

# Returning Thanks

— The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19 —







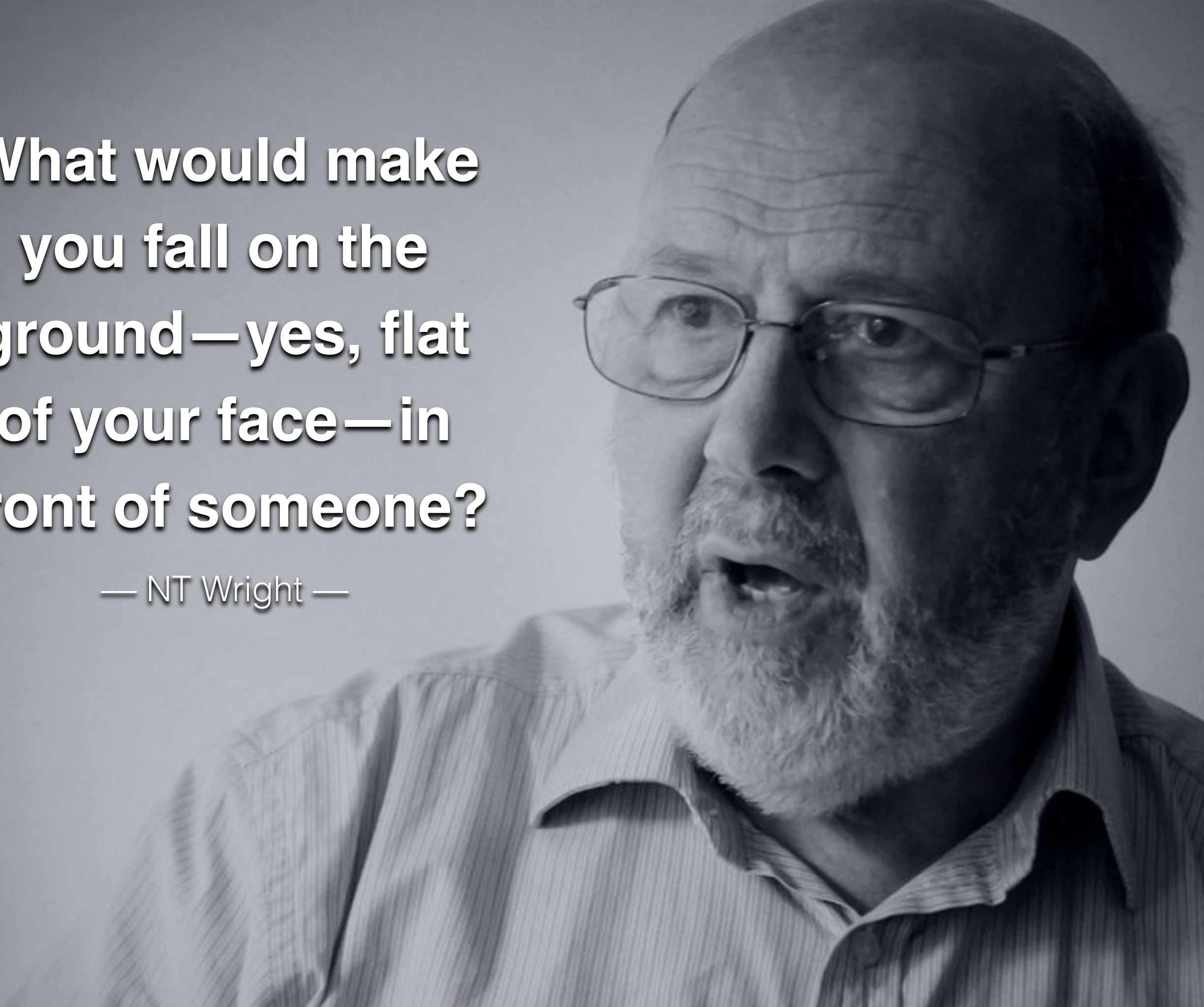
# THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE



**What would make  
you fall on the  
ground—yes, flat  
of your face—in  
front of someone?**

— NT Wright —





# Returning Thanks

— The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19 —





## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**11 On the way to Jerusalem he was passing between Samaria and Galilee.**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**12 And as he entered the village, he was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance....**



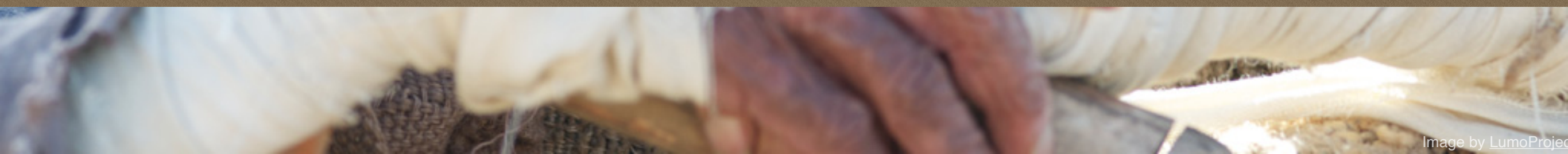
**The leprous person who has  
the disease shall wear torn clothes  
and let the hair of his head hang loose,  
and he shall cover his upper lip  
and cry out ‘Unclean. Unclean.’  
He shall remain unclean as long as  
he has the disease. He is unclean.  
He shall live alone. His dwelling  
shall be outside the camp.**

— Leviticus 13:45-46 —

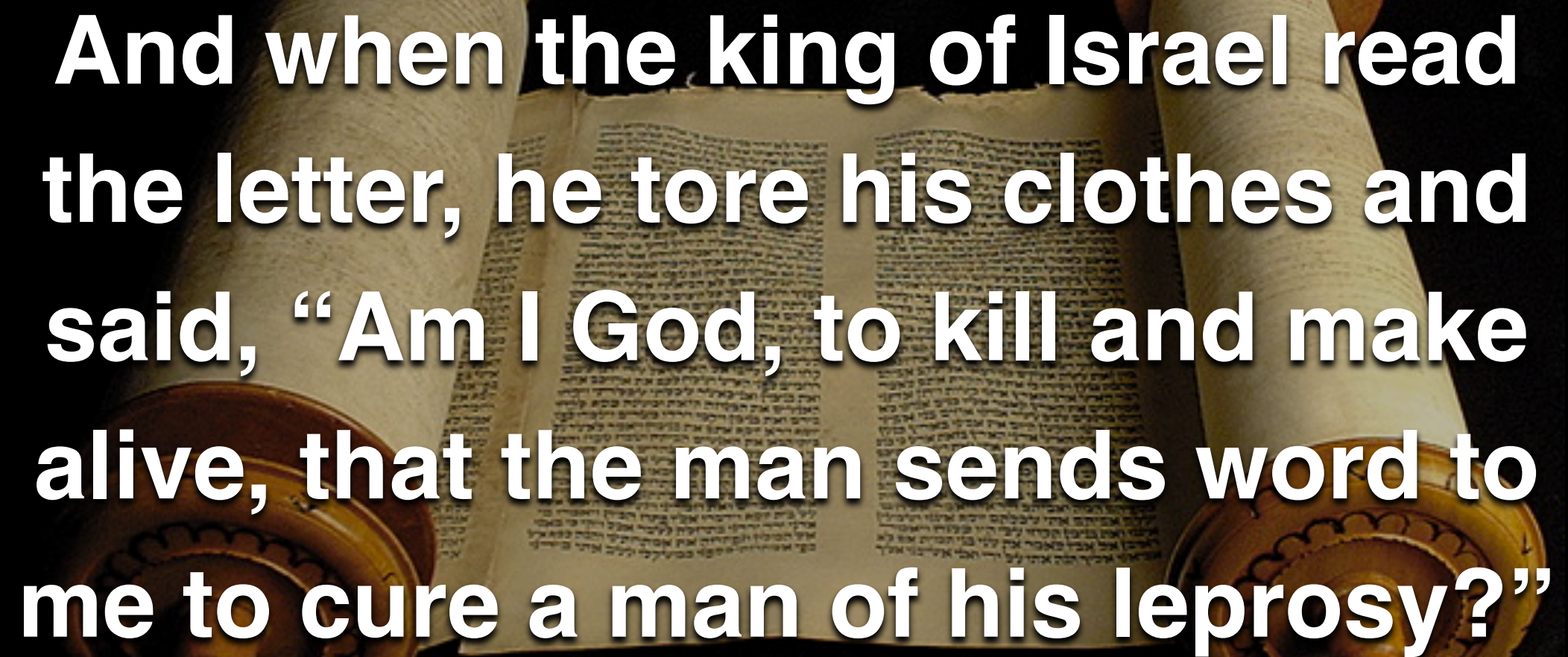




**In the ancient world, lepers were the living dead.**







**And when the king of Israel read  
the letter, he tore his clothes and  
said, “Am I God, to kill and make  
alive, that the man sends word to  
me to cure a man of his leprosy?”**

**— 2 Kings 5:7 —**





## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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12 And as he entered the village, he was met by **ten lepers**, who stood at a distance, 13 and lifted their voices saying, \_\_\_\_\_.



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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12 And as he entered the village, he was met by **ten lepers**, who stood at a distance, 13 and lifted their voices saying, **“Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.”**





**While he was in one of the cities, there came a man full of leprosy. And when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and begged him, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, saying,**





**“I am willing; be made clean,” and immediately the leprosy left him. Then he ordered him to tell no one: “But go and show yourself to the priest, and offer what Moses commanded for your cleansing as a testimony to them.”**





**But now even more the  
report about him went  
abroad, and great  
crowds gathered to  
hear him and to be  
healed of their  
infirmities.**

**Luke the Evangelist**  
The Gospel of Luke 5:12-15



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”**

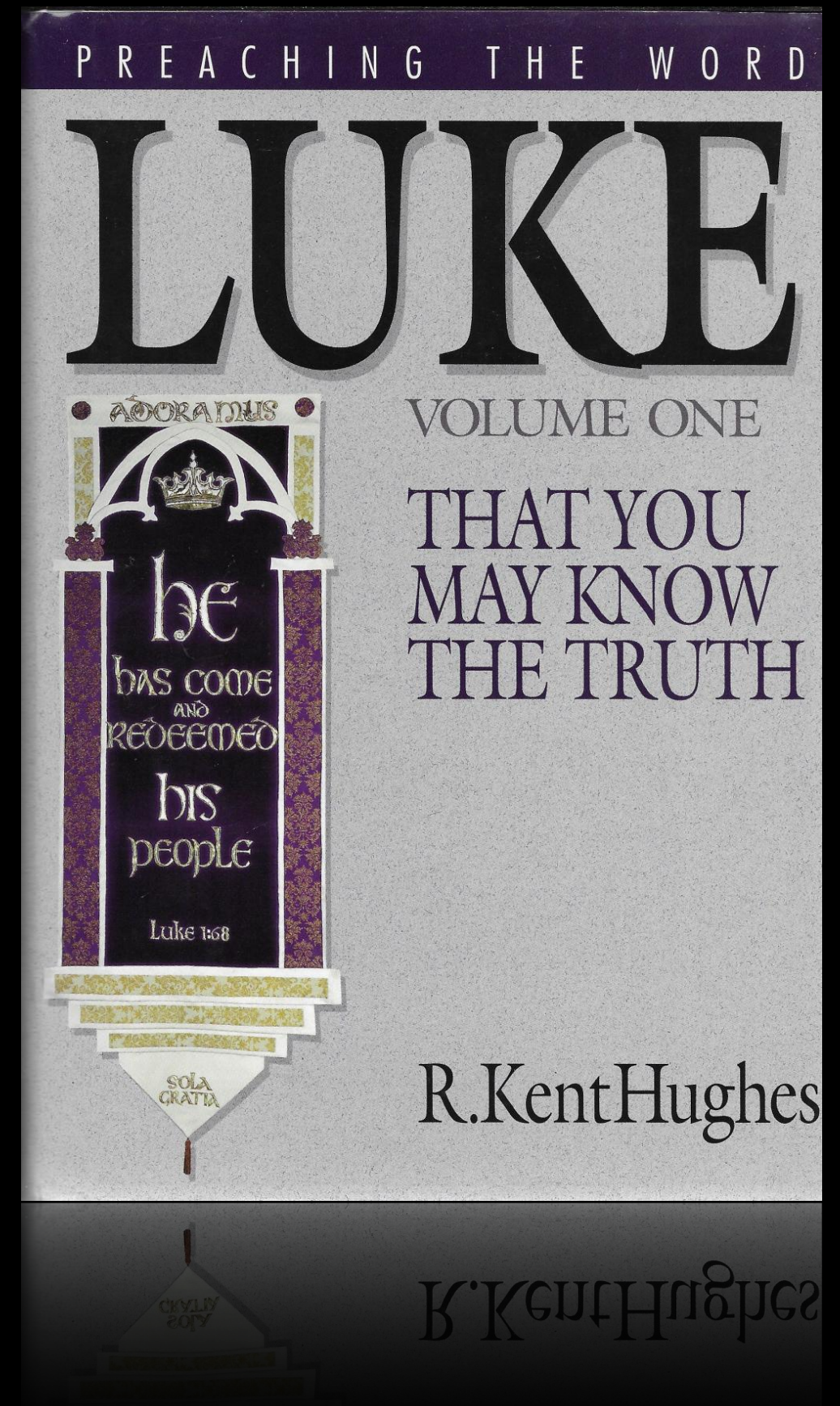




**Hmmm, from everything I've learned about Jesus, that's NOT what I was expecting.**



**The command was to do what a *cured leper* would do, following the regulations stipulated in Leviticus 14, which required examination by a priest.... What fools they would be if they tried to see a priest but were still leprous.**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.”**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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14 When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” **And as they went they were healed.**







**The dust of a wild celebration  
quickly began in the bright sunlight.**

— R Kent Hughes —

## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**15 Then one of them, when he saw  
that he was healed, turned back...,**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice...;**

## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;**

**16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet giving him thanks.**



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## LUKE 14-24

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

*'Ralph Davis always unfolds the text with freshness, insight, and humor, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of what God is up to.'*

Iain Duguid

DALE RALPH DAVIS

**One of these lepers was stopped in his tracks when he realized he was no longer a leper. The priest's inspection could wait; a compulsion seized him and he returned, with a loud voice giving glory to God.**

FOCUS • ON • THE • BIBLE

## LUKE 14-24

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**Sure of his healing,  
he enjoyed the first act  
of his freedom—not  
standing at a distance  
but falling on his face  
right at Jesus' feet....**





**The healed leper may not  
have known everything there  
was to know about Jesus,  
but this he does know:  
Jesus is more powerful than  
any earthly king could ever dare  
to dream, and so he was compelled  
to return and give thanks  
with a posture suitable for a king.**



**Who is this  
man? Who  
has this kind  
of power?**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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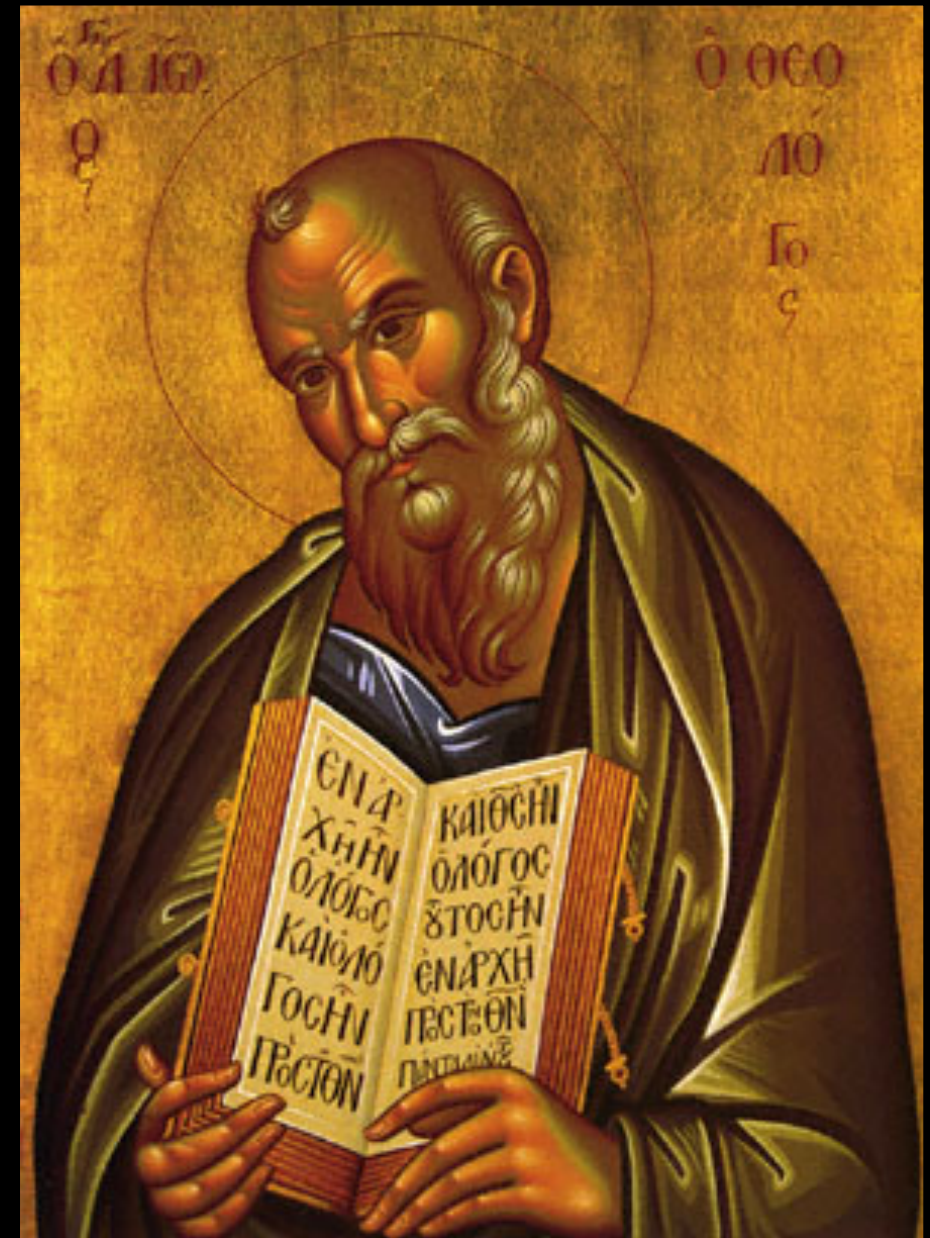
15 Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice;

16 and he fell on his face at Jesus' feet giving him thanks. **Now he was a Samaritan.**



# Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

**The Apostle John**  
The Gospel of John 4:9



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## LUKE 14-24

ON THE ROAD TO JERUSALEM

*'Ralph Davis always unfolds the text with freshness, insight, and humor, leaving the reader with a clear understanding of what God is up to.'*

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**Luke adds this as a sort of ‘kerplunk’ at the end of the sentence. Almost as if to say, ‘Now what do you think of that...?’**

**‘What a surprise!’**

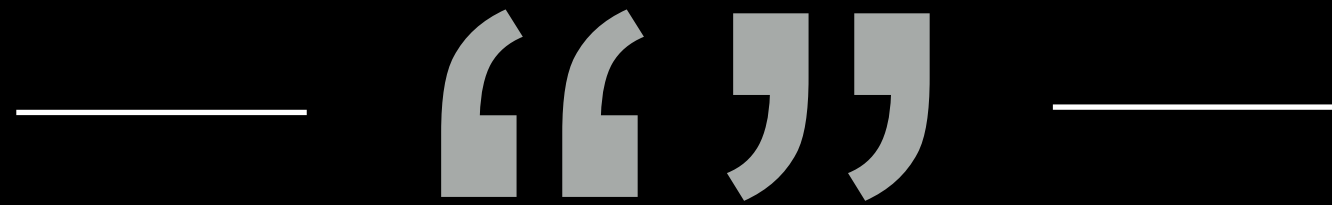
**Which is precisely the point: the kingdom of God is cluttered with surprises.**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**17 Then Jesus answered, “Were not ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? 18 Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?”**



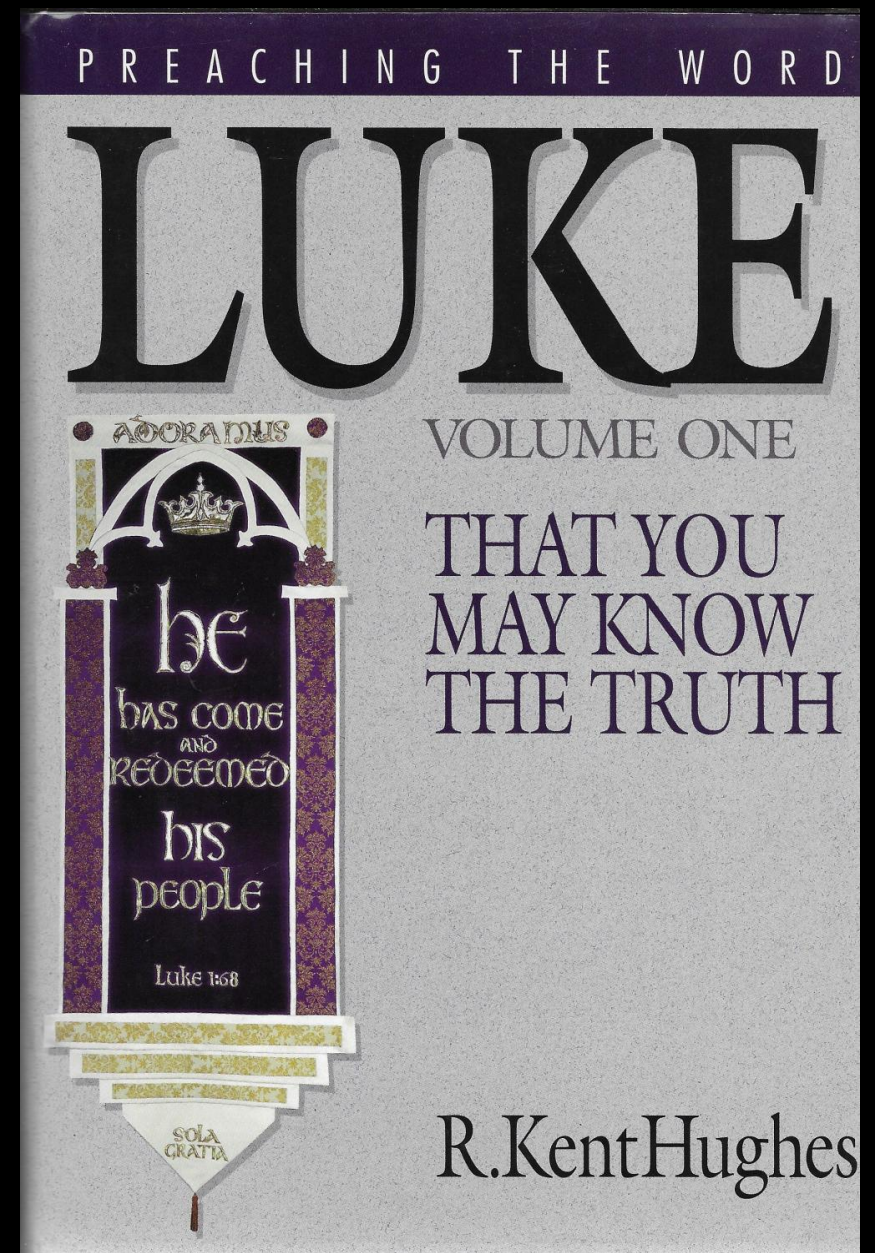
**Was no one found to return  
and give praise to God  
except this foreigner?**

**Jesus of Nazareth**

— The Gospel of Luke 17:18 —



**By failing to glorify  
and returning to  
thank Jesus, they  
missed the greatest  
possible moment of  
their existence.**



# Key Thought

**They had received a miraculous gift from Jesus, but in failing to return to Jesus, they missed out on the gift that is Jesus.**



## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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**19 And he said to him, “Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”**

## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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19 And he said to him, **“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”**

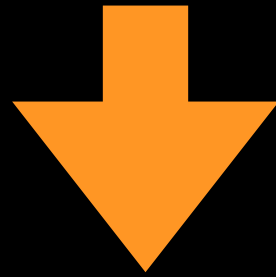
**“...your faith has saved you.”**

(Christian Standard Bible | Lexham English Bible | International Standard Version)



# GEEKING OUT ON GREEK

well / saved = *sōzō* (σώζω)



to save, to deliver, to make whole

# **Important Point**

**Jesus grants to this person  
something far, far more precious  
than mere physical healing:  
Jesus removed the alienation  
and distance between  
this man and God.**

## The Gospel of Luke 17:11-19

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19 And he said to him, **“Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well.”**





**The word ['rise'] is a word early Christians would have recognized as having to do with 'resurrection.' Like the prodigal son, this man 'was dead, and is alive again.'**



**New life, the life which  
Israel was longing for  
as a part of the age to  
come, had arrived in  
his village that day,  
and it had called out  
of him a faith he didn't  
know he had....**



**Once again, ‘faith’  
here means not just  
any old belief, any  
generally religious  
attitude to life, but the  
belief that the God of  
life and death is at  
work in and through  
Jesus....**



# Important Question

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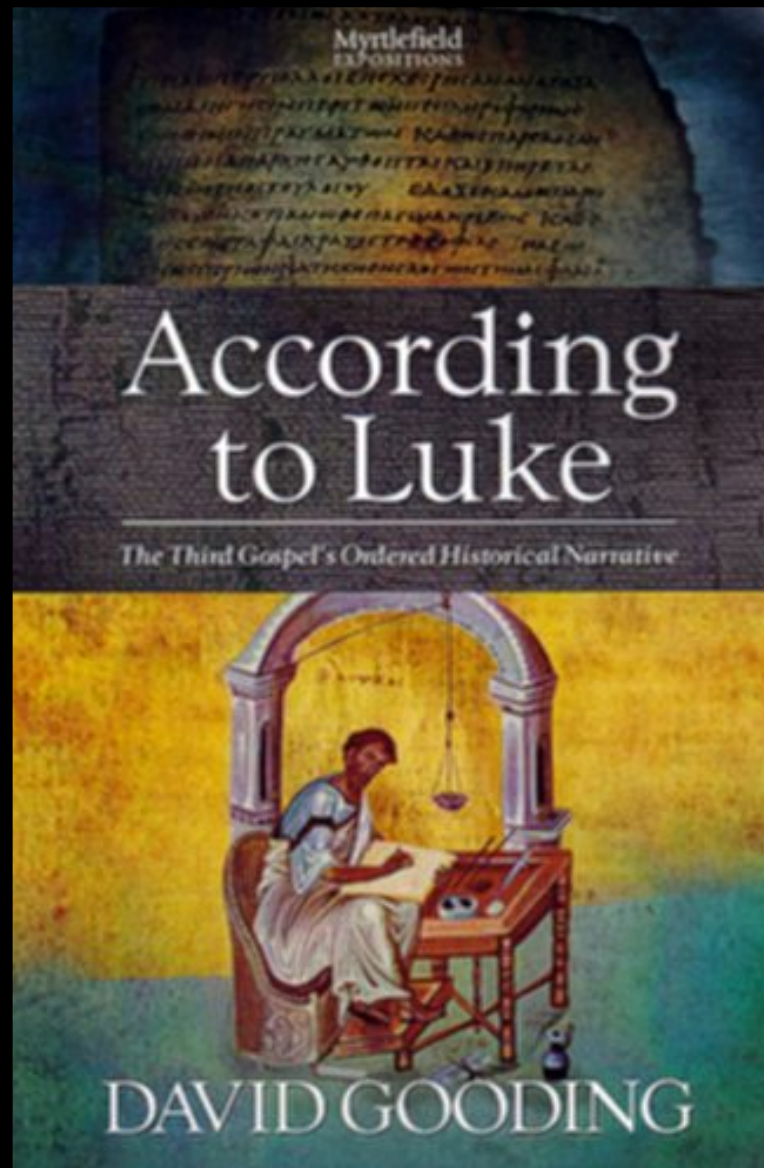
**Why does Luke record this account of the healing of the lepers in his historical biography of Jesus?**

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**Jesus is not a magician who  
came to entertain; he is the  
Messiah who saves.**

— Jeremy Treat, *Seek First* —

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**The healing of the lepers...  
was a miraculous sign  
intended to point them to  
Christ so that through faith  
in Christ they might  
receive salvation and  
eternal life.**





**Let's see Jesus for who  
He really is: the kingdom  
of God personified.**



A photograph of Jesus, with long dark hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is leaning over a person who is completely covered by a thick, textured red cloth. Jesus's hands are resting on the red cloth. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting an indoor setting with wooden elements.

# **Jesus' Miracles are Signs of the In-Breaking Kingdom of God**

- 1 A reversal of the curse**
- 2 A foretaste of heaven**





# SEEK FIRST

How the Kingdom of God  
Changes Everything

JEREMY TREAT

**The miracles of Jesus  
are not magic tricks;  
they are in-breakings  
of the kingdom of  
God.... Jesus didn't  
come to make the  
world a better place.  
He came to make the  
world new by grace.**

JEREMY TREAT











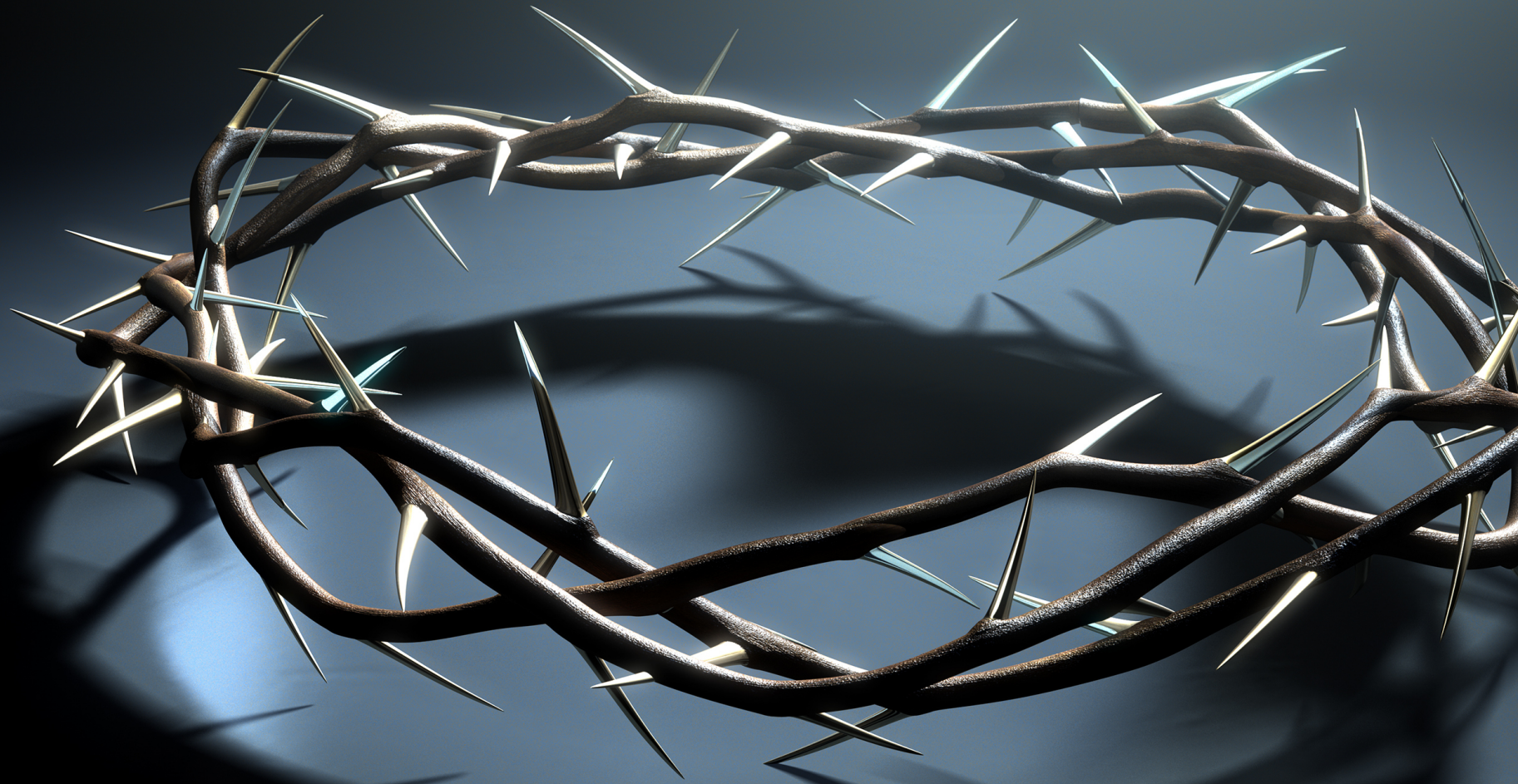
**My God, my God,  
why have you forsaken me?**

— Jesus of Nazareth, The Gospel of Mark 15:34 —









**All authority in heaven & on earth  
has been given to me.**

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of Matthew 28:18 —



**Let's aim our  
thanksgiving and  
praise properly.**

( We're aiming for more than just  
an attitude of gratitude. )

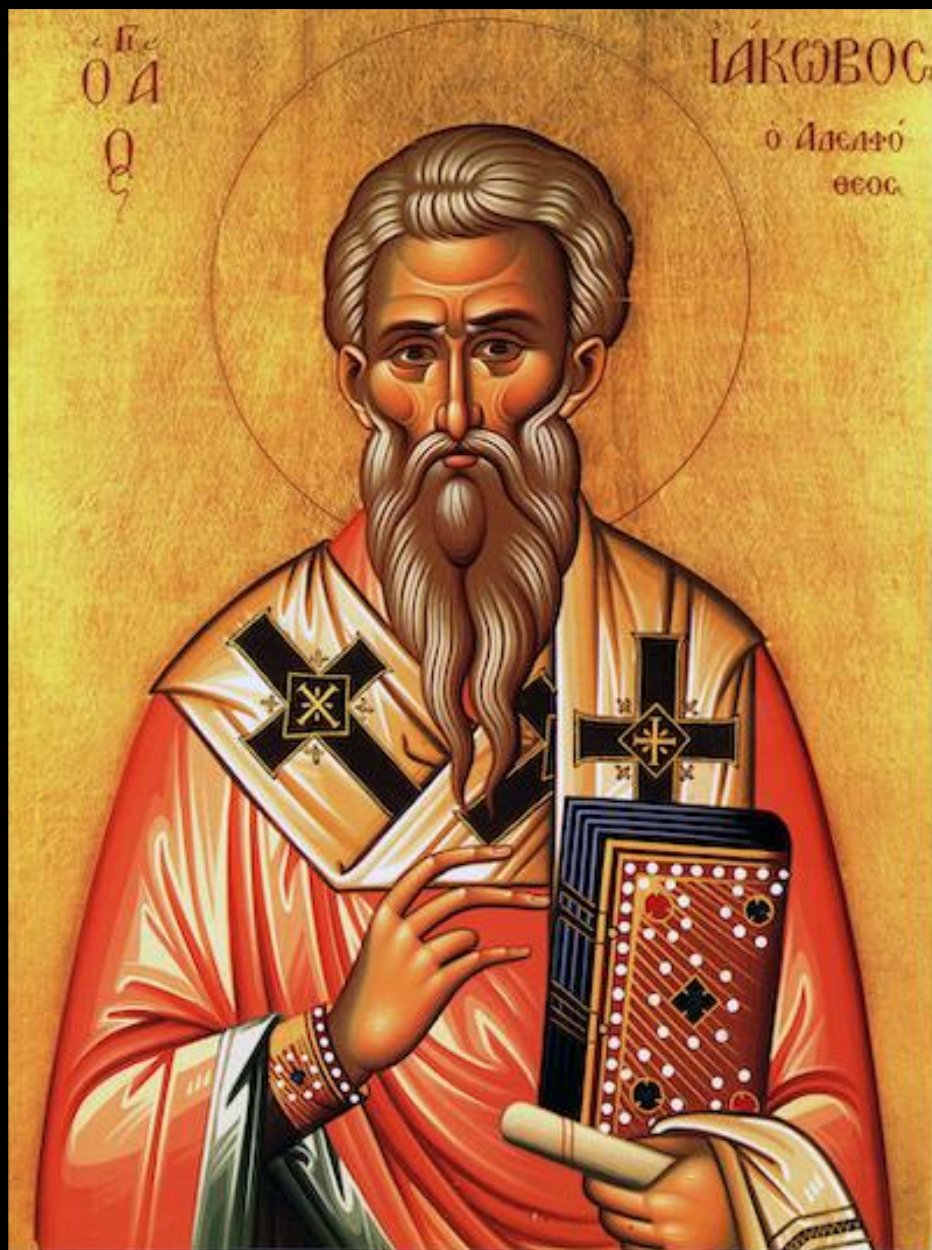




**Sure you're thankful.  
But to whom are  
you thankful?**

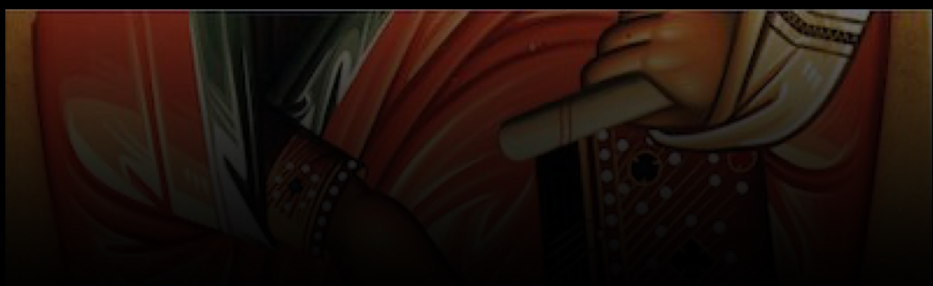






**Every good gift and  
every perfect gift is  
from above, coming  
down from the Father....**

**James, the Brother of Jesus**  
— James 1:17 —







**Every blessing  
You pour out  
I'll turn back  
to praise**

“Blessed Be Your Name”

**And whatever you do,  
whether in word or  
deed, do it all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus,  
giving thanks to God  
the Father through him.**

**The Apostle Paul  
— Colossians 3:17 —**





**...giving thanks always  
and for everything to  
God the Father in the  
name of our Lord  
Jesus Christ.**

**The Apostle Paul  
— Ephesians 5:18-20 —**







**Let's see Jesus for who  
He really is: the kingdom  
of God personified.**



**Let's aim our  
thanksgiving and  
praise properly.**

( We're aiming for more than just  
an attitude of gratitude. )







**Let's be among those who find  
themselves on their face before  
the beautiful feet of Jesus.**



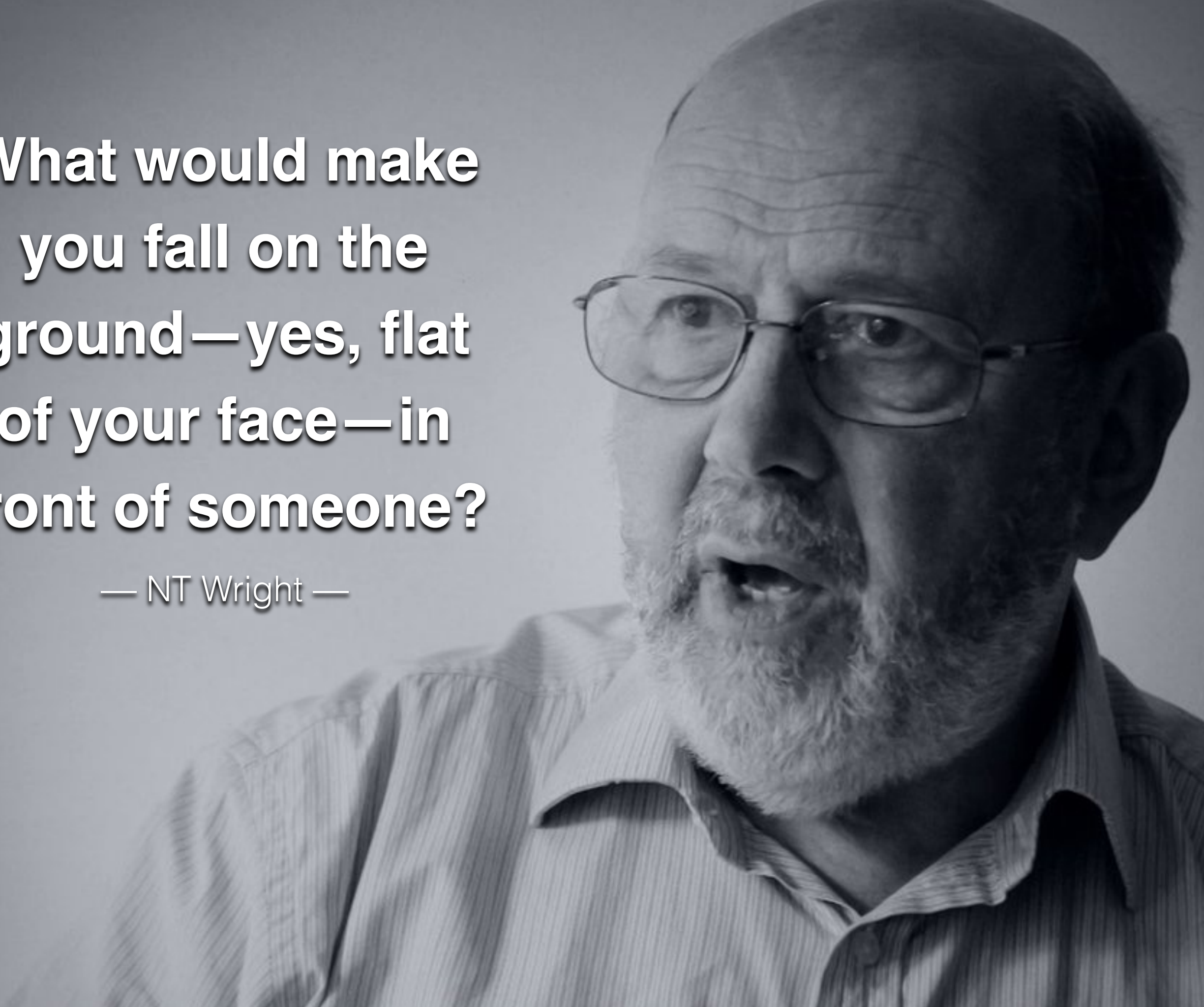


**“First Day in Heaven”**


—JD Bearden —

**What would make  
you fall on the  
ground—yes, flat  
of your face—in  
front of someone?**

— NT Wright —







**Oh to fall at the feet of  
Jesus—those beautiful feet  
that brought us the news  
that our God reigns, those  
beautiful pierced feet of  
Jesus that bore our curse,  
those beautiful victorious  
feet of Jesus who makes  
us well and brings us into  
his kingdom. Oh, to live  
at the feet of Jesus!**



**And whenever the living creatures  
give glory and honor and thanks  
to Him who is seated on the  
throne, who lives forever and ever,  
the twenty-four elders fall down  
before him who is seated on the  
throne, who lives forever and ever.**





**They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they were created.**

— Revelation 4:9-11 —





**The four living creatures and the  
twenty-four elders fell down  
before the Lamb.... And they sang  
a new song, saying, “Worthy are  
You to take the scroll, and to open  
its seals, for You were slain**





**and by Your blood you ransomed  
people for God from every tribe  
and language and people and  
nation....**

— Revelation 5:8-9 —





**And all the angels were standing  
around the throne and around the  
elders and the four living  
creatures, and they fell on their  
faces before the throne  
and worshiped God...**

— Revelation 7:11 —





**Salvation belongs  
to our God who  
sits on the throne,  
and to the Lamb.**

— Revelation 7:10 —

