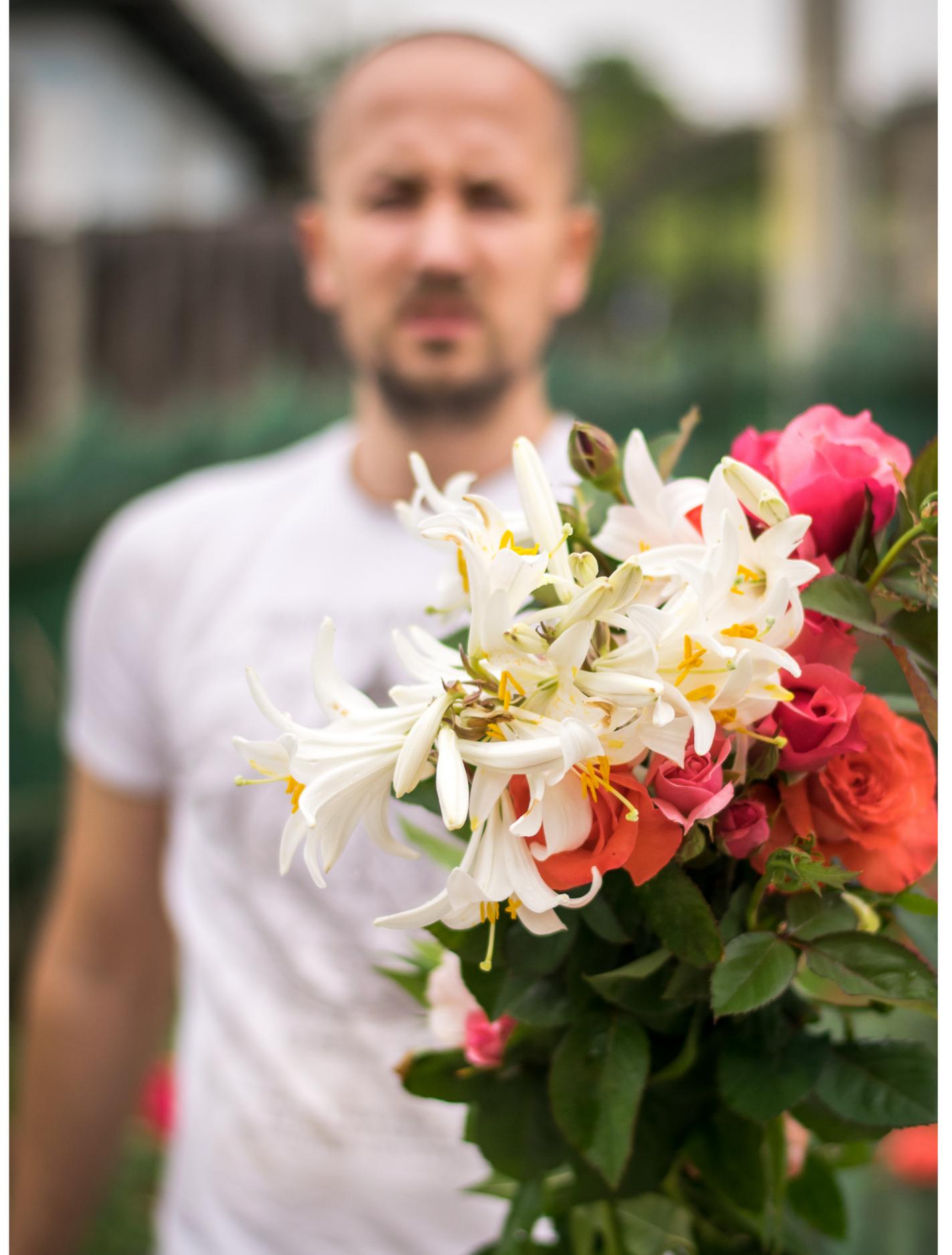


HEART
(feeling)

When the Bible speaks of the heart, it's referring to the core part of who we are, including not only our emotions but also our thoughts and our will.







When confronted with our sin
and rebellion against him, at the
center of God's heart we find
compassion and mercy.



Our waywardness and sin ignites God's fierce love for us like a mother determined to save her child from the disease that ravages her.



Hosea 11:7-9

My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all. How can I give you up, O Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel? How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim? My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender. I will not execute my burning anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim; **for I am God and not a man, the** Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.



Isaiah

55:6-9

Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”





Dane
Ortlund

The message of this book is that we tend to project our natural expectations about who God is onto him instead of fighting to let the Bible surprise us into what God himself says. ... The Christian life, from one angle, is the long journey of letting our natural assumption about who God is, over many decades, fall away, being slowly replaced with God's own insistence on who he is. This is hard work. It takes a lot of sermons and a lot of suffering to believe that God's deepest heart is "merciful and gracious, slow to anger."

Gentle and Lowly



Exodus
33:19

And the LORD said, “I will cause all **my goodness** to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have **mercy** on whom I will have **mercy**, and I will have **compassion** on whom I will have **compassion**.



Exodus 34:6-7

And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”





Dane
Ortlund

Our deepest instincts expect [God] to be thundering, gavel swinging, judgment relishing. We expect the bent of God's heart to be retribution to our waywardness. And then Exodus 34 taps us on the shoulder and stops us in our tracks. The bent of God's heart is mercy. His glory is his goodness.

... "Slow to anger." The Hebrew phrase is literally "long of nostrils." Picture an angry bull, pawing the ground, breathing loudly, nostrils flared. That would be, so to speak, "short-nosed." But the Lord

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is long-nosed. He doesn't have his finger on the trigger. It takes much accumulated provoking to draw out his ire. Unlike us, who are often emotional dams ready to break, God can put up with a lot. This is why the Old Testament speaks of God being "provoked to anger" by his people dozens of times. But not once are we told that God is "provoked to love" or "provoked to mercy." His anger requires provocation; his mercy is pent up, ready to gush forth. We tend to think:

Gentle and Lowly





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divine anger is pent up, spring-loaded; divine mercy is slow to build. It's just the opposite. Divine mercy is ready to burst forth at the slightest prick.

... God is unswervingly just. But what is his disposition? What is he on the edge of his seat eager to do? If you catch me off guard, what will leap out of me before I have time to regain composure will likely be grouchiness. If you catch God off guard, what leaps out most freely is blessing. The impulse to do good. The desire to swallow us up in joy.

Gentle and Lowly



Isaiah
54:7-8

“For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back. In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD your Redeemer.”



Sin may seem to have the upper hand for a season, but God's pursuing love will eventually win the day, overtaking our sin with his mercy.

Lamentatio
ns 3:31-33

For the Lord will not cast off forever,
but, though he cause grief, he will
have compassion according to the
abundance of his steadfast love; **for**
he does not afflict from his heart
or grieve the children of men.



Jeremiah
32:41

I will rejoice in doing them
good and will assuredly plant
them in this land with all my
heart and soul.



Ezekiel
33:11

Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’



Isaiah
9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



Matthew
9:36

When he saw the crowds, he had **compassion** on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.



Matthew
14:14

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had **compassion** on them and healed their sick.



Matthew
15:32

Jesus called his disciples to him and said, “I have **compassion** for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way.”



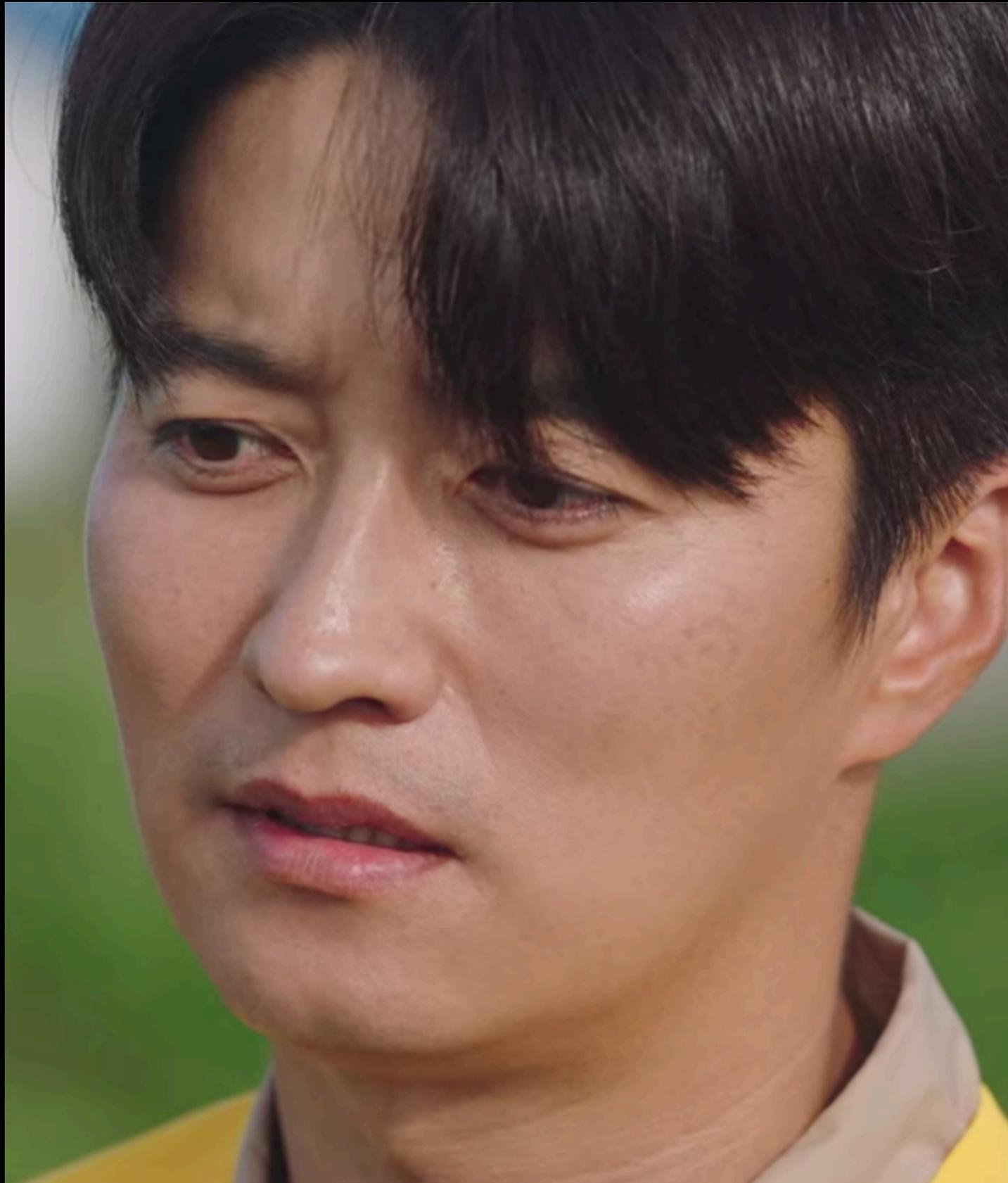
Luke
7:12-13

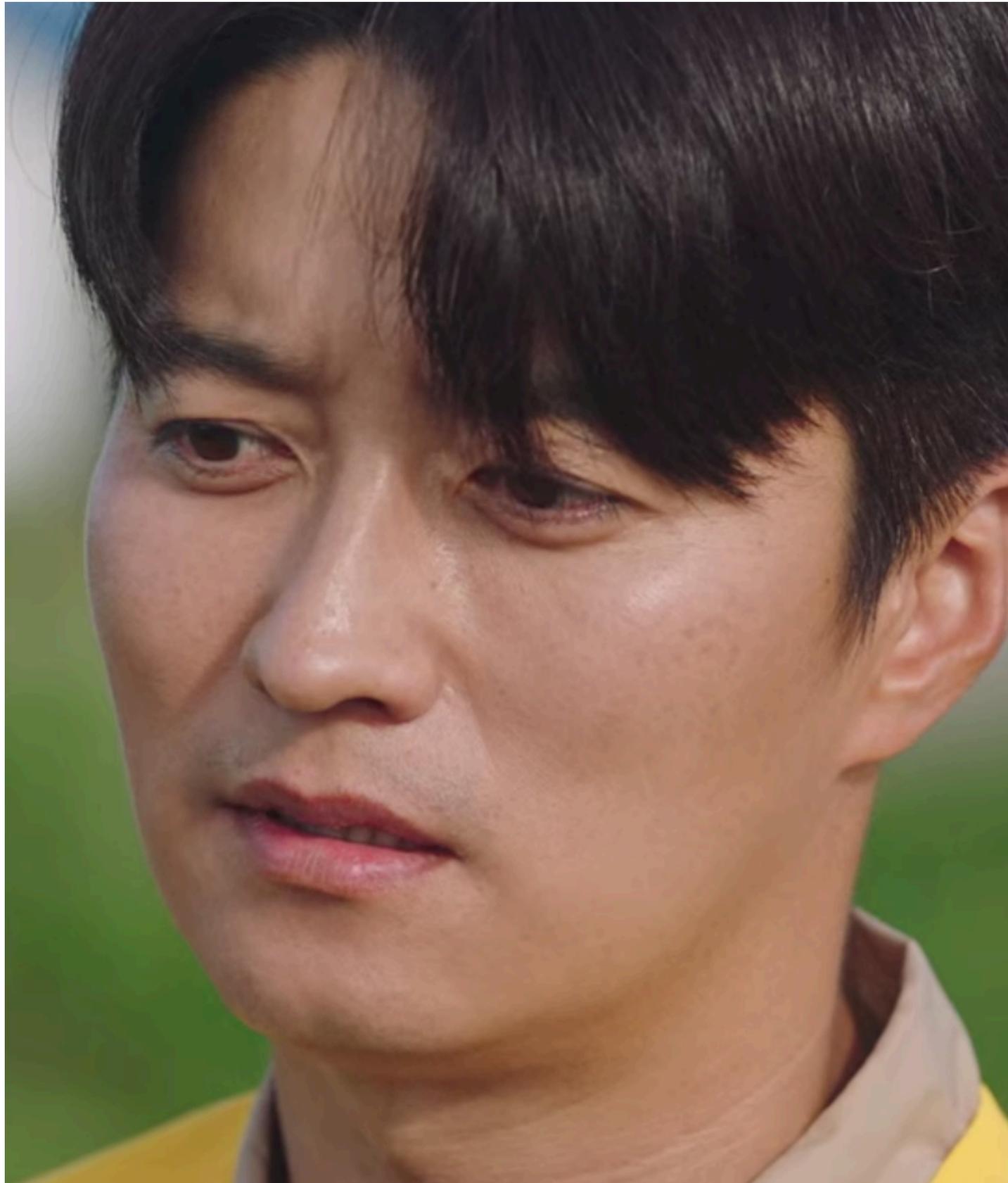
As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. When the Lord saw her, **his heart went out to her** and he said, “Don’t cry.”





Hometown
Cha-Cha-Cha





Isaiah 46:1-9

Bel bows down, Nebo stoops low; their idols are borne by beasts of burden. The images that are carried about are burdensome, a burden for the weary.

They stoop and bow down together; unable to rescue the burden, they themselves go off into captivity.

“Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born.



Isaiah 46:1-9

Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

“With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?

Some pour out gold from their bags and weigh out silver on the scales; they hire a goldsmith to make it into a god, and they bow down and worship it.



Isaiah

46:1-9

They lift it to their shoulders and carry it; they set it up in its place, and there it stands. From that spot it cannot move. Even though someone cries out to it, it cannot answer; it cannot save them from their troubles.

“Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.

