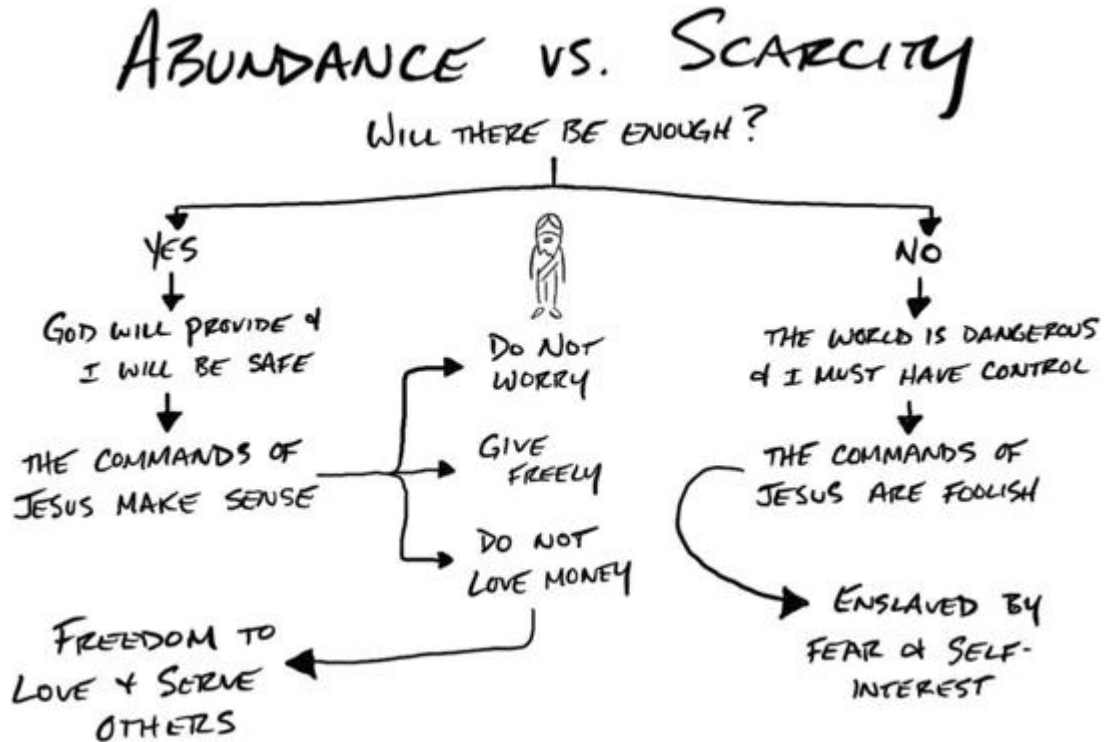


## June 20th Vestry Meditation



IN 1999, THE RENOWNED Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann published an article that greatly influenced me. In it he frames the biblical narrative as a tension between the world's myth of scarcity and God's vision of abundance.

In the Exodus story, for example, Pharaoh and Egypt represent the myth of scarcity. They are threatened by the growth of the Hebrew people, so to protect their power and limited resources, the Egyptians persecuted the Hebrews and killed their children. A fear of scarcity led Pharaoh to violence, injustice, and greed. God's people, on the other hand, experienced His abundance. Every day He provided them with meat and bread in the wilderness, and water miraculously flowed from rocks. Assured of God's provision, they were called to put aside vengeance and greed and instead seek justice, love, kindness, and walk humbly with their God.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus makes the same contrast between the myth of scarcity and the reality of abundance in God's kingdom. If we live in constant fear of not having enough—like Pharaoh did—it will lead us to greed and injustice in the name of self-preservation. If, however, we believe Jesus and trust that with God there is always an abundance, then we can be set free from a self-centered posture and be empowered to truly love others.

How do you see the world? Do you believe in the myth of scarcity, or have you been liberated by the abundance of God's kingdom?

More reading: Exodus 16:1–8; Ephesians 3:20–21