

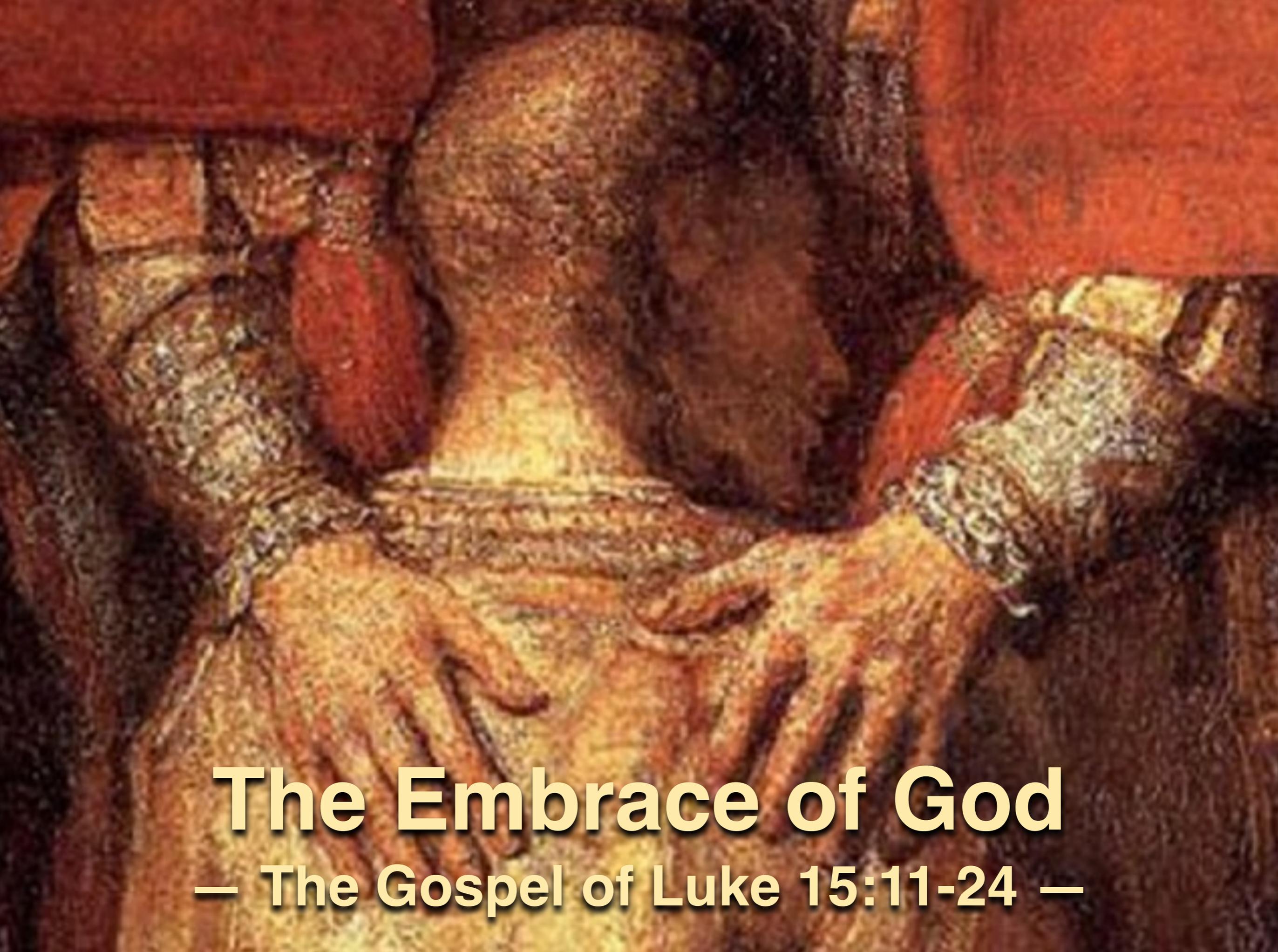
**The Embrace of God**  
— The Gospel of Luke 15:11-24 —



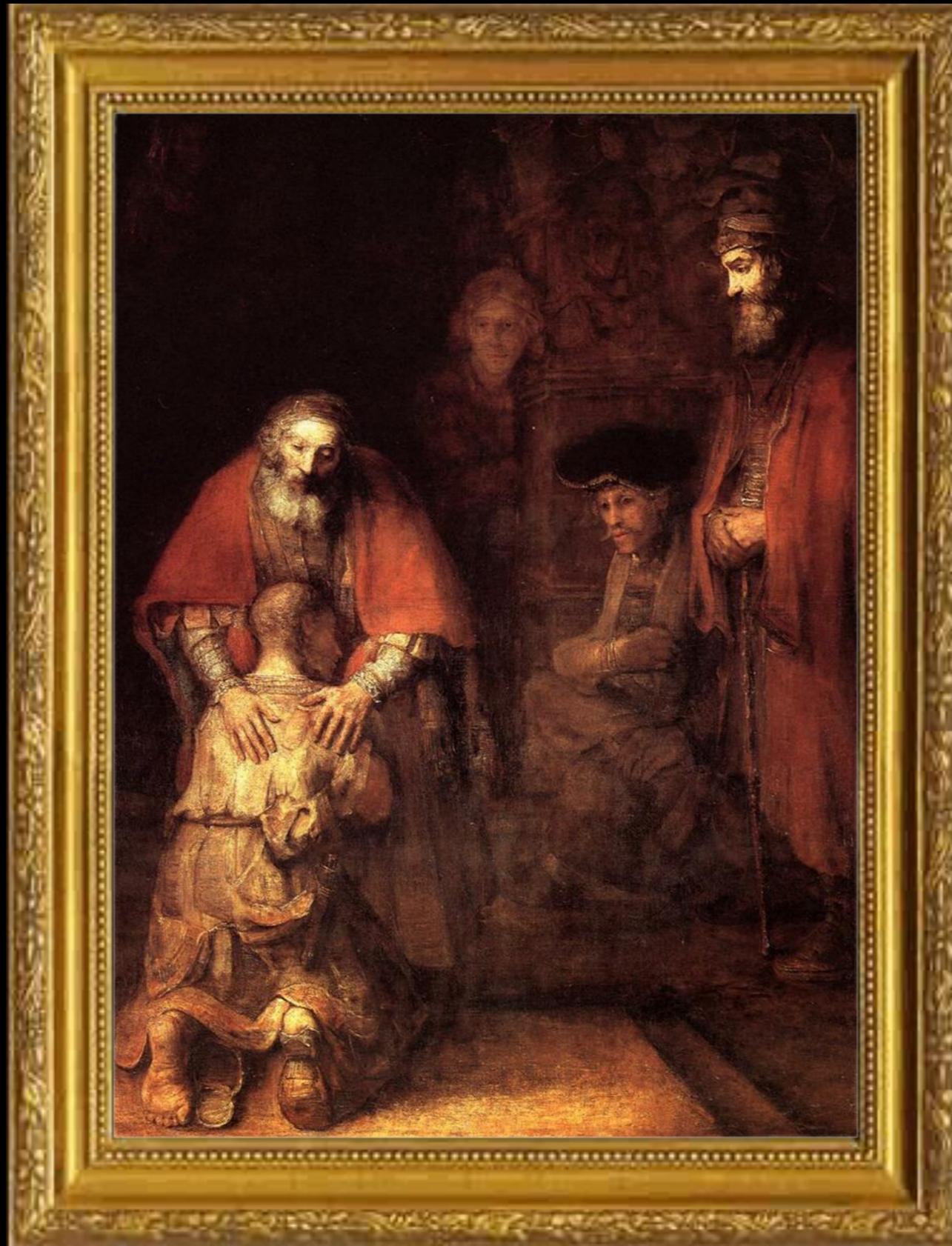
**What comes into our minds  
when we think of God  
is the most important  
thing about us.**

AW Tozer  
*The Knowledge of the Holy*





**The Embrace of God**  
— The Gospel of Luke 15:11-24 —



Rembrandt's *The Prodigal Son*

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**1 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them....”**



**“This man receives sinners  
and eats with them.”**



**Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.**

**Jesus of Nazareth**

Gospel of Luke 15:7

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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11 And he said to them, “There was a man who had **two sons**. 12 And the **younger** of them said to his father, ‘**Father, give me the share of the property that is coming to me.**’

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**12 And he divided the property between them.**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country....**



**Your iniquities have  
made a separation  
between you and God.**

The Prophet Isaiah

— Isaiah 59:2 —

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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13 Not many days later, **the younger son** gathered all he had and **took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

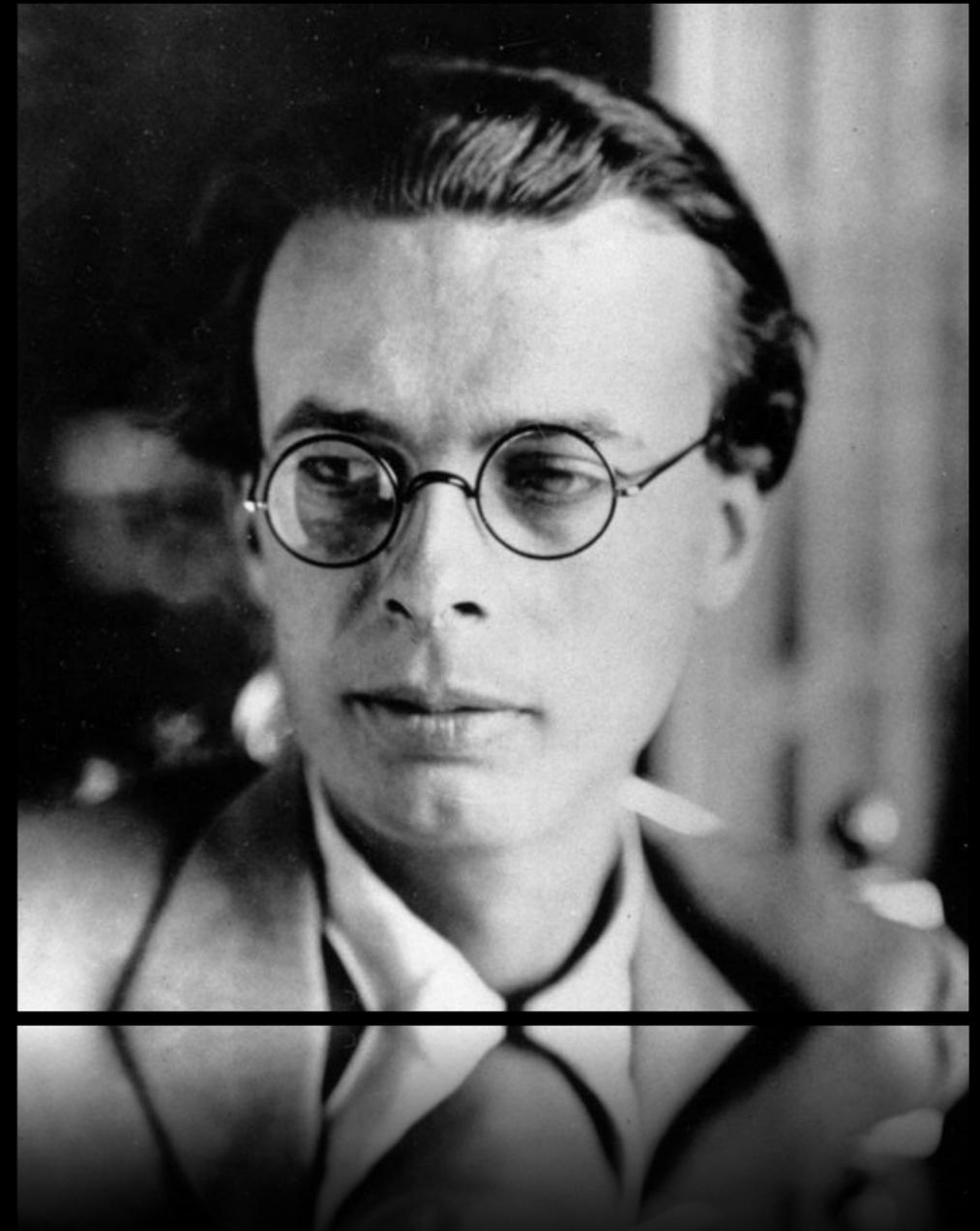
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13 Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and **there he squandered his property in reckless living.**

The older son:

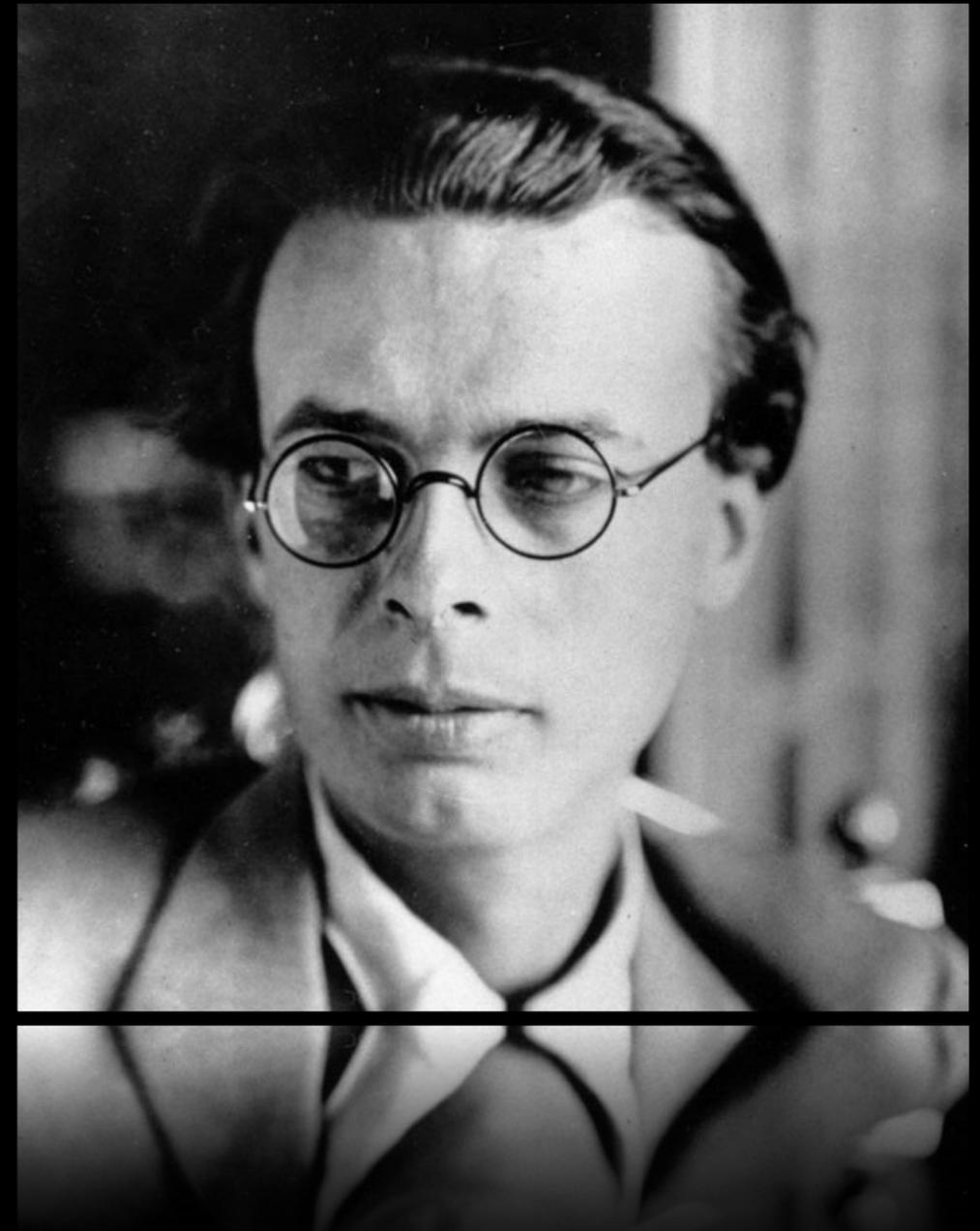
**“this son of yours...has devoured your property with prostitutes” (vs. 30).**

**For myself as, no  
doubt, for most of my  
contemporaries, the  
philosophy of  
meaninglessness  
was essentially an  
instrument of  
liberation.**



**Aldous Huxley (1894-1964)**  
*Ends & Means*

**The liberation we  
desired was...  
liberation from a  
certain system of  
morality. We objected  
to the morality  
because it interfered  
with our sexual  
freedom.**

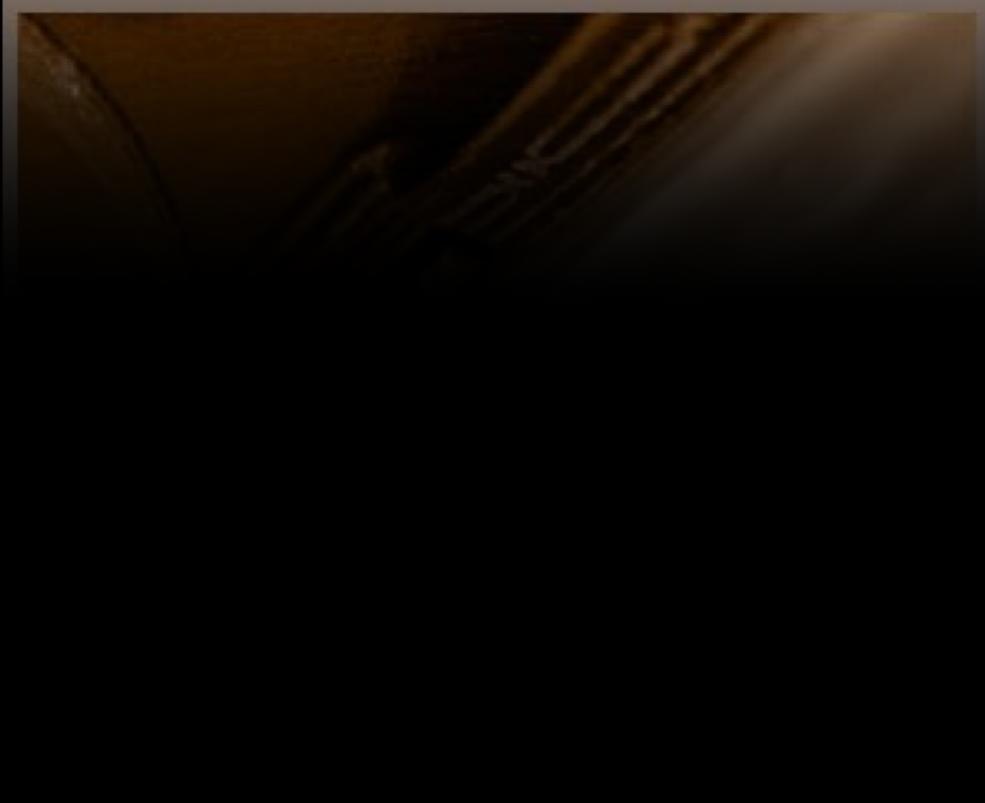


**Aldous Huxley (1894-1964)**  
*Ends & Means*



**“...those who...  
live for themselves....”**

**The Apostle Paul**  
— 2 Corinthians 5:15—



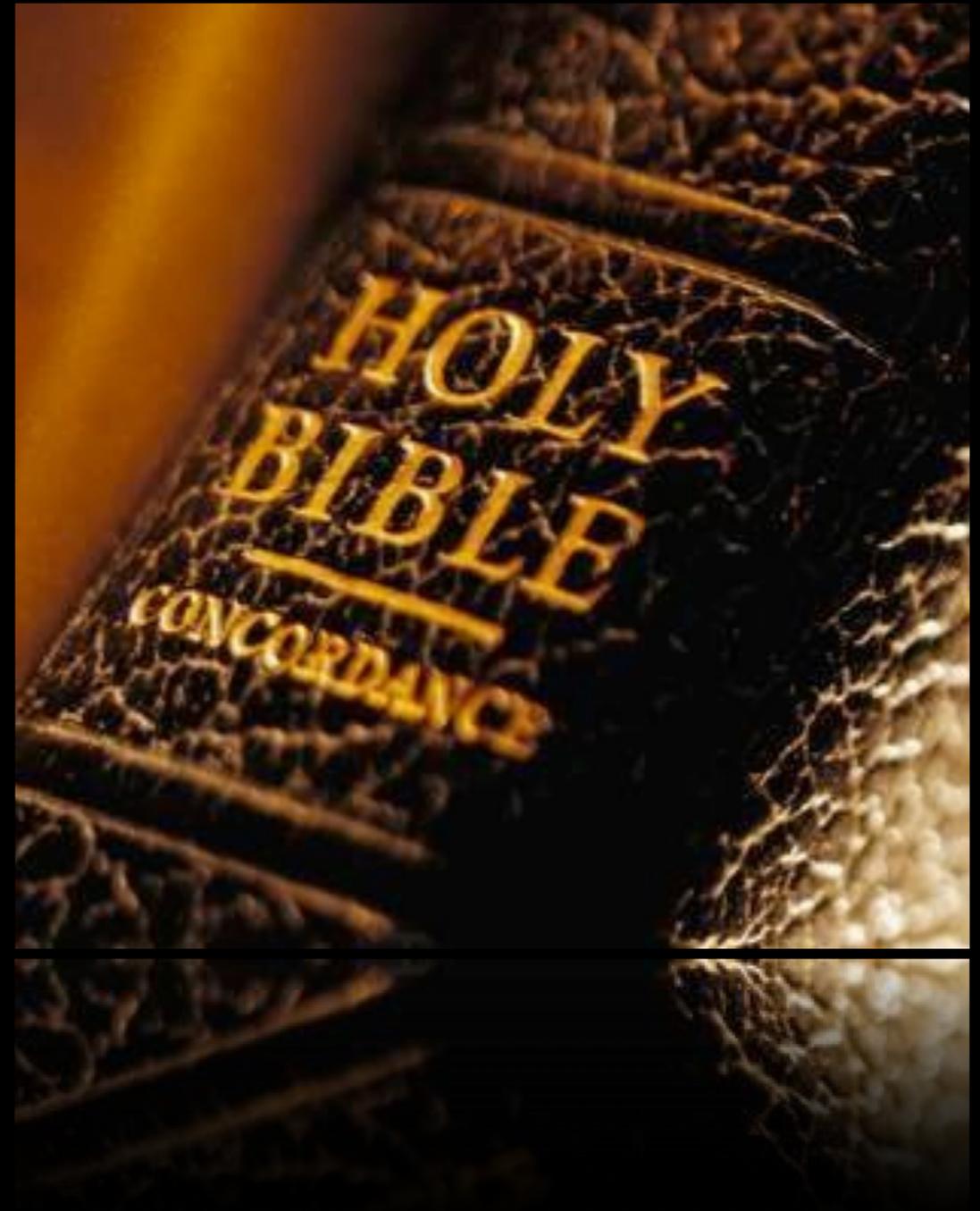
The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**14 And when he had spent everything,  
a severe famine arose in that country,  
and he began to be in need....**

**“ the fleeting  
pleasures of sin ”**

— Hebrews 11:25 —



The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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15 So he went and **hired himself out** to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him **to feed the pigs.** 16 And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the **pigs** ate, and **no one gave him anything.**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**17 But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**18 I will rise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him....**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion....**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran...**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him....**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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20 And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, **his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**21 And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worth to be called your son....’**

The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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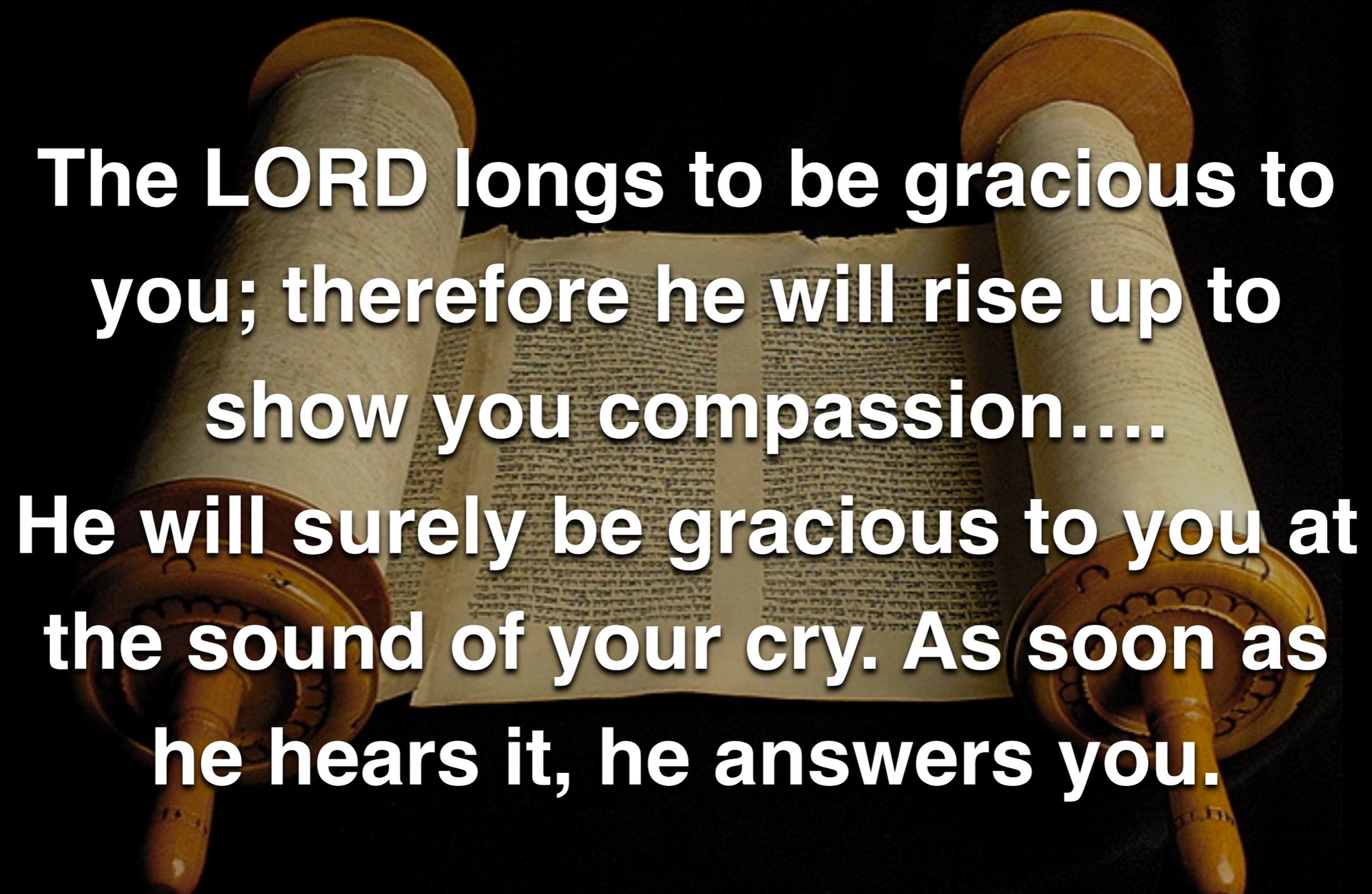
21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worth to be called your son.' 22 **But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and shoes on his feet....'**



The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2, 11-24 (ESV)

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**23 ‘And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. 24 For my son this was dead, and is alive again, he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.**



**The LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show you compassion....**

**He will surely be gracious to you at the sound of your cry. As soon as he hears it, he answers you.**

— Isaiah 30:16 & 19 —

**Justice**

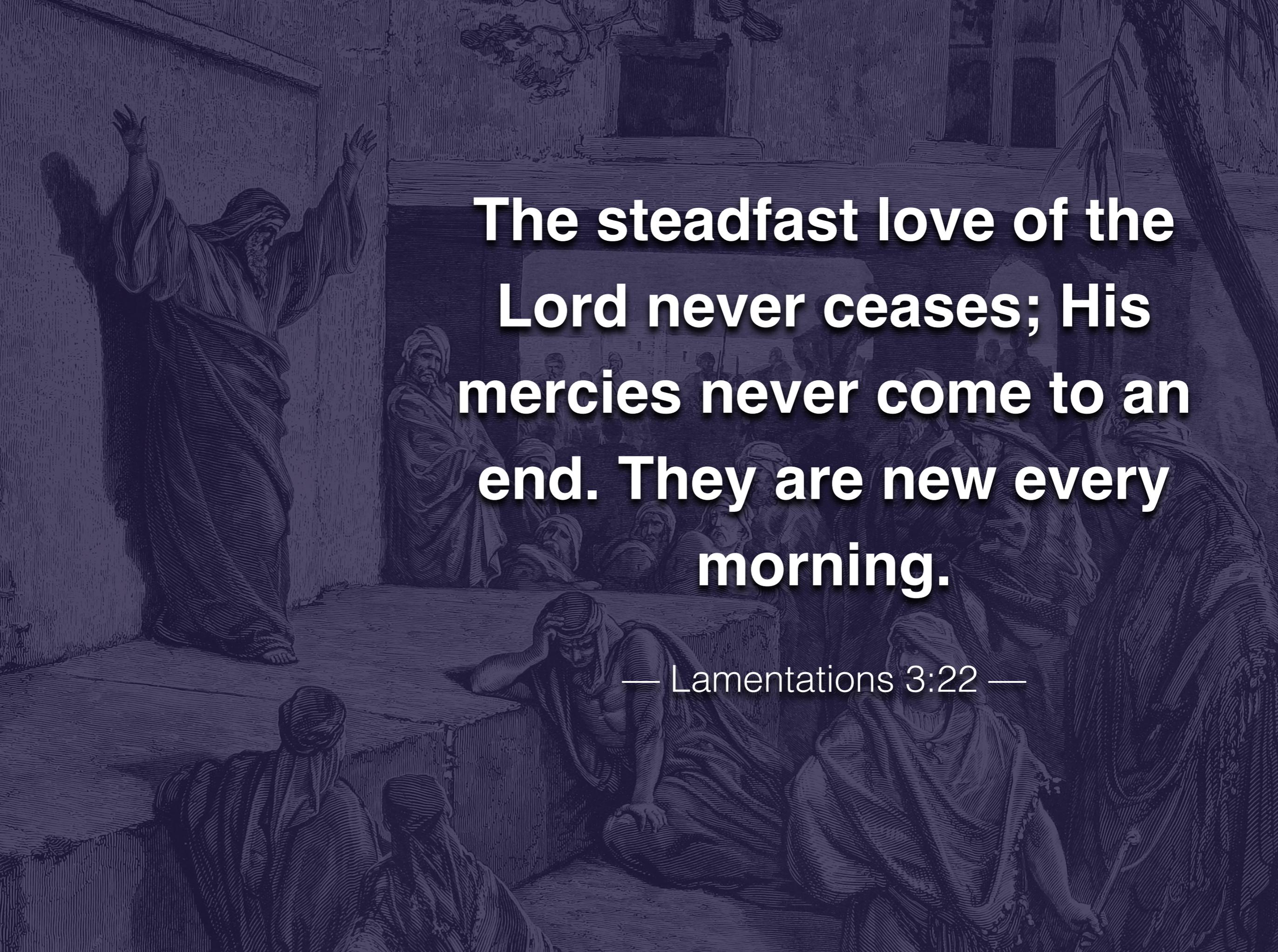
Getting what you deserve.

**MERCY**

Not getting what you deserve.

**GRACE**

Getting what you don't deserve.



**The steadfast love of the  
Lord never ceases; His  
mercies never come to an  
end. They are new every  
morning.**

— Lamentations 3:22 —

**Blessed be the God  
and Father of our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
who has blessed us  
in Christ with every  
spiritual blessing....**



**The Apostle Paul**  
— Ephesians 1:3 & 7 —

**In Him we have  
redemption through  
his blood, the  
forgiveness of our  
trespasses, according  
to the riches of His  
grace, which he  
lavished upon us....**



**The Apostle Paul**  
— Ephesians 1:3 & 7 —



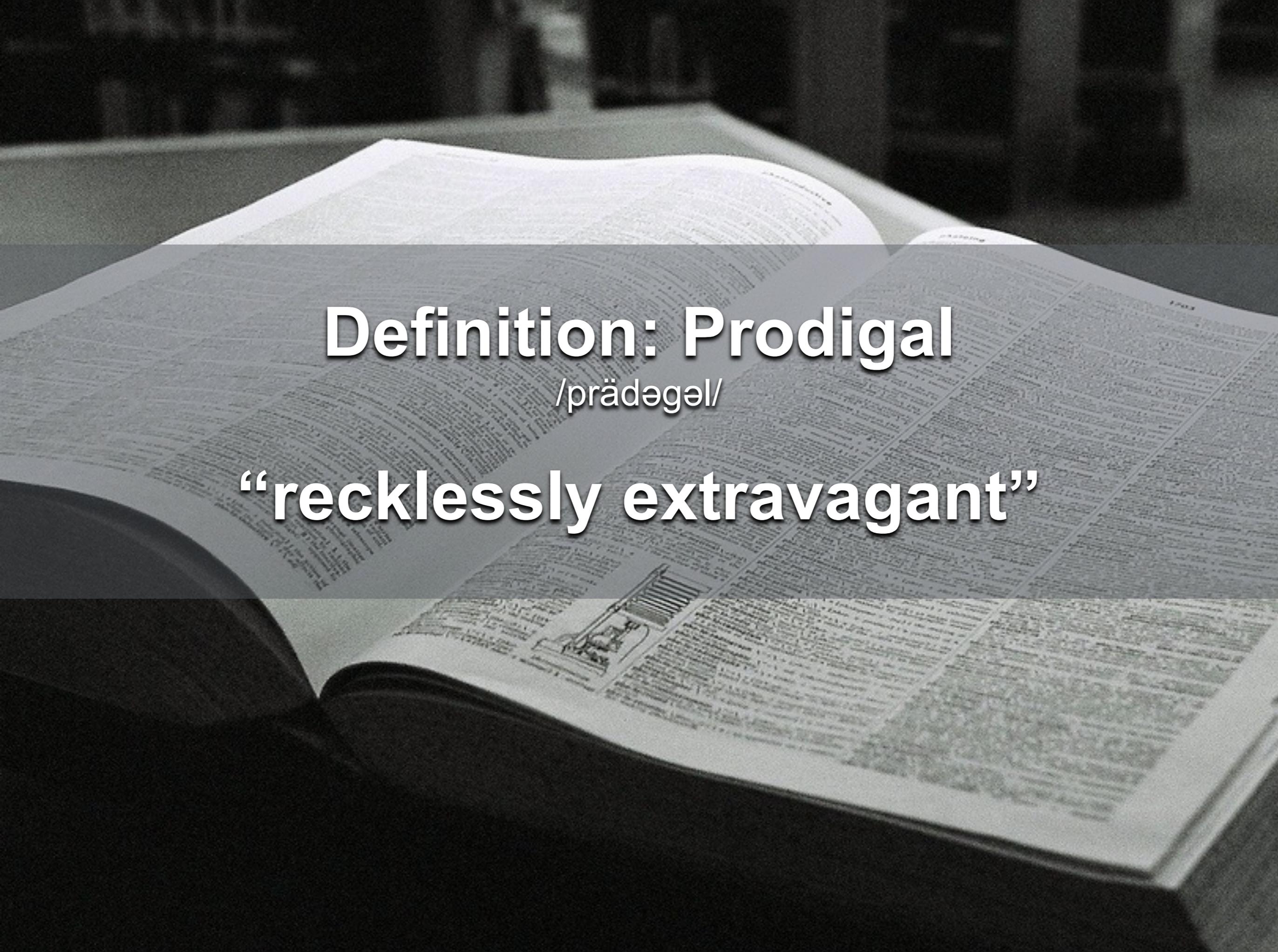


**He will take delight in you with gladness.  
With His love, He will calm all your fears.  
He will rejoice over you with joyful songs.**

— Zephaniah 3:17 —



**The Father's  
embrace means  
there is always  
grace greater  
than our sin.**



# Definition: Prodigal

/prädəgəl/

**“recklessly extravagant”**

**Though we are all  
more flawed, broken,  
messed up, rebellious,  
addicted, lost, and yes,  
sinful, than we often  
have the courage to  
admit,**

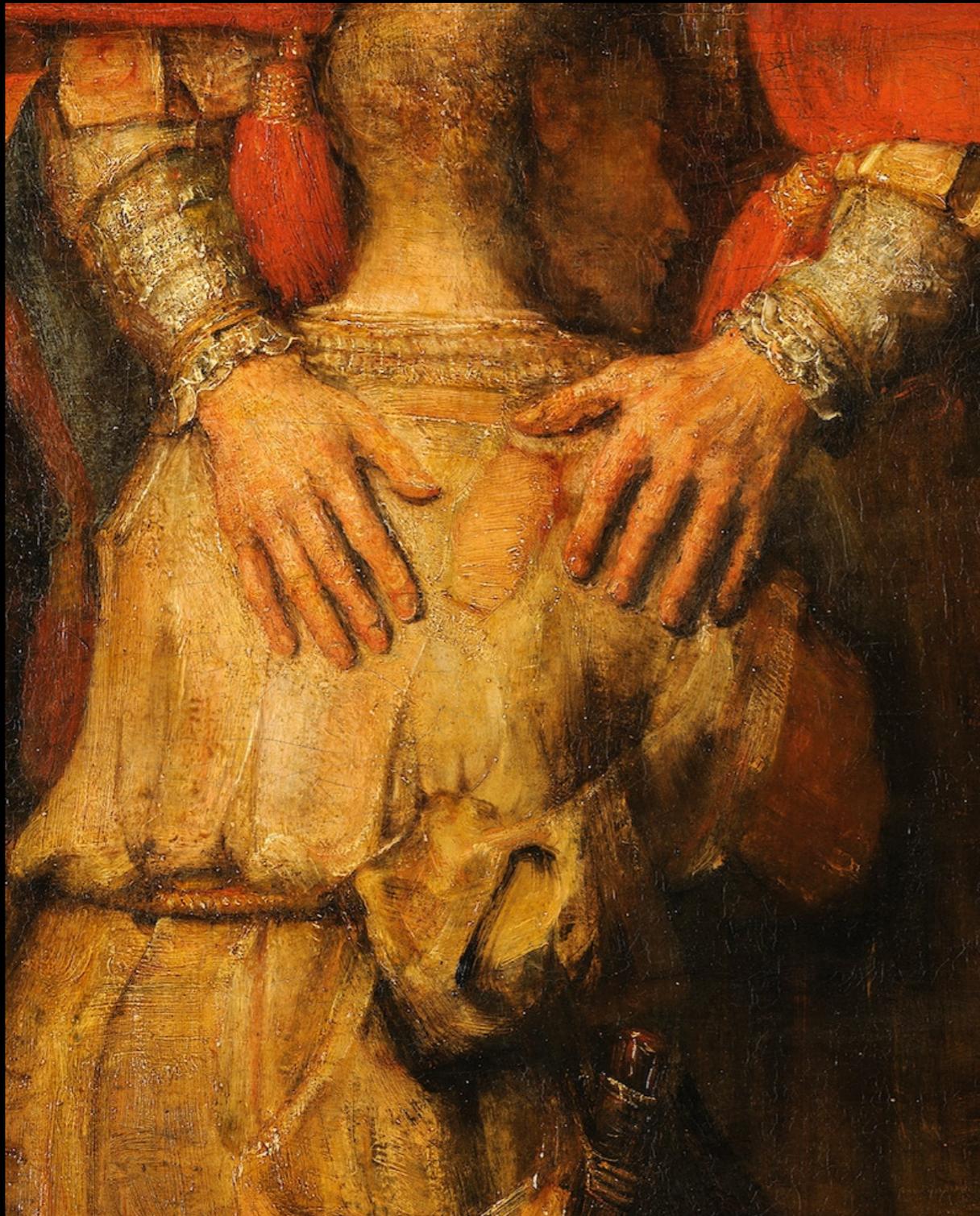


**yet in Christ we can  
experience more love,  
more forgiveness,  
more acceptance,  
more grace, and  
more celebration in  
the warm embrace of  
God the Father than  
we ever dared dream  
was possible.**



**It's time to  
come home.**

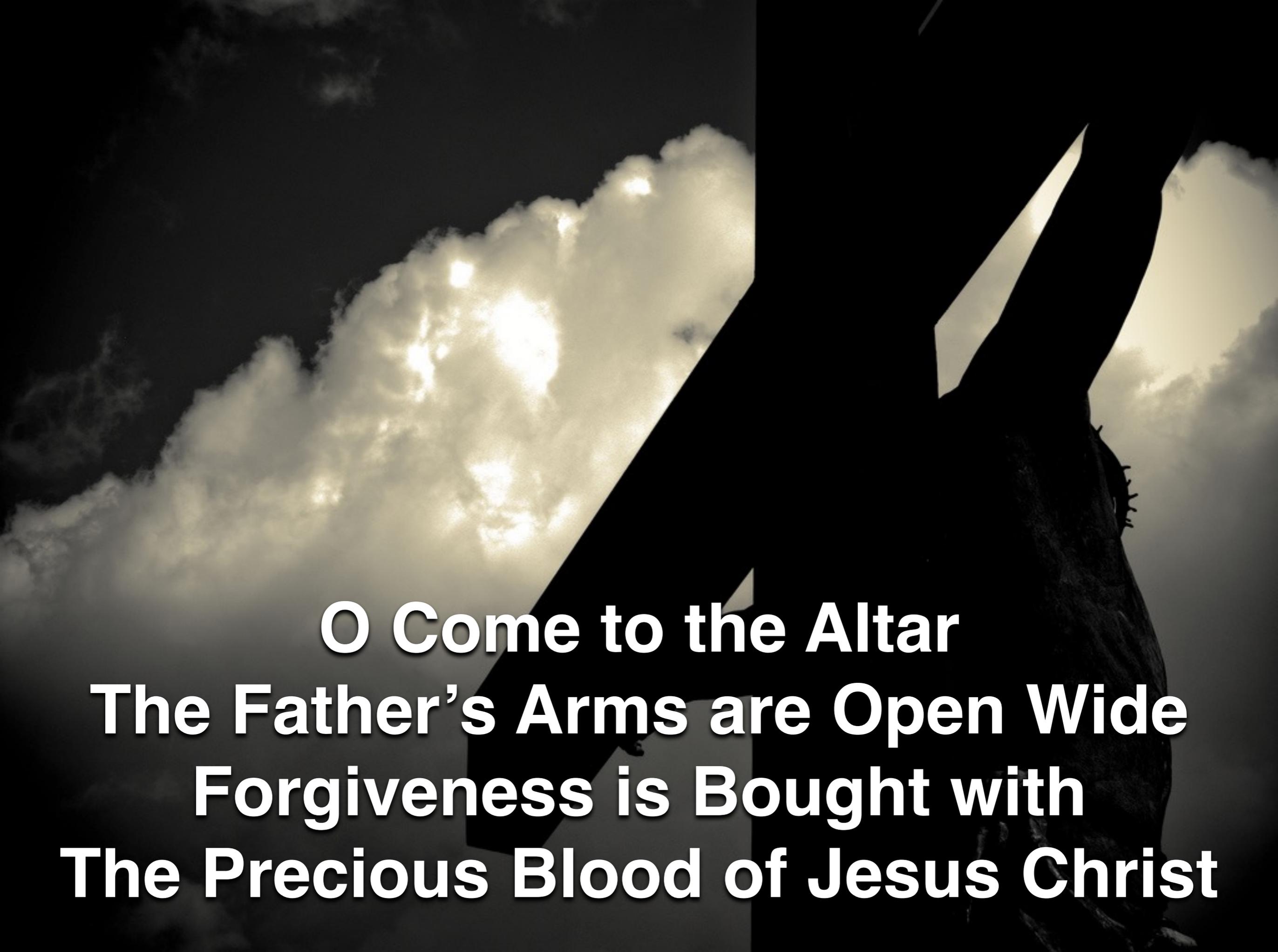




The true center of Rembrandt's painting is the hands of the father. On them all the light is concentrated; on them the eyes of the bystanders are focused; in them mercy becomes flesh; upon them forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing come together.

Henri Nouwen's  
*The Return of the Prodigal*





**O Come to the Altar  
The Father's Arms are Open Wide  
Forgiveness is Bought with  
The Precious Blood of Jesus Christ**

**It's time to tell  
the story.**





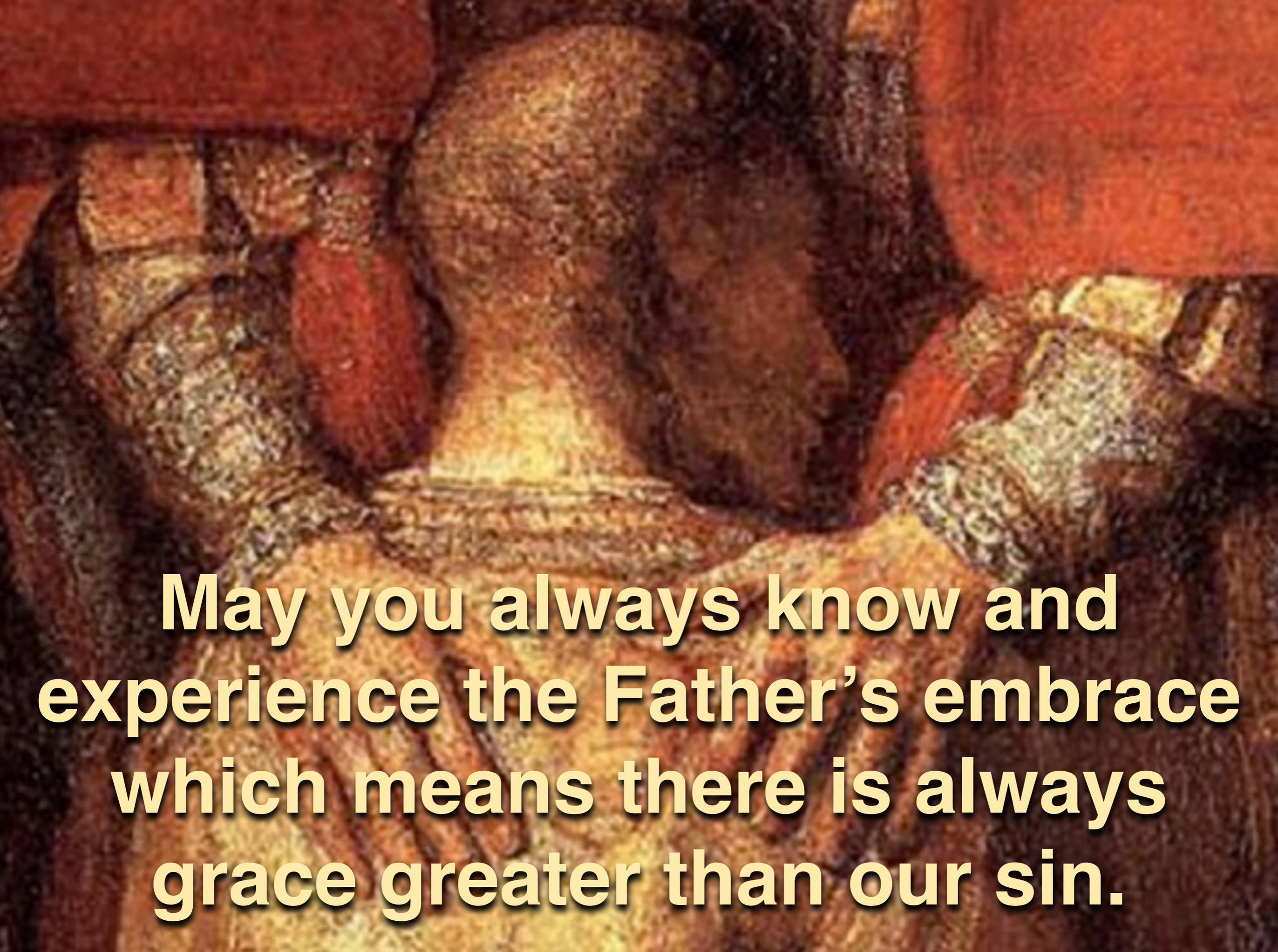
“

**What comes into our minds  
when we think of God  
is the most important  
thing about us.**

AW Tozer  
*The Knowledge of the Holy*

”

**What comes into God's mind  
when He thinks of you  
is the most important  
thing about you.**



**May you always know and experience the Father's embrace which means there is always grace greater than our sin.**