




Salt of the Earth. Light of the World.

— The Gospel of Matthew 5:13-16 —



The Sermon on the Mount

— Exploring Jesus' New Way of Being Human —



**You is smart.
You is kind.
You is important.**

— Aibileen in *The Help* —



**You is salt. You is light.
You is important.**

[HT: Rich Villodas, *The Narrow Path*]



Salt of the Earth. Light of the World.

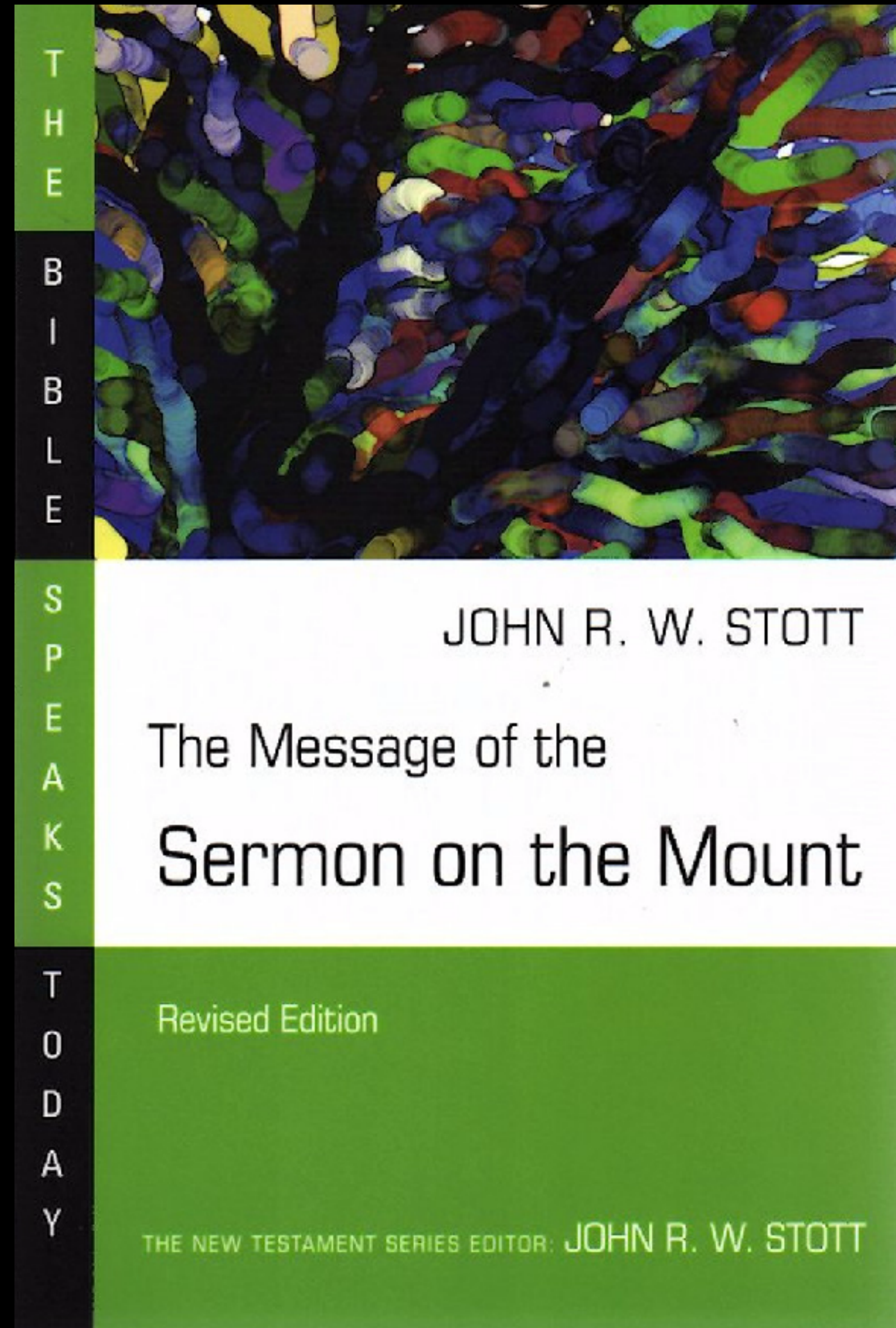
— The Gospel of Matthew 5:13-16 —

Matthew, Chapter 5

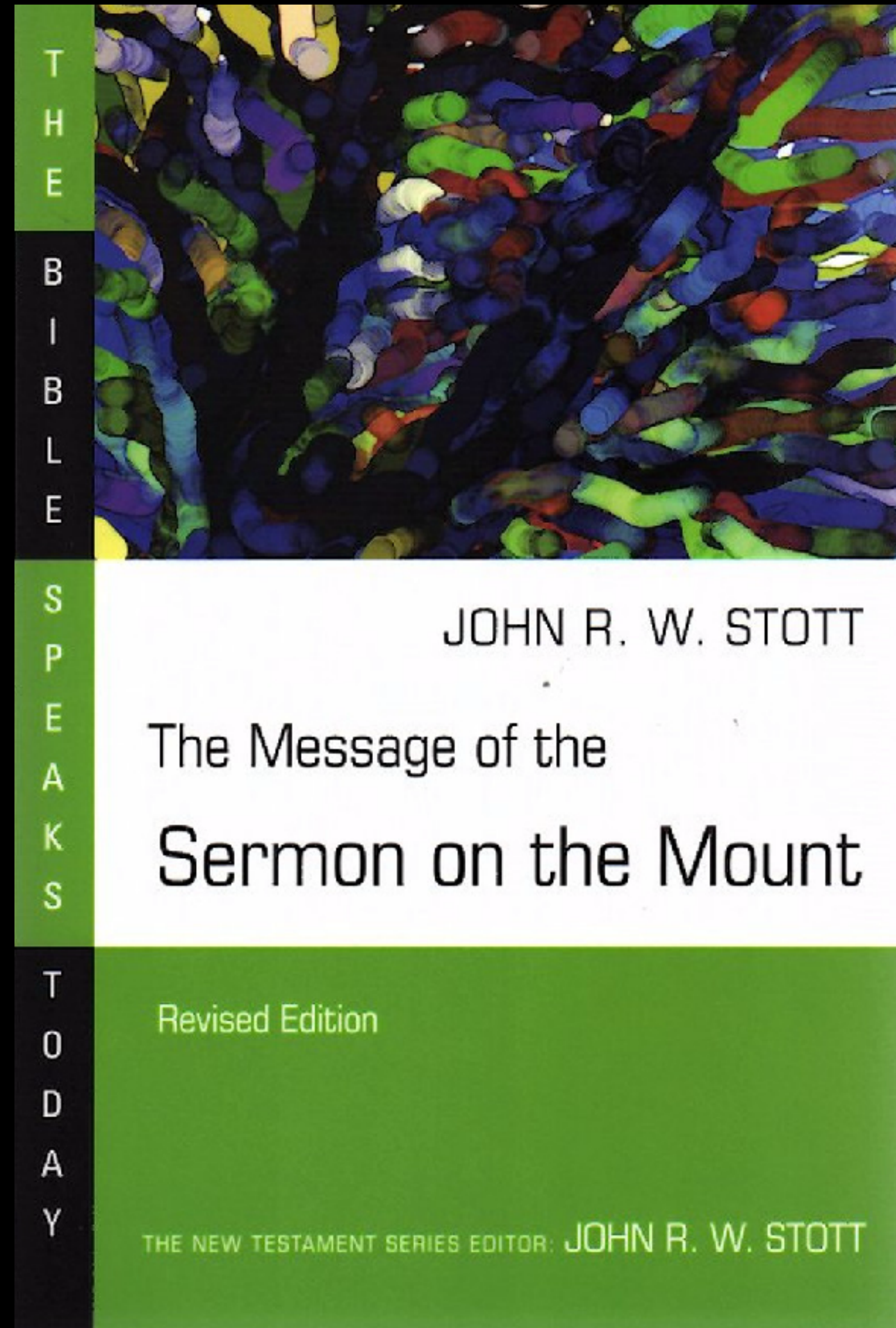
13 You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.

Matthew, Chapter 5

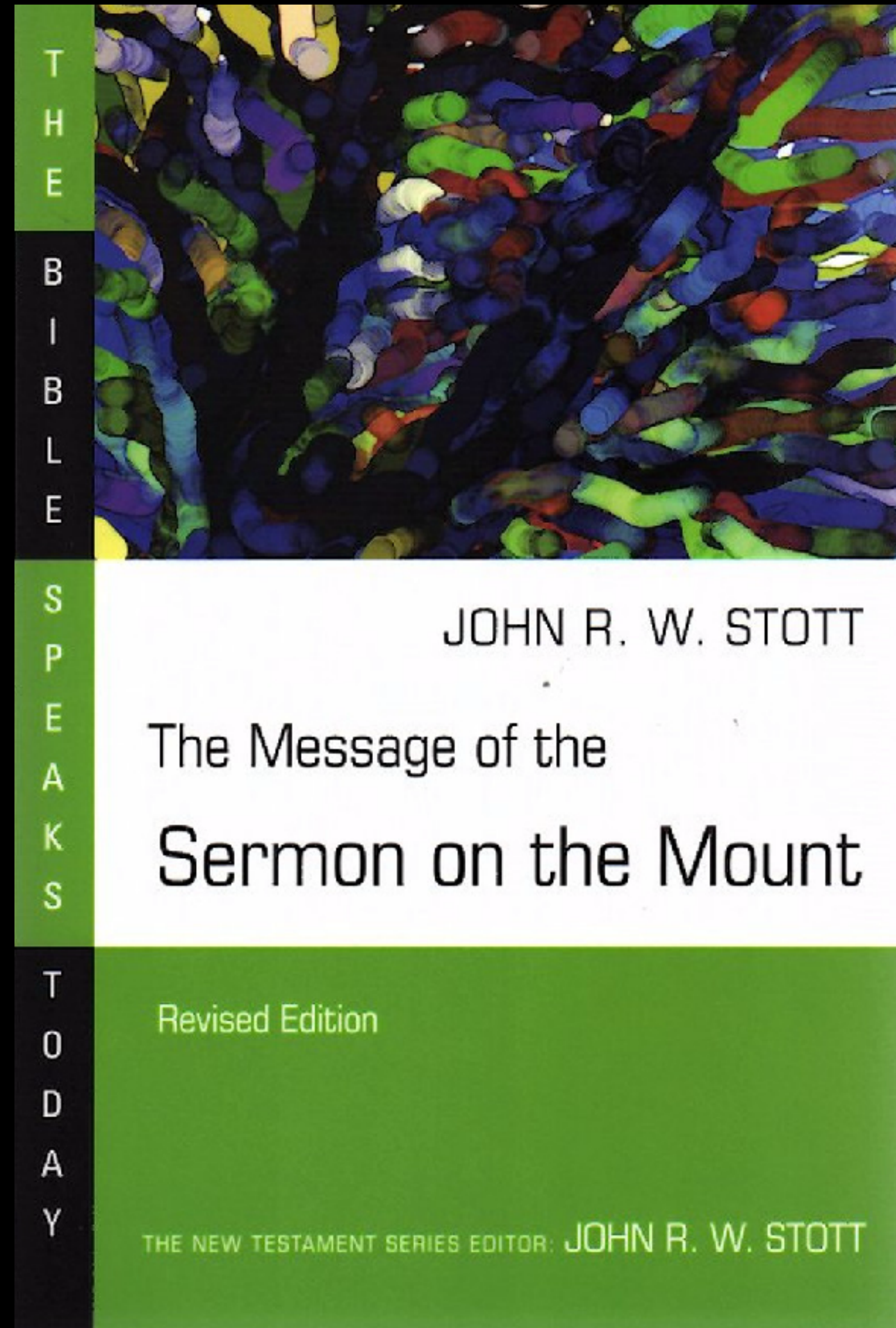
14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. 16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.



What possible influence could the people described in the beatitudes exert in this hard, tough world? What lasting good can the poor and the meek do, the mourners and the merciful, and those who try to make peace not war?



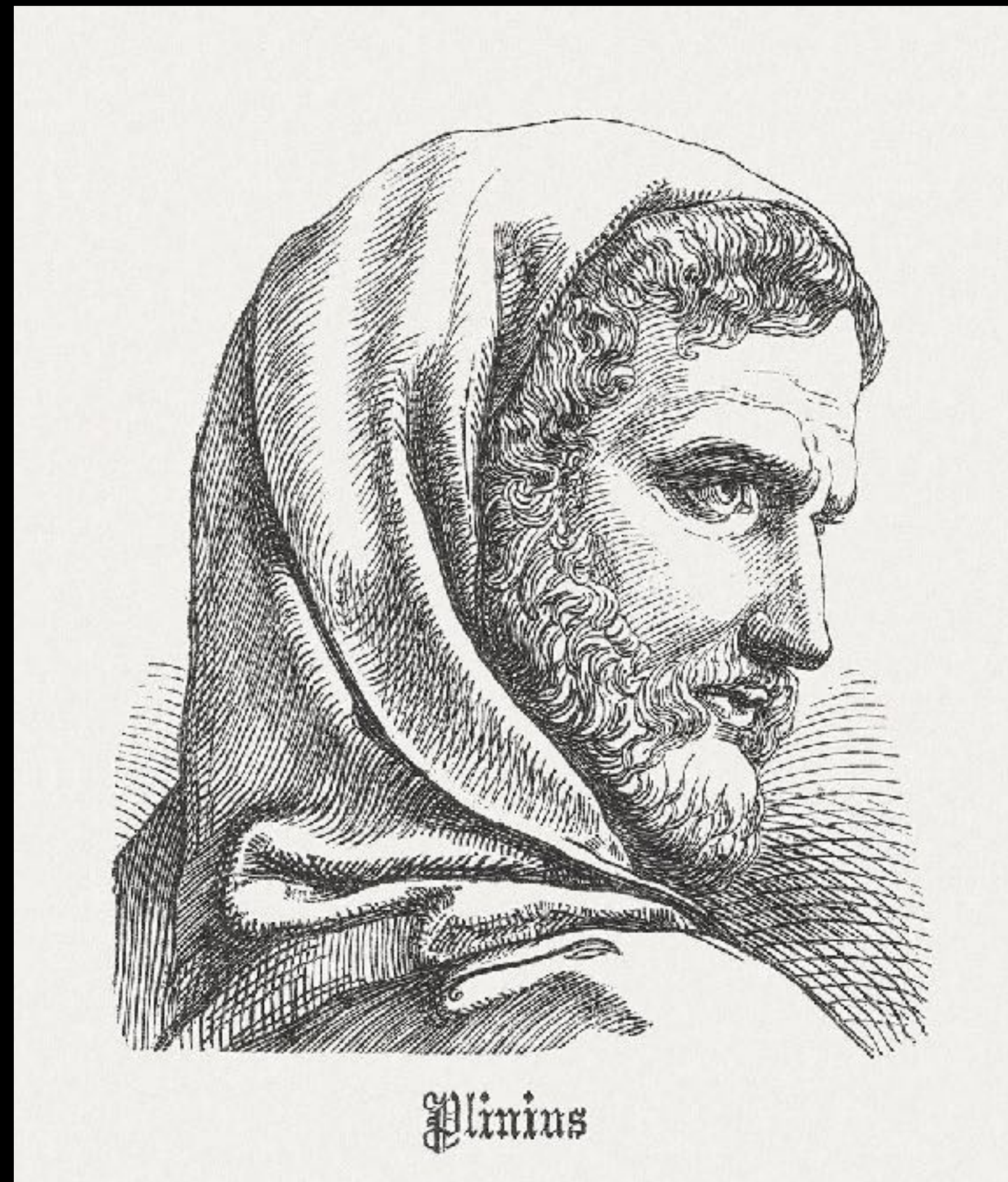
Would they not simply be overwhelmed by the flood-tide of evil? What can they accomplish whose only passion is an appetite for righteousness, and whose only weapon is purity of heart? Are not such people too feeble to achieve anything...?



It is evident that Jesus did not share this scepticism. Rather the reverse. The world will undoubtedly persecute the church; yet it is the church's calling to serve this persecuting world.

**“You are the salt of the earth...
You are the light of the world.”**





**There is nothing more useful
than “salt and sunshine.”**

(sale et sole)

Pliny the Elder, 1st Century Roman
Military Commander & Writer



Romans soldiers were paid
in part with salt: *salarium*

“Salary” comes from an ancient
word that means “salt-money.”

Even today, we speak of someone
who is “worth his salt.”

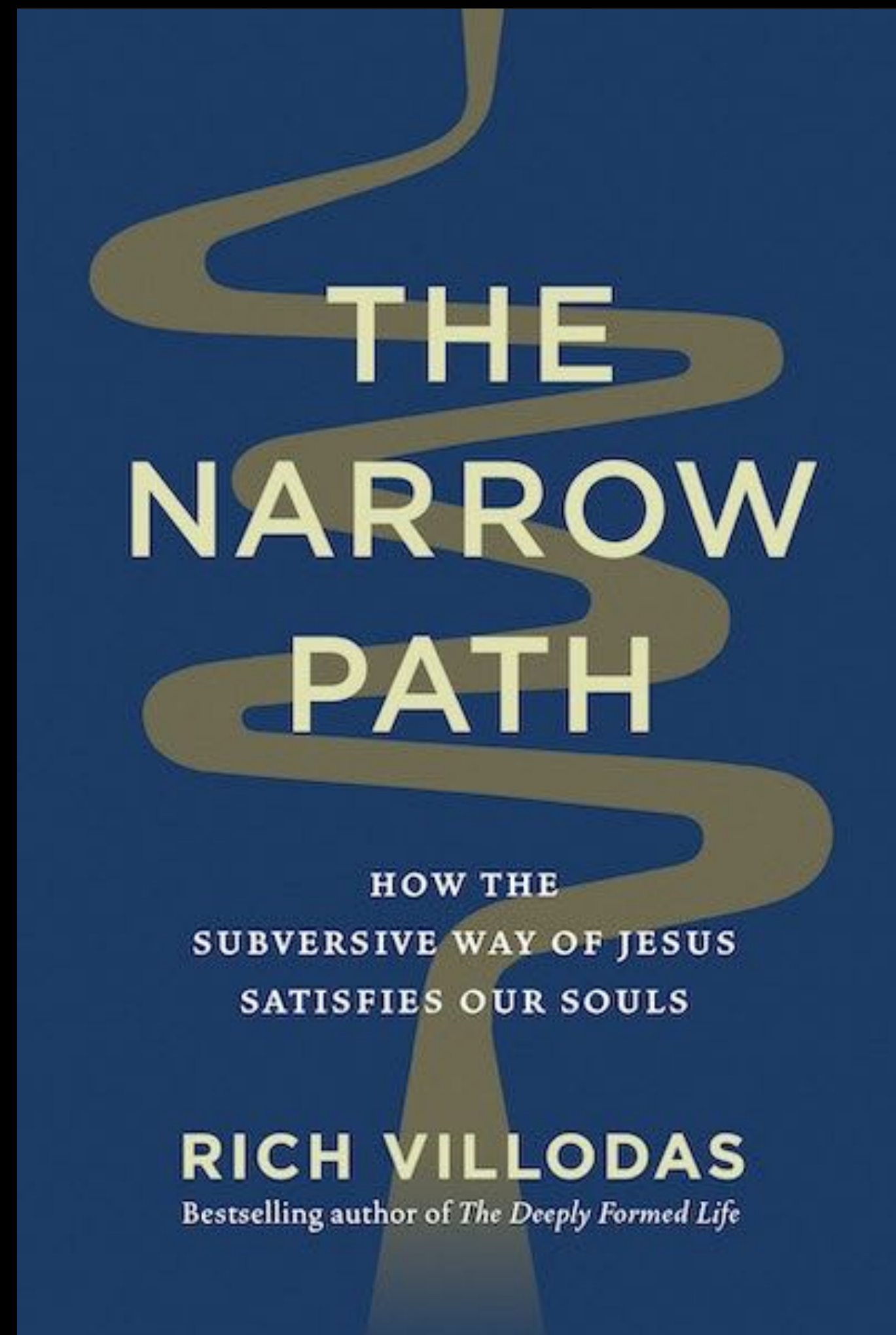


SALT SEASONS



Can that which is tasteless be eaten without salt...?

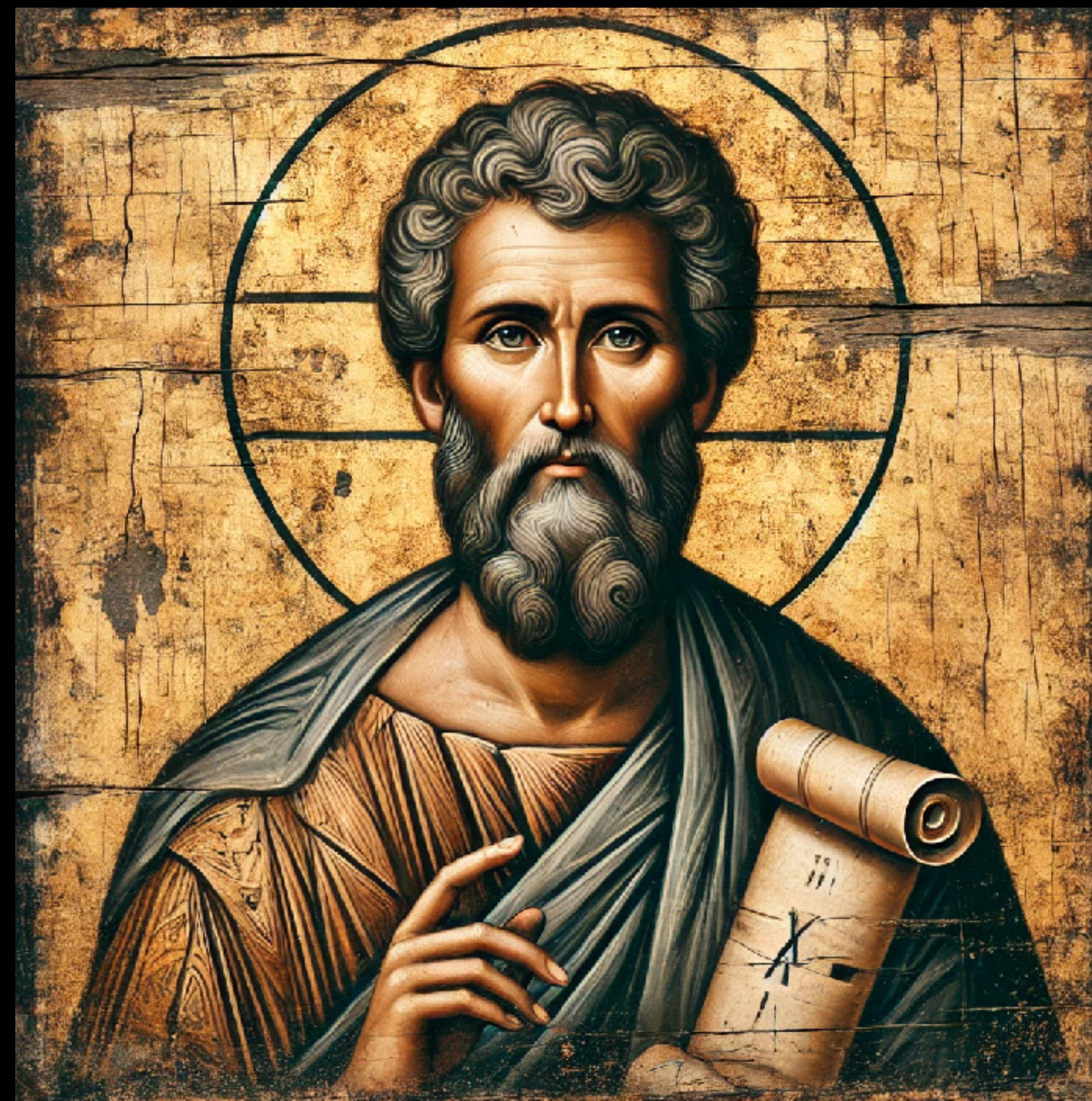
— Job 6:6 —



When Jesus tells his followers they are salty, he's saying our very presence should draw out the best in others. The joy, peace, kindness, courage, compassion, and justice in our lives are meant to bring forth goodness all over the earth.

Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

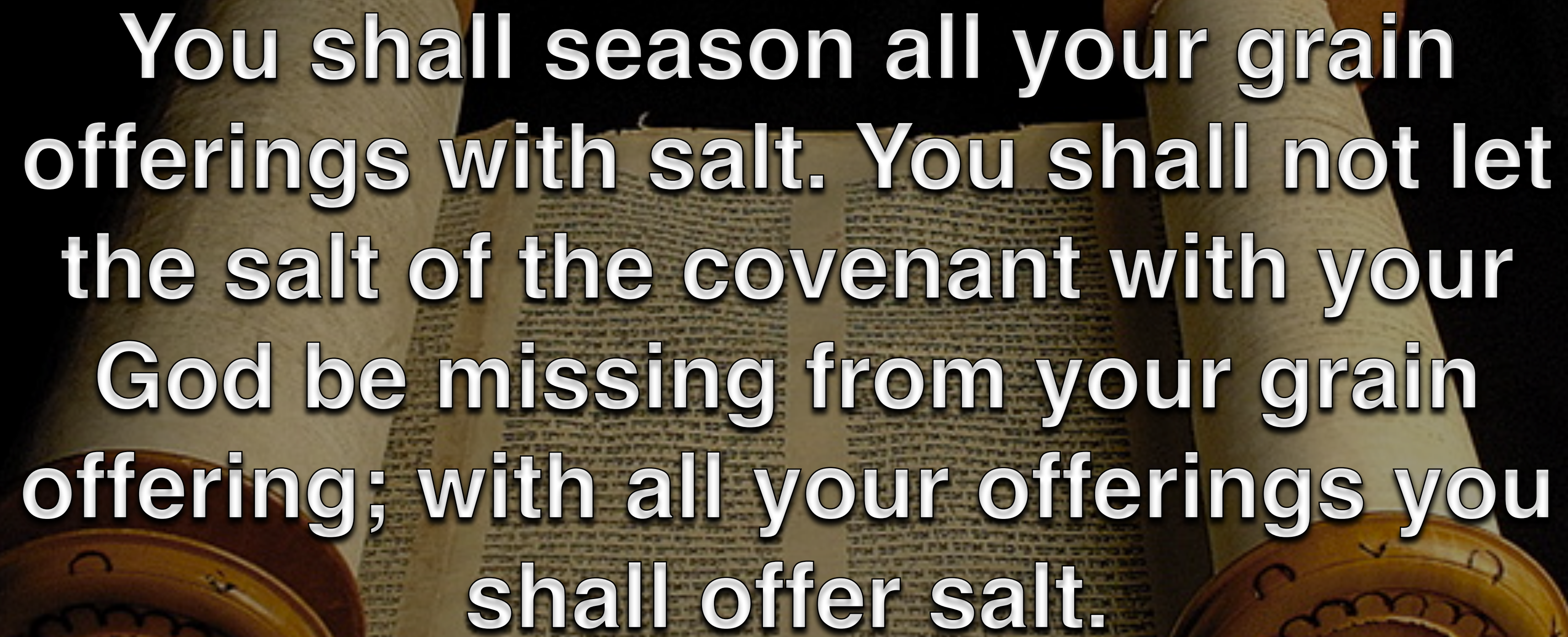
— The Apostle Paul in Colossians 4:5-6 —





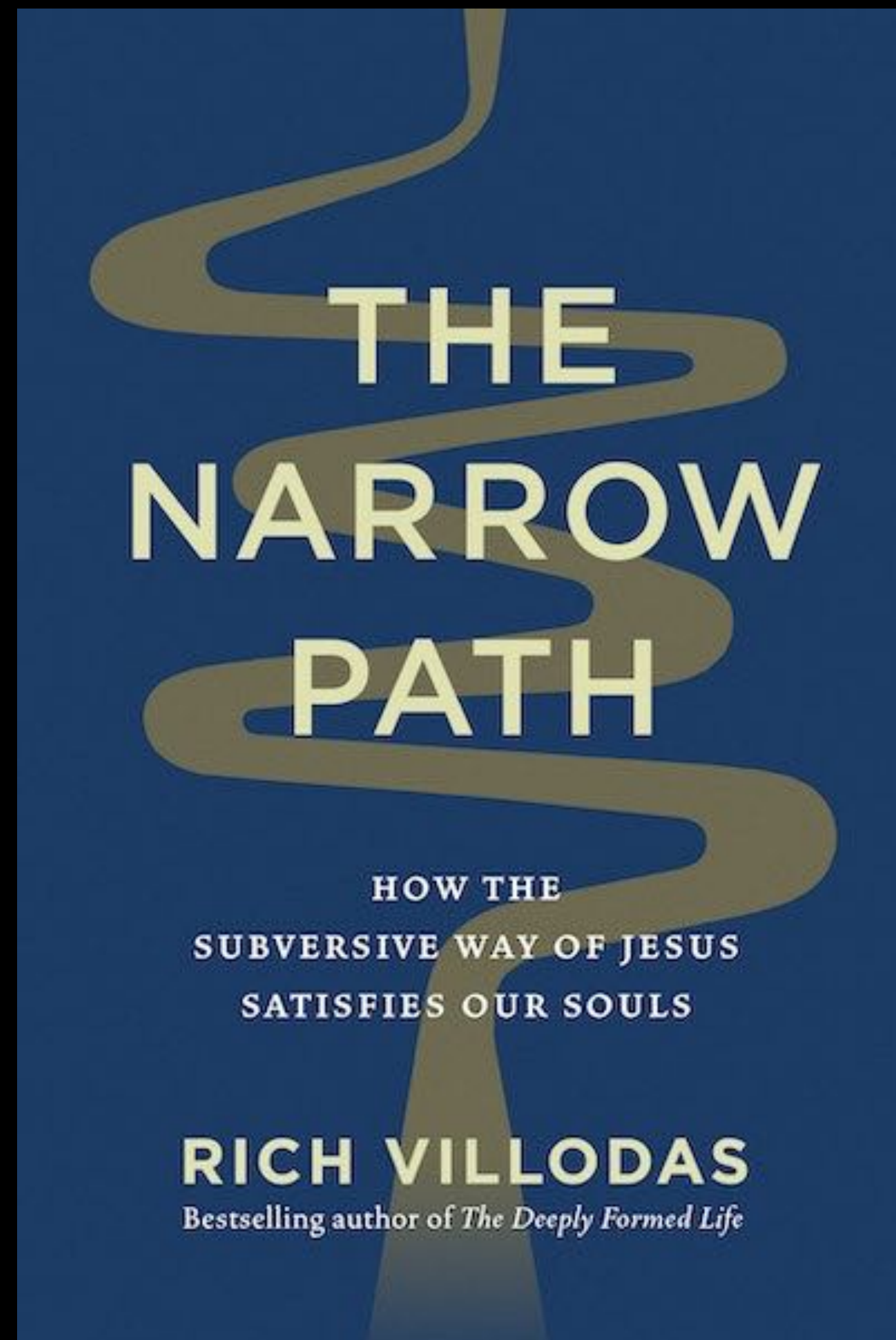
SALT SUSTAINS



A scroll of parchment with Hebrew text, partially unrolled, with wooden rollers. The text is written in a traditional Hebrew script. The scroll is set against a dark background.

You shall season all your grain offerings with salt. You shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be missing from your grain offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

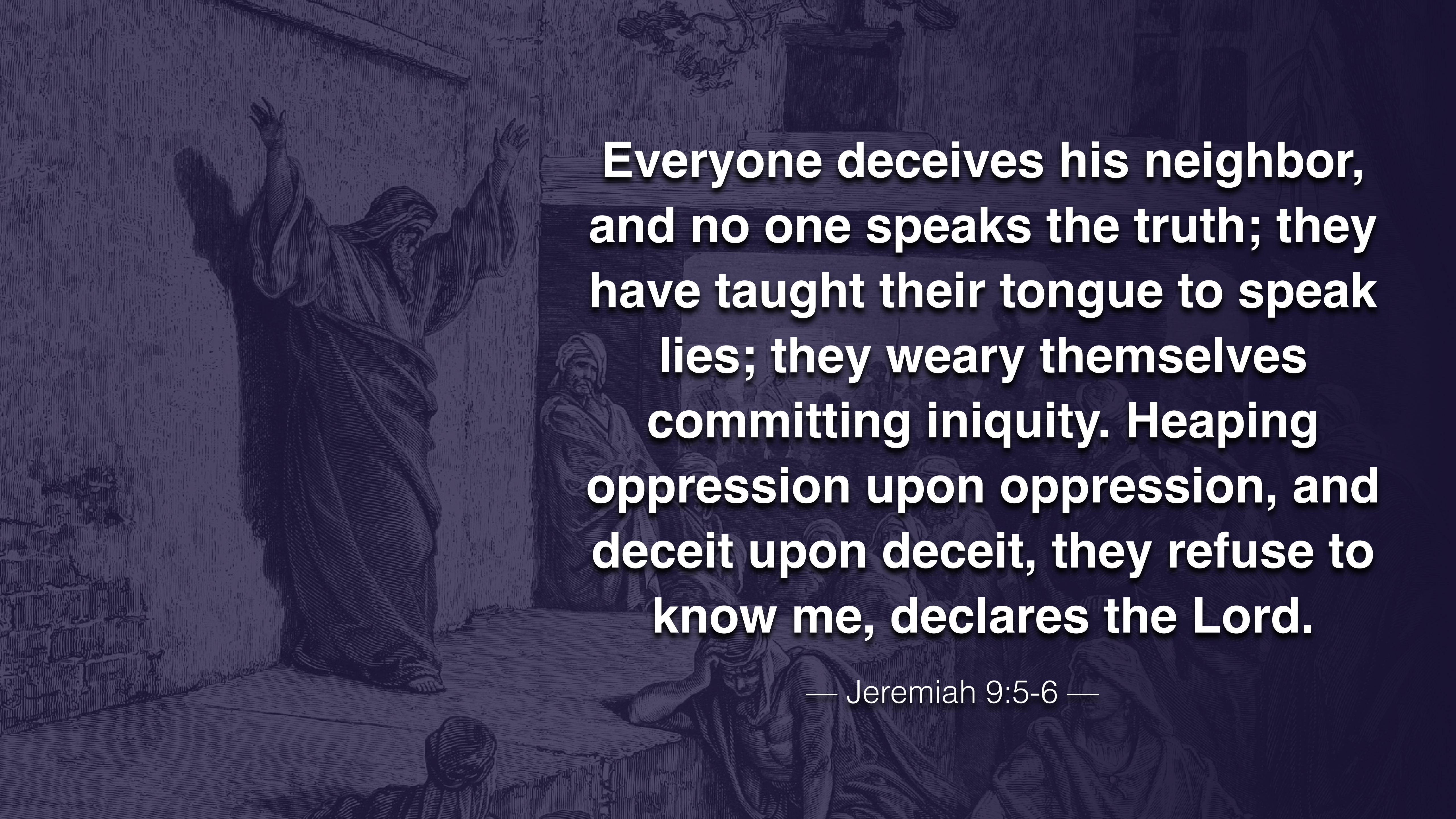
— Leviticus 2:13 —



**Wherever decay surfaces,
Jesus calls us to be a
preserving presence. We
are to combat the decay
of a broken world with the
salt of our presence.
Whether the decay is
racism, poverty, gossip,
relational dysfunction...,
Jesus calls us to preserve
the good that exists.**

Matthew, Chapter 5

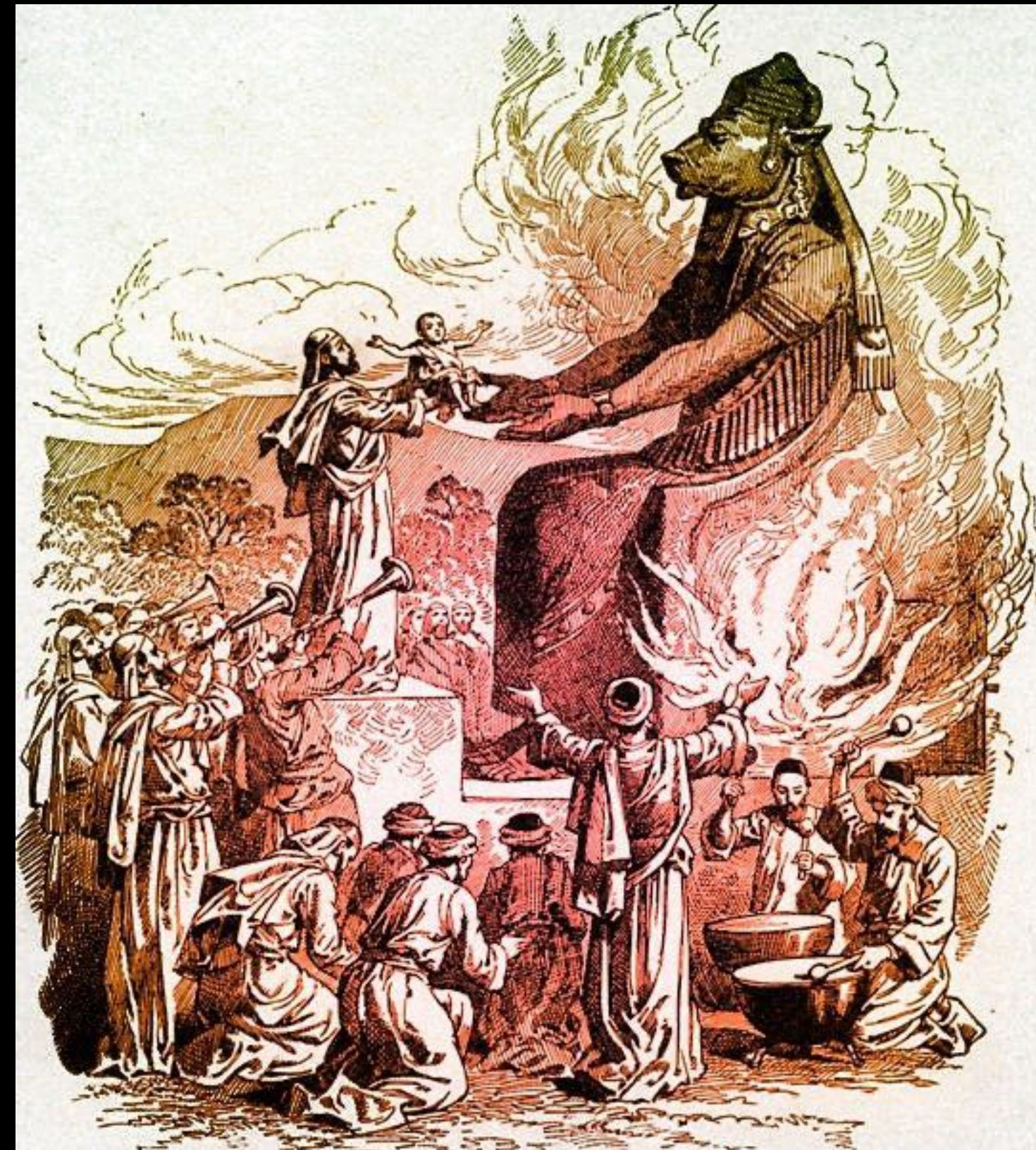
13 You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.



**Everyone deceives his neighbor,
and no one speaks the truth; they
have taught their tongue to speak
lies; they weary themselves
committing iniquity. Heaping
oppression upon oppression, and
deceit upon deceit, they refuse to
know me, declares the Lord.**

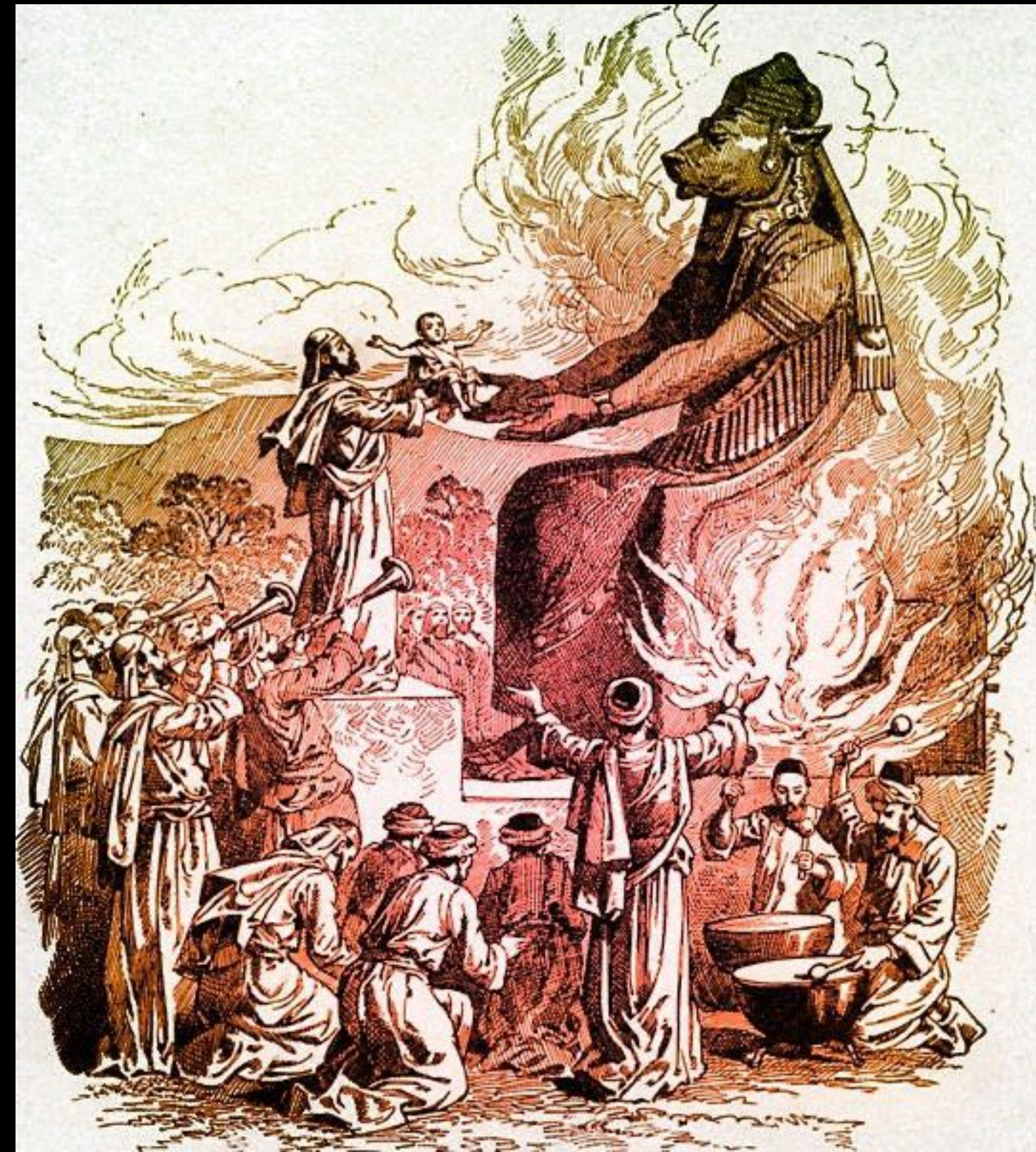
— Jeremiah 9:5-6 —

**Thus says the Lord
of hosts, the God of
Israel...the people have
forsaken me and have
profaned this place by
making offerings in it
to other gods...;**



— Jeremiah 19 —

**They have filled this
place with the blood of
innocents, and have built
the high places of Baal to
burn their sons in the fire
as burnt offerings to
Baal, which I did not
decree, nor did it come
into my mind.**



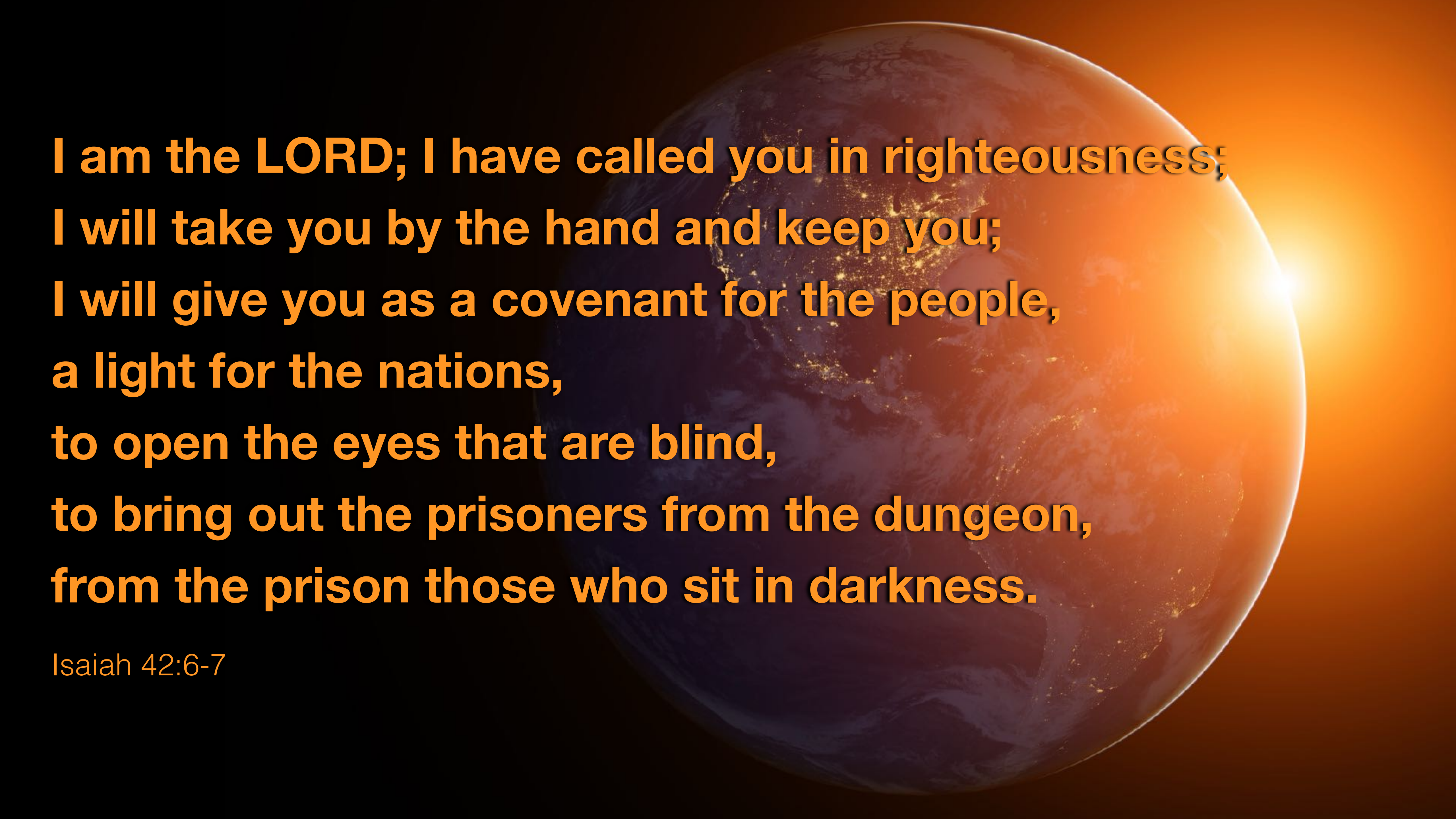
— Jeremiah 19 —

**“You are the salt of the earth...
You are the light of the world.”**



Matthew, Chapter 5

14 You are the light of the world.



**I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.**

Isaiah 42:6-7

A bronze sculpture of two figures, one standing and one kneeling, with a small oil lamp between them, set against a bokeh background. The standing figure is on the left, leaning forward. The kneeling figure is on the right, with hands clasped in prayer. A small oil lamp sits on the ground between them. The background is a warm, golden bokeh of out-of-focus lights.

**The true light, which gives light
to everyone, was coming into the world.**

— The Gospel of John 1:9 —

**I am the light of
the world. Whoever
follows me will not
walk in darkness,
but will have the
light of life.**

— Jesus of Nazareth —
The Gospel of John 8:12



Matthew, Chapter 5

14 You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house.

Matthew, Chapter 5

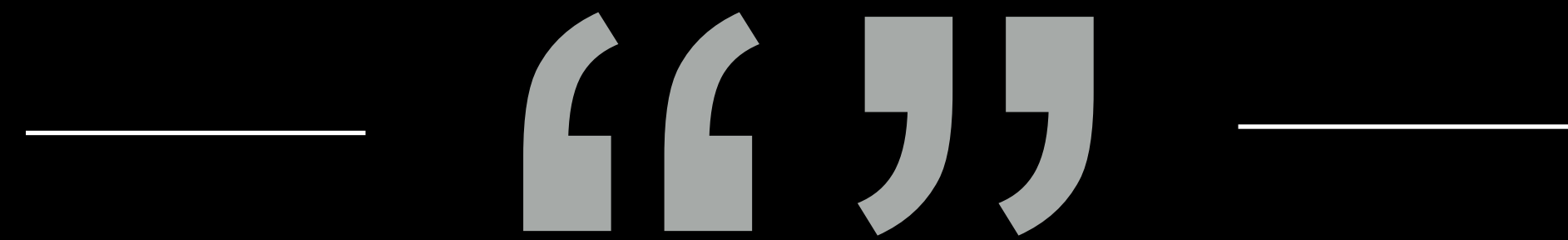
**16 In the same way, let your light shine before others,
so that they may see your good works and give glory
to your Father who is in heaven.**



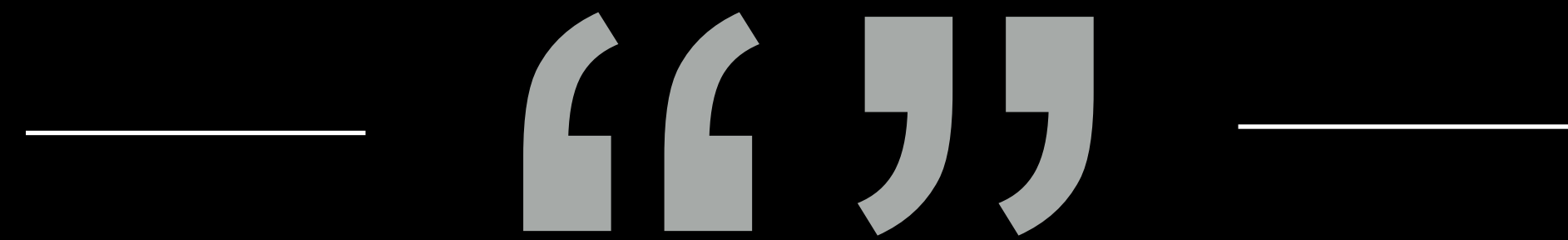
THE TIMES

**“As an Atheist, I Truly Believe
Africa Needs God”**

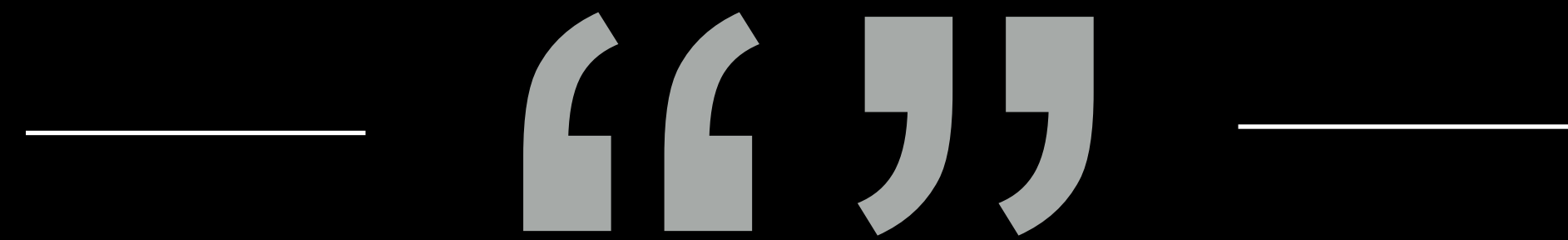
— Matthew Parris —



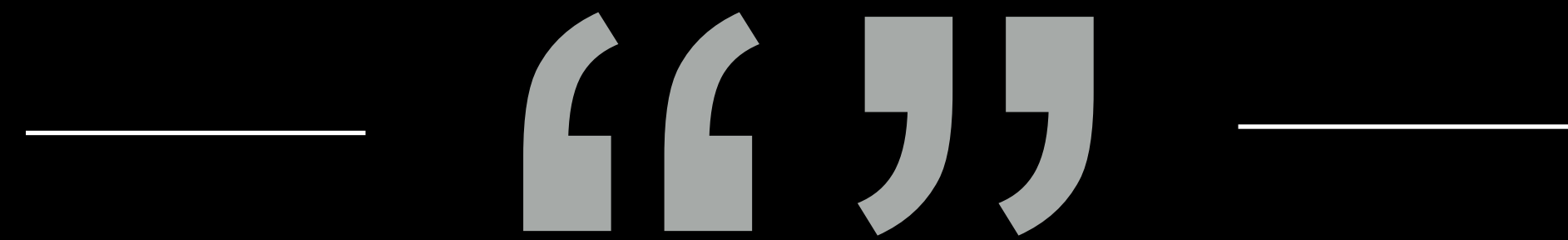
...traveling in Malawi refreshed another belief, too: one I've been trying to banish all my life, but an observation I've been unable to avoid since my African childhood. It confounds my ideological beliefs, stubbornly refuses to fit my world view, and has embarrassed my growing belief that there is no God.



Now a confirmed atheist, I've become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa, sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people's hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.



I used to avoid this truth by applauding - as you can - the practical work of mission churches in Africa. It's a pity, I would say, that salvation is part of the package, but Christians black and white, working in Africa, do heal the sick, do teach people to read and write; and only the severest kind of secularist could see a mission hospital or school and say the world would be better without it....



**The Christians were always different.
Far from having cowed or confined its converts,
their faith appeared to have liberated and relaxed
them. There was a liveliness, a curiosity, an
engagement with the world - a directness in their
dealings with others - that seemed to be missing
in traditional African life. They stood tall.**

**...our great God and
Savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us
to redeem us from all
lawlessness and to
purify for himself a
people for his own
possession who are
zealous for good works.**

— Titus 2:13-14 —



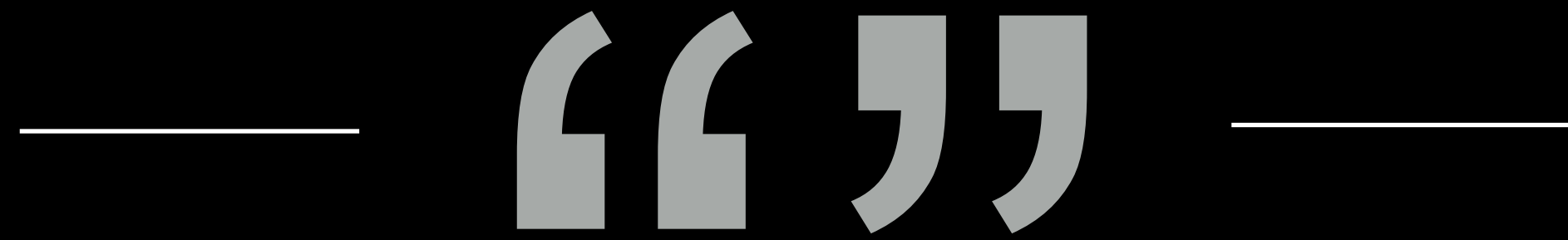
**...so that being justified by his grace we might
become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on
these things, so that those who have believed in God
may be careful to devote themselves to good works.**

— The Apostle Paul in Titus 3:7-8 —



**Let's Adore the
Lord Jesus as the
True Light of the
World**

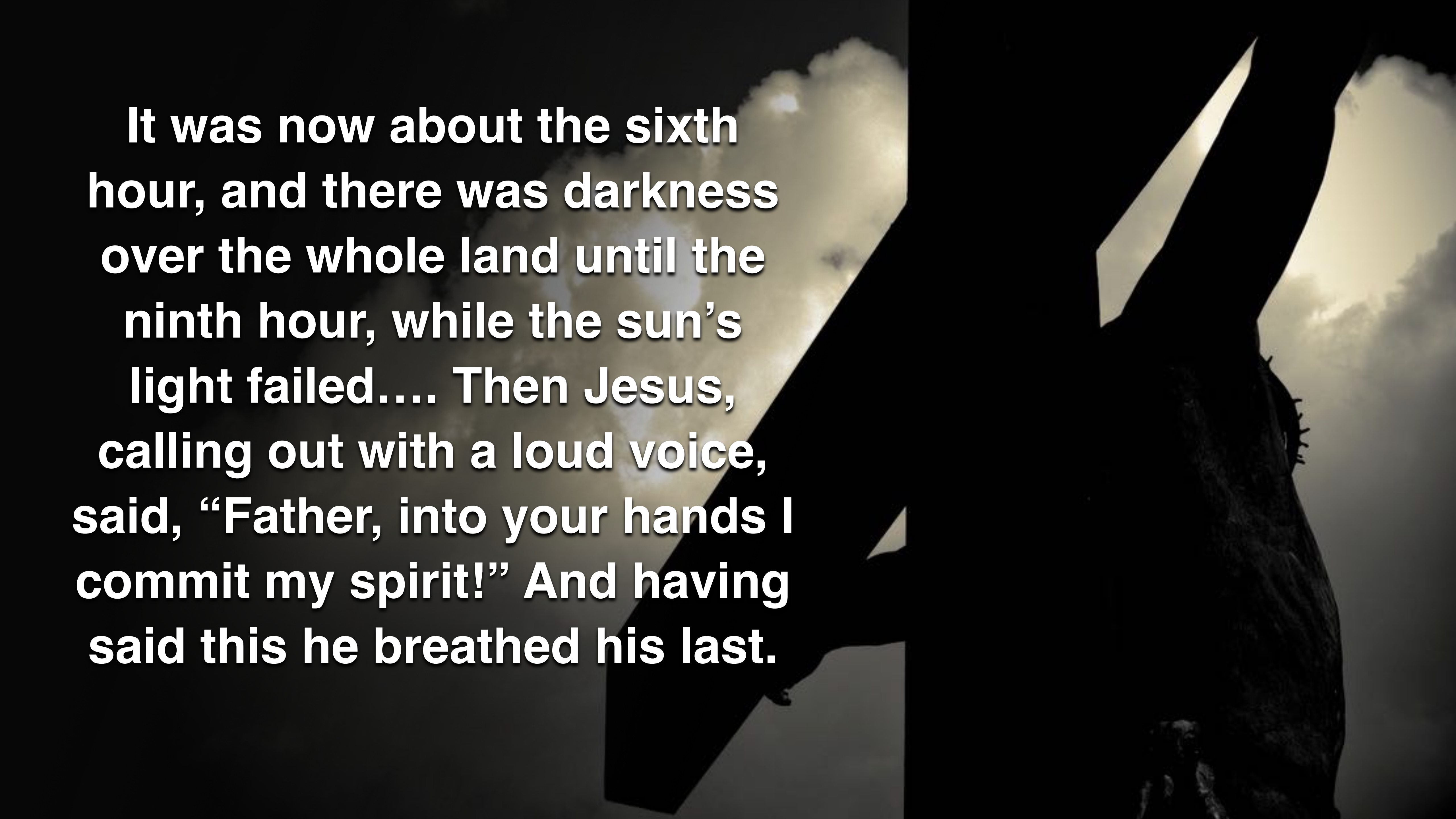




**I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me
will not walk in darkness,
but will have the light of life.**

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of John 8:12 —

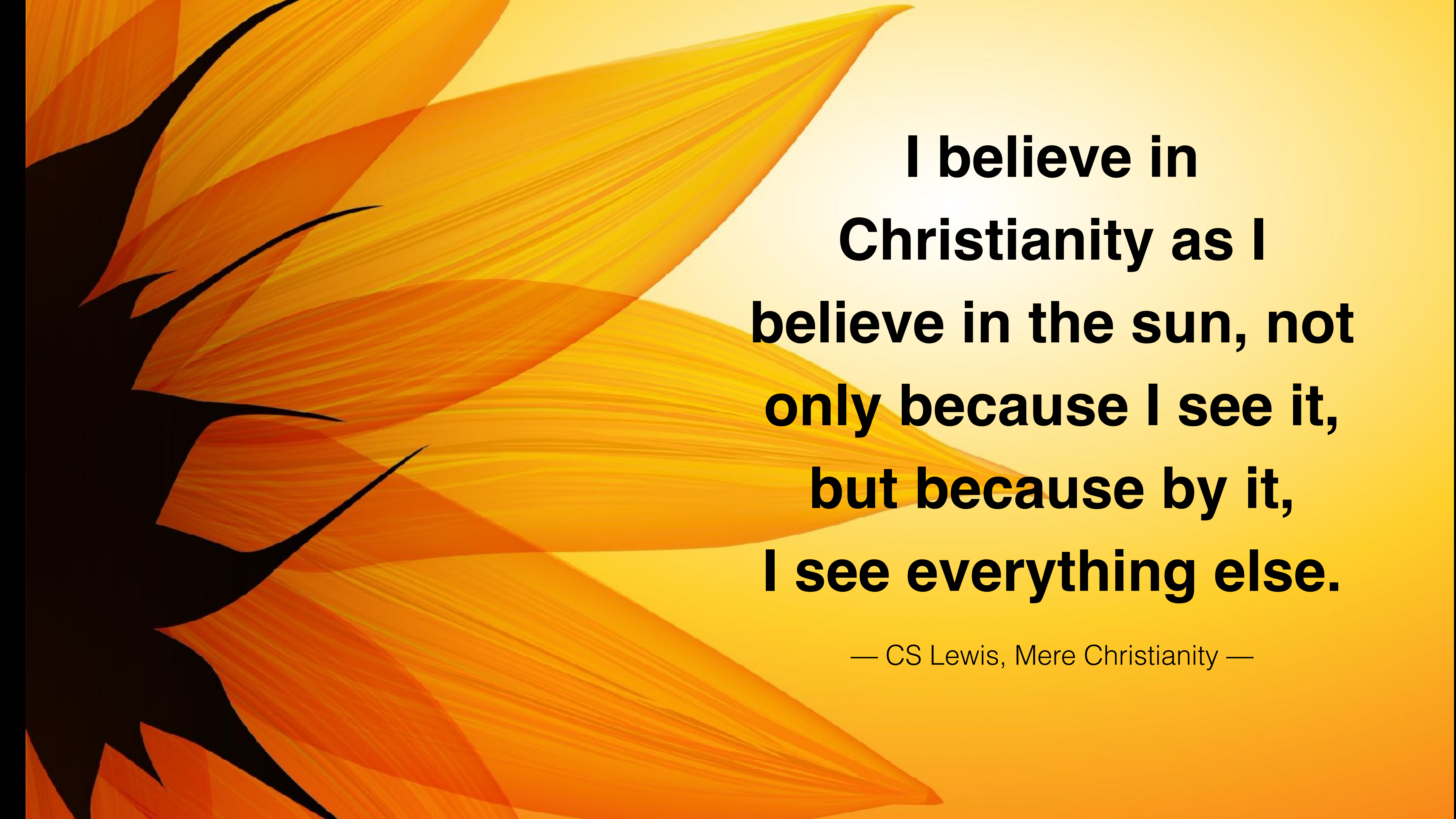


It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun's light failed.... Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

**In Him was life,
and the life was
the light of men.
The light shines in
the darkness, and
the darkness has
not overcome it.**

— The Gospel of John 1:4-5 —



The background of the image is a stylized sunburst or flower-like pattern. It features several large, overlapping petals or rays in shades of orange and yellow. The center of the pattern is a bright yellow, which fades into a lighter orange towards the edges. The overall effect is warm and radiant.

**I believe in
Christianity as I
believe in the sun, not
only because I see it,
but because by it,
I see everything else.**

— CS Lewis, Mere Christianity —

**We are a People
who Adore the Lord
Jesus as the True
Light of the World**





Let's Remember Who We Are

**Do all things without
grumbling or disputing,
that you may be blame-
less and innocent,
children of God without
blemish in the midst of
a crooked and twisted
generation, among whom
you shine as lights
in the world....**



— The Apostle Paul in Colossians 4:5-6 —



**What if instead of
condemnation, we
became known for giving
benediction? What if
instead of being on the
hunt to catch people
doing wrong, we went on
the hunt to catch people
doing right?**

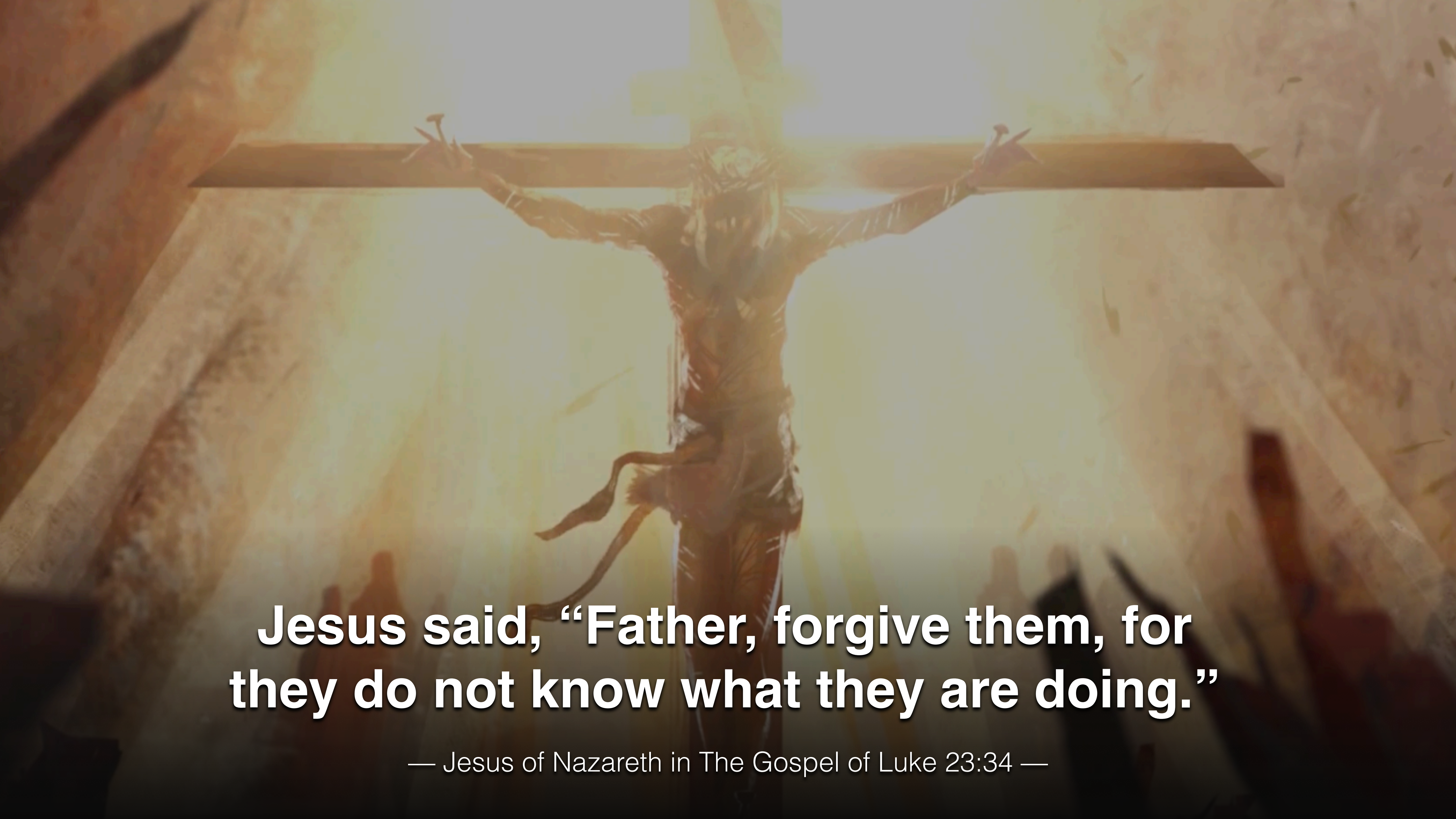


**What if instead
of looking for someone to
curse, we started looking
for someone to bless?
What if instead of naming
people according to their
worst behaviors and
features, we named them
according to their best and
most God-reflecting ones?**

— Scott Sauls —

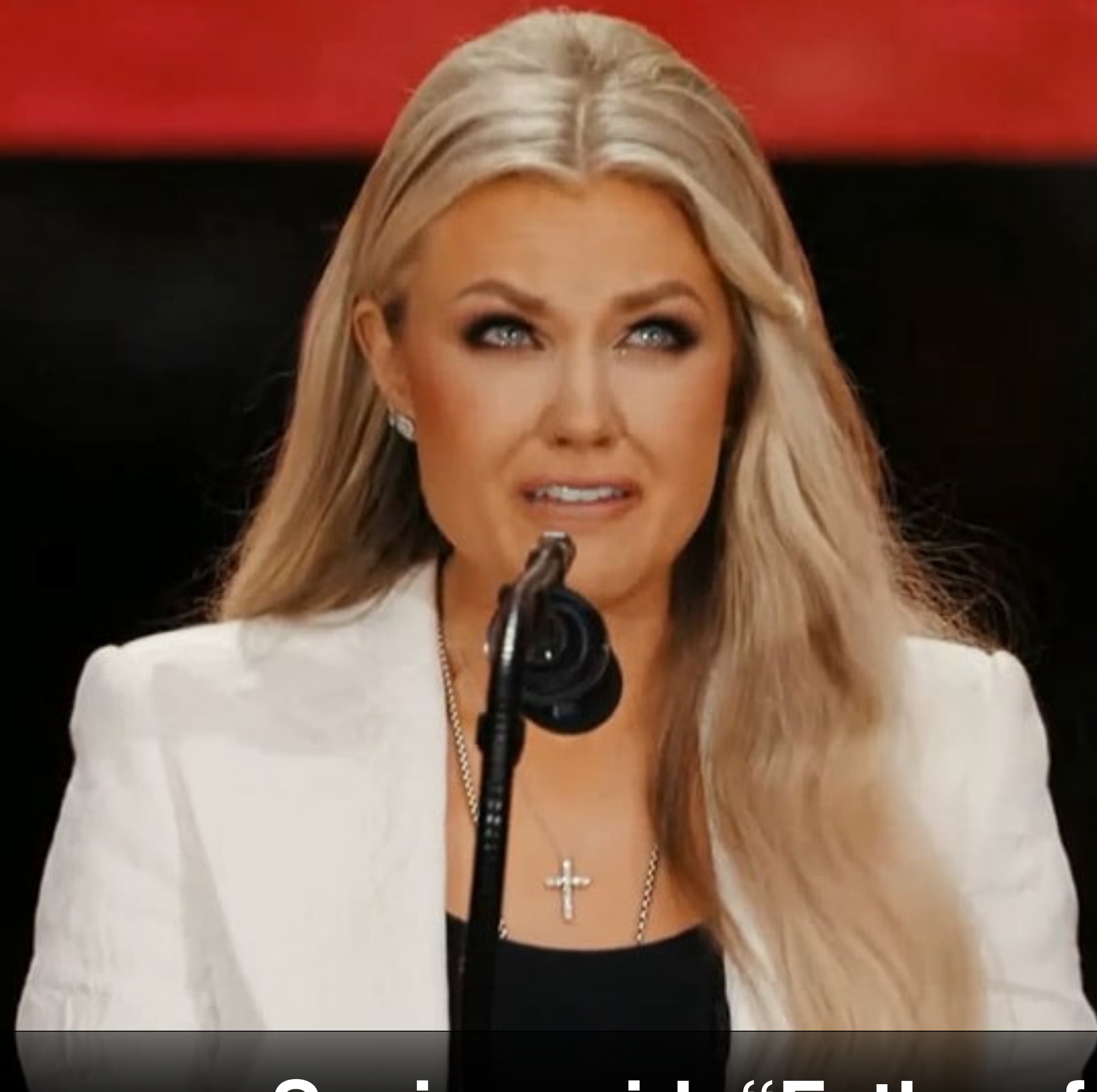


Let's Believe Our Good Works Make a Real Difference

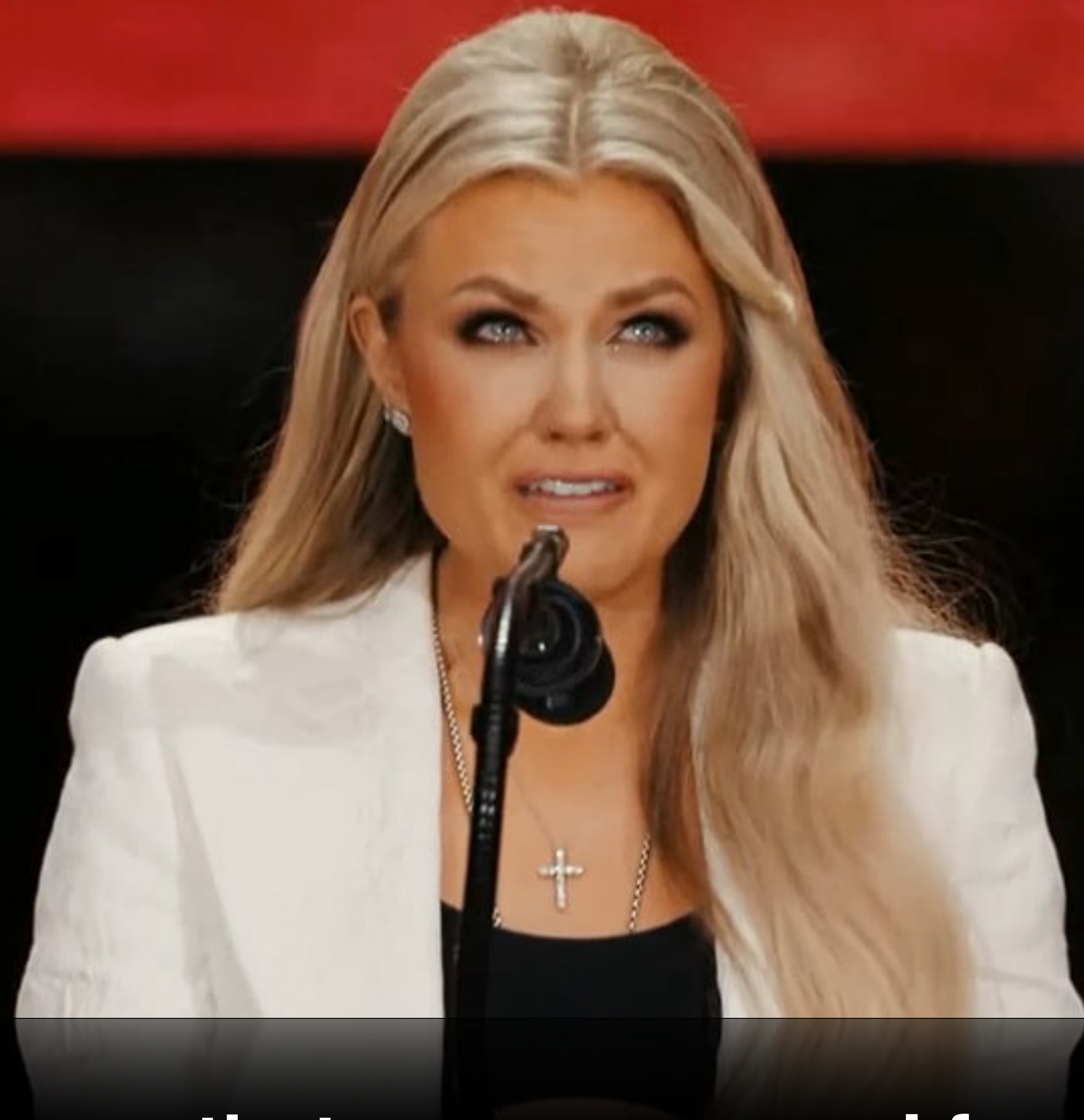


Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

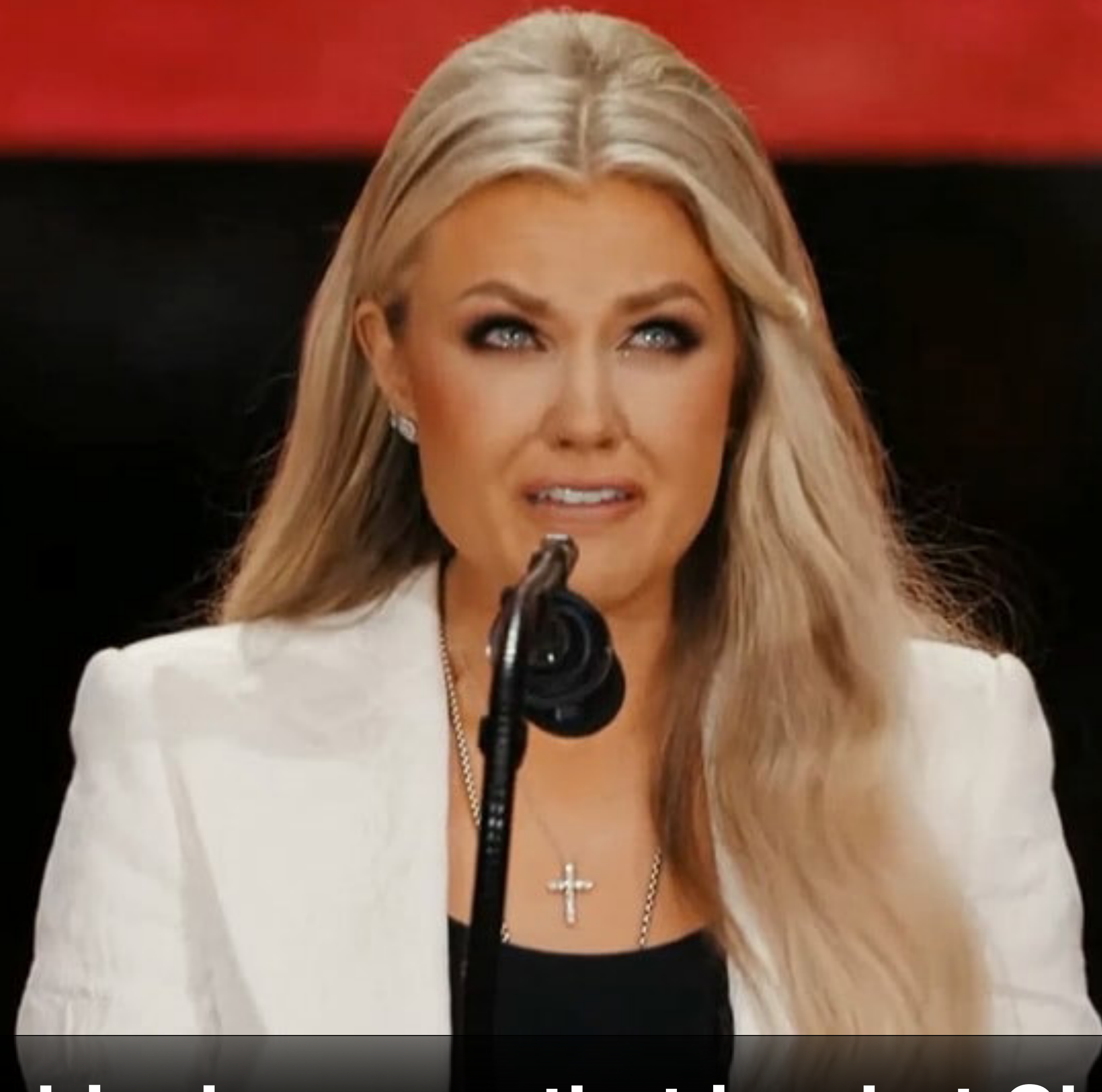
— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Luke 23:34 —



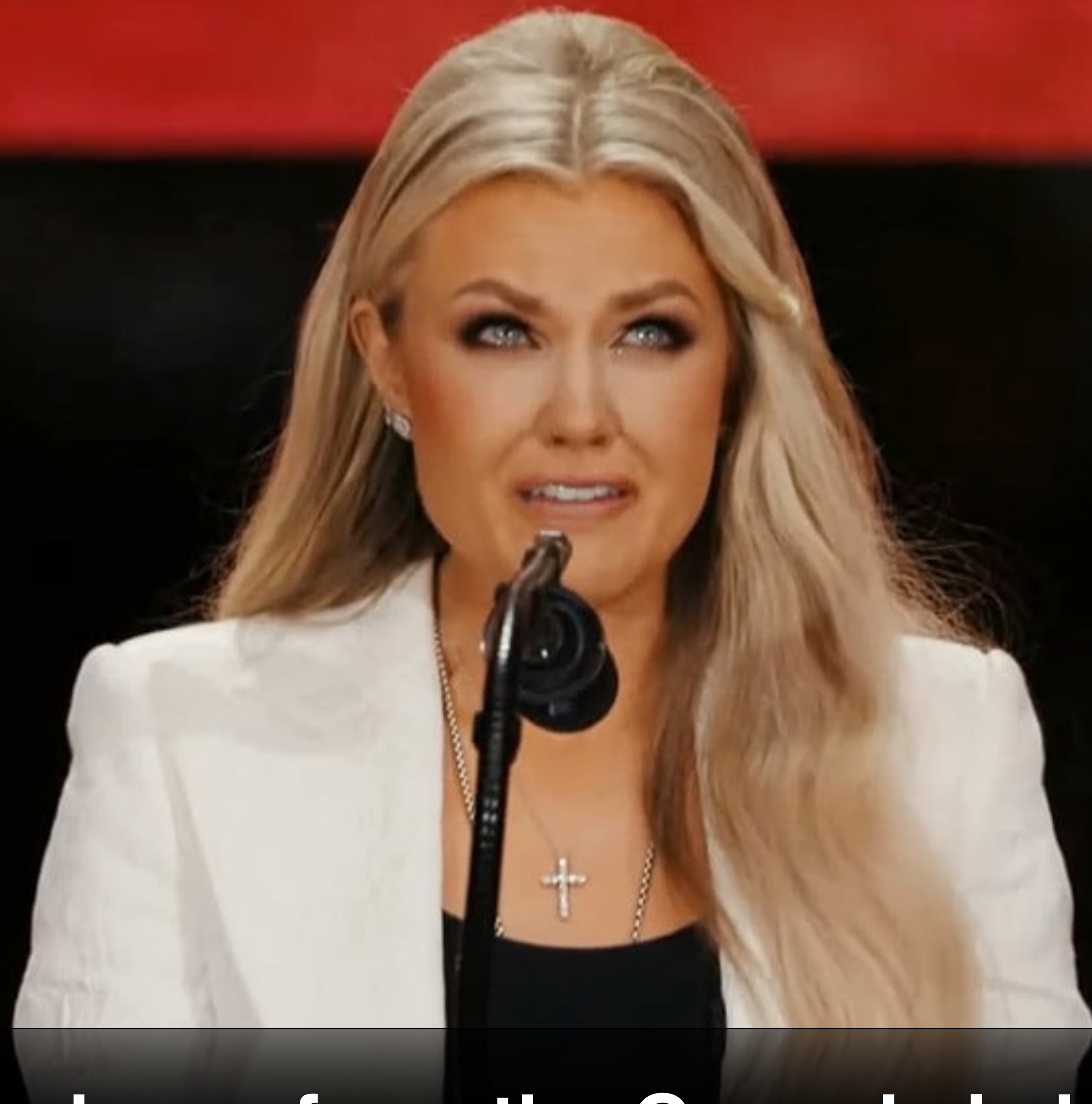
**On the cross our Savior said, “Father, forgive them,
for they know not what they do.”**



That man...that young man.... I forgive him.



**I forgive him because that is what Christ did....
The answer to hate is not hate.**



The answer we know from the Gospels is love. Always love.

— Erika Kirk —



Tim Allen, Twitter / X
September 25, 2025

When Erika Kirk spoke the words on the man who killed her husband: “That man... that young man... I forgive him.” That moment deeply affected me. I have struggled for over 60 years to forgive the man who killed my Dad. I will say those words now as I type: “I forgive the man who killed my father.”
Peace be with you all.



Donna Walker ✓

@CiaoBellla301



I have struggled for 42 years to forgive the man who killed my grandmother. I will say these words with tears forming in my eyes and my heart pounding as I type, "I forgive the man who killed my grandmother." Peace be with you.

4:49 PM · Sep 25, 2025 · **150.8K** Views



Donna Walker ✓

@CiaoBellla301



Thank you, [@ErikaKirk](#), for inspiring me. Thank you, [@TimAllen](#), for giving me the courage. Thank you, God, for patiently waiting on me. And thank you all for the kind words of encouragement and support. The immense burden that's been lifted has set me free. May Peace Be With You.



**We are a People who Believe
Our Good Works Make a Real Difference**



**MHC, May You Embrace Your
Identity and Calling to be
Salt and Light in This World**