

# he Jostob Mrist is far more than you can

RETAIL

### Black Friday shoppers spent a record \$9.8 billion in U.S. online sales, up 7.5% from last year

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Black Friday

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Cha-ching! Holiday online spending surpasses last year, sets new online sales record

**EDITORS' PICK** 

Black Friday And Cyber Monday Record Sales: By The Numbers



MONEY

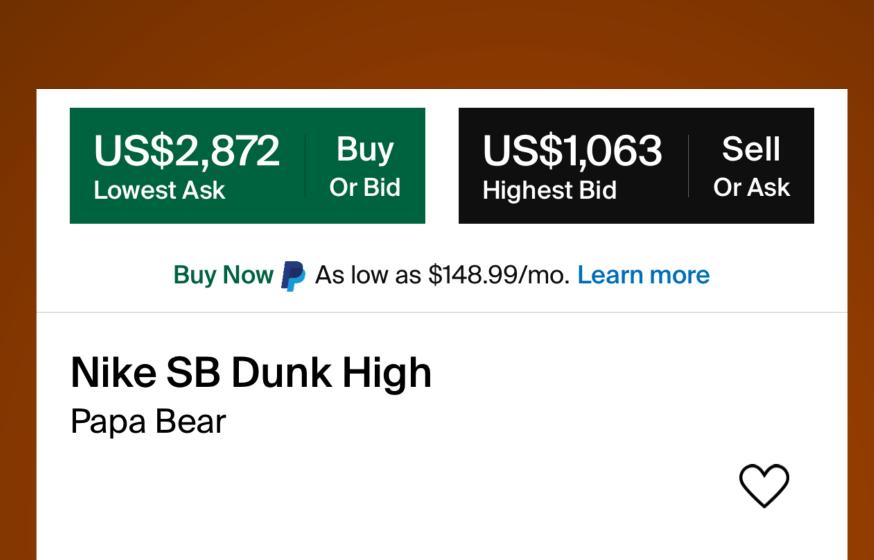
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Forbes: "The record online spending across Cyber Week shows the impact **discounts** can have on consumer demand, especially with quality products that drove a lot of impulse shopping,"



"because we know that the things that are difficult to possess are typically better than those that are easy to possess, we can often use an item's availability to help us quickly...decide on its quality."





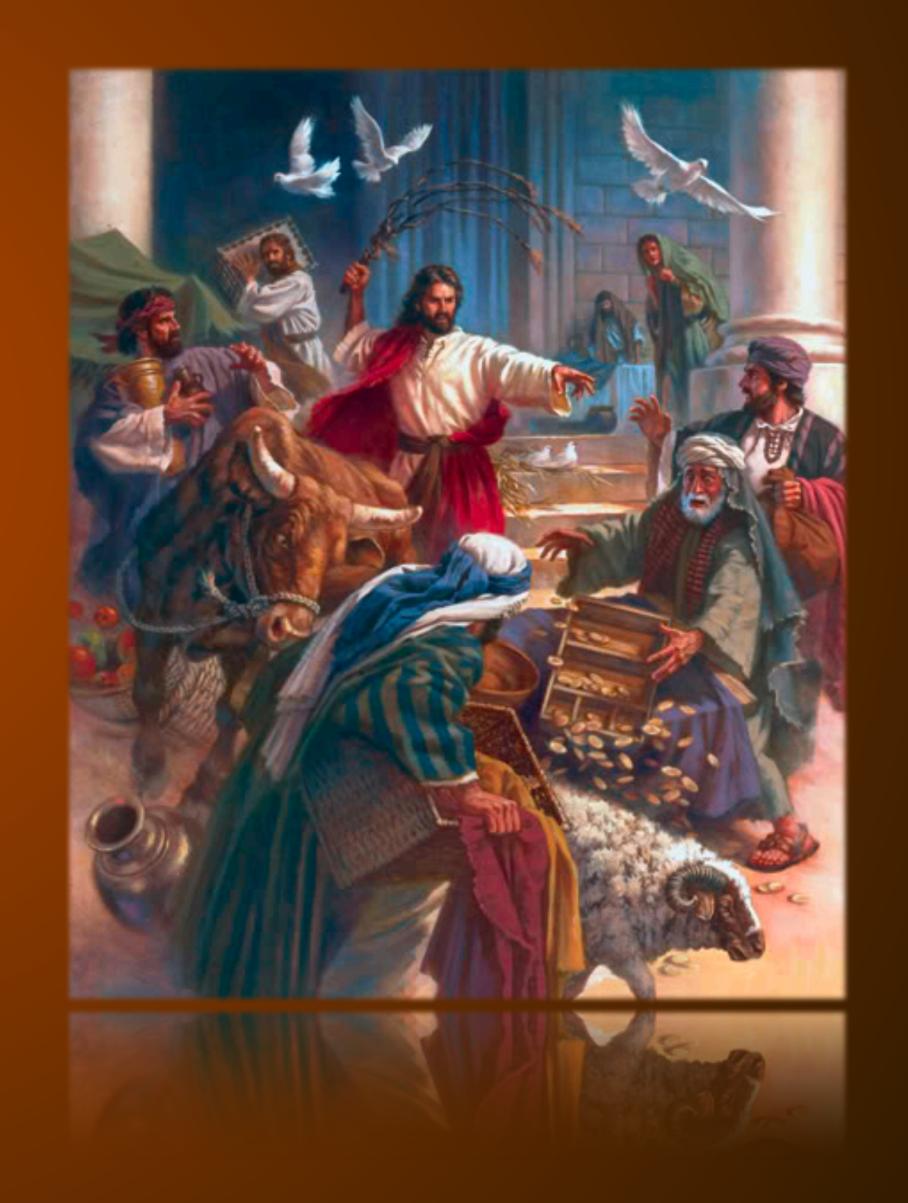




## Our perception of value is deeply influenced by the ease or difficulty of obtaining something.

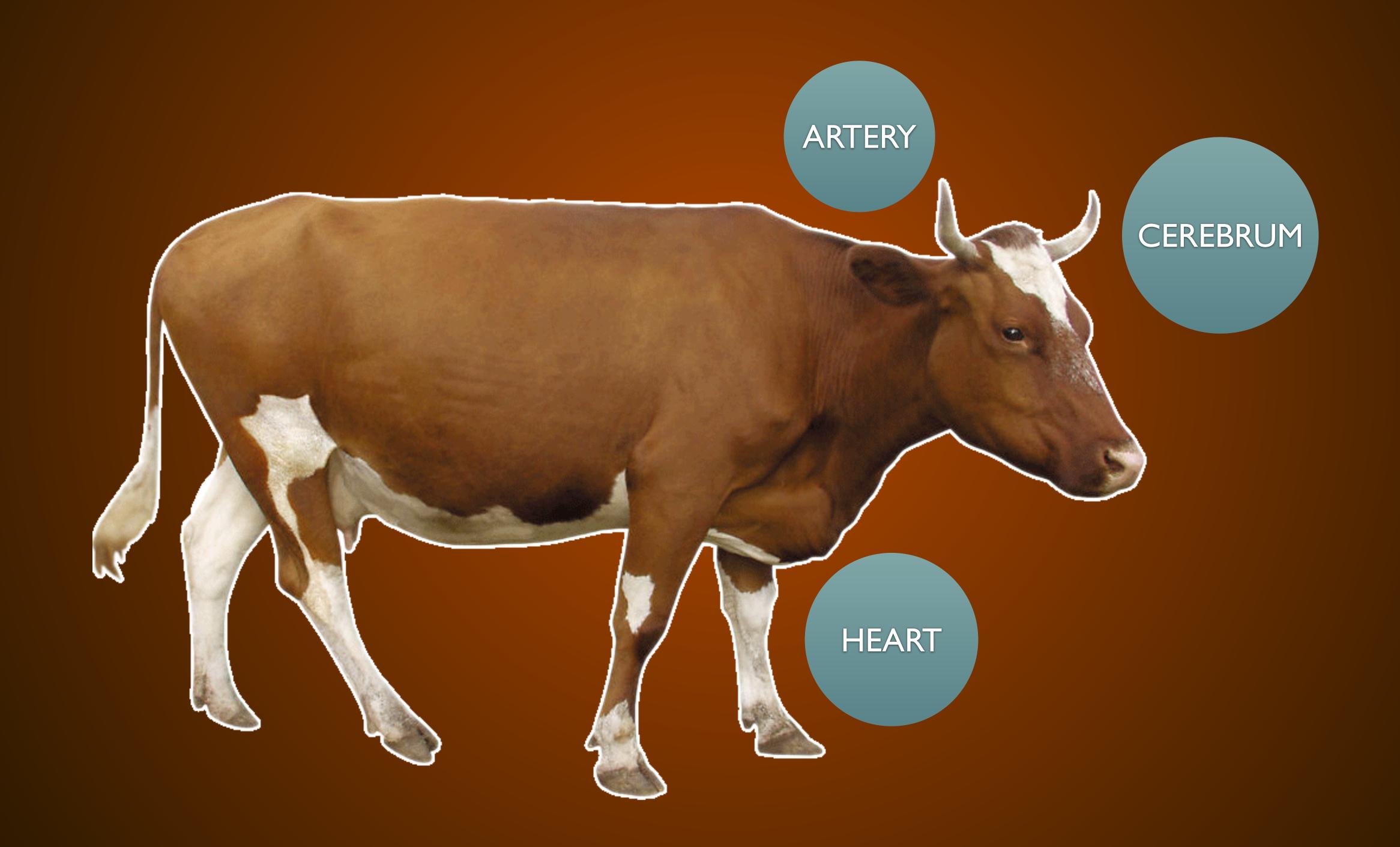
#### Mark 11:15-18

On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'"



#### Sacrificial System: Book of Leviticus

- Lev 1:1 "Speak to the Israelites and say to them: "When anyone among you brings an offering to the Lord, bring as your offering an animal from either the herd or the flock."
- Lev 1:4-6 "You are to lay your hand on the head of the burnt offering...You are to slaughter the young bull ... You are to skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces...And then Aaron's sons the priests shall bring the blood and splash it against the sides of the altar at the entrance to the tent of meeting.
- Lev 1:9b "It is a burnt offering, a food offering, an aroma pleasing to the Lord."
- Lev 17:11 "for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.



#### Jerusalem



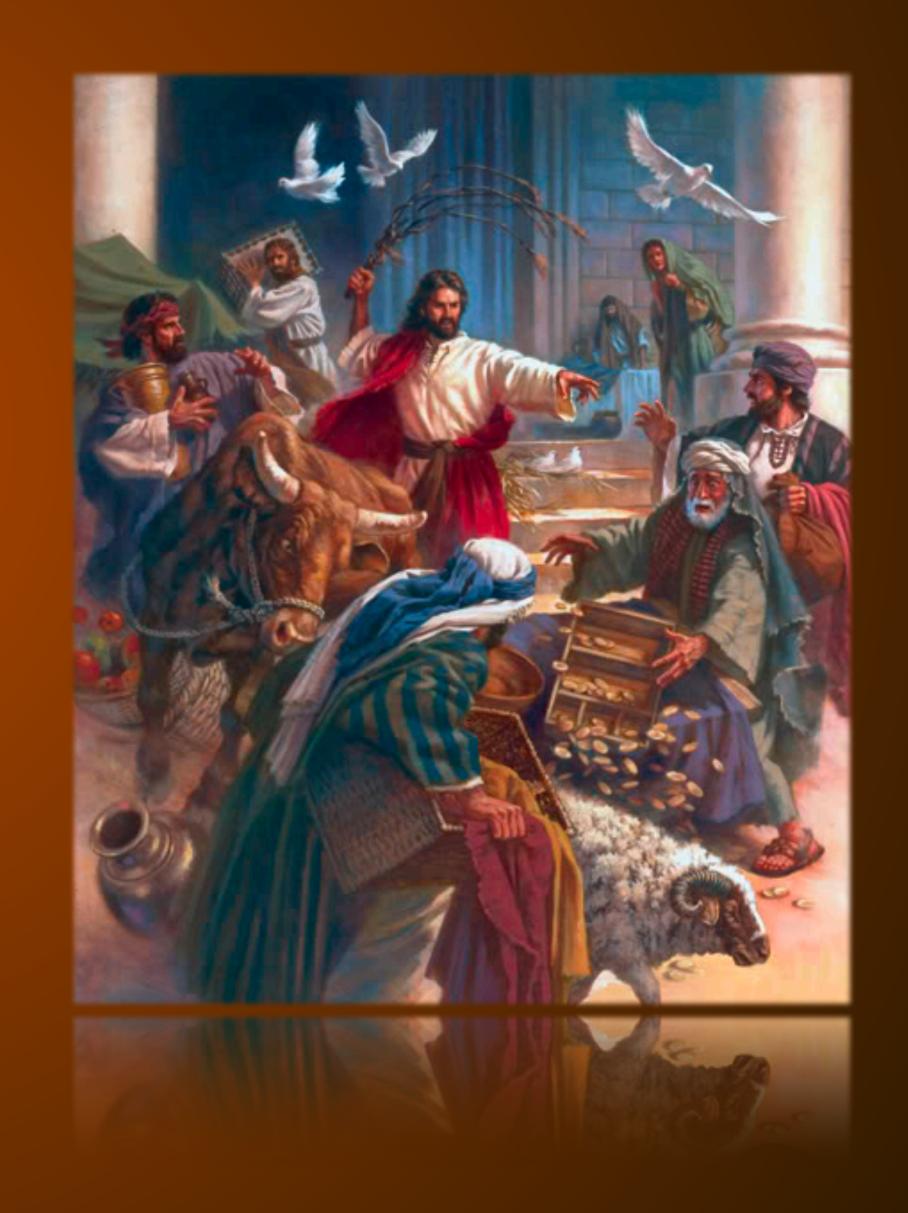






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The Christmas message itself participates in this ordinariness and commonness so offensive to the world...Don't be put off by the ordinariness of the means of joy, for in that ordinariness is hidden the extraordinary riches of the Gospel. Don't make the mistake that the world has always made. Instead, remember:

"How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in."