

More Than Meets the Eye

First: We are each an iceberg

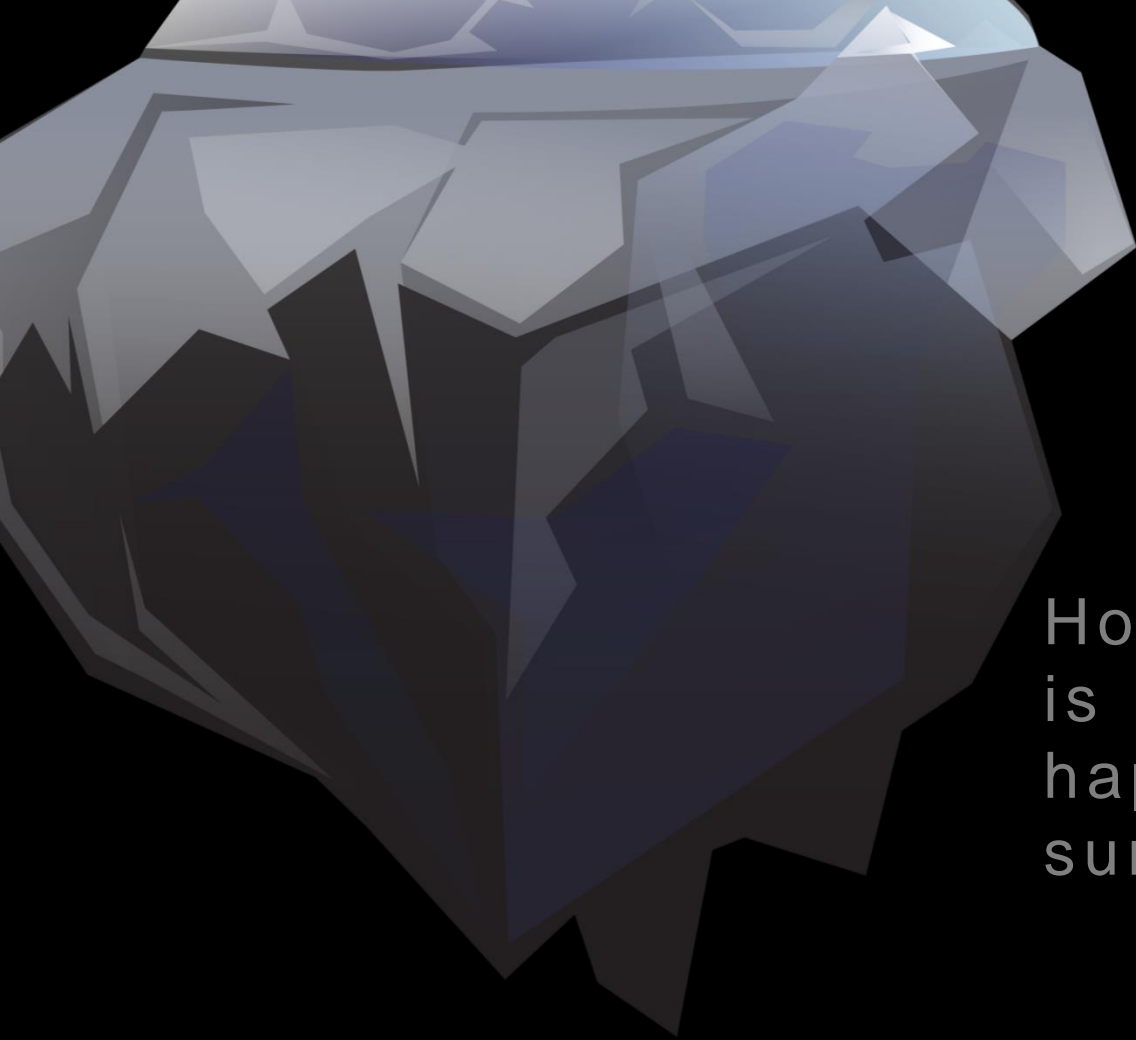
Like icebergs...
we exist mostly
below the
surface



There is what we say
and do in public...

...and then there is
everything else





How much of our life
is *really* about what's
happening below our
surface?

Dreams unrealized
Thoughts unspoken
Desires un-sated
Chances not taken
Actions we didn't
(or won't) do

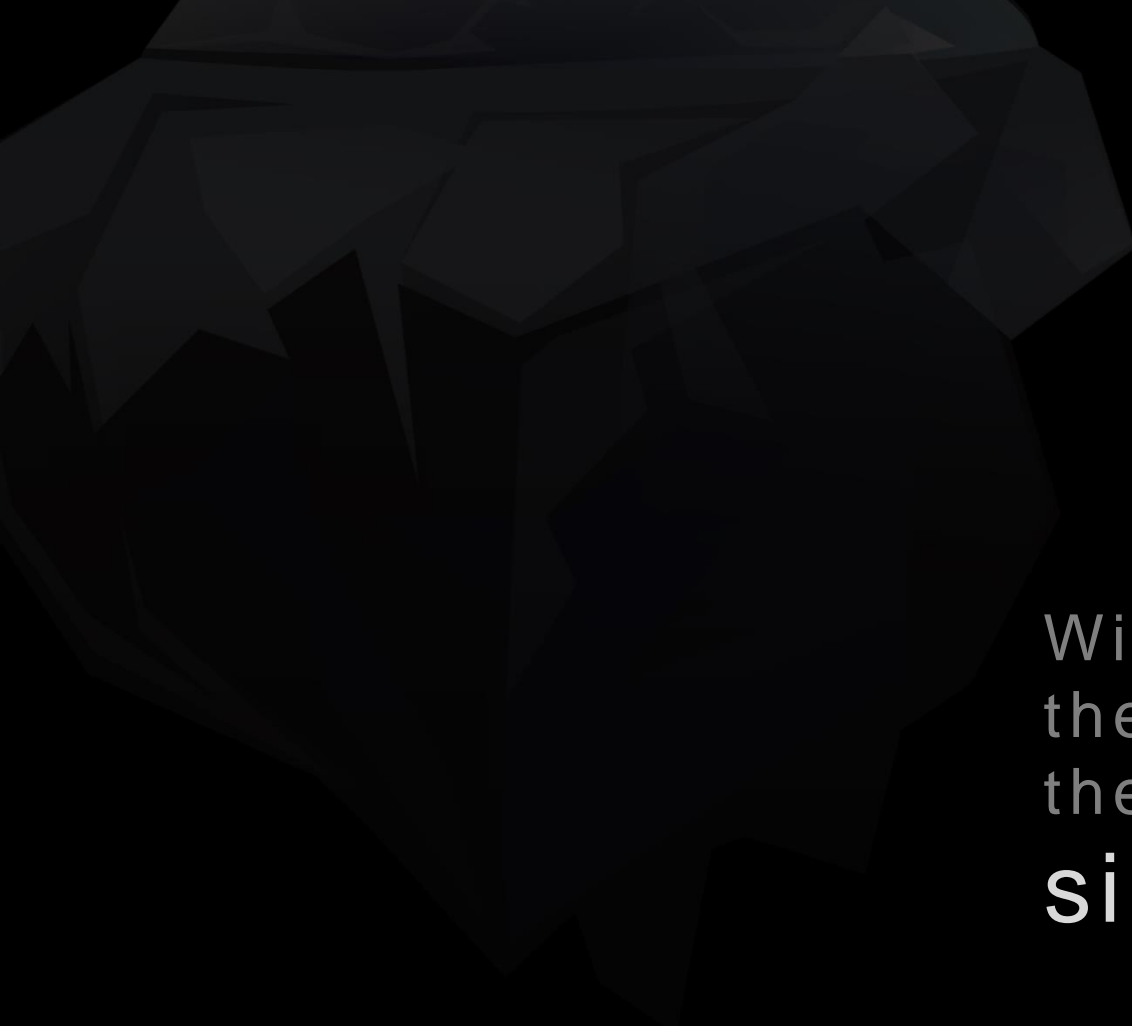


Much of our *being* is
hidden. Much of life
happens privately.
Internally.

Beneath the surface
Inside our heads
Inside our hearts

Unseen





With Icebergs, isn't it
the unseen part, below
the waterline, that
sinks ships?

Like icebergs, isn't it what lies
beneath the surface that
causes harm

when something from our
submerged self

bumps someone else's hidden
self?

What happens when

Our feelings

Our values

Our preferences

Our tradition

Our heritage

Our culture

Collide?

Yes, we are each *somewhat*
like an iceberg

(able to sink any boats that
bump us)

But

unlike icebergs,
we're *not* inanimate.

We don't have to be frozen.

We don't have to be sharp.

We are Alive:
Agents, not objects.

We can set a course, we do not have
to float along wherever the currents
of life take us.

Also, what is under our surface
comes up, and comes out of us.

Below the waterline,
Within our heart & mind, we...

Interpret

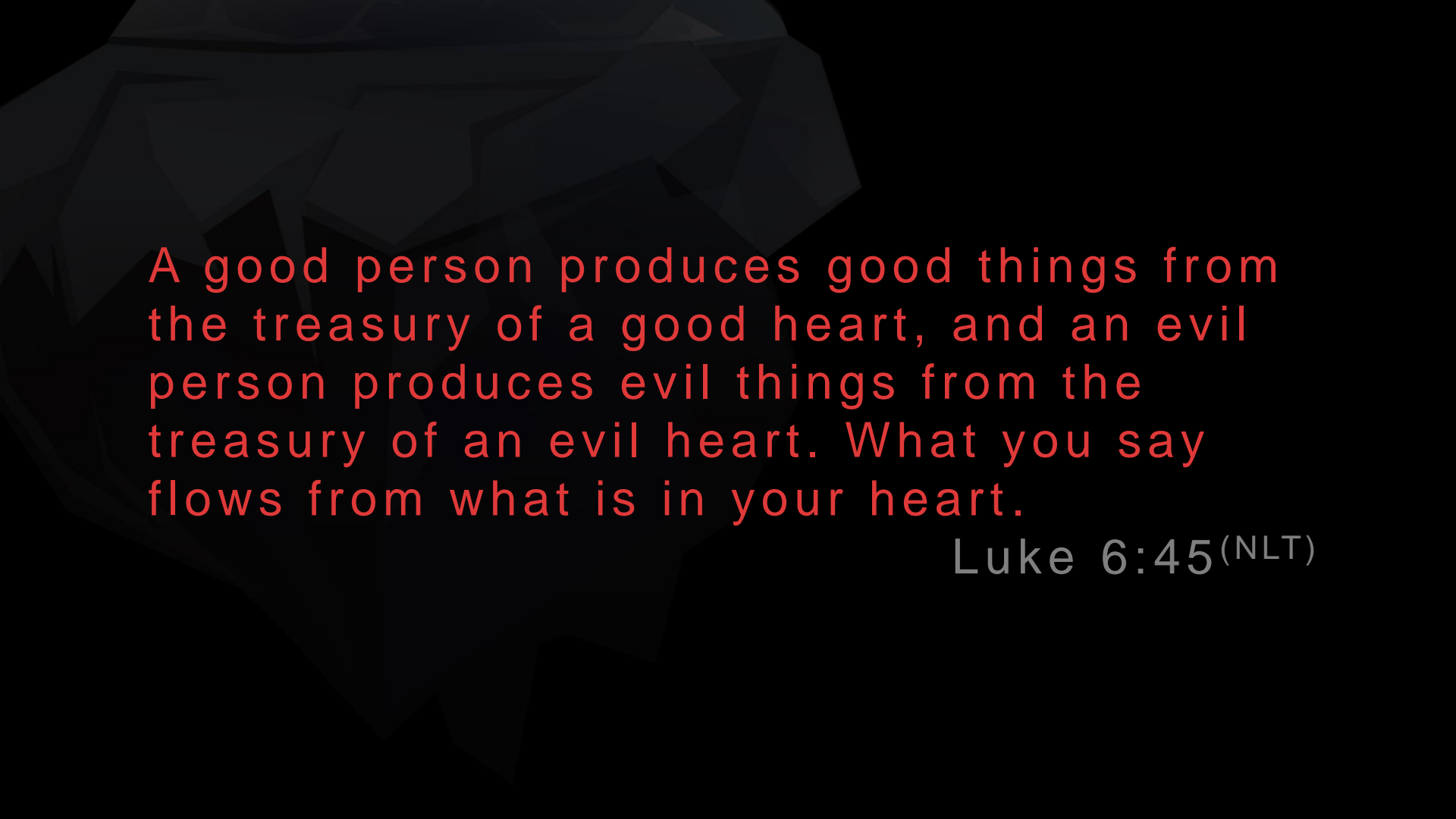
Make choices

Make judgements

Have doubt

Have faith

Then we speak, and act, from
our submerged life.



A good person produces good things from the treasury of a good heart, and an evil person produces evil things from the treasury of an evil heart. What you say flows from what is in your heart.

Luke 6:45^(NLT)

We are flesh

We have bodies

We have minds

We have hearts

We are soul

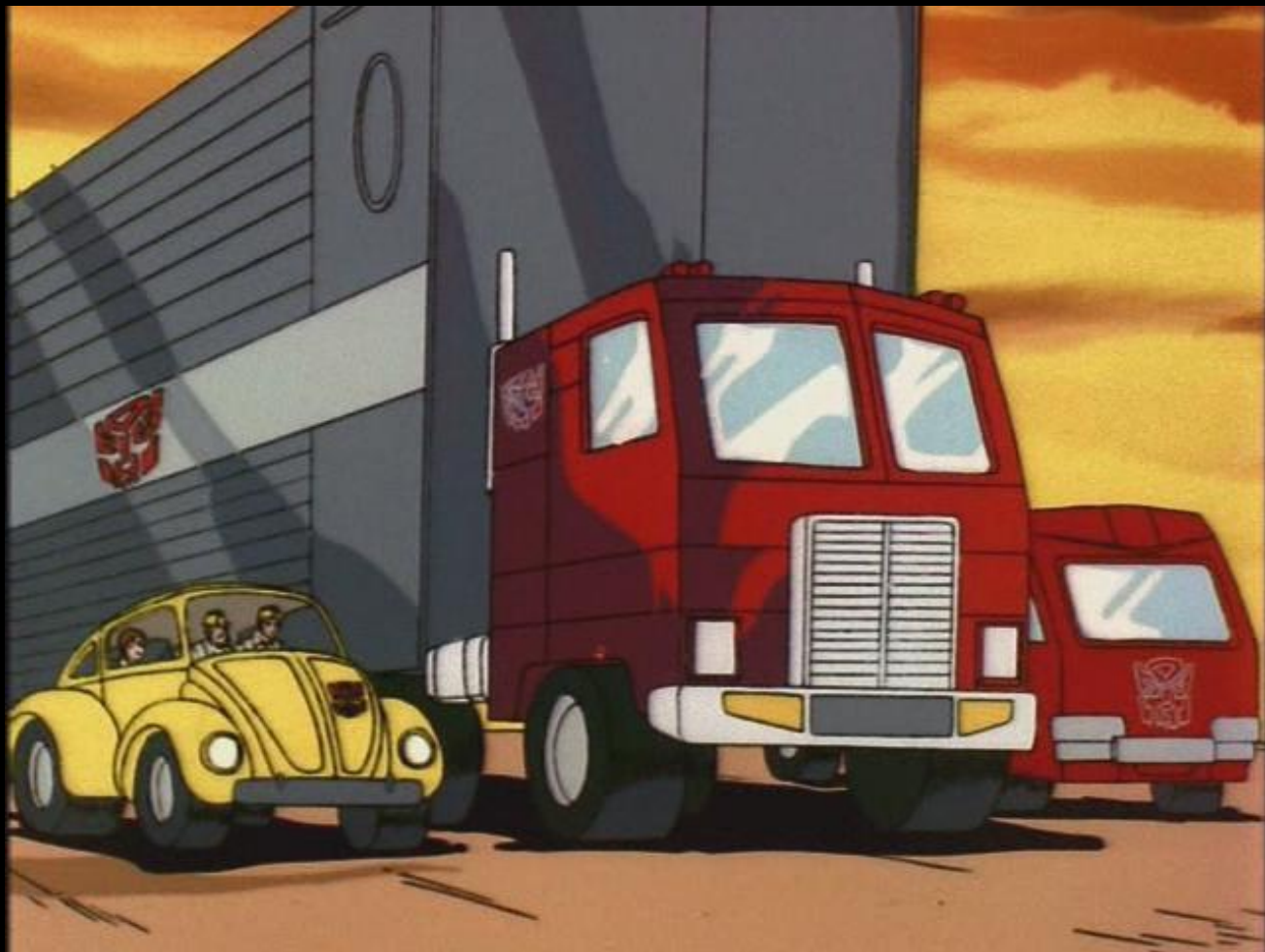
We are but water and dust,
but we are more than mud.

We are...
more than meets the eye

Let's try another analogy:

Maybe we're like a truck...

That's not *just* a truck.



Transformers
More than meets the eye

Transformers
Robots in disguise

Oh, Autobots wage their battle
To destroy, end the evil forces,
Of the Decepticons

So what exactly am I
going on about?





Allegory for Spiritual Warfare
Hiding in our popular culture

1. There are two forces,
hiding in plain sight,
locked in a battle for
the fate of mankind:

- A. The **Autobots**, who have nobly taken up the mantle of responsibility of protecting humanity, and...
- B. The **Deceptacons**, out to corrupt, enslave, and ultimately destroy humanity, to pillage the Galaxy.

2. *Both sides* are working to influence people, to win them to a cause—either inspiring people with courage and virtue...

Or coercing, threatening,
and seducing them with
promises of power in
exchange for service...

Sound familiar?

3. Throughout the franchise, the actions of the human characters and their decisions play a critical role in the outcome.

4. Optimus Prime, the leader of the Autobots, gives his life to save and protect the humans numerous times throughout the franchise lore.

5. The Decepticons, led by Megatron, are a group of malevolent, duplicitous robot-beings, fixated on total domination of the universe.

So actually, it's pretty deep for a
line of toys and a kids show
from the 80's.

So, now that we have two
workable metaphors in
mind, let's get into our text
for the morning:

8 Jesus returned to the Mount of Olives,
² but early the next morning he was back
again at the Temple. A crowd soon
gathered, and he sat down and taught
them.

John 8^(NLT)

³ As he was speaking, the teachers of religious law and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in the act of adultery. They put her in front of the crowd.

John 8^(NLT)

⁴ “Teacher,” they said to Jesus, “this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵ The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?”

⁶ They were trying to trap him into saying something they could use against him, but Jesus stooped down and wrote in the dust with his finger.

John 8^(NLT)

⁷ They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!” ⁸ Then he stooped down again and wrote in the dust.

John 8^(NLT)

⁹ When the accusers heard this, they slipped away one by one, beginning with the oldest, until only Jesus was left in the middle of the crowd with the woman. ¹⁰ Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?”

John 8^(NLT)

11 “No, Lord,” she said.

And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

John 8^(NLT)

Jesus doesn't directly address the surface situation. Jesus goes straight to what's underwater, the *motives* of the religious leaders.

Do the religious leaders really care about this woman's sin?

Jesus *knows* this isn't really about the woman accused; it's about trying to trip him up.

They want to use her as a pawn for their own ends, but instead Jesus makes it an opportunity to act toward God's ends.

(To which I think we can all say)

Well played Jesus, well played!

But...

Let's dig into this story a bit
deeper...

Have you ever worked to uphold
God's law, to stand for values, and
protect piety?

...when actually you were trying to
use God for your own agenda?

Have you ever found yourself using
someone for your ends?

Have you ever judged someone's motives falsely?

(since, unlike Jesus, we can't see what's beneath the surface)

Yeah, the Pharisees probably didn't think they were twisting the law either.

When there was **more than meets the eye to your motives**, was it holy, or were you an agent of the Decepticons, deceived yourself?

If we do so deceive ourselves, do we believe that God is deceived with us?

And while we're here, what had Jesus done to the religious leaders, that they're looking for things to use against him, anyway?

What did Jesus do to them, what crime does he commit, that they ultimately resolve to **kill him?**

The best I can tell, Jesus's
Godliness was getting too much in
the way of their *Jewishness*

So that begs the question for us this morning:

When has **our religion** gotten in the way of **our faithfulness**?

When have our traditions, our heritage, and our convictions trumped actual love for God and neighbor?

When have we assumed we knew
what was in another person's heart,
especially a fellow brother or sister
in Christ?

And yet... like the Pharisees, we
have felt justified and righteous in
our actions, as we picked up stones.

Let's be honest: do we even know
what's within ourselves?

Because we are most definitely
more than meets the eye.