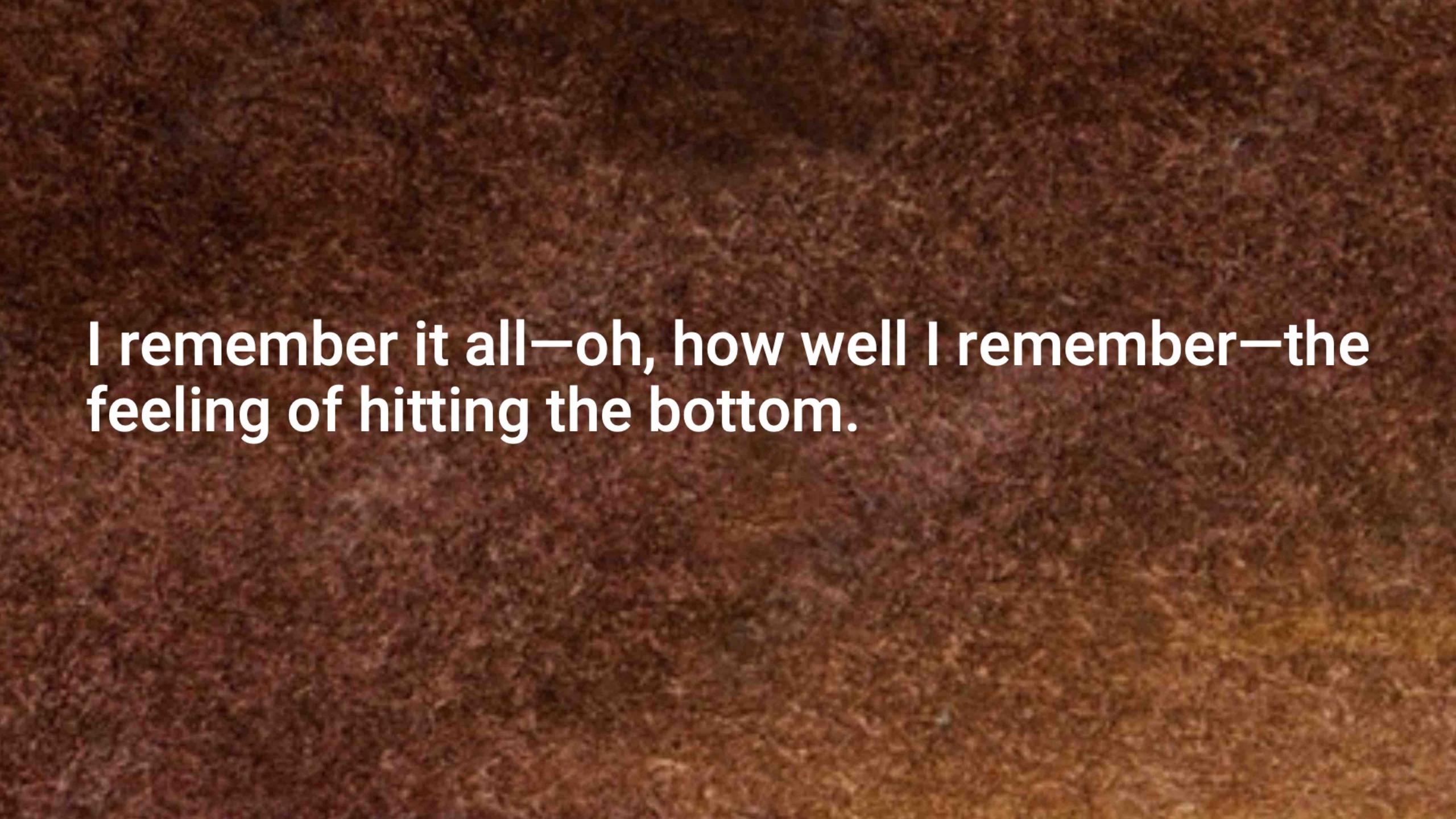


Four Ways to Pray



I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the
feeling of hitting the bottom.

I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—the feeling of hitting the bottom.

Lamentations 3:20

Walls of insincerity, shifting eyes, and vacancy
vanished when I saw your face.

Walls of insincerity, shifting eyes, and vacancy
vanished when I saw your face.

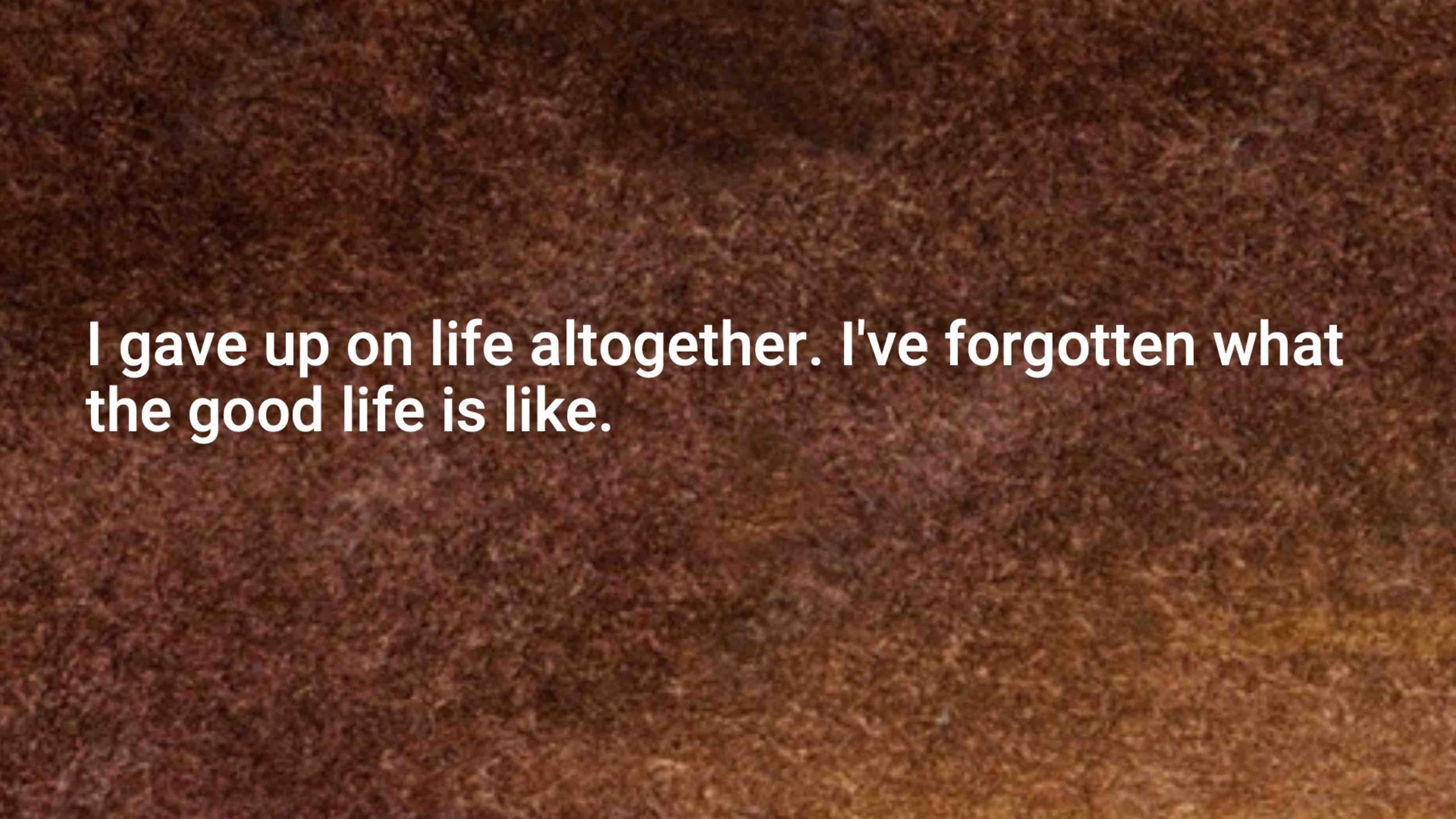
Taylor Swift



I weep, weep buckets of tears, and not a soul
within miles around cares.

I weep, weep buckets of tears, and not a soul
within miles around cares.

Lamentations 1:16



I gave up on life altogether. I've forgotten what the good life is like.

I gave up on life altogether. I've forgotten what the good life is like.

Lamentations 3:17-18

A dark, moody landscape with a cloudy sky and a distant, dark structure.

**It rains when you're here. And it rains when
you're gone.**

**It rains when you're here. And it rains when
you're gone.**

Taylor Swift

We've been to hell and back. We've nowhere to turn, nowhere to go. Rivers of tears pour from my eyes.

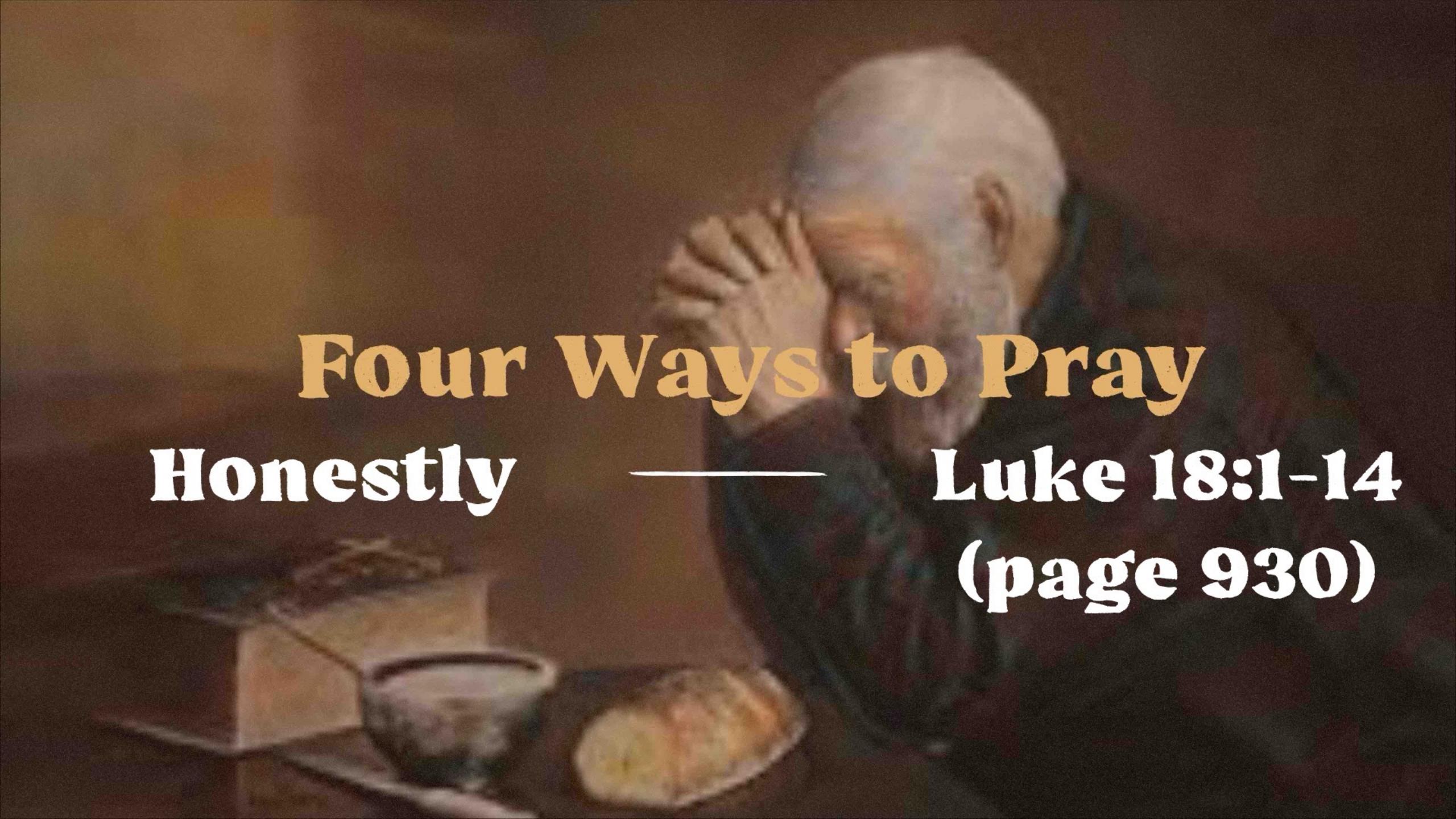
We've been to hell and back. We've nowhere to turn, nowhere to go. Rivers of tears pour from my eyes.

Lamentations 3:48

These walls that they put up to hold us back
will fall down. The time will come for us to
finally win. And we'll sing hallelujah. We'll sing
hallelujah.

These walls that they put up to hold us back
will fall down. The time will come for us to
finally win. And we'll sing hallelujah. We'll sing
hallelujah.

Taylor Swift



Four Ways to Pray

Honestly — Luke 18:1-14 (page 930)

**Prayer is not a place to be good,
it is a place to be honest.**

**Prayer is not a place to perform,
it is a place to be present.**

**Prayer is not a place to be right,
it is a place to be known.**

**Prayer is not a place to prove your worth,
it is a place to receive worth and offer
yourself in truth.**

Kyle Strobel

“What separates us from God and belief in the gospel is not just our sins but also our damnable good works. They separate us from God as long as we think--in the slightest--that they can save us or merit God's favor.”

John Gerstner

1) God Already Knows
(Matt. 6:8)

5“Whenever you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites, because they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by people. Truly I tell you, they have their reward. 6But when you pray, go into your private room, shut your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6

⁷When you pray, don't **babble** like the Gentiles, since they imagine they'll be heard for their **many words.** ⁸Don't be like them, because your Father knows the things you need before you ask him.

Matthew 6

25Then Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Since you are so numerous, choose for yourselves one bull and prepare it first. Then call on the name of your god but don’t light the fire.”

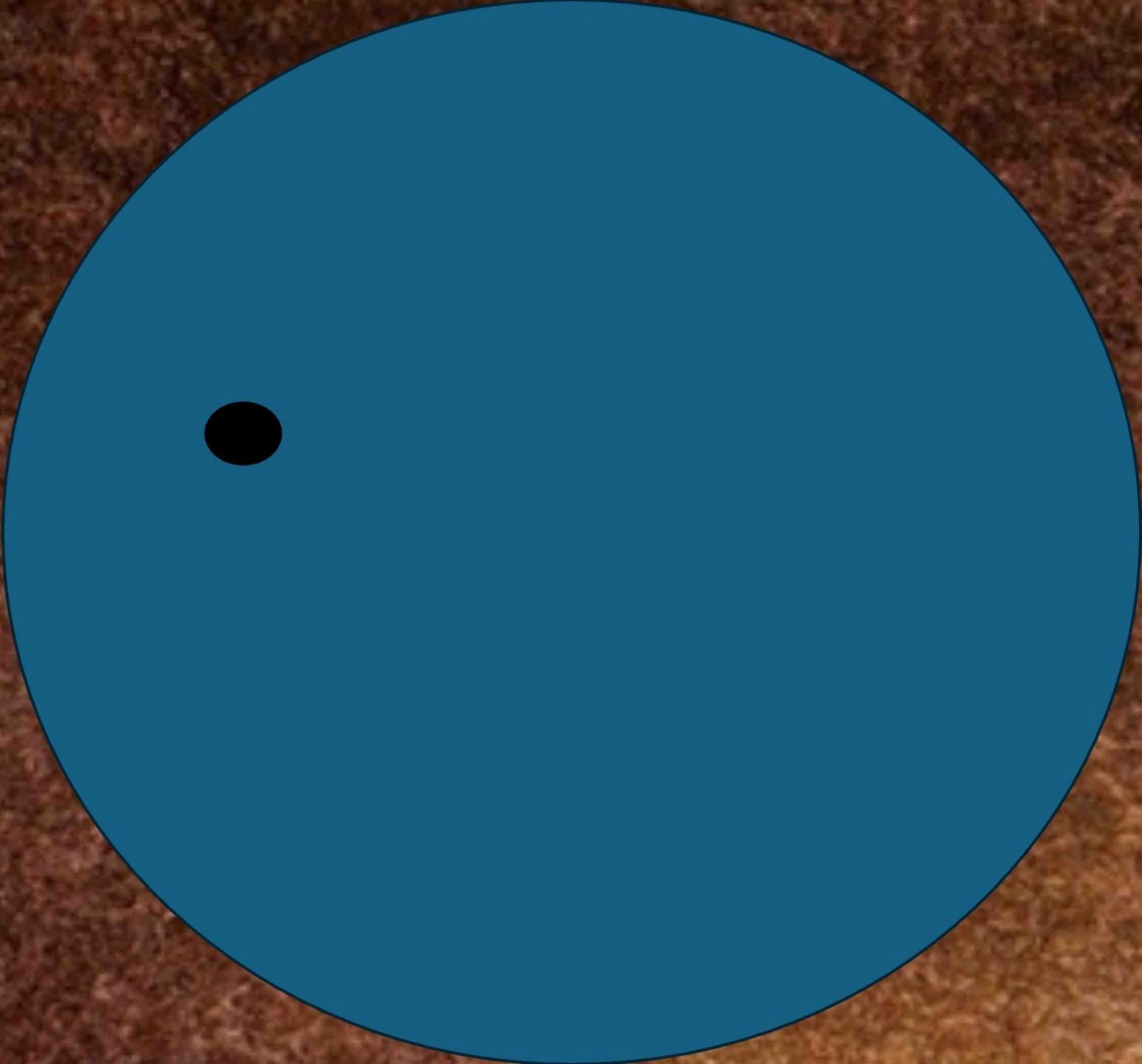
26So they took the bull that he gave them, prepared it, and called on the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, “Baal, answer us!” But there was no sound; no one answered. Then they danced around the altar they had made.

27 At noon Elijah mocked them. He said, "Shout loudly, for he's a god! Maybe he's thinking it over; maybe he has wandered away; or maybe he's on the road. Perhaps he's sleeping and will wake up!" 28 They shouted loudly, and cut themselves with knives and spears, according to their custom, until blood gushed over them. 29 All afternoon they kept on **raving** until the offering of the evening sacrifice, but there was **no sound**; no **one answered**, **no one paid attention**.

1 Kings 18

“The prohibition against many-worded, gentile-like prayers is not a new law outlining the word length or time length of all praying (e.g. Jesus praying all night in Luke 6:12; the prayer in the garden of Gethsemane in Matt. 26:36-46; Acts 16:25). Rather, it is a call for **simplicity** over rhetoric, for **clarity** over piled-up repetition.”

Jonathan Pennington



“God will either give us what we ask or give us what we would have asked if we knew everything he knows.”

Tim Keller

“Our time frames are not in touch with ultimate reality. Our perspective on timing compared with God’s is analogous to a two-year-old’s with an adult’s. God has good reasons for making us wait a long time to see some prayers answered.”

Tim Keller

- 1) God Already Knows
(Matt. 5:8)
- 2) Persist in Prayer
(Luke 18:1-8)

¹Now he told them a parable on the need for them to pray always and not give up. ²“There was a judge in a certain town who didn’t fear God or respect people. ³And a widow in that town kept coming to him, saying, ‘Give me justice against my adversary.’

Luke 18

4“For a while he was unwilling, but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I don’t fear God or respect people, ⁵yet because this widow keeps pestering me, I will give her justice, so that she doesn’t wear me out by her persistent coming.’”

Luke 18

6Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7**Will not God grant justice to his elect who cry out to him day and night? Will he delay helping them? **8**I tell you that he will swiftly grant them justice. Nevertheless, when the **Son of Man** comes, will he find **faith** on earth?”

Luke 18

- 1) God Already Knows
(Matt. 5:8)
- 2) Persist in Prayer
(Luke 18:1-8)
- 3) Get God Right
(Luke 18:9-14)

⁹He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and looked down on everyone else: ¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**. ¹¹The Pharisee was standing and praying like this **about himself**: ‘God, I **thank** you that I’m not like other people—greedy, unrighteous, adulterers, or even like this **tax collector**. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of everything I get.’

Luke 18

For I tell you, unless your righteousness
surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees,
you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

Matthew 5:20

“God isn’t identical to your feelings, and your feelings do not tell you true things about the world. Your feelings tell your true things about your heart, which is why they are so important. Our feelings and emotions are not adequate signals about the way things are outside of us. We lie to ourselves and say things like, “She makes me so angry,” because what we really mean is, “I am so angry, and she unearthed it in me.” It is easier to project our anger onto someone else rather than owning the anger within.”

Kyle Strobel

“Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react.”

Chuck Swindoll

13“But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even raise his eyes to heaven but kept striking his chest and saying, ‘God, have mercy on me, a **sinner!**’ 14I tell you, this one went down to his house **justified** rather than the other, because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

Luke 18

“Scripture does not send you back on yourself when convicted. God does not push us to rely on our savvy to manage or fix or muster other strategies to make ourselves safe in His presence. There is no hope in that. We have a great High Priest, so we must set our hope on Him.”

Kyle Strobel

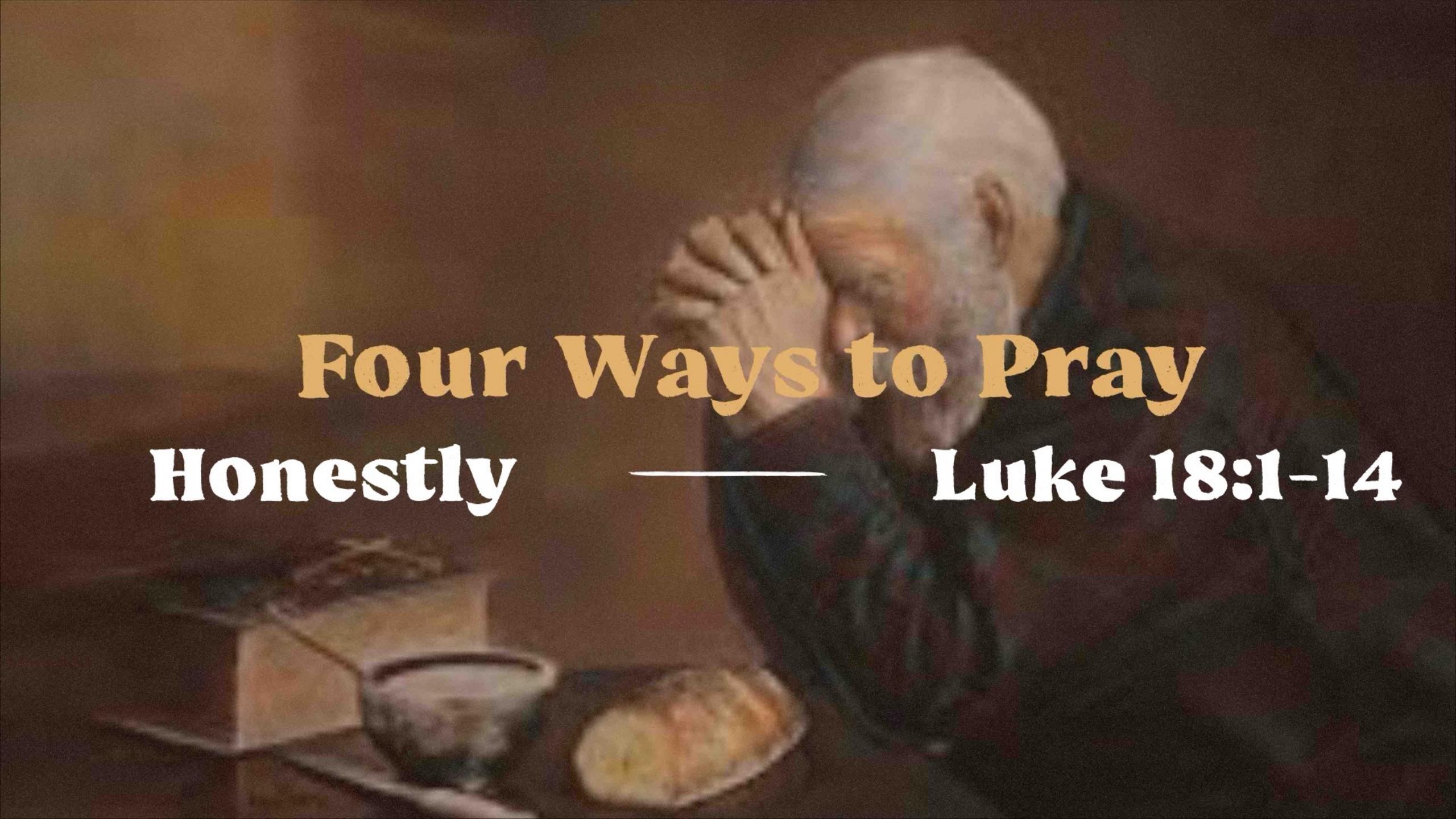
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