

AT THE FEET
OF
JESUS

Matthew 5





**It is very difficult for the
human race to get along.**

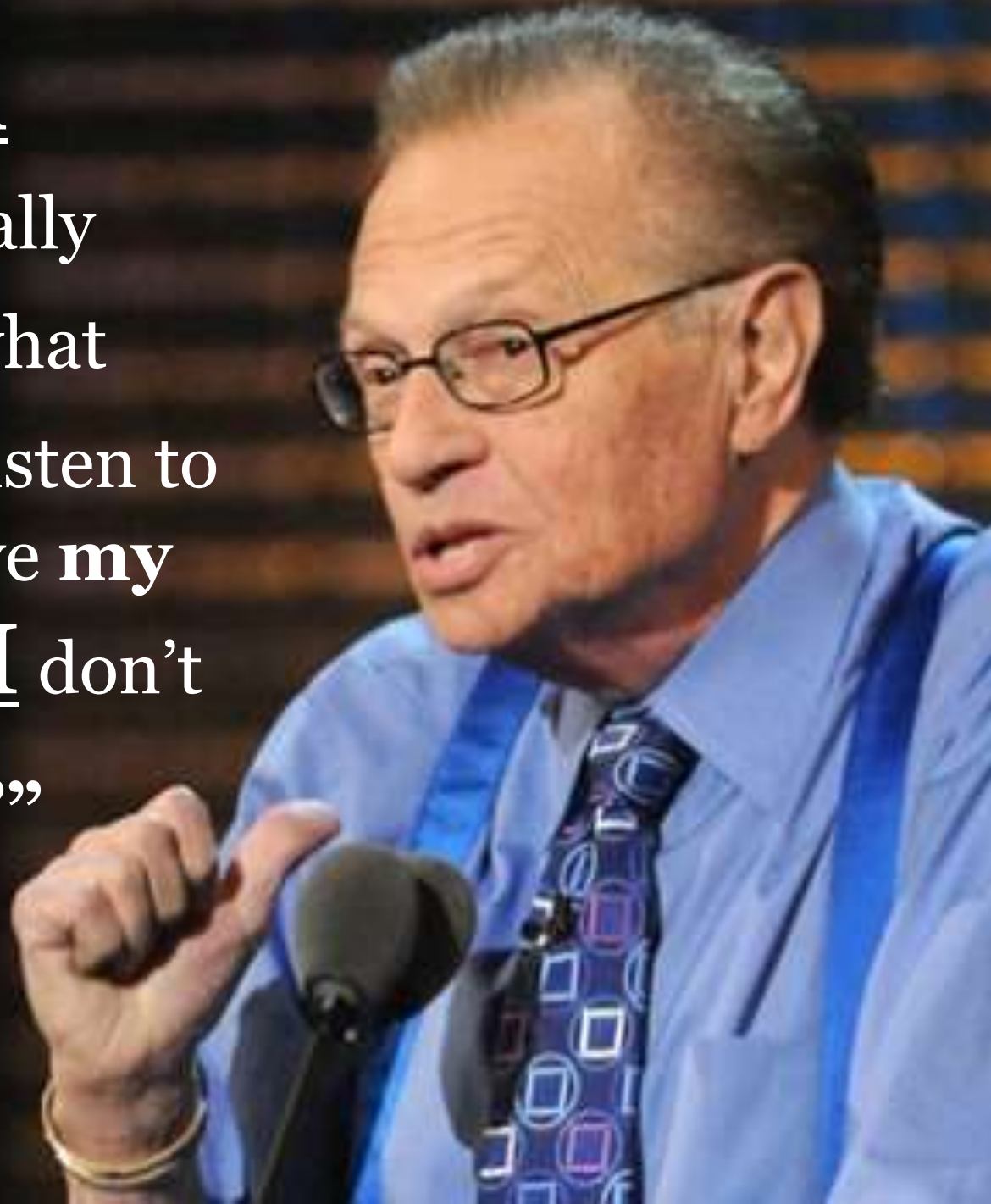


**Human beings are talented at
destroying relationships and they
don't know where to turn ...**

I ❤️ ME



King said, “I’m
sincere. I’m really
curious. I care what
people think. I listen to
answers and leave my
ego at the door. I don’t
use the word ‘I.’”





HOLY
BIBLE

“Walking” ...

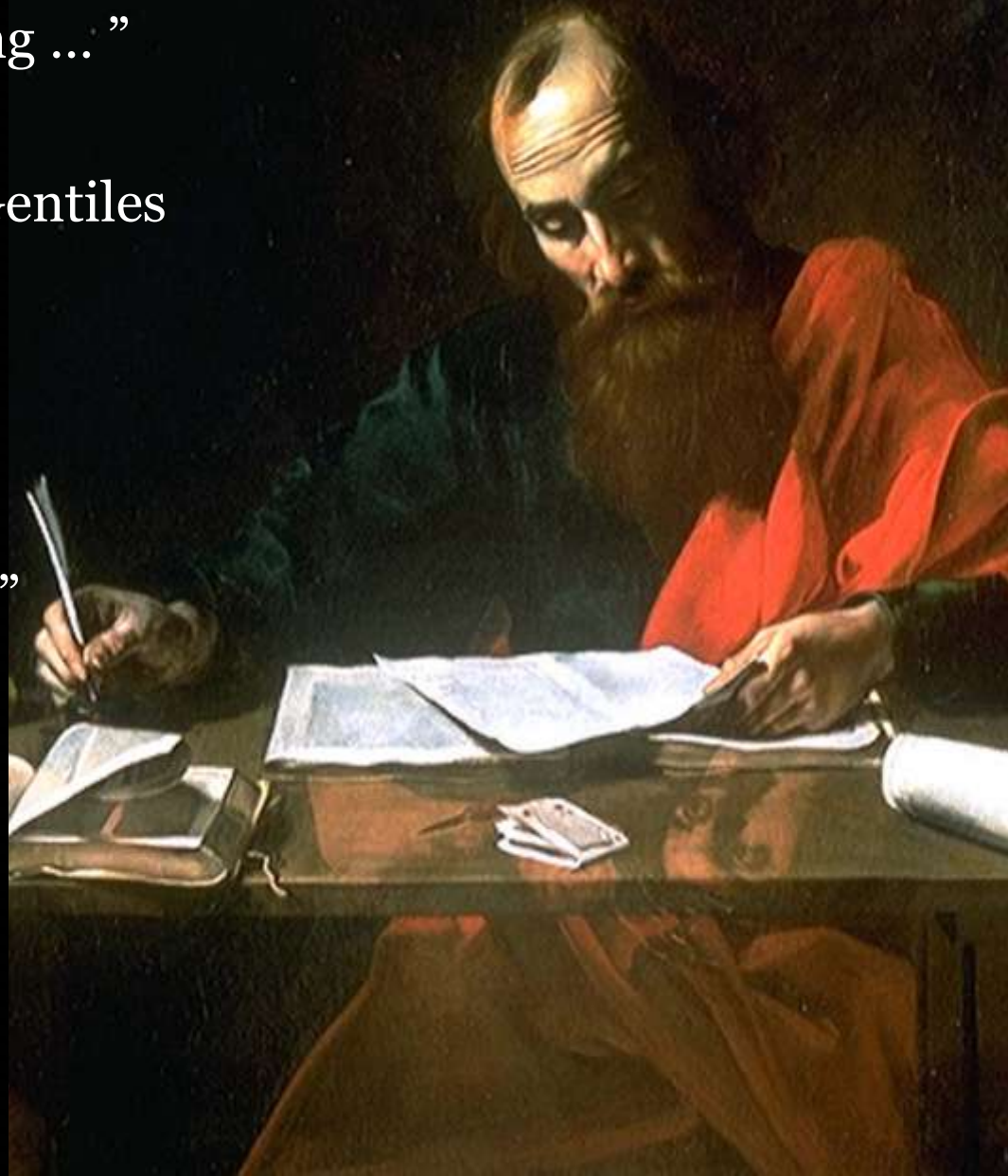
4:1: “walk worthy of the calling ...”

4:17: “walk no longer as the Gentiles walk”

5:2: “walk in love”

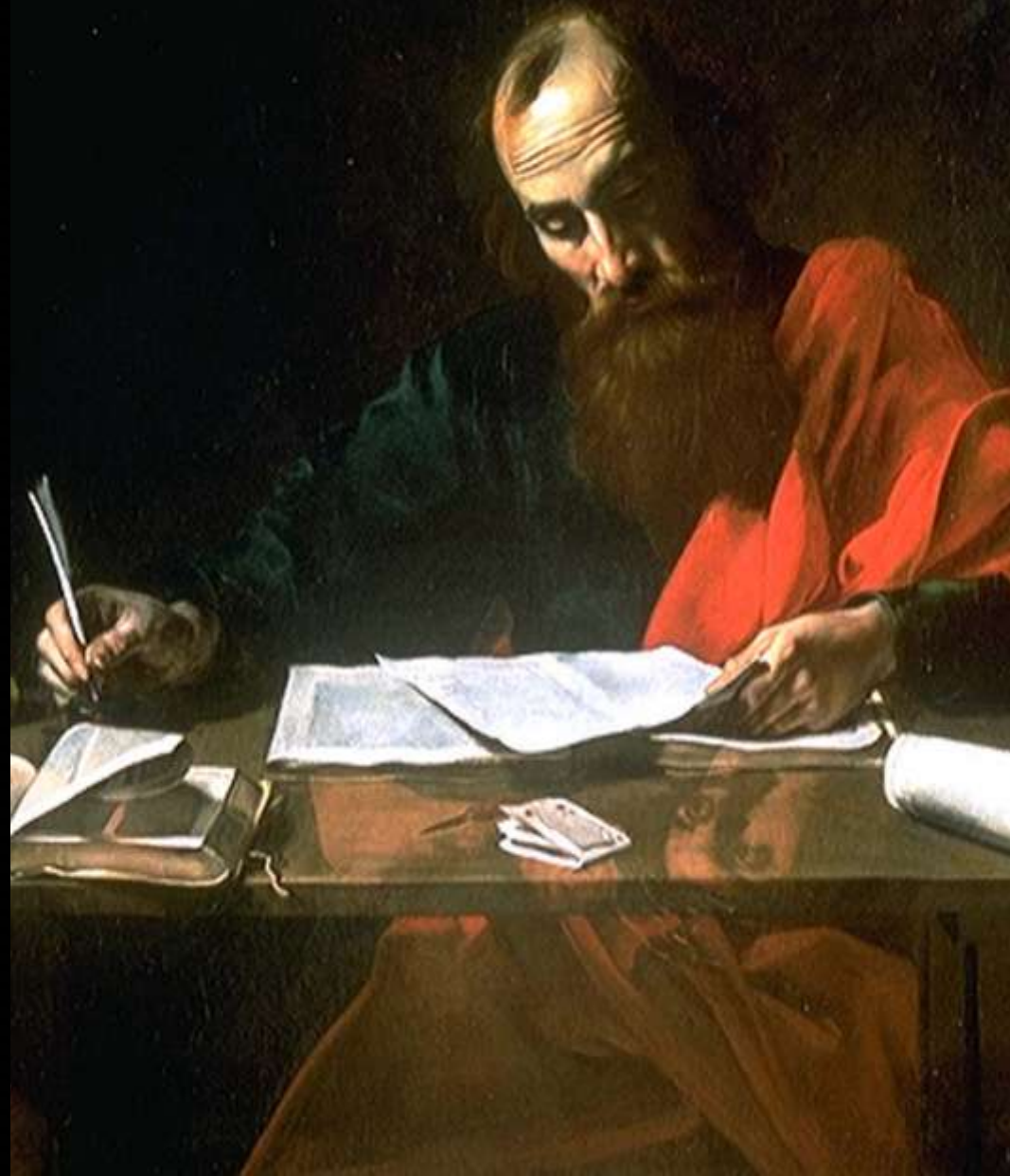
5:8: “walk as children of light”

5:15: “be careful how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise”



Ephesians 5:2 ...

- Ephesians 5:2,
“περιπατεῖτε ἐν ἀγάπῃ
...”
- “... καθὼς ὁ Χριστὸς
ἠγάπησεν ...”
- *Walk like this:*
 - 1) Sacrificially as Christ,
 - 2) in practical, loving obedience (vv.3-6)



**Walking as Jesus Walked
Means Hearing What
Jesus Taught.**



AT THE FEET OF JESUS

A master ethics class taught by the master teacher.

This is Christianity 101

- all other descriptions will be extrapolation or commentary on what Jesus says.

Context.

**“For I desire mercy
(τὴν steadfast love) and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather
than burnt offerings.”**

- Hosea 6:6



“Blessings on those who are
Spiritually
impoverished
(πτωχοὶ τῷ πνεύματι).”

- Matthew 5:3



“Blessed are...”

- Hebrew אֲשֶׁר Psalm 32:2

- Greek μακάριος,

“Blessed *are* ...” ?

“Happy *are* ... “?

Jesus is doing more than stating facts!

**“Blessings on...” because Jesus
came to *deliver* help!**



God Helps Those Who Cannot Help Themselves.

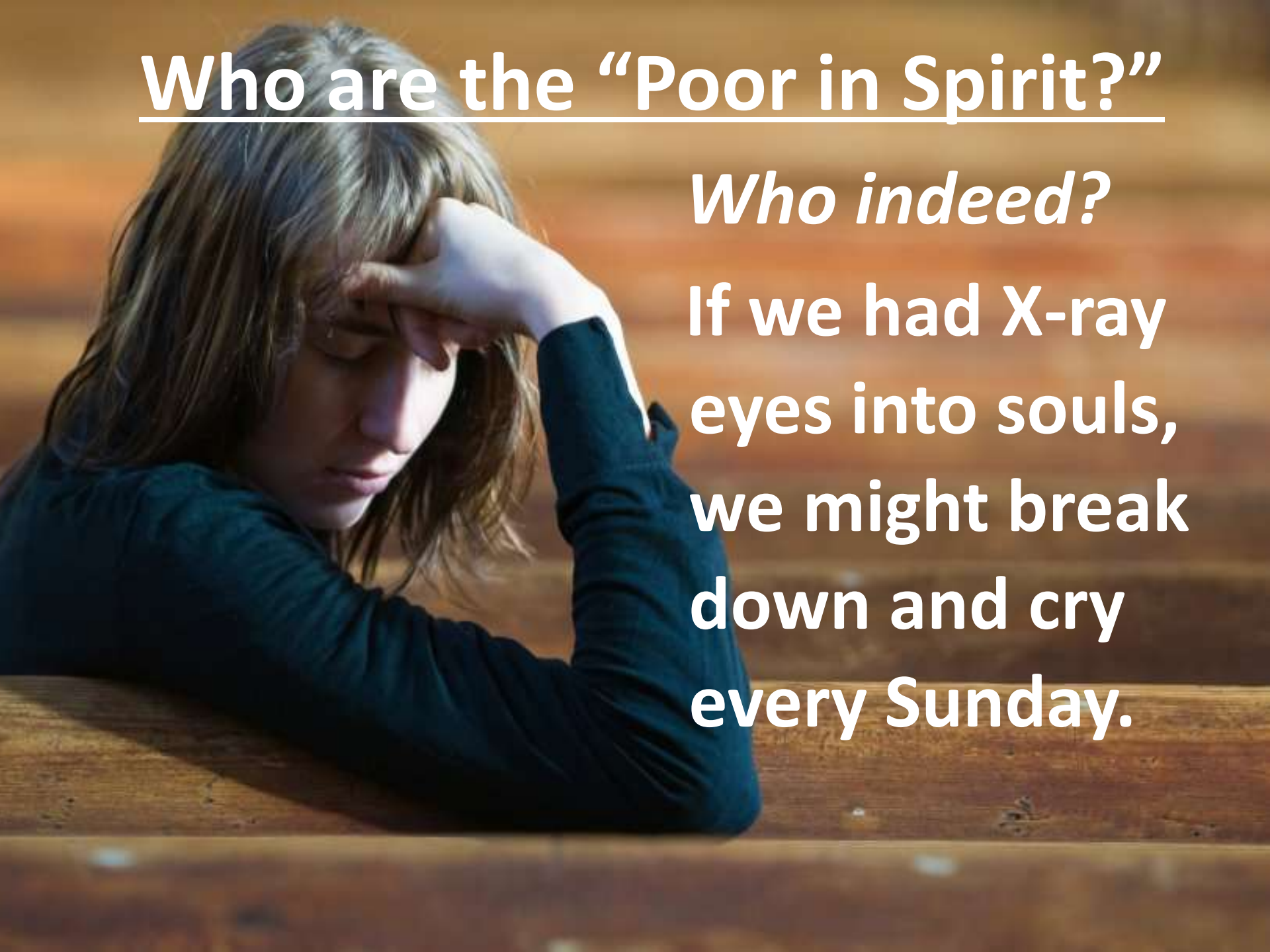
- The Son of God simply blesses broken people.
- Jesus blesses *empty* people, who, in the world's opinion, do not measure up - “failures,” broken.



Who are the “Poor in Spirit?”

Who indeed?

If we had X-ray eyes into souls, we might break down and cry every Sunday.



AT THE FEET
OF
JESUS

**The Seven
Commmands,**

5:17-48

Deserving of the same attn as the Ten Commandments

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.”

- Matthew 5:17-18





Command #1:
Believe Deeply in Scripture

- ... Jesus here tells us we are to take scripture very seriously.

“Believe Deeply in Scripture!”

- Are you in hearing the Words of Jesus, Paul, Scripture *daily*?
- Are you among God's people *each week*?
- How else will you grow? Walk correctly?
- Without these your beliefs become bizarre and Christian life will wither and die.





**“A BIBLE THAT’S
FALLING APART
USUALLY BELONGS TO
SOMEONE WHO ISN’T.”**

CHARLES SPURGEON

“... came to fill the Law full!”

- Jesus “came” (*how strange!*) *not just to preach the Law with brilliance, but to “fulfill” (ἀλλά πληρῶσαι, exclusively Christological verb) - it with obedience.*
- Jesus’ disciples are asked to keep these commands in rich obedience.



“Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

- Matthew 5:19



**being “Great” = being a
personal translation of
Scripture!**



So, your “exceeding righteousness” 5:20 is

- To have Jesus' heart for the underprivileged (5:1-6; 8:1-17)
- To desire mercy not sacrifice (9:13; 12:7)
- To care (5:21-48; 22:34-40)
- To become as little ones (18:1-5; 19:14)
- To develop humility (2:8-12)
- To suffer for righteousness (10:16-39)
- This results in “greatness”, 5:48



Command #2: Never Feed Your Anger

- ... How easy are you to live with? Work with?
- Do people see Jesus through you?

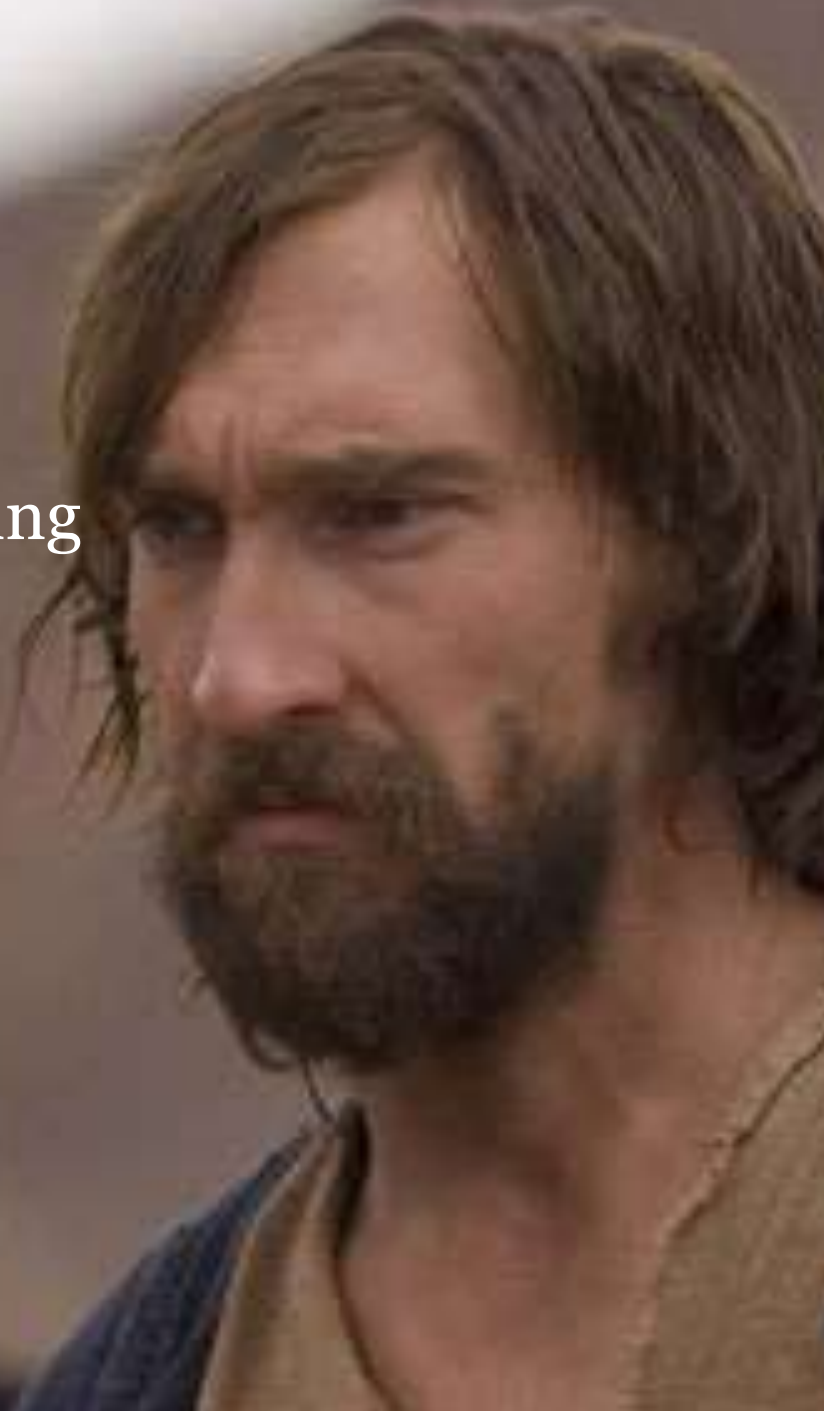


v.21-22, “You have heard ...; But I say ...”

“But I say to you.”

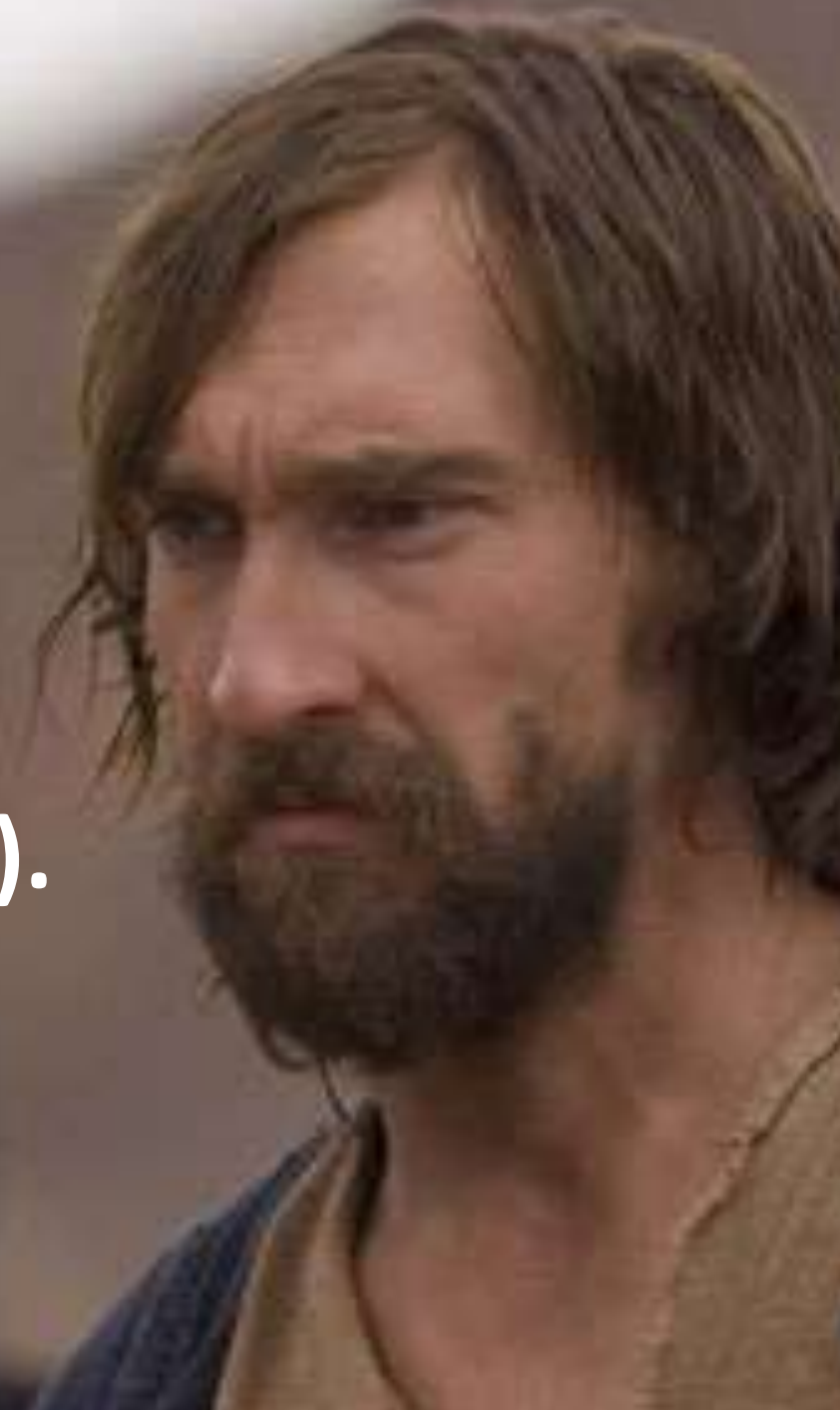
The audacity! He's not comparing himself to another man, He's comparing himself to the Ten Commandments!

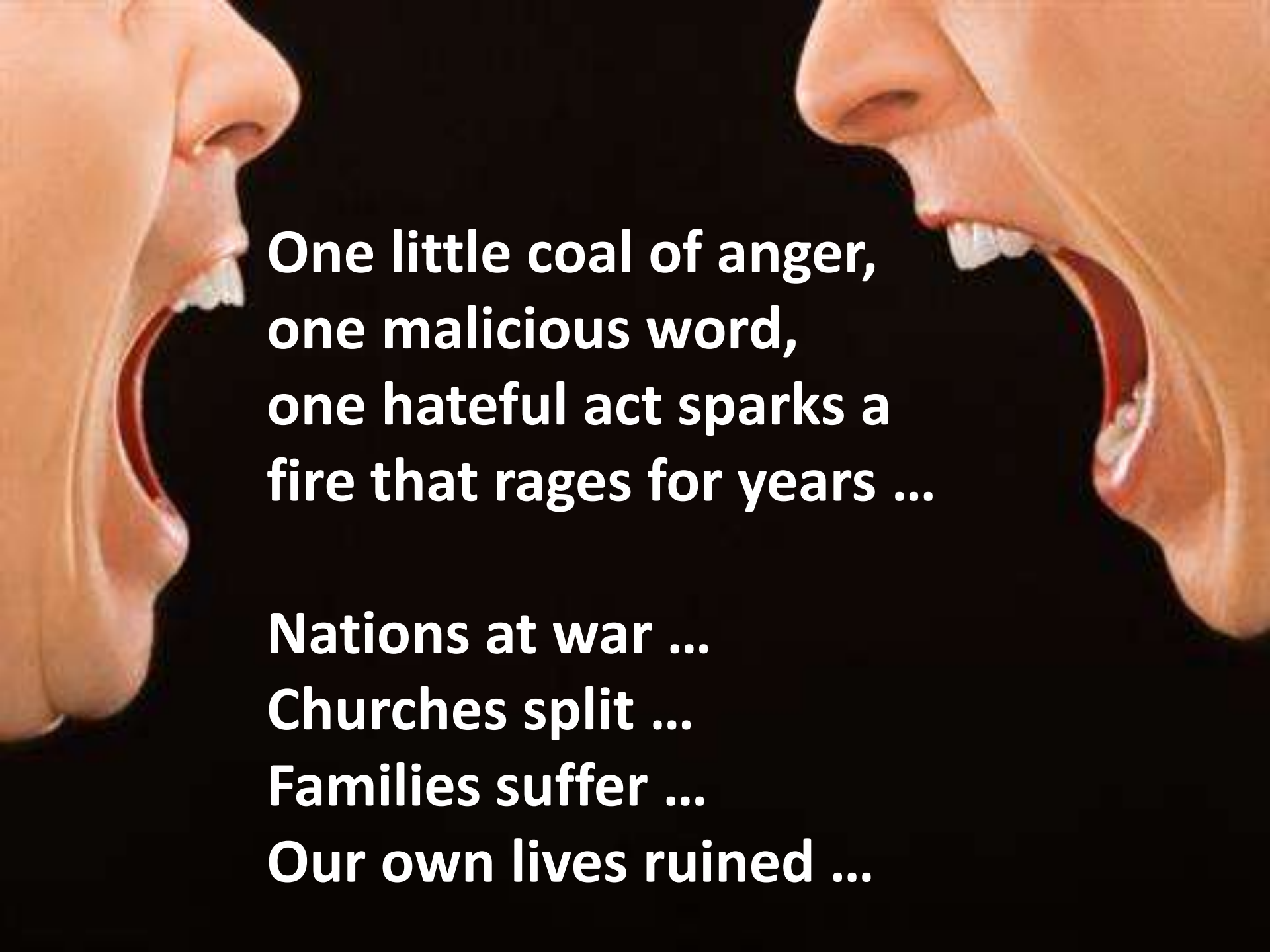
Jesus cites OT Word of God and then says, “ Ἐγὼ δὲ λέγω!”
Who does he think he is?



**v.21-22, “You have heard of
'no murder'; But I say your
anger will lead to your
Judgment ...”**

- ***Goal:* anger-free
relationships (21-22)
with brothers (23-24)
and opponents (25-26).**





**One little coal of anger,
one malicious word,
one hateful act sparks a
fire that rages for years ...**

Nations at war ...

Churches split ...

Families suffer ...

Our own lives ruined ...





**“Don't make me angry.
You wouldn't like me
when I'm angry.”**



**No One
Likes You
When You Are
Angry.**



Anger Blinds You

- **“Thymos blazes, but
orge is carried.”** *Do not
carry or nurse your anger.*

Anger is often involuntary
(Matt 18:15). ***What will
we do with it?***

Two examples: 5:22b

- Rhaka – mental incompetence (“idiot”)
- Moros – moral incompetence (“jerk”)
- A Last-Judgment and Hell-deserving crime!



- ***Another Christian is, by definition, and by baptism, a real brother and sister whether we like it or not, whether we are happy with God's adoption policies or not.***





5:23-24

Note “*anything*” (τίς), and “*swiftly*” (πρῶτον).

Much damage is averted with this pair of little steps (Eph.4:26).



Command #3: Practice Purity

- ... Do you put any impure things before your eyes?



- 5:27-30. “is staring...”
“the leering look”
- *Is it worth the trouble you are in?*
- **To look** at an attractive person is a drive given in creation; **to stare** is a drive given at the fall of creation.
- Looking “with,” and looking “in order to” (πρὸς τὸ ἐπιθυμῆσαι).
- Also, *inciting*.
- The need of immediate surgery!



Command #4:

**Love Your Spouse As If Your
Life Depended On It!**

- Are you a *faithful, invested, and engaged* spouse?



v.31-32, “You have heard Moses allowed free divorce; But I say, divorce except for adultery is adultery.”


- After foolish anger, this is culture's most pervasive sin.
- *We are not to be animals.*
- Jesus hurts our feelings!!! There are some people who are divorced that ***should not be remarried to some one else.*** Some are ***living in adulterous relationships.***
- There can be forgiveness if one ceases the adulterous activity/relationship.





Controversy!

- The battle over interpreting Deut 24, between Rabbis Shammai and Hillel.
- Hillel - “some indecency”
- Shammai stressed “some indecency” 'ervath, “nakedness.”
- Aqiba stressed “favor,” meaning “if she no longer seemed beautiful to him.”
- Jesus sides with Shammai



Massachusetts
resident
Linnie
Kazarian had
a devoted and
loving wife.

Linnie's mother
was deathly ill
and was being
cared for by his
wife.

But Linnie was unfaithful ...

CHEATING HUSBAND

While his devoted wife was taking care of his sick Mother, Linnie was having affairs with two women at the same time.

(Luann & Vivian)





The Matthean Exception: 5:32

- *Divorce is like a Shakespearean tragedy! There are three dead or dying persons on stage: the divorcing husband, the mortally wounded wife, the encroaching new man. Dead bodies lying all over.*
- **Jesus is simply underlining how divorce is normally against the will of God and remarriage should be extremely rare.**

The background of the slide is a photograph of an open, antique book. The pages are aged and yellowed, with faint, handwritten text in a cursive script. The book is open to two pages, and the binding is visible in the center. In the foreground, a pair of worn, brown leather sandals with straps is resting on the surface of the book. The lighting is warm, creating a golden glow across the scene.

Command #5:
Guard Your Speech!

5:33-37. “Do not swear at all (ὅλως)”

**v.37, “Let your word be
'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No';
anything more than this
comes from the evil one.”**

- Everything a
Christian says is
bound by an
invisible oath:
Honesty before God!



A Panama City, Fla
company held a
contest for its
employees ending
on April 1st



The employee
with the most
sales would win a
free Toyota!

Jody Berry won!



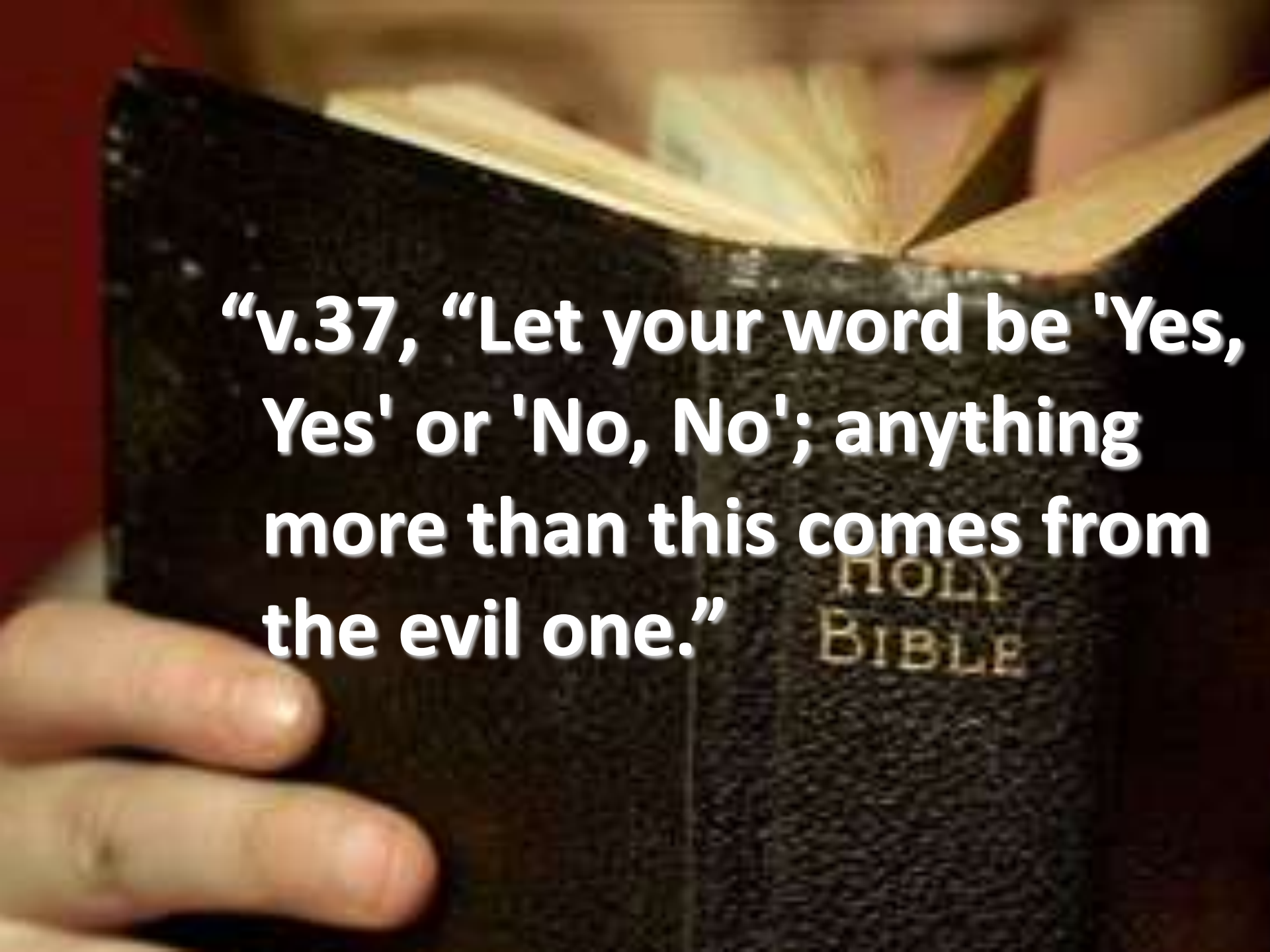
They gathered to reward her on April 1st ...



TOY YODA







“v.37, “Let your word be 'Yes, Yes' or 'No, No'; anything more than this comes from the evil one.”



Command #6:
Make Peace With Others

5:38-42, “Do not get even ...”



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- Verse 39, “do not resist” is poorly translated.

μη ἀντιστῆναι means

“**do not take revenge on.**”

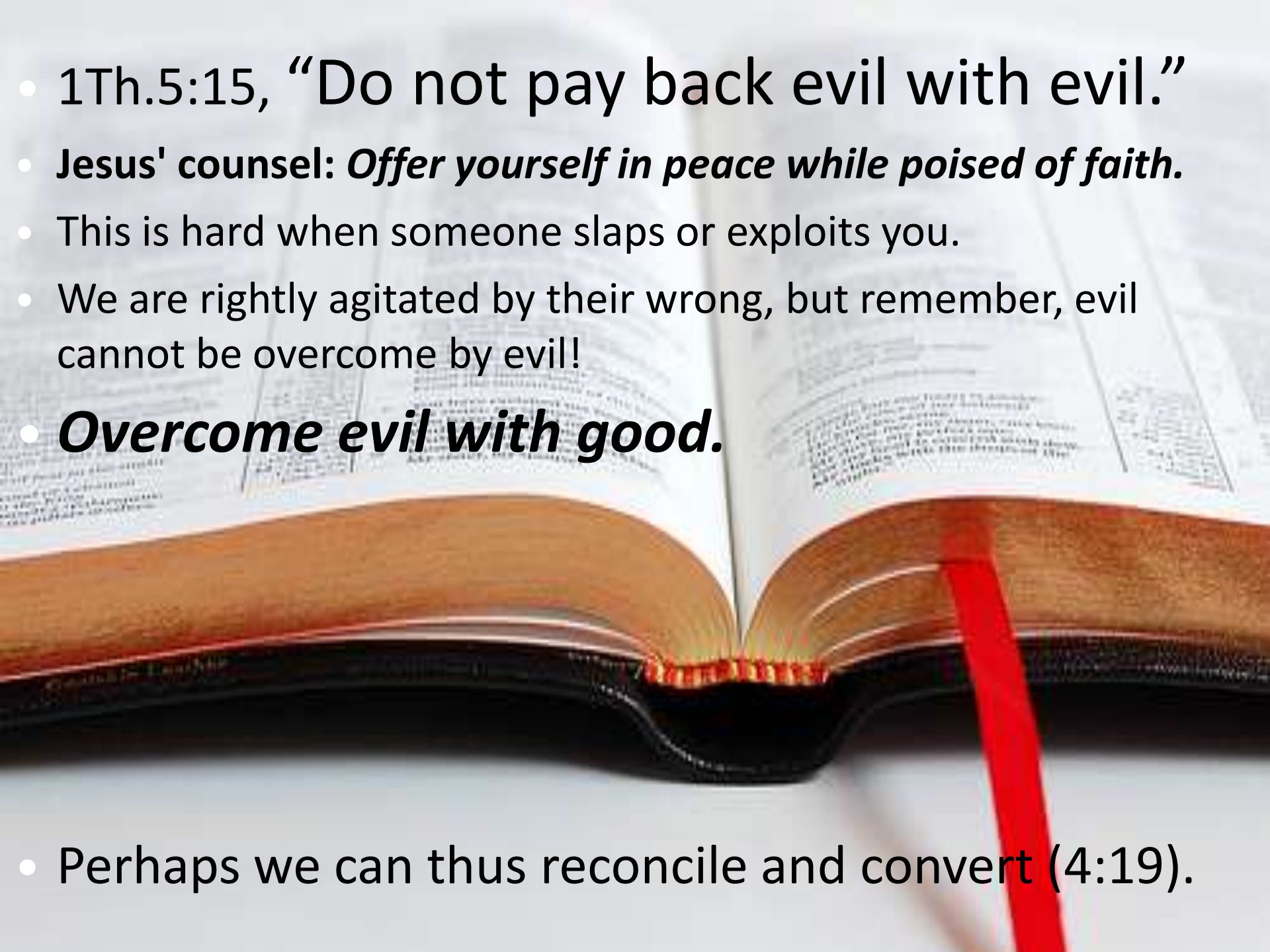
A still from a Western movie featuring John Wayne. He is in the foreground, wearing a dark blue uniform with a light-colored scarf and a wide-brimmed hat. He is riding a dark horse and looking towards the camera. In the background, other men in similar uniforms are riding horses, and there are white tents and a large rock formation under a clear blue sky.

John Wayne:
“Never apologize; never say you're
sorry. It's a sign of weakness.”
- *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*

Huckleberry Finn

Buck: “What's a feud?”

Huck Finn: “A feud is this way: A man quarrels with another, kills him; then that man's brother kills him; then the other brothers on boths sides goes for one another; and by and by everybody's killed off, and there ain't no more feud. But it's kind of slow, and takes a long time.”

- 
- An open book with a red bookmark is shown in the background. The pages are slightly blurred, and the red bookmark is prominent on the right side. The text of the book is visible but not legible.
- 1Th.5:15, “Do not pay back evil with evil.”
 - Jesus' counsel: *Offer yourself in peace while poised of faith.*
 - This is hard when someone slaps or exploits you.
 - We are rightly agitated by their wrong, but remember, evil cannot be overcome by evil!
 - ***Overcome evil with good.***

- Perhaps we can thus reconcile and convert (4:19).



Command #7:
Love Even Your Enemies!

Do you seek to overcome evil with good?

*Life is 10% of what happens to me
and 90% of how I react to it*

- John Maxwell



- **Mat 5:44, “But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”**
- The Jew would've thought of the tax collector and the Roman.
- Do our prayers often enough include intercession for persecutors?
- **The shortest route to the First Beatitude is to take Jesus' Last Command seriously.**

Jesus' Seven Commands Define Christian Living:

- **Treasure the Word**
- **Banish resentment**
- **Fight off lust like death**
- **Fight infidelity unwaveringly**
- **Seek to avoid disingenuous or hurtful speech**
- **Be undefensive and overcomers with good.**
- **Be aware of the ability to even love enemies.**
- v.48, "There must be no limit to your goodness, as your heavenly Father's goodness knows no bounds."

