

# The Sermon No One Wants to Hear





The German magazine AutoBild drives various cars for 100k kilometers and then disassembled them down to the last screw to find signs of wear and weak points.

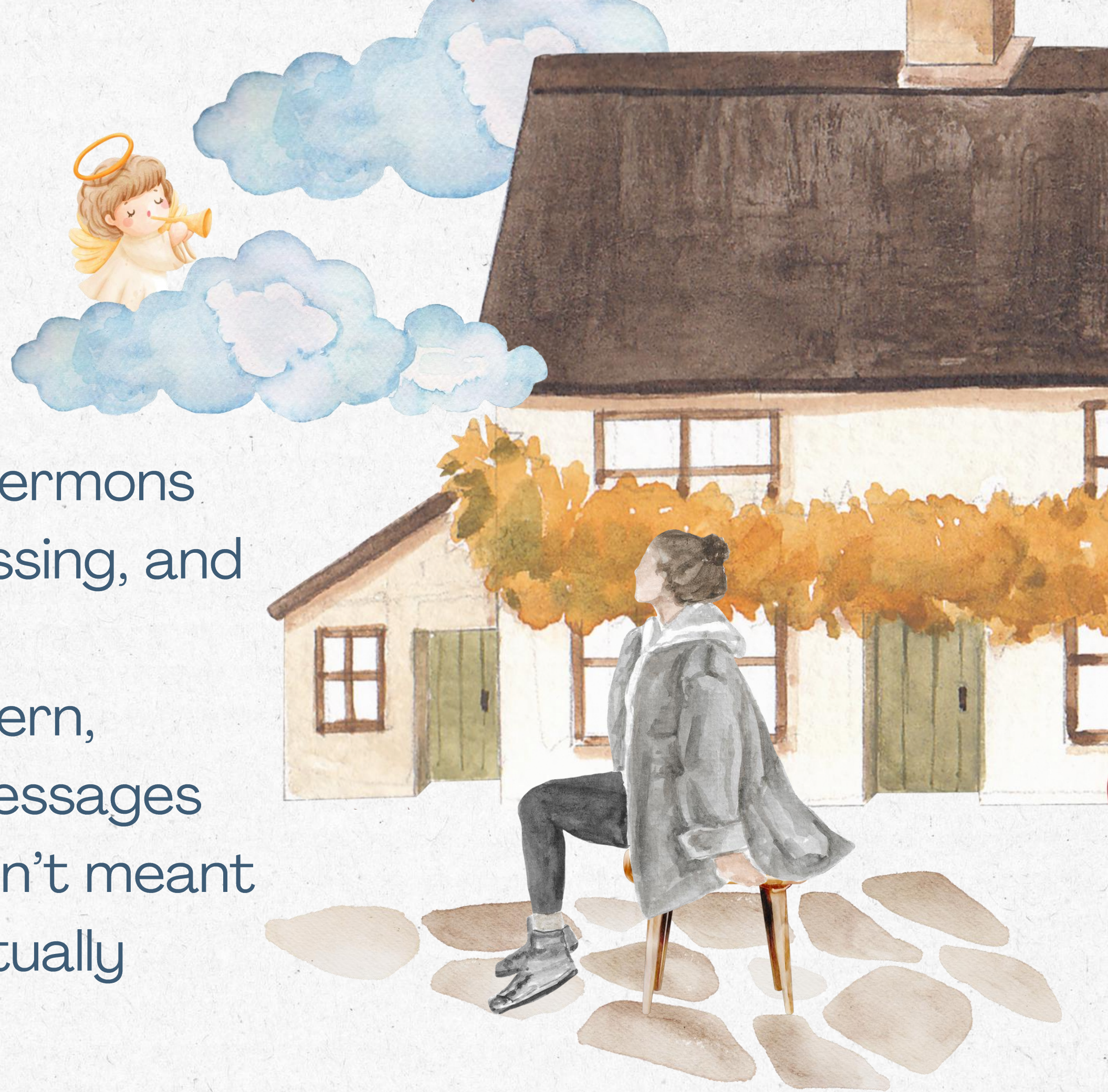


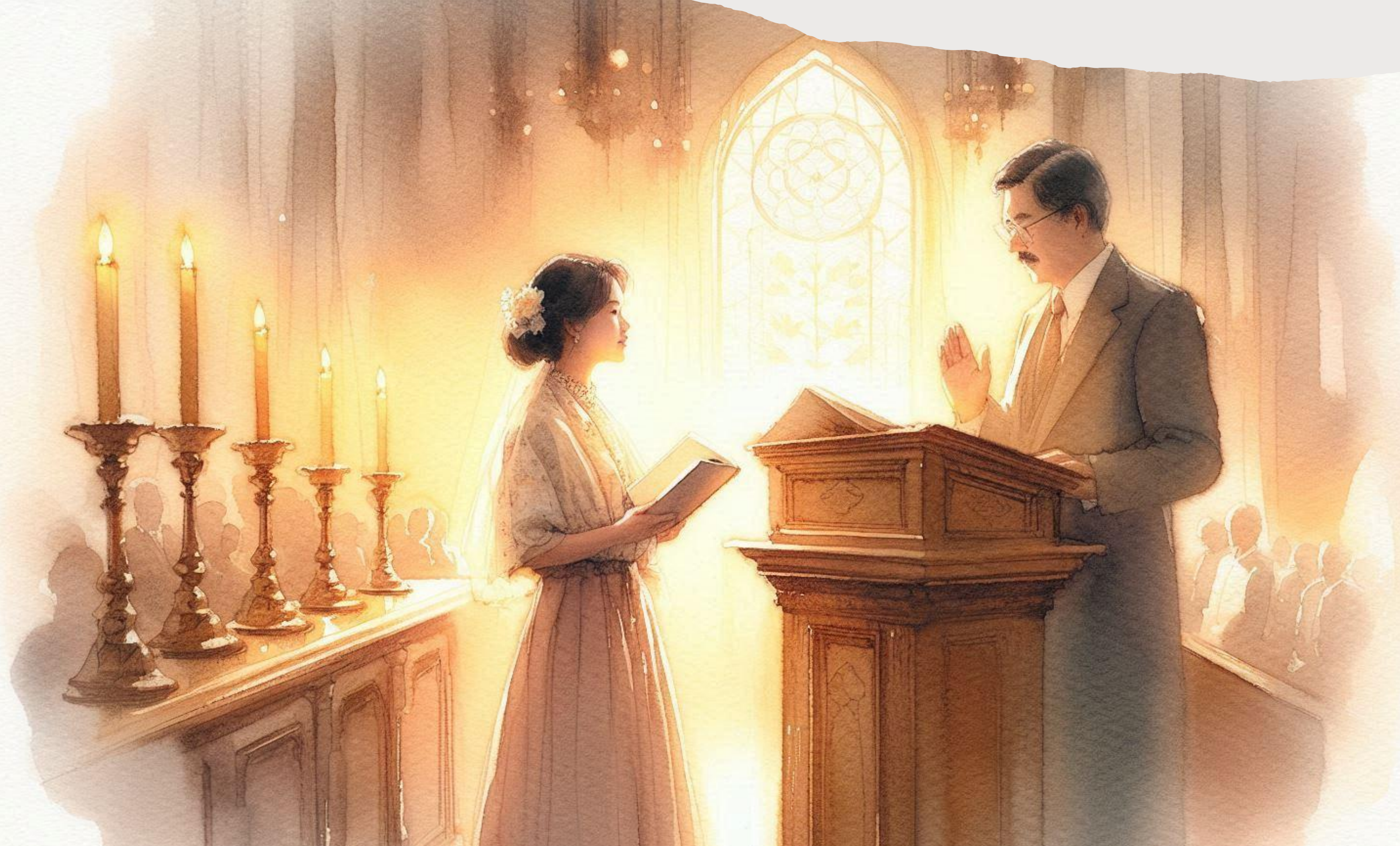
# Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

# I. The comfort trap

While we gravitate towards sermons about grace, forgiveness, blessing, and abundance, we tend to avoid messages that confront modern, comfortable Christian life. Messages that convey following Jesus isn't meant to be easy, popular, or perpetually pleasant.





“We need to have our toe stepped on sometimes.”



# What is the single most unwanted truth in modern Christianity?

It's the message of Self-Denial and Sacrifice.



# Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

*This verse dismantles the framework of comfortable Christianity.*



# Luke 1:1-4

While his exact identity is not known, the title "most excellent" suggests he was an important person, possibly a Roman official or a person of high social standing. Some scholars also suggest Theophilus could be a patron who commissioned the work.



**Birth of John the Baptist : Luke 1:5-25**



# Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him **deny himself**, and take up his cross, and follow me.

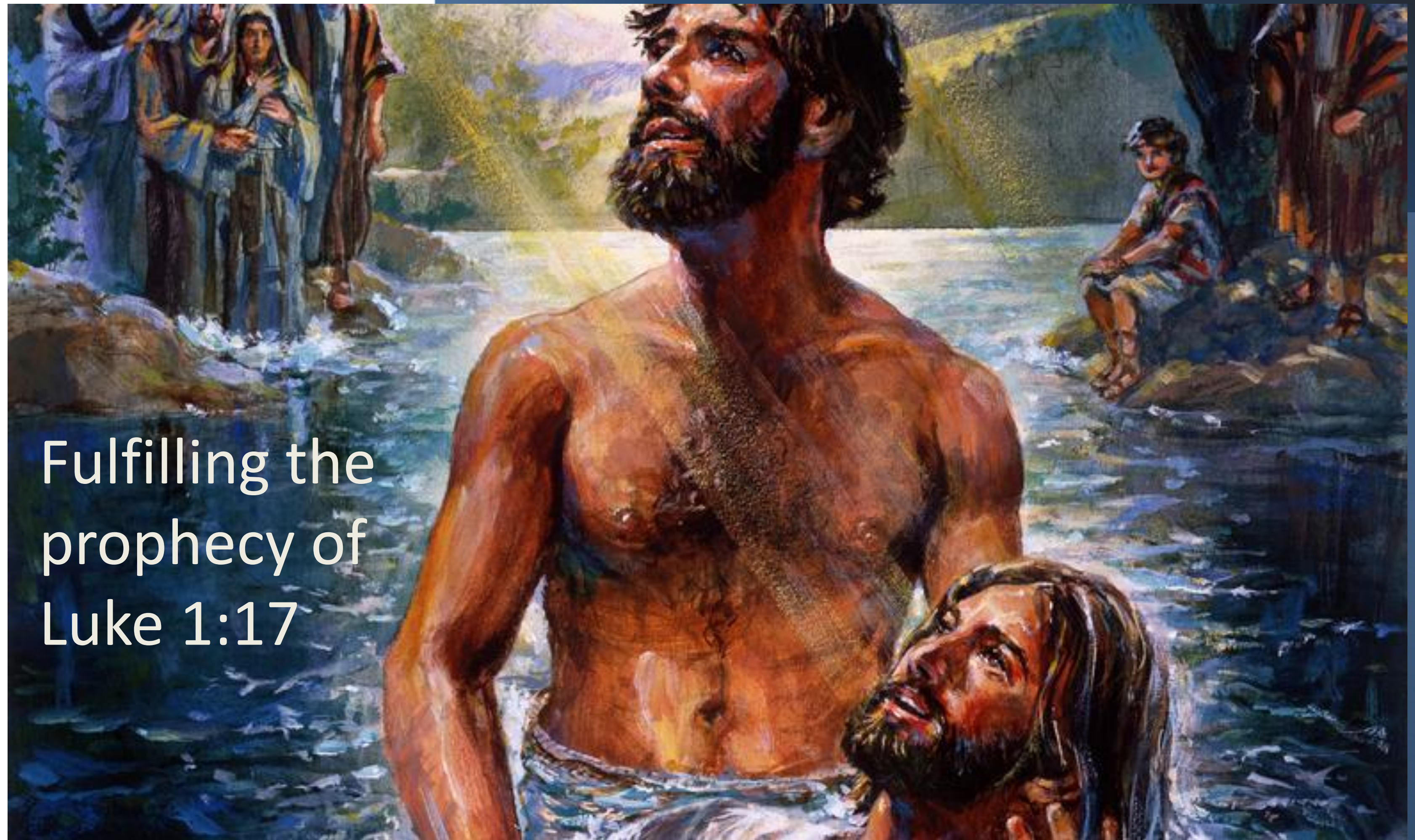
# II. The Harsh Command to Deny Self



Denying self means acknowledging that the throne of your life is already occupied by the rightful King, and your job is to serve, not rule.

## THIS MEANS DENYING:

- **THE RIGHT TO BITTERNESS:** Forgiving the unforgivable, because Christ forgave you.
- **THE RIGHT TO APATHY:** We must become interested in others.
- **THE RIGHT TO COMFORT:** Choosing the harder, righteous path, instead of the easier, self-serving one.
- **THE RIGHT TO PRIVACY:** Living transparently, open to accountability, even when it is embarrassing.



Fulfilling the  
prophecy of  
Luke 1:17



# Luke 3:18

And with many other exhortations he preached to the people.



## Luke 3:19

But Herod the tetrarch, being rebuked by him concerning Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, and for all the evils which Herod had done,



# Luke 3:20

also added this, above all,  
that he shut John up in  
prison.



# Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples. “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross**, and follow me.

# III. The Weight of the Cross



In the first century, the cross was not jewelry; it was a torture device. It was an unmistakable symbol of public shame, excruciating suffering, and impending death.



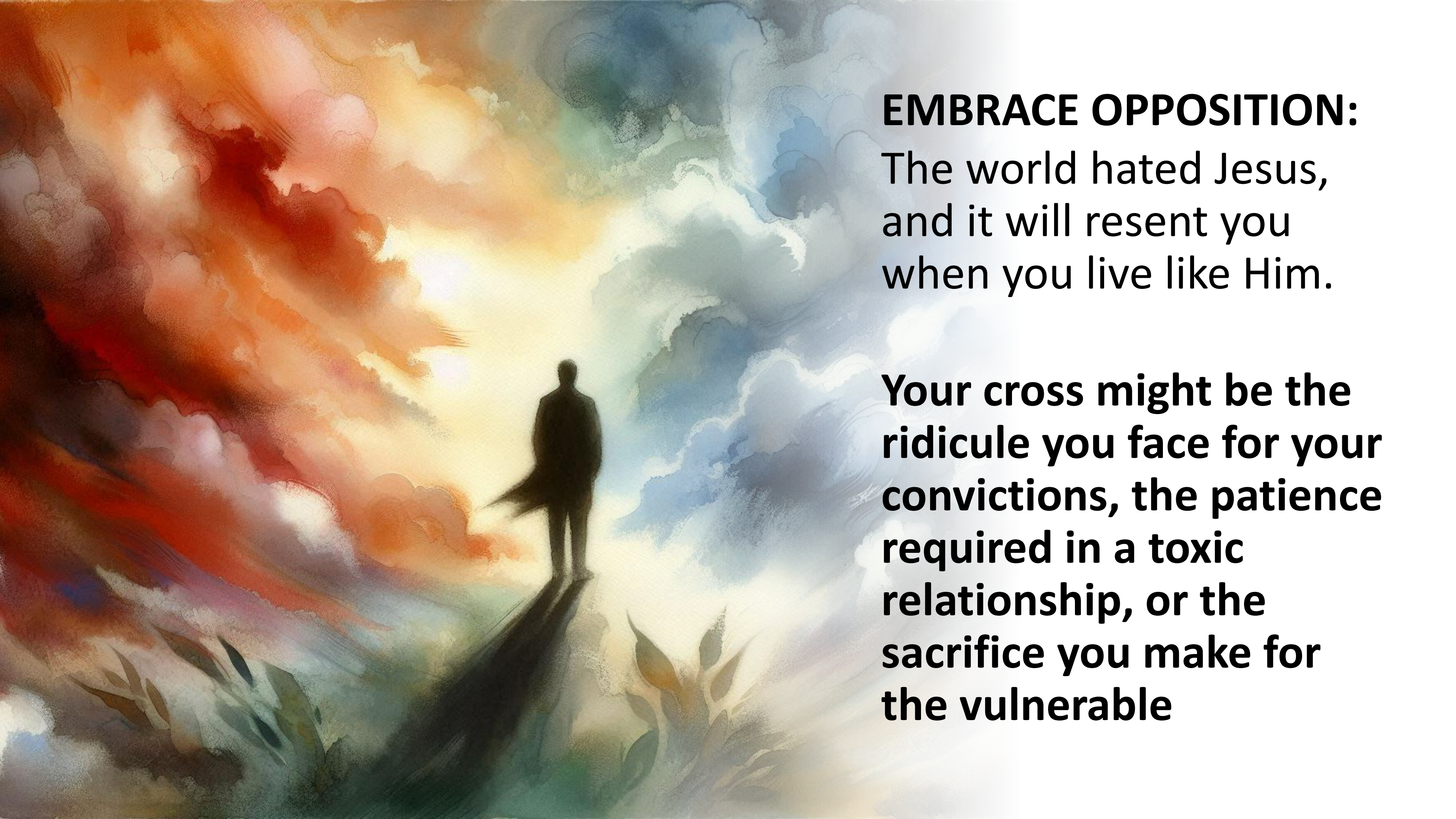
What did it mean for Jesus to carry His cross?

## **ACCEPT SUFFERING:**

Not as punishment,  
but as the inevitable  
reality of living  
righteously in a  
broken world.

**The cross is the place  
where our will meets  
God's will and  
submits.**





## **EMBRACE OPPOSITION:**

The world hated Jesus,  
and it will resent you  
when you live like Him.

**Your cross might be the  
ridicule you face for your  
convictions, the patience  
required in a toxic  
relationship, or the  
sacrifice you make for  
the vulnerable**

## **PREPARE FOR DEATH:**

The cross is the death of the old self.

**The sermon that no one wants to hear is the one that reminds us that there is no shortcut past the cross to get to the resurrection.**





# Matthew 14:5

And although he wanted to put him to death, he feared the multitude, because they counted him as a prophet.



Prompted by her mother, and because of those who sat,  
Herodias' daughter danced for the head of John the Baptist.



# Matthew 14:11

And his head was brought on a platter and given to the girl, and she brought *it* to her mother.



# Matthew 14:12

Then his disciples came and took away the body and buried it, and went and told Jesus.



Why would anyone follow a path that demands self-denial and cross carrying?



# Matthew 16:24

Then Jesus said to His disciples. "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and **follow me.**"



# Matthew 16:25

For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

# The Sermon That No One Wants to Hear

is ultimately the  
sermon everyone  
needs to hear.





# Matthew 11:11

“Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

# Communion

Remembering His sacrifice.



Benevolence offering at close of service

# The Sermon No One Wants to Hear

