

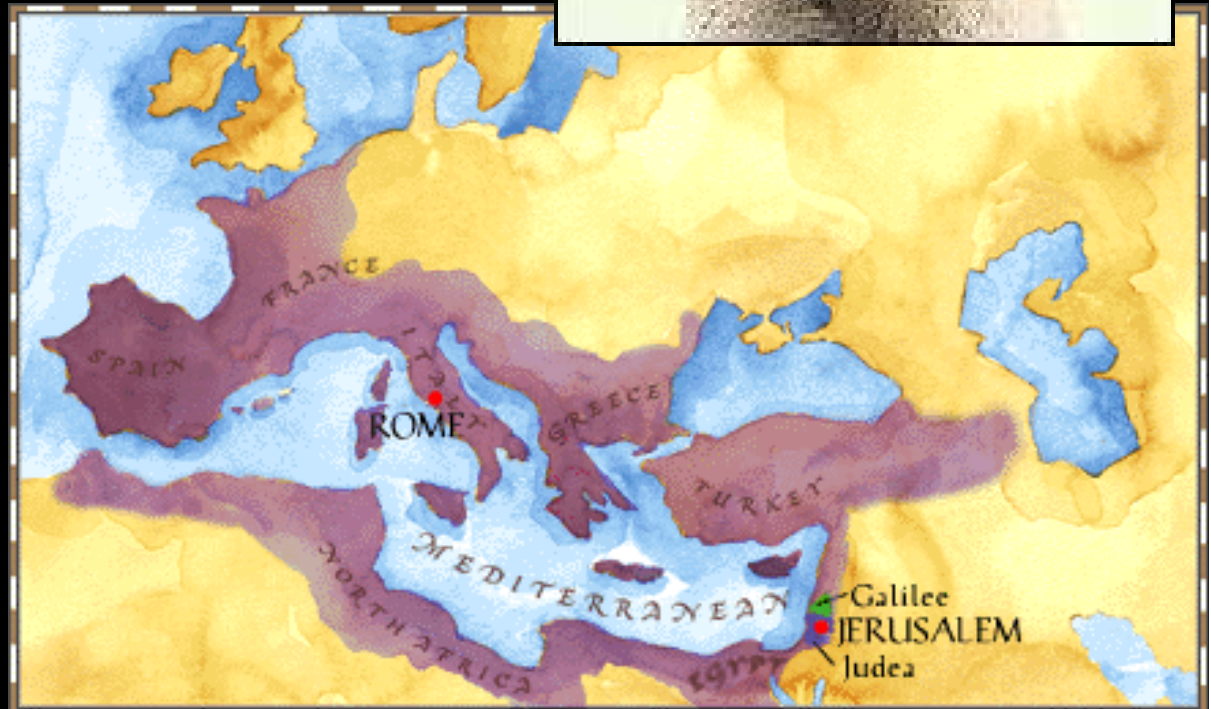
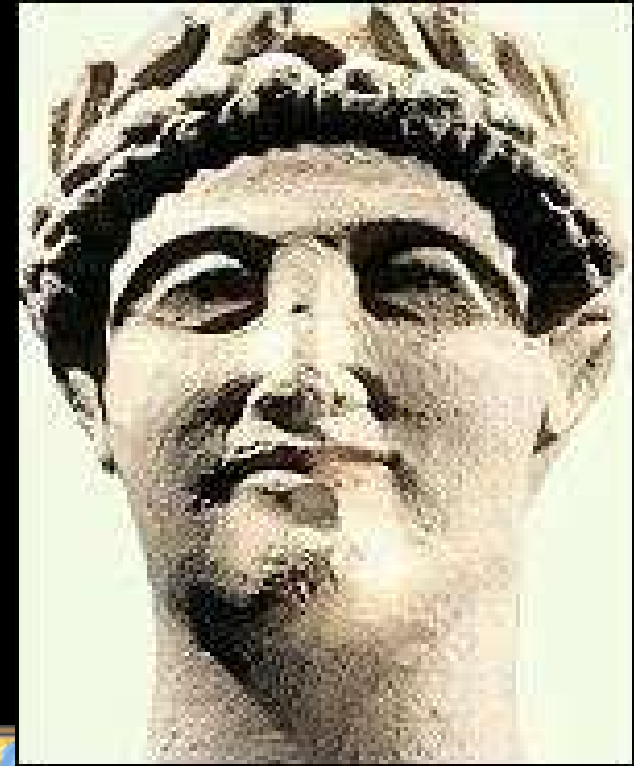
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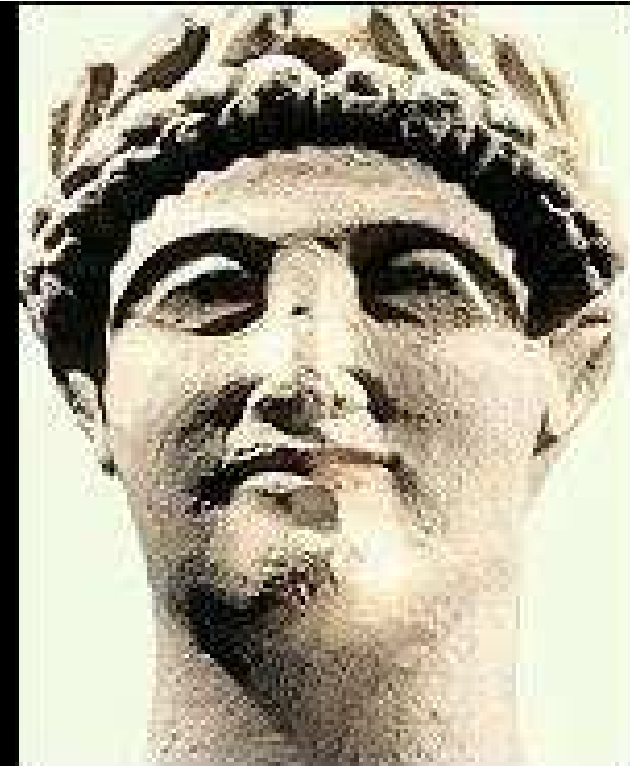
the well-formed disciple

When Jesus proclaimed
the kingdom of God, did
he mean a realm outside
of this world, beyond
history and death?

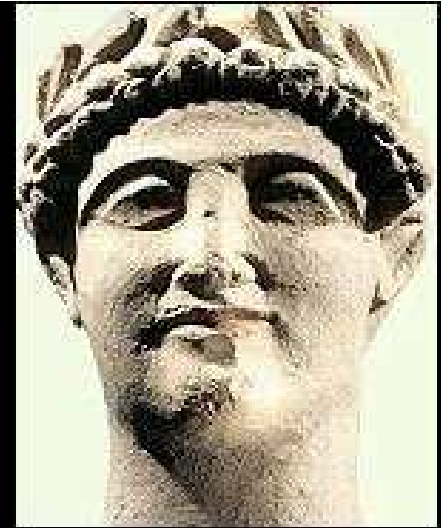


Or did he mean that the will and presence of God - the light of God, the kingdom of God - should enter and bathe our world?





Did he proclaim a new religion, or a new kingdom, a new arrangement, a new way of life, a new world?



The Roman Empire was very tolerant of new religions ... but not of new kingdoms. **Proclaiming a new kingdom could get you killed.**



Your kingdom come.

Your will be done on earth as it is in
heaven.



A new kingdom doesn't simply
mean a new religion. It means a
new way of life - being
transformed to become agents of
transformation.

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This approach has powerful implications for what it means to “do” church and “be” church.

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From Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy* (pg. 58):

Does the Gospel we teach and preach have a natural tendency to cause the people who hear it to become full-time disciples of Jesus? Would those who believe it become his apprentices as a natural next step? What can we reasonably expect would result from people actually believing the substance of our message?

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Jesus didn't come to create
“Christians” but to form disciples who
would join him in transforming the
world..



**Clearly, for the early
“Christians,” the church
was an extension of
Jesus and his circle of
disciples.**

**They saw themselves as
learners in his way.**



COME, FOLLOW ME

**LEARN OF ME,
TAKE MY YOKE
UPON YOU**

**I HAVE GIVEN YOU
AN EXAMPLE**

**MAKE DISCIPLES,
TEACHING THEM
TO PRACTICE
EVERYTHING I
HAVE TAUGHT
YOU**



**Be conformed to the image of
Christ.** Romans 8
**Be transformed by the renewing
of your mind.** Romans 12
**... that Christ may be formed in
you.** Galatians 4
**Learn Christ... Be made new in
the attitude of your minds**
Ephesians 4
**Christ in you, the hope of glory
... everyone fully formed in
Christ** Colossians 1
**Let this attitude be in you which
was also in Christ...** Philippians 2



Some church leaders seem to assume ...

institutional participation = growth + health.

Others seem to believe ...

knowledge = growth + health.

Still others suggest ...

*knowledge + experiences = growth +
health.*

Some go further and say ...

knowledge + experiences + relationships
= growth + health.

With the growing consensus that conventional approaches to disciple-making are insufficient, some are gravitating to a more nuanced and holistic approach to spiritual formation that values and integrates all the components as practices:

*knowledge + experiences + relationships
+ practices + suffering + service + time
+ the Holy Spirit = growth + health.*

This holistic approach involves **apprenticeship in a community of practice**

**Spiritual formation involves
intentional spiritual practices
(or disciplines):**



***Actions within our power which we do
to train ourselves to do things
currently beyond our power, and to
become people we are currently
incapable of being.***

-Running a marathon

-Making or playing a violin

-Learning a language

For example, fasting:

- Feeling and acknowledging our weakness in the face of impulses from our bodies.***
- Practicing impulse control.***
- Asserting to ourselves the importance of things other than impulse gratification.***
- Accepting weakness and “poverty” in faith that greater strength and satisfaction can come to us.***
- What benefits could come from this practice?***

the well-formed disciple

Love God

Love neighbor

Via Contemplativa

Via Activa

Good heart

Good works

Trust

Obeys

Transforming (1)

Transforming (2)

Disciple

Apostle

“interior castle”

kingdom of God

The sermon on the mount

Explains how disciples of the kingdom are characterized by a “right/just way of living” which “surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees.”

Different attitudes: blessed are ...

Different role - salt and light

Beyond “no murder” to no hatred, anger, insult, or grudges

Beyond “no adultery” to no lust or divorce

Beyond no lying to no exaggeration

Beyond no excessive revenge to no retaliation

Beyond loving friends to loving enemies

Beyond harsh religious “perfection” to God’s compassionate perfection.

How are disciples formed?

Through practice(s).

___public worship ___solitude ___sabbath

___meditation ___eucharist ___silence

___study ___spiritual direction

___practicing God's presence ___prayer journaling

___fixed-hour prayer ___contemplative prayer

___service ___submission ___simplicity

___feasting/fasting ___pilgrimage ___self-denial

___identifying with Jesus ___reconciliation

___giving ___confessing sin ___reciting creeds

How are disciples formed?

Through practice.

___public worship ___solitude ___sabbath ___eucharist
___silence
___study ___spiritual direction
___practicing God's presence ___prayer journaling
___fixed-hour prayer ___contemplative prayer
___service ___submission ___simplicity
___feasting/fasting ___pilgrimage ___self-denial
___identifying with Jesus ___reconciliation
___giving ___confessing sin ___reciting creeds

But this is only half the story ...

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the well-formed disciple



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**Spiritual Formation through
mission.**

the well-formed disciple

Love God

Love neighbor, enemy

Via Contemplativa

Via Activa

Good heart

Good works

Trust

Obeys

Transforming (1)

Transforming (2)

Disciple

Apostle

“interior castle”

kingdom of God

godliness

otherliness

the well-formed disciple

patient kind not envious

doesn't boast not proud not rude

not self-seeking not easily angered

no record of wrongs doesn't

delight in evil rejoices with

truth always protects always

trusts always hopes always

perseveres never fails



Jesus calls **disciples -
men and women who
will learn to live a new
way of life and
experience
transformation.
Then he sends them out
as **apostles** ... people
who would bring
transformation to the
world.**



**The purpose of
personal
formation is
global
transformation**



**The purpose of
personal
formation is
global
transformation
- on every level!**



The purpose of **personal** formation is
global transformation
- on every level!

**Economic, political,
social, familial,
community, artistic,
ecological, legal,
business, military,
scientific,
educational, etc.**

How are disciples formed?

Through practice.

___public worship ___solitude ___sabbath

___eucharist ___silence

___study ___spiritual direction

___practicing God's presence ___prayer journaling

___fixed-hour prayer ___contemplative prayer

___service ___submission ___simplicity

___feasting/fasting ___pilgrimage ___self-denial

___identifying with Jesus ___reconciliation

___giving ___confessing sin ___reciting creeds

How are apostles formed?

Through mission.

___forgiving ___hospitality ___praying for healing

___not judging ___confronting evil ___serving

___listening ___associating with the lowly

___holy kiss ___speaking truth in love

___neighborliness ___loving enemies

___preferring poor ___speaking for justice

___proclaiming good news in word and deed

___giving to poor ___throwing parties for poor

___walking to other side of street to serve

___giving ___encouragement ___empathy



**You are not the
end user of the
gospel.**

**The church is not
the point.**



**Does the church
have a mission
(or a missions
department)?**

**Or does Christ's
mission have a
church?**



**As the Father sent me,
so I send you.**

(John 20:21)

**So ... the church is the
incarnational community that joins
God for global transformation on
every level ...**

**It is the continuing embodiment or
incarnation of Jesus who is still at
work in the world through his Spirit.**

The incarnational church forms disciples/apostles who live their daily lives as agents of God's kingdom -

in family, neighborhood, school, workplace, politics, arts, recreation, and civic life.

They are engaged in church work - but primarily in the work of the church, which is the work of the kingdom in their daily lives.

**So ... the church is the
incarnational community that joins
God for global transformation on
every level ...**

**It is a community of transforming
individuals who participate with
God in the transformation of the
world: the coming of the
Kingdom of God.**

transformation

transmission

**Spiritual formation is the
development of people who are
agents of the kingdom ...**

**Agents of peace, reconciliation,
creativity, courage, patience,
urgency, generosity, solidarity with
the poor and oppressed, truth-
telling ...**

Do justice ...

Love kindness ...

Walk humbly with God.

Loving God, loving neighbor, loving enemy

In your family ...

In your neighborhood ...

At your workplace ...

With your church ...

In your city or region or province ...

**In your nation - dual citizenship. (which has
priority?)**

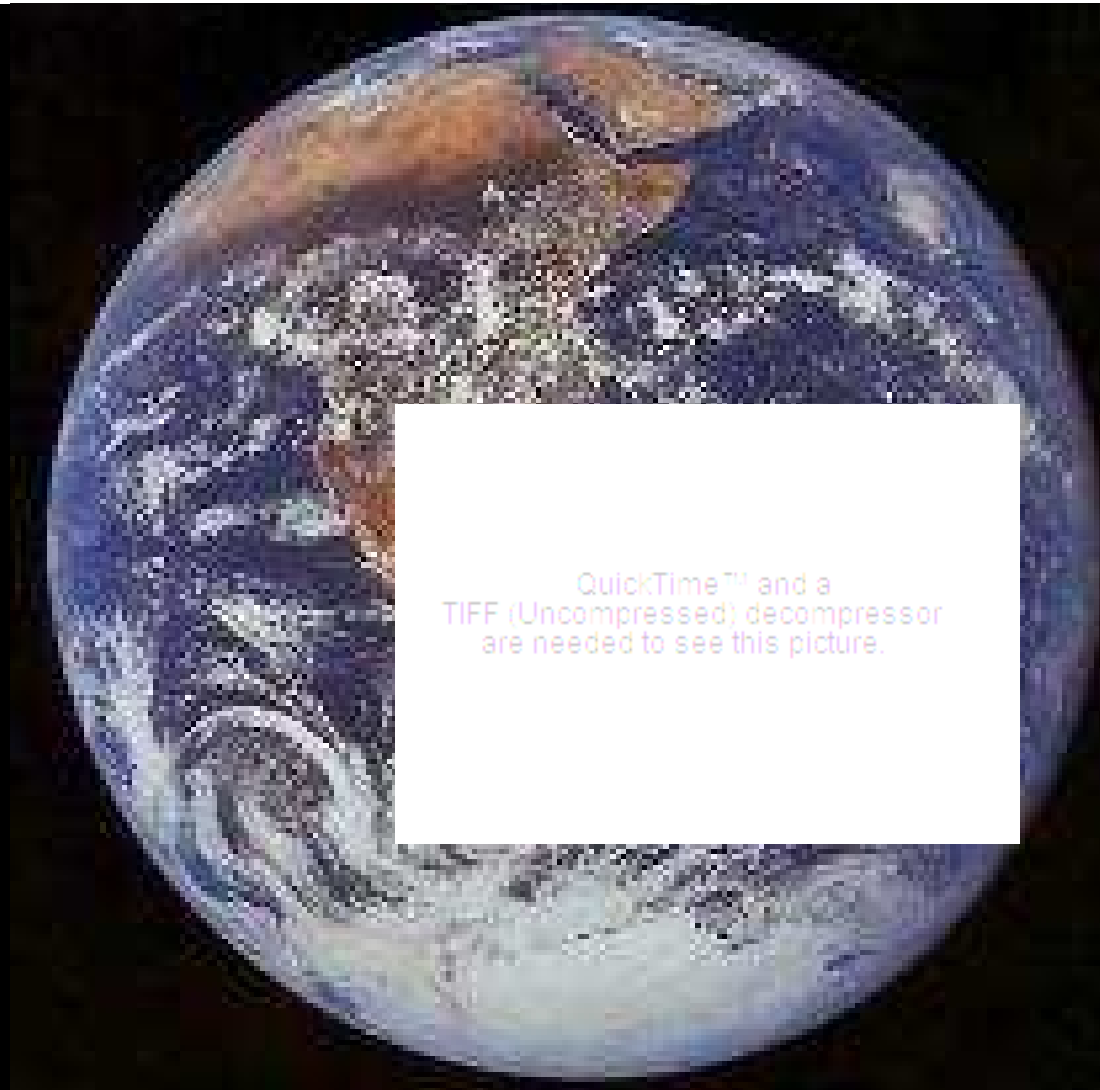
Globally - (to whom much has been given)

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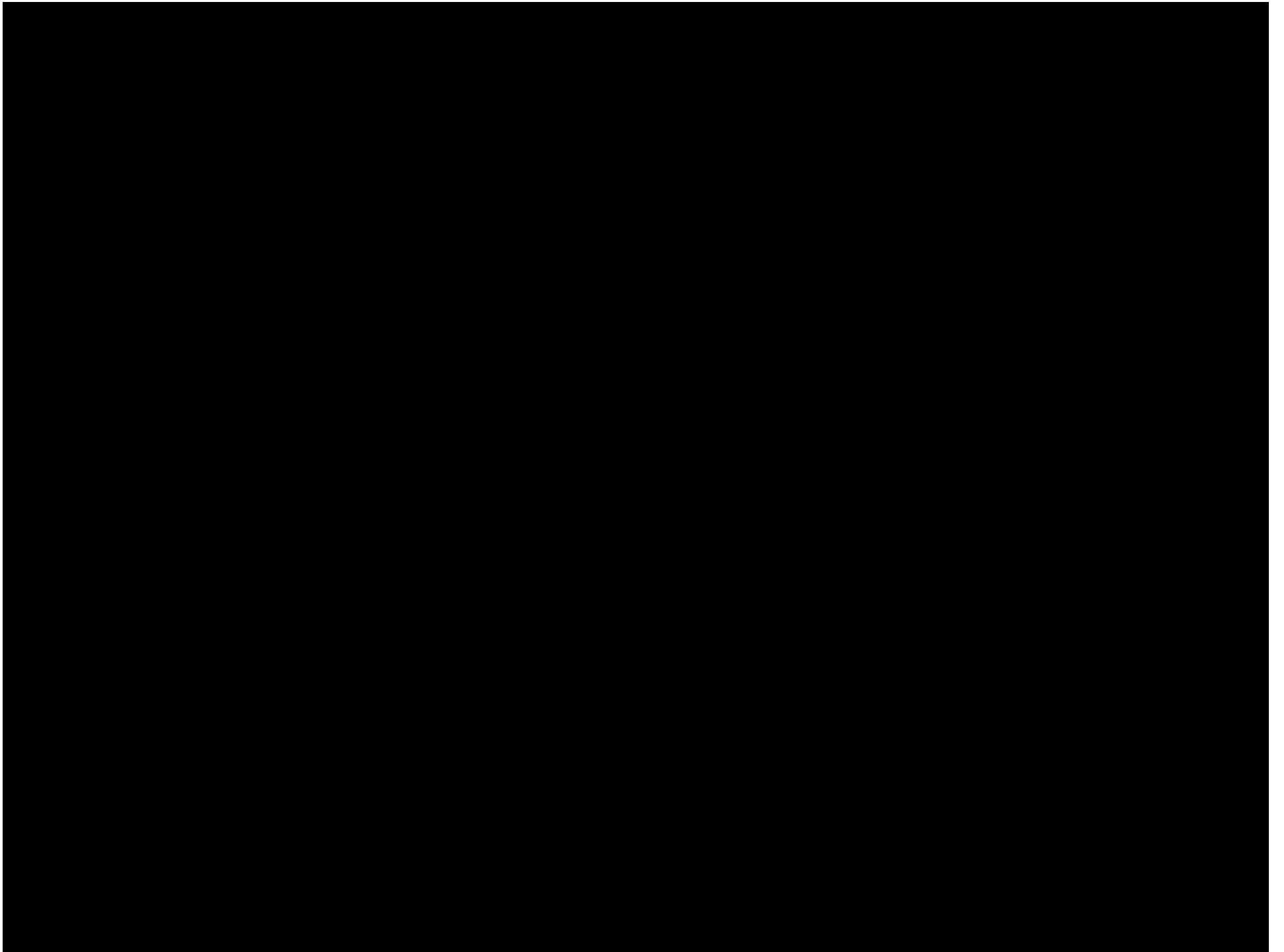


the well-formed disciple



the well-formed apostle.

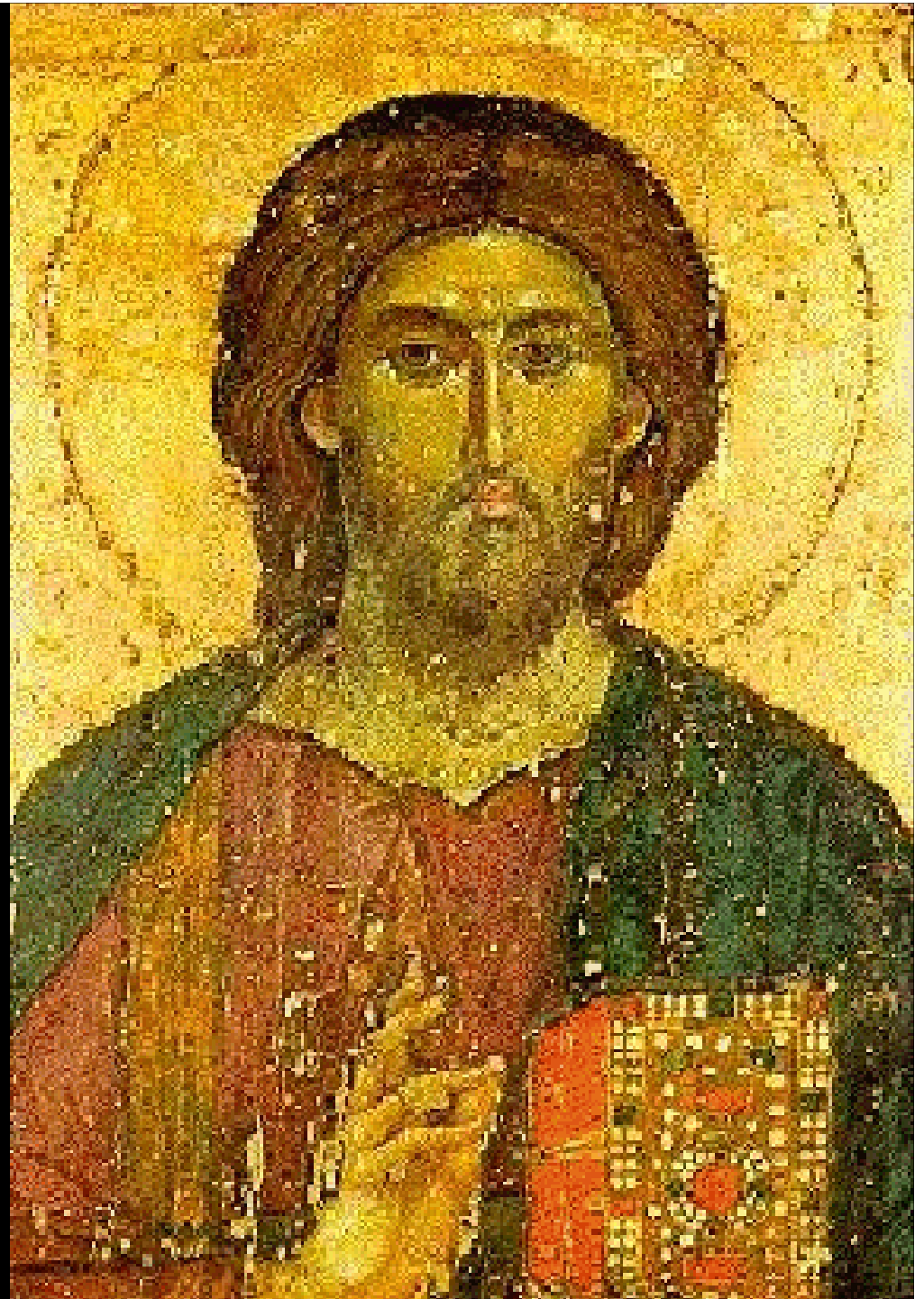


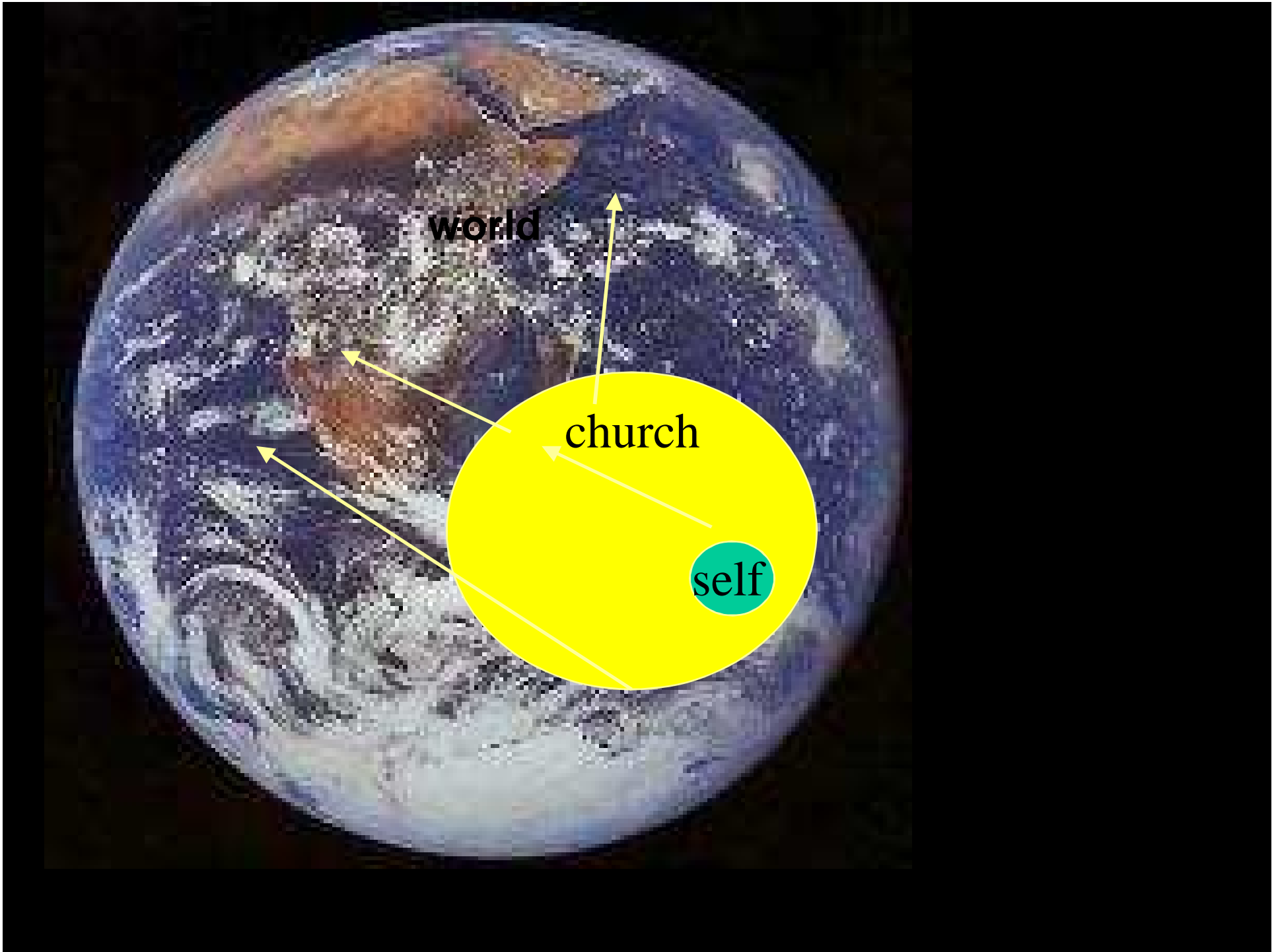


COME.

FOLLOW

ME.





world

church

self