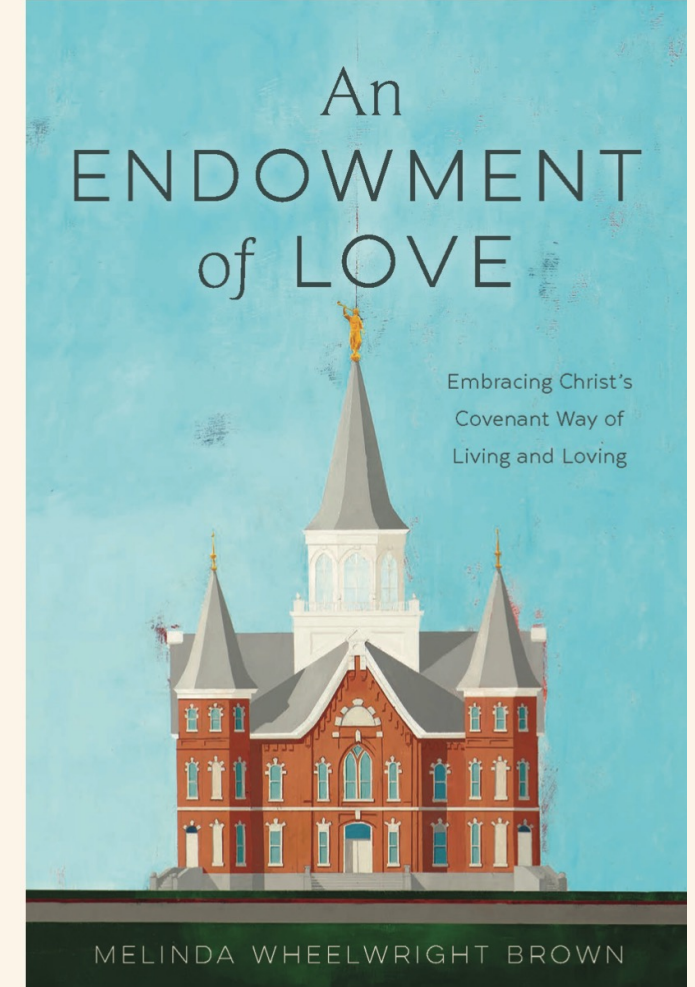


Transform Your Temple Experience

with Melinda Brown



A MAGNIFY GATHERING *by* Deseret Book

Let's Center Love



The endowment is a gift.



MT

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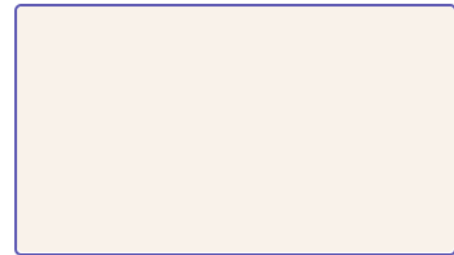
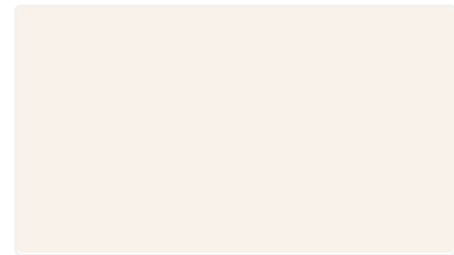


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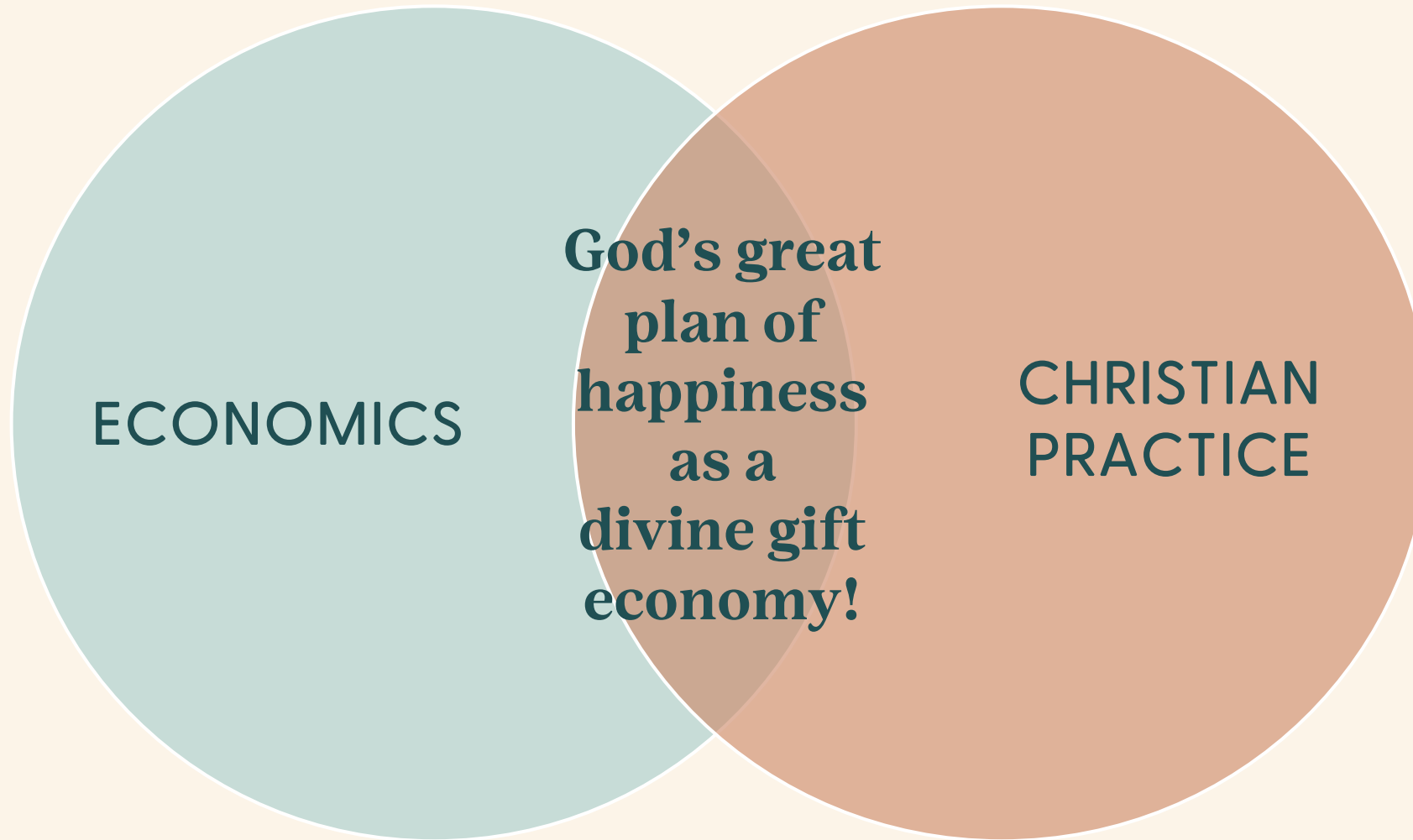
Mindy Brown



Choose a slide to present



Looking at the Temple with Fresh Eyes



What does *economics* mean?

- “the study of scarcity”
- “an orderly system of exchange: how people use resources and respond to incentives.”
- “how we organize ourselves to sustain life and enhance its quality.”

oikos

oy'-kos

word origin: derived from the Greek root of οἰκέω (oikeō), meaning "to dwell" or "to inhabit."

definition: home or household

i.e. that system of relationships that sustains us.

“In a gift economy, wealth is understood as having enough to share, and the practice for dealing with abundance is to give it away. . . . The currency in a gift economy is relationship, which is expressed as gratitude, as interdependence and the ongoing cycles of reciprocity. A gift economy nurtures the community bonds that enhance mutual well-being; the economic unit is ‘we’ rather than ‘I,’ as all flourishing is mutual.”

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*

MARKET ECONOMY

scarcity (supply and demand)

accumulation of stuff

pressure (competition)

depleted

goods + money

ownership mindset

increased belongings

people pay back their debts

closed, fixed

GIFT ECONOMY

abundance (love and care)

depth of relationships

promise (cooperation)

magnified

gratitude + connection

stewardship mindset

increased feelings of belonging

people pay forward their love

open, endless

God's house is
a house of order,
and His *system* is the
gospel of Jesus Christ,
which we might also
call "Christ's covenant
way of living and
loving."

MARKET ECONOMY	GIFT ECONOMY
scarcity (supply and demand)	abundance (love and care)
accumulation of stuff	depth of relationships
pressure (competition)	promise (cooperation)
depleted	magnified
goods + money	gratitude + connection
ownership mindset	stewardship mindset
increased belongings	increased feelings of belonging
people pay back their debts	people pay forward their love
closed, fixed	opened, endless

QUESTION

What small-scale gift economies are you personally familiar with?

The **Power** of Love

When we are ordered by love,
each sacred interaction expands *outward*,
creating a *momentum* that *lifts* and
elevates.



All things in this world are gifts of God, presented to us so that we may know God more easily and make a return of love more readily.

St. Ignatius of Loyola



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“In the biblical imagination, gift-giving both presupposes and creates an enduring relationship of mutuality in which the giving party expects a reciprocal, although not necessarily proportionate, return from the receiving party. Gifts create obligations in the most basic sense of that word: *ties that bind two people together.*”

Ryan Tafilowski

EVIDENCE *and* ANTICIPATION

QUESTION

How does recognizing something as a “gift” change your feelings about it?

“Your gratitude has *motive force*
You’re likely to take much better care of
the gift hat than of the commodity hat,
because the gift hat is knit of
relationships. This is the power of gift
thinking.”

Robin Wall Kimmerer, *The Serviceberry*



A man filled with the love of God,
is not content with blessing his family
alone, but ranges through the world,
anxious to bless the whole of the human
family.

Joseph Smith

Adding to the word cloud:

- bestow
- grant
- dedication
- miracle
- invitation
- blessing
- promise
- grace