

# ACTS

**The Gospel In Motion**



## Acts 21

# “Good Decisions—the Challenge of Christian Maturity”

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Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church

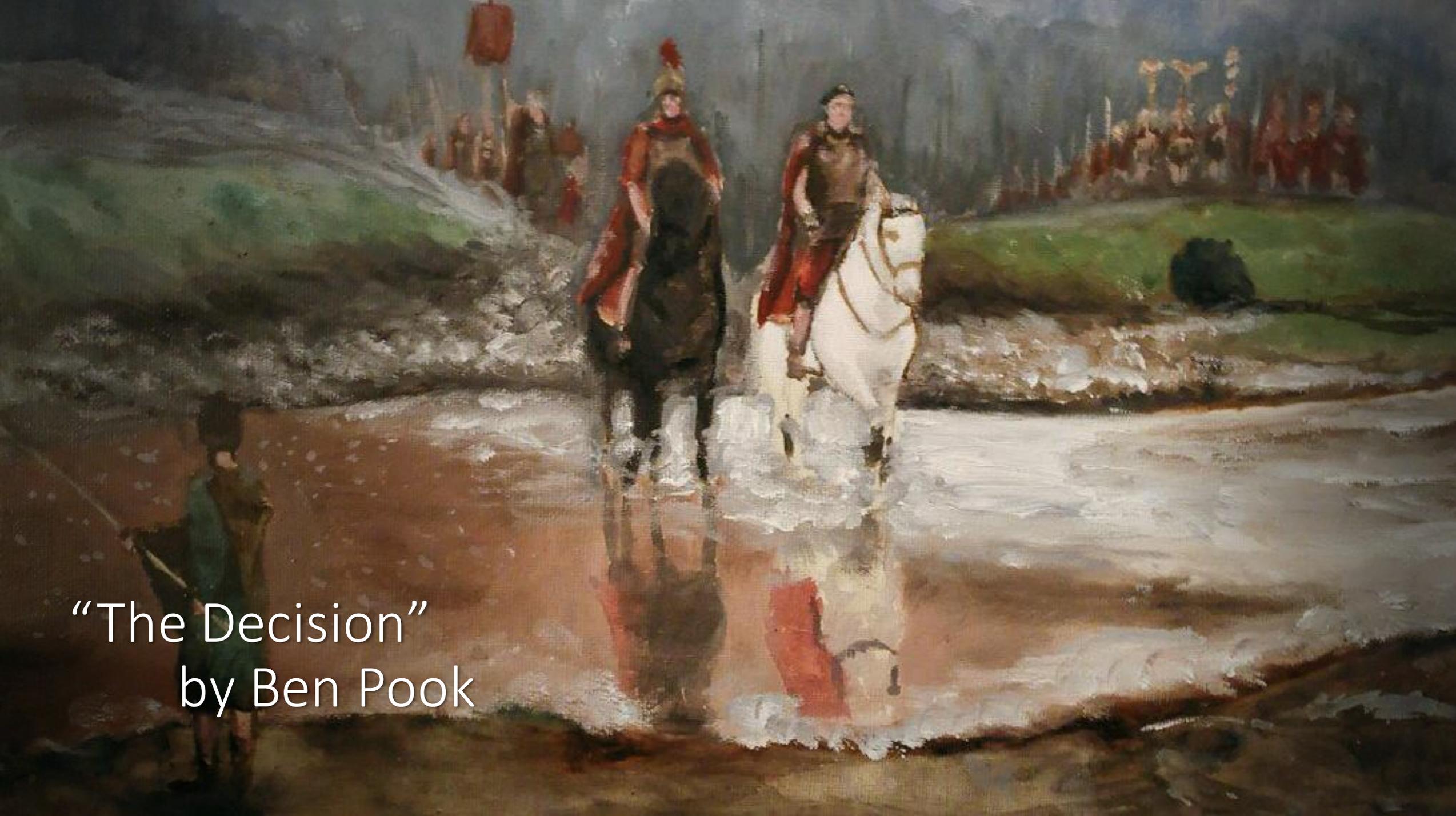
Nov. 5-6, 2022

Major Sources: F.F. Bruce, David Peterson, Lloyd Ogilvie, James Boice, Cecil Taylor, John MacArthur, John Piper, BibleResearch.org, Bible Exposition Commentary

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“The Decision”  
by Ben Pook



*Joshua*

*David*

*Nehemiah*

*Esau*

*Abigail*

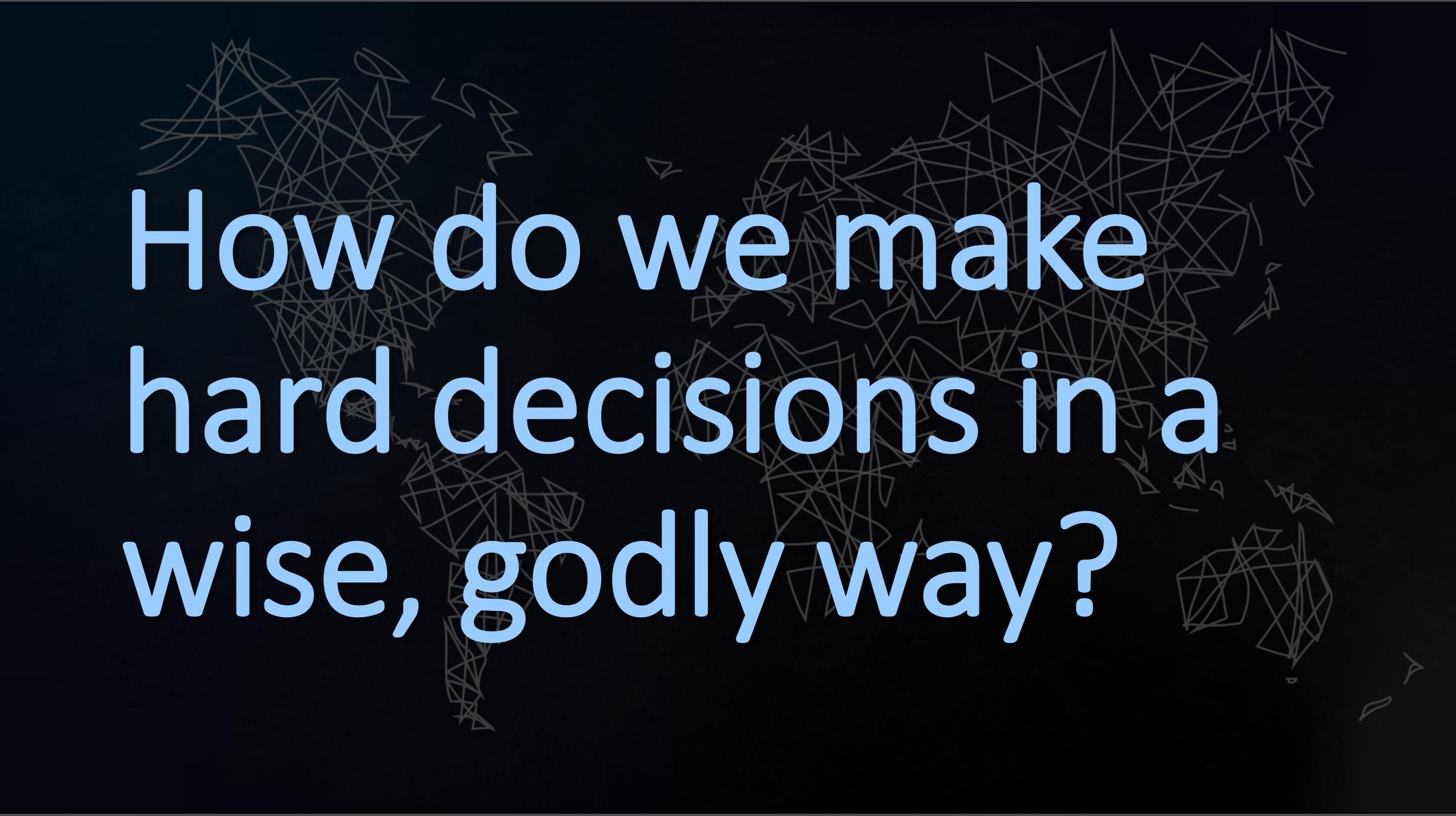
*Jarius*

*Pilot*

*Peter*

## *Paul's Rubicon*

<sup>22</sup> “And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. <sup>23</sup> I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. <sup>24</sup> However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.” (Acts 20:22-24)



How do we make  
hard decisions in a  
wise, godly way?



**We make following  
the Lord more  
important than  
pleasing people.**



*Acts 21:4-5*

<sup>4</sup> We sought out the disciples there and stayed with them seven days. Through the Spirit they urged Paul not to go on to Jerusalem...

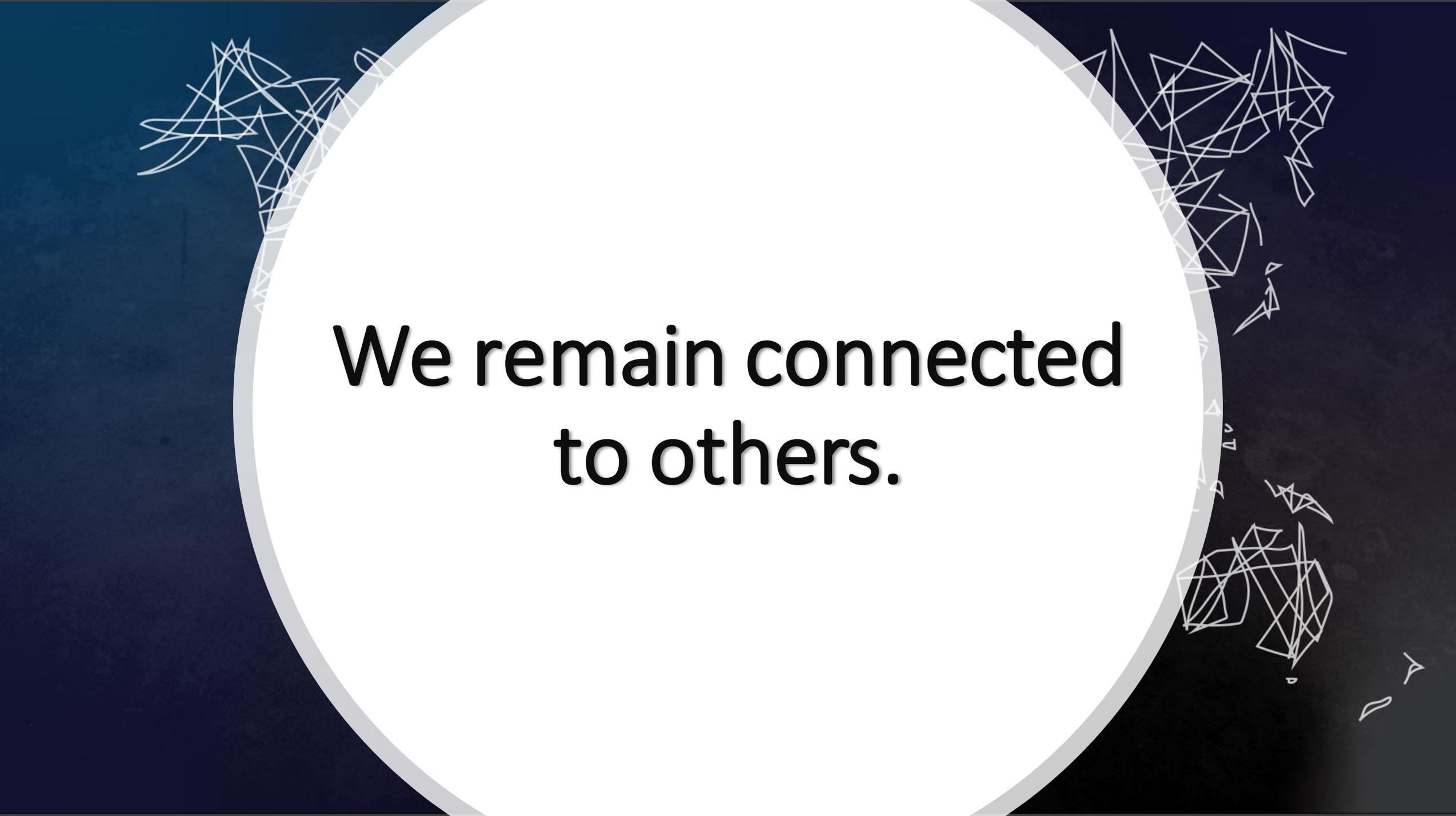
<sup>12</sup> When we heard this, we and the people there pleaded with Paul not to go up to Jerusalem.

*Acts 21:13-14*

<sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, “Why are you weeping and breaking my heart? I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” <sup>14</sup> When he would not be dissuaded, we gave up and said, “The Lord’s will be done.”

*Jesus in John 16:13*

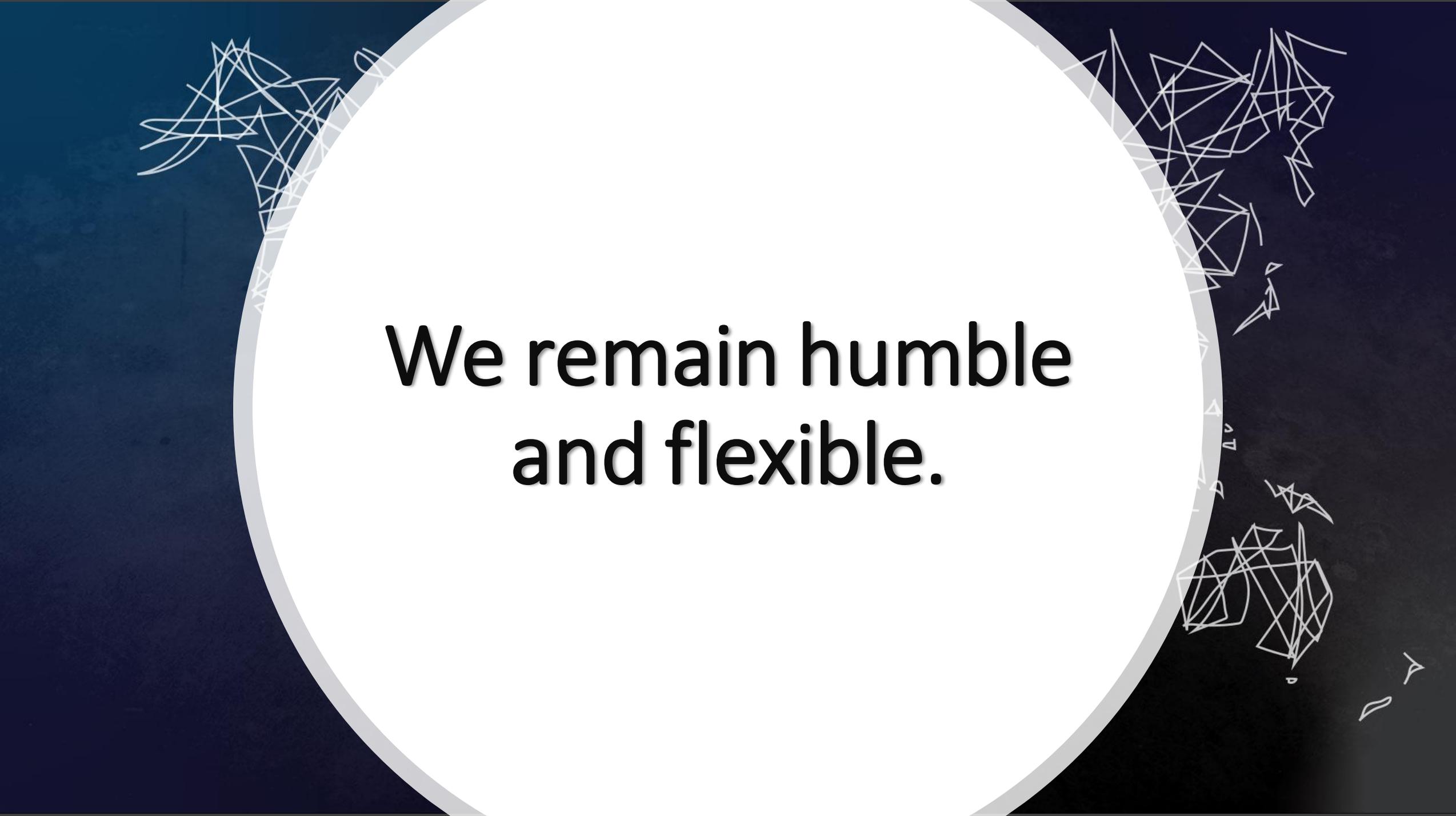
“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.”



**We remain connected  
to others.**

## *Acts 21:15-16*

<sup>15</sup> After this, we started on our way up to Jerusalem. <sup>16</sup> Some of the disciples from Caesarea accompanied us and brought us to the home of Mnason, where we were to stay. He was a man from Cyprus and one of the early disciples.



**We remain humble  
and flexible.**



*Acts 21:24-26*

24 “Take these men, join in their purification rites and pay their expenses, so that they can have their heads shaved. Then everyone will know there is no truth in these reports about you, but that you yourself are living in obedience to the law.”

## *NAZIRITE*

Nazirites of Moses (Numbers 6)

Samuel (1 Samuel 1:11).

Samson (Judges 13:3-5)

John the Baptist (Matthew 3)

Paul (Acts 18, 21)

*Paul's first Nazarite vow*

*Acts 18:18*

"Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sailed for Syria accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchrea because of a vow he had taken."

*Acts 21:24-26*

<sup>25</sup> “As for the Gentile believers, we have written to them our decision that they should abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality.”

*Acts 21:24-26*

<sup>26</sup> The next day Paul took the men and purified himself along with them. Then he went to the temple to give notice of the date when the days of purification would end and the offering would be made for each of them.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-22*

<sup>19</sup> Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. <sup>20</sup> To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law.

*1 Corinthians 9:19-22*

.<sup>21</sup> To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law.<sup>22</sup> To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.

*1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1*

<sup>31</sup> “Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

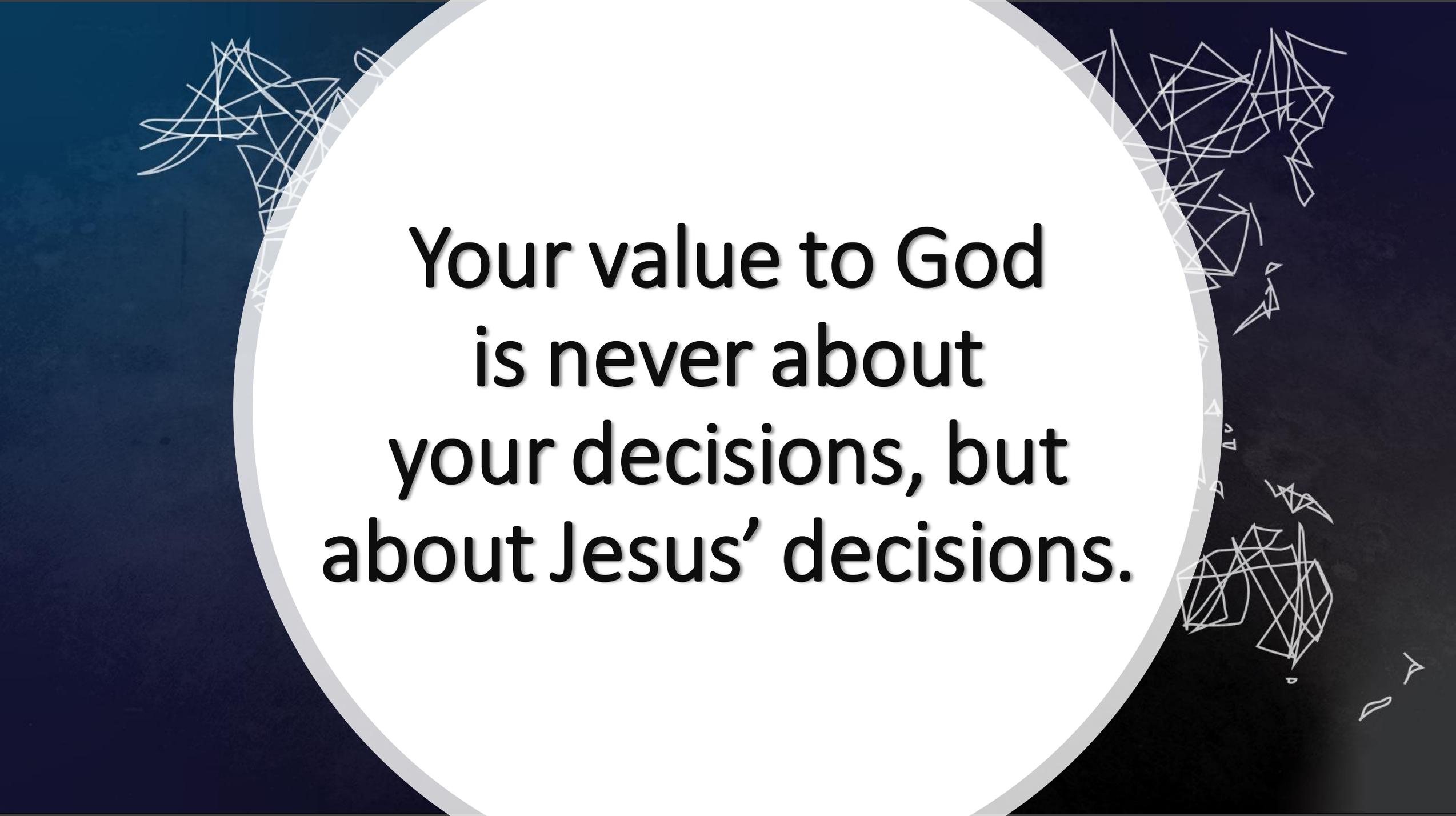
<sup>32</sup> Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God <sup>33</sup> just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many, that they may be saved. <sup>11:1</sup> Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.”



25,500  
1,785,000



“The Decision”  
by David Bowers



**Your value to God  
is never about  
your decisions, but  
about Jesus' decisions.**



“The Decision of Christ in the Garden”  
by Robert Weir (1860)



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