



On Earth As It Is In Heaven

THE LETTER TO THE COLOSSIANS


ST. JOHN'S
DARLINGHURST
EST. 1849

Suffering is a universal
human condition.

THE VALUE OF THE AUSTRALIAN
INSURANCE INDUSTRY

\$179 billion



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‘Now I rejoice in what I am suffering...’

—*Colossians 1.24*

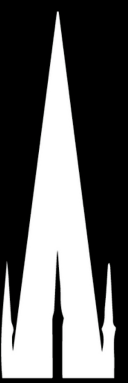
Christ the Shape of Wisdom

COLOSSIANS 1.24–2.3

1. “What I am suffering...”
2. “I rejoice...”
3. “For you...”

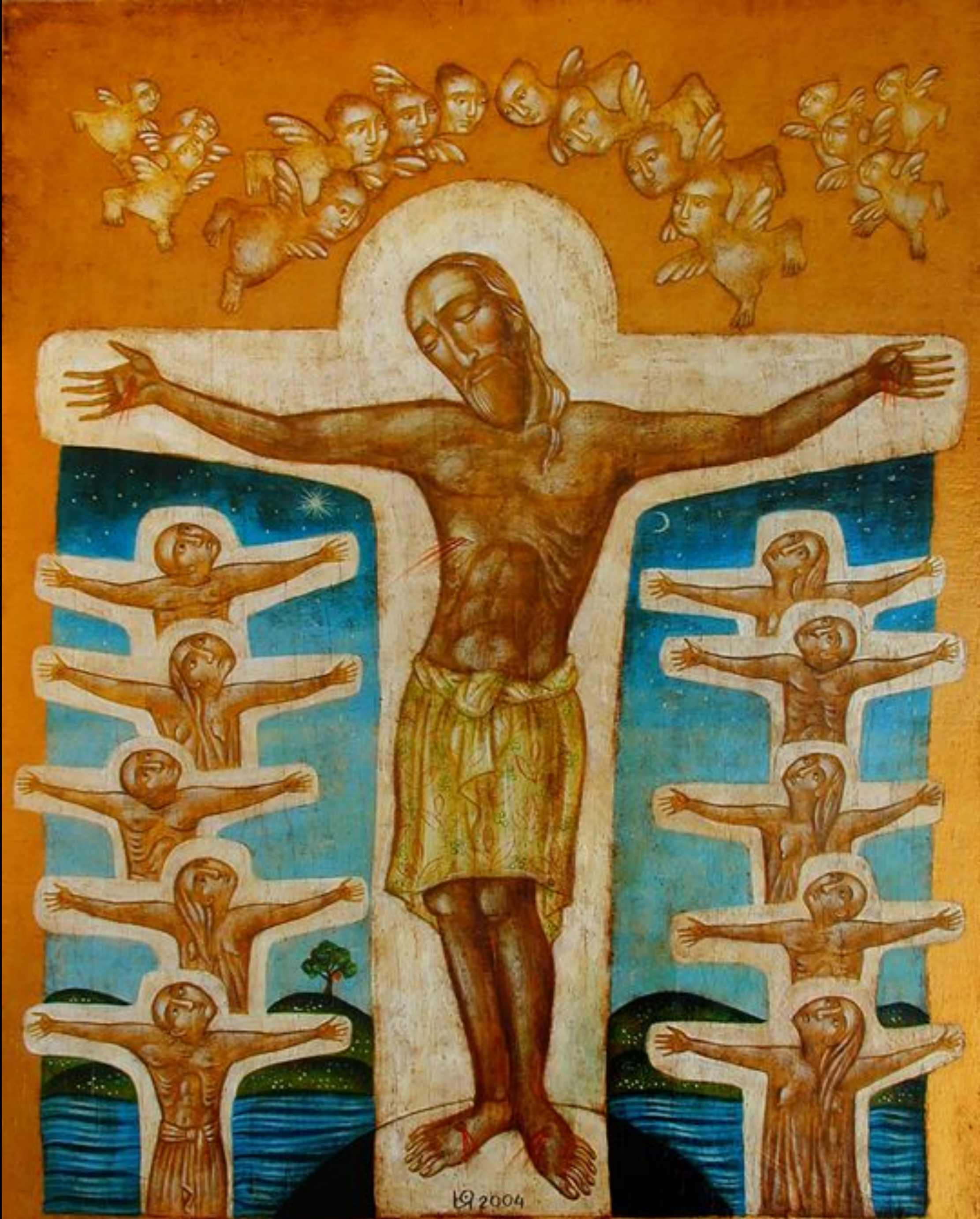
Key Questions:

- *What’s your key strategy for managing suffering?*
- *Does suffering turn you inward or outward?*



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Julia Stankova (Bulgarian, b. 1954)
The Crucifixion (2004)
tempera, gouache, watercolour,
and lacquer on panel

APPROACHES TO SUFFERING

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Stoicism accepts suffering.

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Epicureanism avoids suffering.

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Asceticism embraces suffering.

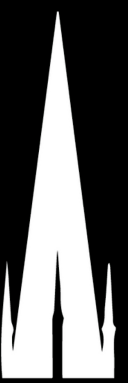
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HOW TO BE HAPPY

- ✓ Food, shelter, health, safety.
- ✓ Sleep.
- ✓ Meaningful relationships.
- ✓ Care for yourself and others.
- ✓ Interesting and engaging work.

External conditions can
never guarantee happiness.

You need something
internal.

‘God has chosen to make known... the
glorious riches of this mystery, which is
Christ in you, the hope of glory.’

—*Colossians 1.27*

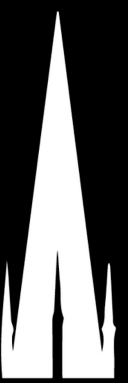
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Epicureanism avoids suffering.

Asceticism embraces suffering.

The Gospel engulfs suffering.

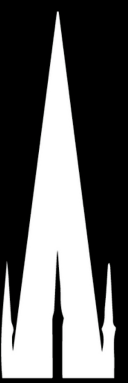
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“Is everything sad
going to come
untrue?”

—Frodo to Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings*

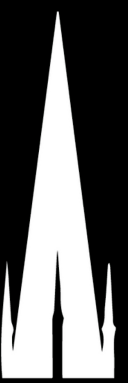
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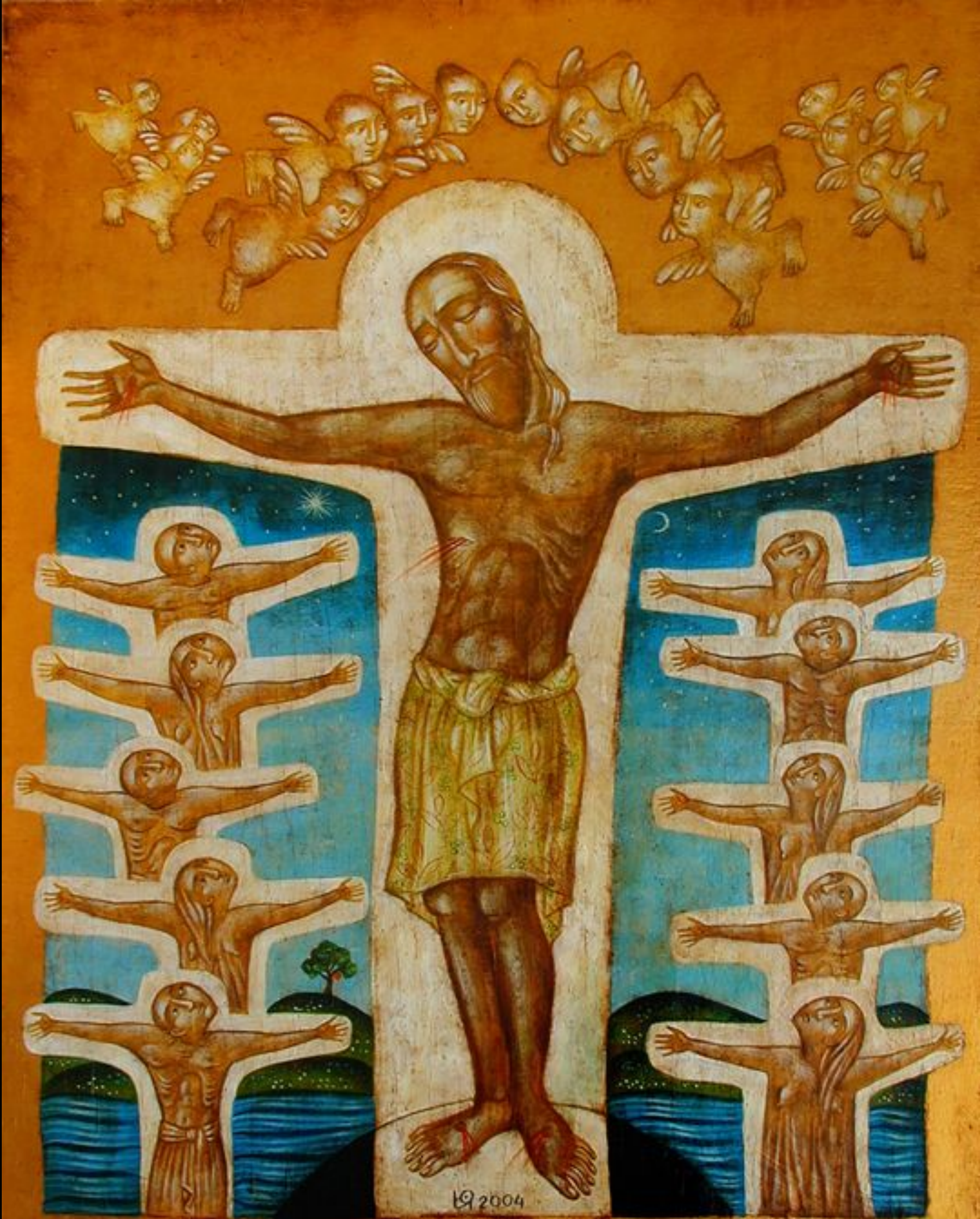


‘[F]or whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—He had the honesty and courage to take his own medicine. Whatever game He is playing with His creation, He has kept His own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that He has not exacted from Himself.

—Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?* (1947)

‘He has Himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When He was a man, He played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worth while.’

—Dorothy Sayers, *Creed or Chaos?* (1947)



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