



WHO IS JESUS?

MATTHEW 16:15

Ephesians 4:31 (NIV)

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.



Forgiveness is the means
by which we are to do
away with our bitterness,
rage, and anger.



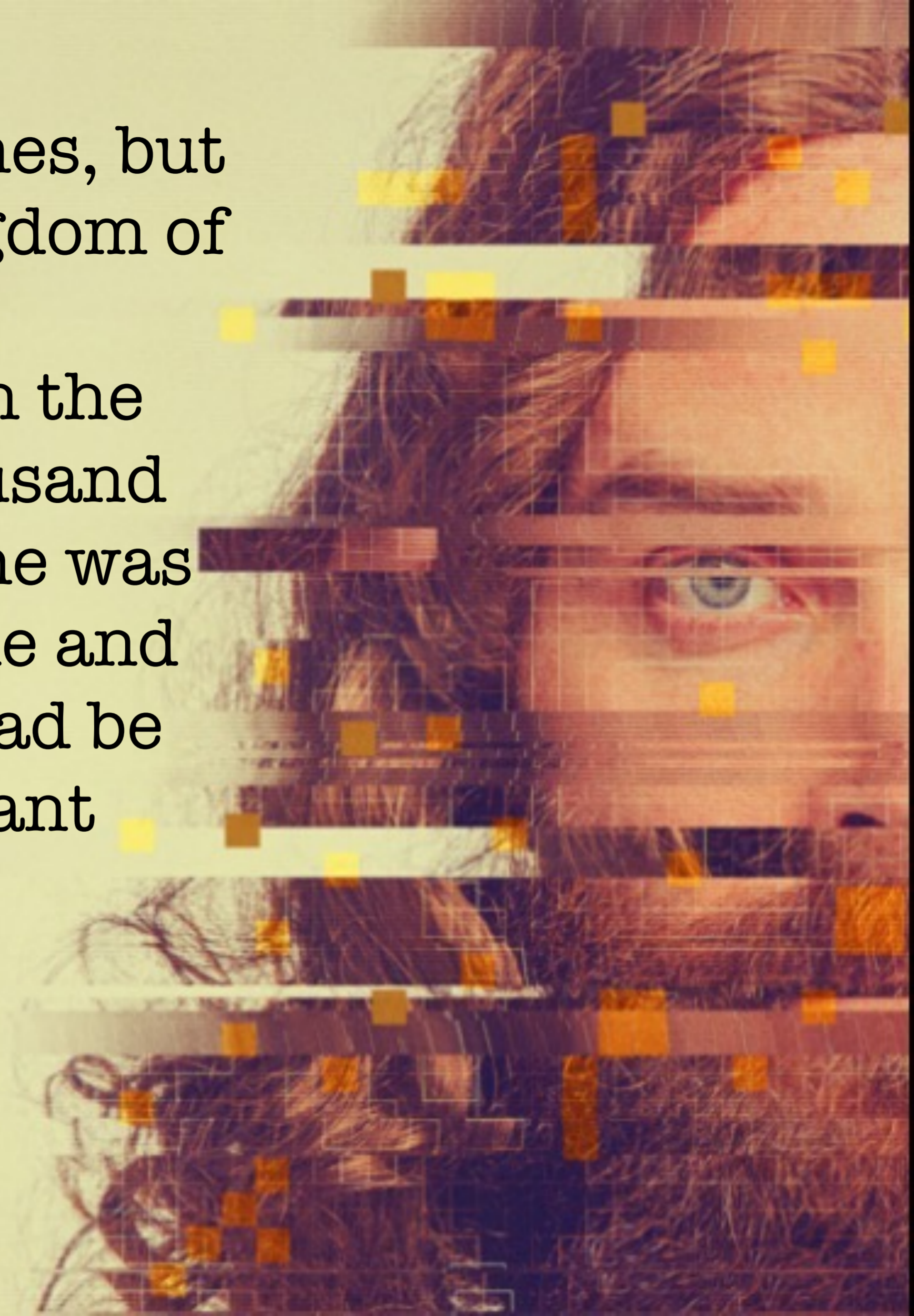
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Matthew 18:22-27^(NIV)

Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.



Forgiveness is the decision
to cancel a debt.

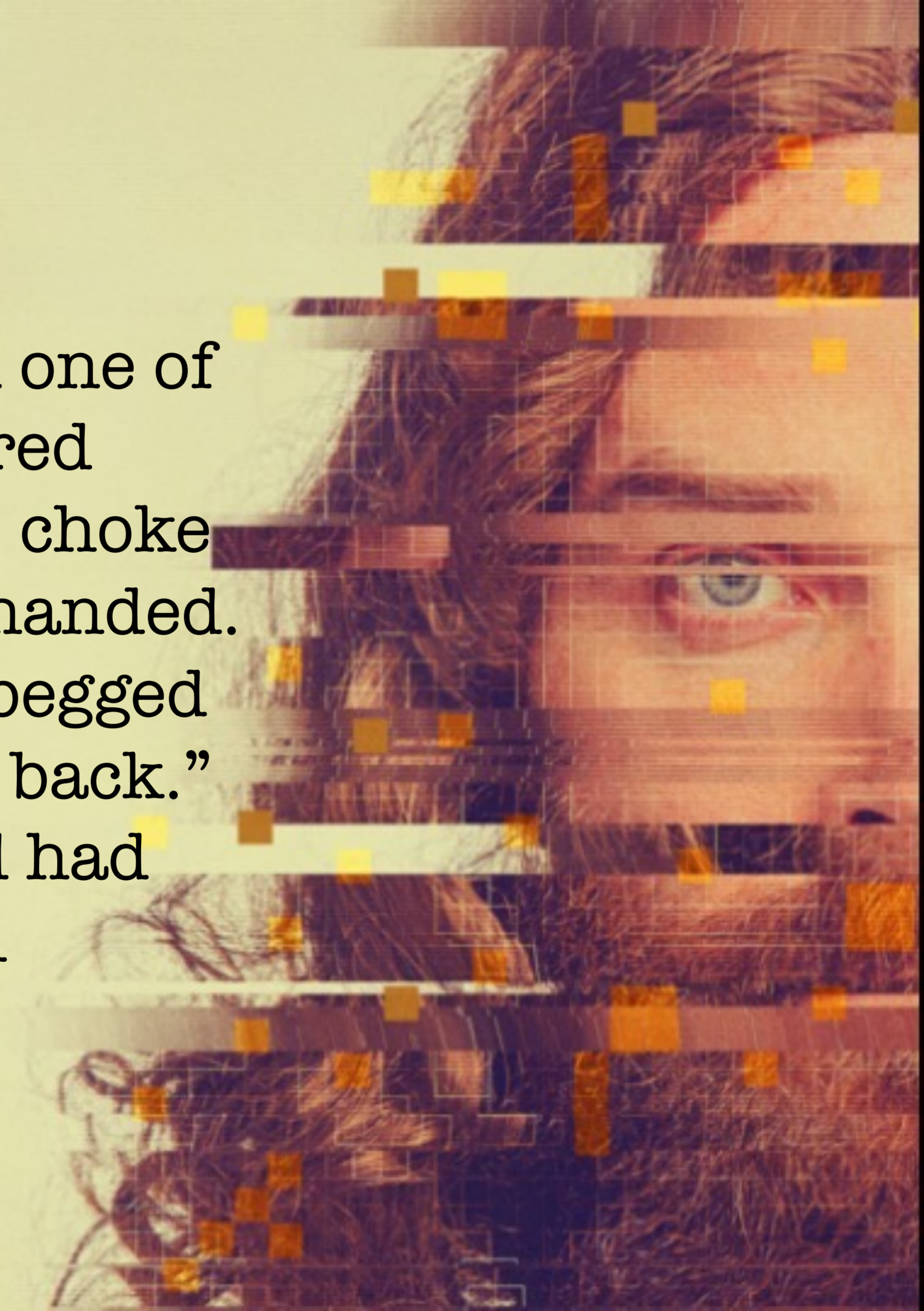


Matthew 18:28-30 (NIV)

But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. “Pay back what you owe me!” he demanded.

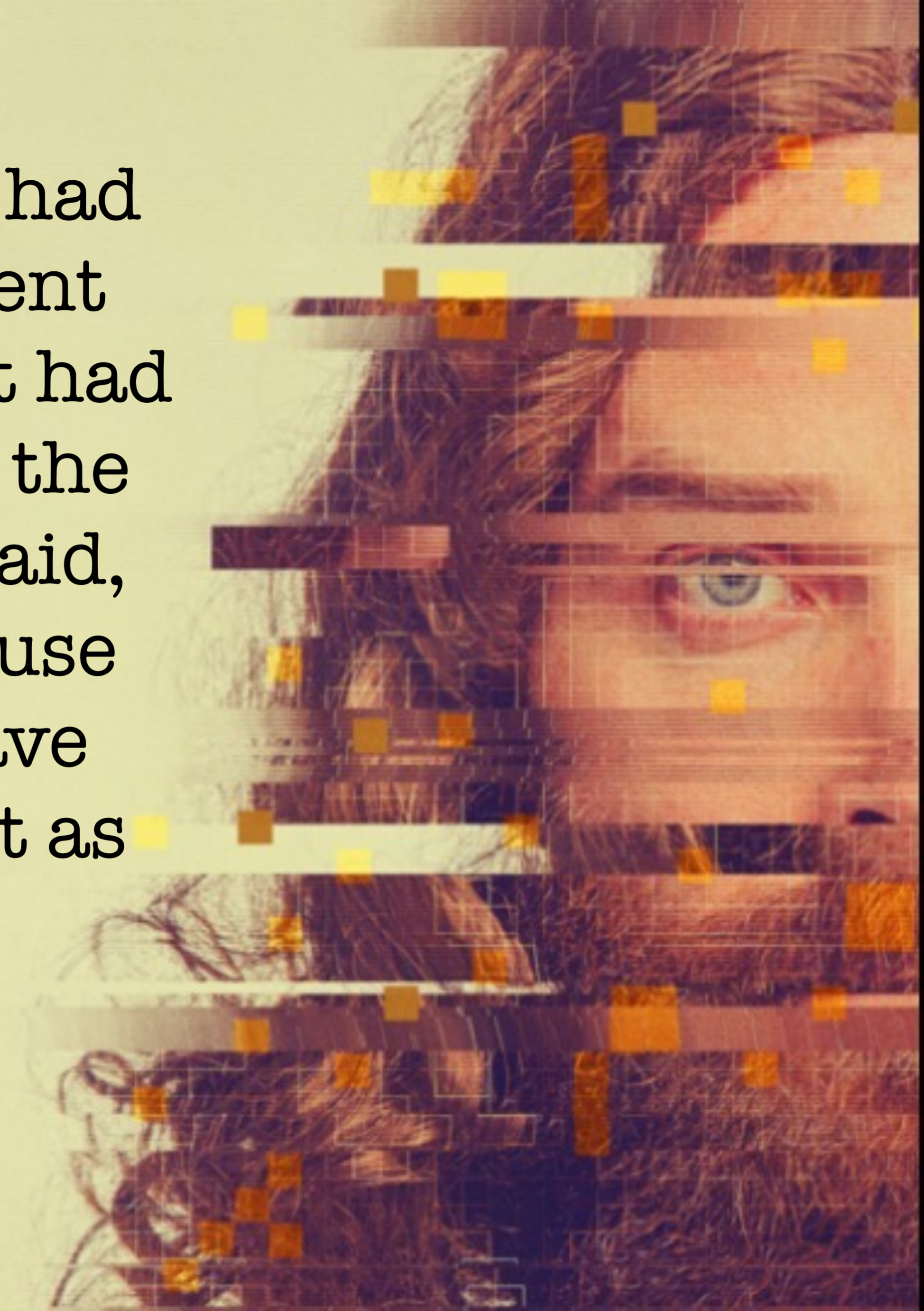
²⁹ His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, “Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.”

³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt.



Matthew 18:31-34 (NIV)

³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. ³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.



Matthew 18:35_(NIV)

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly
Father will treat each of you unless
you forgive your brother or sister
from your heart.”

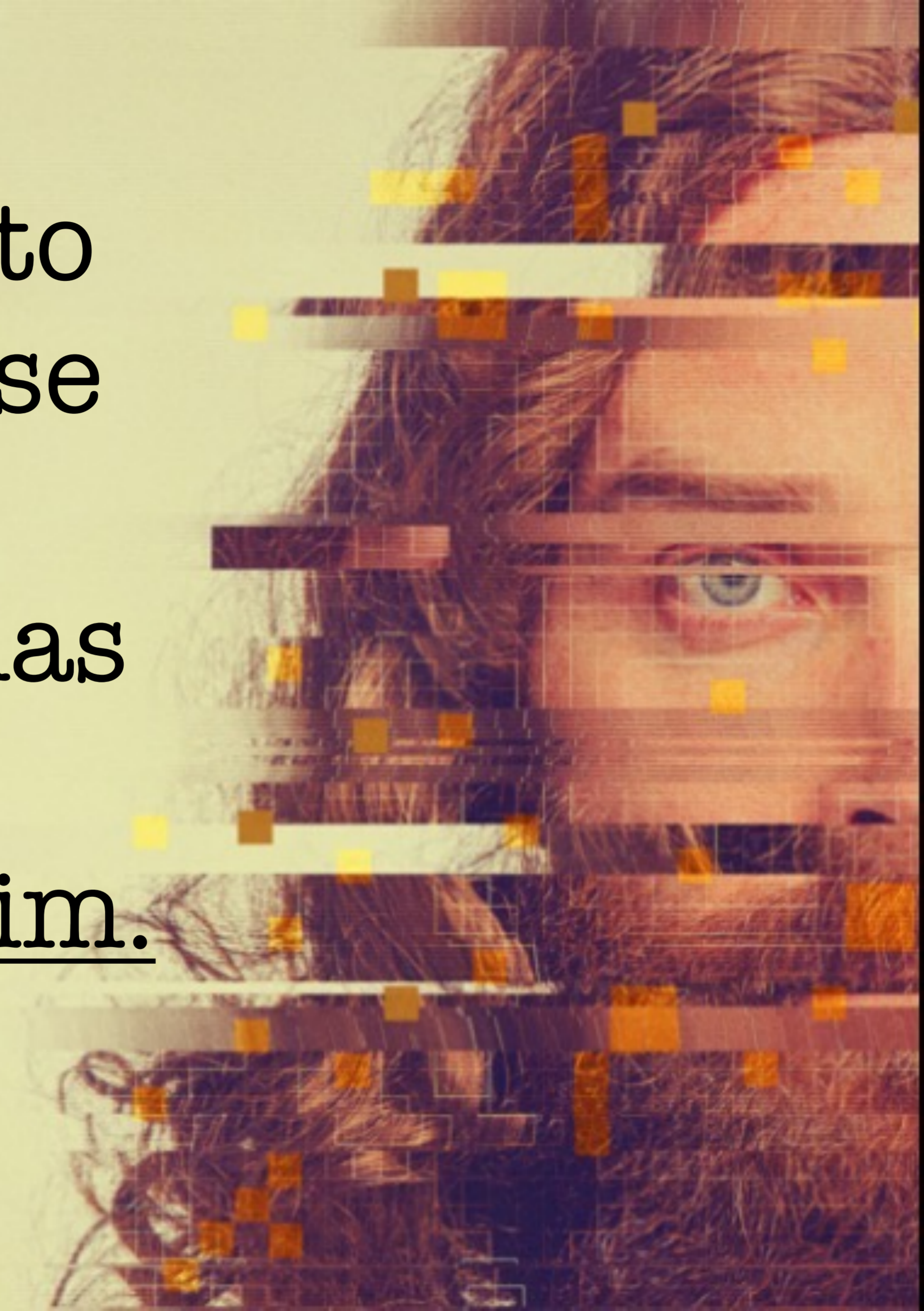


Ephesians 4:32_(NIV)

Be kind and compassionate
to one another, forgiving
each other, just as in Christ
God forgave you.



Someone who is hesitant to forgive, it's usually because they are evaluating their decision in light of what has been done to him, rather than what was done for him.



You don't forgive because a person deserves it; you forgive because you've been forgiven.



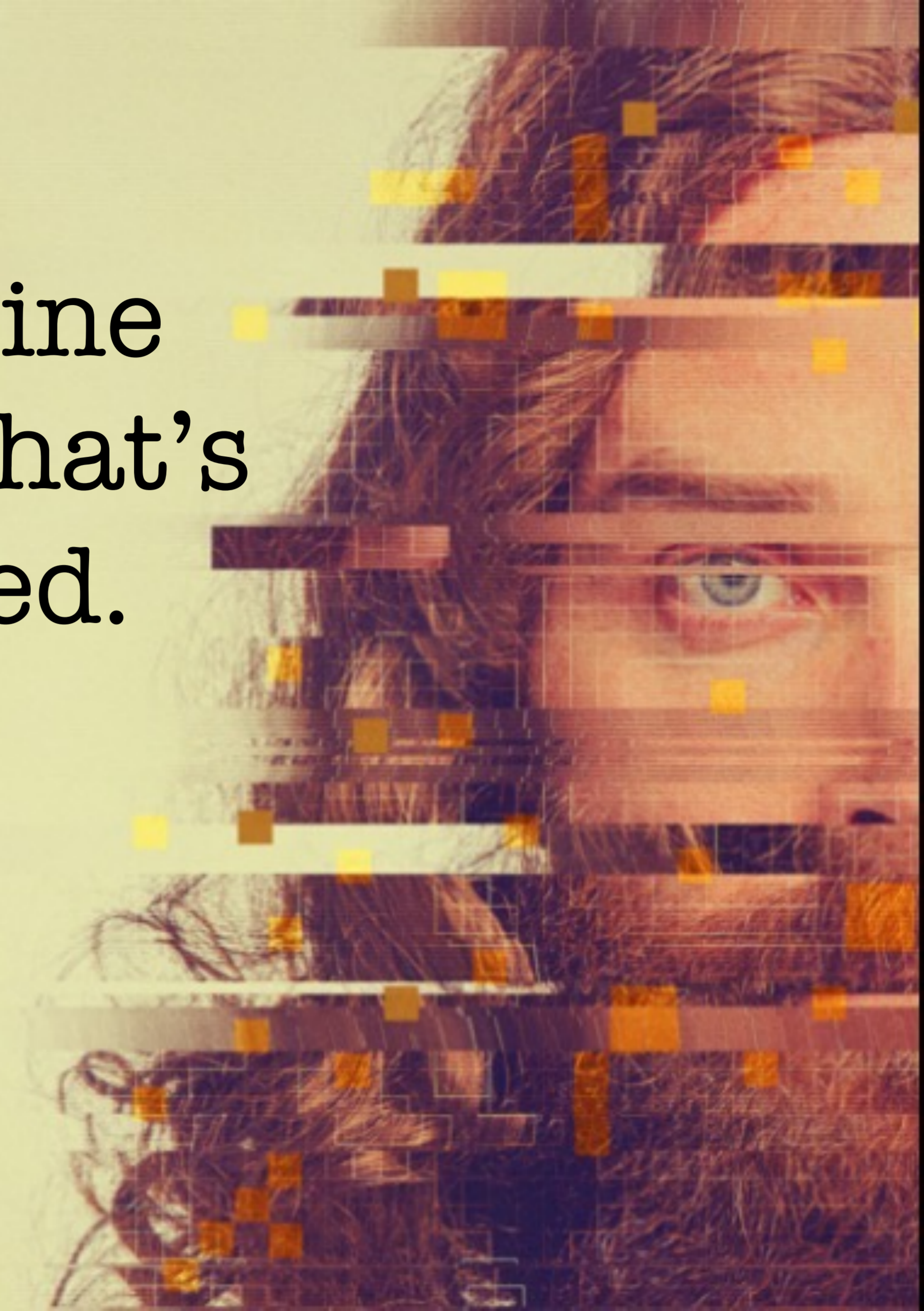
Ephesians 4:32_(NIV)

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Forgiveness is the first line
of defense for a person that's
been hurt or disappointed.

Forgiveness a gift we're
constantly giving.



In the Bible, forgiveness is never presented as a feeling: it's always a decision.





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