

NOOMA Corner | 023 Rob Bell

Copyright © 2009 by Flannel, P.O. Box 3228, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3228, USA.

Published by Zondervan, 5300 Patterson Avenue SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49530, USA.

Scripture quotations marked as NIV are taken from the Holy Bible: New International Version.[®] NIV.[®]

Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked as TNIV are taken from the Holy Bible, Today's New International Version.[™]

Copyright © 2001 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

Scripture quotations marked as NASB are taken from the New American Standard Bible.

Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked as NKJV are taken from the New King James Bible Version.

Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc.

Scripture quotations marked as MSG are taken from The Message.

Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group.

Scripture quotations marked CEV are taken from the Contemporary English Version.

Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society. Used by permission.

Scripture quotations marked as HCSB are taken from the Holman Christian Standard Bible.

Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy or any storage and retrieval system without permission in writing from Flannel.

Printed in the United States of America

09 10 11 12 13 14 15 • 09 08 07 06 05 04 03 02





NOOMA® Corner | 023 Rob Bell



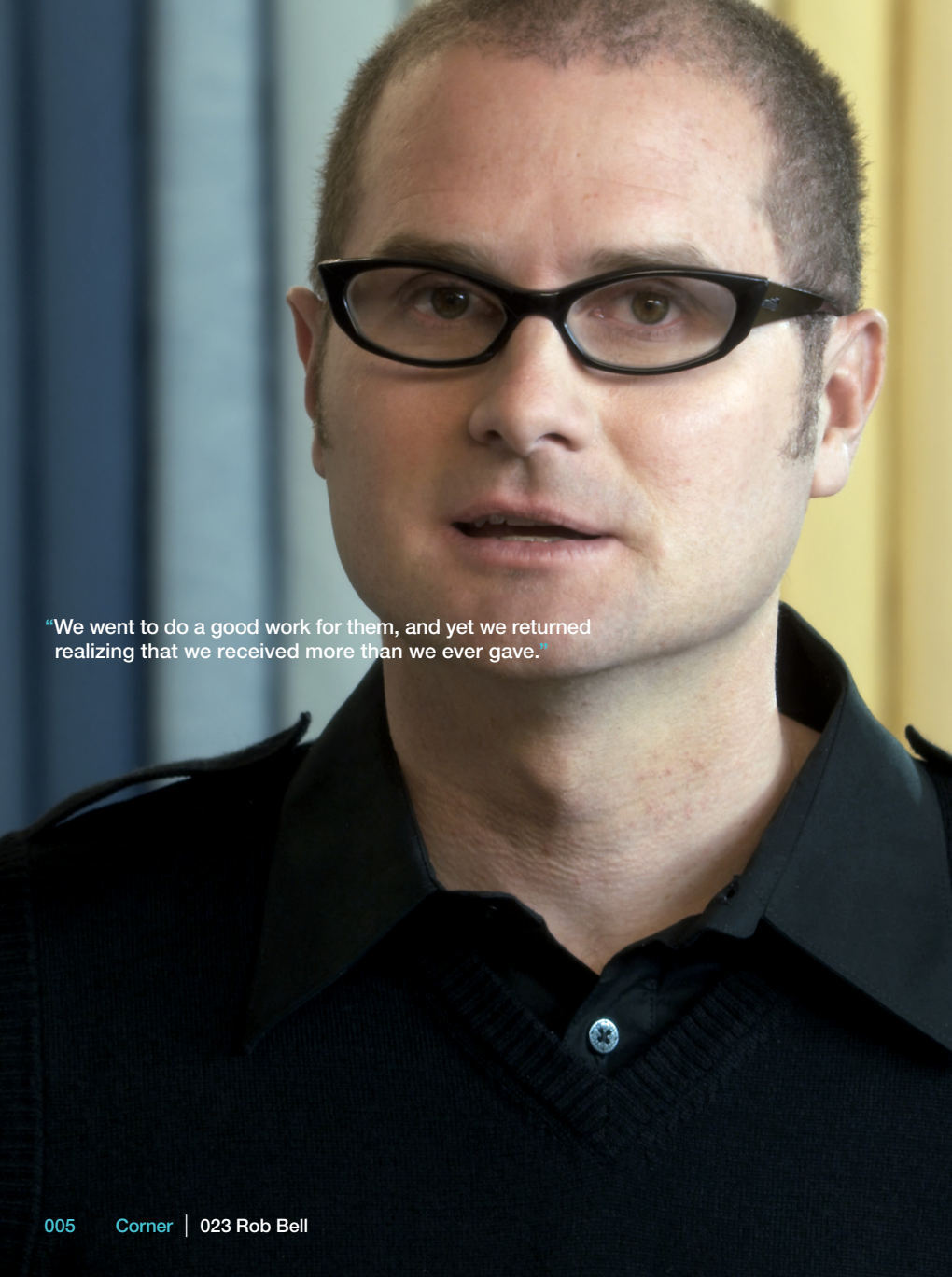
"I remember going to the restaurant and getting a table, and ordering something. And we would savor every detail of the experience, so filled with gratitude for the gift of eating out."

What was the last thing you were really grateful for?

How do you feel about it now?

This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it.
It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance.
The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice.
You won't lose out on a thing.

Matthew 10:42 (MSG)



"We went to do a good work for them, and yet we returned realizing that we received more than we ever gave."

Was there a time when you expected to give, but ended up receiving?

Can you give and receive at the same time?



“Success can be dangerous, can't it?”

How is success dangerous?

Is all success dangerous?

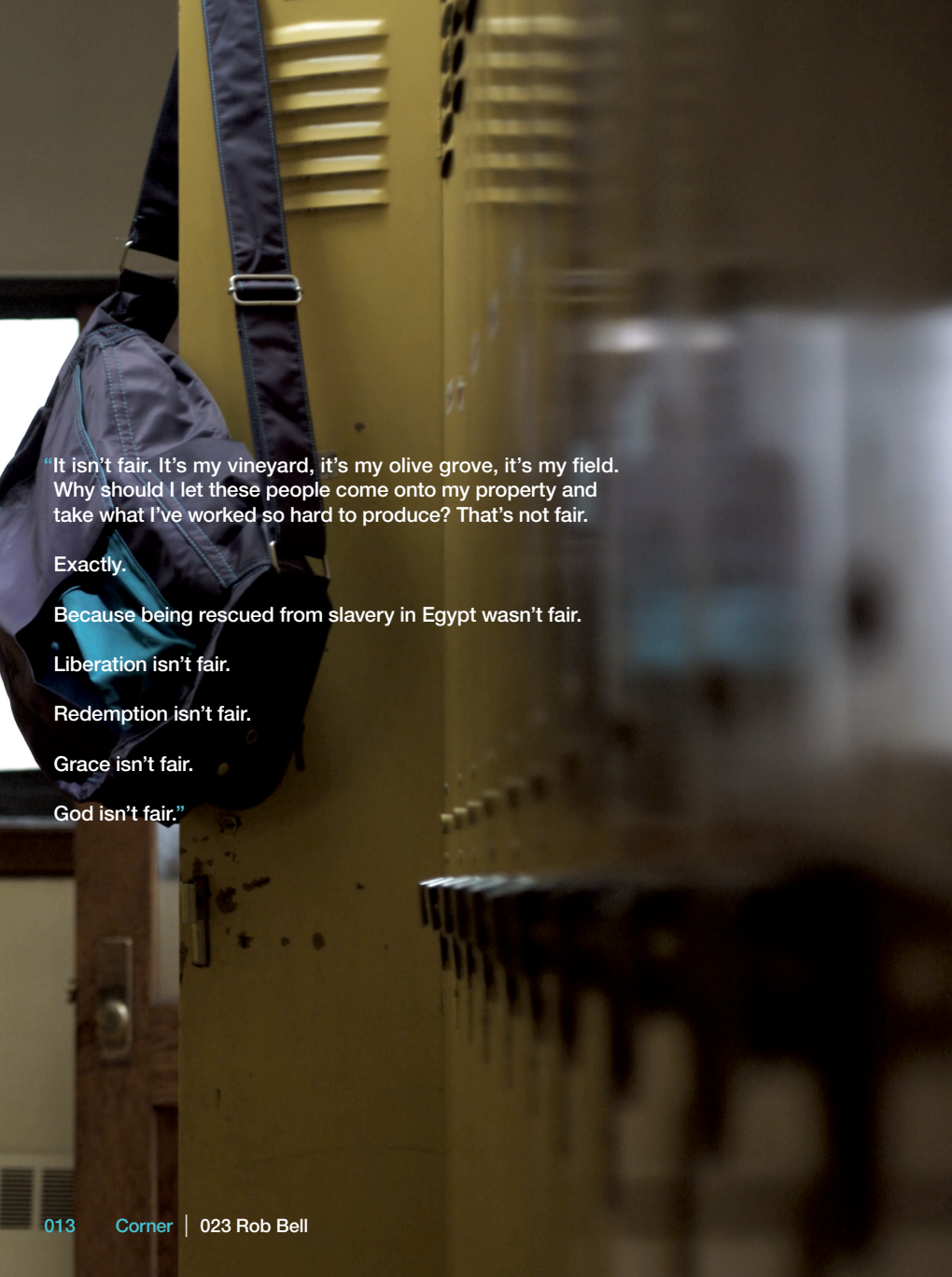
When you harvest the grapes in your vineyard, do not go over the vines again.
Leave what remains for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow.

Deuteronomy 24:21 (TNIV)



"We get everything we wanted, only to discover that we're missing something that we had before."

Why is getting what we want so important to us?



"It isn't fair. It's my vineyard, it's my olive grove, it's my field. Why should I let these people come onto my property and take what I've worked so hard to produce? That's not fair.

Exactly.

Because being rescued from slavery in Egypt wasn't fair.

Liberation isn't fair.

Redemption isn't fair.

Grace isn't fair.

God isn't fair."

How have you seen God be unfair?

How is grace unfair?



“When we empower others, when we extend grace to others in their oppression—whatever that may look like—we find out about the grace that God has extended to us.”

How has grace been given to you?

Who needs some grace from you?

Remember that you were slaves in Egypt.
That is why I command you to do this.

Deuteronomy 24:22 (TNIV)



"We leave a corner because in helping save someone else from suffering, we may in the process find ourselves being saved.

From indifference.

From the inertia of inaction.

From taking what we have for granted."

What is your corner?

Who do you need to give it to?


“Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”

Luke 21:3-4 (TNIV)



"We leave a corner because our world is either shrinking or it's expanding. It's either contracting in on itself, or it's opening up. Our lives are either more and more about us—more stuff, more unsatisfying consumption—or we're on a different path."

How is your world shrinking?
How is your world expanding?



"So may you come to see that grace isn't fair.

Redemption isn't fair.

Liberation isn't fair.

And may you extend this unfairness to others,
finding out that your overflow is somebody else's necessity.
May you find somebody who needs what you have,
only to discover that they had what you needed all along."

The last scene was filmed in the Dominican Republic thanks to the support of a generous organization.