Imitating Christ's Humility

— Philippians 2:1-11 (Part 2) —

Image by Free-Photos via Pixabay

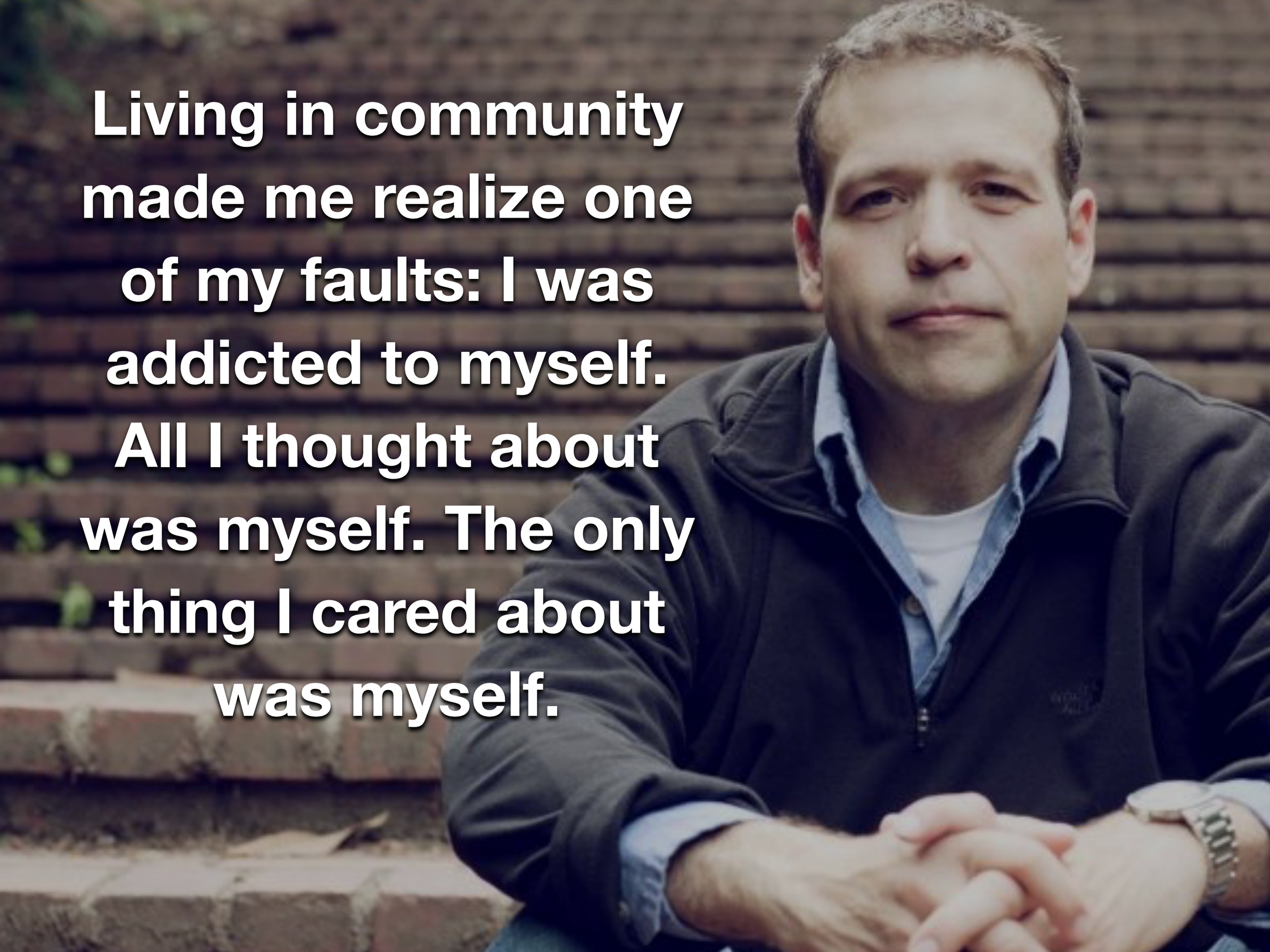
Finding Joy

PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are

Image by Free-Photos via Pixabay

The most difficult lie
I have ever contended
with is this: Life is a
story about me.
— Donald Miller *Blue Like Jazz* —


Living in community made me realize one of my faults: I was addicted to myself. All I thought about was myself. The only thing I cared about was myself.

I had very little concept of love, altruism, or sacrifice. I discovered that my mind is like a radio that picks up only one station, the one that plays me: K-DON, all Don, all the time....

— Philippians —

I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel….

— Philippians 4:2 —

The real issue here is not if pride exists in your heart; it's where pride exists and how pride is being expressed in your life.

— CJ Mahaney, *Humility* —

Imitating Christ's Humility

— Philippians 2:1-11 (Part 2) —

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Philippians 2

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1 **So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,** 2 **complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.**

3 **Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.**
4 **Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

How is this even possible?

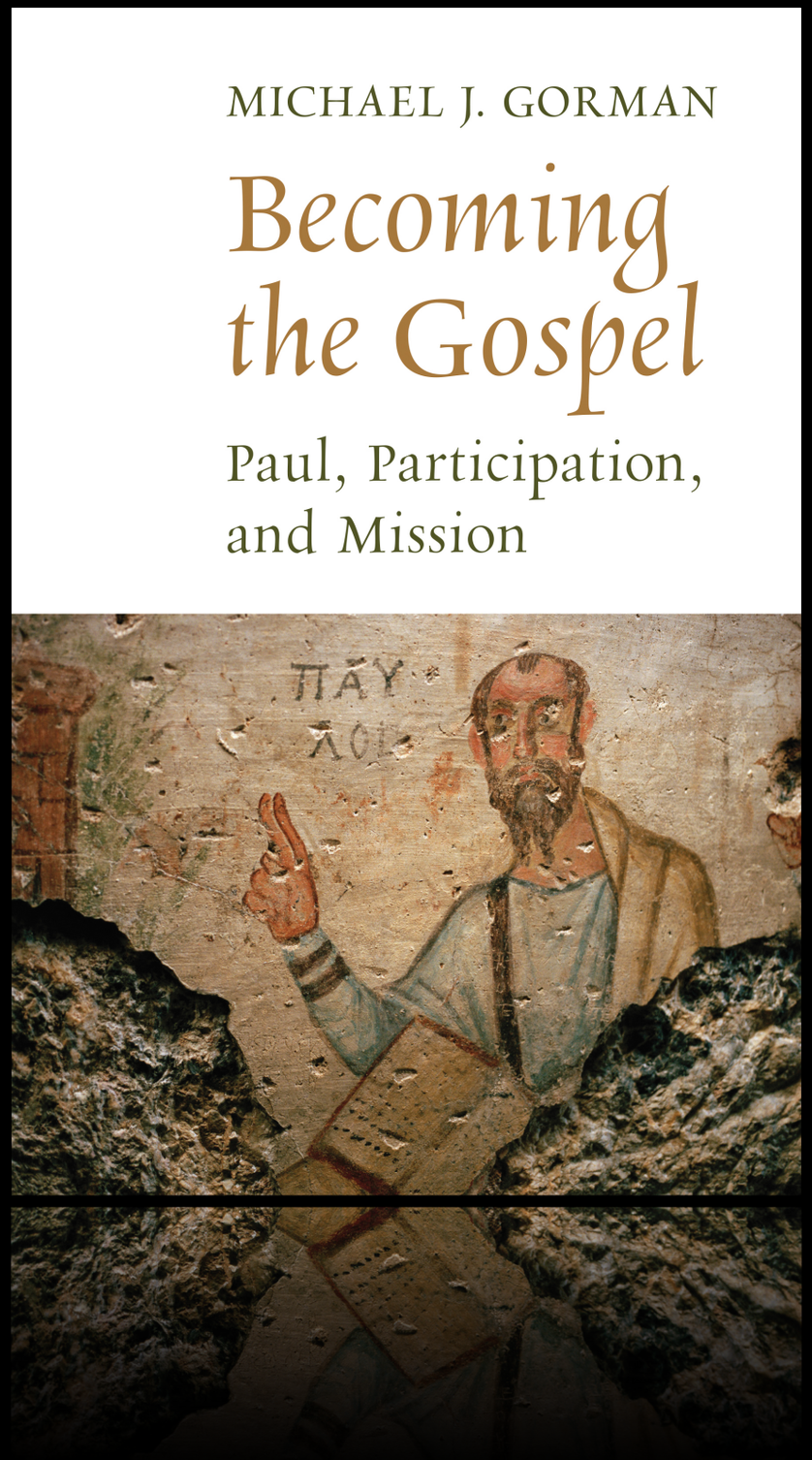
5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus....

5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus....**

Literally: Have “this mind / mindset within yourselves in Christ Jesus….”

“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus….”

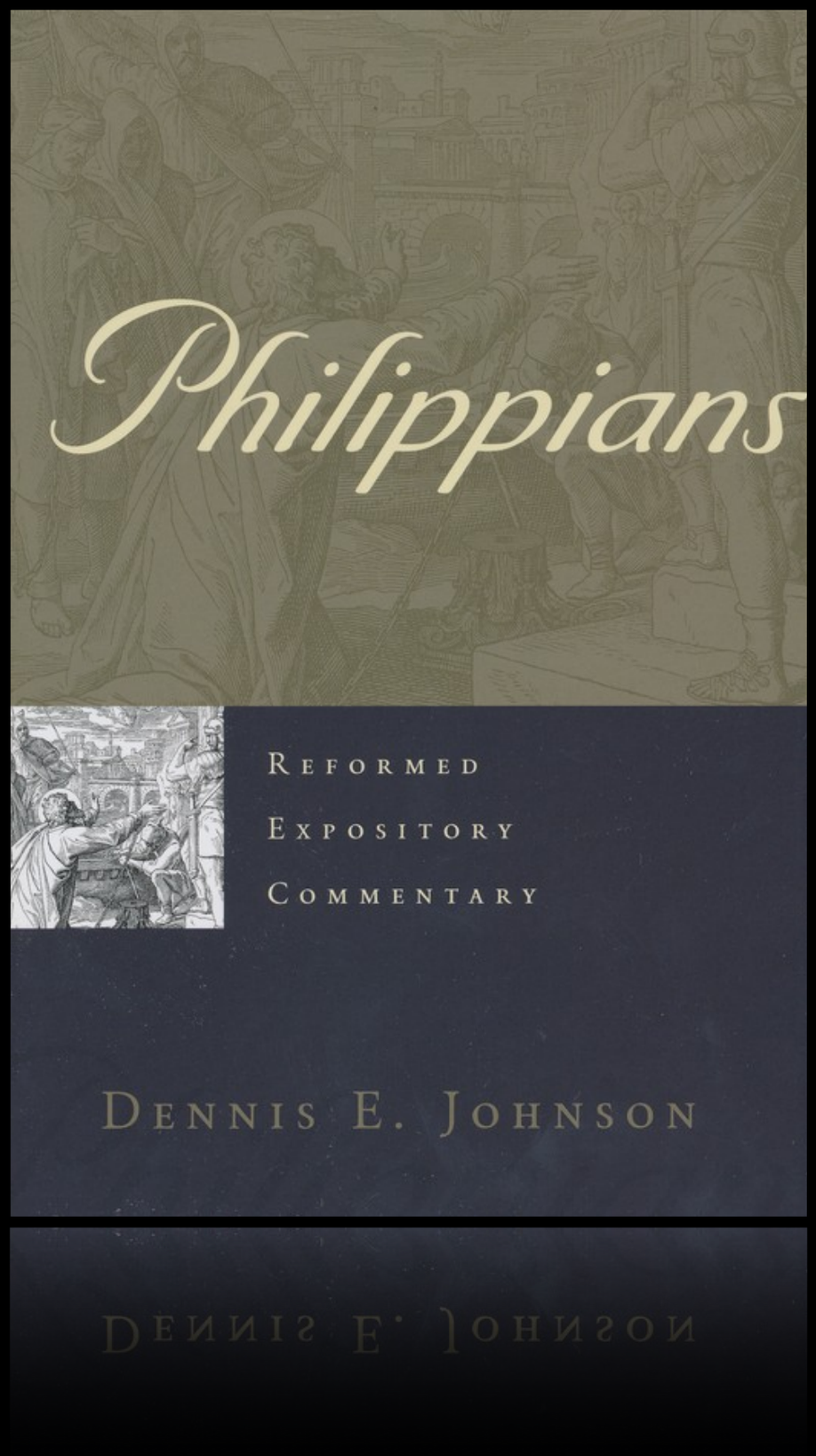
— The New International Version —



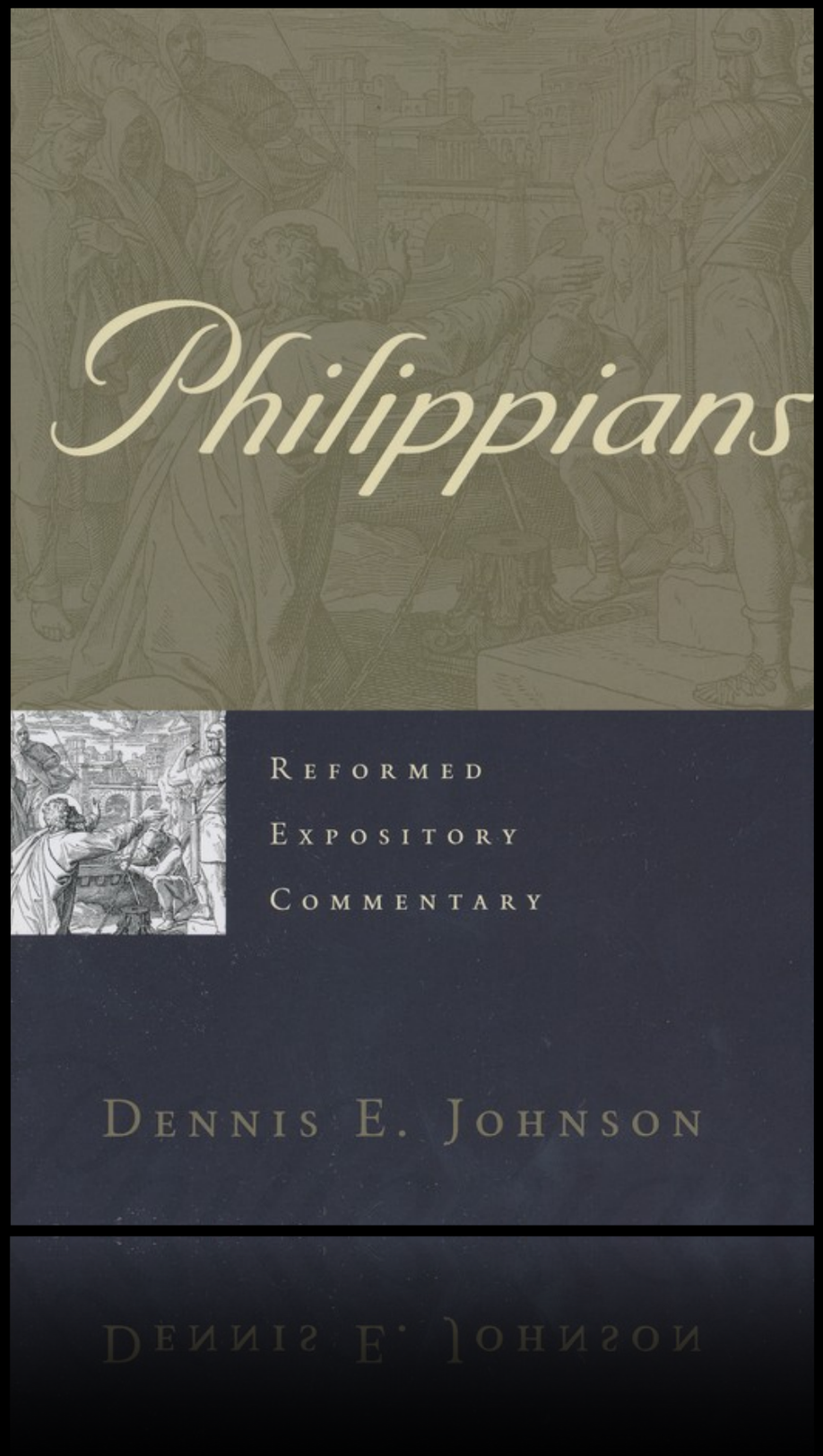
Cultivate this mindset — this way of thinking, acting, and feeling — in your community, which is in fact a community in Christ Jesus….

There should be a different way of being human that is on full display within the community of faith that gathers together in the name of Jesus.

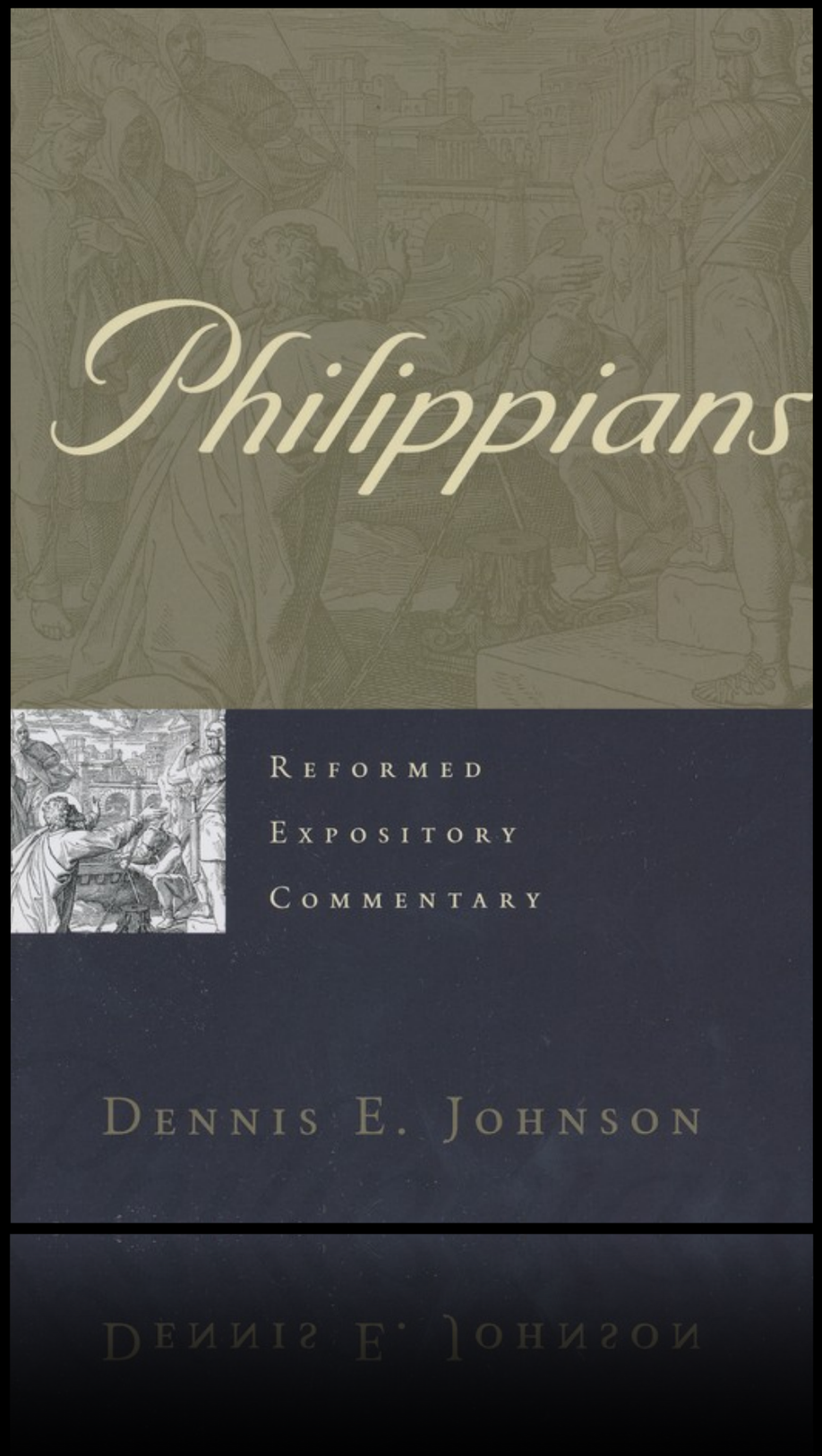
5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus, who…,



This passage is… a majestic mountain peak, towering over the surrounding countryside. It is a pinnacle of theological truth, piercing the heavens and probing the mystery of the incarnation.



Its dramatic movement traces the inverted arc of Christ's redemptive mission from divine glory down into humiliation and death, and then up again to heaven's heights in resurrection splendor.



…This brief and beautiful text is one of the fullest, most explicit descriptions in the New Testament of the identity of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Just as when God revealed Himself to Moses telling him that he was standing on holy ground, so too in this text, God is giving us a full revelation of Himself in Jesus. Therefore, we too are standing on holy ground.

5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 **who,**
though he was in the form of God, did
not count equality with God a thing to
be grasped…,

Philippians 2

5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** 6 **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped…,**

vs. 6 **“the form of God”**

vs. 7 **“the form of a servant”**

Wait! He’s not saying Jesus is God, is he?

Philippians 2

5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** 6 **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped…,**

“…existing in the form of God….”

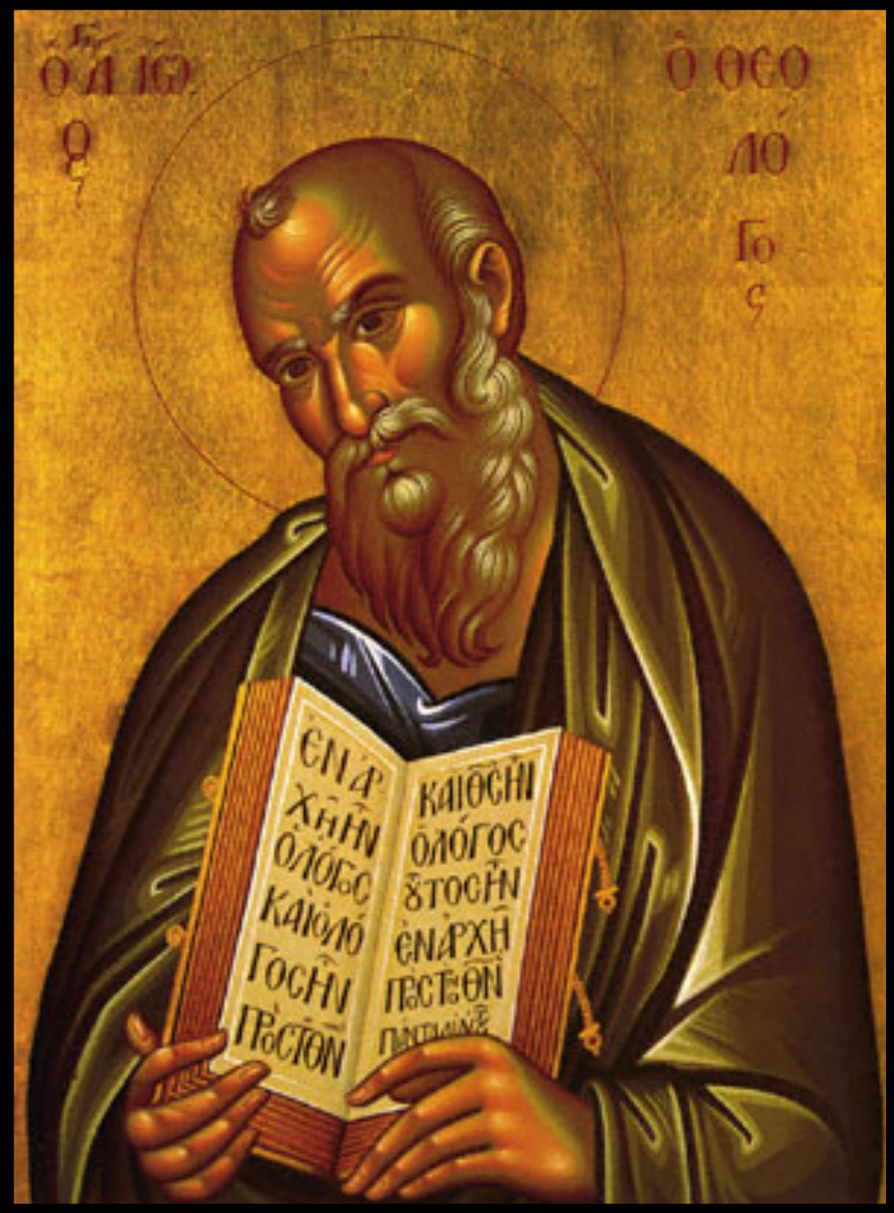
— Christian Standard Bible —

“…being in very nature God….”

— New International Version —

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God…. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory….

— The Apostle John —
The Gospel of John 1:1-2 & 14



The Incarnation

“en-flesh-ment” or “embodiment”

Image by Beto Gomez via Shutterstock

“

And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of John 17:5 —

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.

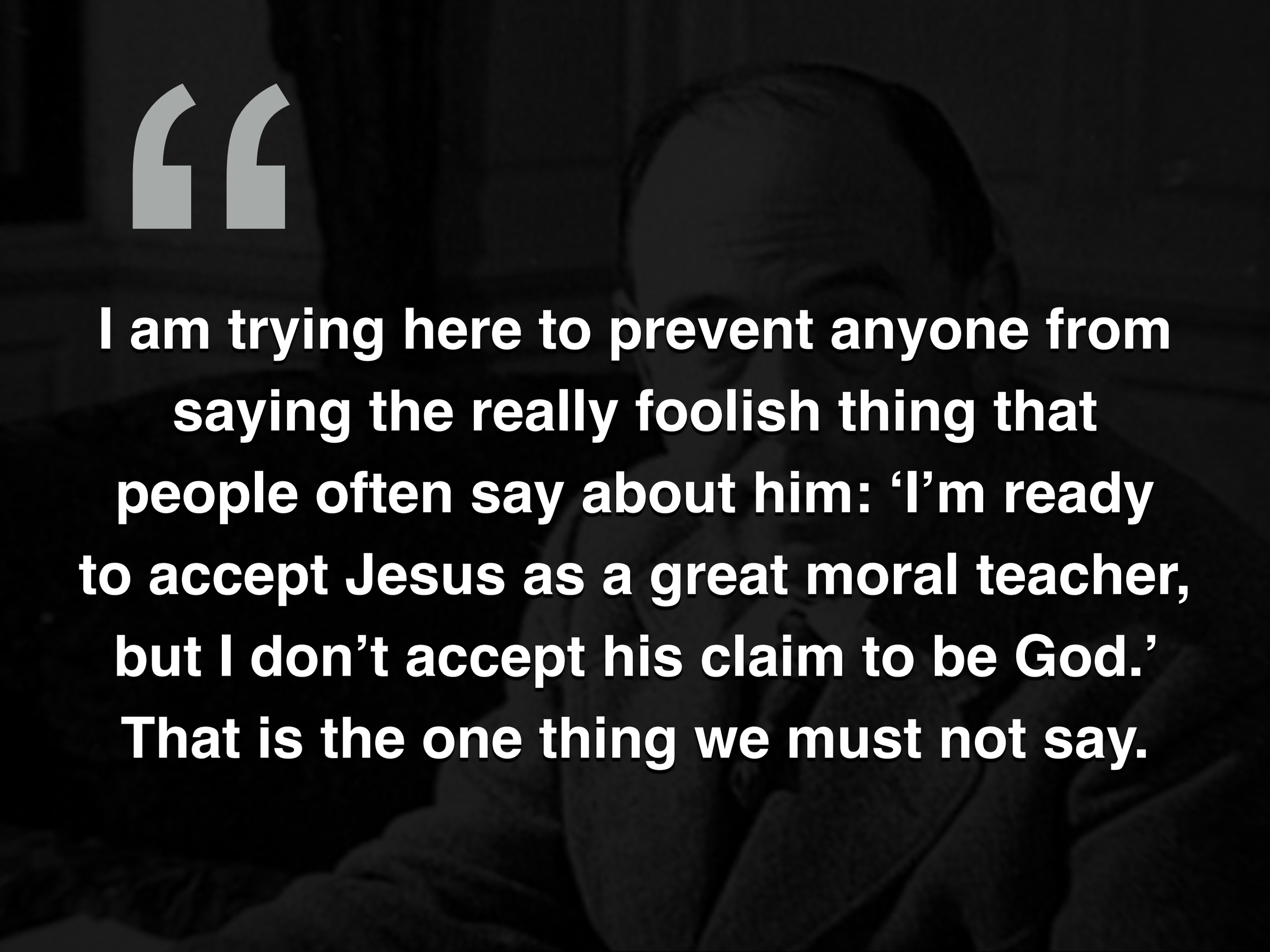
— Hebrews 1:3 (NIV) —

….waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ….

The Apostle Paul
— Titus 2:13 —

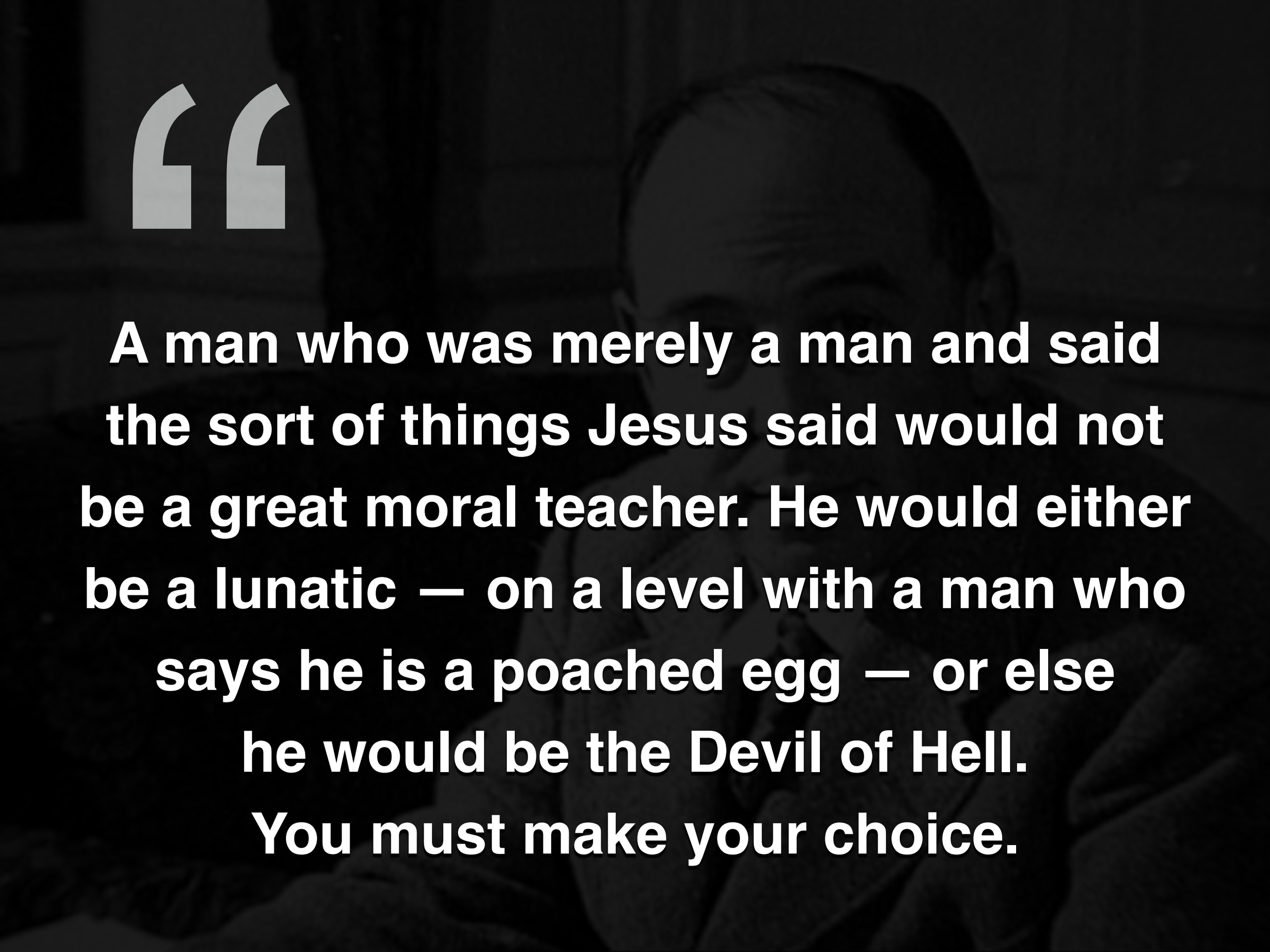
It is possible to think and speak highly of Jesus. But it is also possible to not think and speak of Jesus highly enough.

CS Lewis, Oxford Professor
& Author of *Mere Christianity*



“

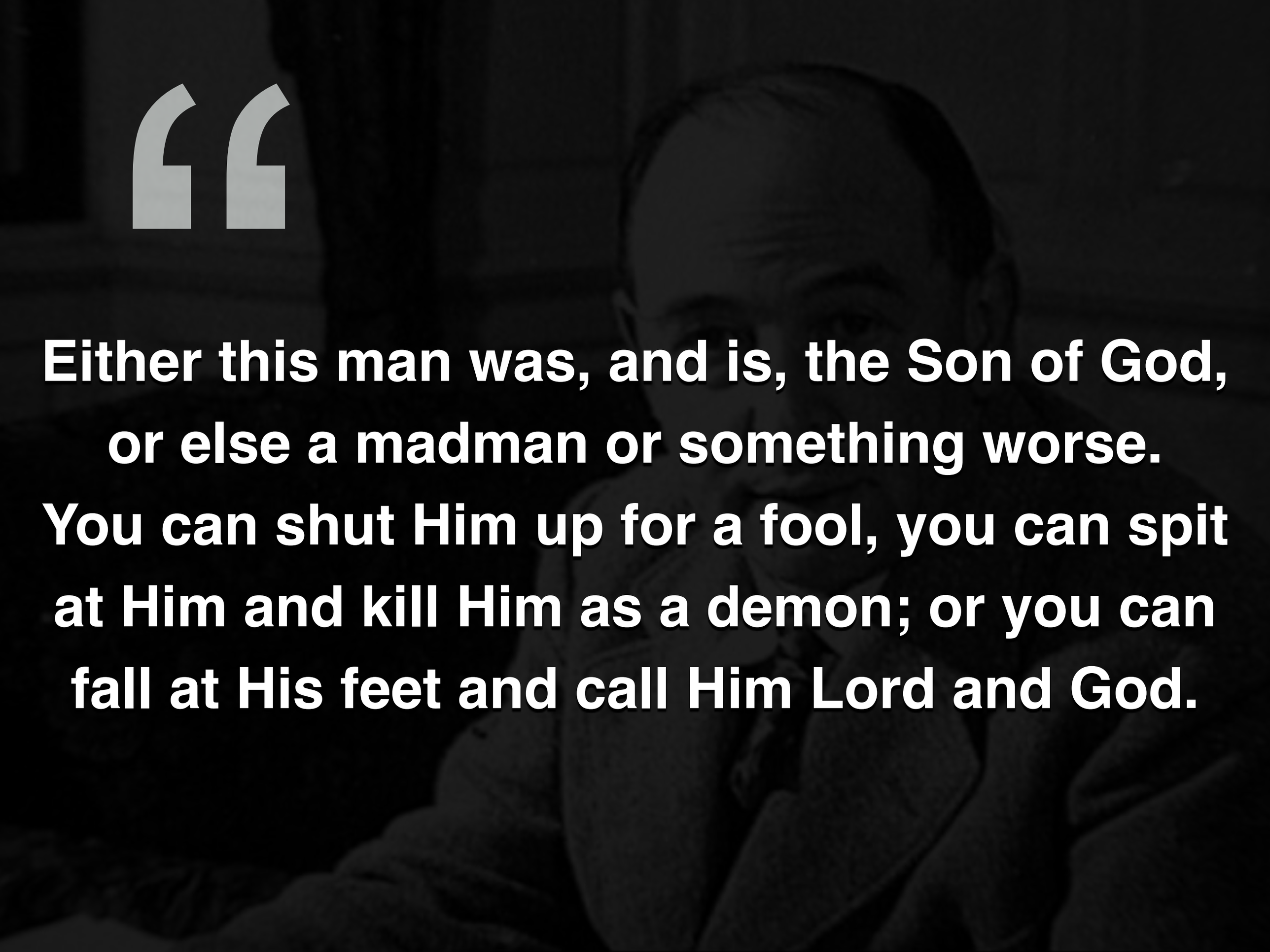
I am trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about him: ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don’t accept his claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say.

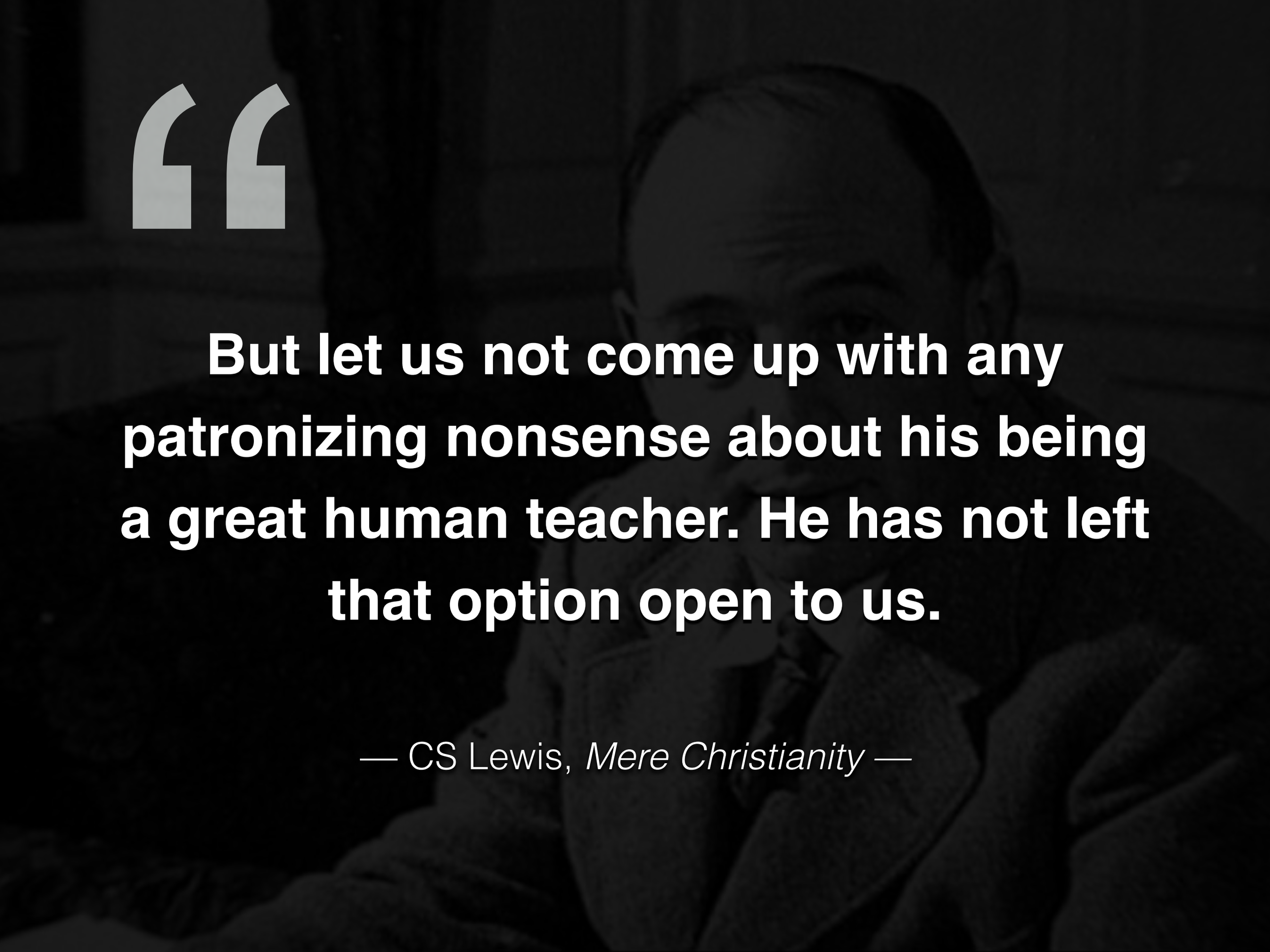


“

A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on a level with a man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

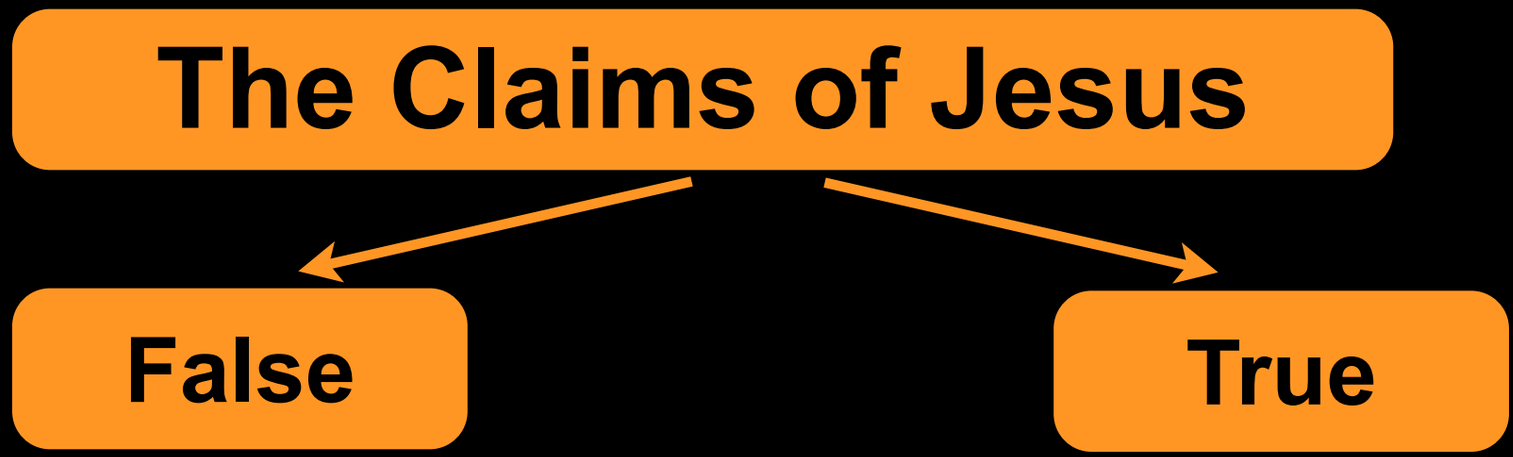
You must make your choice.


“
Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse.
You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God.



But let us not come up with any patronizing nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that option open to us.

— CS Lewis, *Mere Christianity* —


The Claims of Jesus
False
True

The Claims of Jesus

- False
  - He KNEW his claims were FALSE
    - LIAR
      - Hypocrite
      - Evil
      - Fool
- True

The Claims of Jesus

- **False**
  - He KNEW his claims were FALSE → **LIAR** → Hypocrite, Evil, Fool
  - He DID NOT KNOW his claims were FALSE → **LUNATIC** → Deluded, Crazy
- **True**

The Claims of Jesus

False

He KNEW his claims were FALSE

→ LIAR

→ Hypocrite
Evil
Fool

He DID NOT KNOW his claims were FALSE

→ LUNATIC

→ Deluded
Crazy

True

→ LORD

You can REJECT Him

You can TRUST Him

Philippians 2

5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 **who,**
though he was in the form of God, did
not count equality with God a thing to
be grasped…,

Pop Quiz:

By definition, who or what is equal to God?

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 10:29-33 —

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 10:29-33 —

Philippians 2

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5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** 6 **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself…,**

Philippians 2

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5 **Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,** 6 **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself…,**

In other words, Jesus didn't cling to or assert His right to be worshiped and served. Nor did he consider his life more significant than ours.

Philippians 2

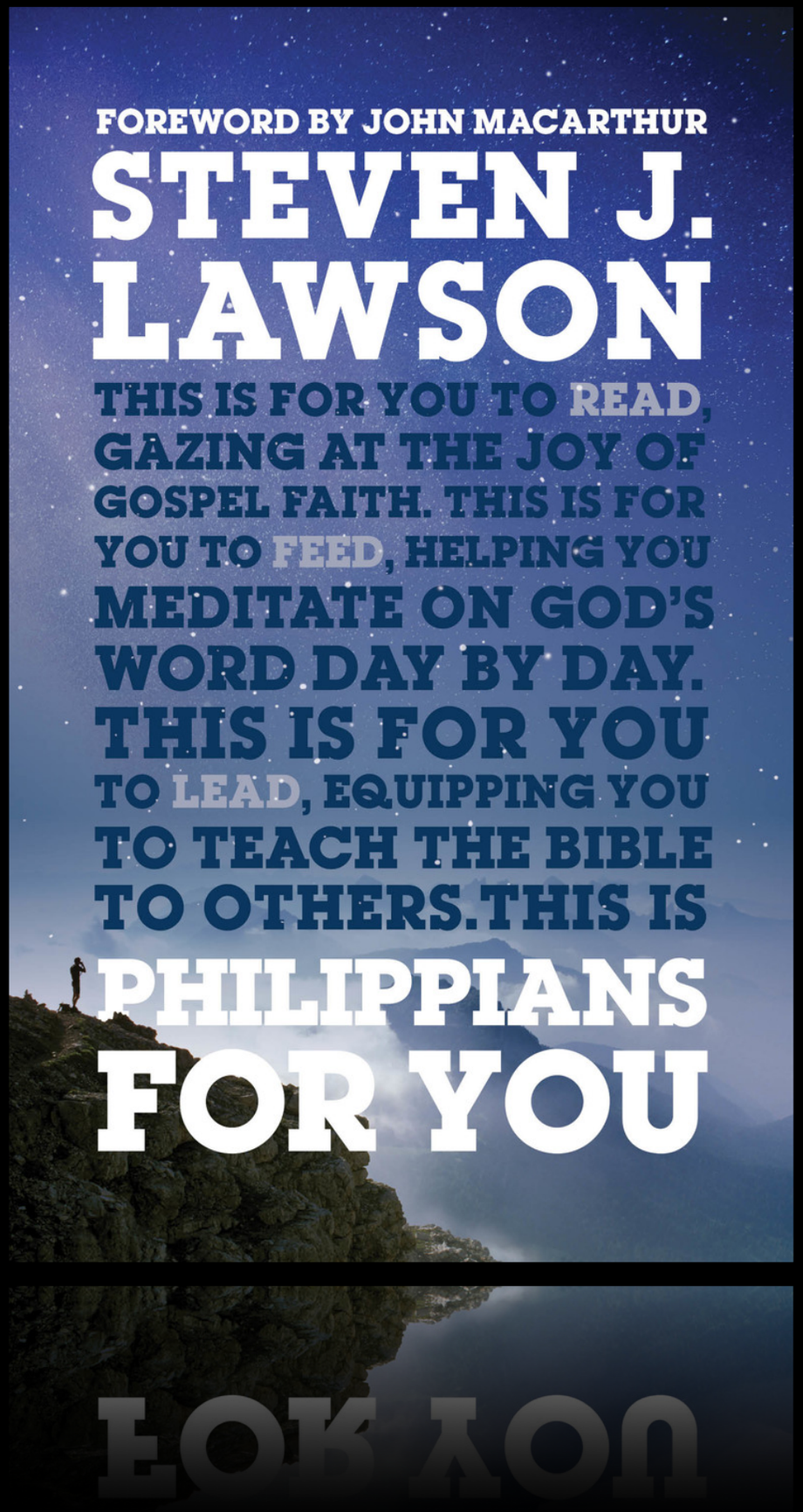
5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 **who,**
though he was in the form of God, did
not count equality with God a thing to
be grasped, but emptied himself, by
taking the form of a servant, being born
in the likeness of men.

Jesus

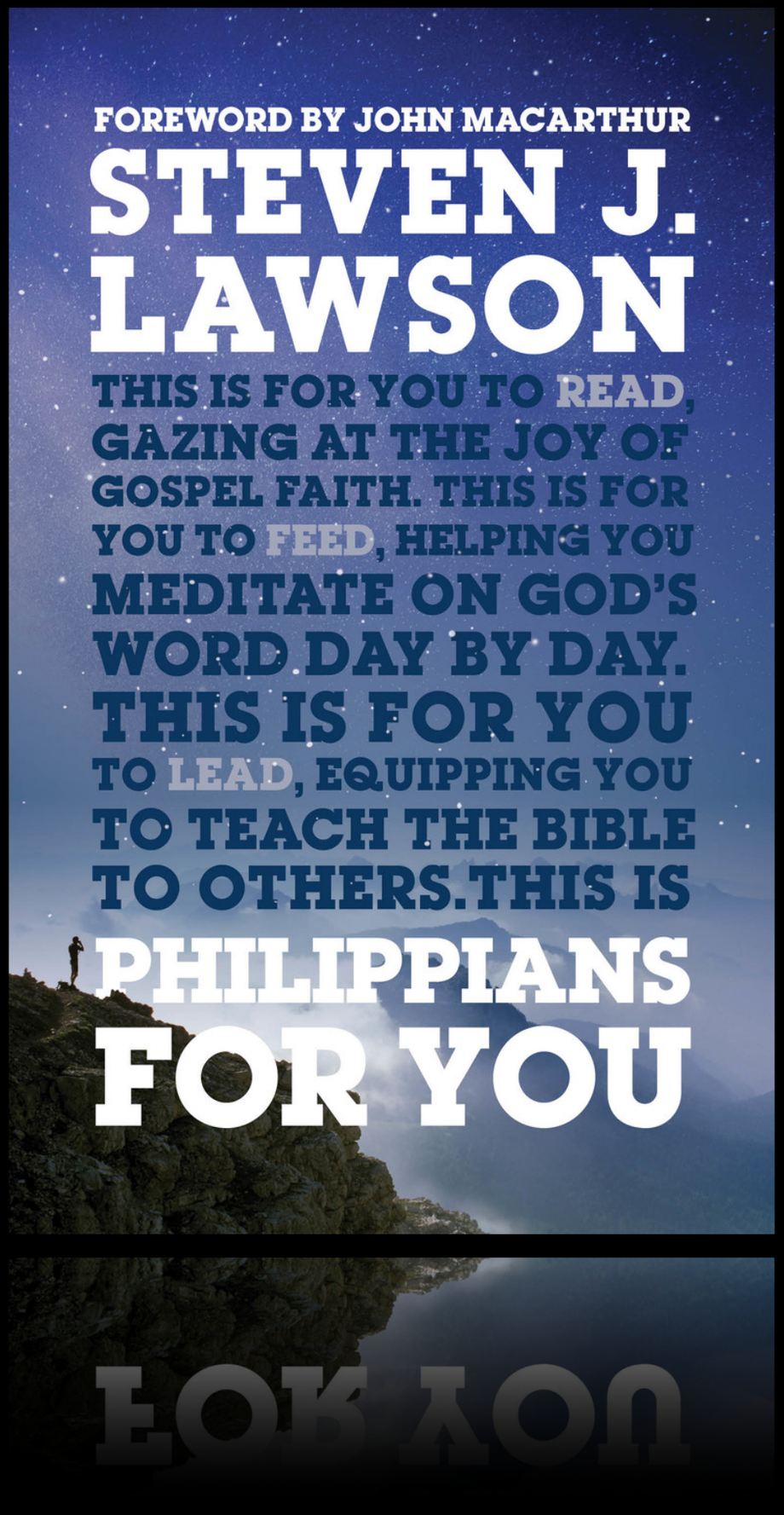
100%
Fully Divine

AND

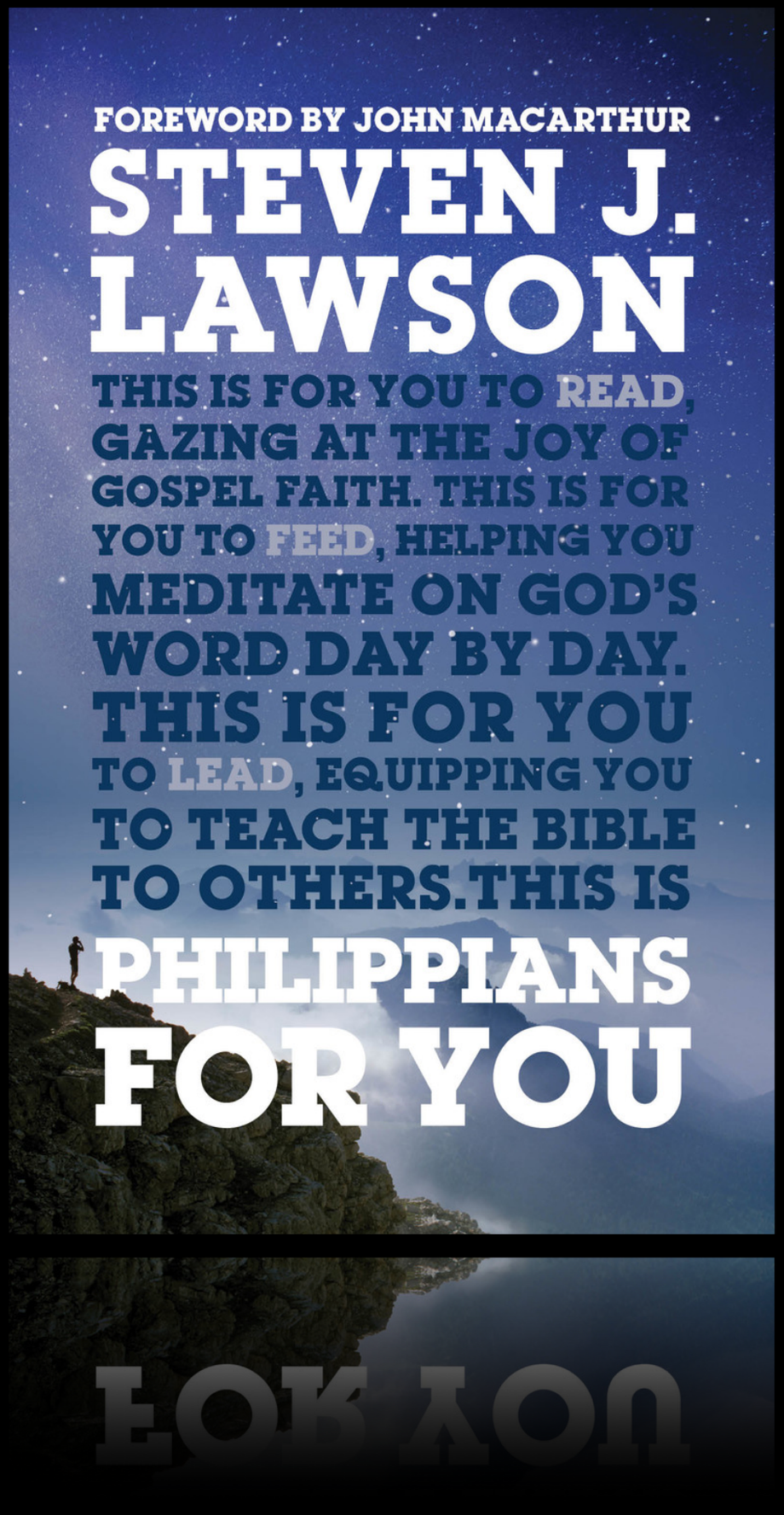
100%
Fully Human



The Son of God added to his person a human nature without surrendering any of his divine attributes. This was an act of self-renunciation on the part of the Son of God by which he voluntarily chose not to exercise all his rights as God during the time of his earthly life….



In his incarnation, Jesus did not diminish his deity. When he assumed human flesh, he never became less than fully God. What Jesus did was yield the free exercise of his divine prerogatives….



Jesus, the Son of God, assumed all of the limitations of finite humanity. While he remained fully and truly God, he became fully and truly man.

Philippians 2

5 **Have this mind among yourselves,**
which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 **who,**
though he was in the form of God, did
not count equality with God a thing to
be grasped, but emptied himself, by
taking the form of a servant, being born
in the likeness of men.

6 **…but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.**

Literally, "a slave."

Slaves in the Roman Empire had no rights.

Important Point

Jesus, the one who had every right became as one who had no rights.

“The Condescension of Jesus”

A voluntary descent
from one’s rank or dignity
in relations with an inferior.

— Merriam-Webster’s Dictionary —

“”

The Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Jesus of Nazareth

— The Gospel of Mark 10:45 —

8 **And being found in human form, he humbled himself….**

2:3, **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves**

2:5, **In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus**

2:8, **And being found in human form, he humbled himself**

Philippians 2

8 **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Jesus of Nazareth
— The Gospel of Luke 22:41-42 —

And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Never-theless, not my will, but yours be done."

Jesus of Nazareth
— The Gospel of Luke 22:44—

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Hematidrosis: Is Sweating Blood Real?

Causes | Treatment

What is hematidrosis?

Hematidrosis is an extremely rare condition in which you sweat blood. It's also known as hematohidrosis and hemidrosis. It's so rare that many people don't know it exists or if it's real. But sweating blood has been seen throughout history. The Bible mentions Jesus sweating blood while praying before the crucifixion. Leonardo Da Vinci wrote about soldiers sweating blood before battle.

While these may or may not have been real depictions, hematidrosis is a real condition. Blood sweat can occur on any surface of the body. The face and forehead are common locations.

Learn more about why sweating blood happens and how doctors treat it.

Hematidrosis is an extremely rare condition in which you sweat blood.… In rare instances, the flight-or-fight response can trigger the rupture of capillaries in the body. Capillaries are tiny blood vessels located throughout tissue [and] are also located around the sweat glands. In cases of severe fear or stress, these tiny blood vessels can burst and cause blood to exit the body through the sweat glands.

Learn more about why sweating blood happens and how doctors treat it.

Jesus is about to face the onslaught
of the powers of darkness
not to mention the sins of the world.

“

**My soul is sorrowful,
even to the point of death.**

Jesus of Nazareth

—The Gospel of Matthew 26:38 —

**…he poured out his soul to death
…yet he bore the sin of many….”**

— Isaiah 43:12 —

Philippians 2

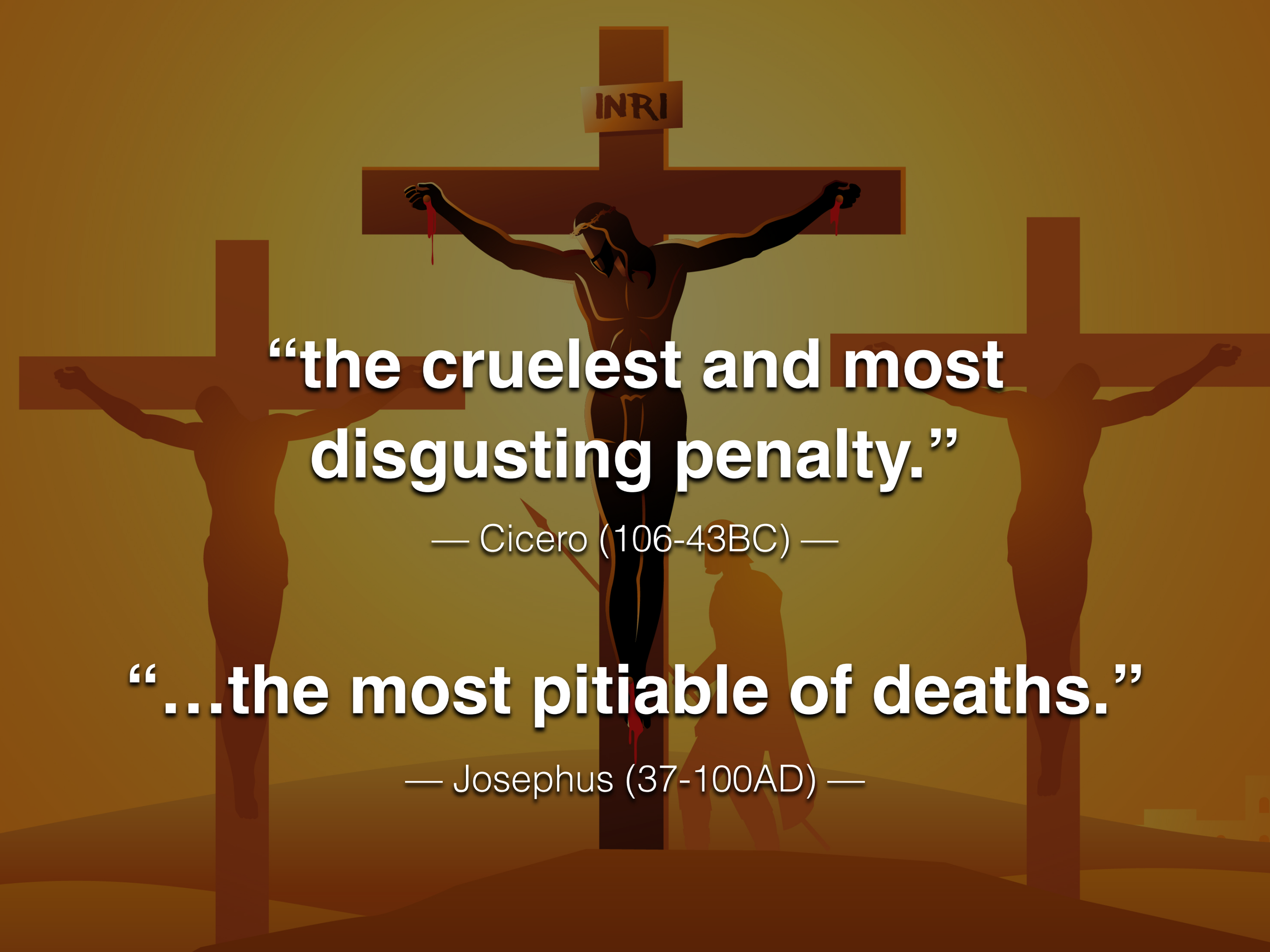
8 **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Philippians 2

8 **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.**

Jesus was obedient not only when it was easy, but even when it was the very hardest. Jesus was obedient to the point of staring death in the face, even the excruciating death of a Roman Cross.

INRI



“the cruelest and most disgusting penalty.”

— Cicero (106-43BC) —

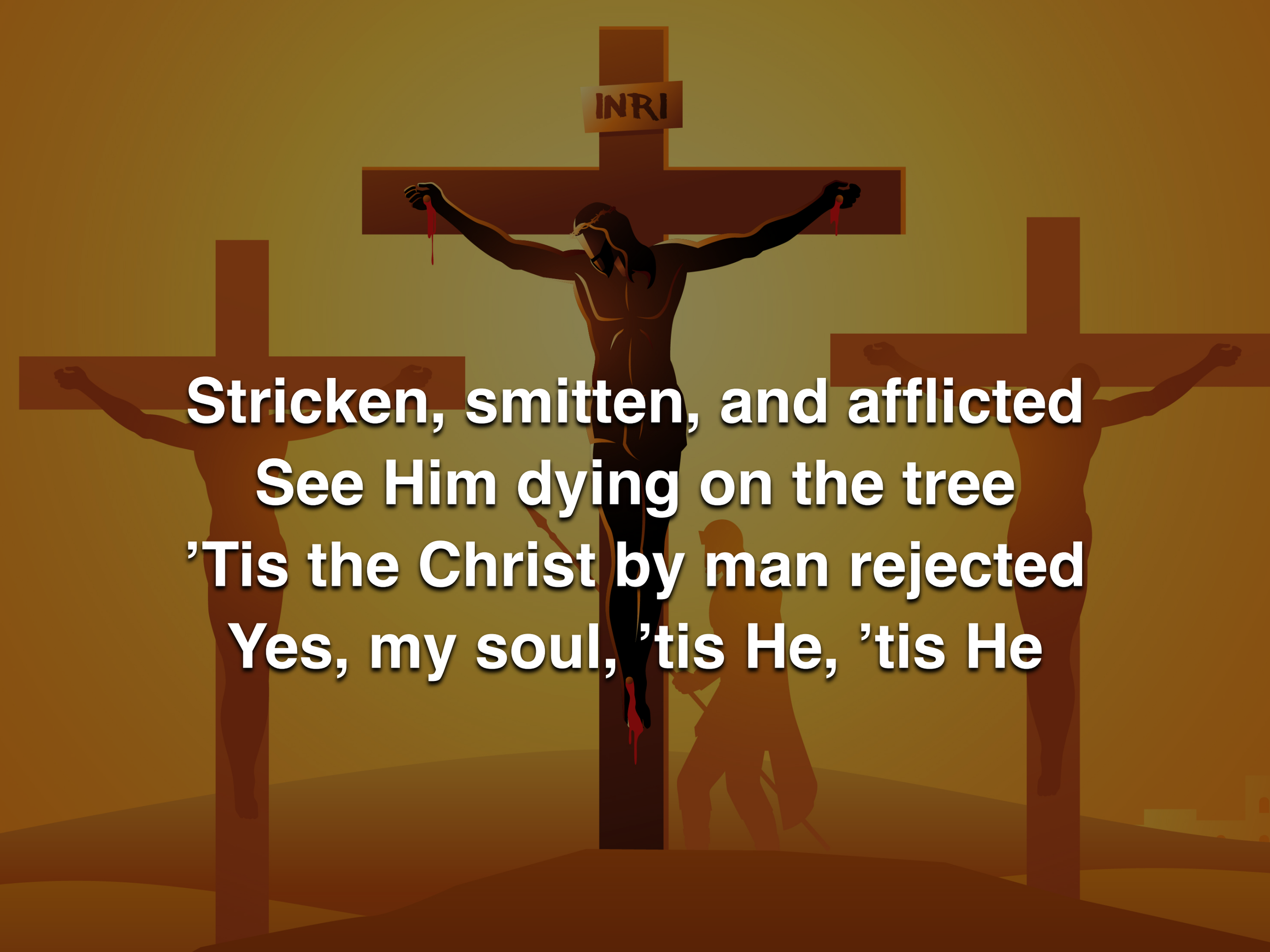
“…the most pitiable of deaths.”

— Josephus (37-100AD) —

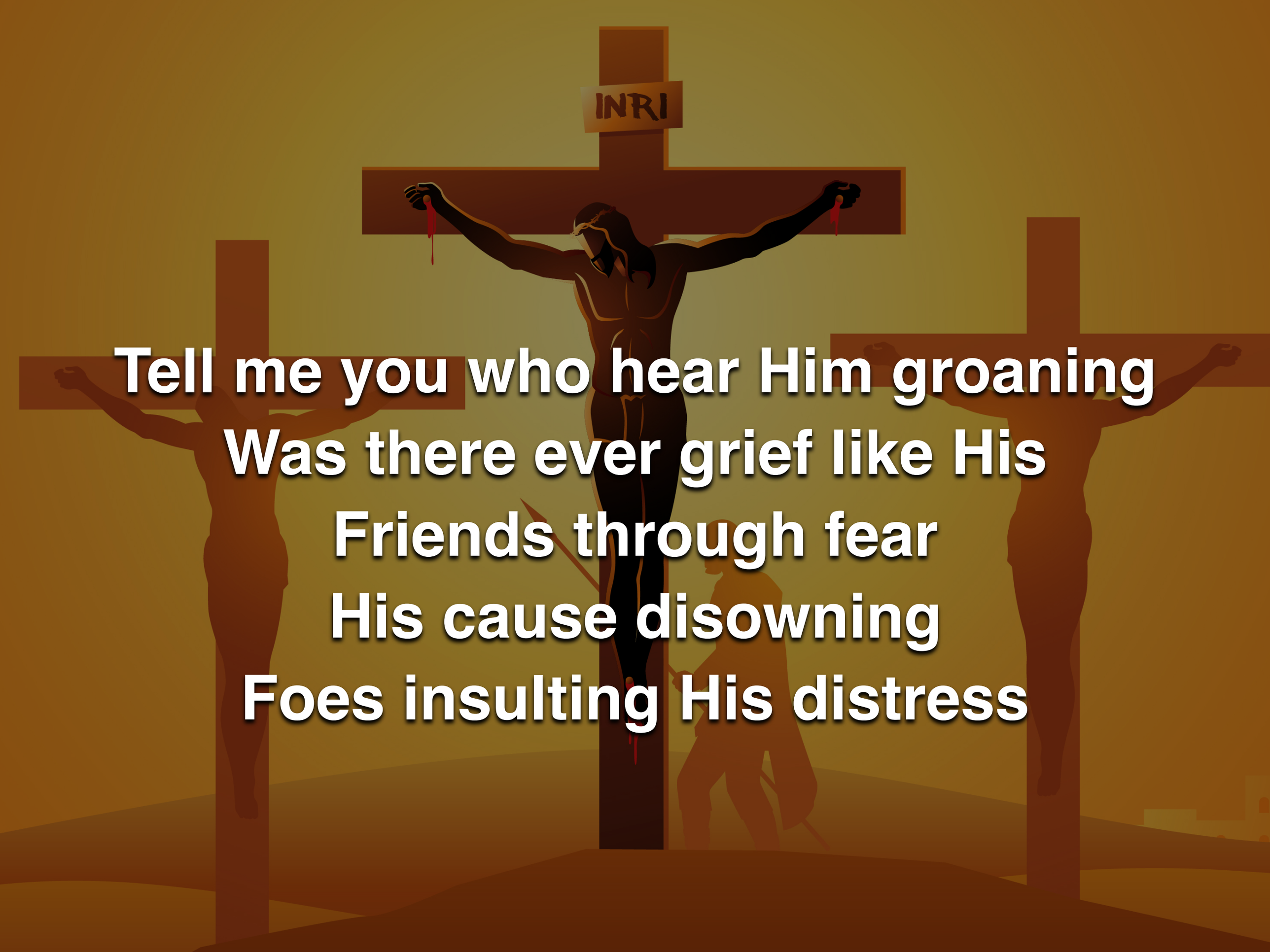
Excruciating

“out of” “cross”

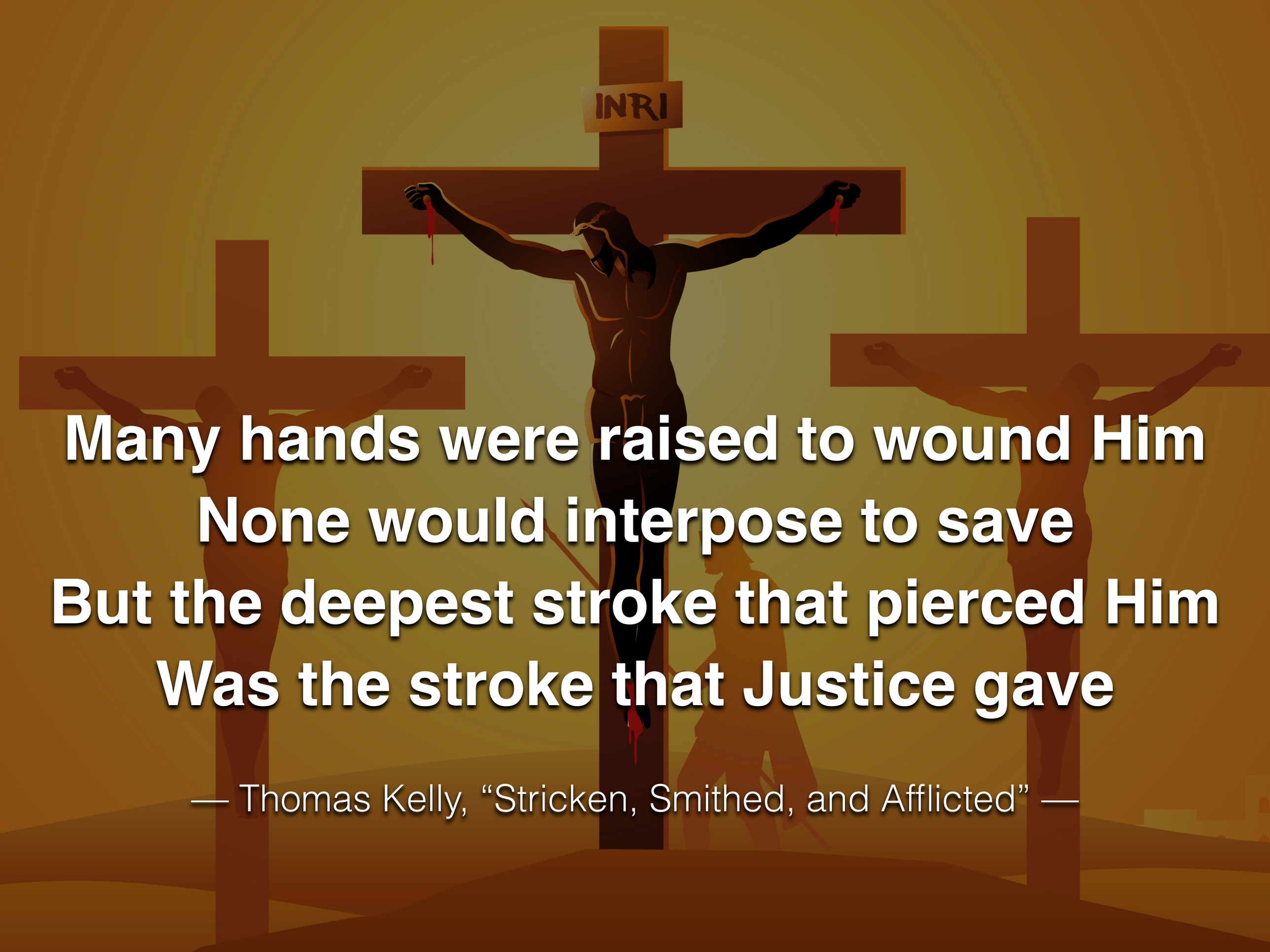
To experience severe pain & suffering, intense mental anguish and agonizing torture



Stricken, smitten, and afflicted
See Him dying on the tree
'Tis the Christ by man rejected
Yes, my soul, 'tis He, 'tis He



Tell me you who hear Him groaning
Was there ever grief like His
Friends through fear
His cause disowning
Foes insulting His distress



Many hands were raised to wound Him
None would interpose to save
But the deepest stroke that pierced Him
Was the stroke that Justice gave

— Thomas Kelly, “Stricken, Smithed, and Afflicted” —

The Humility of Jesus

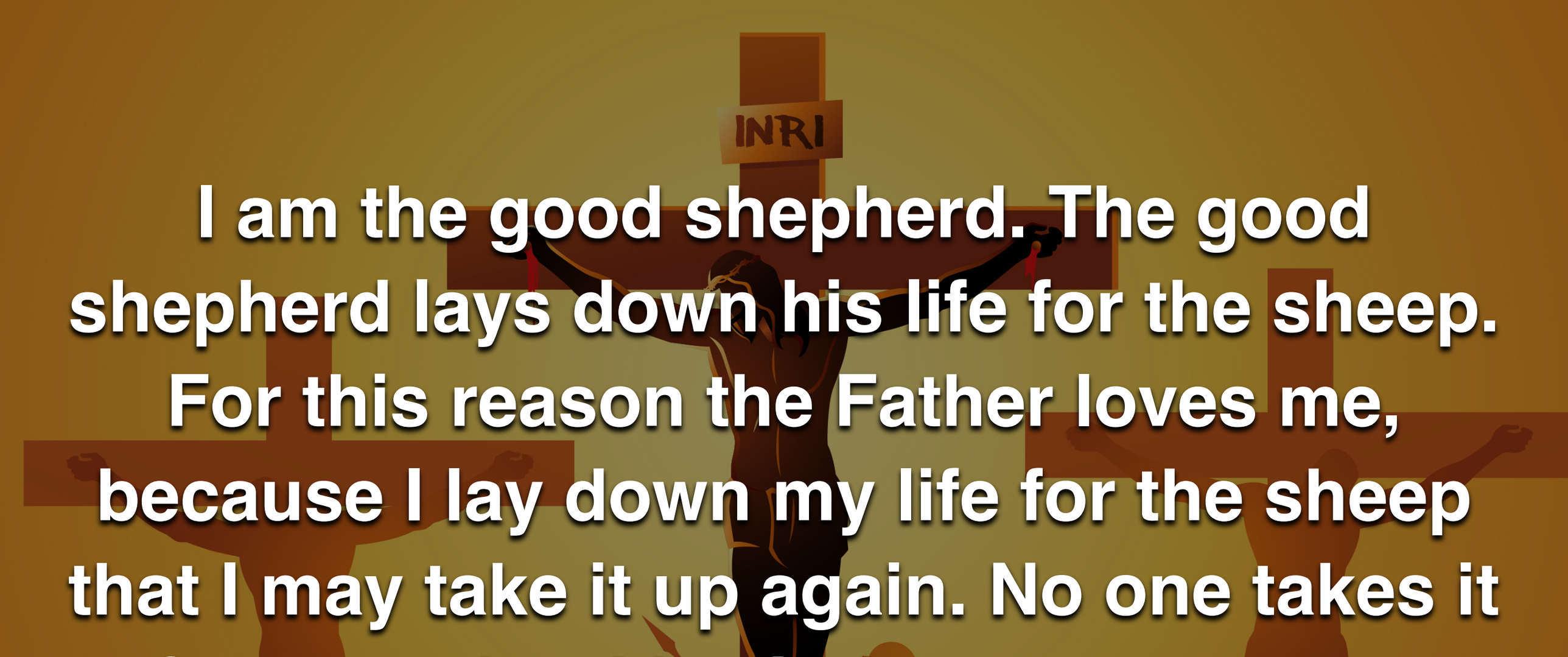
Glory

Incarnation

Torture

The Cross

INRI



I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life for the sheep that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 10:11, 17-18 —

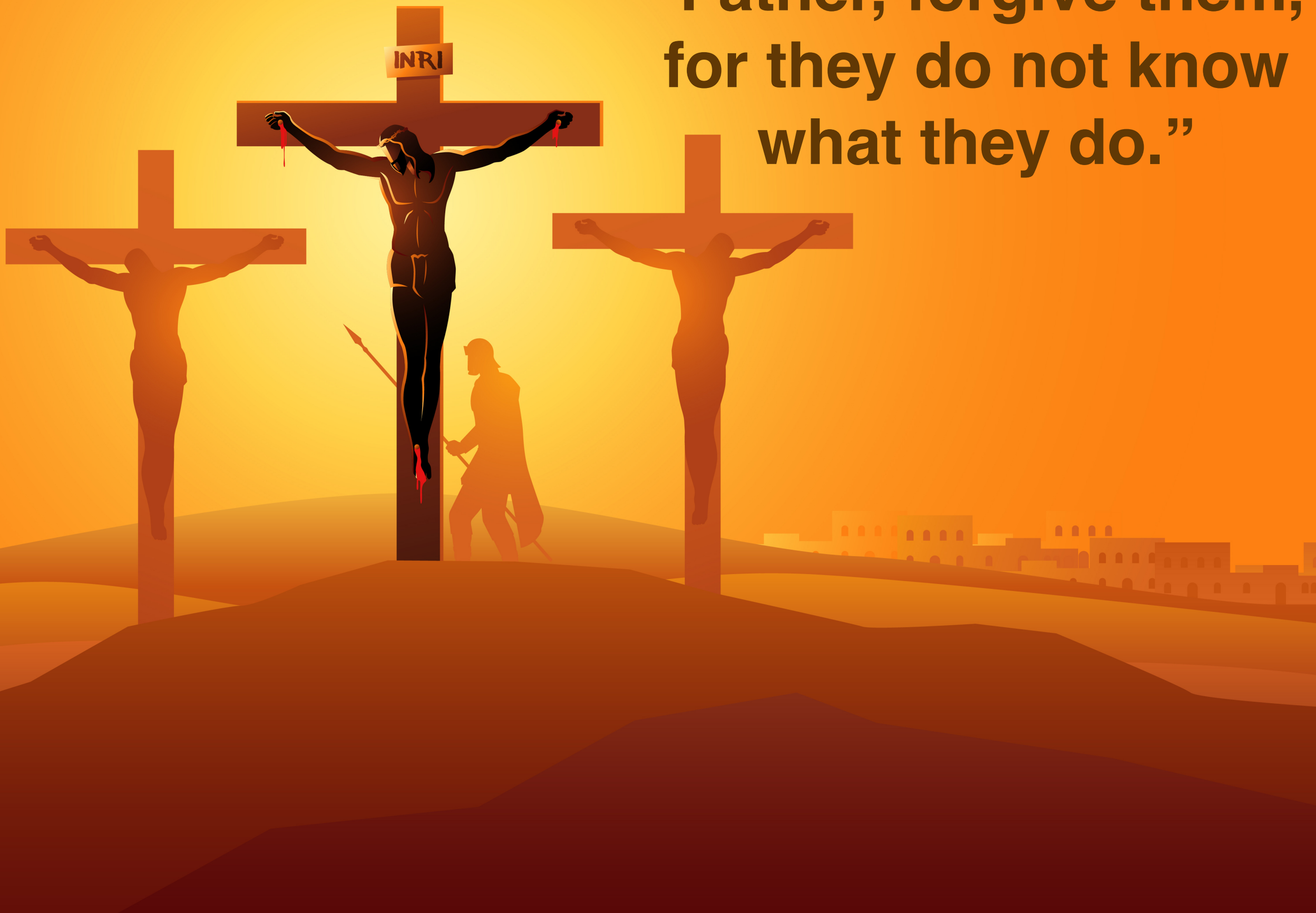
9 **Therefore God has highly exalted him**
and bestowed on him the name that is
above every name, 10 **so that at the**
name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the
earth, 11 **and every tongue confess that**
Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God
the Father.

Important Question

So why is the Apostle Paul telling us about the humble, self-sacrificial love of Jesus?

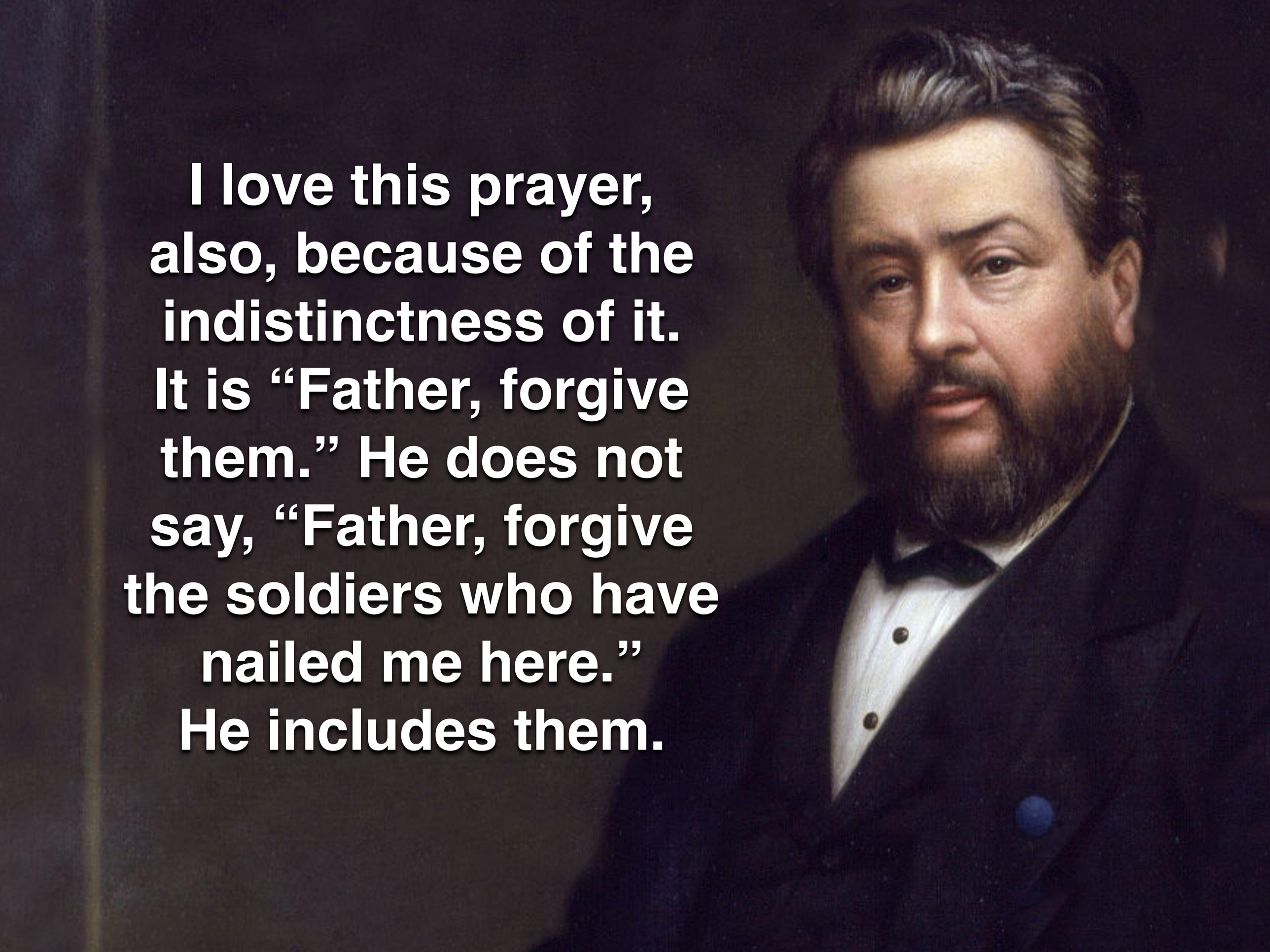
Just as Christ humbled Himself in self-giving, life-giving love for others, so we too are called to humble ourselves in self-giving, life-giving love for others.

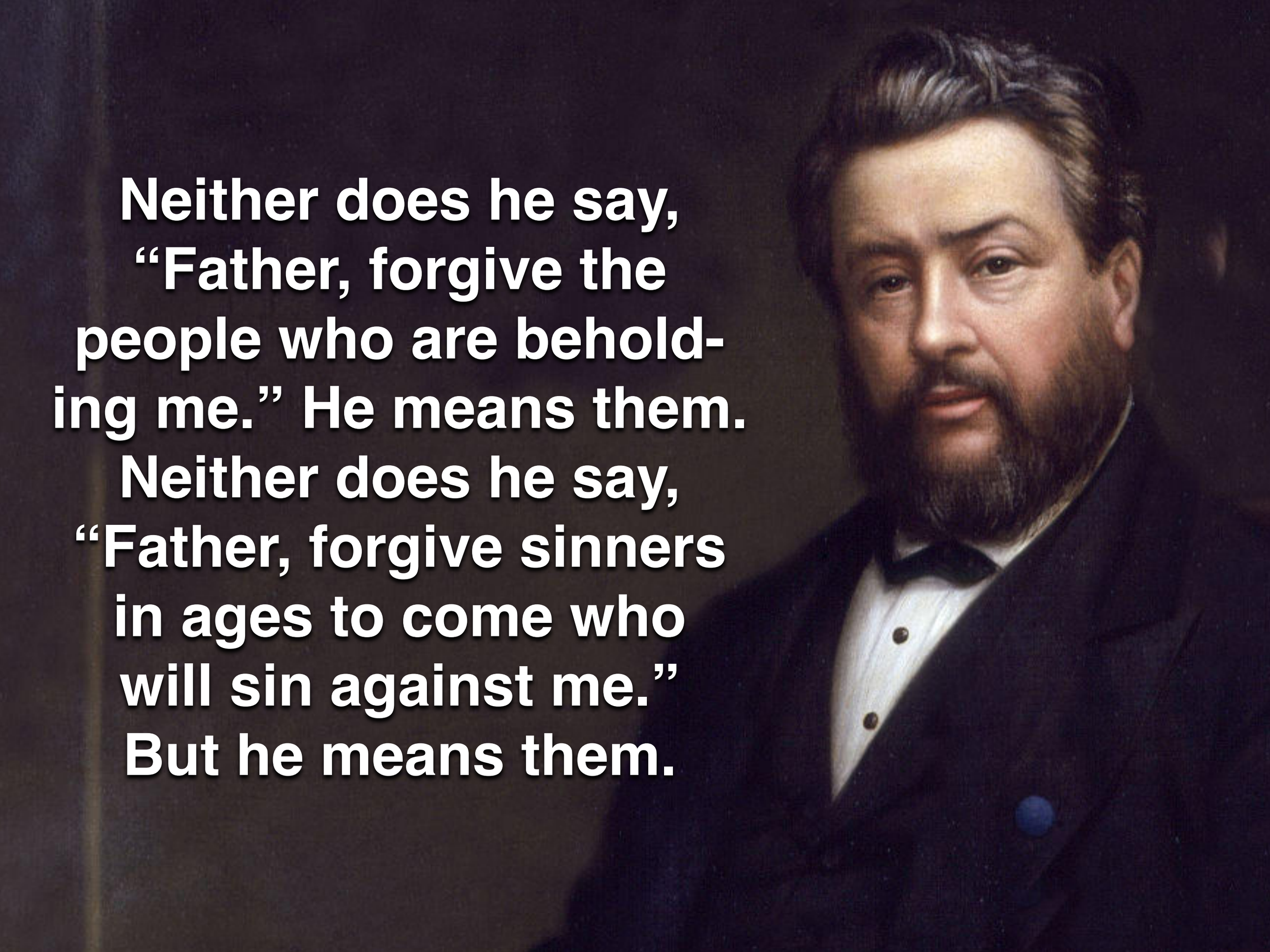
The Story of Jesus Invites Us Into It



“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”

I love this prayer, also, because of the indistinctness of it. It is “Father, forgive them.” He does not say, “Father, forgive the soldiers who have nailed me here.” He includes them.




Neither does he say,
“Father, forgive the
people who are behold-
ing me.” He means them.
Neither does he say,
“Father, forgive sinners
in ages to come who
will sin against me.”
But he means them.

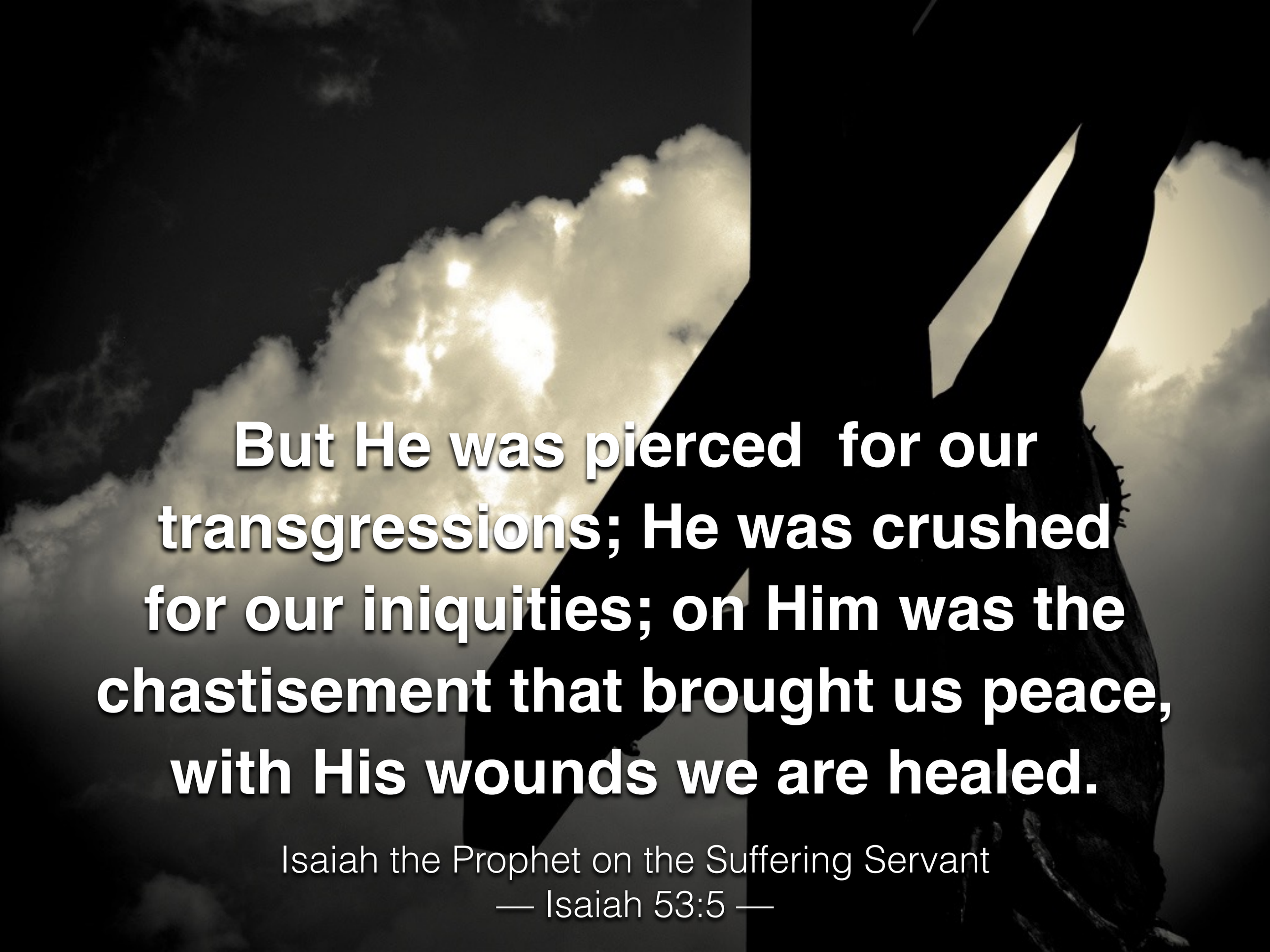
Jesus does not mention them by any accusing name: “Father, forgive my enemies. Father, forgive my murderers.” No, there is no word of accusation upon those dear lips.

“Father, forgive them.” Now into that pronoun “them” I feel that I can crawl. Can you get in there? Oh, by a humble faith, appropriate the cross of Christ by trusting in it; and get into that big little word “them”!

— Charles Haddon Spurgeon —
“Christ’s Plea for Ignorant Sinners”

HT: Phillip Ryken

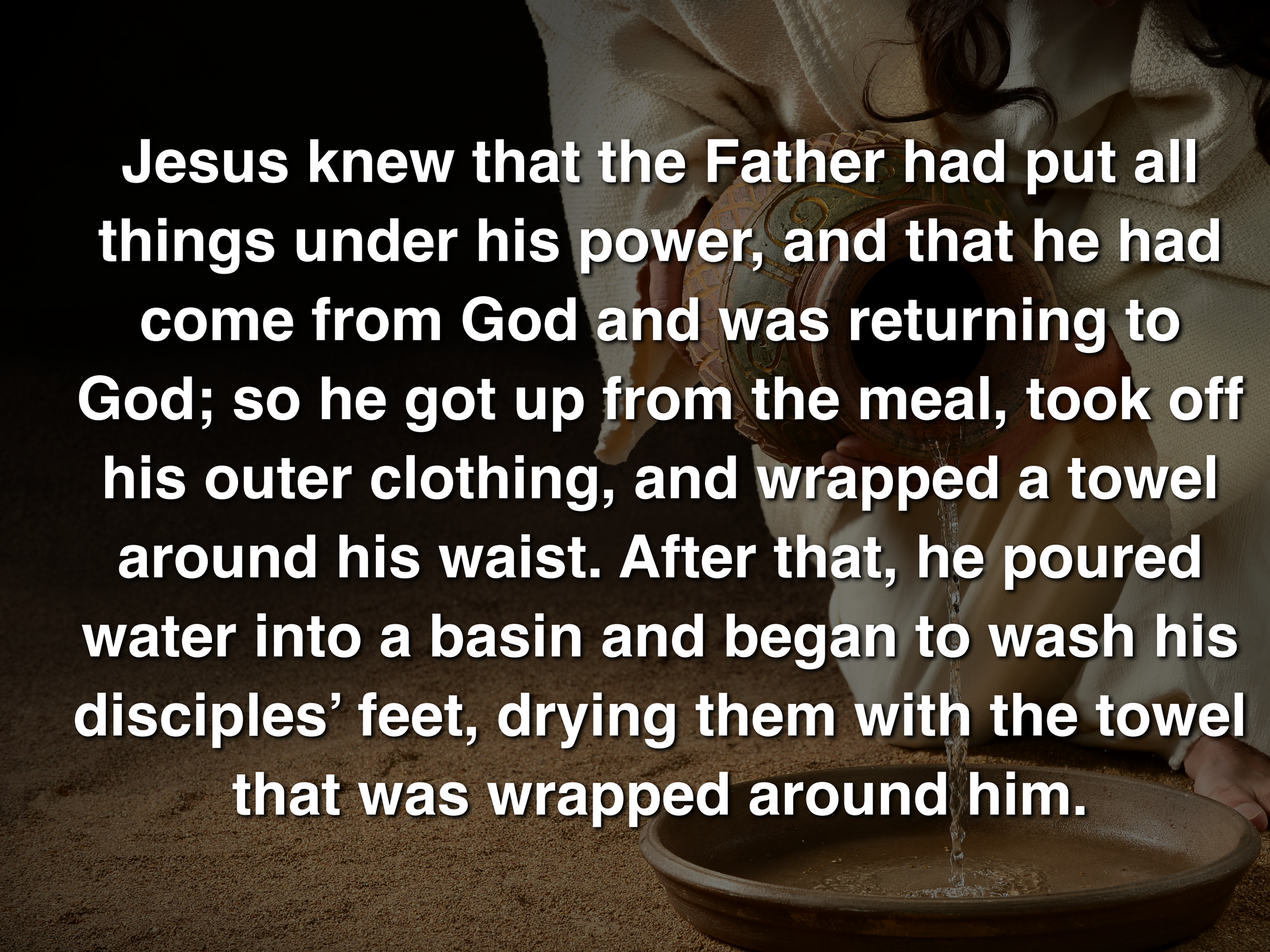
Let's Raise
Our Hallelujah
For The Cross


But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities; on Him was the chastisement that brought us peace, with His wounds we are healed.
Isaiah the Prophet on the Suffering Servant
— Isaiah 53:5 —

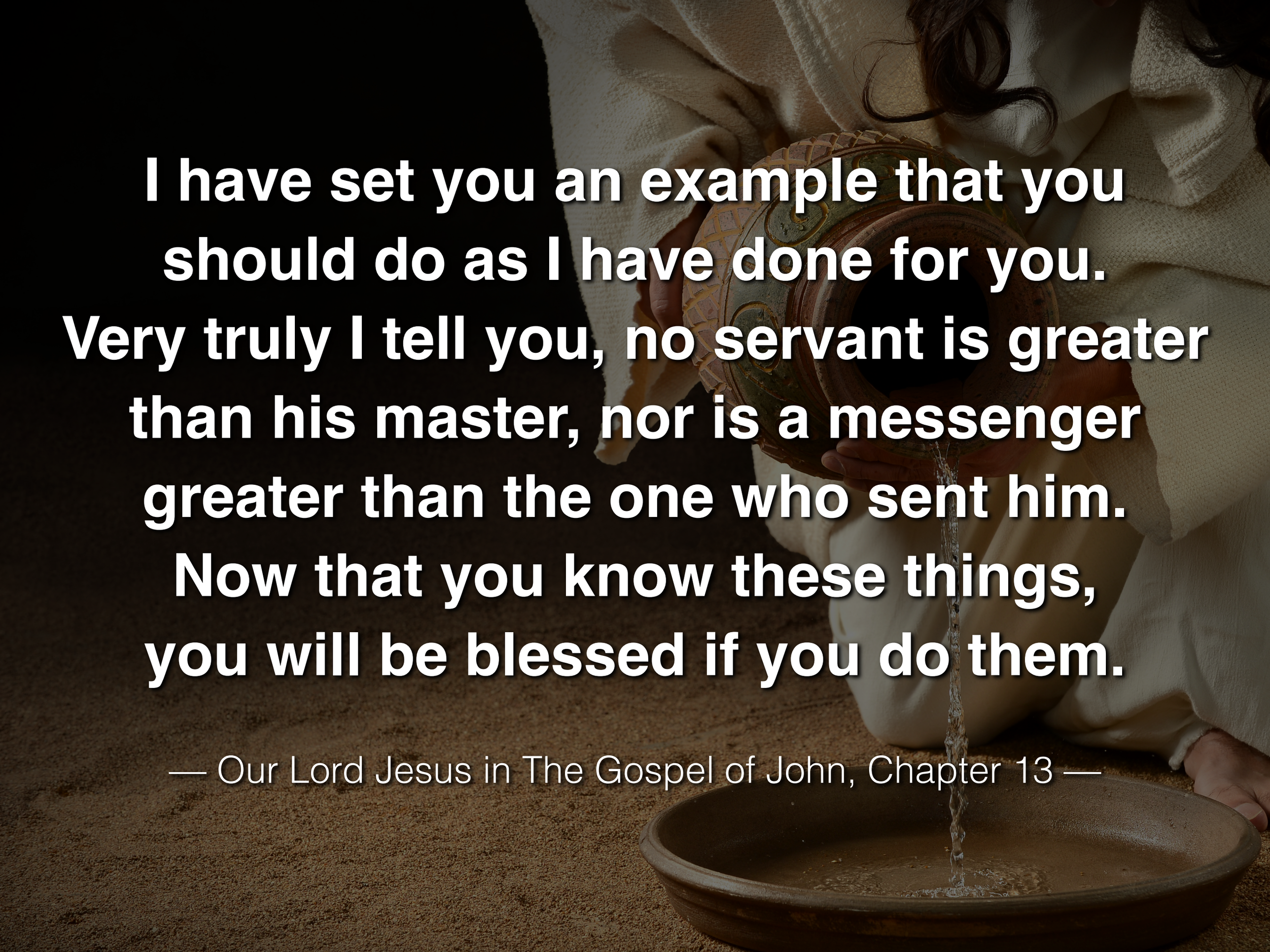
Bearing shame
and scoffing rude
In my place
condemned He stood
Sealed my pardon
with His blood
Hallelujah what a Savior

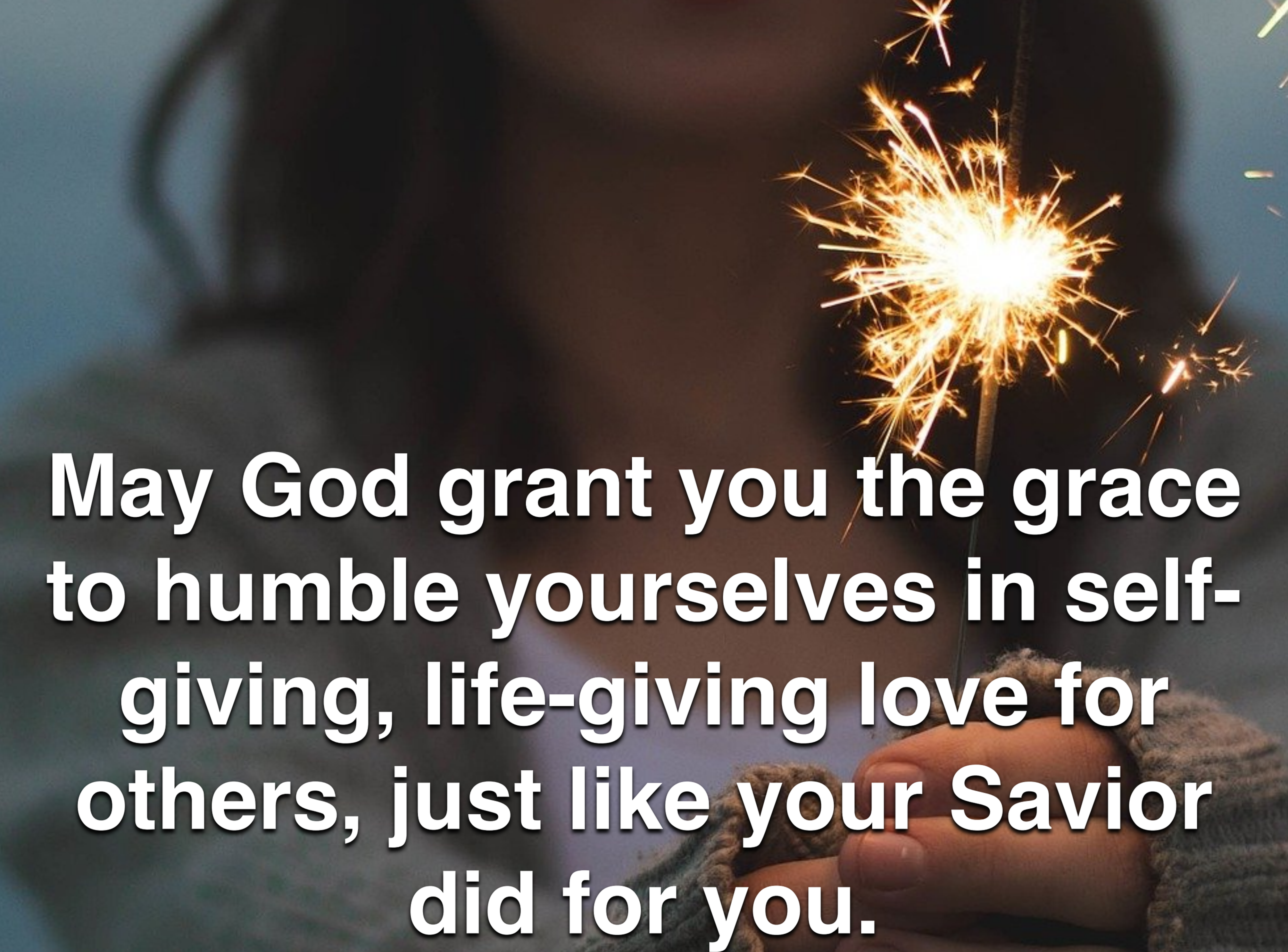
— “Man of Sorrows” —

Let's Lower Ourselves in Christ-like Humility


Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet.


I have set you an example that you
should do as I have done for you.
Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater
than his master, nor is a messenger
greater than the one who sent him.
Now that you know these things,
you will be blessed if you do them.
— Our Lord Jesus in The Gospel of John, Chapter 13 —


May God grant you the grace to humble yourselves in self-giving, life-giving love for others, just like your Savior did for you.
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