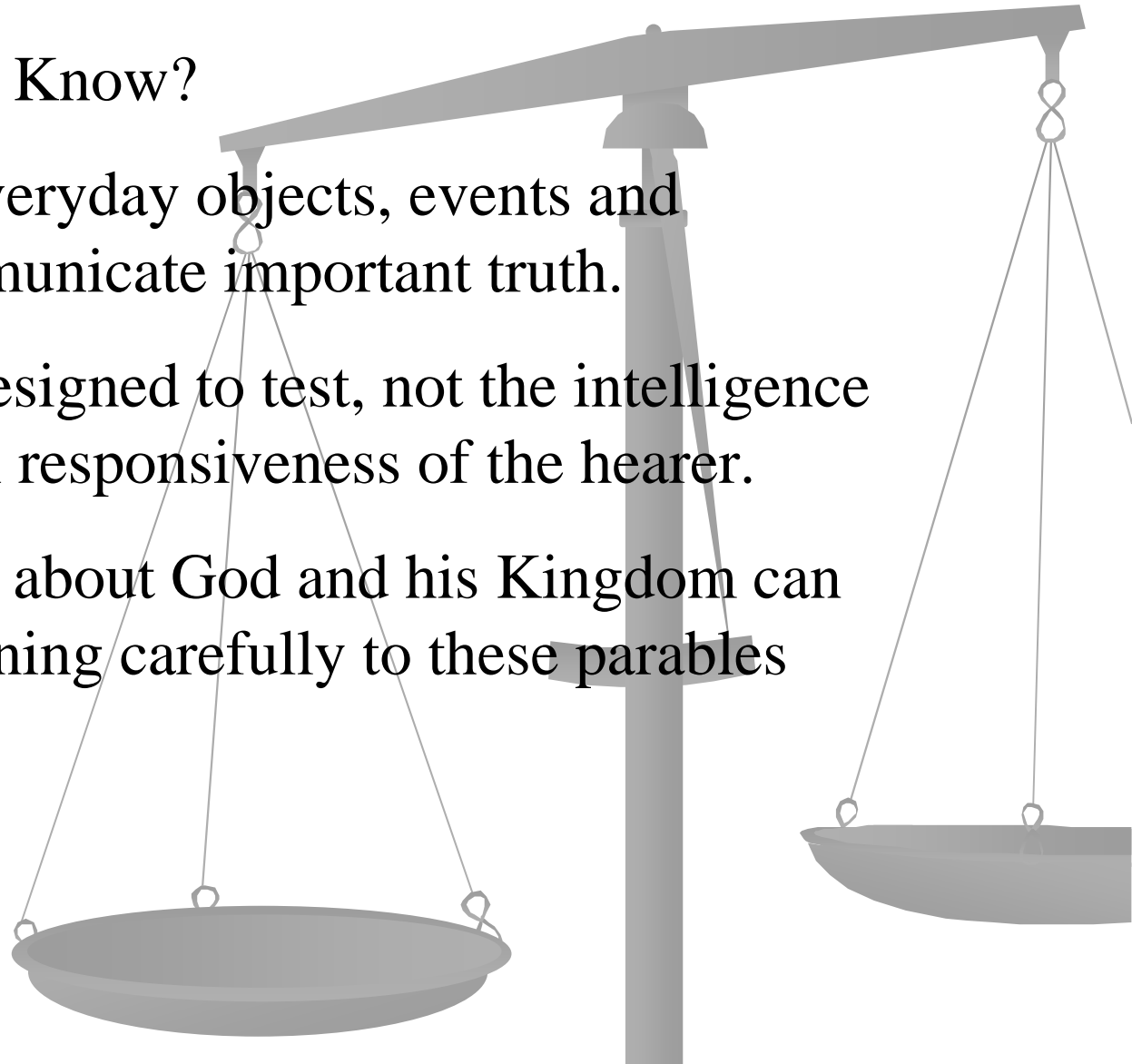


Fair Market Value & God

Parables , What do We Know?

- 1.* They used everyday objects, events and images to communicate important truth.
- 2.* They were designed to test, not the intelligence but the spiritual responsiveness of the hearer.
- 3.* Great insight about God and his Kingdom can be ours by listening carefully to these parables



Fair Market Value & God

So Far We Know:

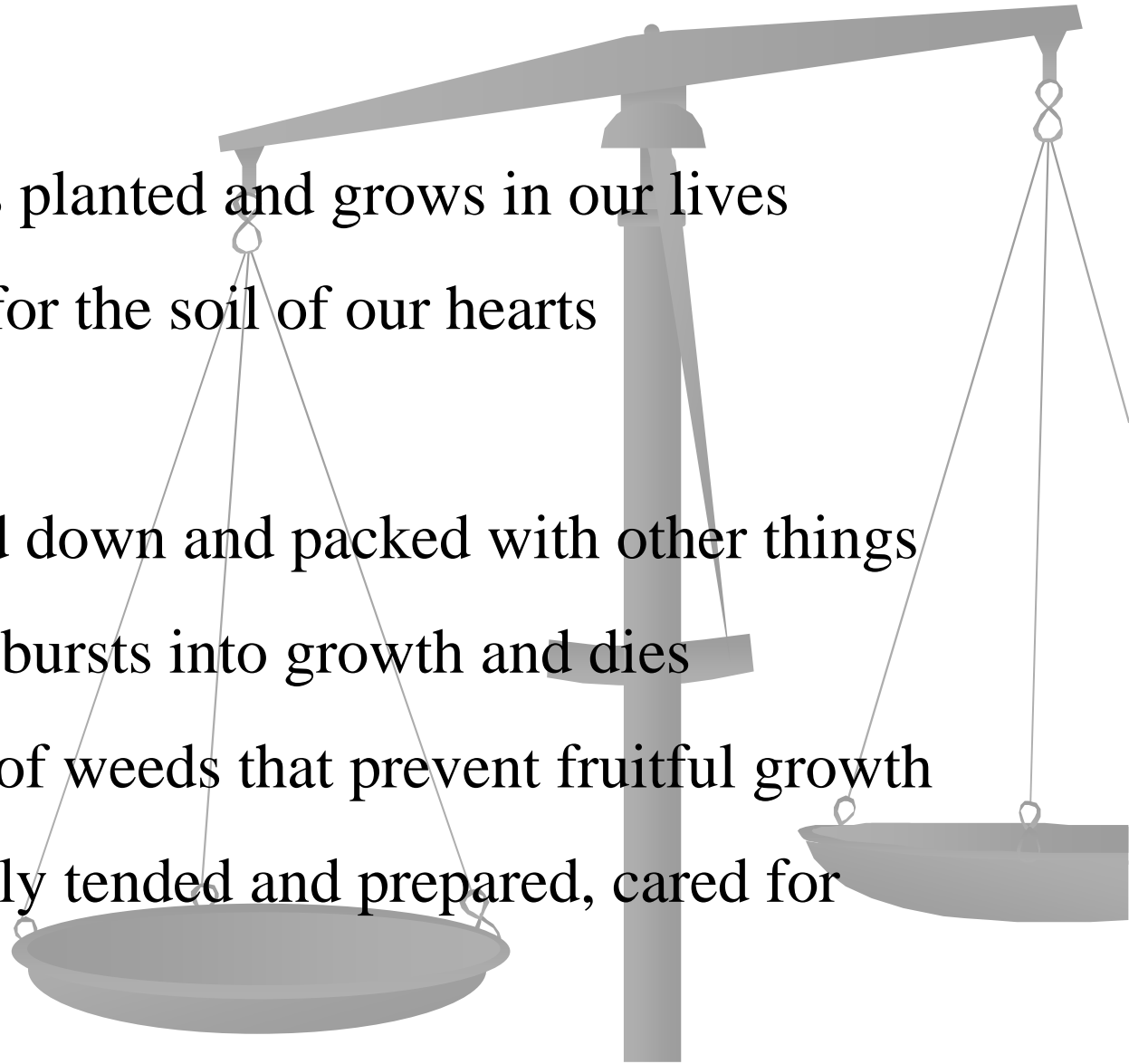
- The Seed of Truth is planted and grows in our lives
- We are responsible for the soil of our hearts
- Soil can be:

Hard - trampled down and packed with other things

Shallow - truth bursts into growth and dies

Crowded - full of weeds that prevent fruitful growth

Fertile - carefully tended and prepared, cared for



Fair Market Value & God

So Far We Know:

The Kingdom of Heaven is Like

God's To Judge - Wheat and Weeds are His to evaluate

God's To Grow - Do for God what He asks, leave results

God's To Change - The Kingdom alters us for all to see



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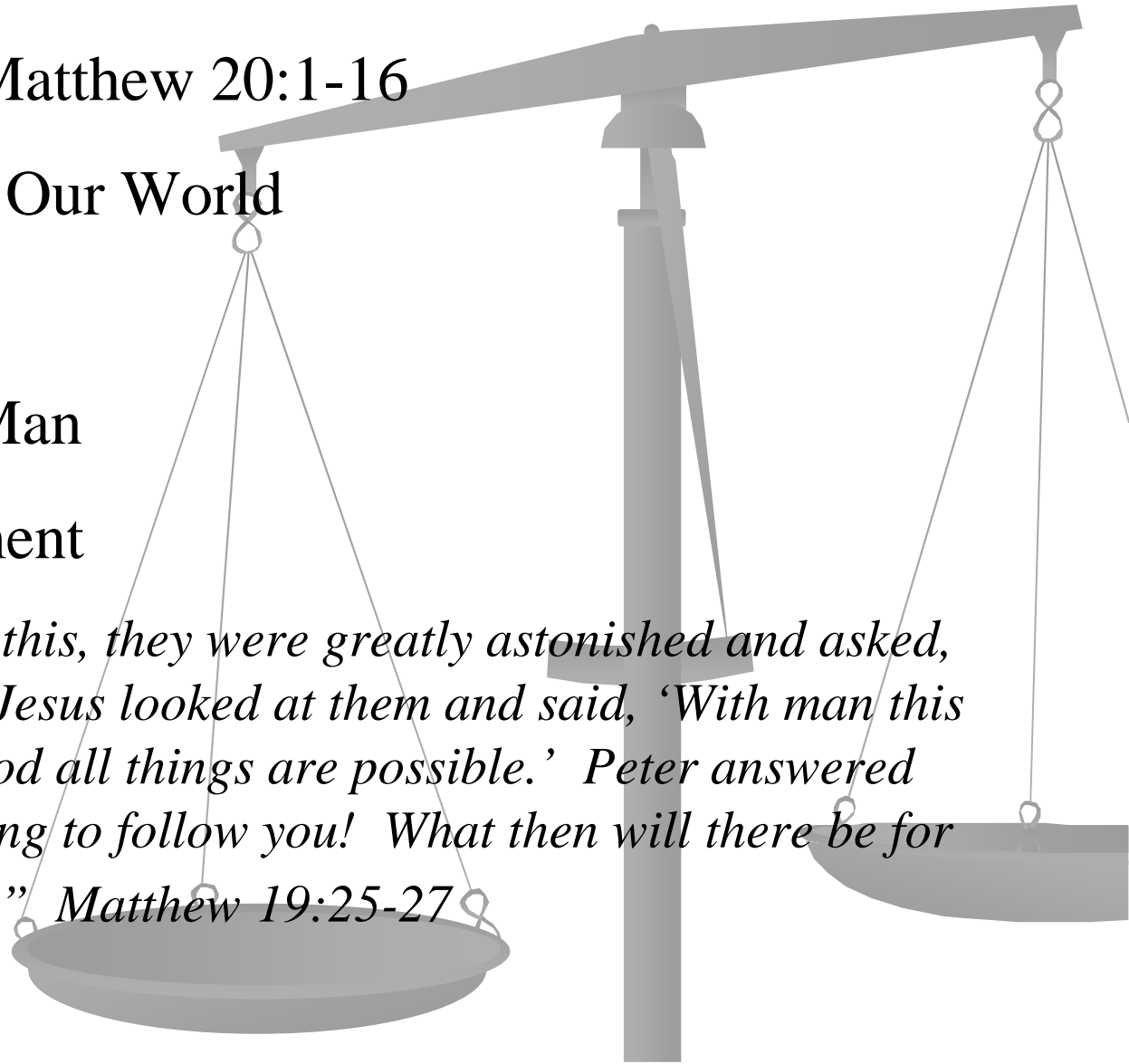
Matthew 20:1-16

Fair Market Value and Our World

Setting

- Rich Young Man
- Peter's Comment

“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, ‘Who then can be saved?’ Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’ Peter answered him, ‘We have left everything to follow you! What then will there be for us?’” Matthew 19:25-27



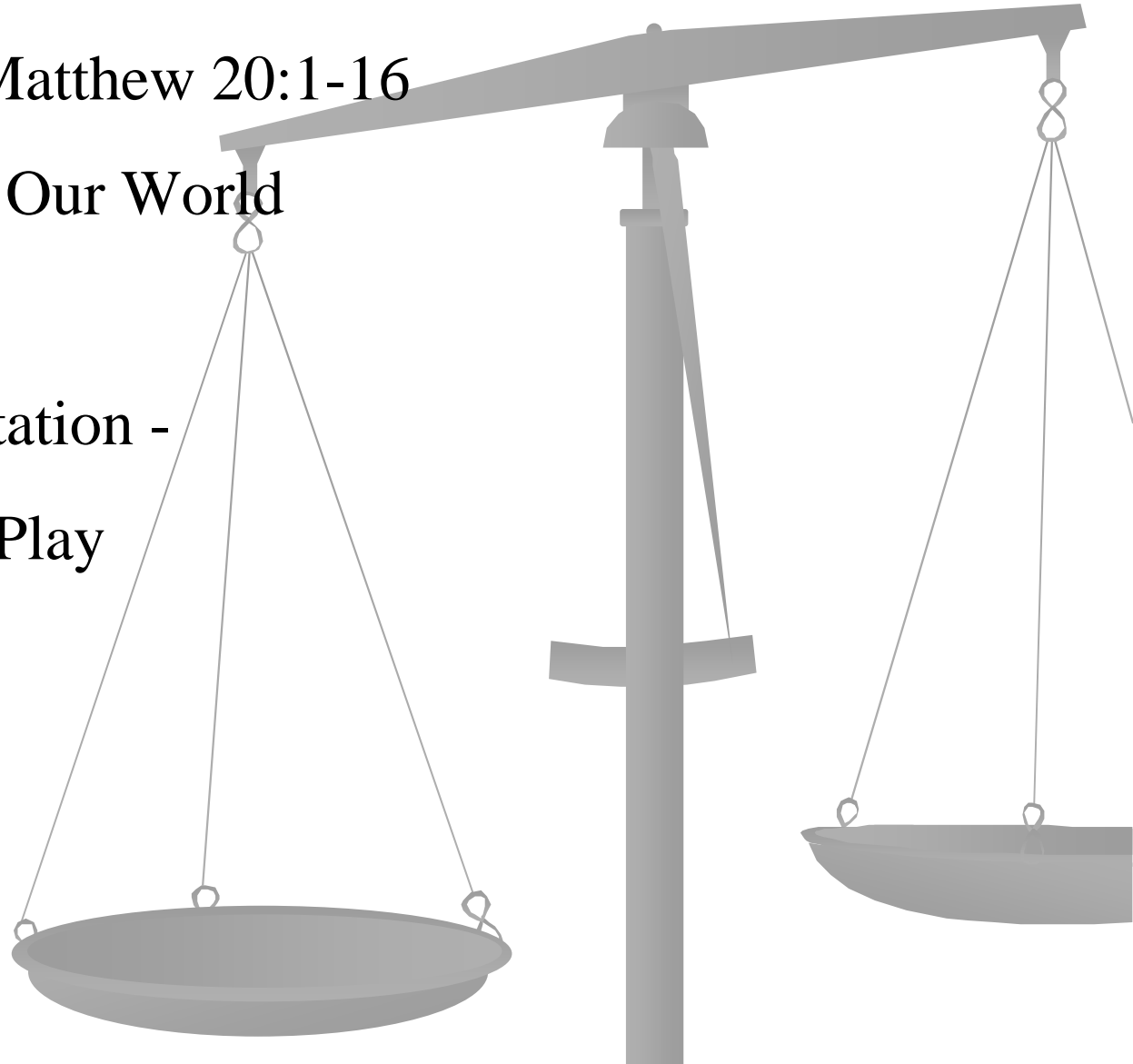
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Matthew 20:1-16

Fair Market Value and Our World

Setting

- Jewish Expectation -
- Sense of Fair Play



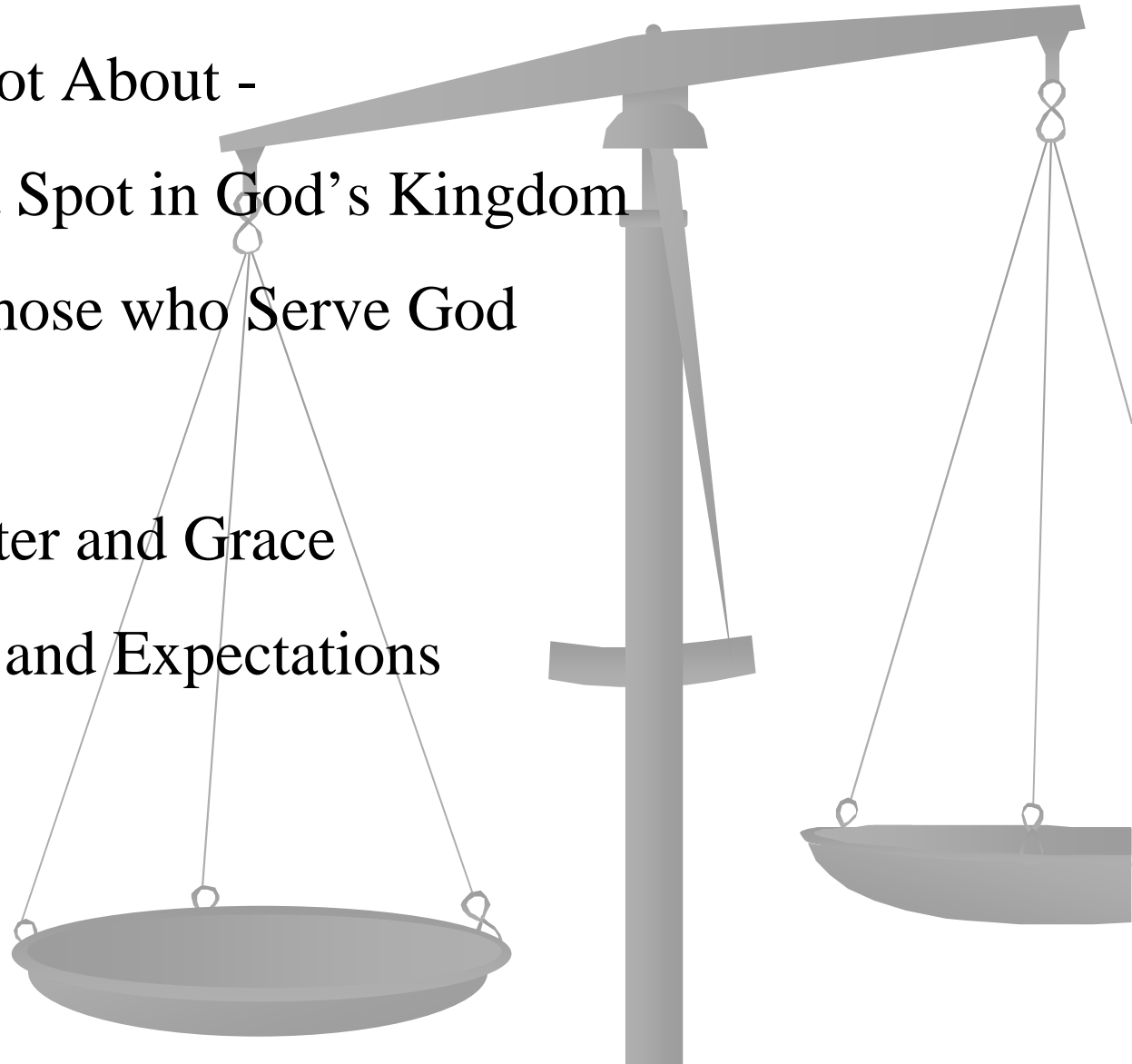
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What The Parable Is Not About -

- Working for a Spot in God's Kingdom
- Rewards for those who Serve God

This Parable Is About

- God's Character and Grace
- Our Attitudes and Expectations

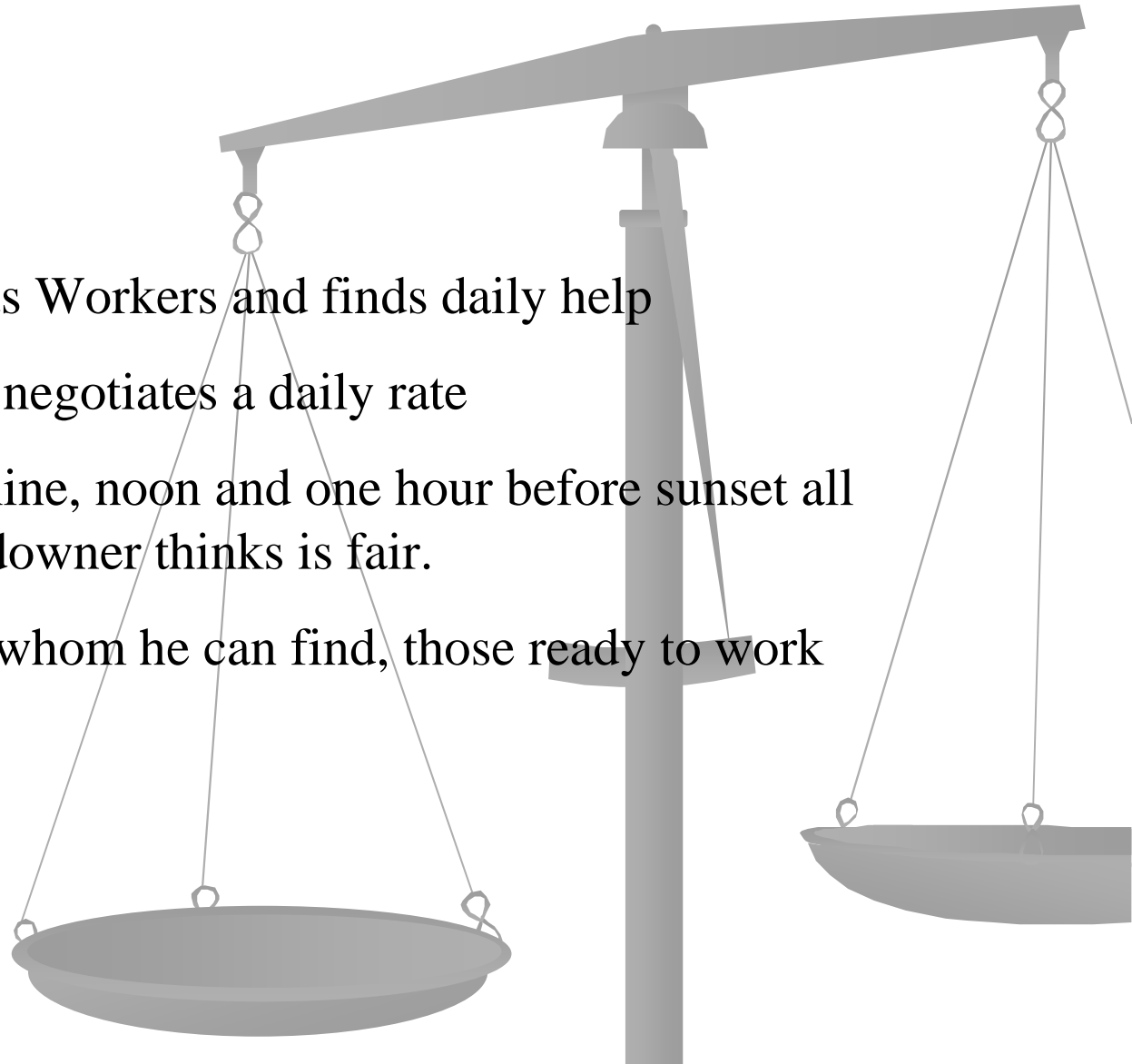


Fair Market Value & God

Simple Observations

1. Hiring Practices

- Landowner Needs Workers and finds daily help
- First group hired negotiates a daily rate
- Groups hired at nine, noon and one hour before sunset all work for what landowner thinks is fair.
- Landowner uses whom he can find, those ready to work

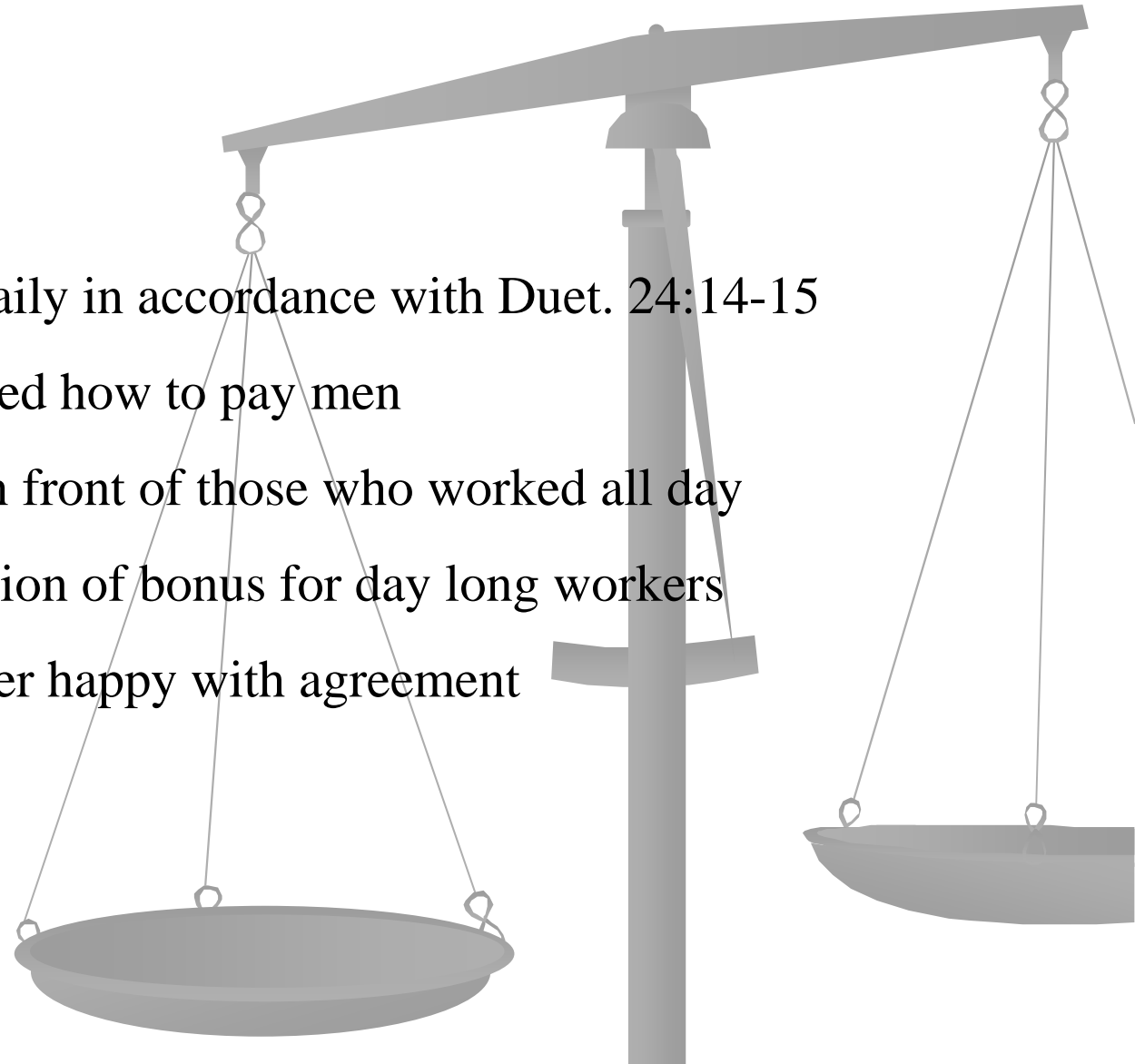


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Simple Observations

2. Payment of Wages

- Payment made daily in accordance with Duet. 24:14-15
- Foreman instructed how to pay men
- Last hired paid in front of those who worked all day
- Created Expectation of bonus for day long workers
- Workers no longer happy with agreement

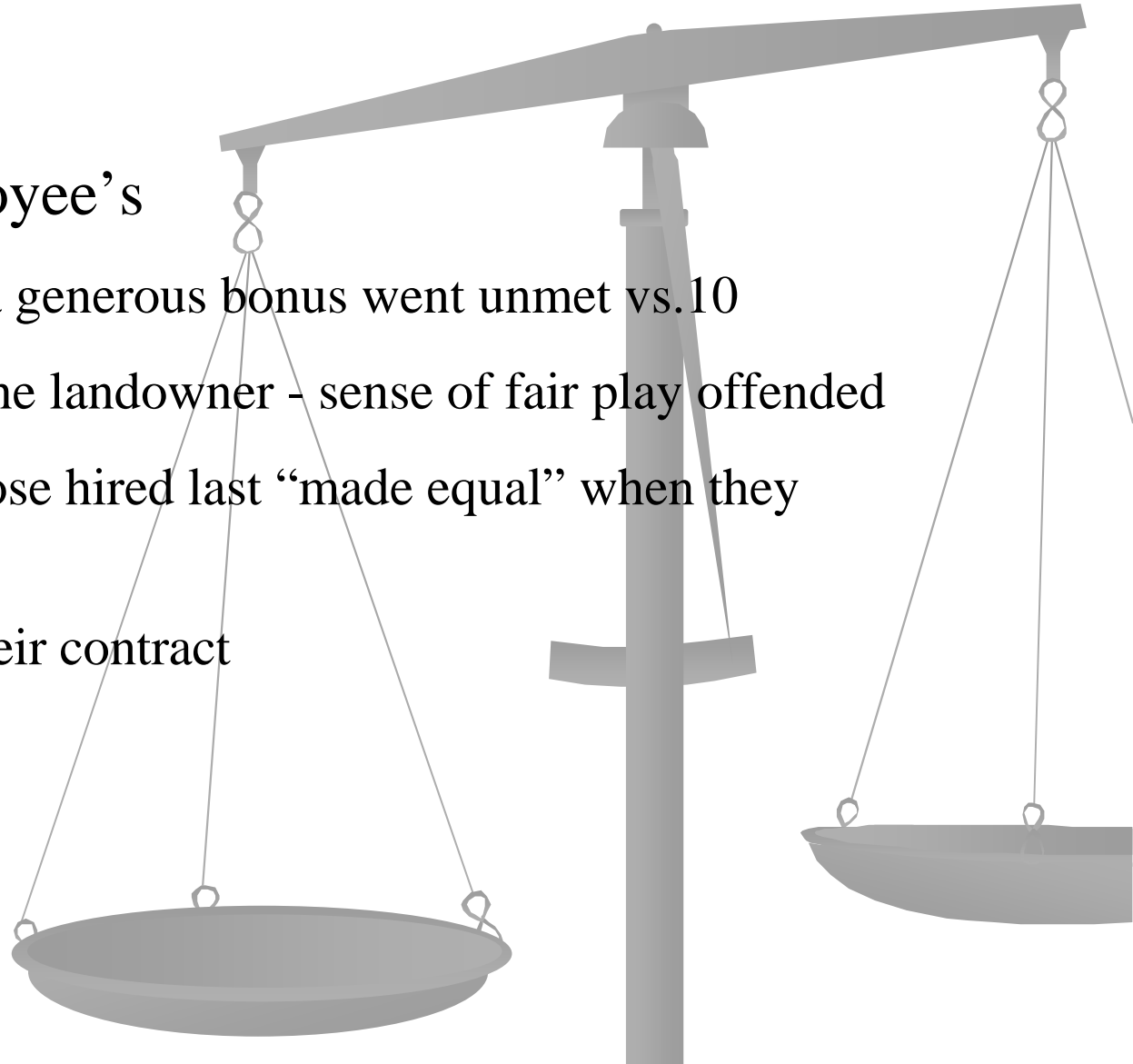


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Simple Observations

3. Disgruntled Employee's

- Expectations of a generous bonus went unmet vs.10
- They turned on the landowner - sense of fair play offended
- Offended that those hired last “made equal” when they worked all day.
- Unhappy with their contract

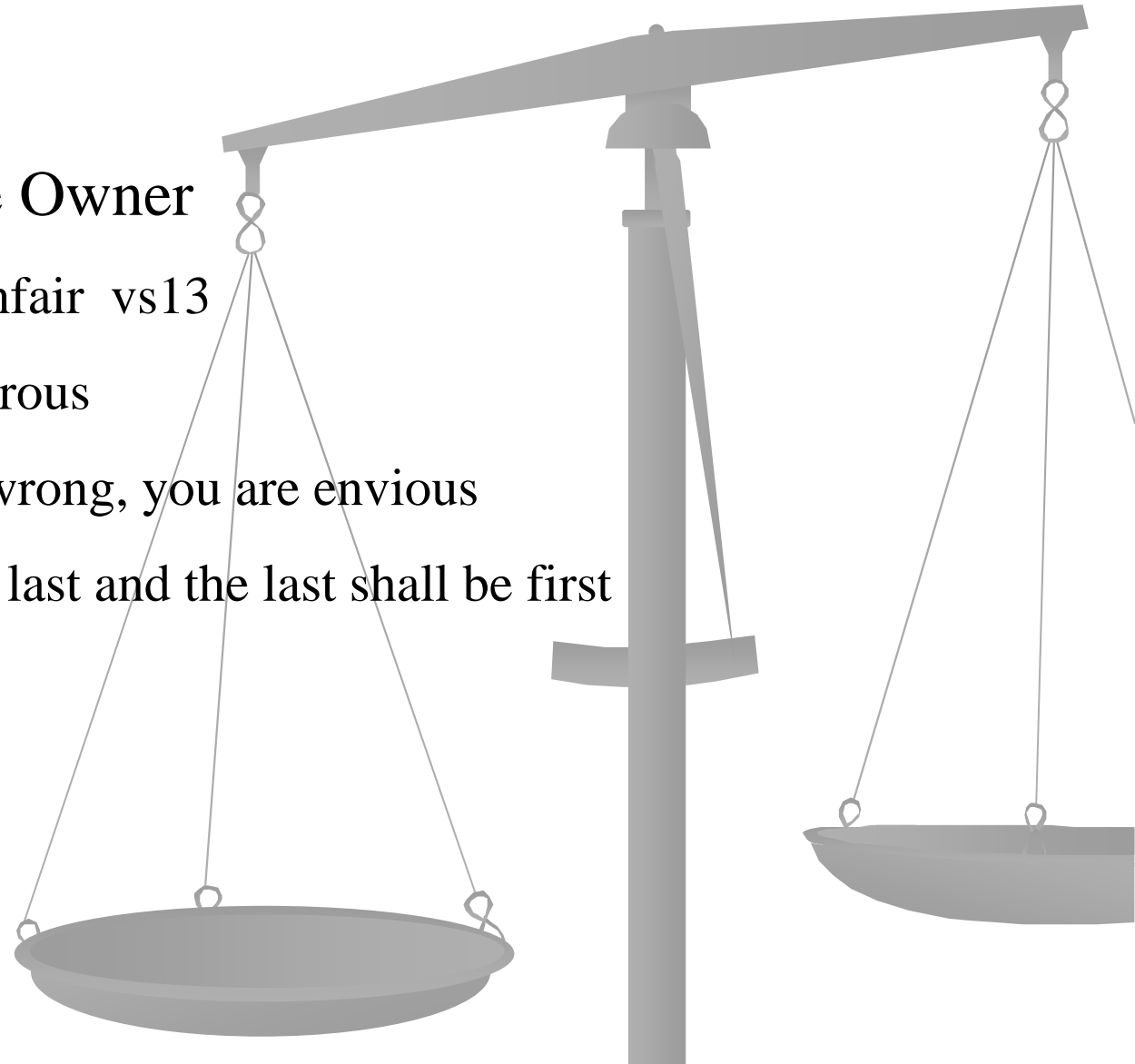


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Simple Observations

4. Response from the Owner

- I am not being unfair vs13
- I wish to be generous
- Your attitude is wrong, you are envious
- The first shall be last and the last shall be first

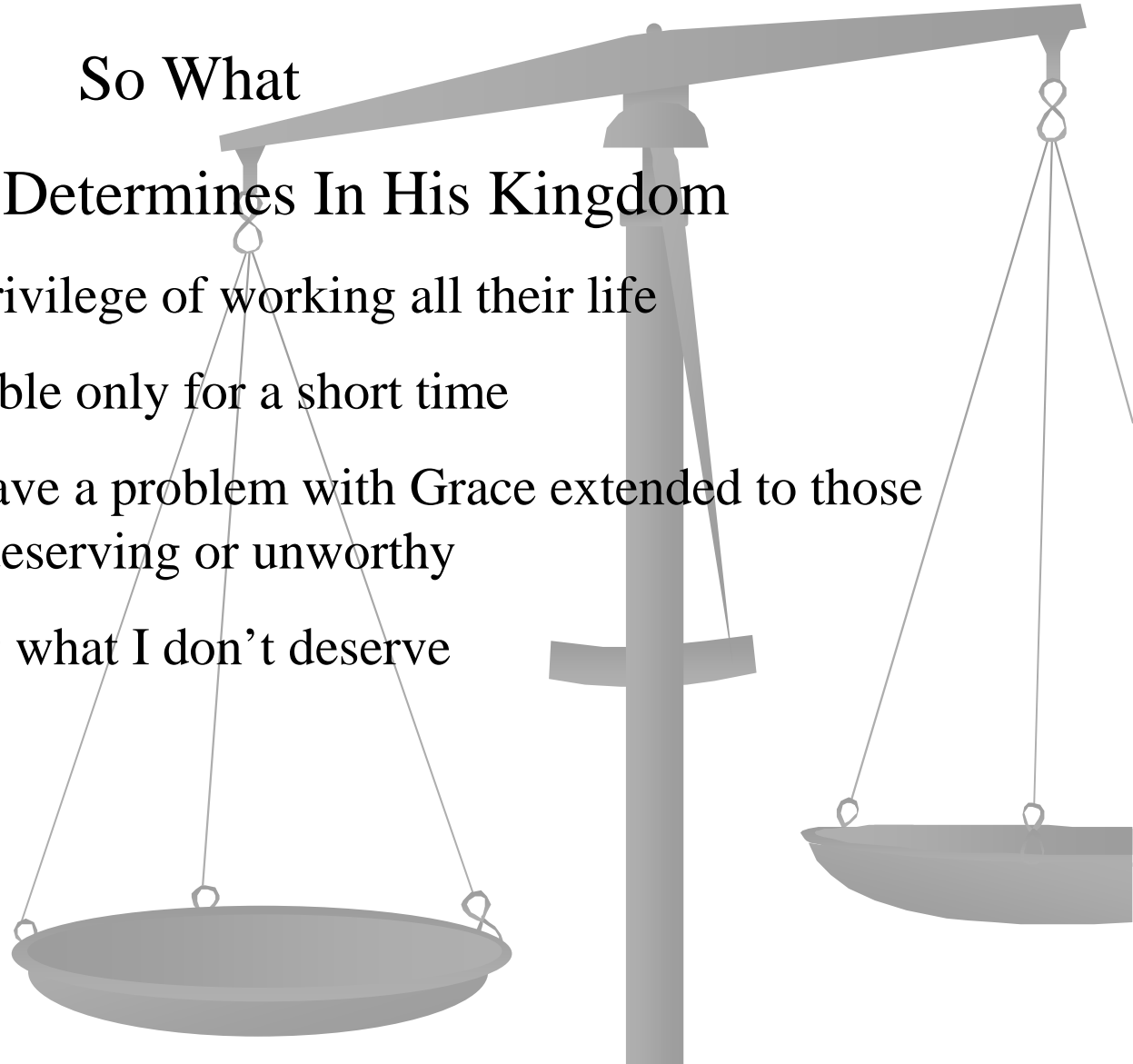


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So What

1. God Uses Who He Determines In His Kingdom

- Some have the privilege of working all their life
- Some will be usable only for a short time
- We sometimes have a problem with Grace extended to those we deem lazy, undeserving or unworthy
- Grace - receiving what I don't deserve



Fair Market Value & God

So What

2. God's Grace is His to Bestow Not Ours To Negotiate

- God will decide how his grace and mercy will be extended
- From a human perspective, it often offends our sense of fair play and justice
- It is often visible to us, creating an expectation we have a right to demand the same blessings as given to others

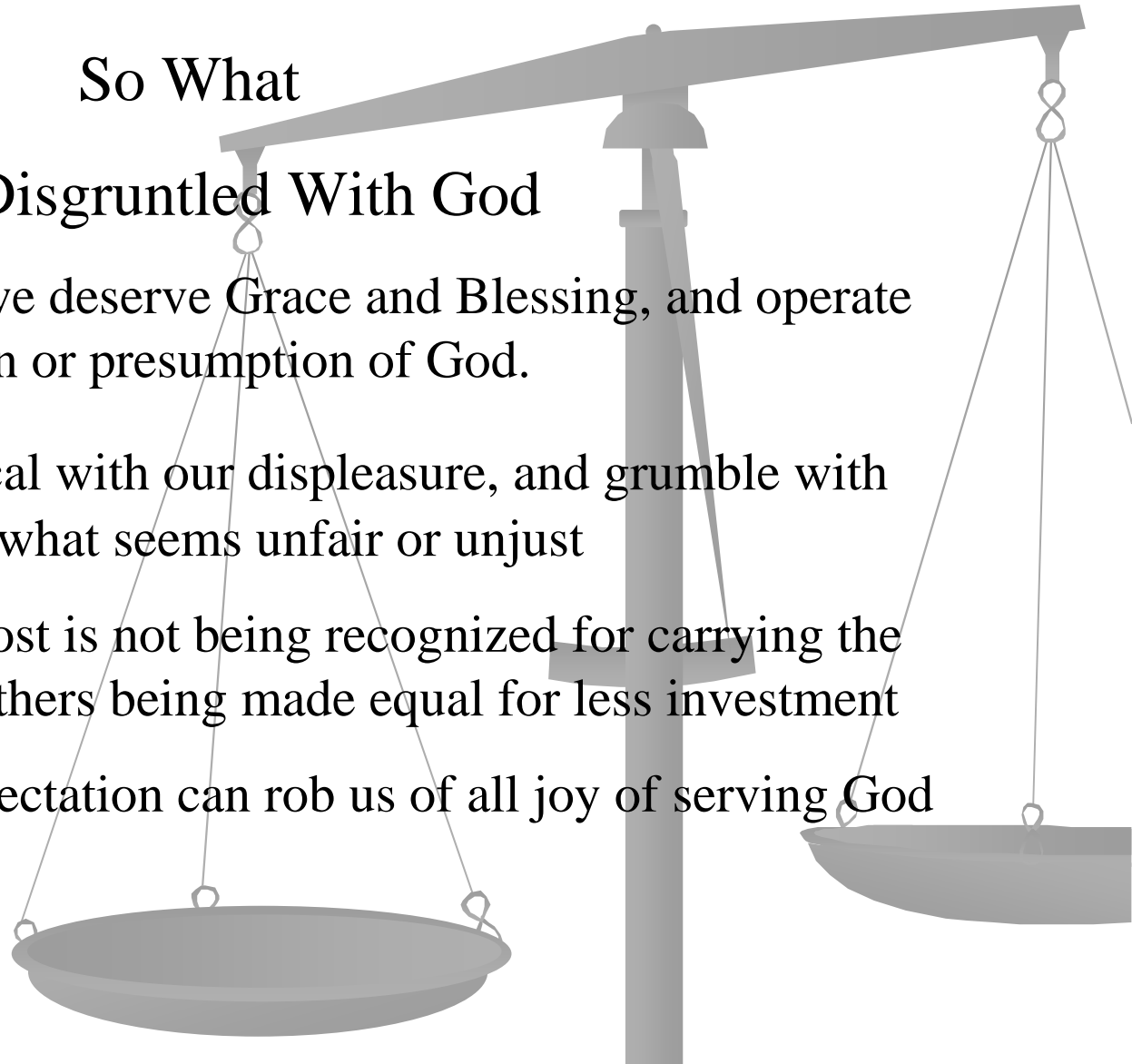


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So What

3. We Can Become Disgruntled With God

- We can believe we deserve Grace and Blessing, and operate with an expectation or presumption of God.
- We often are vocal with our displeasure, and grumble with one another about what seems unfair or unjust
- What offends most is not being recognized for carrying the load all day, and others being made equal for less investment
- Attitude and Expectation can rob us of all joy of serving God

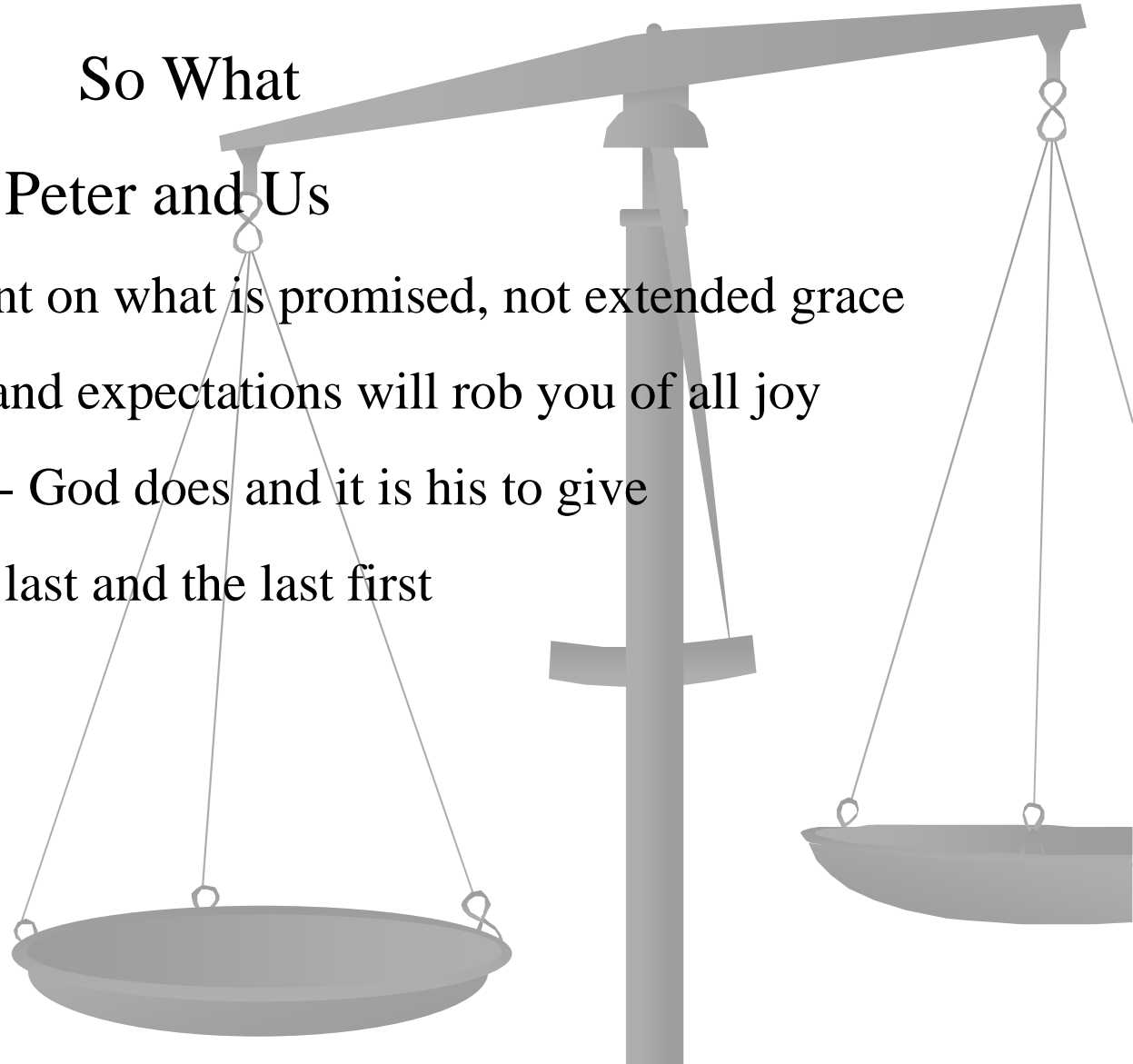


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So What

4. God's Response to Peter and Us

- We can only count on what is promised, not extended grace
- Wrong attitudes and expectations will rob you of all joy
- We don't decide - God does and it is his to give
- The first shall be last and the last first



Fair Market Value & God

So What

Today We Learn:

Expectations Must be Based on Truth

We Do Not Demand Grace - It is Extended

None of Us Are Worthy - All Are Chosen

Our Attitude and Expectation Sets Our Satisfaction

