



CORE

A Life Transforming Experience

What is CORE?

9-Month Mission Training School

Based In Pennsylvania

18-30(ish) Year Olds

Work Study Options

CORE

What is CORE?

Bible Work

Literature Evangelism

Digital Media Evangelism

Health Evangelism

Organic Agriculture

Overseas Missions

CORE

What is CORE?

Mental Health
Practical Christianity
Public Speaking
Etc.

CORE

Can't come the full 9-months?

Consider Track 2

January 6-June 1

CORE

Track 2

The type of person we are looking for;
committed Christian, passionate about
your faith, have a burden to help your
local church.

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Track 2

Prerequisites-

At least 21 years old.

SDA member in good standing.

Letter of recommendation from pastor.

Complete our online course.

C O R E

Still wrestling with the time
commitment?

Check out our CORE Intensives.

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CORE Intensives

Take 4 days to grow your faith and learn from some of the best teachers our church has to offer.

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Who Is Teaching?

Dwight Nelson-Preaching

Steven Grabiner-Daniel/Revelation

Skip MacCarty-The Covenants

Don Mackintosh-TCI/Health

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Who Is Teaching?

Randy Siebold-True Education/Leadership
Rob Benardo-Romans/Everlasting Covenant
John Kent-Preparing For Overseas Missions

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Who Is Teaching?

Nathan Renner-How To Study The Bible

Jay Rosario-Apologetics/Gaining Decisions

Israel Ramos-Campus Ministries

Steve Toscano-Church History

Rico Hill-Health

Paul Coneff-Mental Health

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Who Is Teaching?

Chad Bernard-Youth Ministries

Bill Brace-Christ Centered Public Evangelism

Chris Matts-Digital Media Marketing

Dale Leamon-Abiding In Christ

Dee Casper-Discipleship/Adventist Doctrines

C O R E

Own Your Faith
Find Your Calling
Change The World
paconference.org/CORE

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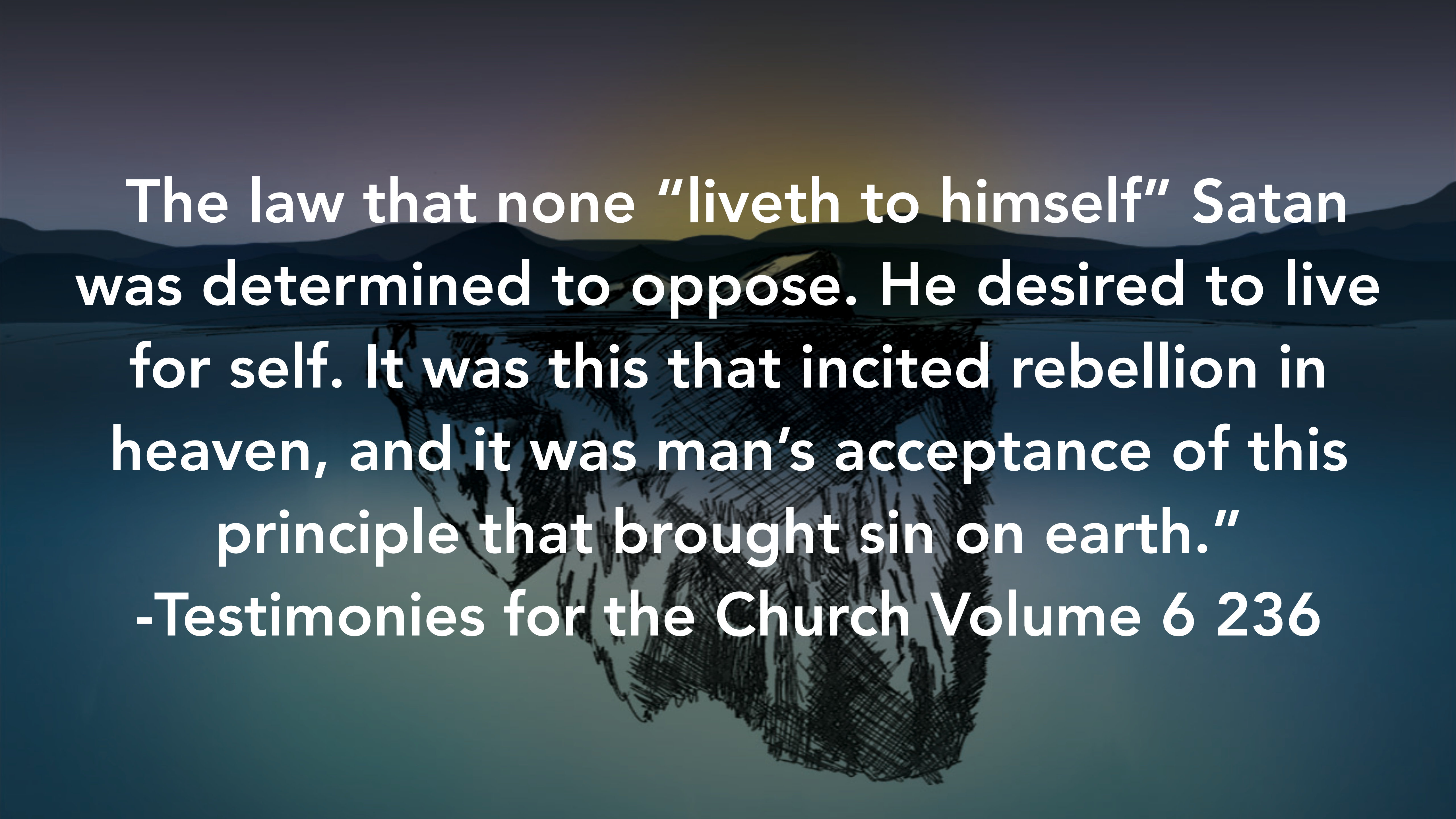
Want more information?
Text your name, email, age to
484-232-9239

CORE



The Gospel Will Prevail

Dee Casper
paconference.org/CORE

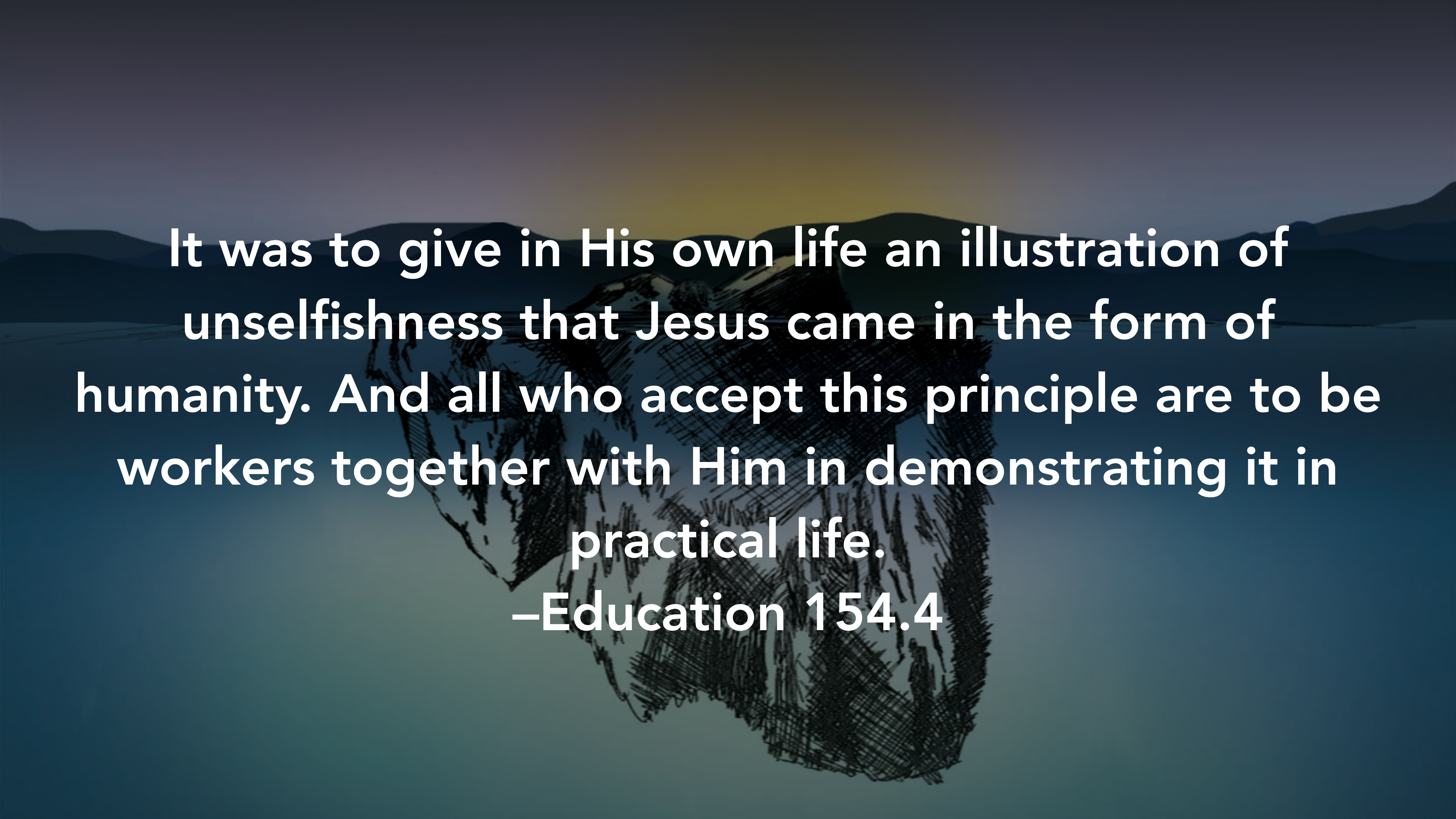


The law that none "liveth to himself" Satan was determined to oppose. He desired to live for self. It was this that incited rebellion in heaven, and it was man's acceptance of this principle that brought sin on earth."

-Testimonies for the Church Volume 6 236

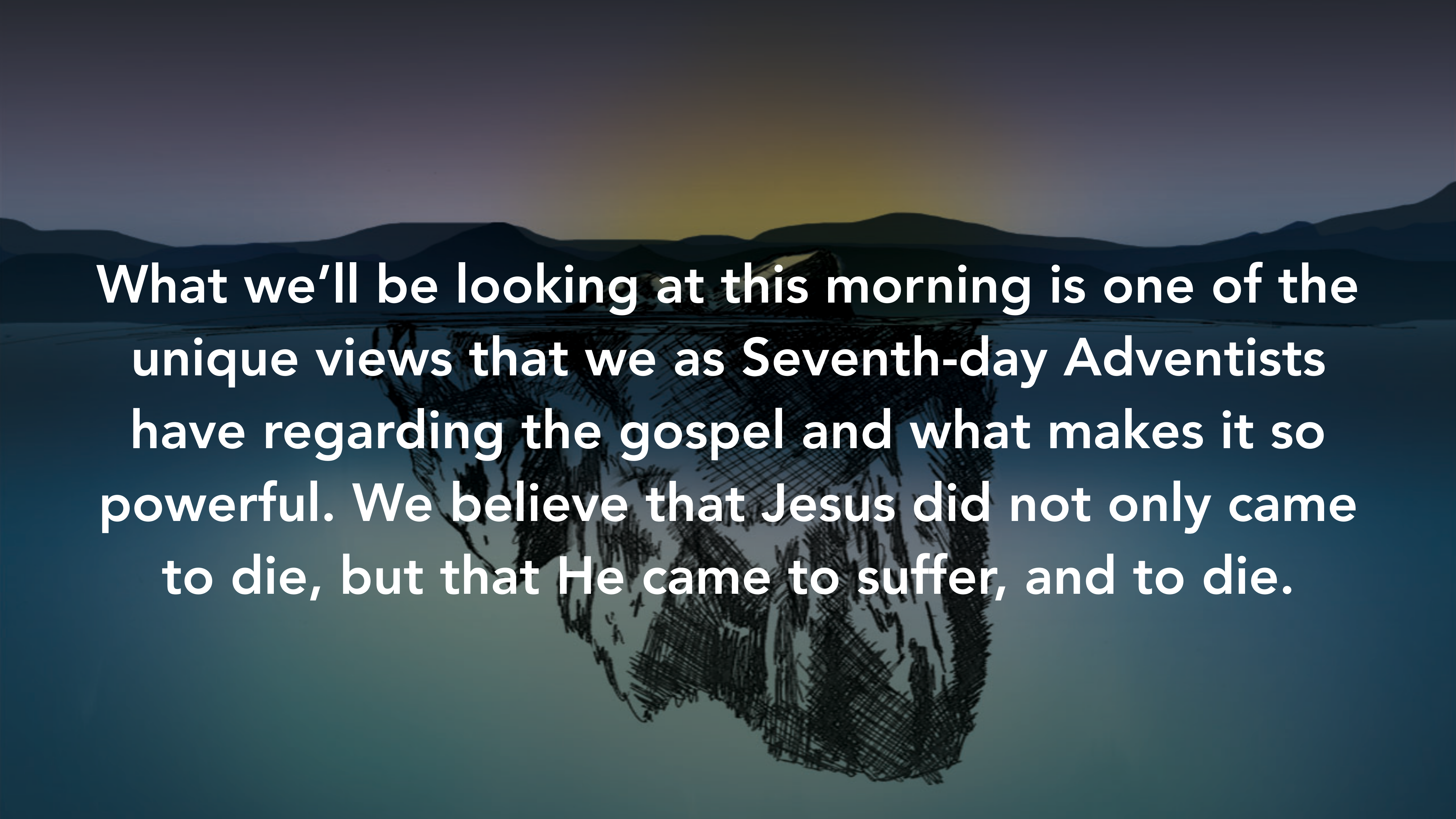
“Unselfishness, the principle of God’s kingdom, is the principle that Satan hates; its very existence he denies. From the beginning of the great controversy Satan has endeavored to prove God’s principles of action to be selfish, and he deals in the same way with all who serve God. To disprove Satan’s claim is the work of Christ and of all who bear His name.”

– Education 154.3



It was to give in His own life an illustration of unselfishness that Jesus came in the form of humanity. And all who accept this principle are to be workers together with Him in demonstrating it in practical life.

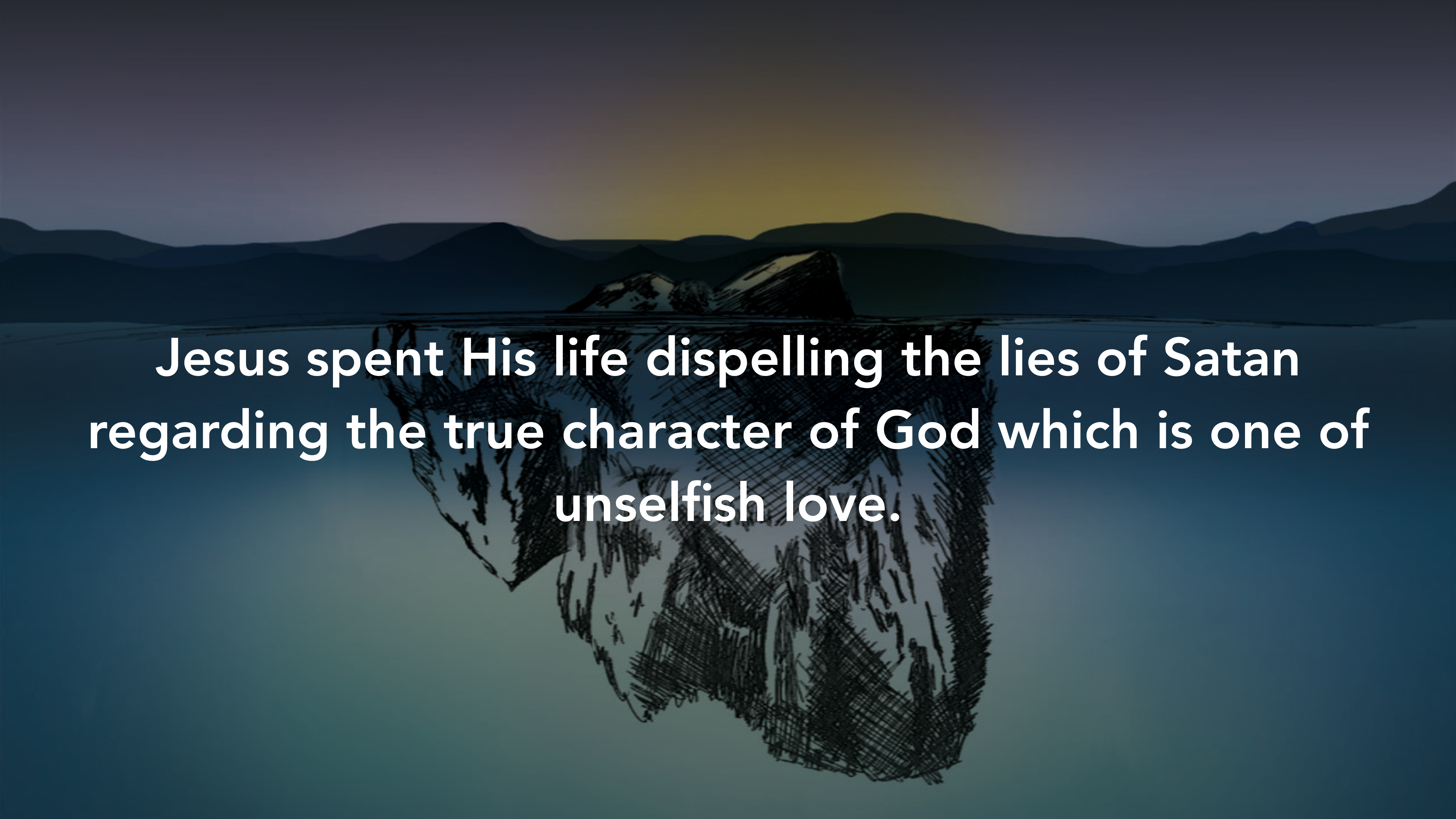
–Education 154.4

The background features a serene landscape with rolling mountains under a soft, hazy sky, likely at dawn or dusk. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured shape, possibly a shadow or a reflection, is visible. The text is overlaid on this scene in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

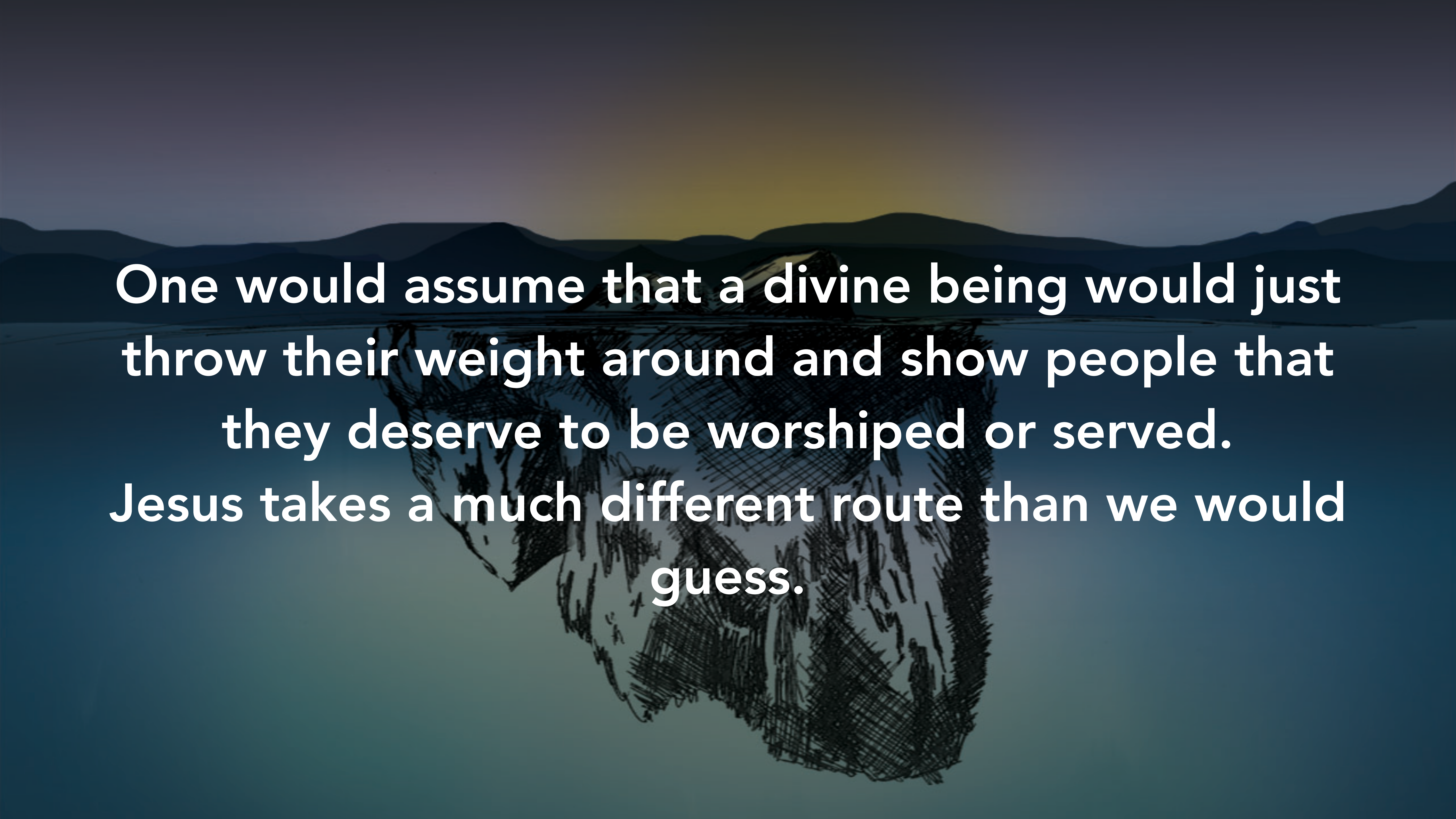
What we'll be looking at this morning is one of the unique views that we as Seventh-day Adventists have regarding the gospel and what makes it so powerful. We believe that Jesus did not only come to die, but that He came to suffer, and to die.

A landscape photograph showing a range of mountains under a twilight sky, with a body of water in the foreground. A large, dark, textured scribble, resembling a pencil or charcoal drawing, is overlaid on the water and the lower part of the mountains. The text is centered over this scribble.

**“Suffering is what giving looks like in the presence
of taking”
-Dr. Fred Bischoff**

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. In the foreground, there is a body of water reflecting the sky. A large, dark, textured shape, possibly a rock or a large shadow, is visible in the water, partially overlapping the text.

Jesus spent His life dispelling the lies of Satan regarding the true character of God which is one of unselfish love.

A landscape scene featuring a range of dark mountains under a twilight sky. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured shape, possibly a shadow or a reflection, is visible. The text is overlaid on this scene.

One would assume that a divine being would just throw their weight around and show people that they deserve to be worshiped or served. Jesus takes a much different route than we would guess.

A landscape illustration with a dark, moody color palette. In the background, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. In the middle ground, a body of water reflects the scene. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured scribble, resembling a charcoal or pencil drawing, is superimposed over the water and the lower part of the mountains. The text "He chose the weapon of vulnerability." is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image, partially overlapping the scribble.

He chose the weapon of vulnerability.

The image features a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the background, there are silhouettes of rolling hills and mountains under a twilight sky with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. In the middle ground, a body of water reflects the scene. The reflection is heavily textured with dense, dark, scribbled lines, creating a sense of depth and complexity. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of dark blues, greys, and a touch of yellow from the horizon.

For many the idea of vulnerability is a form of weakness.



But what I hope we'll see this morning is that Jesus, the greatest example of how one should live their life, was One Who lived a life of radical vulnerability.

Disclaimer:

There's a balance in this.

There are things that should not be shared publicly, we need to use discretion.

We don't want to develop a pattern of dependence upon people either, but there is a real sense in which many of us have refused the help that God designed for us to find in community. Let alone to be vulnerable with ourselves and with God.

Galatians 6:2



One of the easiest places to hide from our own issues and to
refuse vulnerability is in ministry.

We focus on helping everyone else without truly knowing
ourselves or dealing with things that are crippling us and holding
us back.

If we have faulty core beliefs and negatives views of ourselves it
can be even worse.

Giving everyone else what you feel you don't deserve.



The incarnation of Christ is the greatest act of vulnerability ever known.

Jesus came to reveal the Father's heart, and that involved a lot of vulnerability.

God Himself was vulnerable in taking a risk to send His Son to save us.

A landscape illustration featuring a body of water in the foreground. In the middle ground, there are dark, silhouetted mountains and a prominent, snow-capped mountain peak. The sky is a gradient of dark blue and purple, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. In the water, there is a large, dark, textured shape that resembles a map of the Americas, with the text 'Vulnerability saved the world.' overlaid on it.

Vulnerability saved the world.



The birth and childhood of Jesus:

Born in a manger

To impoverished parents

Needing them to provide for His needs

Having to be instructed by them in the principles He ordained

The life of Jesus:

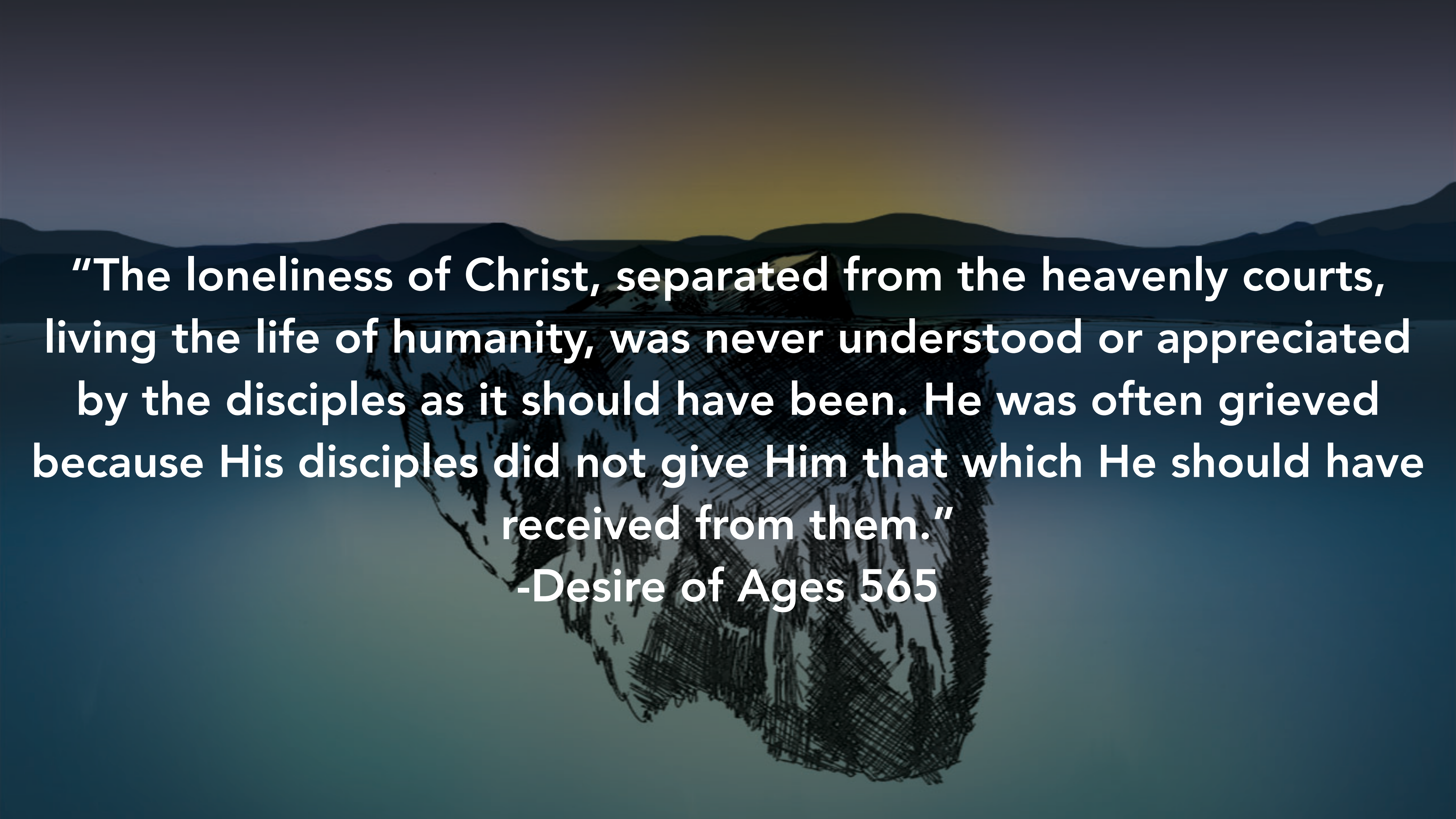
Choosing to be baptized knowing what that could imply to the people who watched (Matthew 3:13-17)

He had nowhere to lay His head (Matthew 8:20)

Women support Him financially (Luke 8:3)

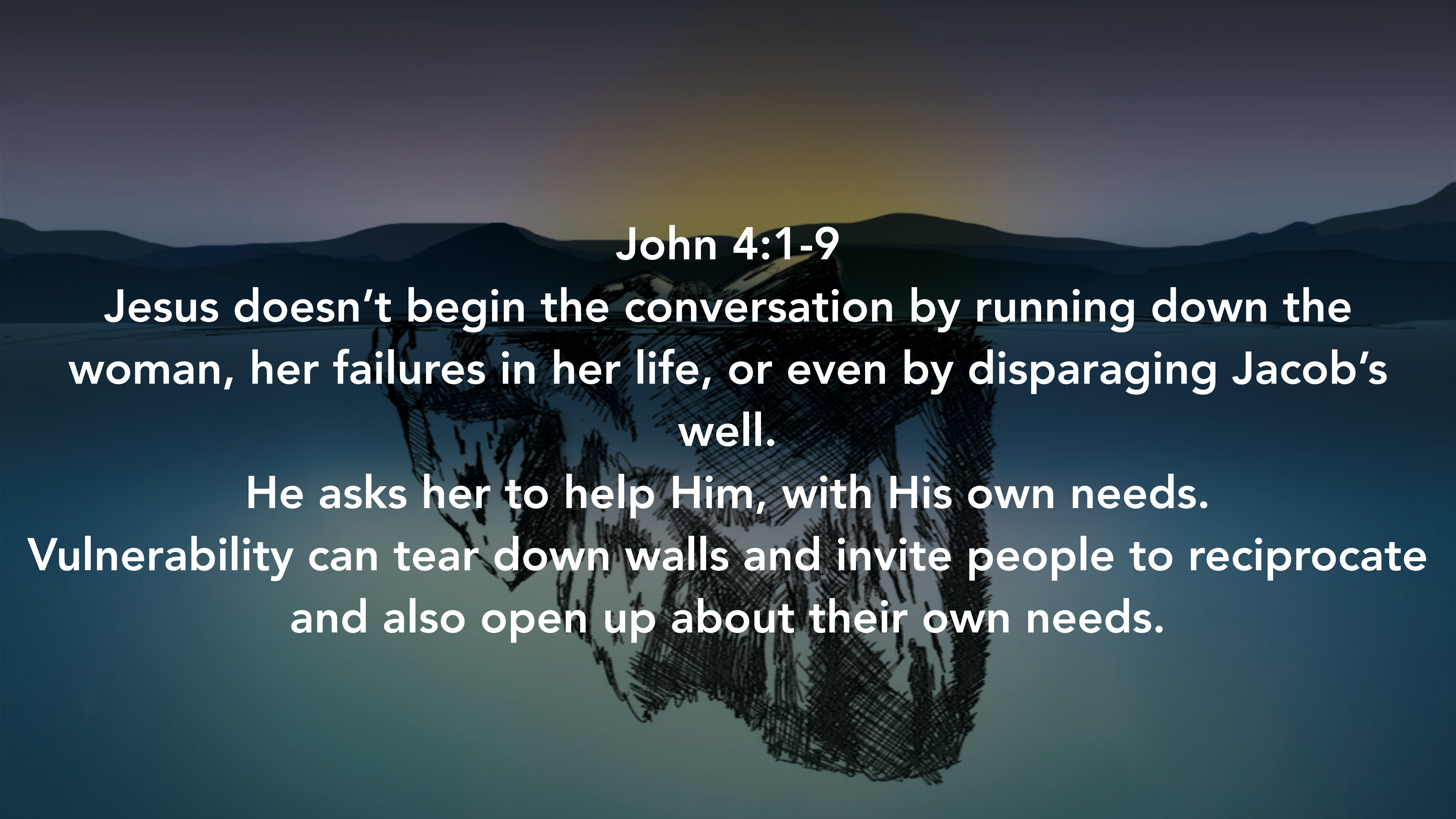
Frequently was the guest of people to have a place to stay and eat (All the gospels)

Jesus said He did nothing, said nothing, and planned nothing on His own, but relied upon His Father for all of it (John 5:30)



“The loneliness of Christ, separated from the heavenly courts, living the life of humanity, was never understood or appreciated by the disciples as it should have been. He was often grieved because His disciples did not give Him that which He should have received from them.”

-Desire of Ages 565



John 4:1-9

Jesus doesn't begin the conversation by running down the woman, her failures in her life, or even by disparaging Jacob's well.

He asks her to help Him, with His own needs.

Vulnerability can tear down walls and invite people to reciprocate and also open up about their own needs.



John 11:35/Luke 19:41-44

Jesus weeps over the unbelief of the people, and bares His heart to them in Luke's account.



John 16:32

Jesus opens up and tells the disciples that they are going to leave Him alone. But when they fail Him His Father will be there.

The background is a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the distance, there are silhouettes of mountains under a twilight sky with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. In the foreground, a large, dark, textured shape, possibly a rock or a piece of driftwood, is partially submerged in water. The water's surface is dark and reflects the surrounding environment.

John 17

Jesus prays with great vulnerability and passion regarding His disciples and His mission. All right in front of the disciples.



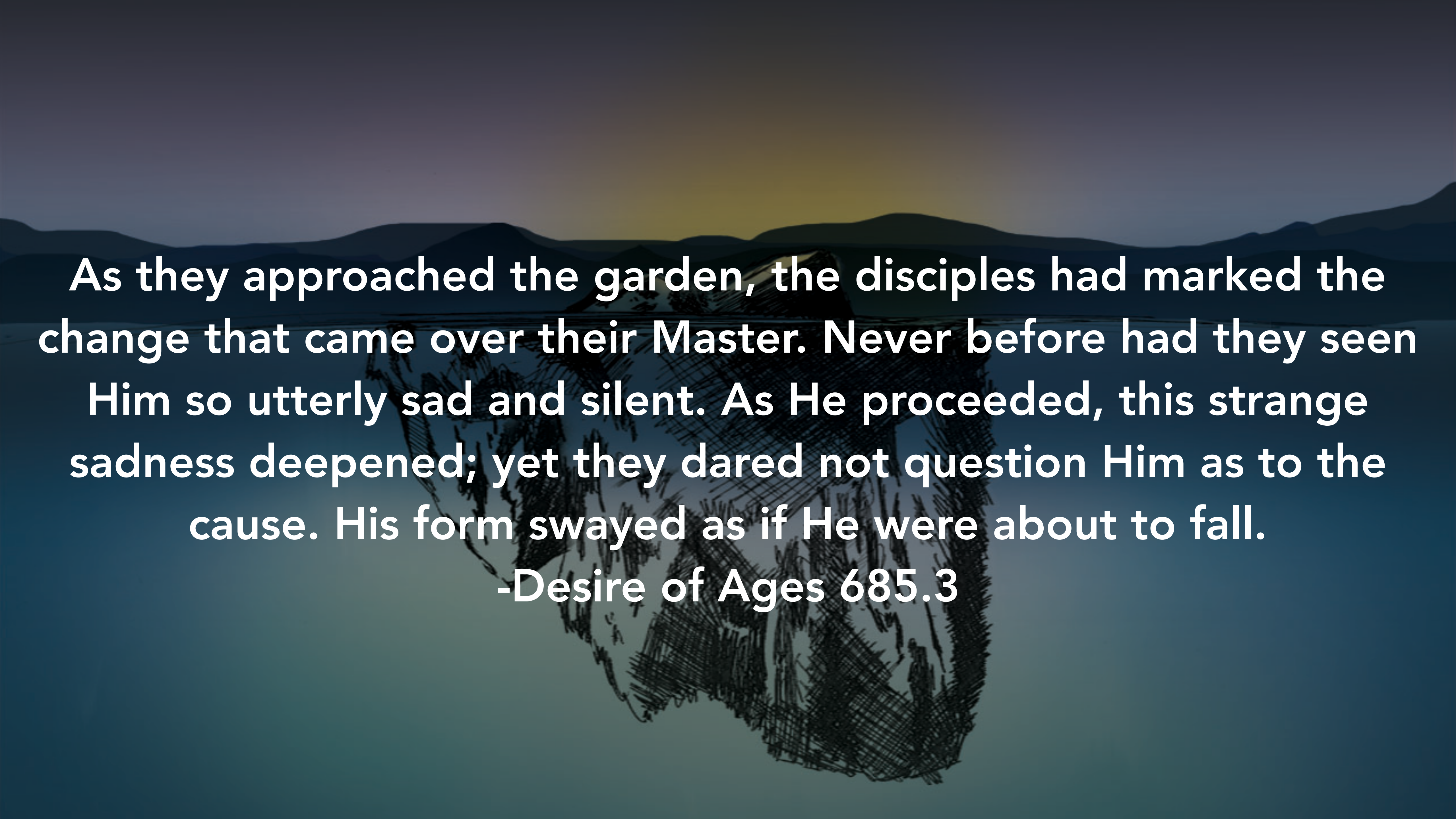
Matthew 26:26-30/Mark 14:22-26/John 13:1-17

Jesus humbles Himself and washes the disciples' feet while they are busy arguing over who is the greatest. Then He tells them I've done this to give you an example. Jesus' act of vulnerability is meant to be an example for us.

Matthew 26:36-46

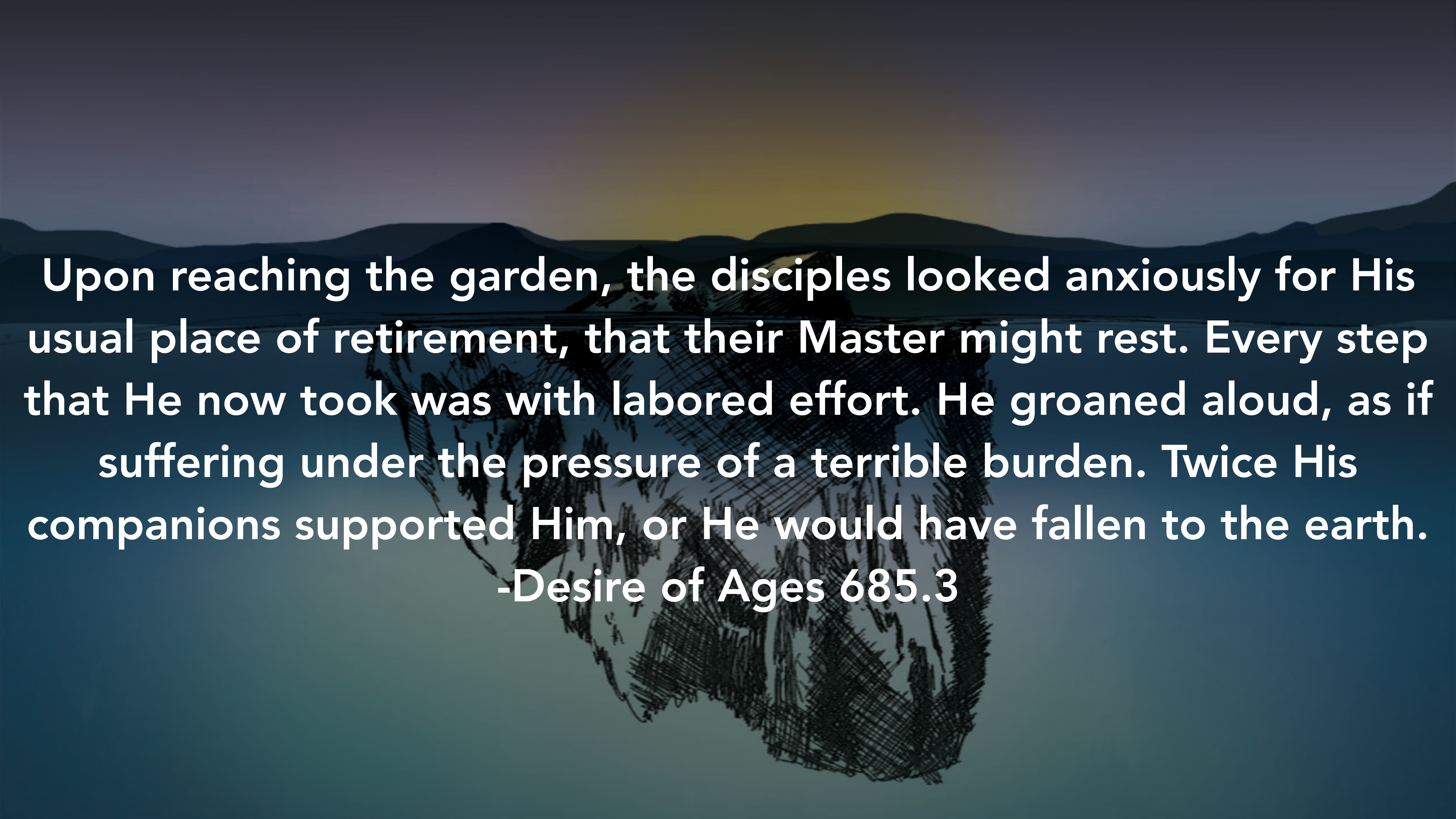
Jesus asks James, John, and Peter to pray for Him because His soul is exceedingly sorrowful. To the point of death. He needed them and longed for their company and prayers.

An angel has to come and strengthen Him to keep going. He's even vulnerable with the Father asking for another way.

A dark, atmospheric landscape with mountains and a body of water reflecting the scene. The text is overlaid on this background.

As they approached the garden, the disciples had marked the change that came over their Master. Never before had they seen Him so utterly sad and silent. As He proceeded, this strange sadness deepened; yet they dared not question Him as to the cause. His form swayed as if He were about to fall.

-Desire of Ages 685.3



Upon reaching the garden, the disciples looked anxiously for His usual place of retirement, that their Master might rest. Every step that He now took was with labored effort. He groaned aloud, as if suffering under the pressure of a terrible burden. Twice His companions supported Him, or He would have fallen to the earth.

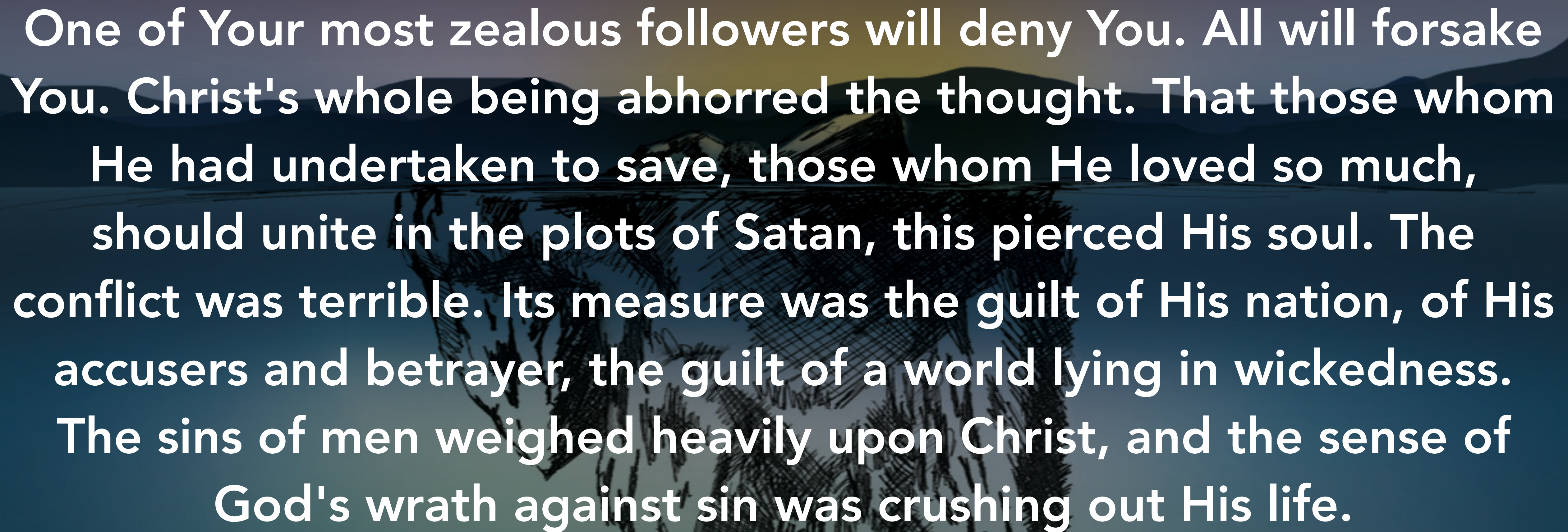
-Desire of Ages 685.3

Christ was now standing in a different attitude from that in which He had ever stood before. His suffering can best be described in the words of the prophet, "Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, and against the man that is My fellow, saith the Lord of hosts." Zechariah 13:7. As the substitute and surety for sinful man, Christ was suffering under divine justice. He saw what justice meant. Hitherto He had been as an intercessor for others; now He longed to have an intercessor for Himself.

-Desire of Ages 686.4

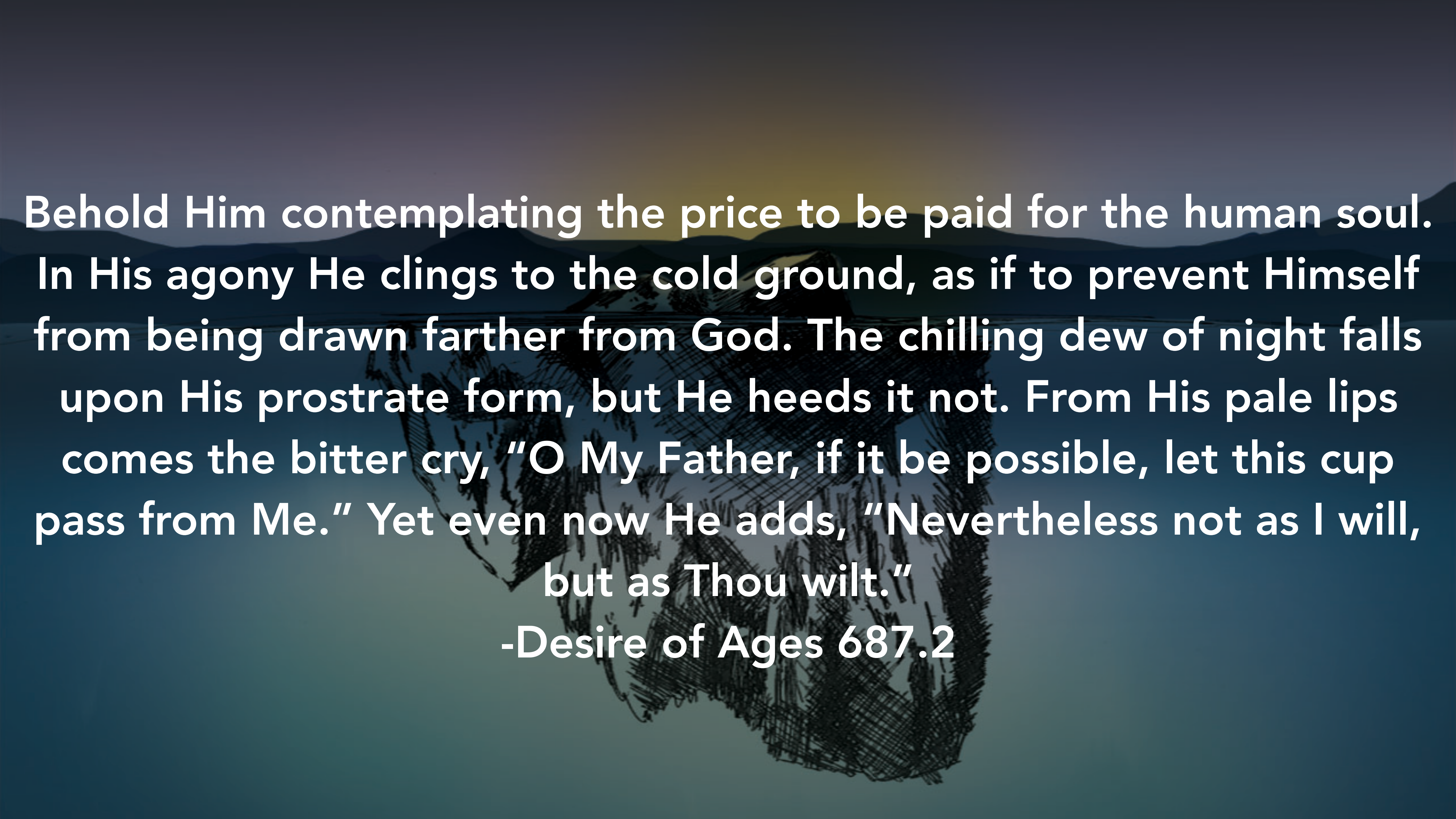
And what was to be gained by this sacrifice? How hopeless appeared the guilt and ingratitude of men! In its hardest features Satan pressed the situation upon the Redeemer: The people who claim to be above all others in temporal and spiritual advantages have rejected You. They are seeking to destroy You, the foundation, the center and seal of the promises made to them as a peculiar people. One of Your own disciples, who has listened to Your instruction, and has been among the foremost in church activities, will betray You.

-Desire of Ages 687.1



One of Your most zealous followers will deny You. All will forsake You. Christ's whole being abhorred the thought. That those whom He had undertaken to save, those whom He loved so much, should unite in the plots of Satan, this pierced His soul. The conflict was terrible. Its measure was the guilt of His nation, of His accusers and betrayer, the guilt of a world lying in wickedness. The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out His life.

-Desire of Ages 687.1

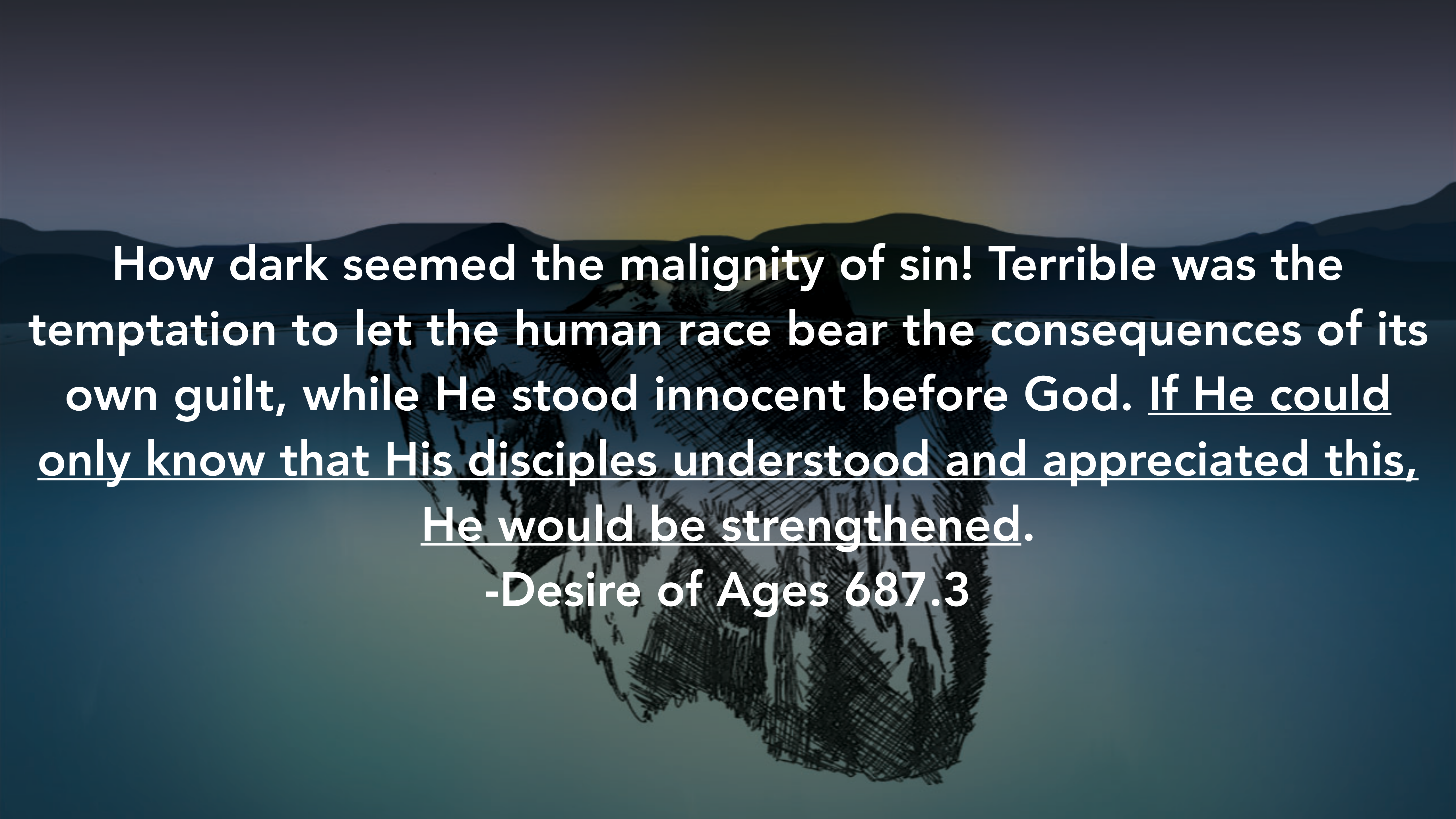


Behold Him contemplating the price to be paid for the human soul. In His agony He clings to the cold ground, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God. The chilling dew of night falls upon His prostrate form, but He heeds it not. From His pale lips comes the bitter cry, "O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me." Yet even now He adds, "Nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt."

-Desire of Ages 687.2

The human heart longs for sympathy in suffering. This longing Christ felt to the very depths of His being. In the supreme agony of His soul He came to His disciples with a yearning desire to hear some words of comfort from those whom He had so often blessed and comforted, and shielded in sorrow and distress. The One who had always had words of sympathy for them was now suffering superhuman agony, and He longed to know that they were praying for Him and for themselves.

-Desire of Ages 687.3



How dark seemed the malignity of sin! Terrible was the temptation to let the human race bear the consequences of its own guilt, while He stood innocent before God. If He could only know that His disciples understood and appreciated this, He would be strengthened.

-Desire of Ages 687.3

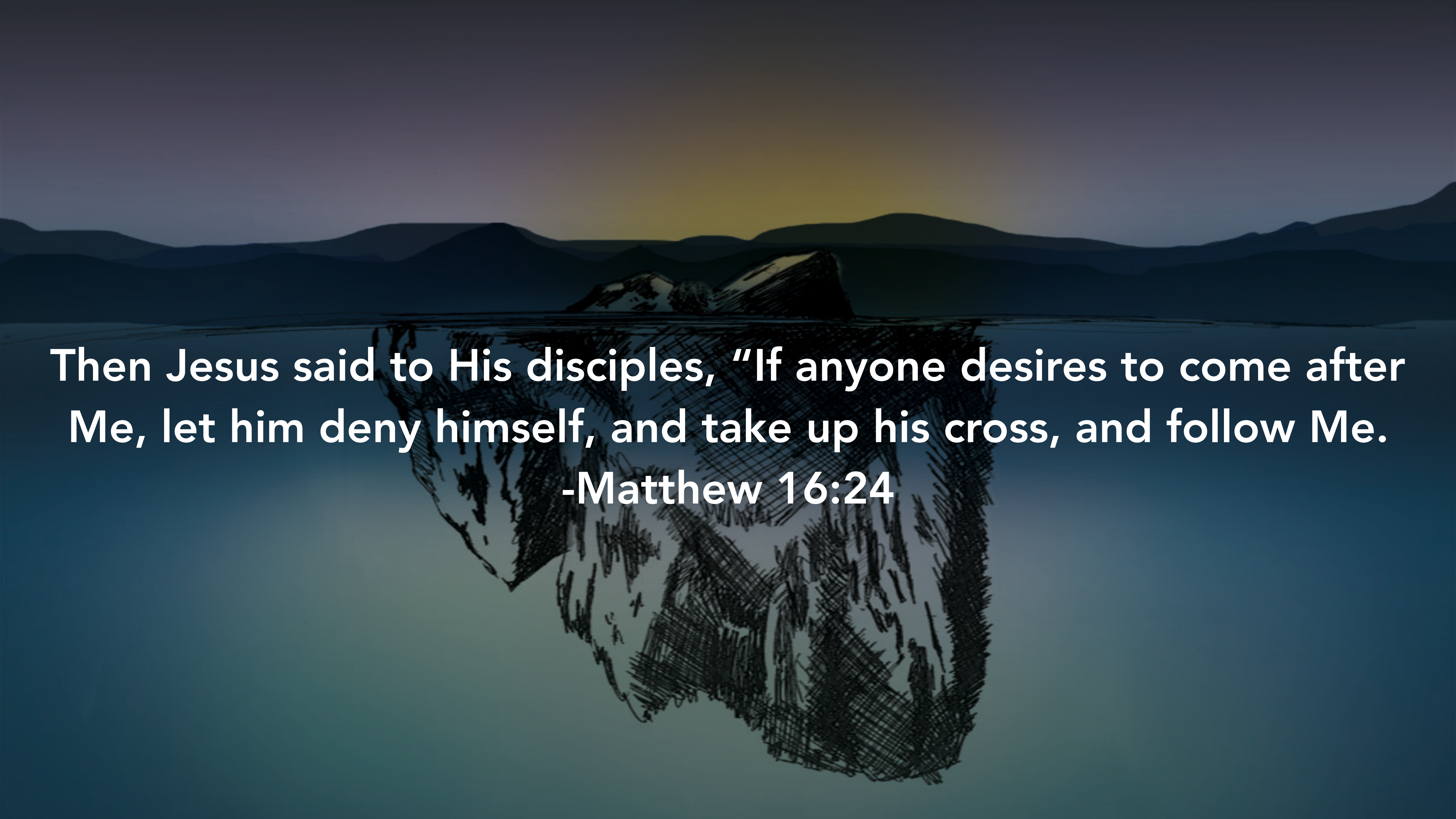


Then the real struggle of yielding to the Father's will when His
humanity is shrinking from this responsibility.

-Desire of Ages 689.2-694.2



Then comes the next, and I believe one of the most impactful moments of Christ's vulnerability.



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 16:24

The image features a dark, atmospheric landscape. In the background, there are silhouettes of rolling hills and mountains under a twilight sky with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. The foreground is dominated by a large, dark, textured shape that resembles a reflection or a shadow, rendered with dense, cross-hatched lines. The overall color palette is muted, consisting of dark blues, greys, and a touch of yellow from the horizon.

What did it look like when He took up His?



And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha.

-John 19:17

Now as they came out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. Him they compelled to bear His cross.

-Matthew 27:32

As Jesus passed the gate of Pilate's court, the cross which had been prepared for Barabbas was laid upon His bruised and bleeding shoulders. Two companions of Barabbas were to suffer death at the same time with Jesus, and upon them also crosses were placed. The Saviour's burden was too heavy for Him in His weak and suffering condition. Since the Passover supper with His disciples, He had taken neither food nor drink. He had agonized in the garden of Gethsemane in conflict with satanic agencies. He had endured the anguish of the betrayal, and had seen His disciples forsake Him and flee.

-Desire of Ages 741.4

He had been taken to Annas, then to Caiaphas, and then to Pilate. From Pilate He had been sent to Herod, then sent again to Pilate. From insult to renewed insult, from mockery to mockery, twice tortured by the scourge, —all that night there had been scene after scene of a character to try the soul of man to the uttermost. Christ had not failed. He had spoken no word but that tended to glorify God. All through the disgraceful farce of a trial He had borne Himself with firmness and dignity. But when after the second scourging the cross was laid upon Him, human nature could bear no more. He fell fainting beneath the burden.

-Desire of Ages 741.4

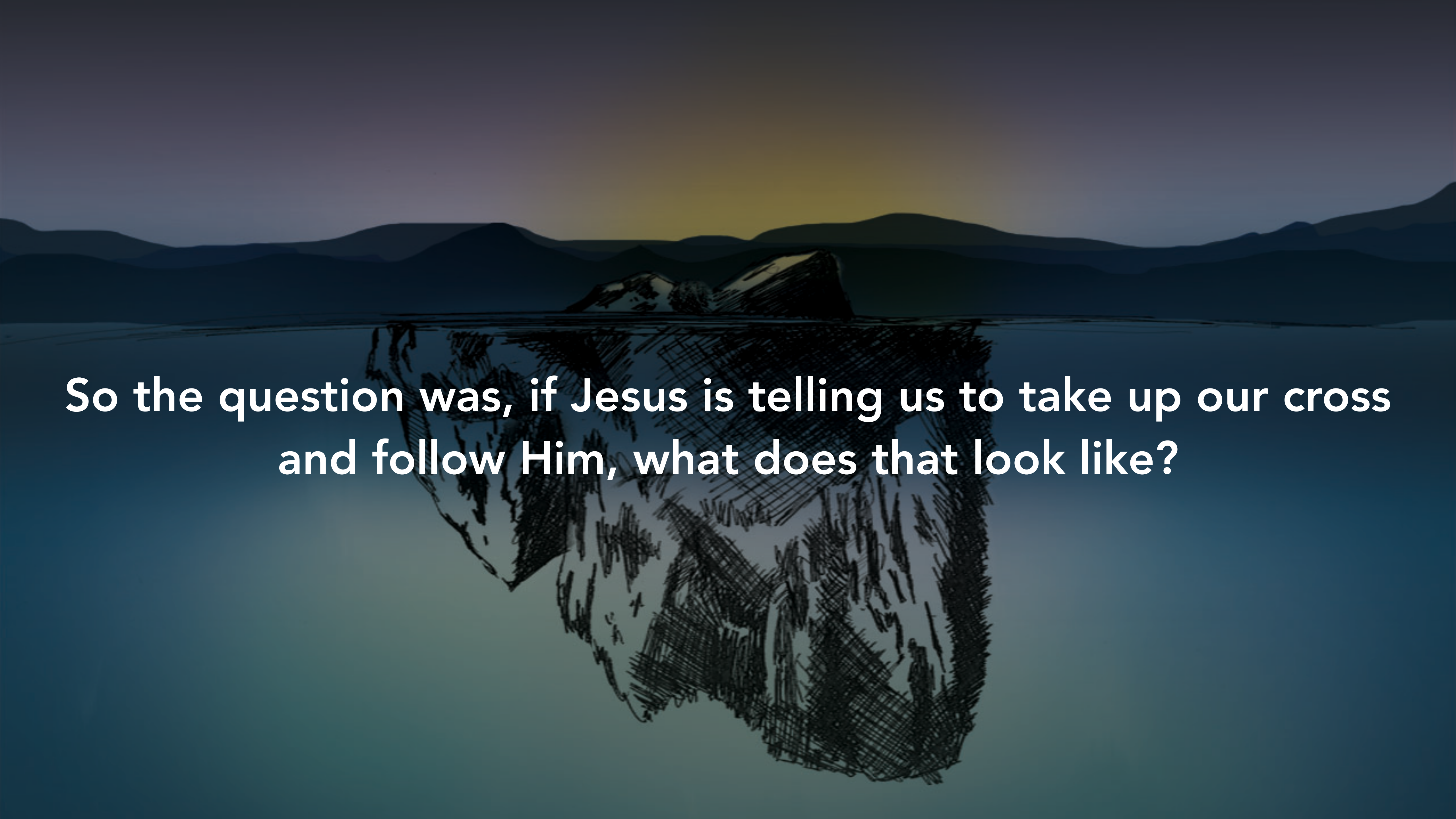
The crowd that followed the Saviour saw His weak and staggering steps,
but they manifested no compassion. They taunted and reviled Him
because He could not carry the heavy cross. Again the burden was laid
upon Him, and again He fell fainting to the ground. His persecutors saw
that it was impossible for Him to carry His burden farther. They were
puzzled to find anyone who would bear the humiliating load. The Jews
themselves could not do this, because the defilement would prevent
them from keeping the Passover. None even of the mob that followed
Him would stoop to bear the cross.

-Desire of Ages 742.1

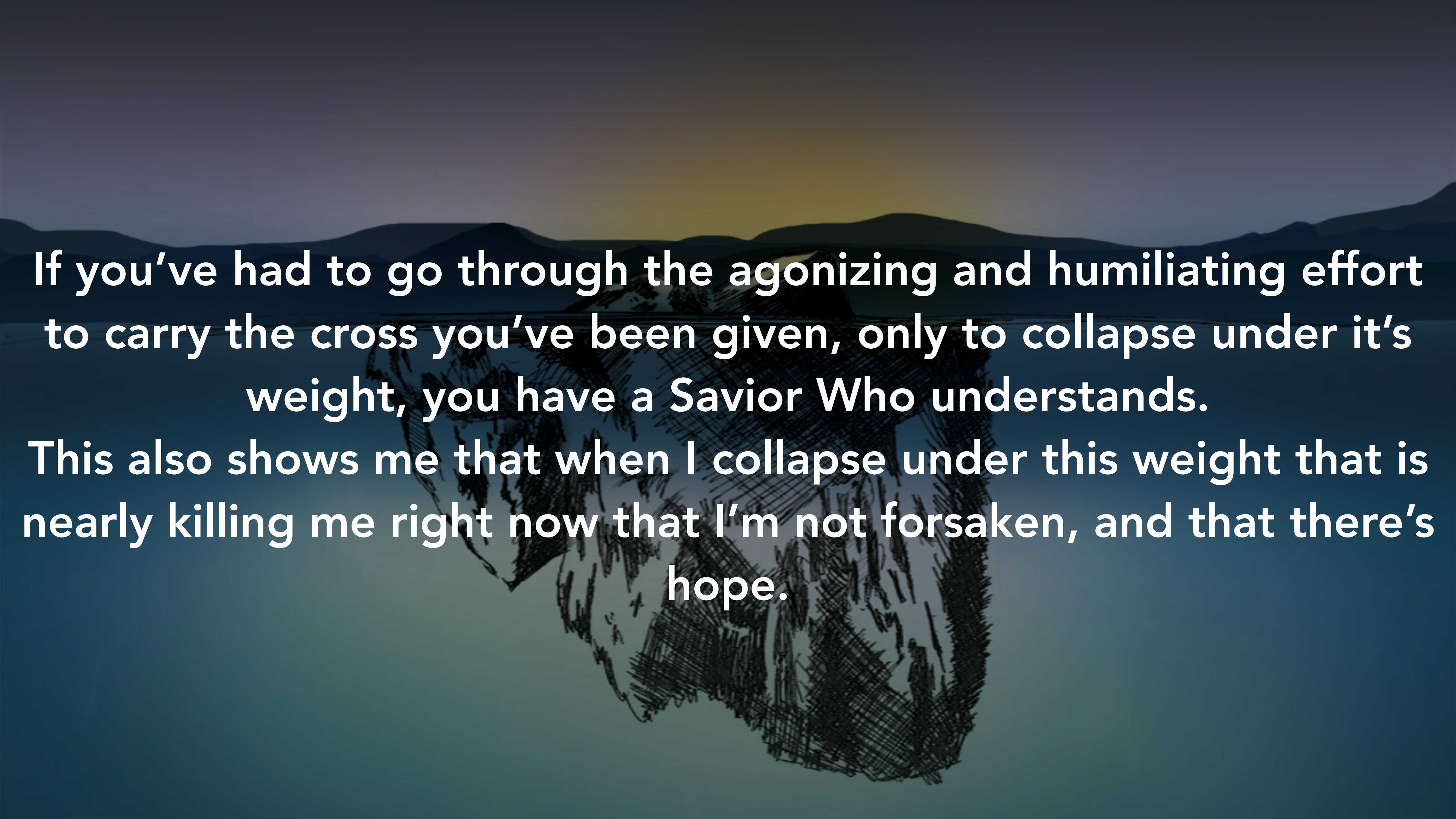
At this time a stranger, Simon a Cyrenian, coming in from the country, meets the throng. He hears the taunts and ribaldry of the crowd; he hears the words contemptuously repeated, Make way for the King of the Jews!

He stops in astonishment at the scene; and as he expresses his compassion, they seize him and place the cross upon his shoulders. Simon had heard of Jesus. His sons were believers in the Saviour, but he himself was not a disciple. The bearing of the cross to Calvary was a blessing to Simon, and he was ever after grateful for this providence. It led him to take upon himself the cross of Christ from choice, and ever cheerfully stand beneath its burden.

-Desire of Ages 742.2-742.3

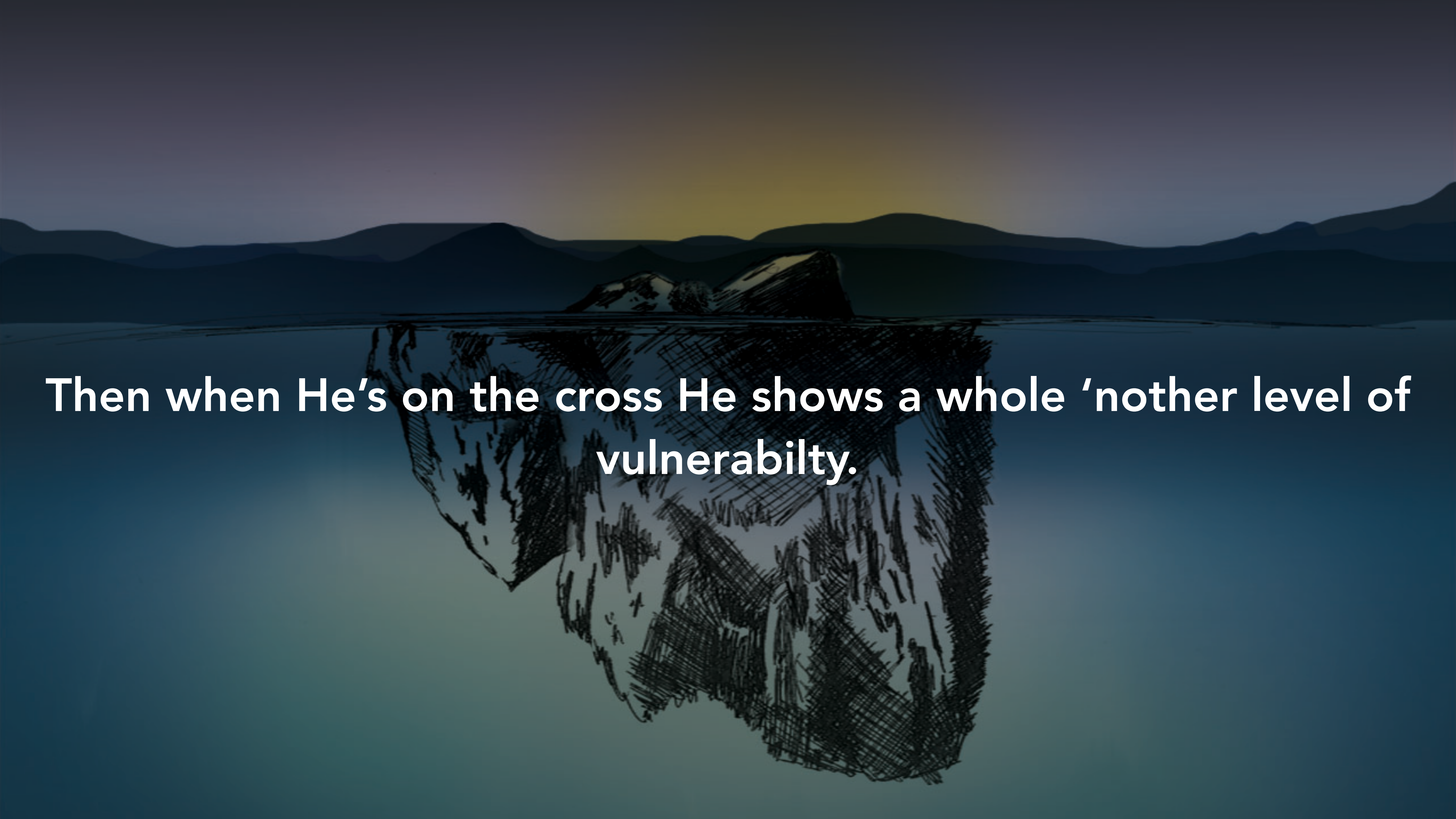


So the question was, if Jesus is telling us to take up our cross
and follow Him, what does that look like?

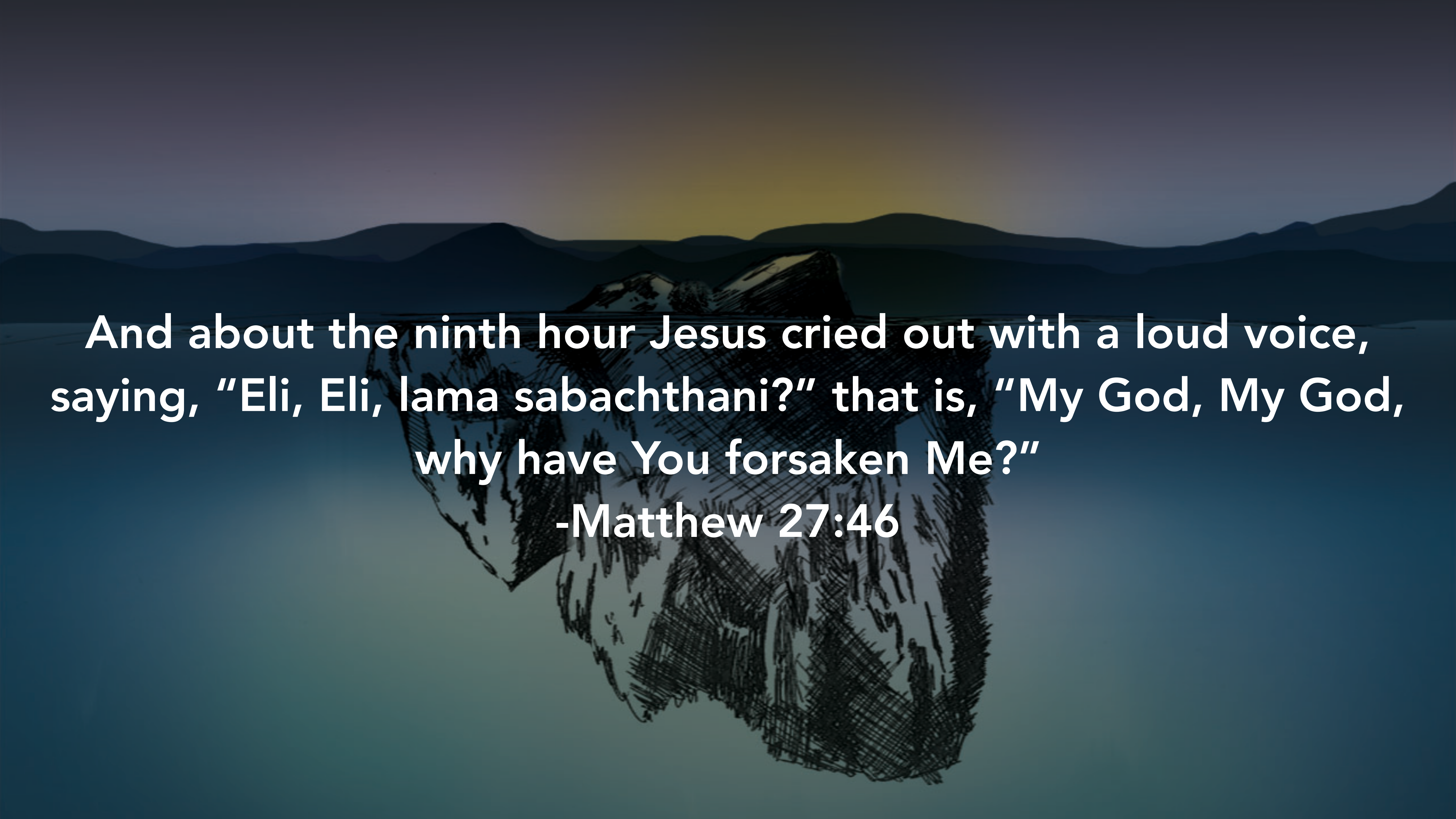


If you've had to go through the agonizing and humiliating effort to carry the cross you've been given, only to collapse under its weight, you have a Savior Who understands.

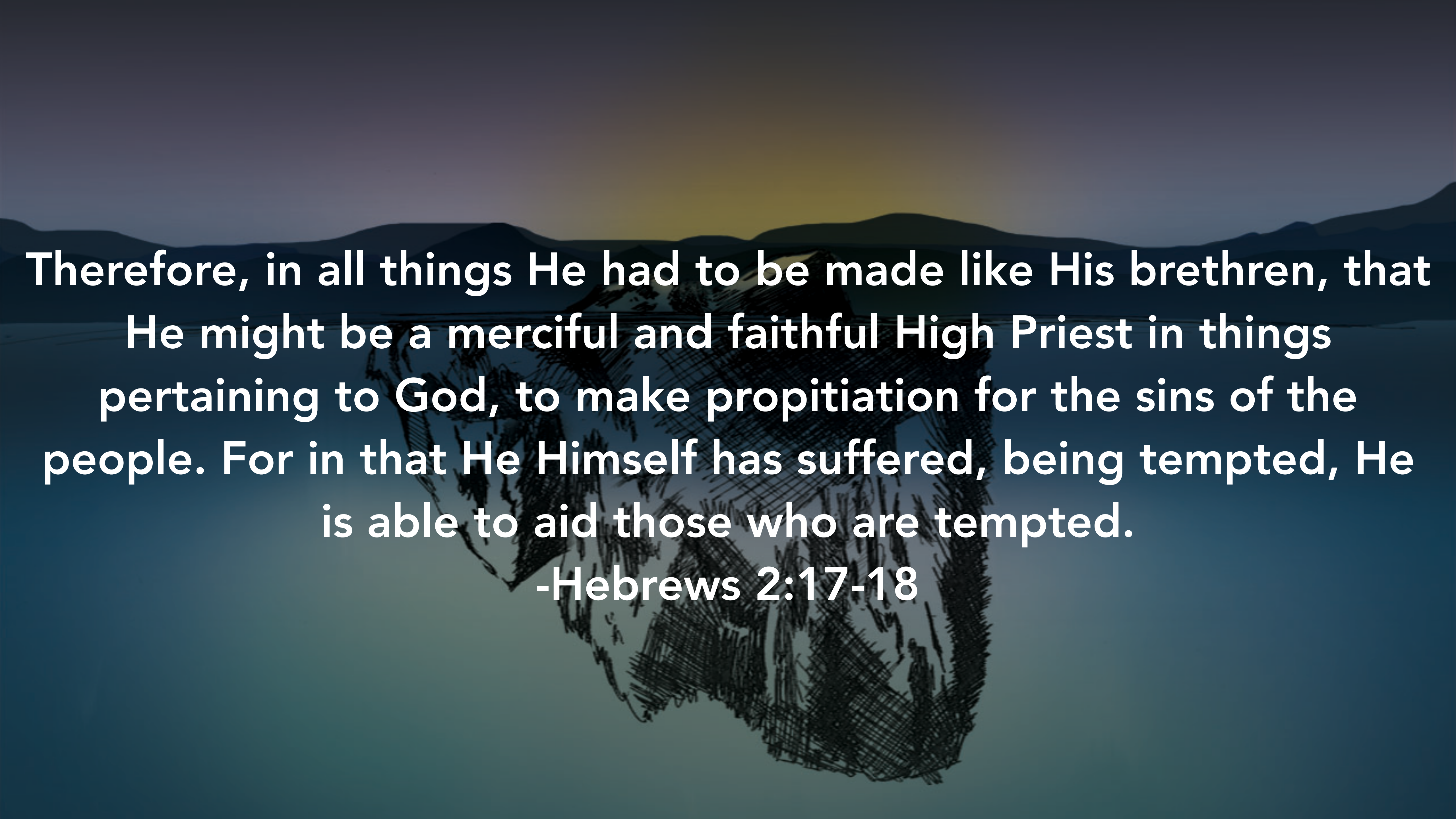
This also shows me that when I collapse under this weight that is nearly killing me right now that I'm not forsaken, and that there's hope.



Then when He's on the cross He shows a whole 'nother level of vulnerability.

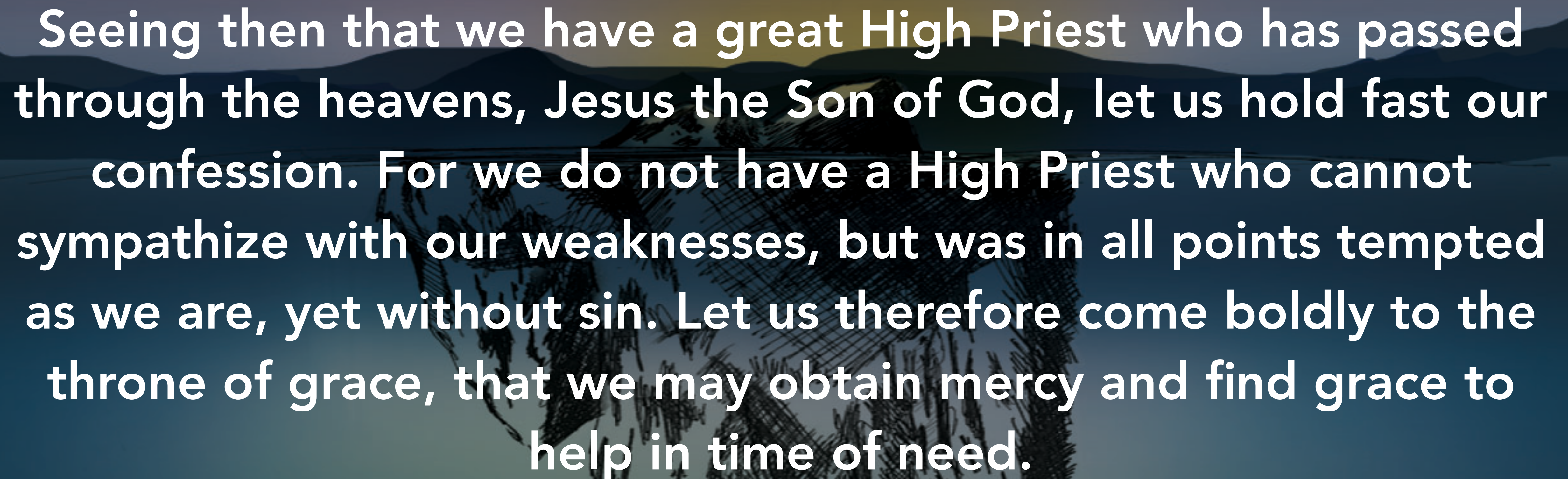


And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice,
saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God,
why have You forsaken Me?"
-Matthew 27:46



Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

-Hebrews 2:17-18



Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

-Hebrews 4:14-16



Adam and Eve and what shame does to us in seeking to cover ourselves and hide our true condition and not be vulnerable.

This is why so many of us wrestle with confession and repentance.

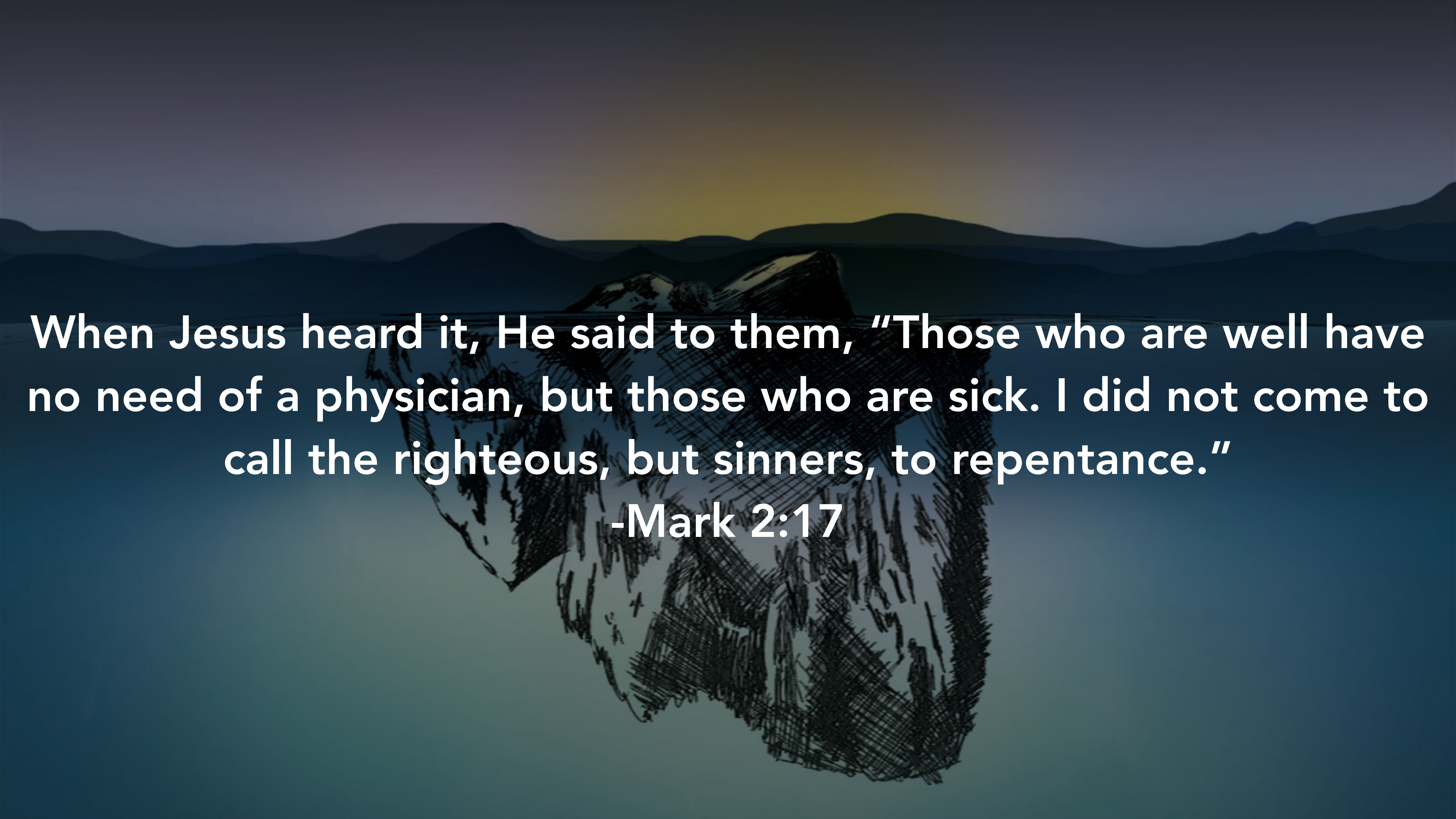
We have to be vulnerable and admit our need.

Satan is the author of this response. He hardened himself when confronted.



For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the Lord, He also has rejected you from being king."

-1 Samuel 15:23

The background features a dark, moody landscape. In the foreground, a large, craggy rock formation is rendered with dense, dark, cross-hatched lines, giving it a textured, almost abstract appearance. The middle ground shows rolling hills and mountains under a twilight sky, with a faint yellow glow on the horizon. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, greys, and blacks, with a touch of yellow from the horizon light.

When Jesus heard it, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance."

-Mark 2:17

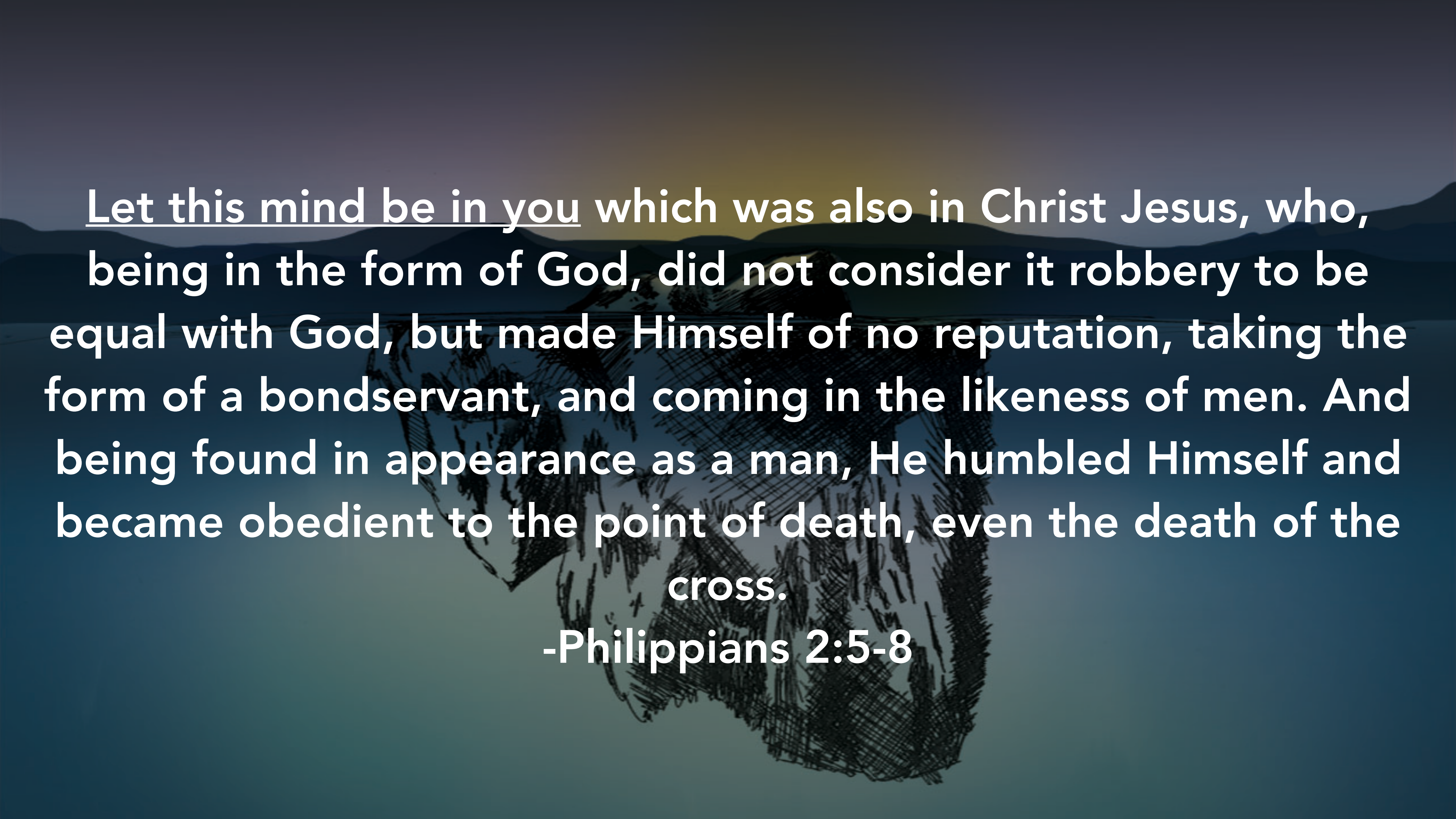


Repentance, confession, and reconciliation don't come natural to fallen human beings.

God understands this, and this is why it says in Romans 2:4 that the goodness of God leads to repentance.

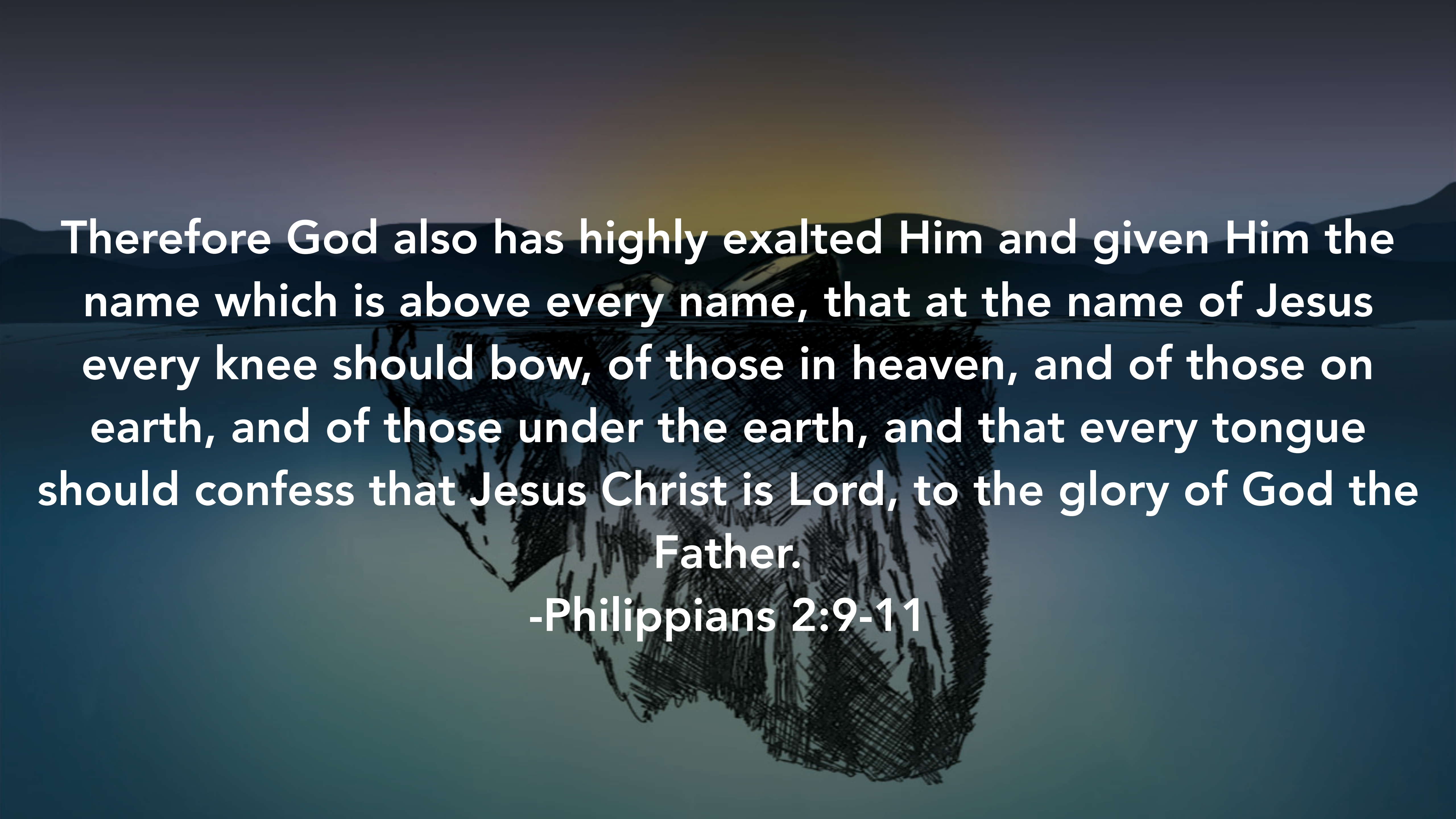


So what is the goodness of God?
The vulnerability of Jesus.



Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

-Philippians 2:5-8

The background features a serene sunset scene with a calm body of water reflecting the sky. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a person is visible, possibly a child, looking out towards the horizon. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

-Philippians 2:9-11

The background features a dark, moody landscape with silhouetted mountains under a twilight sky. A body of water in the foreground reflects the scene. Overlaid on the water is a dark, textured sketch of a human face, looking downwards. The text is centered over the sketch and water.

**So what is the goodness of God?
Jesus becoming a man, with needs like us, and humbling Himself
to the point of dying, and dying the death of the cross.**

And what was it like for Him and how did He handle it?

He cried when people didn't believe in Him.

He relied upon people to help Him with His own basic needs.
He needed the prayers of His friends to even make it through
Gethsemane.

They failed Him, so God sent an Angel to strengthen Him.
He couldn't even bear the weight of His cross and needed help
with that.

In His crowning moment of victory He publicly confesses His own
temptation to believe that the Father wasn't with Him when He
needed Him most



But "it is finished" answers it all.

It's THIS goodness of God that should lead us to repentance. We caused this. Our sins killed Jesus, and caused Him immense suffering and agony.

The goodness of God is the radical vulnerability of Jesus.



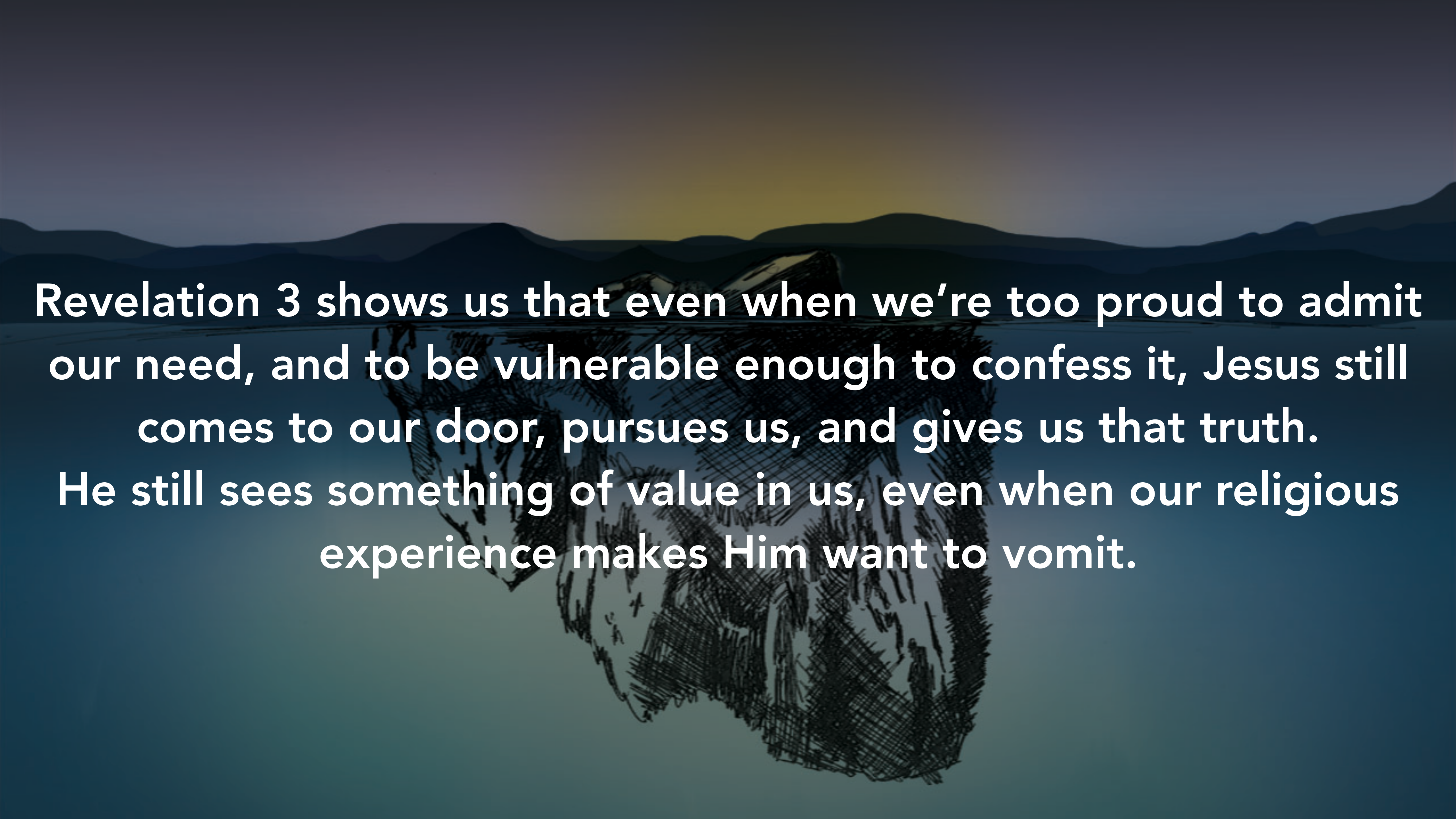
This shows us that vulnerability is a strength. Not a weakness.



This should tear down our walls of pride, self-protection, stubbornness, fear, and the list goes on. And it should inspire us to respond with our own vulnerability.

Repentance, confession, and a willingness to pursue reconciliation.

This will lead to love, joy, peace, goodness, gentleness, self control, and the list goes on.



Revelation 3 shows us that even when we're too proud to admit our need, and to be vulnerable enough to confess it, Jesus still comes to our door, pursues us, and gives us that truth. He still sees something of value in us, even when our religious experience makes Him want to vomit.



Holding The Key Lyrics



Appeal

The topic of mental health is present truth



@deecasper24
@COREforyear



@dcasper24



@deecasper24



/c/deecasper



Dee Casper