

The background of the image features a close-up of vibrant pink bougainvillea flowers and their characteristic large, papery bracts. The flowers are set against a backdrop of lush green leaves, which are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. The overall color palette is dominated by the bright pink of the flowers and the various shades of green of the foliage.

Welcome

To Maranatha Community Church

Standard & Poor's

A Division of The McGraw-Hill Companies





US National Debt:

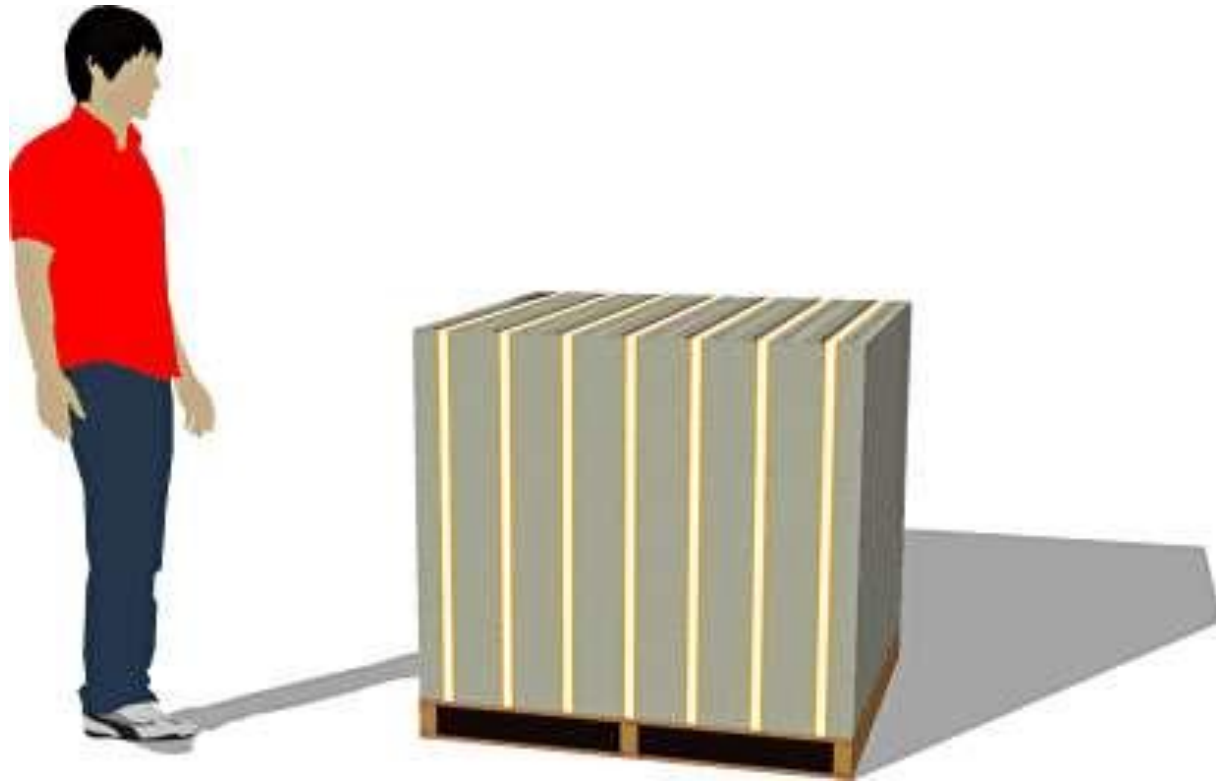
US National Debt:

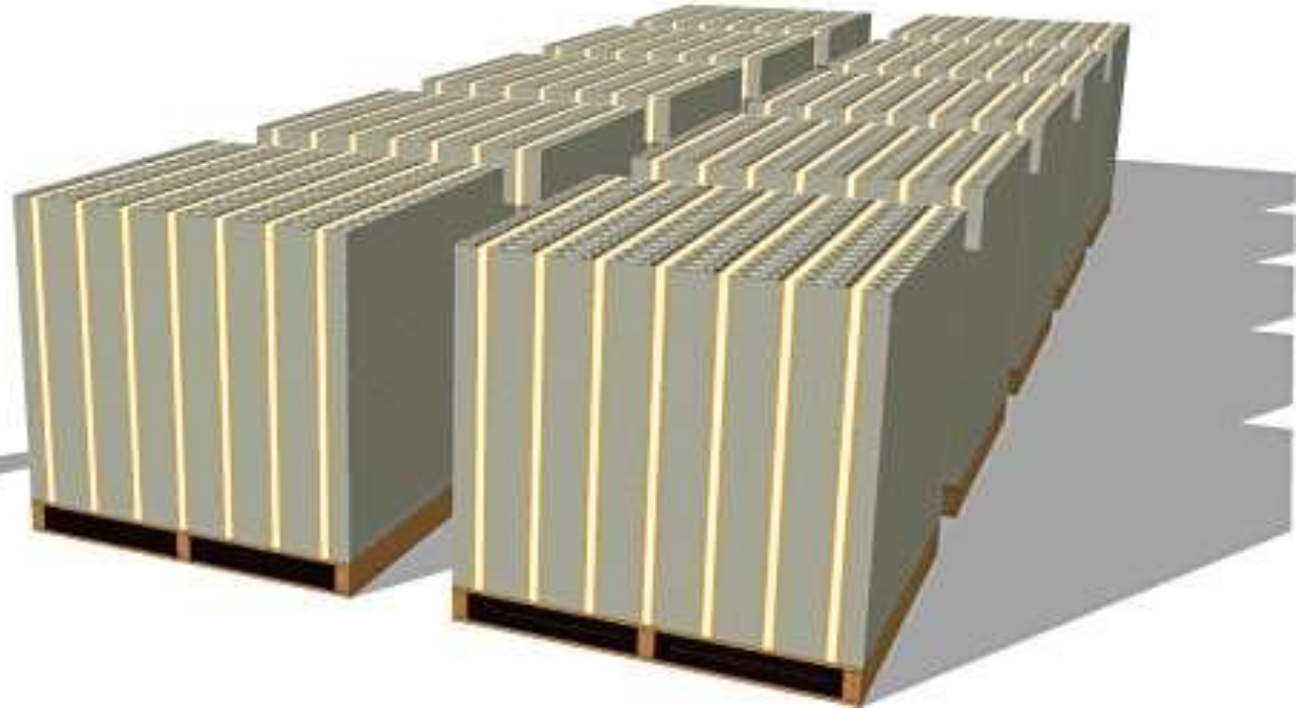
\$14,603,415,725,568

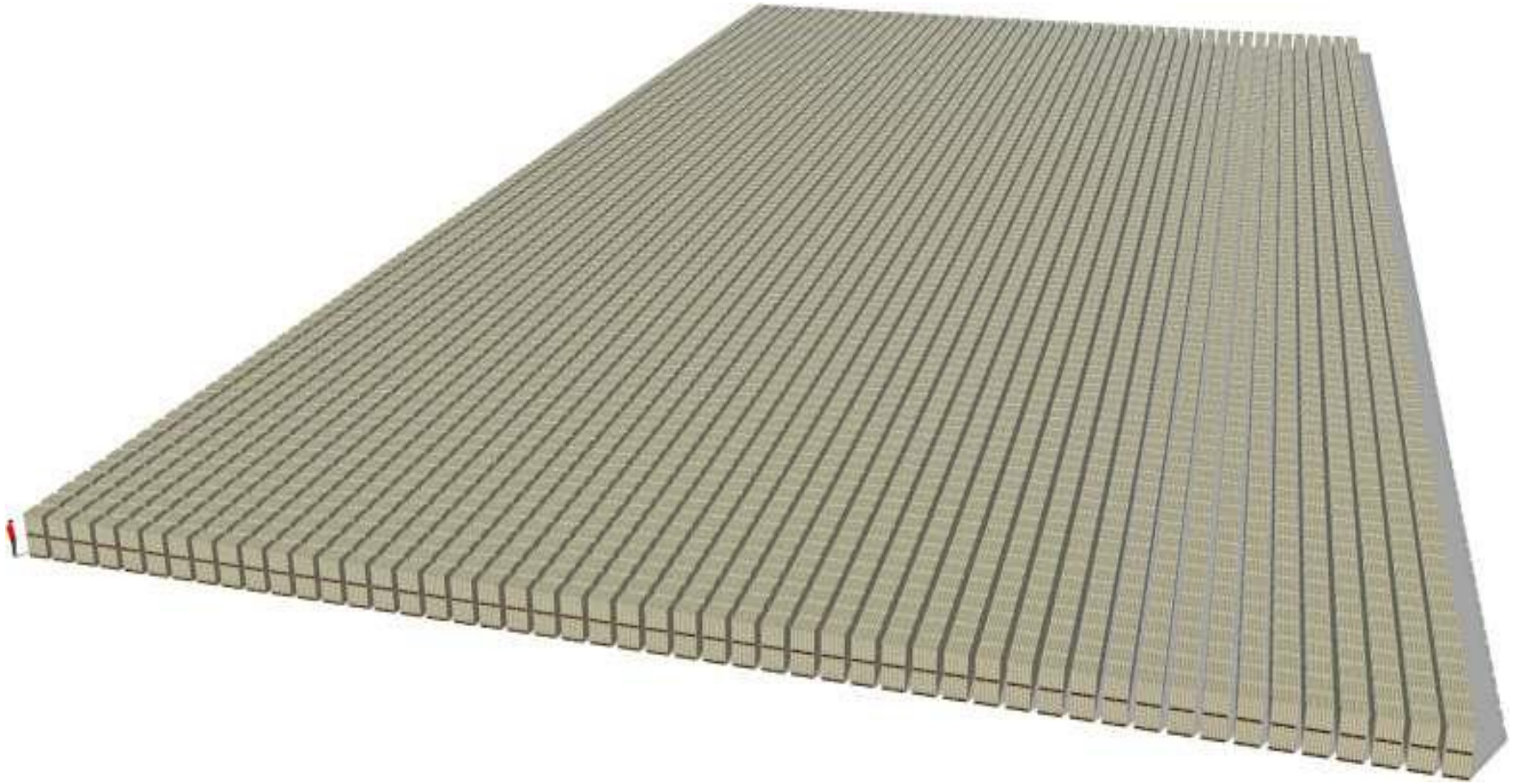












Progress in Solving the Budget Deficit



BARCLAYCARD

VISA



Nationwide

VISA



FlexAccount



Clydesdale Bank

AutoBank



EBIT
ARD

The Invitation



THE
NOT-SO-SIMPLE TRUTH
ABOUT FOLLOWING
JESUS

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... yes, even their own life ... such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, "This person began to build and wasn't able to finish."

Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Luke 14:25-33

The Invitation

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... yes, even their own life ... such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25-27

The Invitation

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: **"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... yes, even their own life ... such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:25-27

The Invitation

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

The Invitation

Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he found him, he brought him to Antioch. So for a whole year Barnabas and Saul met with the church and taught great numbers of people.

The disciples were called Christians first at Antioch.

Acts 11:25-26

1. Give up our Relationships for Christ

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... yes, even their own life ... such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

Luke 14:25-27

If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... **yes, even their own life ...** such a person cannot be my disciple. **And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:25-27

**... count yourselves dead to sin but
alive to God in Christ Jesus.**

Romans 6:11

The Invitation

**... our old self was crucified with him
so that the body ruled by sin might be
done away with, that we should no
longer be slaves to sin.**

Romans 6:6

The Invitation

2. Give up our Lives for Christ

"If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters ... **yes, even their own life ...** such a person cannot be my disciple. **And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.**

Luke 14:25-27

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'

Luke 14:28-30

"Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.

Luke 14:31-32













3. Give up our Possessions for Christ

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Luke 14:33

The Invitation

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other ...

Matthew 6:24

The Invitation

No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.**

Matthew 6:24

The Invitation

I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

Luke 16:9

The Invitation

And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else's property, who will give you property of your own?

Luke 16:12

The Invitation

1. Support His messengers

... helping to support them out of their own means.

Luke 8:3

The Invitation

2. support the poor

**The poor you will always have with you,
and you can help them any time you want.
But you will not always have me.**

Mark 14:7

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have **cannot be my disciples.**

Luke 14:33

The Invitation

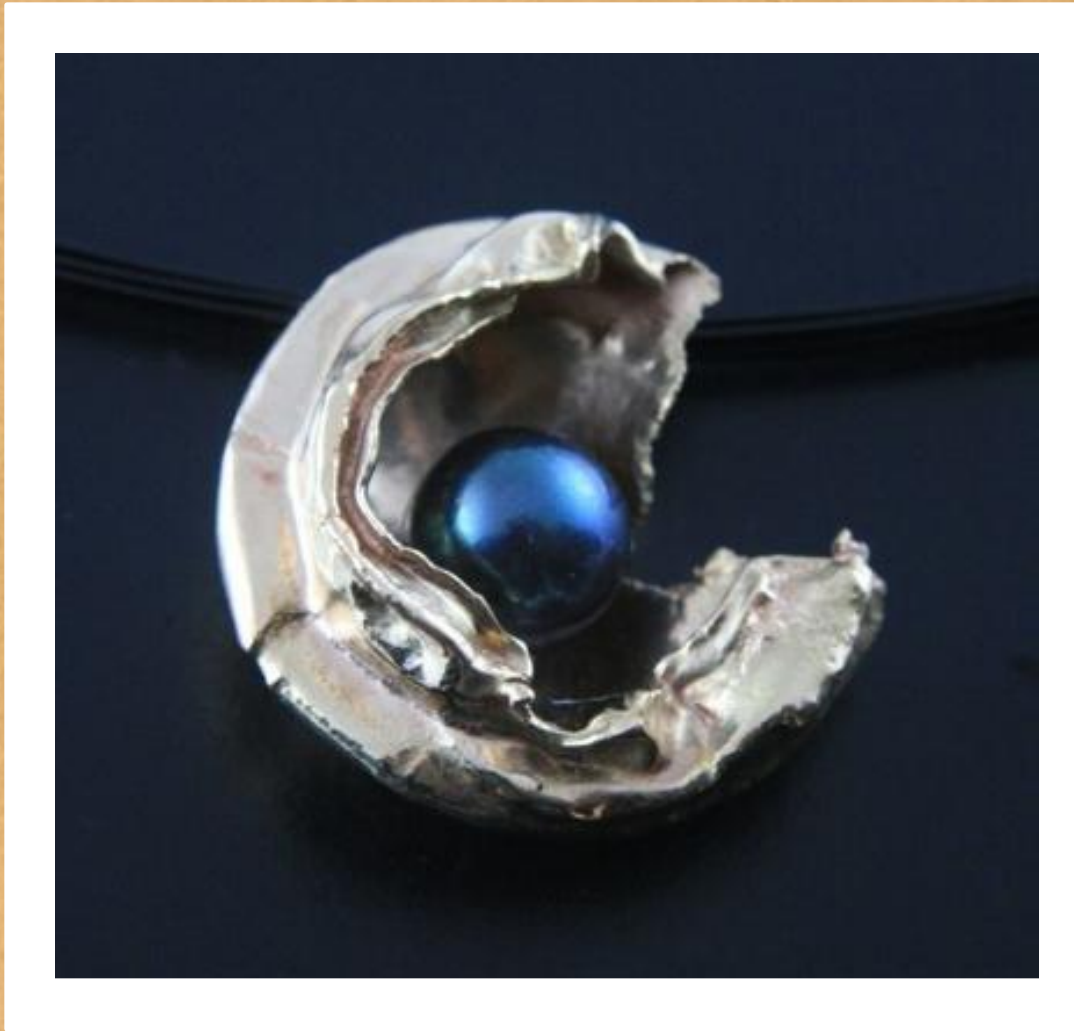
JAMES BELUSHI

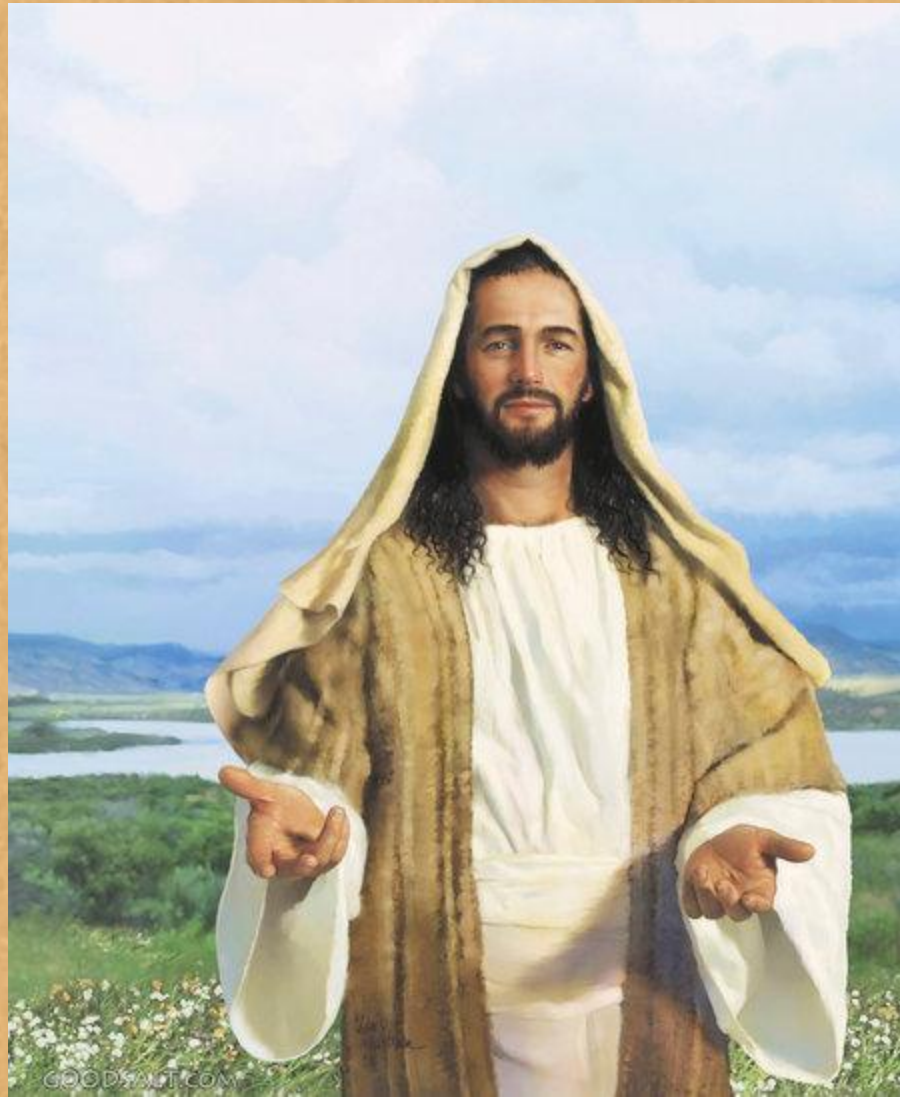
MICHAEL CAINE

Would you give up everything you have...
for everything you've ever wanted?









**I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will,
rank me with whom you will;
put me to doing,
put me to suffering;
let me be employed for you
or laid aside for you,
praised for you
or humbled for you;
let me be full,
let me be empty;
let me have all things,
let me have nothing;
I freely and cheerfully yield all things
to your pleasure and disposal.**

In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Luke 14:33

The Invitation