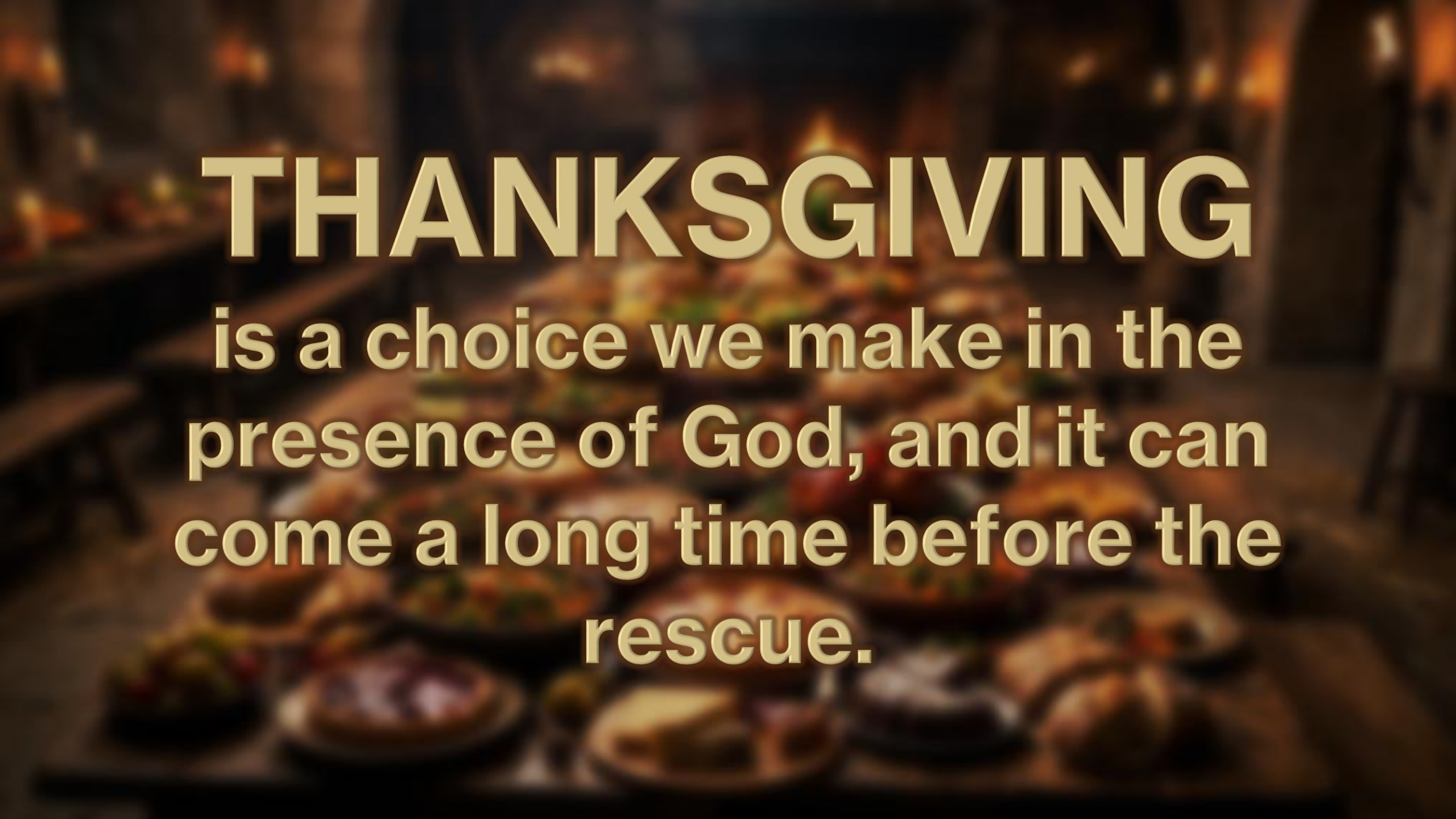

THANKSGIVING
AT MIDNIGHT


WHEN IS IT EASY TO BE
THANKFUL?

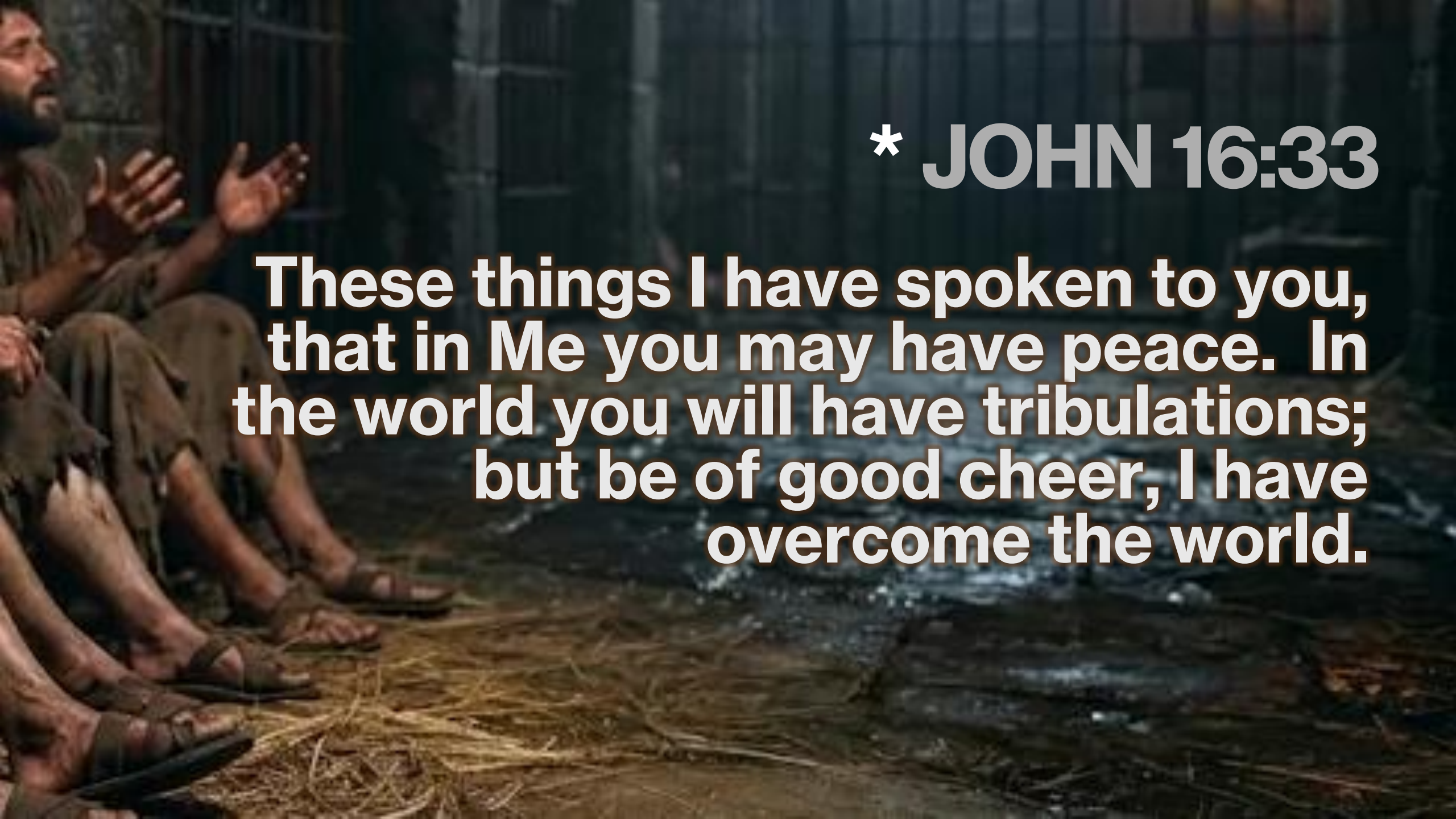

THANKSGIVING
is a choice we make in the presence of God, and it can come a long time before the rescue.

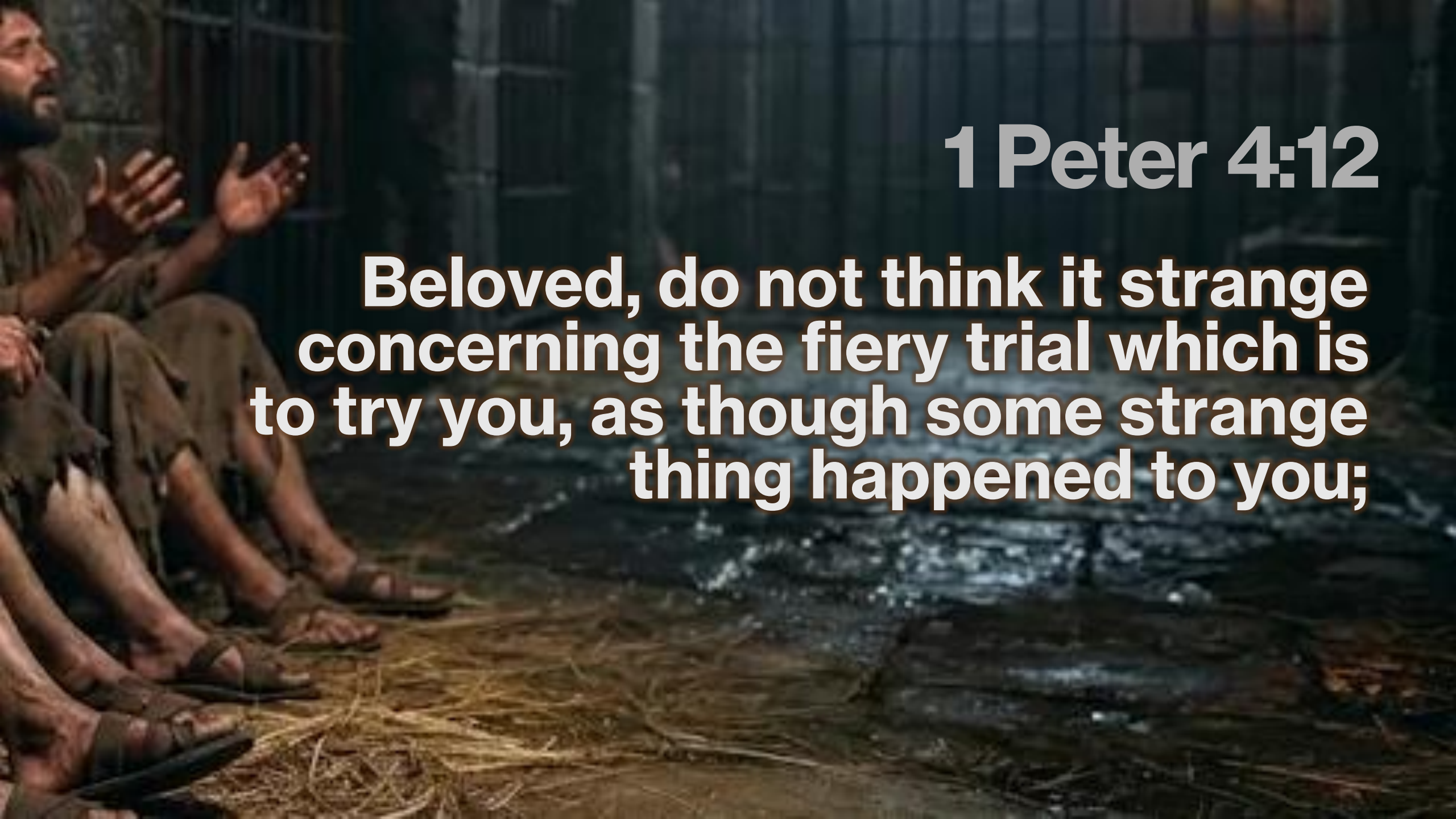

ACTS 16:16-24

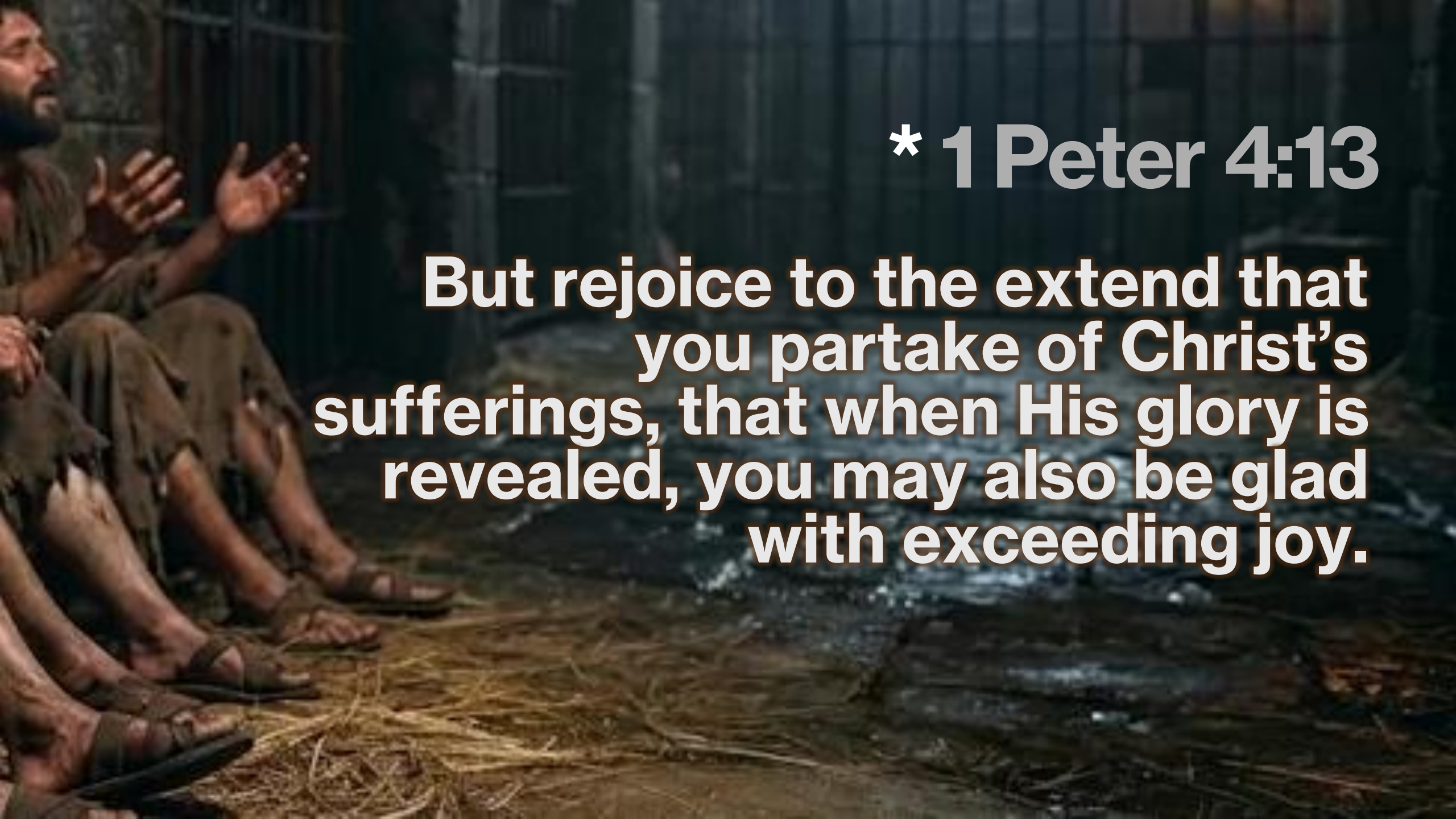




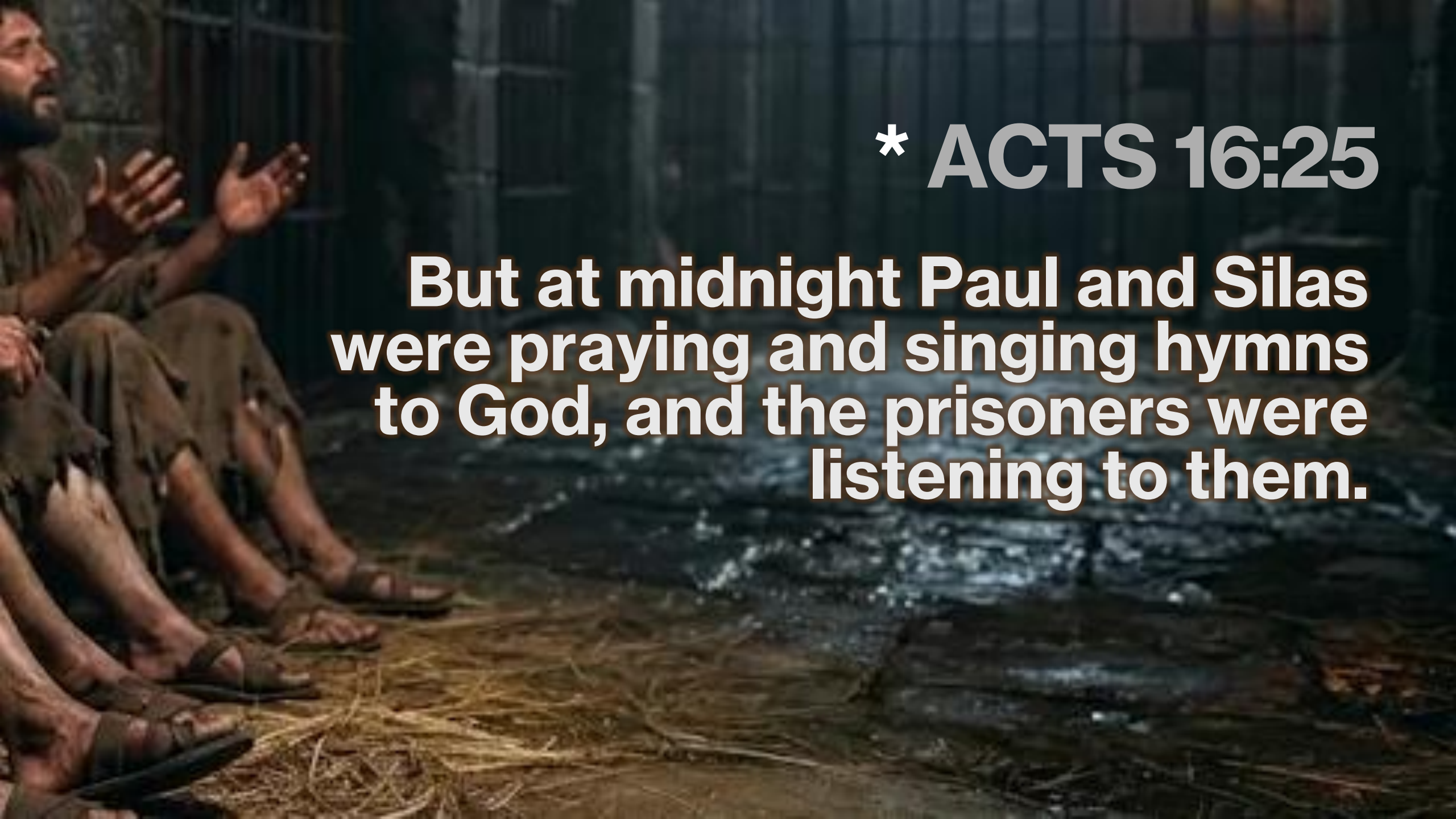



* JOHN 16:33
These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulations; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.


1 Peter 4:12
Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you;


* 1 Peter 4:13
But rejoice to the extend that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.




* ACTS 16:25
But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

What do we learn from their midnight worship?

1. Gratitude is not the absence of pain.

Psalm 34:1:

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

What do we learn from their midnight worship?

2. Gratitude is a discipline of faith

Philippians 4:6:

Rejoice in the Lord always, Again I will say, rejoice!

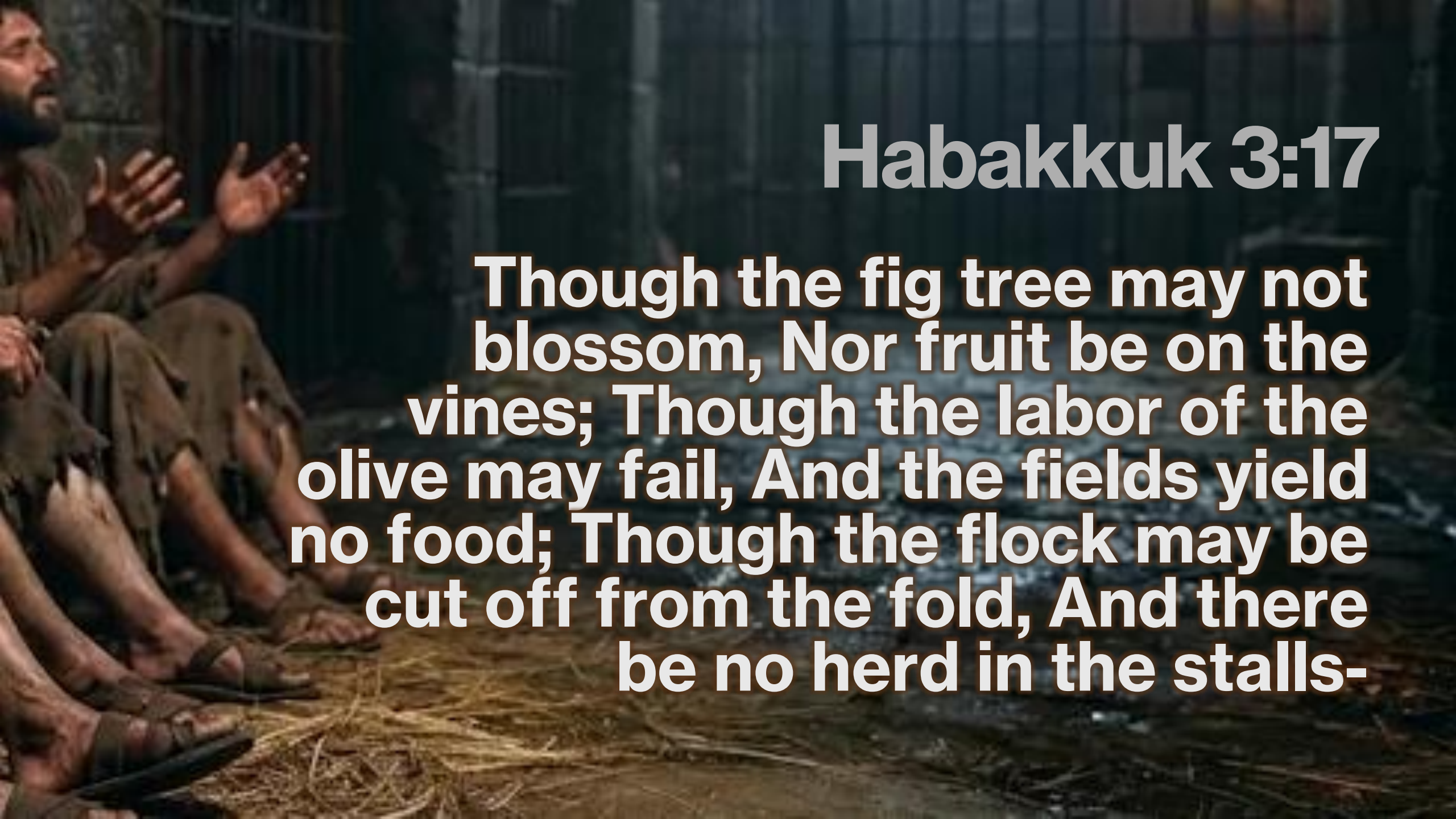
What do we learn from their midnight worship?

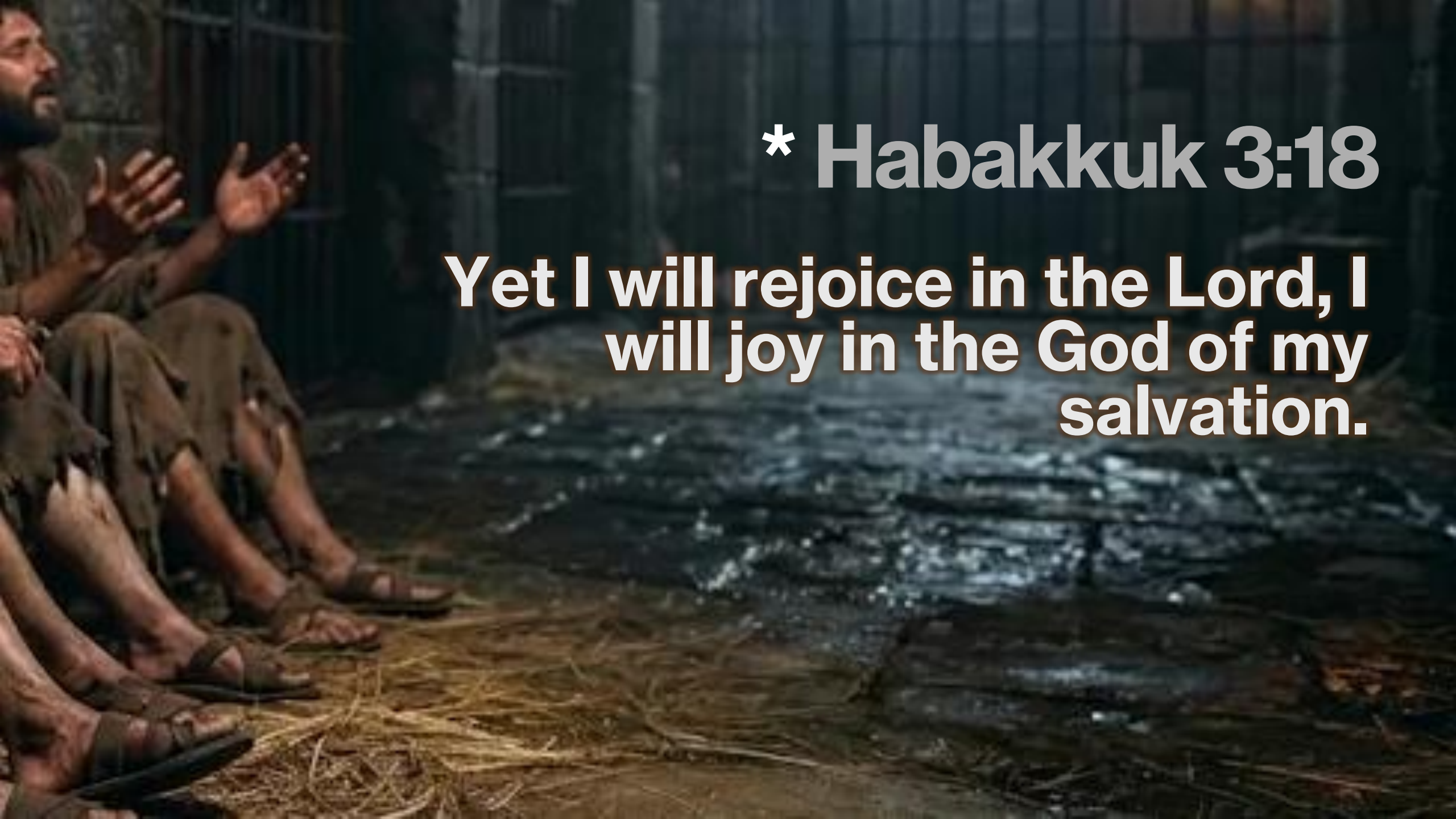
3. Gratitude is obedience

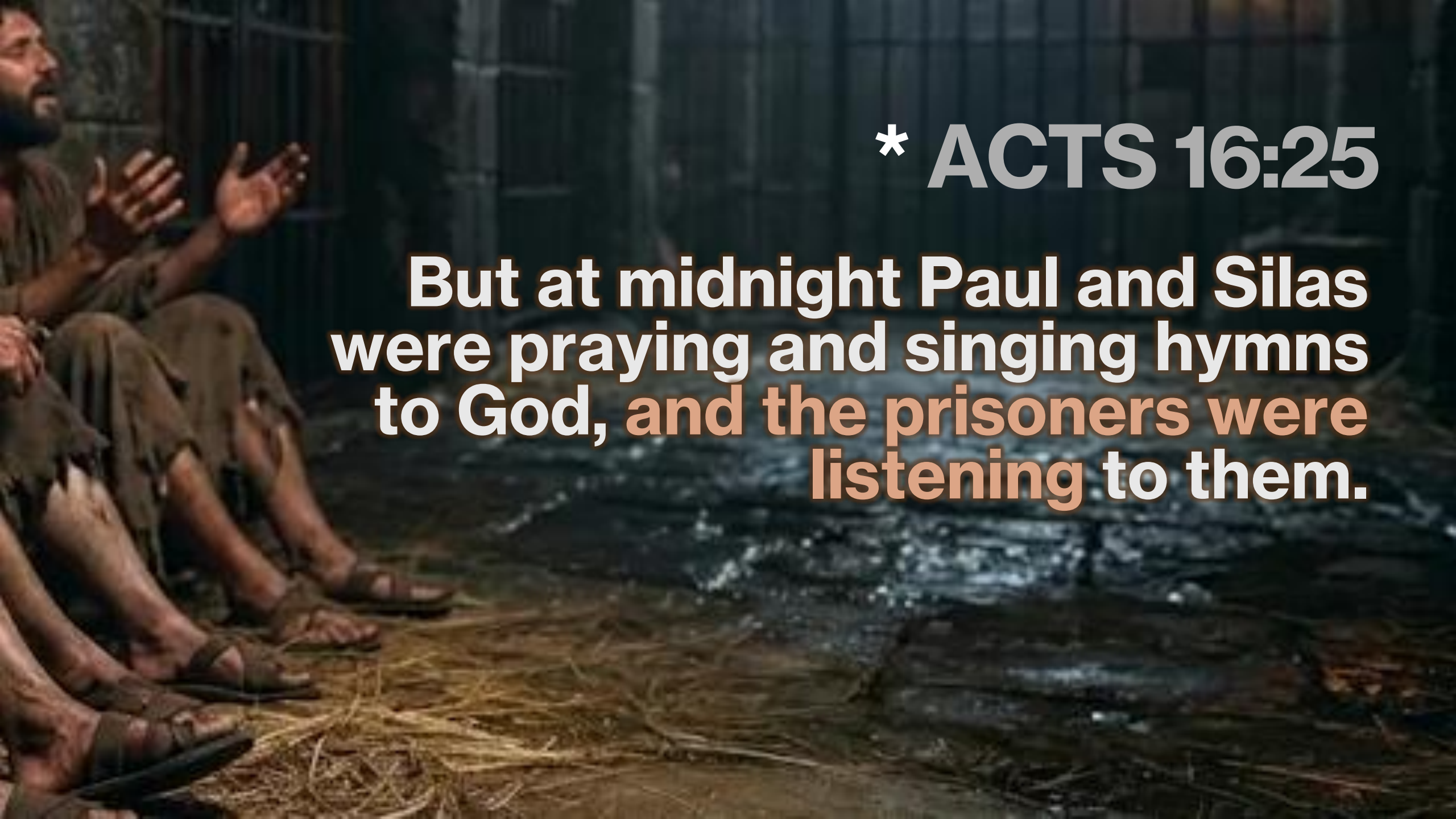
1 Thessalonians 5:18:

In everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

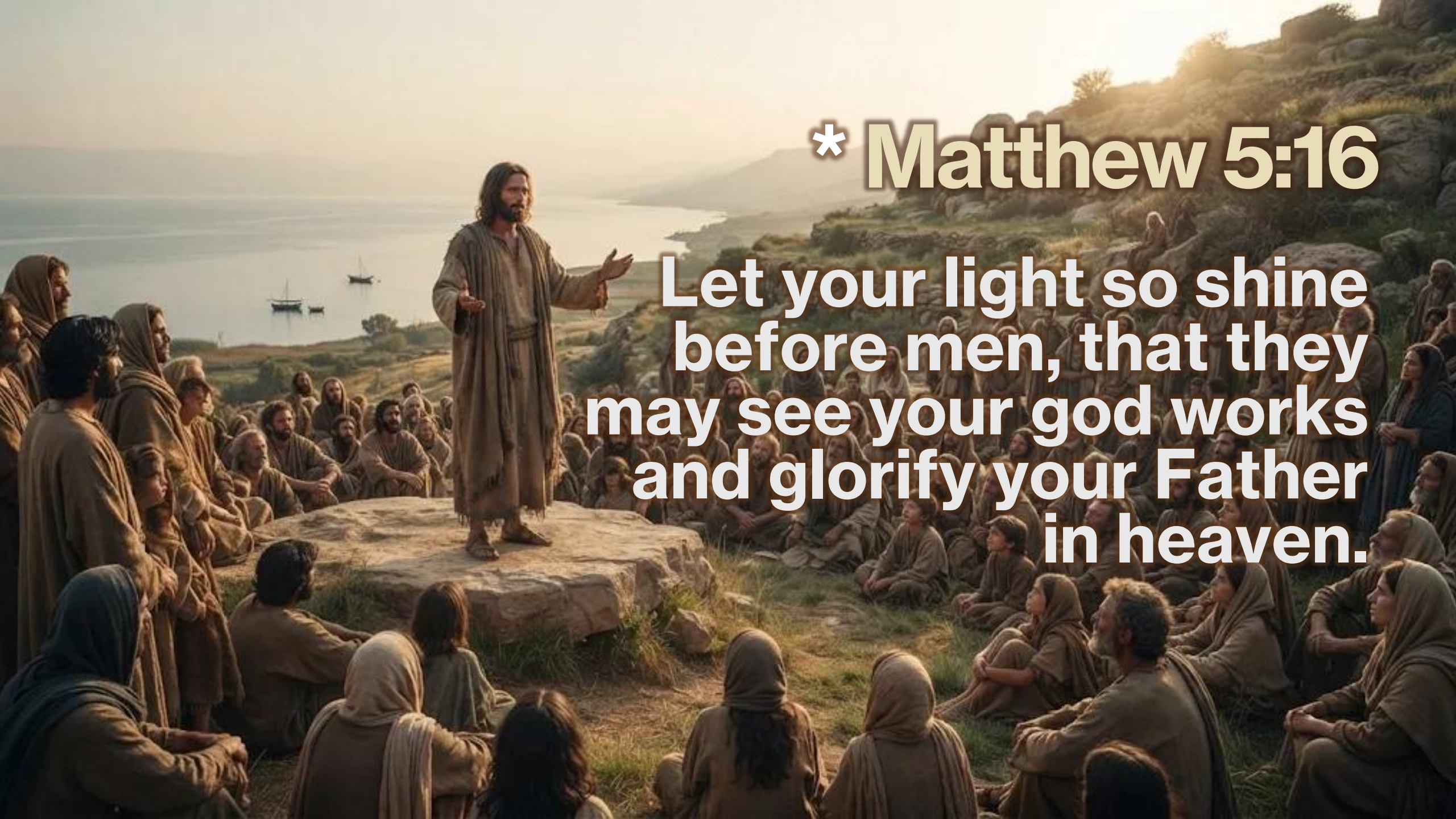

CELEBRATION
VS
WORSHIP

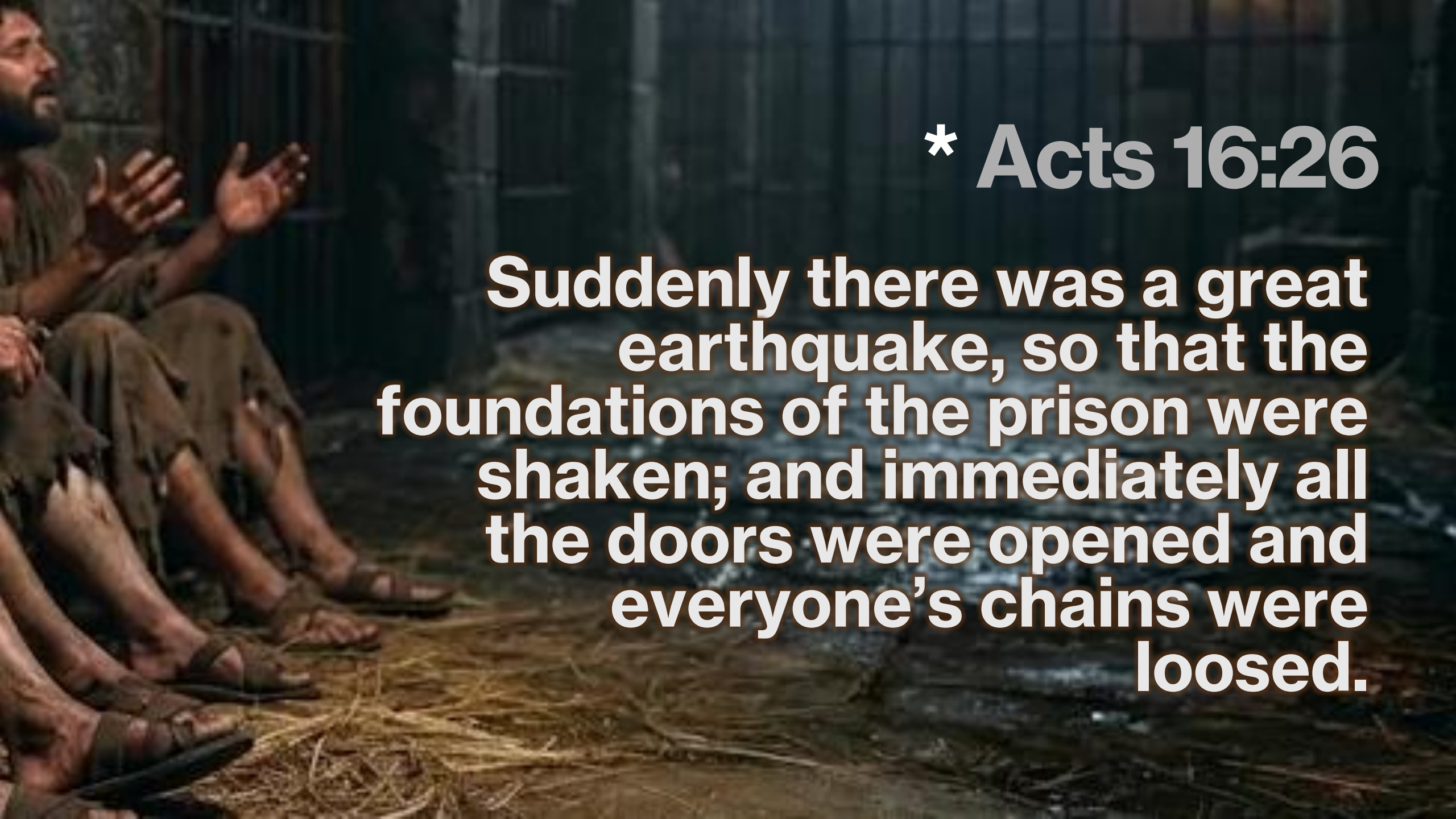

Habakkuk 3:17
Though the fig tree may not blossom, Nor fruit be on the vines; Though the labor of the olive may fail, And the fields yield no food; Though the flock may be cut off from the fold, And there be no herd in the stalls-


* Habakkuk 3:18
Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.

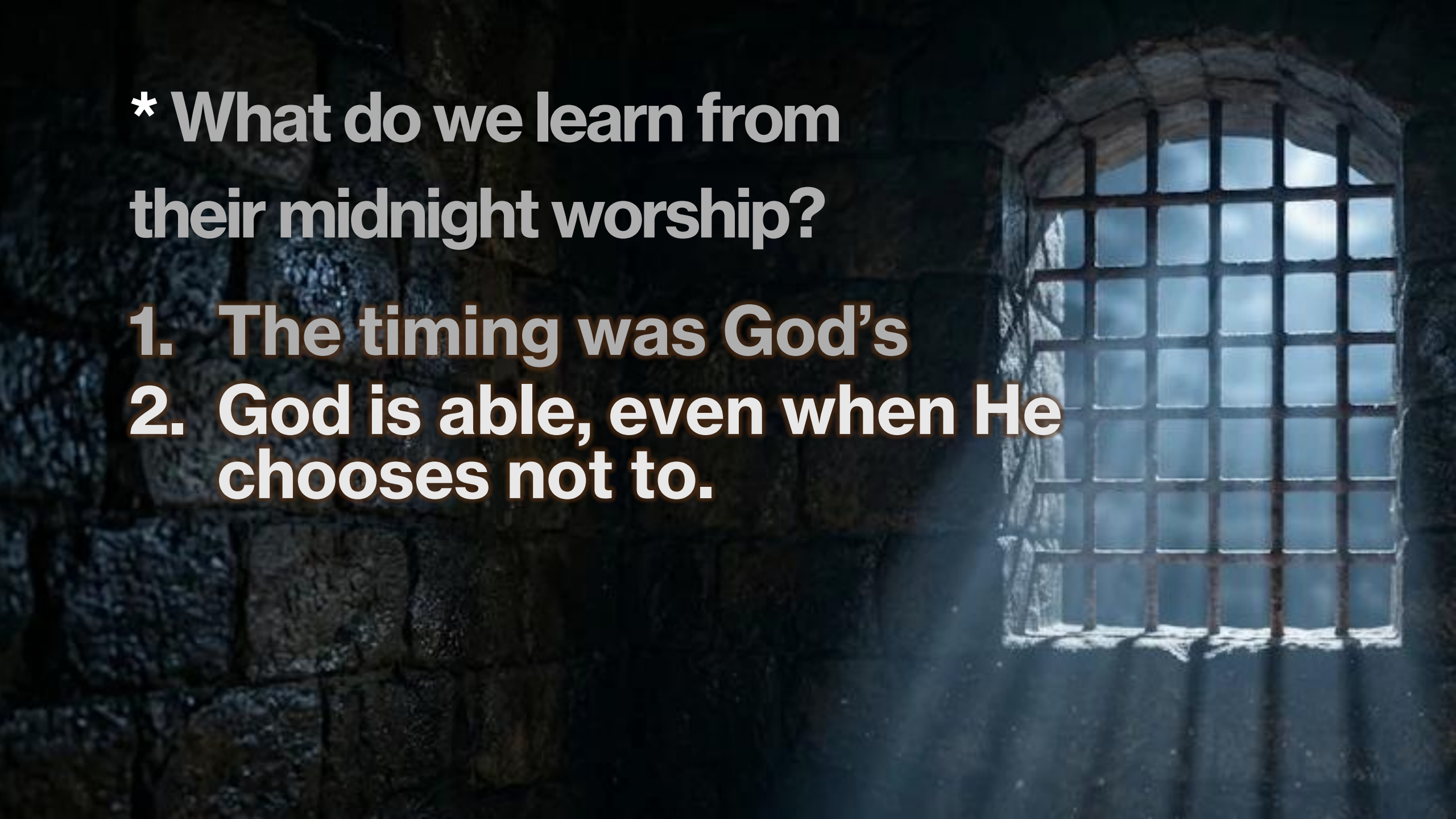

* ACTS 16:25
But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.

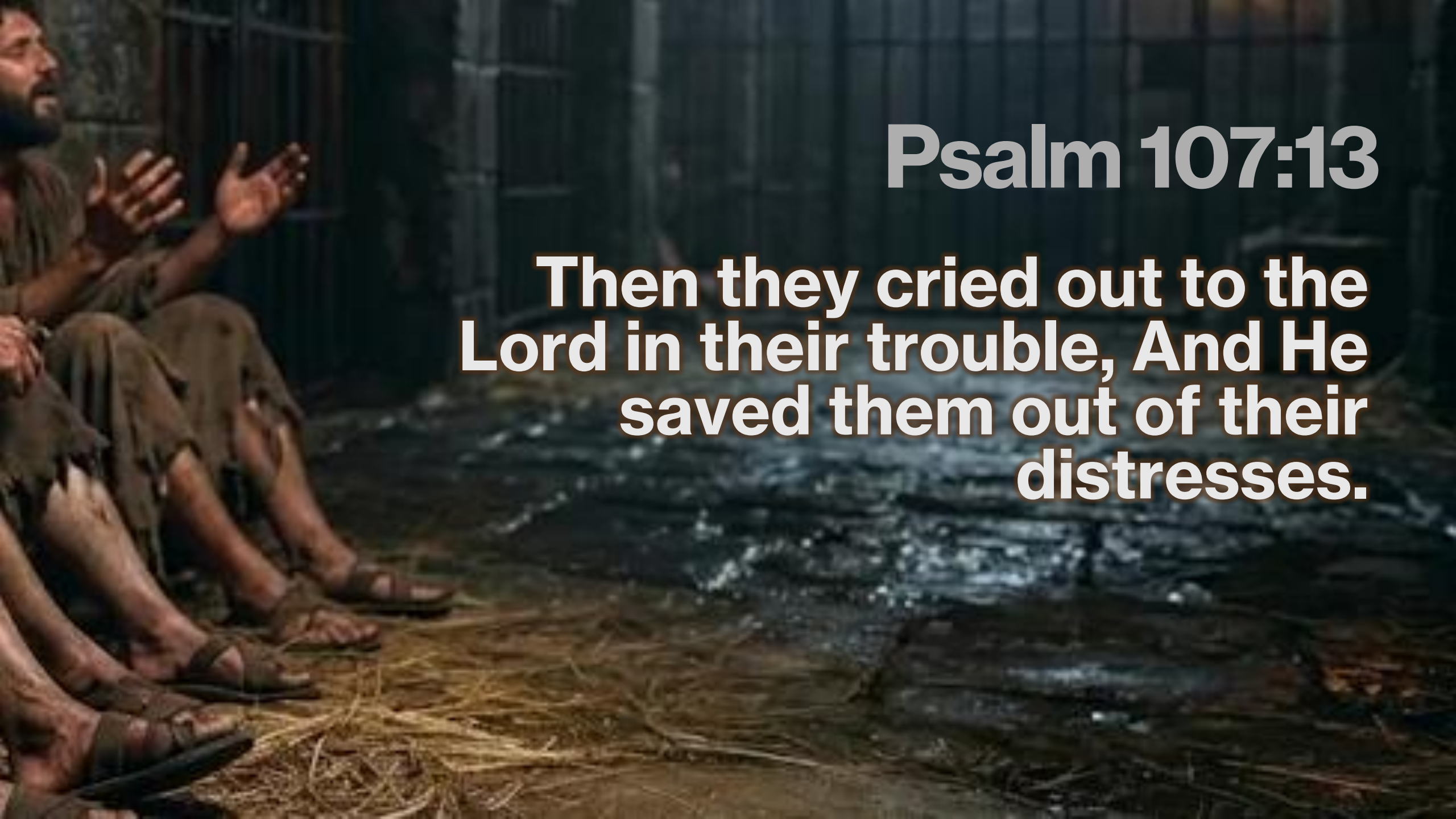

SOMEONE IS
ALWAYS LISTENING

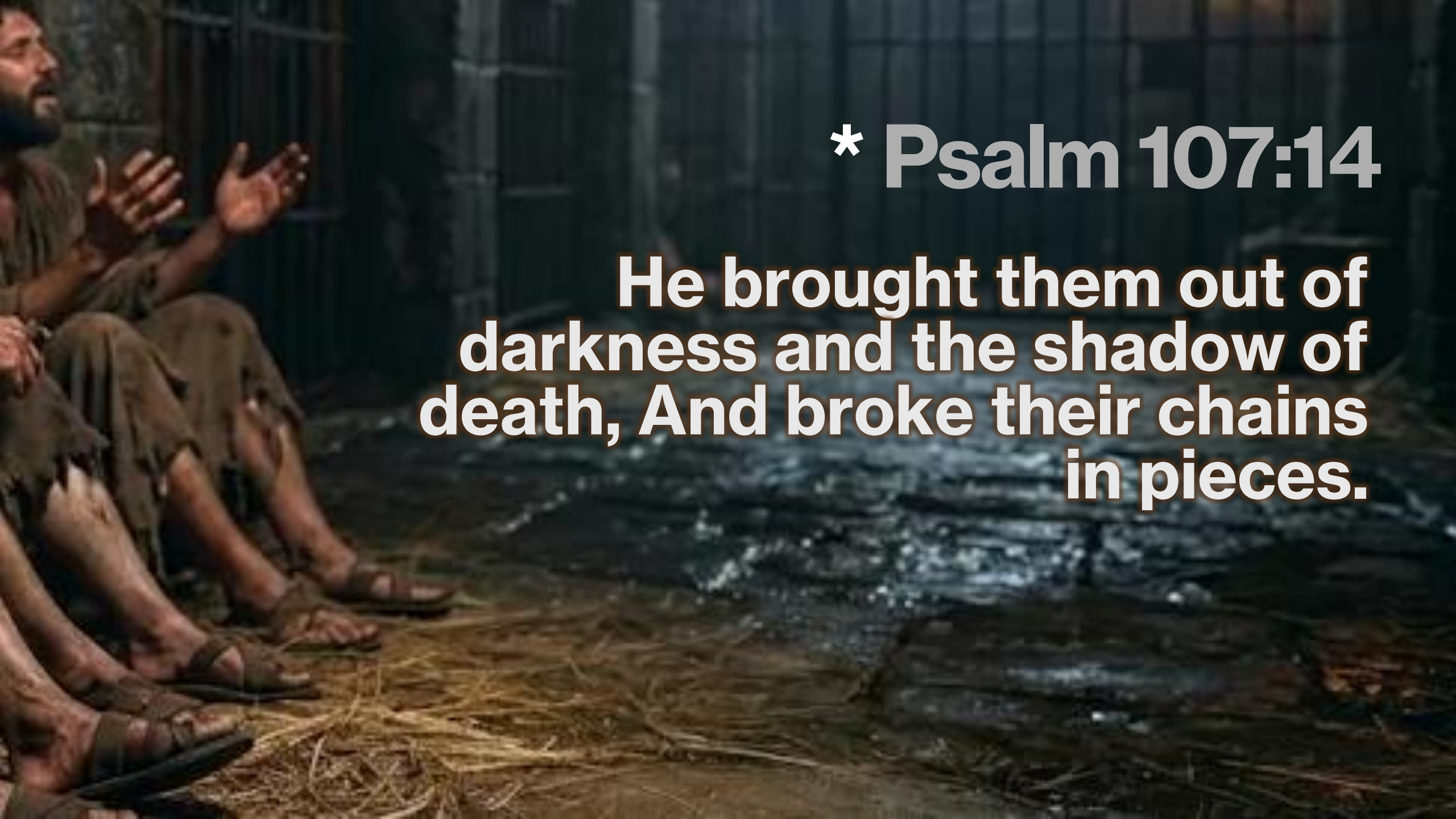

* Matthew 5:16
Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your god works and glorify your Father in heaven.

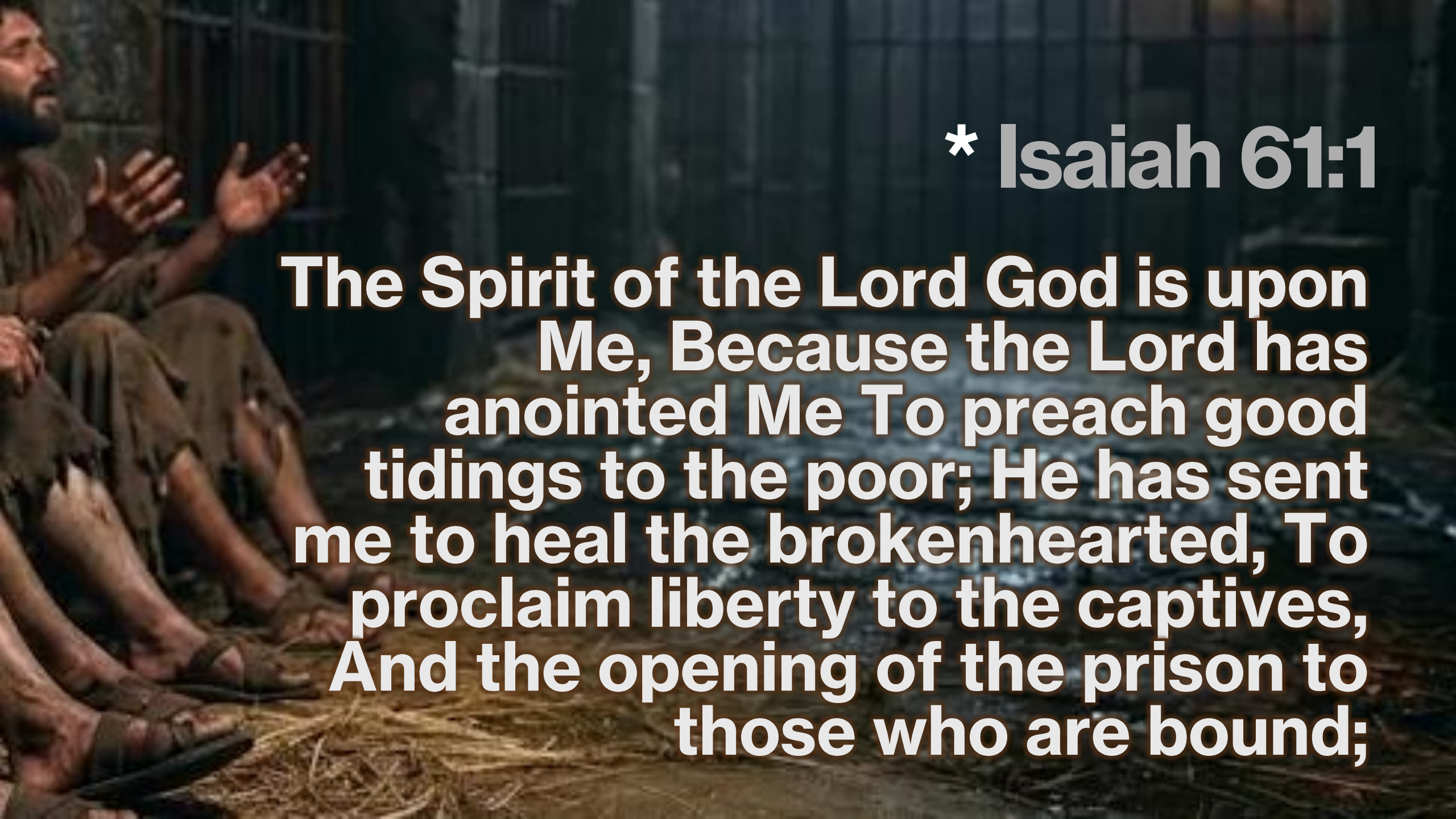

* Acts 16:26
Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

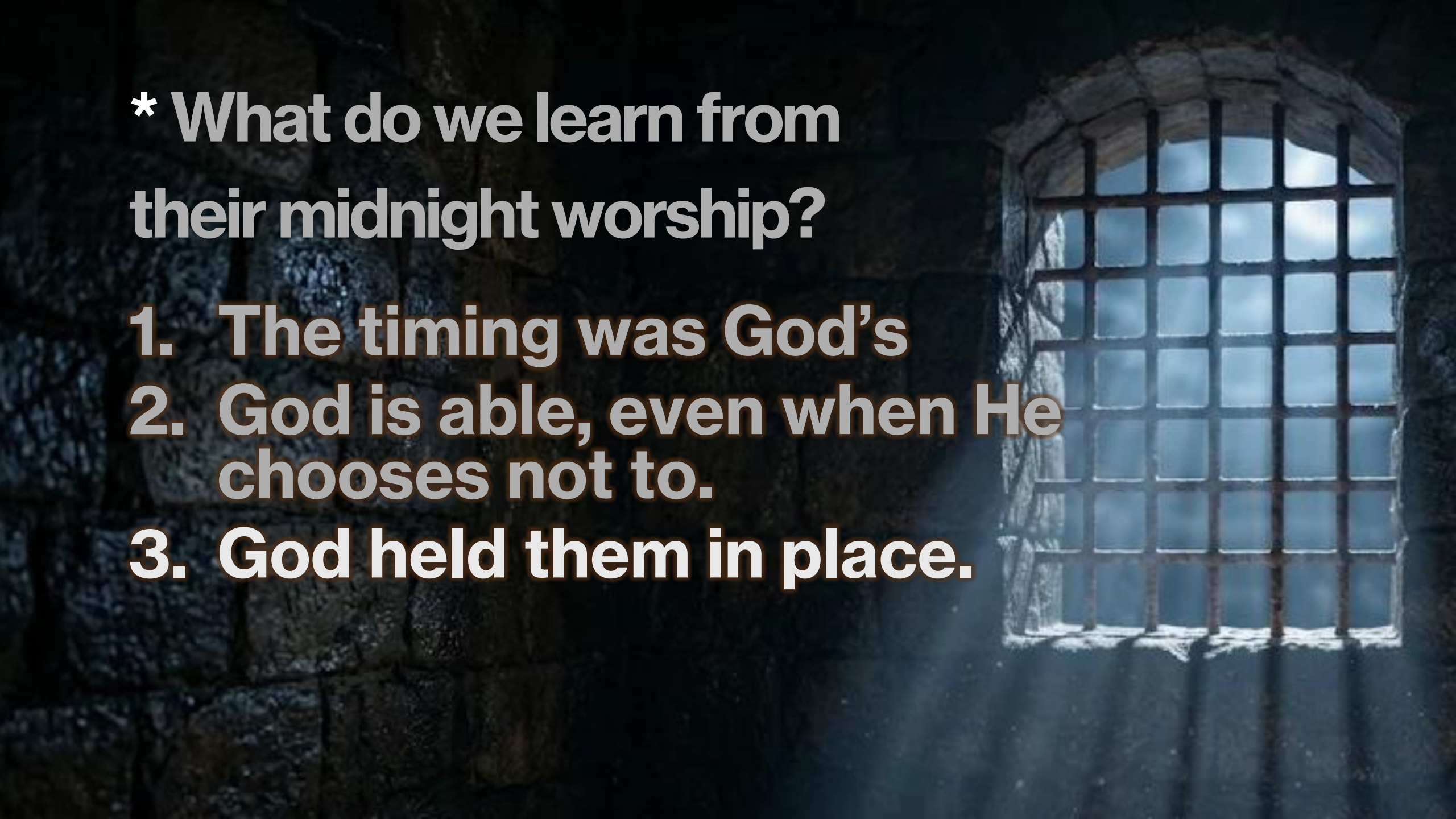

What do we learn from their midnight worship?
1. The timing was God’s


* What do we learn from their midnight worship?
1. The timing was God's
2. God is able, even when He chooses not to.


Psalm 107:13
Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, And He saved them out of their distresses.


* Psalm 107:14
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, And broke their chains in pieces.

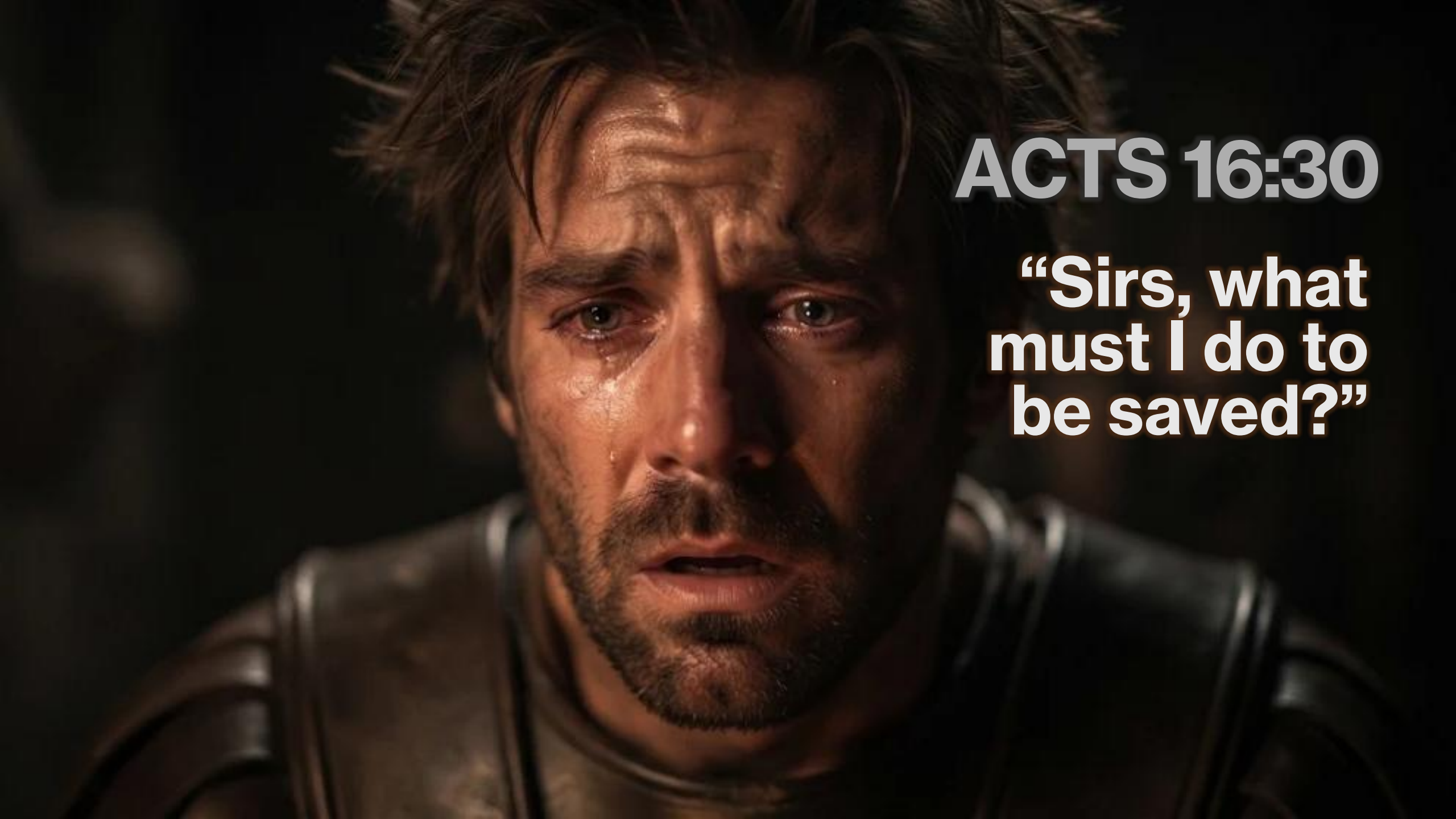

* Isaiah 61:1
The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;


* What do we learn from their midnight worship?
1. The timing was God's
2. God is able, even when He chooses not to.
3. God held them in place.



* ACTS 16:27-34

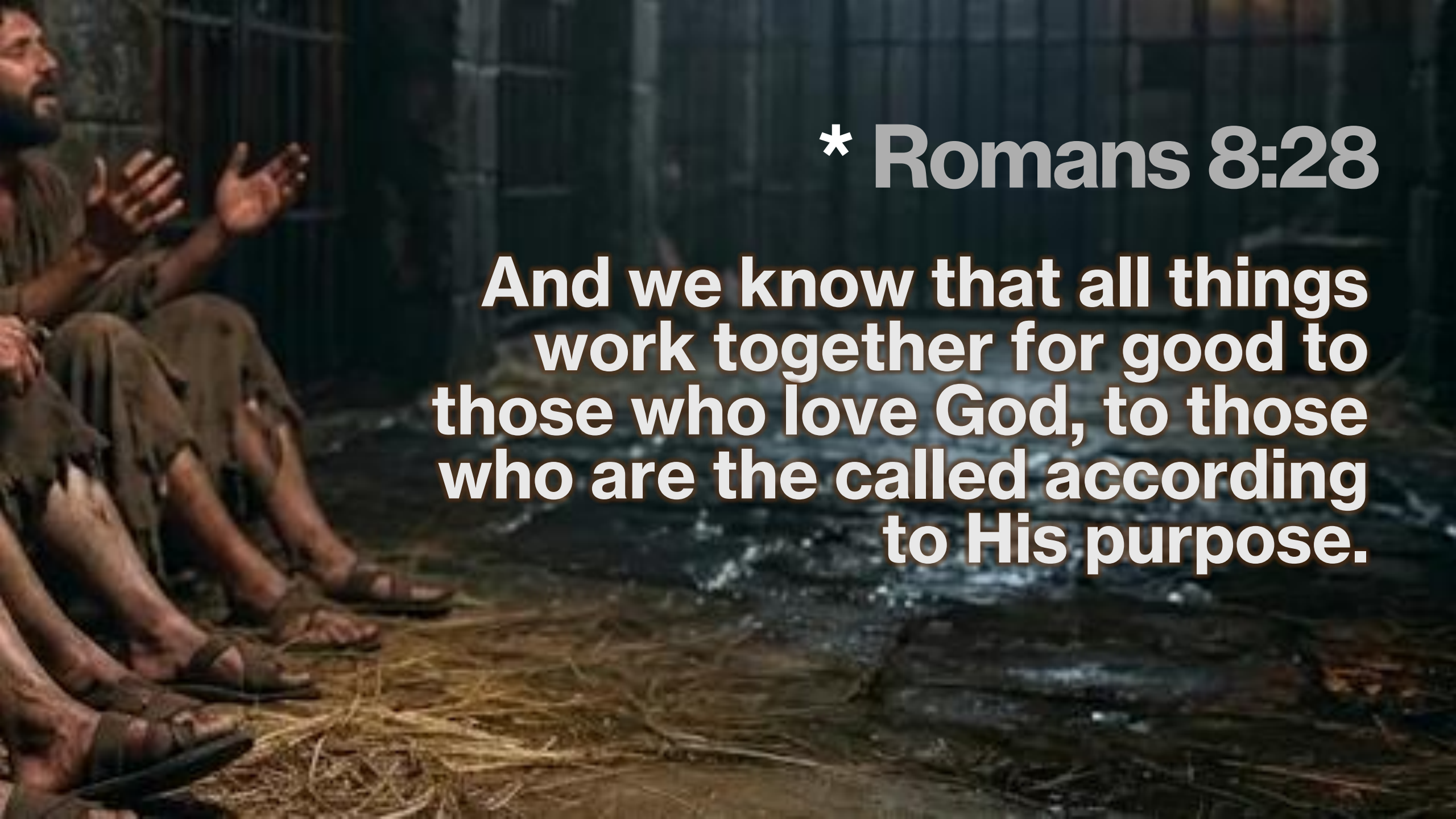
The Real Prison Was the Jailer's Heart

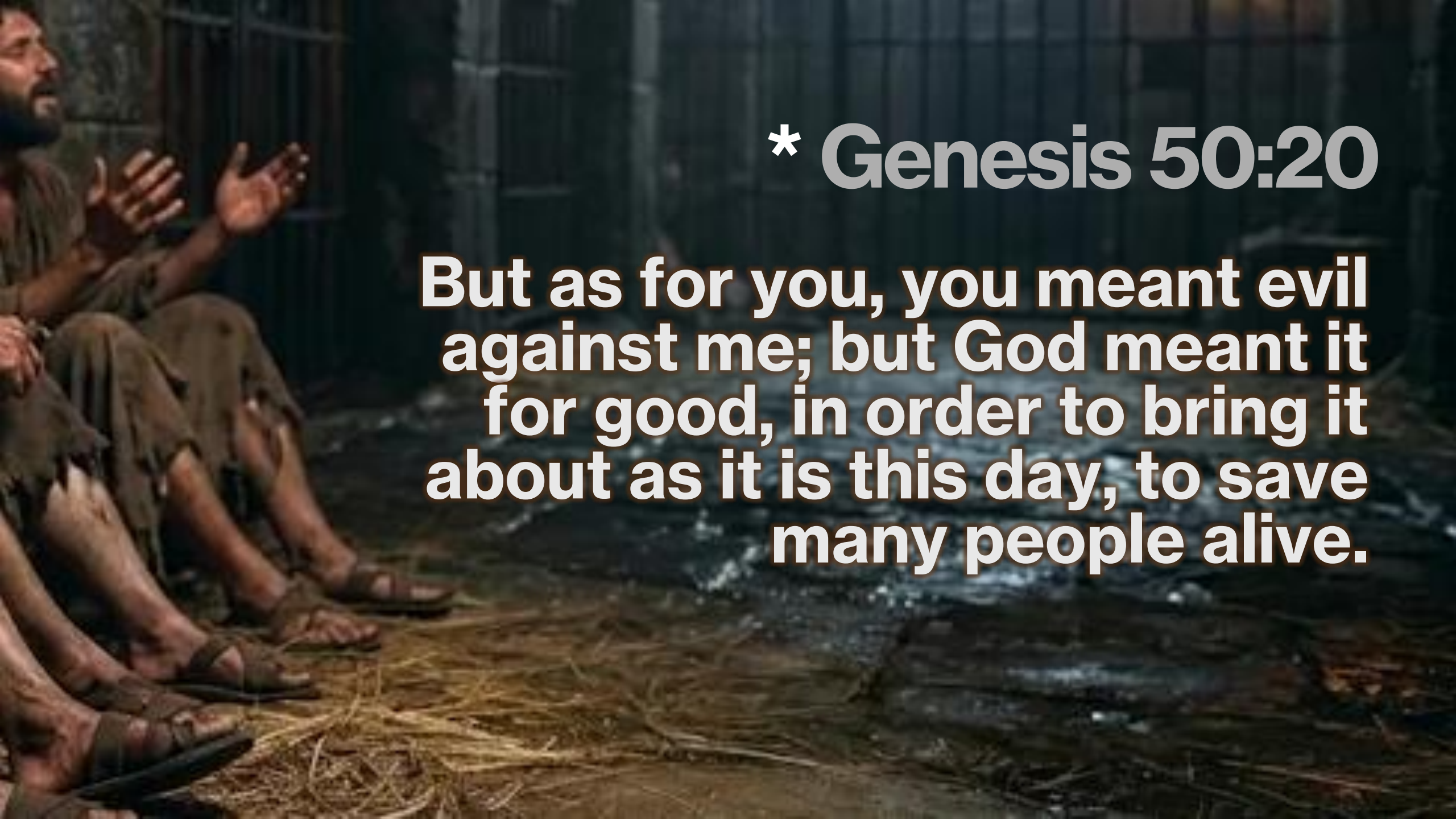

ACTS 16:30
“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

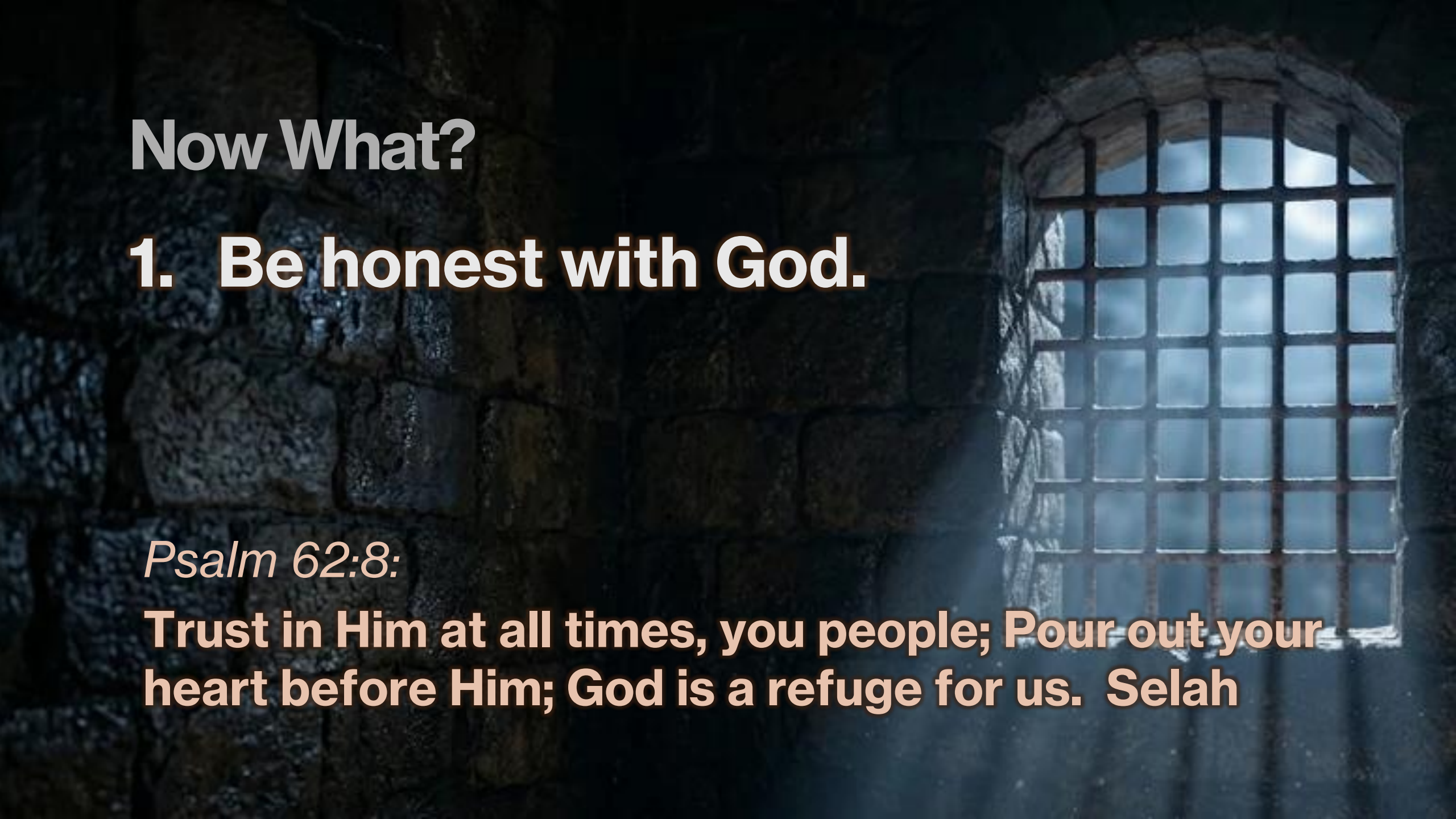

* ACTS 16:31
“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.”


ACTS 16:33-34


What if Paul and Silas spent the night complaining?


* Romans 8:28
And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.


* Genesis 50:20
But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

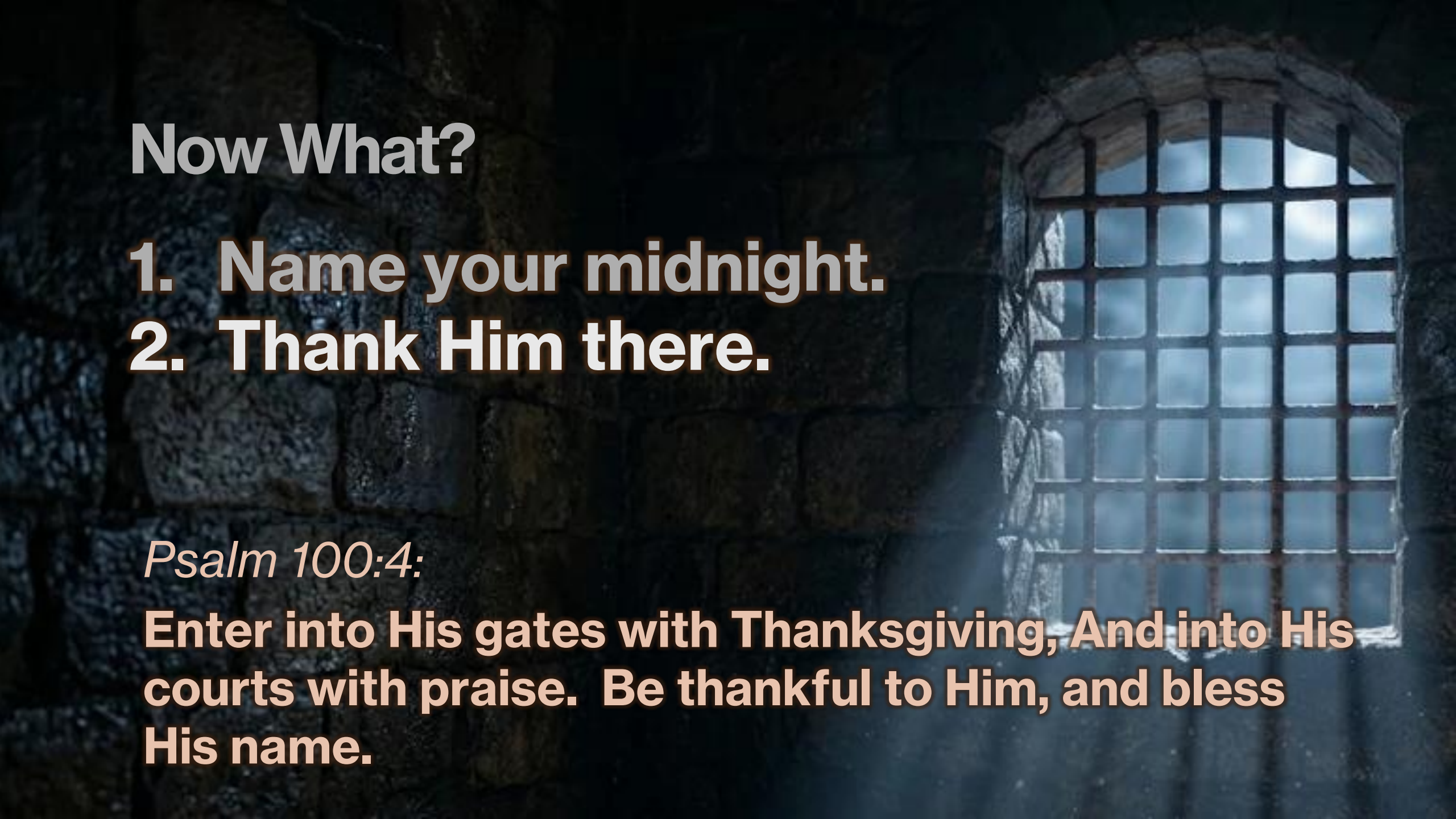


Now What?

1. Be honest with God.

Psalm 62:8:

Trust in Him at all times, you people; Pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah



Now What?

1. Name your midnight.
2. Thank Him there.

Psalm 100:4:

Enter into His gates with Thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.

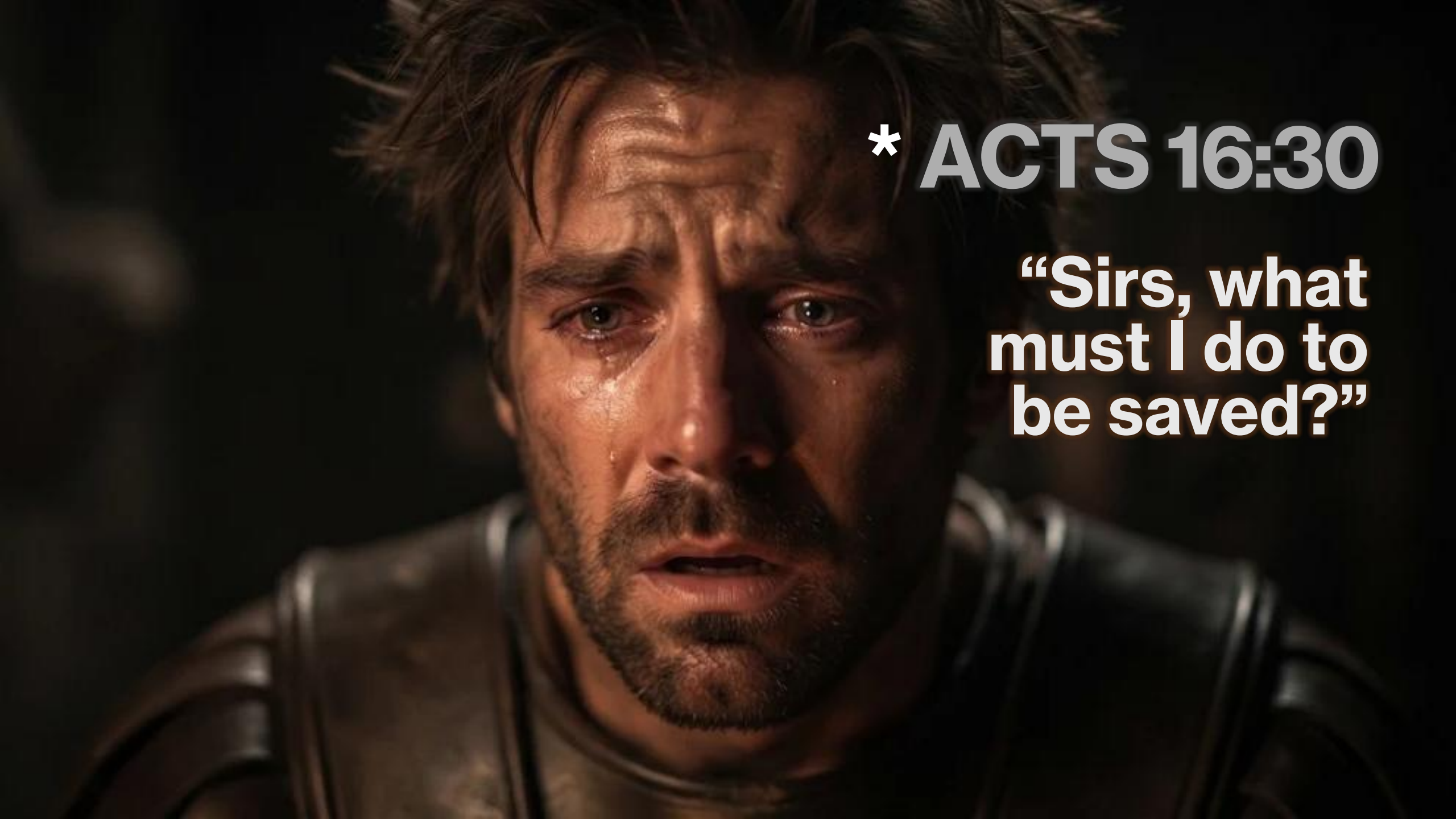
* Now What?

1. Name your midnight.
2. Thank Himi there.
3. Sing, even if no one is listening.



Colossians 3:16

...*sing* **psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**


* ACTS 16:30
“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”


THANKSGIVING
AT MIDNIGHT