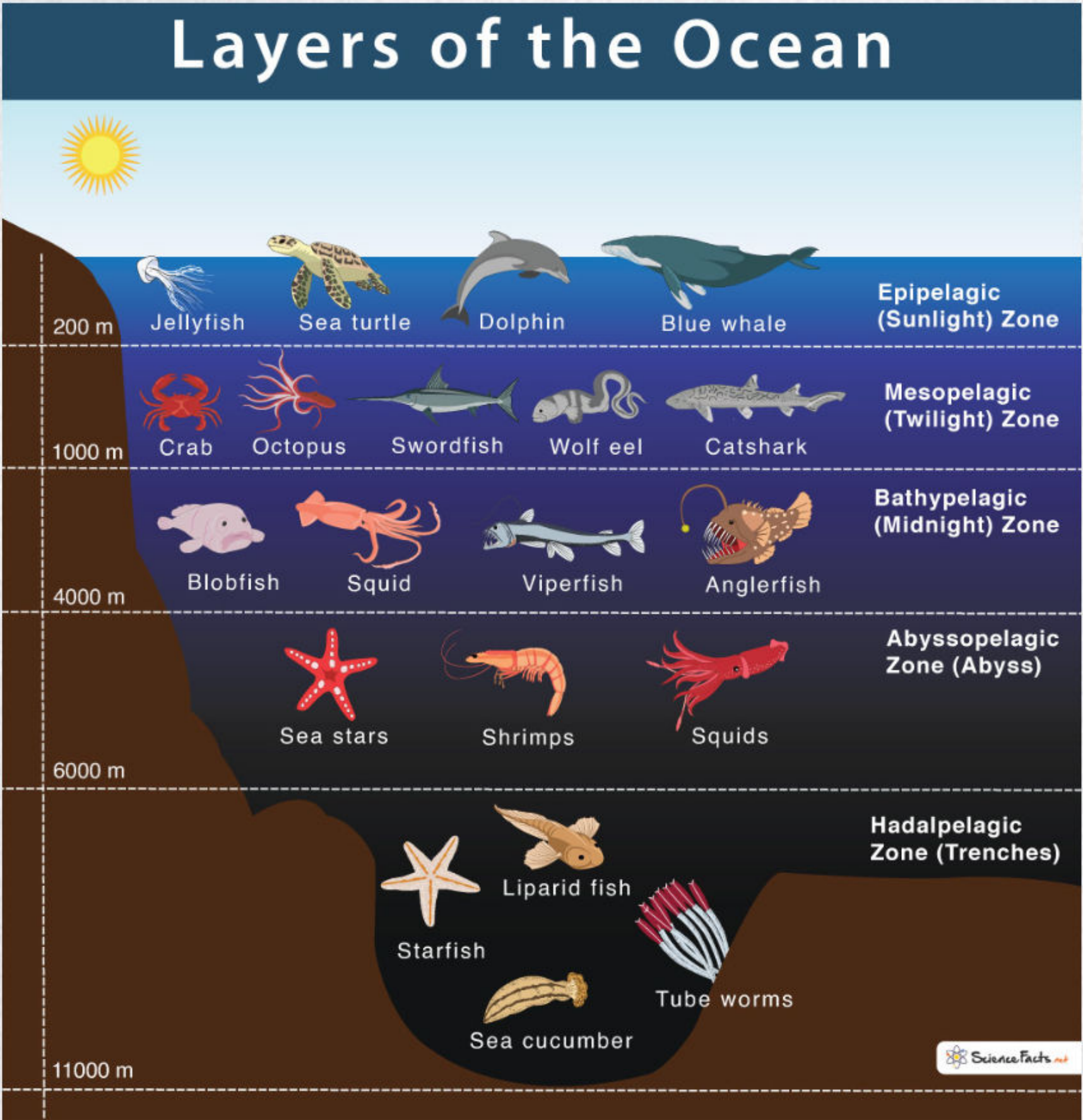




**CHANGING FROM THE CENTER**

What Do You Want?





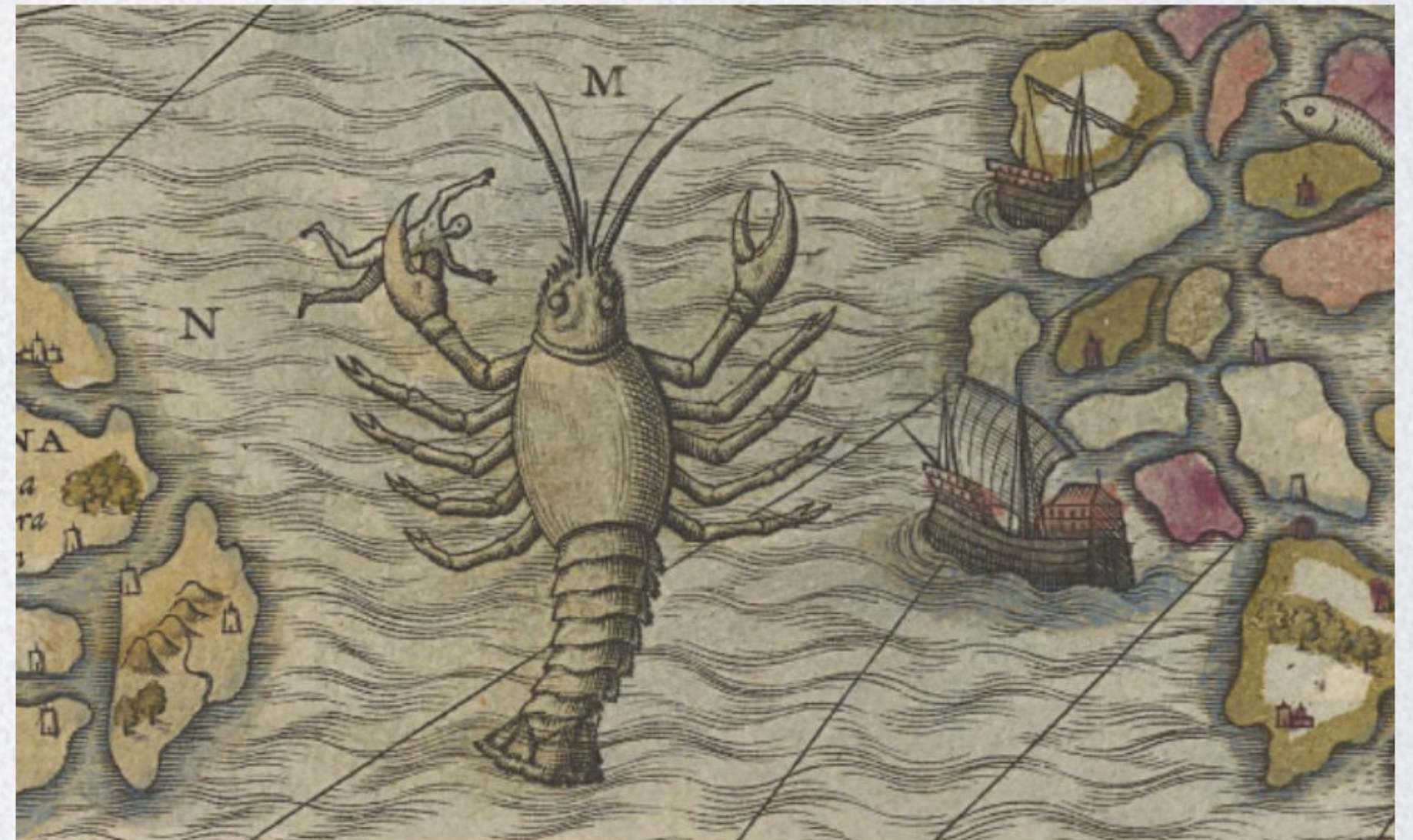


# CHANGING FROM THE CENTER





## CHANGING FROM THE CENTER





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“Like the sea lily, our desires can sometimes hide, deep down inside of us... Just as God created the ocean and everything in its depths, he sees and knows those deep places within us, even if we don’t see or know what’s happening there... aspects of us that might be hidden, but are no less beautiful or valuable.”

(from *What Does Your Soul Love?*)



As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. <sup>43</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.



<sup>45</sup> "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."



<sup>47</sup> Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."



Jesus is already preoccupied and going somewhere else.



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There's too much in the way between her and Jesus.



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There's too much in the way between her and Jesus.

Her condition was hopeless and isolating.



Despite all those barriers (and fears), her desire to be healed was stronger.



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Until your desire for change is stronger than your dissatisfaction with your present status quo... nothing will ever be different.



“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us—like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.” (C.S. Lewis)



“On the path of transformation, God graciously and firmly seeks to awaken us to ways in which our desires have been misdirected. He exposes distorted desires that masquerade as what we truly want. They pretend to be real and substantial when they are really illusory and hollow.”

*(from What Does Your Soul Love?)*



“Disordered desire is there for the pleasure but abandons me in the aftermath.”

(from *What Does Your Soul Love?*)



One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the  
days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord  
and to seek him in his temple.



Mary sat at the Lord's feet, listening to what he said.<sup>40</sup> But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"<sup>41</sup> "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things,<sup>42</sup> but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."



<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him...



"Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?..."<sup>21</sup> Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."<sup>22</sup> At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.



“Why God should ask us to pray—when he knows what we need before we ask him—may perplex us if we do not realize that our Lord and God does not want to know what we want (for he cannot fail to know it) but wants us rather *to exercise our desire through our prayers*, so that we may be able to receive what he is preparing to give us. His gift is very great indeed, but our capacity is too small and limited to receive it.” (Augustine)



“We can discover and share our desires through our prayers. Getting in touch with our desires, sharing them with God, and growing through that is all a part of our transformational process.”

(from *What Does Your Soul Love?*)



# Closing Reflections

**CHANGING FROM THE CENTER**

How far “under water” do you keep your true desires?  
How well do you understand what you truly want at deeper levels?



# Closing Reflections

**CHANGING FROM THE CENTER**

What kinds of barriers are between you and finding healing in Jesus? Is your desire to be well stronger than your fears?



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**CHANGING FROM THE CENTER**

Invite the Spirit to help you grow good desires and focus them in the right directions.



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Bring a request to God today. And, ask God to help you better understand yourself based on the desire that you bring.



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