



MADE IN FAITH: Clothing & Sustainability

TONIGHT'S CONVERSATION

- Welcome + Land Acknowledgment
- Opening Prayer
- **Why Clothing Matters for Climate Change**
- **Clothing in the Bible**
- **Sourcing Clothes**
- *::breakout::*
- **Caring for Clothes**
- **End of Use**
- *::breakout::*
- **Actions + Resources**
- Closing Prayer



WHY CLOTHING MATTERS

1

pair of jeans

= 2 pounds of cotton
1,000 gallons of water

[about as much as a person drinks in 5 years]

A MORE CONSCIOUS APPROACH TO FASHION?
CHANGES IN CONSUMER BEHAVIOR AND NEW BUSINESS
MODELS COULD REDUCE GREENHOUSE EMISSIONS BY
347 MILLION METRIC TONS IN 2030 (MCKINSEY).



MAKING JEANS IS COMPLEX

Many steps in production



CLOTHING HAS AN IMPACT

Jeans and climate change

The entire lifecycle of **one pair of Levi's® 501® jeans** equates to:

Climate Change:
33.4 kg CO₂-e...

Water Consumed:
3,781 liters...

Eutrophication:
48.9 g PO₄-e...

Land Occupation:
12 m²/year...



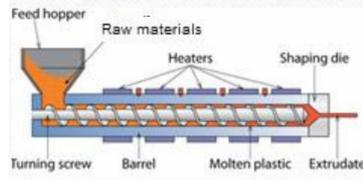
- 69 miles driven by the average US car
- 246 hours of TV on a plasma big-screen

3 days worth of one US household's total water needs

The total amount of phosphorous found in 1,700 tomatoes

Seven people standing with arms outstretched, fingertips touching, would form one side of a square this size

SYNTHETIC FABRIC PRODUCTION



OIL INDUSTRY	CHEMICAL INDUSTRY	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	GARMENT FACTORY	CLOTHING INDUSTRY
Crude Oil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extraction • Refining 	Polymerization <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extrusion • Spinning • Confection 	Polymer pellet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dying • Finishing • Assembly 	Fabric <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery • Distribution • Retail Sale 	Garment
Energy Water	Raw materials Dyes and additives	Water pollution Land pollution	Water pollution Land pollution	Air pollution

CONSUMERS ARE WEARING OILS AND PLASTICS

- Wearing synthetics means wearing fossil fuels
- Many synthetics have non-biodegradable microfibers and microplastics
 - All textiles shed microfibers throughout their existence
 - Microfibers absorb toxins, and pollute water and air
 - Microfibers have entered global food cycles as they are ingested by marine life.
- Crude oil compounds in synthetic fabrics are resistant to degradation
 - Incomplete breakdown results in persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic substances
 - Big threats to environmental and human health
- Innovations: Recycled and bio-based nylons, yarns and fibers

THE FASHION INDUSTRY PRODUCES

**100
BILLION**

Garments
globally/year

.....

- **33%** to landfill
- **~40%** are *never* worn
- **65%** are polymer (oil) based, using **70 million** barrels of oil

8-10%
of global
greenhouse
gas (GHG)

20%
of wastewater
globally

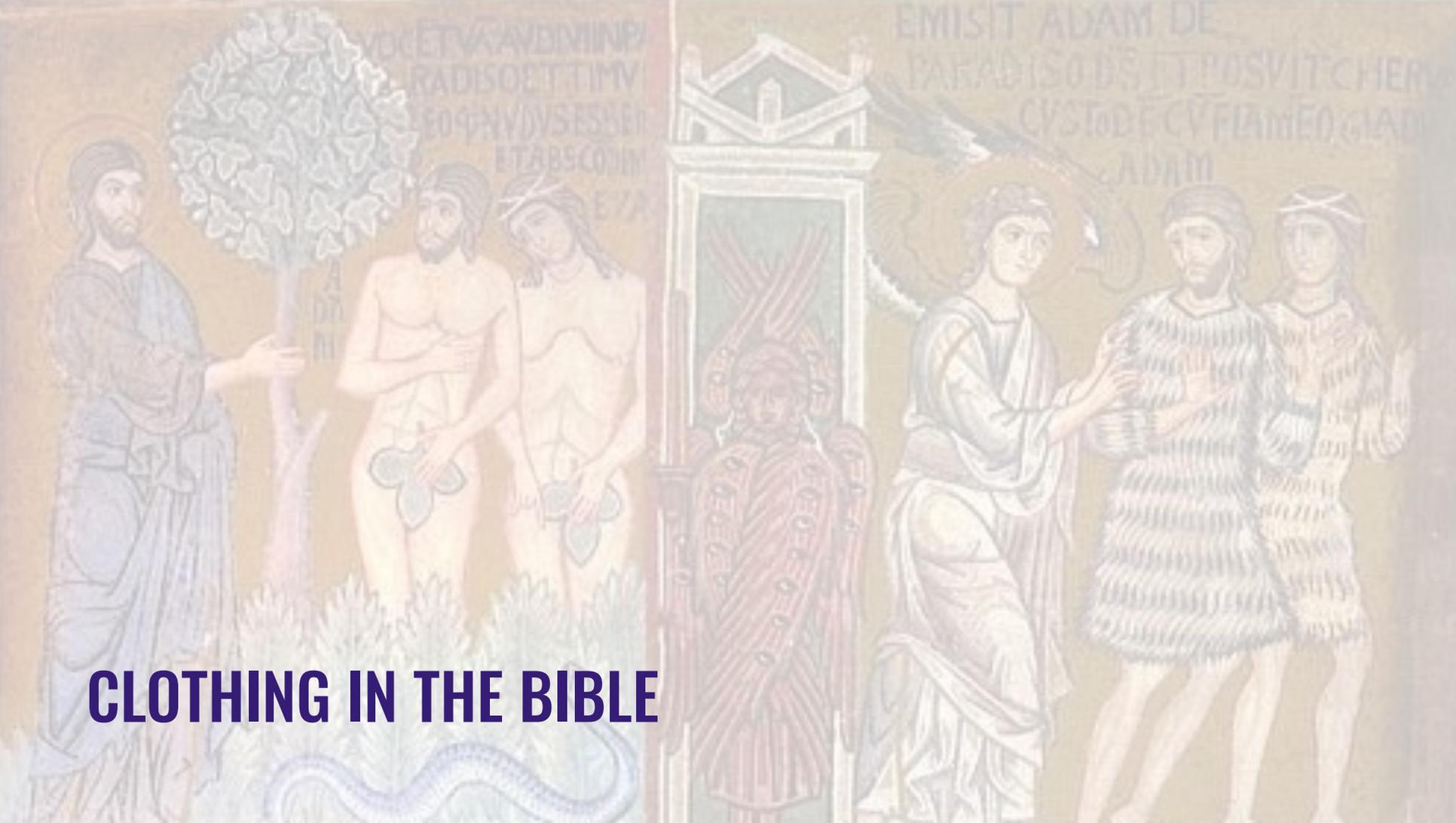


SOME BRANDS OFFER TRANSPARENCY

Allbirds shows CO₂ created on tags, measuring 5 things:

- 1 RAW MATERIALS
- 2 TRANSPORTATION
- 3 MANUFACTURING
- 4 PRODUCT USE (WASHING & DRYING)
- 5 END OF LIFE





CLOTHING IN THE BIBLE

CLOTHING IN THE BIBLE

“As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience...Above all clothe yourselves with love which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”

— *Colossians 3:12-14*

“I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.”

— *Isaiah 61:10*

CLOTHING IN THE BIBLE

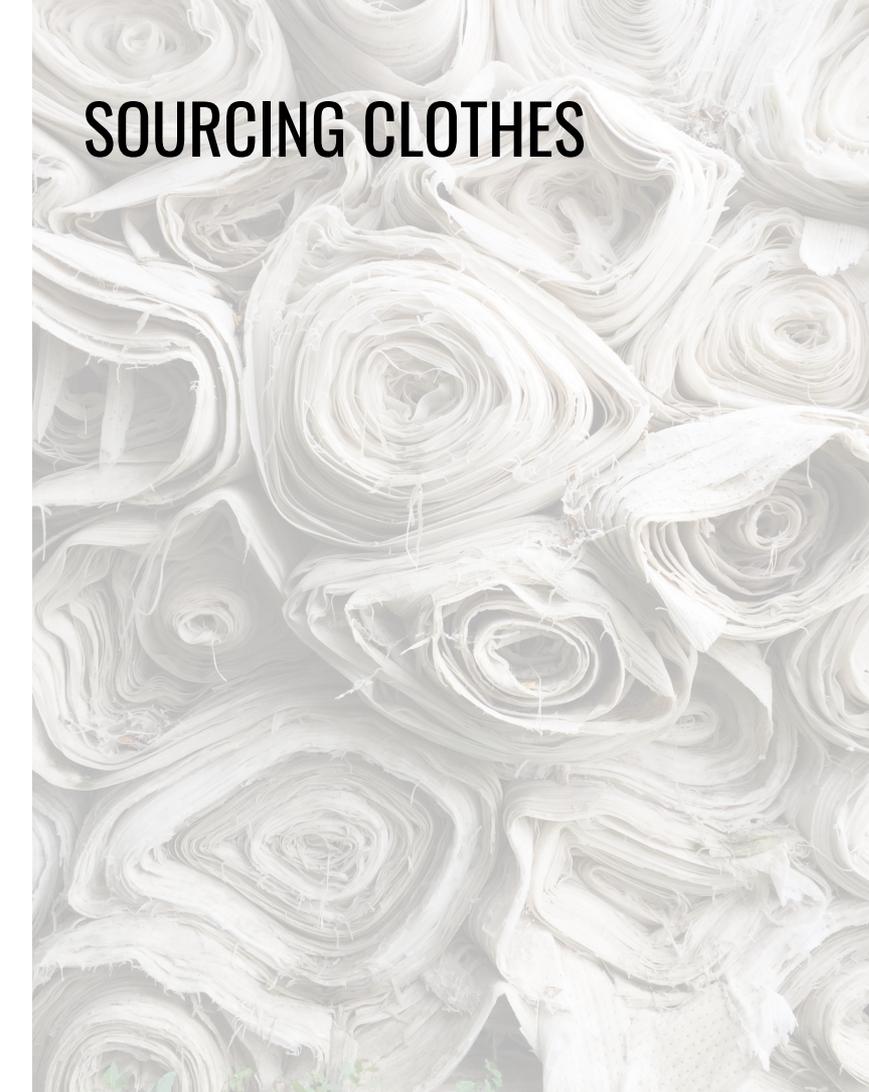


“And the Lord God made for the man and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.”
— *Genesis 3:21*

The Expulsion from Paradise, Nave Mosaics from Palatine Chapel, Palermo, Sicily. Mid 12th Century.



SOURCING CLOTHES



SOURCING CLOTHES

FABRICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural fibers vs. synthetics• Dyes used
MANUFACTURING PROCESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fabric waste• Waste from unsold garments• Transport
HUMAN IMPACT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wages and factory conditions• Other ethical company practices



**ALL CLOTHING
IS ESSENTIALLY
HANDMADE**



BREAKOUT #1

1. What criteria do you use for purchasing clothing?
2. What is one thing that has surprised you about the presentation so far? How will you use that insight?
3. What is the item you have had the longest in your closet? Why has it lasted?

A close-up photograph of a person's hands holding a stack of folded, knitted clothing items. The items are in various colors, including white, beige, and grey. The person's fingernails are painted red. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

CARING FOR CLOTHES

CARING FOR CLOTHES

Environmental Impact of Garment Cleaning and Care

- **Water and energy use:** Wash less; Wash cold; Wash full loads; Air dry clothing as much as possible; Ultra-gentle soap for delicates that doesn't need to be rinsed out
- **Soap and softeners:** Pick soap with minimal fragrances and biodegradable ingredients; Soap in non-plastic containers; Can usually use less soap than you think; Avoid fabric softeners, use dryer balls instead
- **Microfibers:** Ball to add to laundry: [Coraball](#); Bag for items: [Guppyfriend](#); Can also install an [attachment](#) on your machine to filter fibers

love + care

Learn basic mending

Re-sewn buttons; darning for sweaters; can have fun with it and make it into an art!

Other clothing care

Lots of good online advice on getting out stains ; use pill shaver for sweaters/coats

Carbon Tracker

Wash + dry clothes wisely

CLOTHING-RELATED TASKS RELATED TO THE CARBON TRACKER

- **Wash** and **Dry** Clothes Wisely
- **Line** Dry Clothes
- **Upgrade** Clothes Washer and Dryer
- **Install** a Greywater System
- **Shop** Smart, Buy Less
- **Make** it Last

 St. Mark's Cathedral >

I bought a clothes drying rack

After listening to this podcast about clothing choices and our environment, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/5tkEssmjtAiltyJxIkaQlm?si=mrMZH9NsT92n7lccvngm5Q>
I was [...read more](#)





END OF USE

TOO MUCH TRASH

- **14.3** million tons of textile waste each year
 - **2.3** million tons are recycled
- **1 garbage truck full of clothes** is burned or dumped in a landfill *every second* (WEF)
- **Less than 1%** of material used to produce clothing is recycled within the clothing industry,
 - **13%** recycled for use in other areas



CLOTHING AT END OF LIFE

What often happens

"It's time to end the model of 'take, make, break, and throw away.'"

-European Union executive vice-president Frans Timmermans



A BETTER WAY: BE A CAREFUL CONSUMER

Consider quality over quantity

- Every additional year a garment is worn means less pollution
- Invest in pieces you'll wear for years and avoid trend-focused purchases

Clean clothes carefully

- Washing every 10 times a product is worn instead of every 2 times reduces energy use, climate change impact and water intake by up to 80% (Levi's)



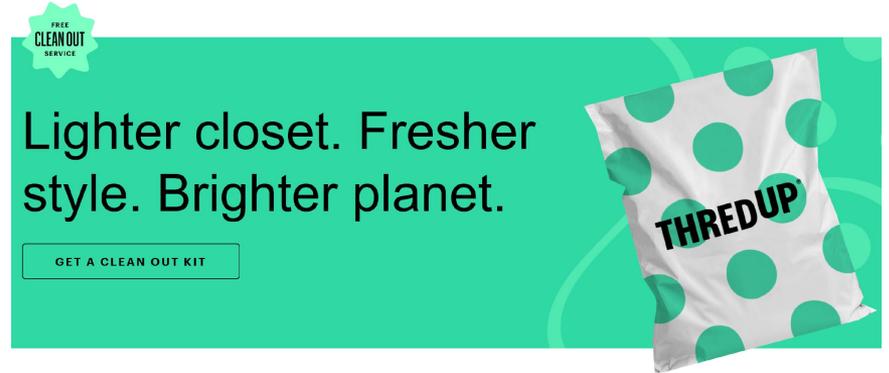
End of Use Doesn't Need to Mean Trash

- Repair clothing
- Buy less and mend more
 - Mend and repurpose your already-used items to make them last longer.
- Donate what you no longer use
- Recycle clothes after they wear out – [“Threadcycle”](#) near you
- Be creative in combining garments



SELL FOR SECOND-HAND USE

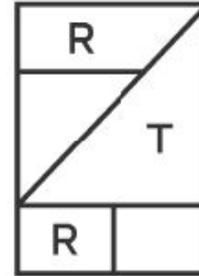
- Sell (and buy) second-hand clothing
- Buying secondhand and vintage can reduce a garment's carbon footprint by 82%
- Online resellers like Depop, ThredUp and The RealReal make buying easy
- Rent the Runway and Armoire offer special occasion dresses and designer wear



SHIFT MINDSETS AND BEHAVIORS

Consider:

- Increased durability
- Clothing rentals
- Reuse
- Resale
 - Secondhand clothing sales grew 21x faster than standard apparel in 2019





BREAKOUT #2

1. How may the commandment of "Loving our neighbor" connect to our choices about clothes?
2. How may considering clothing choices be a spiritual practice?
3. What is one practical step you can take to balance fashion and sustainability when it comes to clothes?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

“You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.”



Photo by Stuart Clark

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

RECYCLE + REUSE

- [Ridwell](#) (clothing, fabric and shoes are a core category) Ridwell's partners for threads are Goodwill (for reuse)
- [Goodwill](#) (reuse)
- [Buffalo Export](#) (for recycling)
- [Threadcycle](#) (for recycling)

LEARN

- [How to Save a Planet – Fast Fashion's Dirty Little Secret](#) - podcast
- [Sexist Pockets and Sackcloth - How Do We Clothe Ourselves in Glory](#)
- [Overdressed: The Shockingly High Cost of Cheap Fashion](#)
- [Wearing God: Clothing, Laughter, Fire, And Other Overlooked Ways of Meeting God](#) by Lauren Winner

