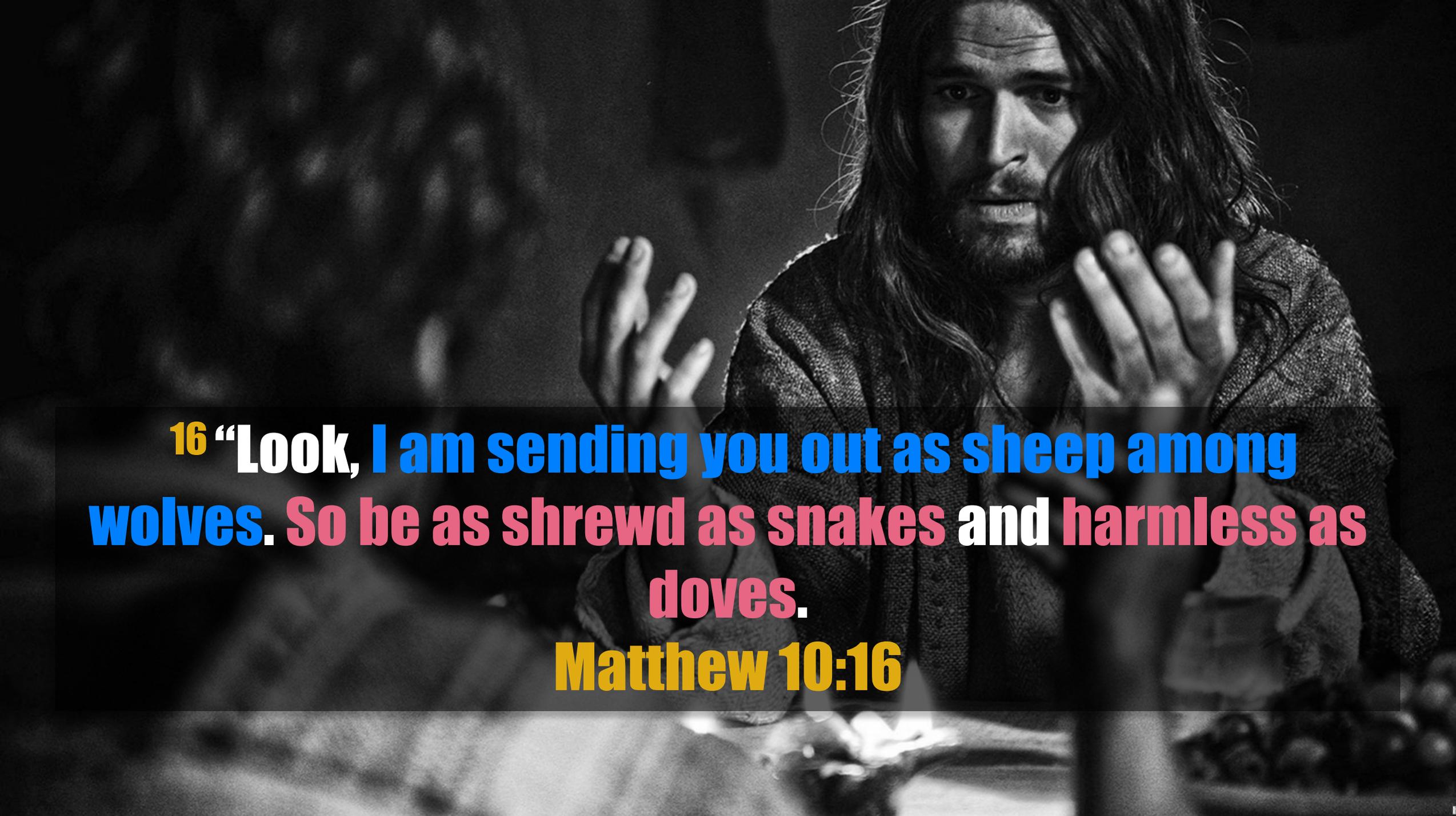




KINGDOM COMMANDS

23. BE SHREWD & HARMLESS



16 “**Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.**

Matthew 10:16

Preparation

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and *I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.*

Abraham Lincoln

The sacrifice of victory occurs years before the war begins. *Once the battle starts it is too late.*

Gen. George Patton

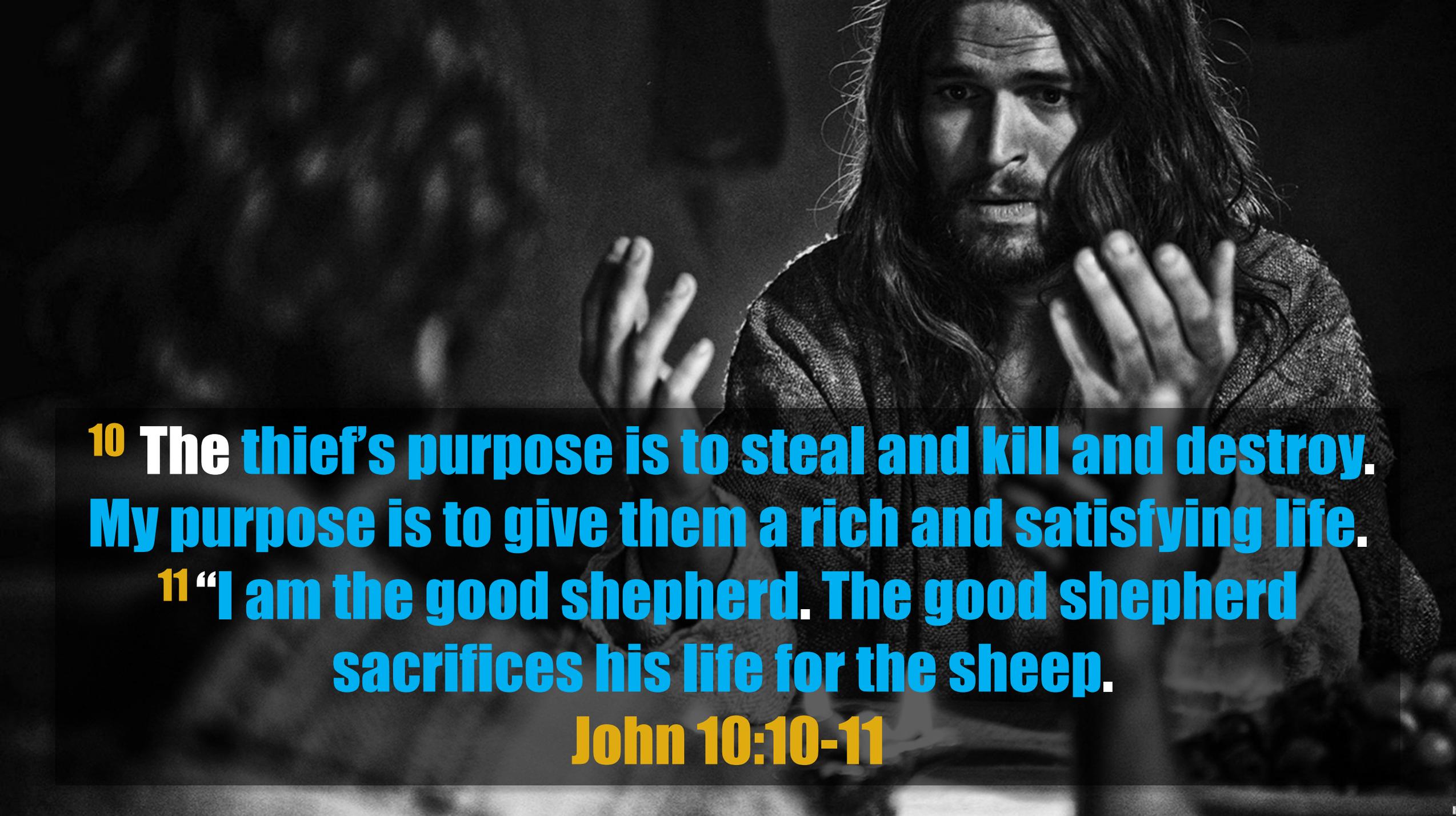
Tougher preparation makes *better* performance *easier.*

Constance Friday Elias

A person is walking away from the viewer on a narrow path through a dense forest. The trees are tall and thin, and the ground is covered in fallen leaves. The atmosphere is dark and misty, with a bright light source at the end of the path, creating a strong silhouette effect. The overall mood is mysterious and contemplative.

**T1 CHRIST PREPARES THE
DISCIPLE FOR THE PATH.**

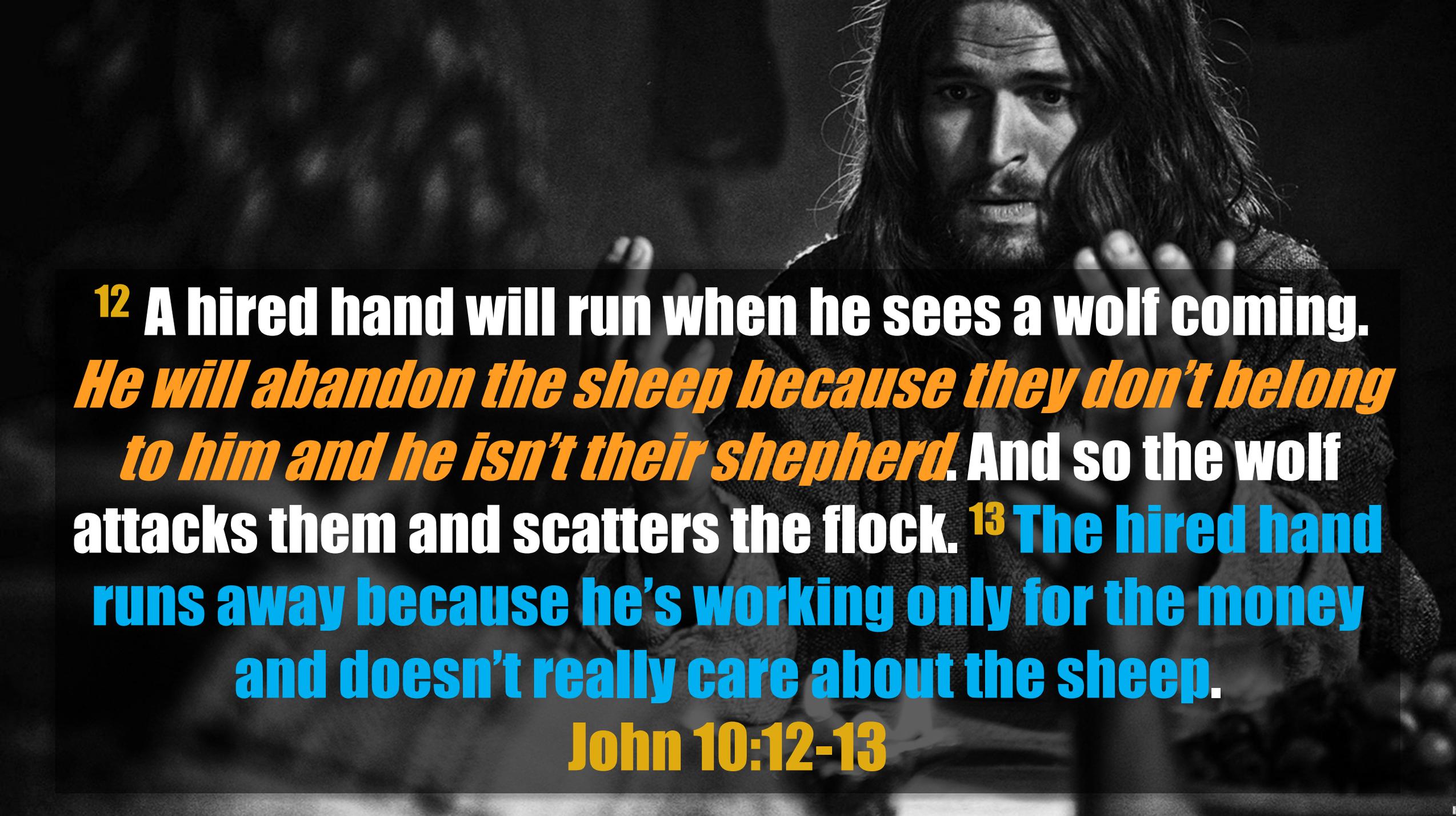
John 10:10-15



10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

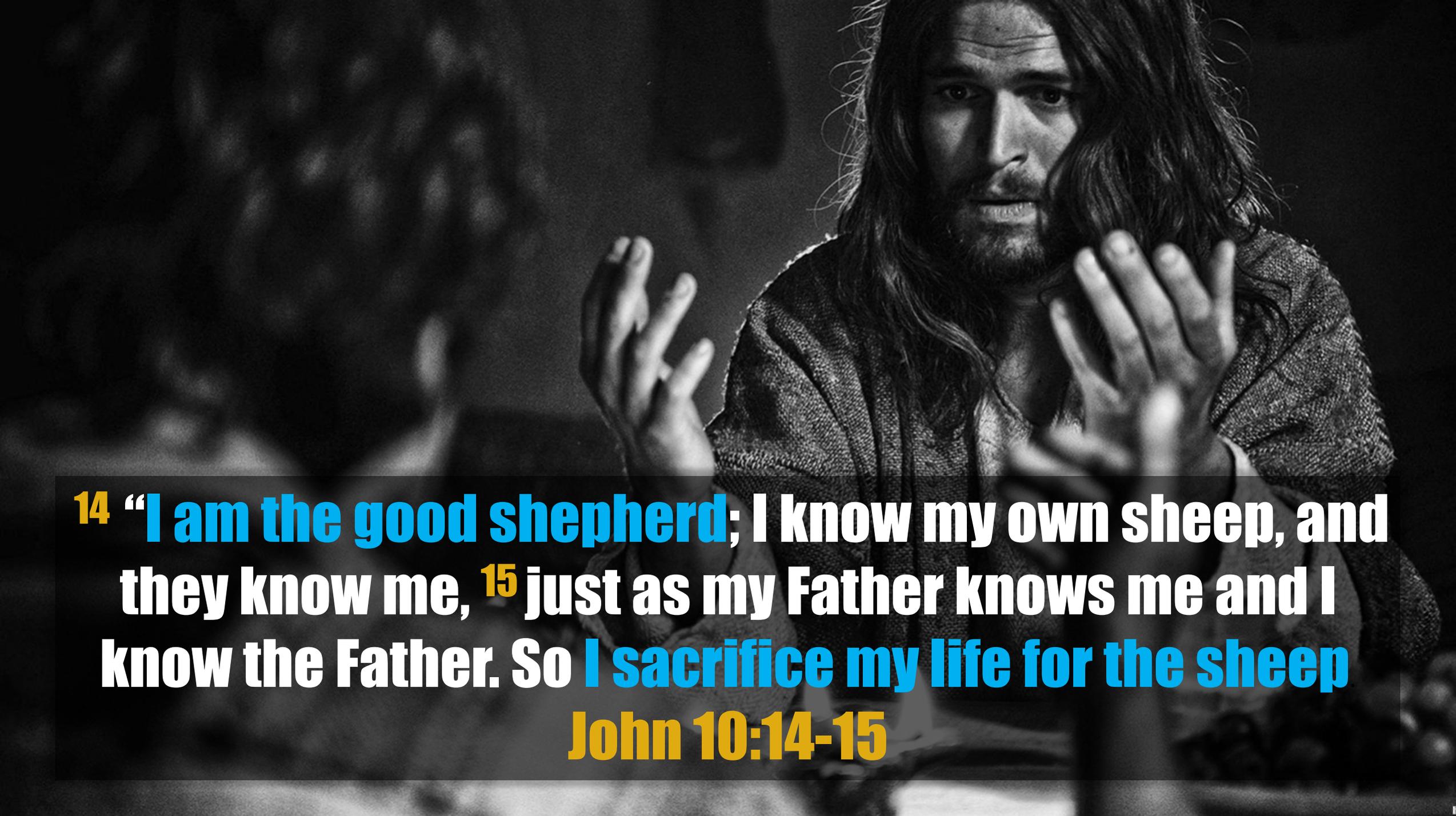
11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.

John 10:10-11



12 A hired hand will run when he sees a wolf coming. *He will abandon the sheep because they don't belong to him and he isn't their shepherd.* And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. **13** The hired hand runs away because he's working only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.

John 10:12-13



14 “**I am the good shepherd**; I know my own sheep, and they know me, **15** just as my Father knows me and I know the Father. So **I sacrifice my life for the sheep**

John 10:14-15

Toughness

Be grateful for adversity—it forces you to grow. ***Human character is formed not in the absence of difficulty but in our response to difficulty.***

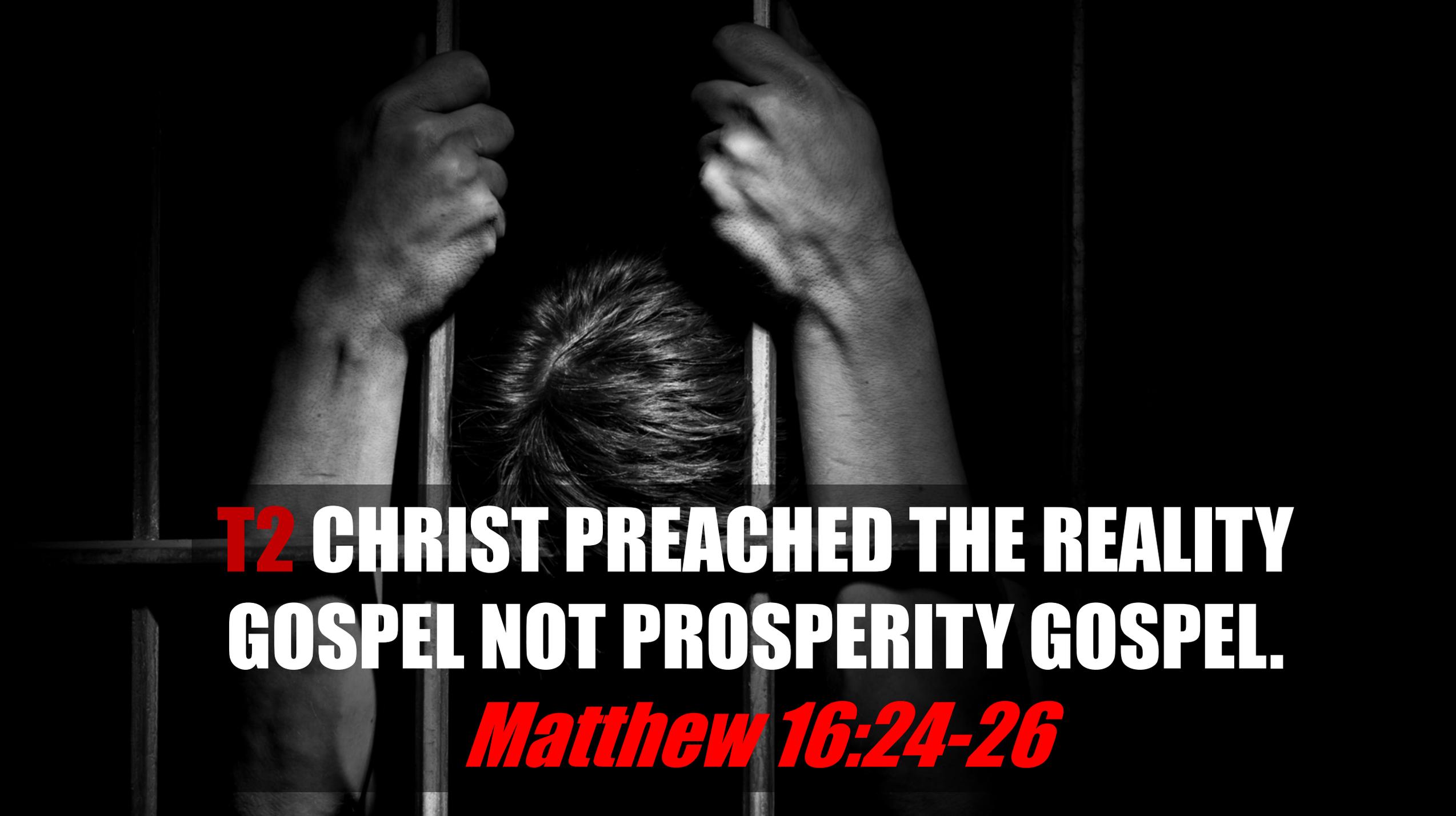
Jim Rohn

I've been trying to live my life so that in the hour of my death ***I would rather feel joy than fear.***

Witold Pilecki

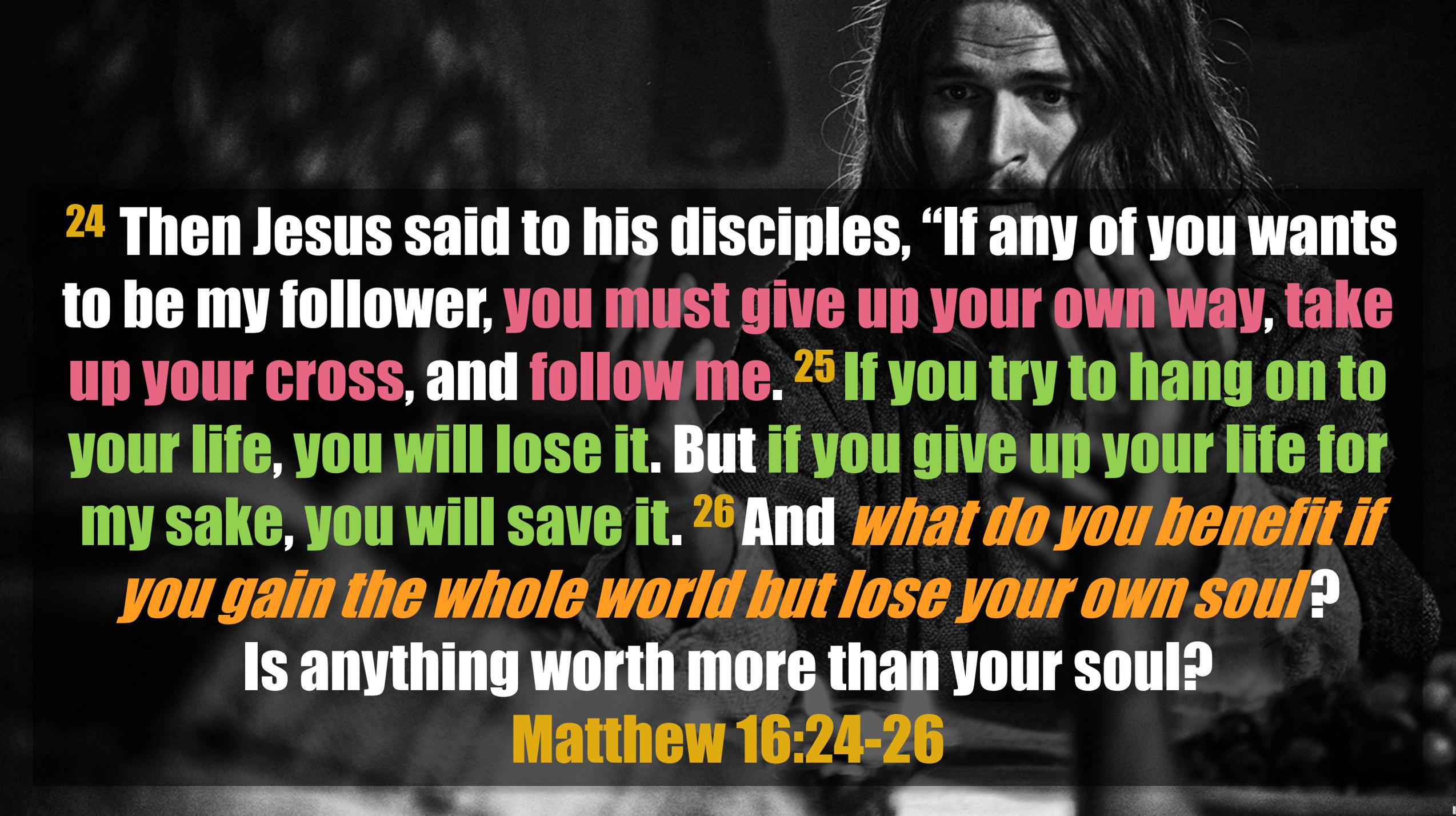
The brave man is not the one who does not feel afraid, ***but the one who conquers that fear.***

Nelson Mandela



T2 CHRIST PREACHED THE REALITY
GOSPEL NOT PROSPERITY GOSPEL.

Matthew 16:24-26



24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, **you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.** **25** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **26** And *what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?*

Is anything worth more than your soul?

Matthew 16:24-26

Martyrdom

It is the cause, not the death that makes the martyr.

Napoleon Bonaparte

The blood of the martyrs is the *seed of the church.*

Tertullian

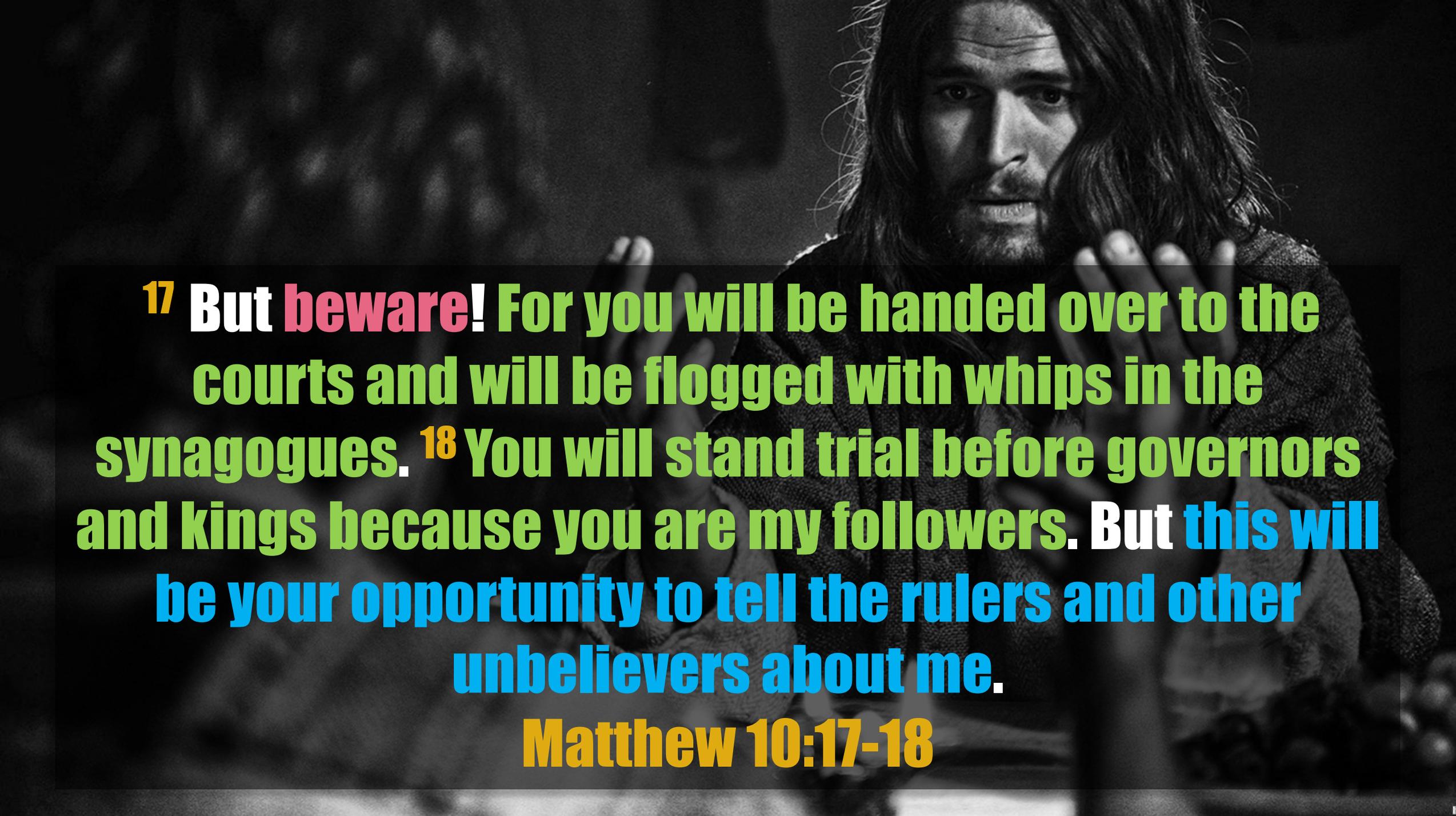
Martyrdom does not consist only in dying for one's faith. It consists in *serving God with love and purity of heart every day of one's life.*

St. Jerome



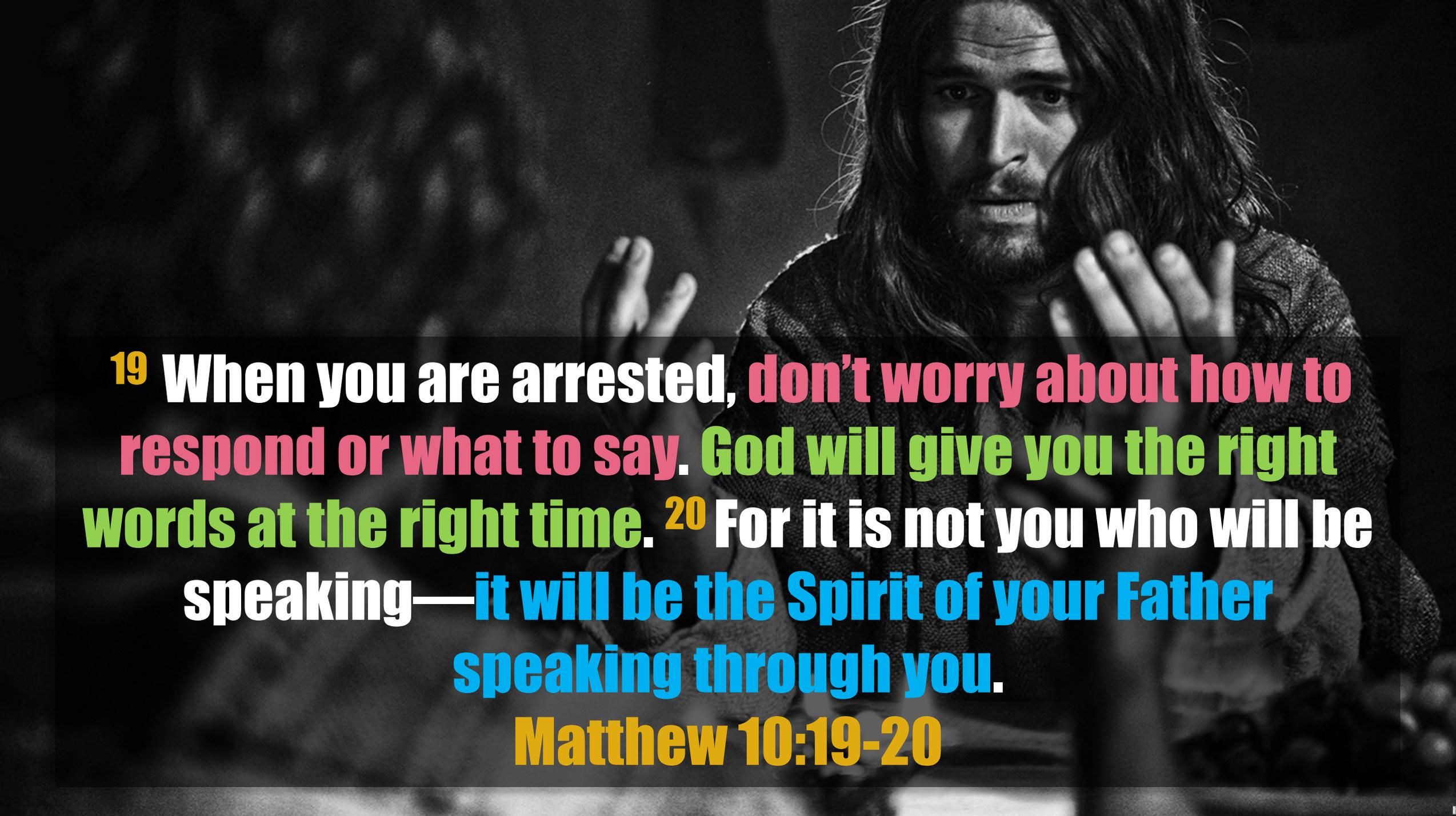
**T3 CHRIST PROMISED POWER IN
THE MIDST OF PERSECUTION.**

Matthew 10:17-22



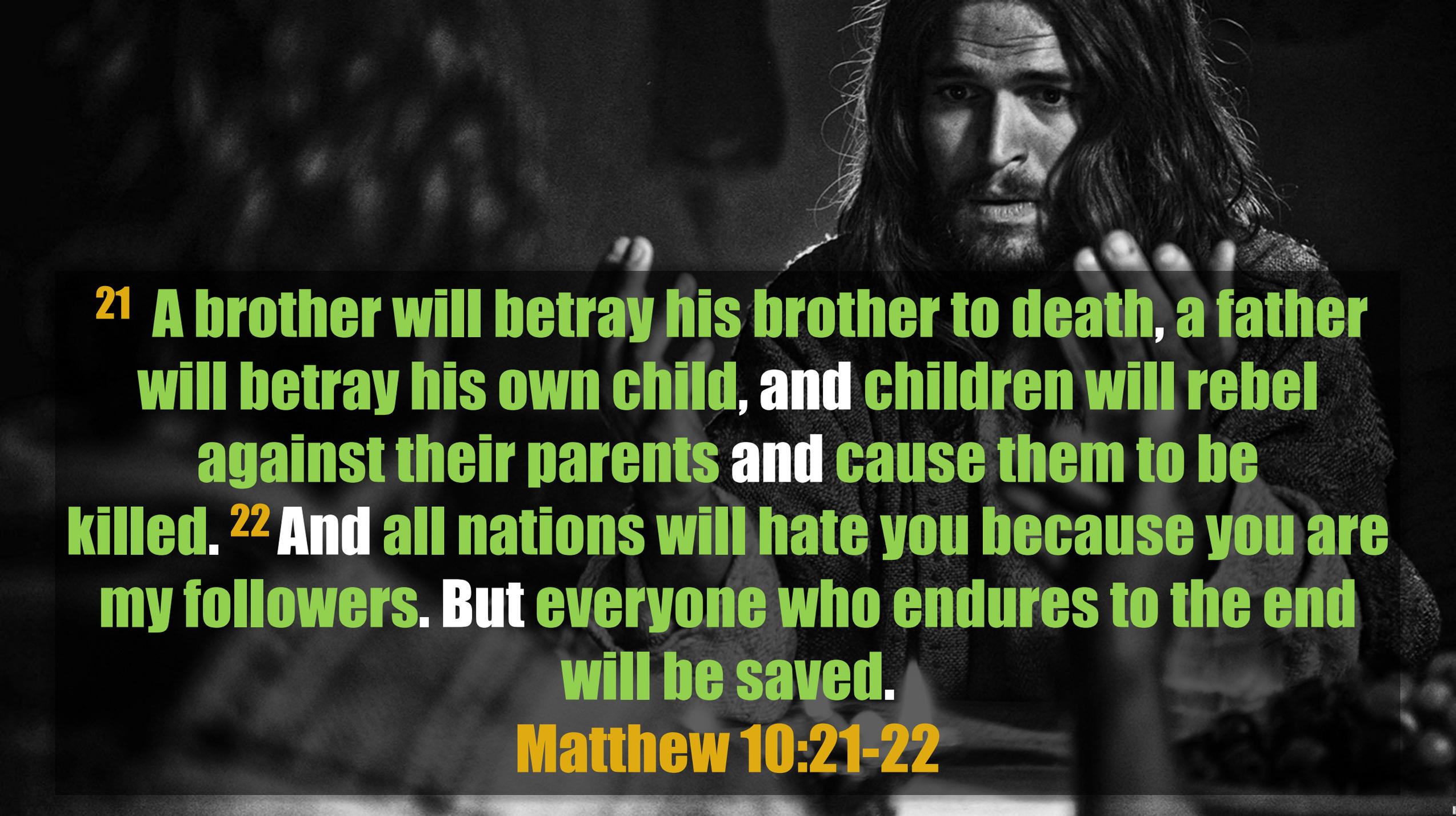
17 But **beware!** For you will be handed over to the courts and will be flogged with whips in the synagogues. **18** You will stand trial before governors and kings because you are my followers. But **this will be your opportunity to tell the rulers and other unbelievers about me.**

Matthew 10:17-18



19 When you are arrested, **don't worry about how to respond or what to say.** **God will give you the right words at the right time.** **20** For it is not you who will be speaking—it will be the **Spirit of your Father speaking through you.**

Matthew 10:19-20



21 A brother will betray his brother to death, a father will betray his own child, and children will rebel against their parents and cause them to be killed. **22** And all nations will hate you because you are my followers. But everyone who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 10:21-22