

The image features a stylized world map in shades of grey and light blue. Overlaid on the map is a network of grey lines connecting various nodes, some of which are highlighted with blue circles. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

# ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Don't Wait!

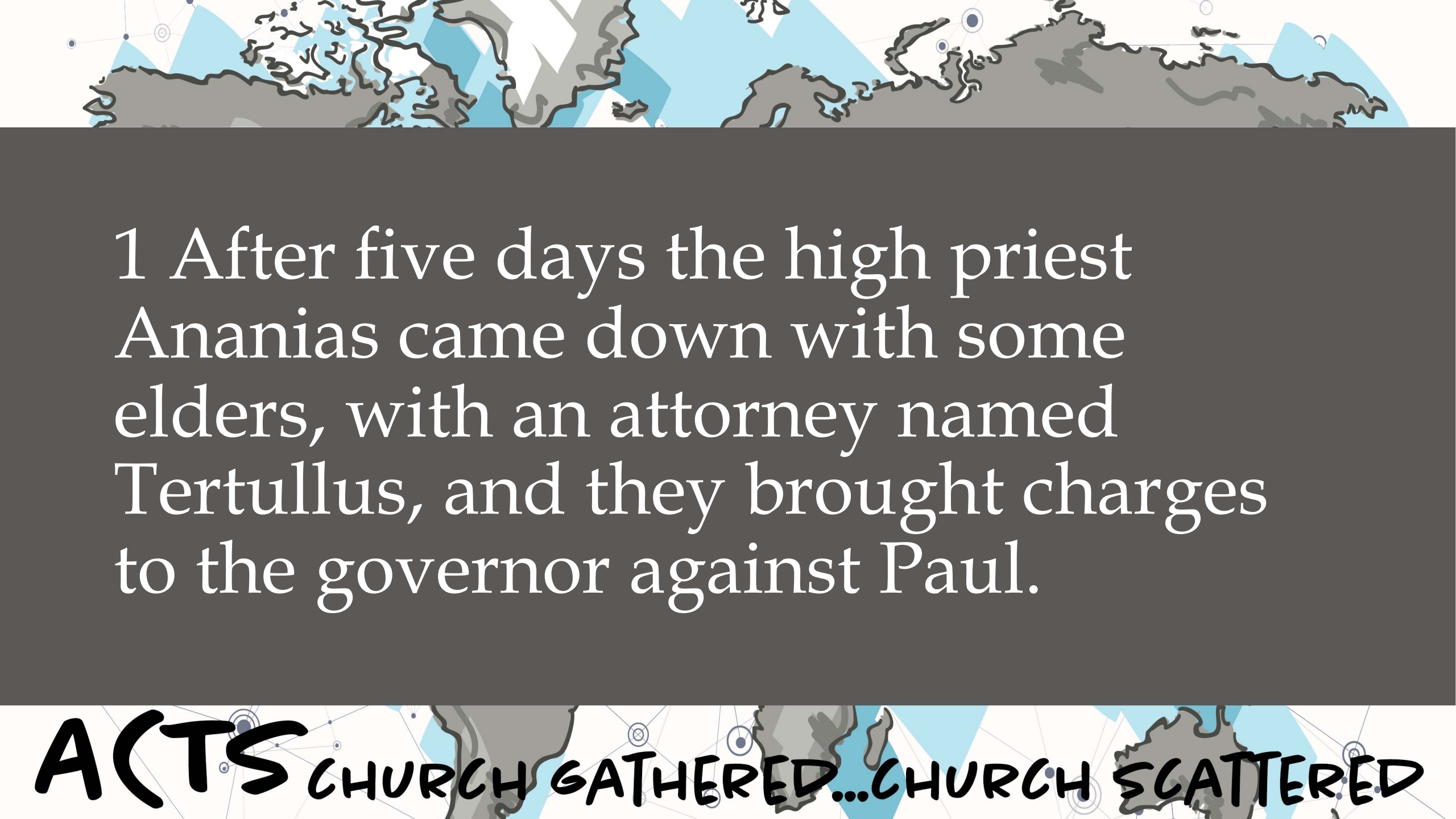
Acts 24

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

*“Indeed the safest road to Hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.”*

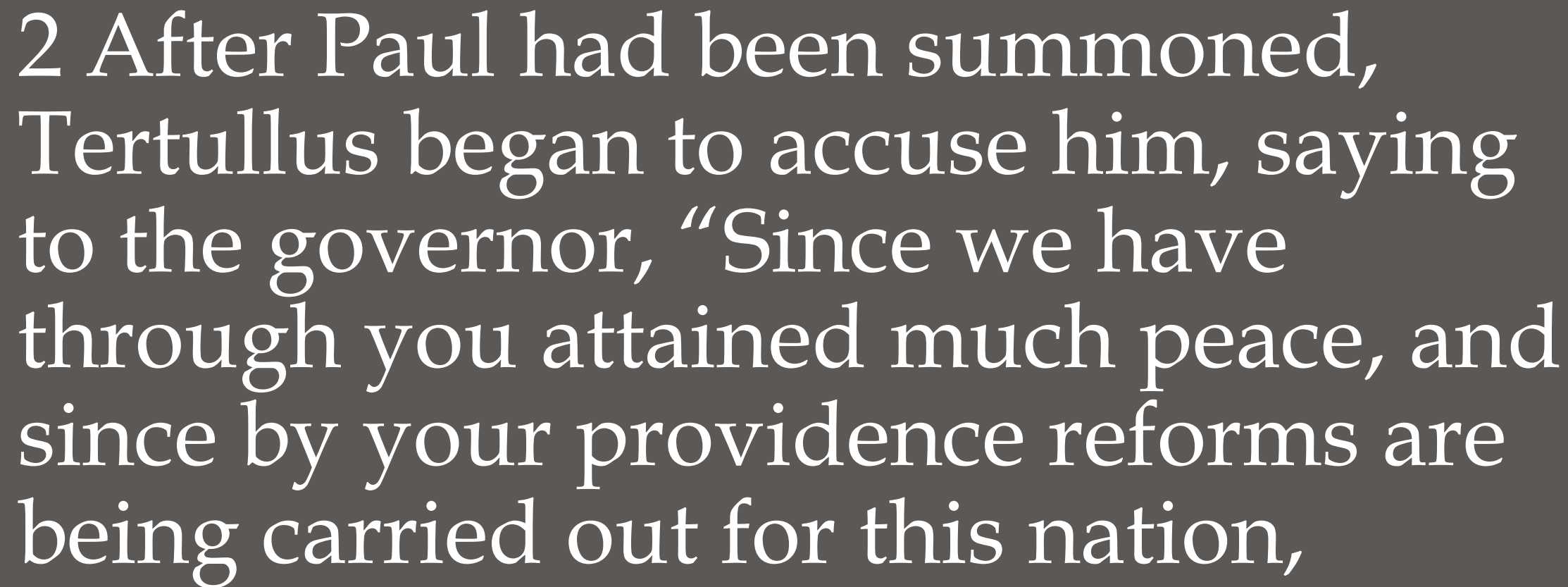
C.S. Lewis The Screwtape Letters

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



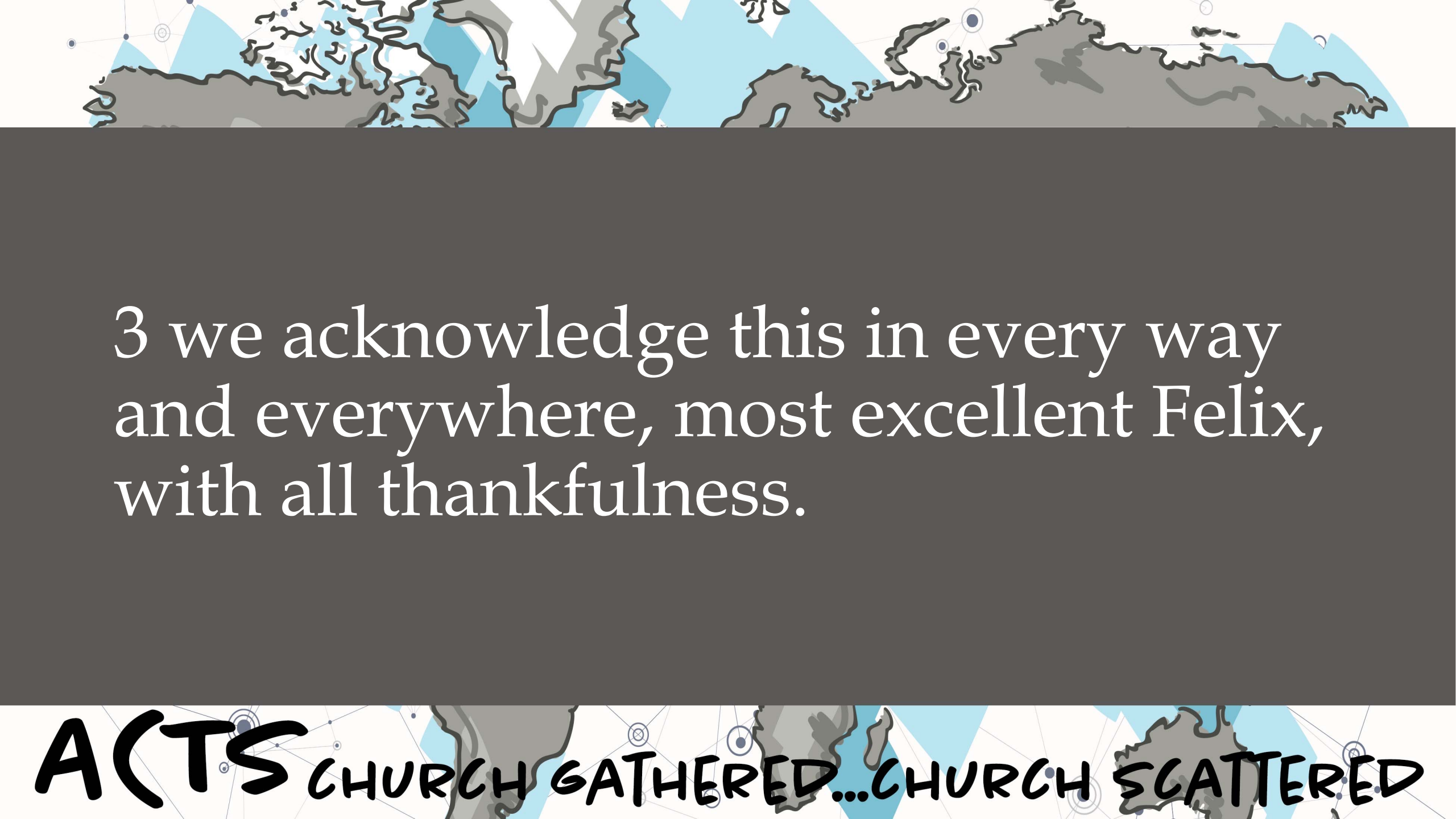
1 After five days the high priest Ananias came down with some elders, with an attorney named Tertullus, and they brought charges to the governor against Paul.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



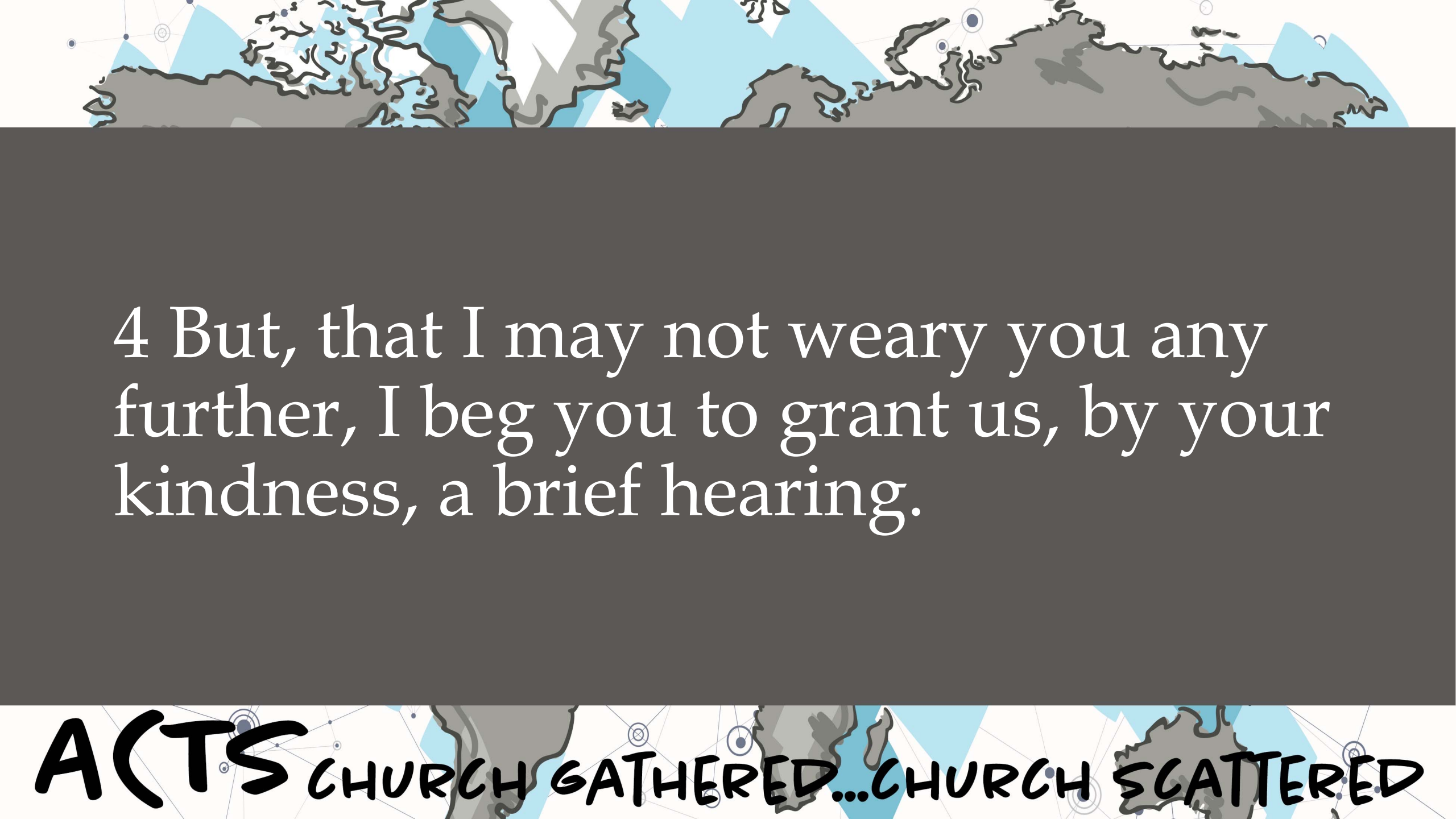
2 After Paul had been summoned, Tertullus began to accuse him, saying to the governor, “Since we have through you attained much peace, and since by your providence reforms are being carried out for this nation,

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



3 we acknowledge this in every way  
and everywhere, most excellent Felix,  
with all thankfulness.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



4 But, that I may not weary you any further, I beg you to grant us, by your kindness, a brief hearing.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



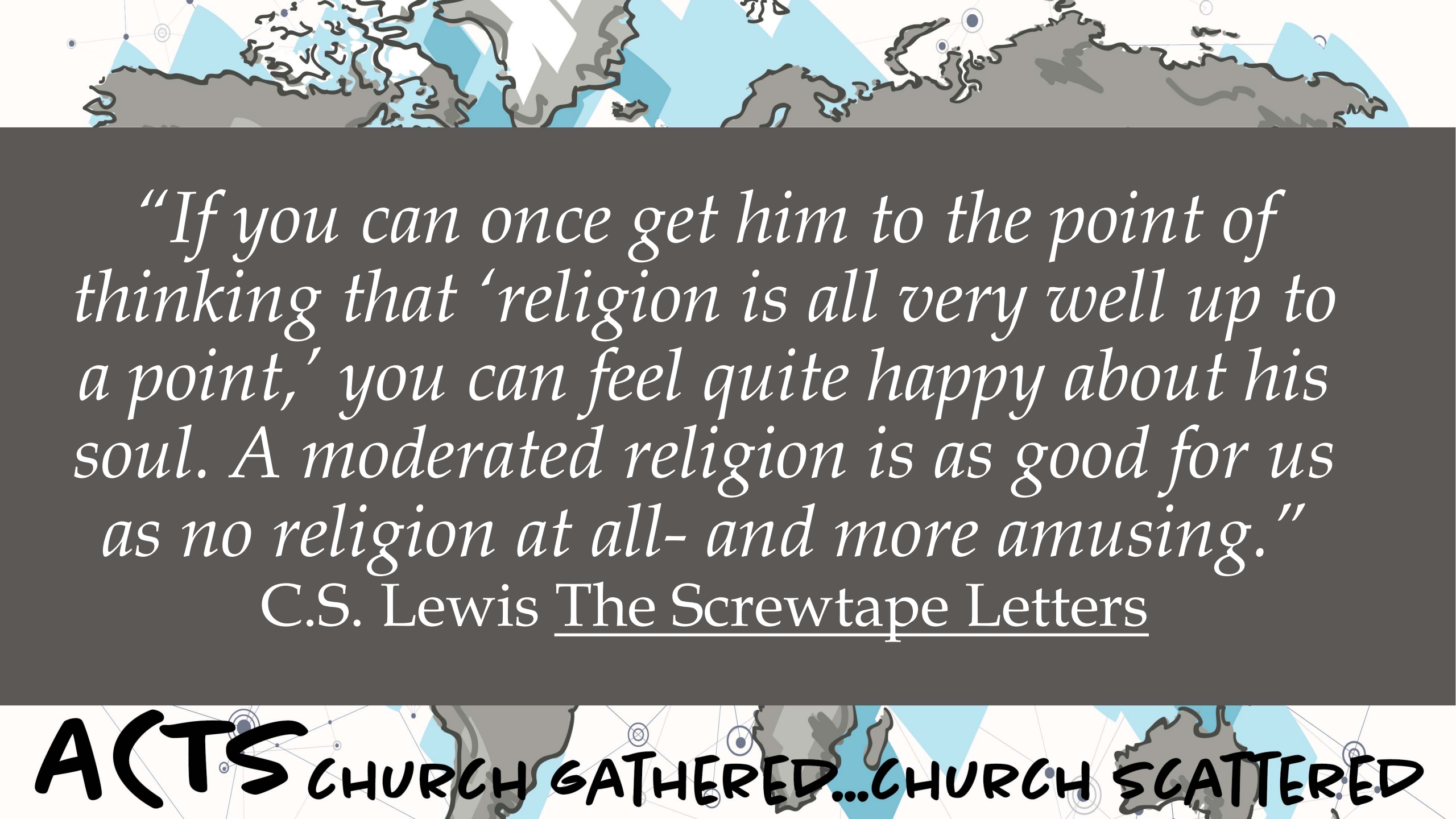
# Life is good – Easy! 1-4

- Difference between lazy & efficient?
- Difference between compliment & conniving?
- Difference between mercy & grace
- Difference between confession & profession



**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

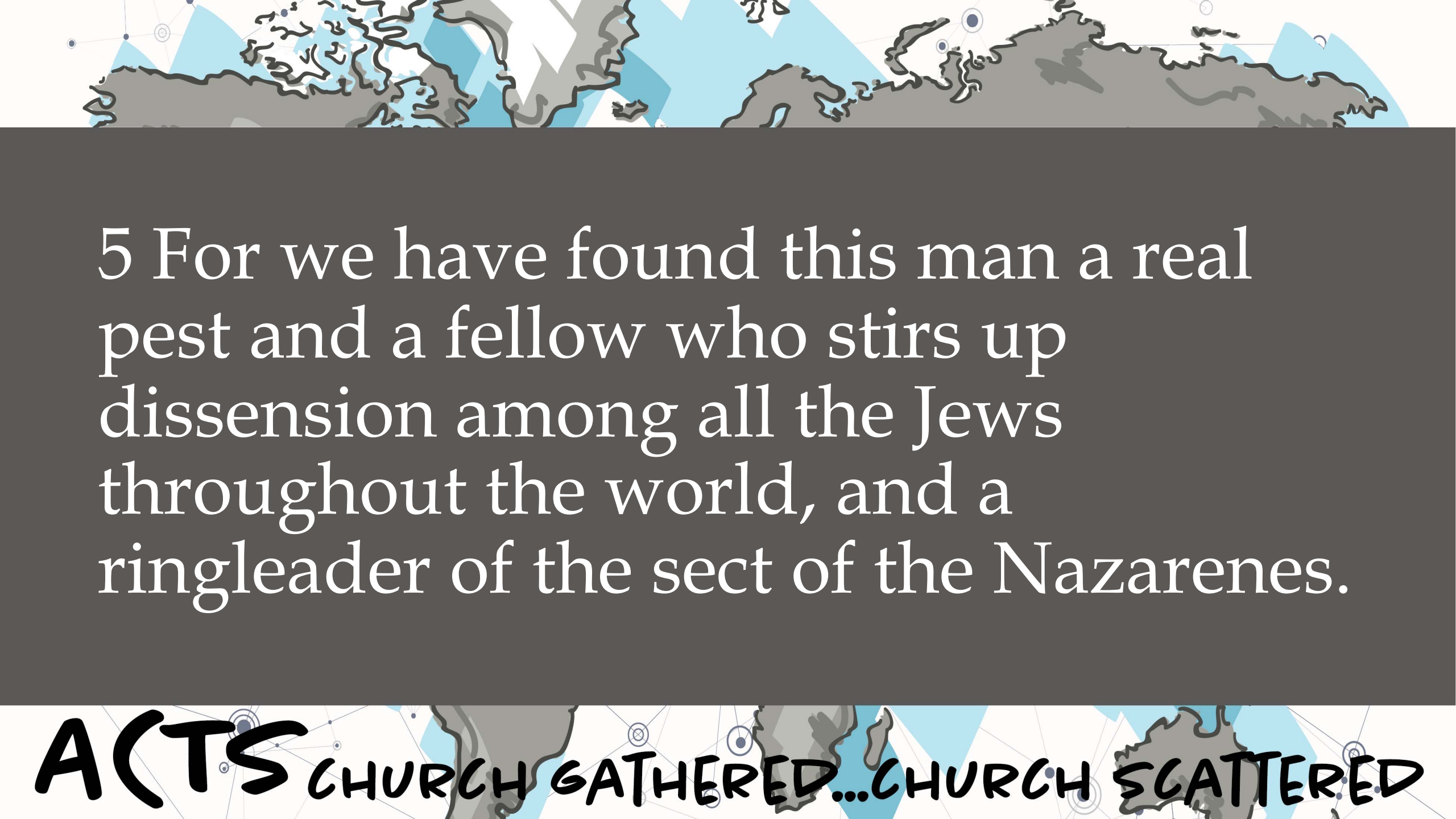




*“If you can once get him to the point of thinking that ‘religion is all very well up to a point,’ you can feel quite happy about his soul. A moderated religion is as good for us as no religion at all- and more amusing.”*

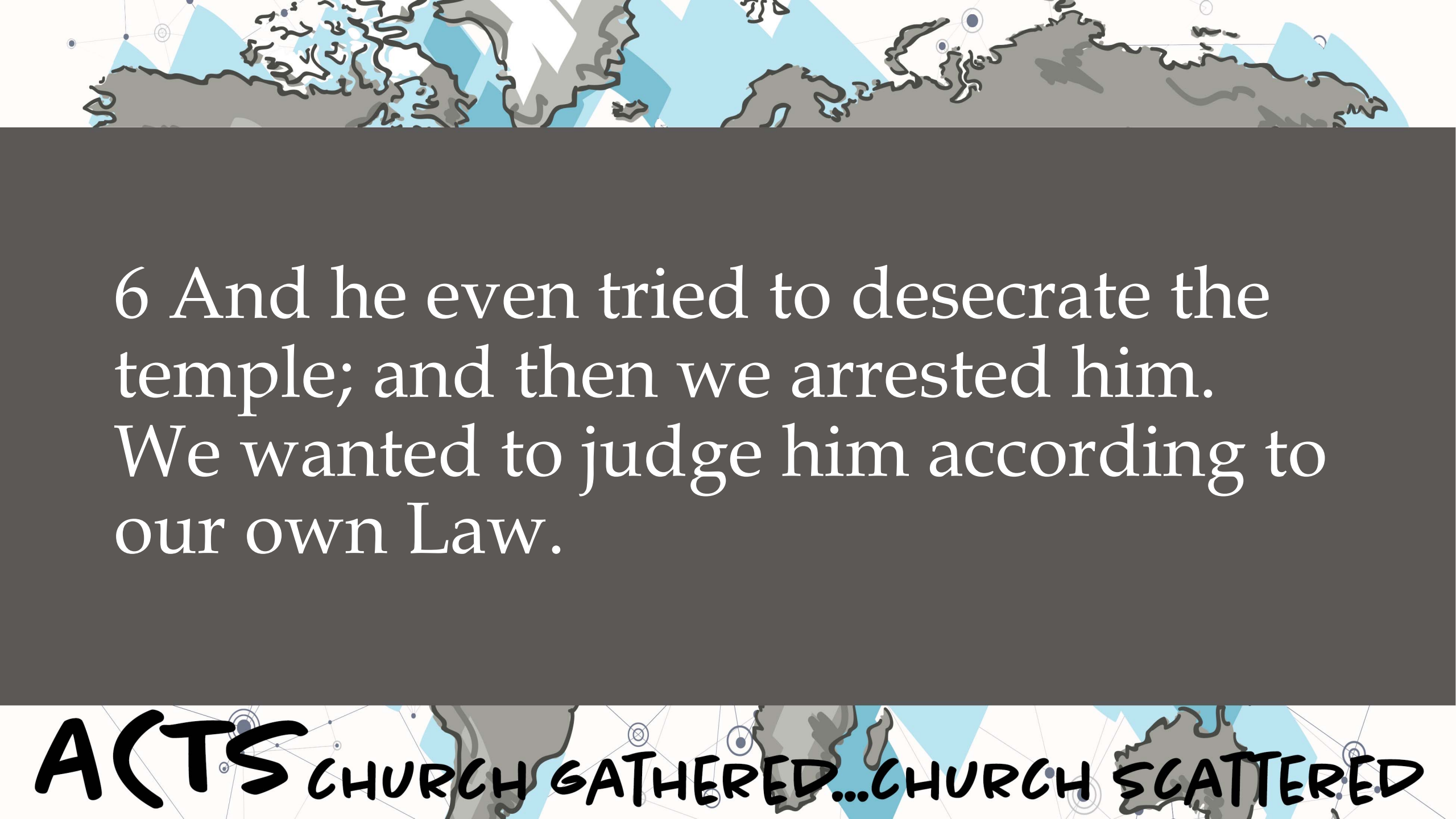
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**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



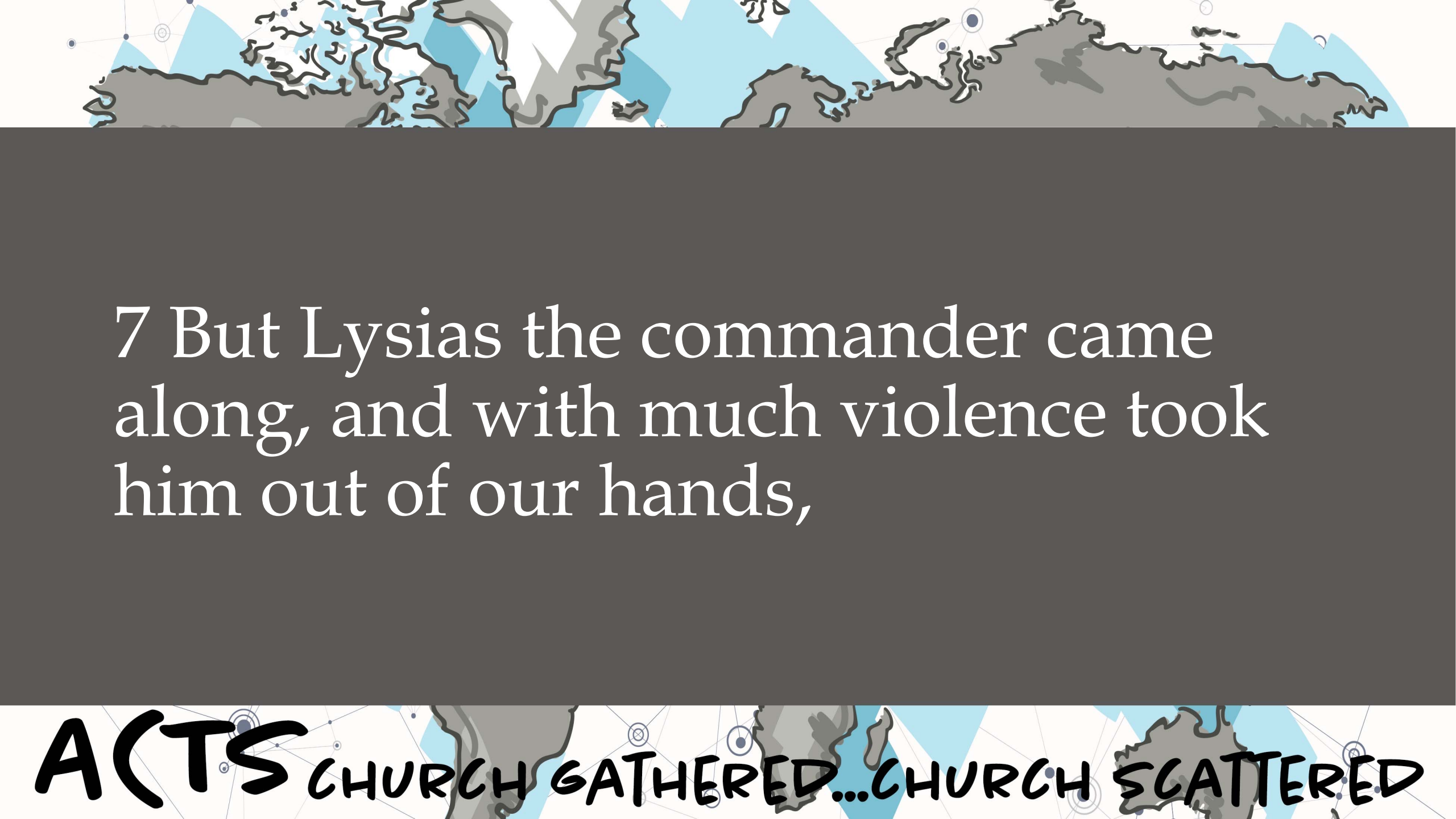
5 For we have found this man a real pest and a fellow who stirs up dissension among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



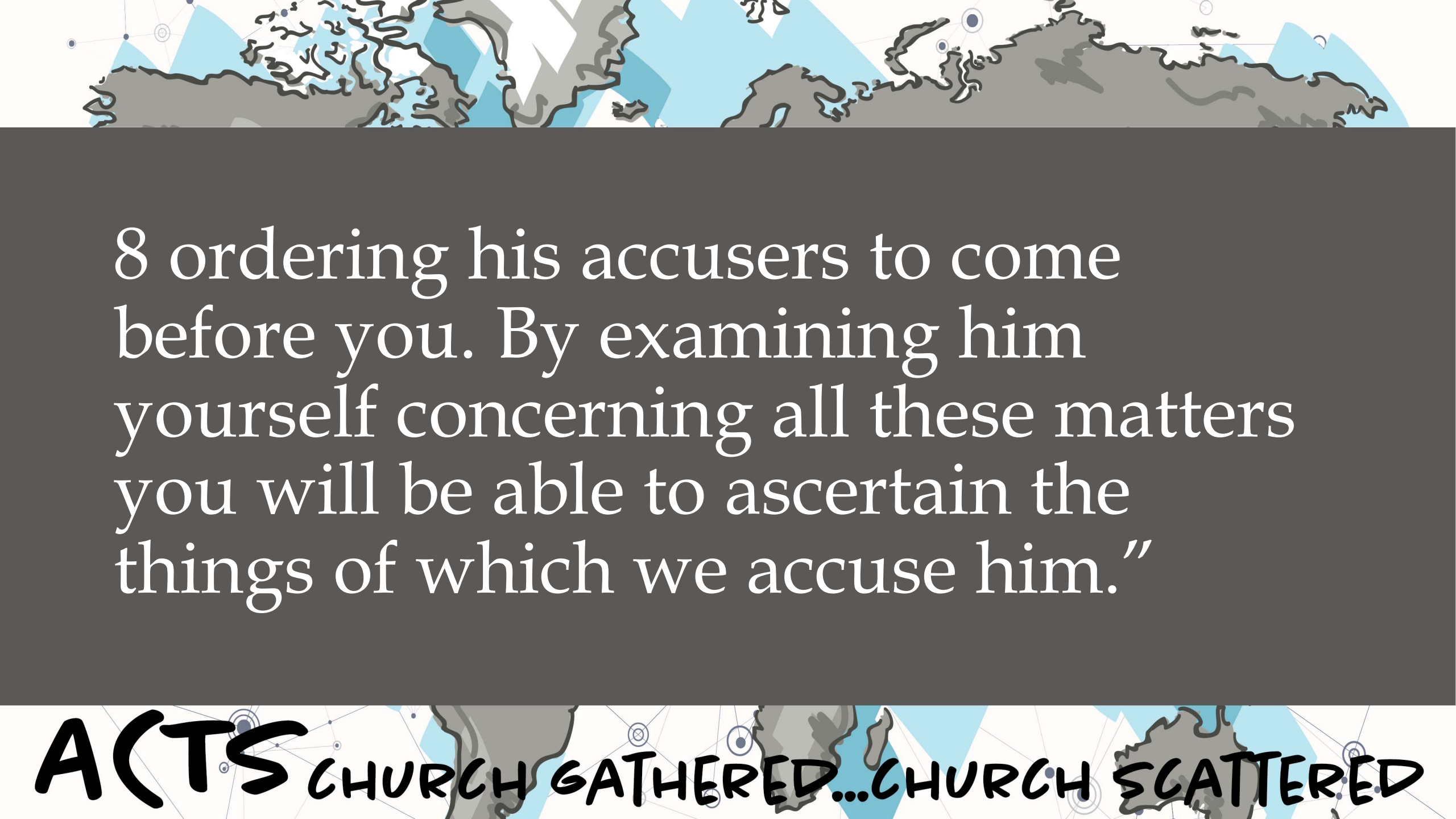
6 And he even tried to desecrate the temple; and then we arrested him. We wanted to judge him according to our own Law.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



7 But Lysias the commander came along, and with much violence took him out of our hands,

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8 ordering his accusers to come before you. By examining him yourself concerning all these matters you will be able to ascertain the things of which we accuse him.”

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



9 The Jews also joined in the attack,  
asserting that these things were so.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

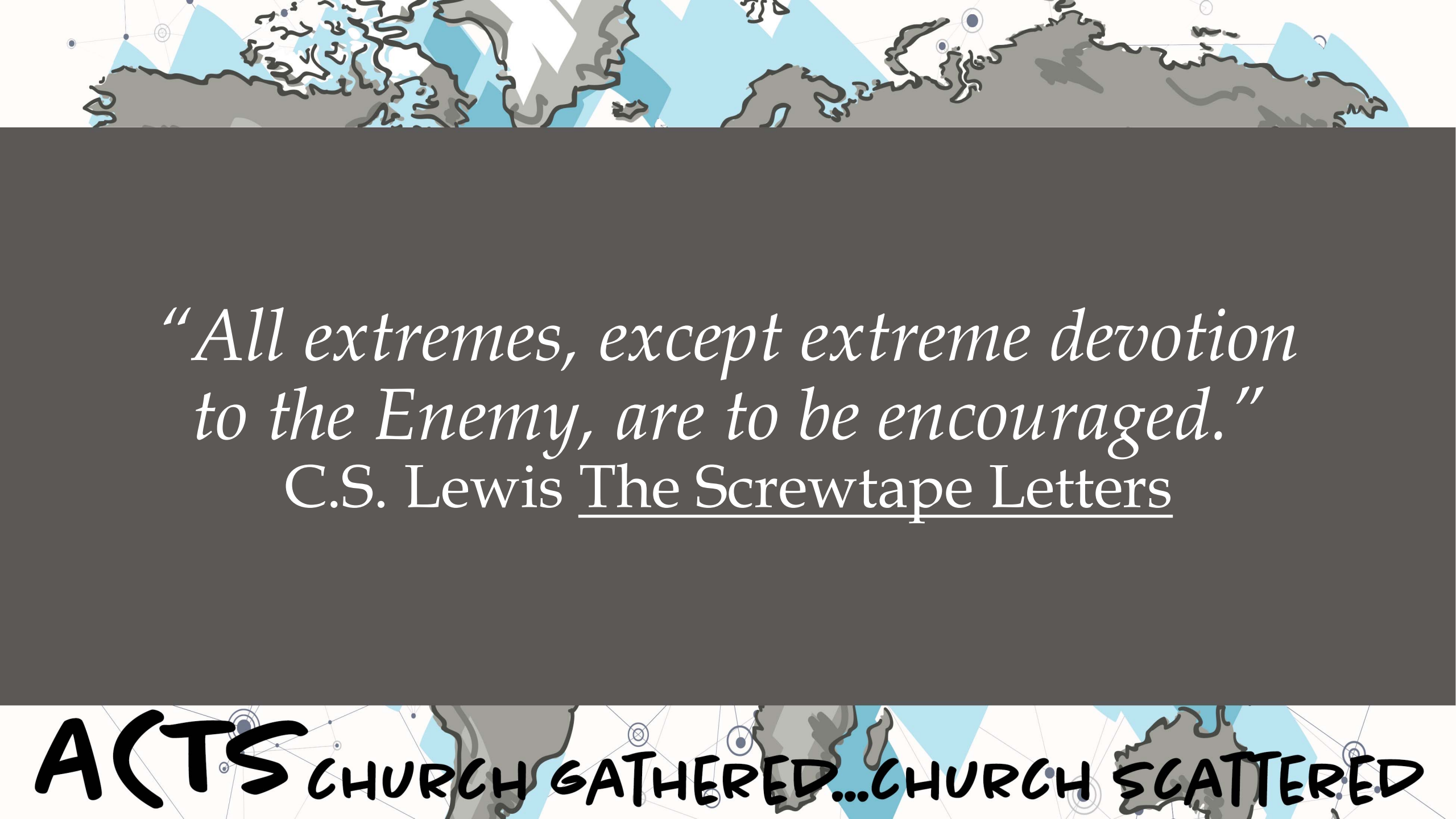


# Life is upsetting – Choices? 5-9

- ‘pest’ – bothering us – bothering you?
- ‘dissension’ – we only want peace
- ‘ringleader’ – following him where?
- ‘Lysias’ – tried to do your job
- Everybody agrees vs 9



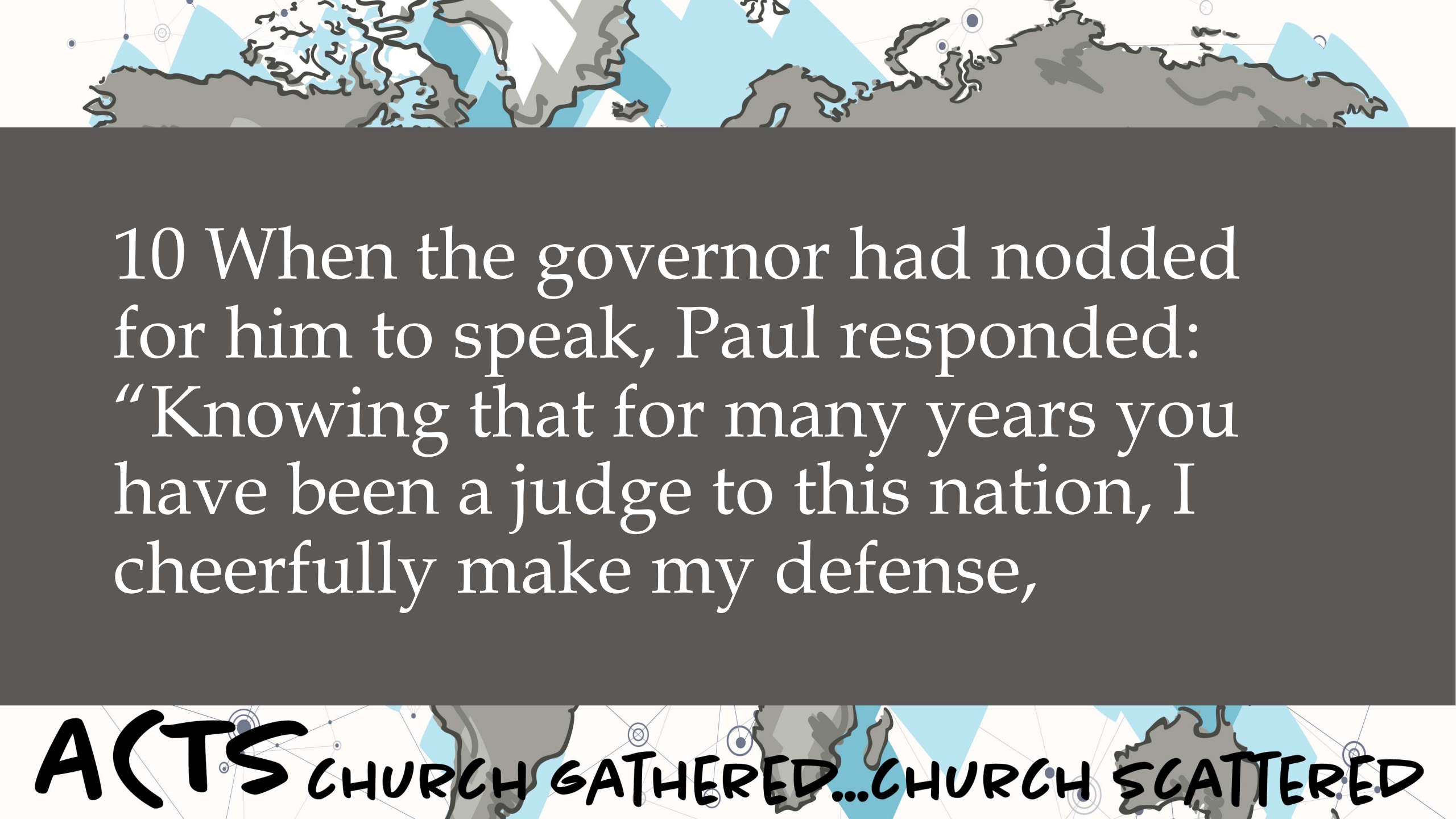
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“All extremes, except extreme devotion  
to the Enemy, are to be encouraged.”*  
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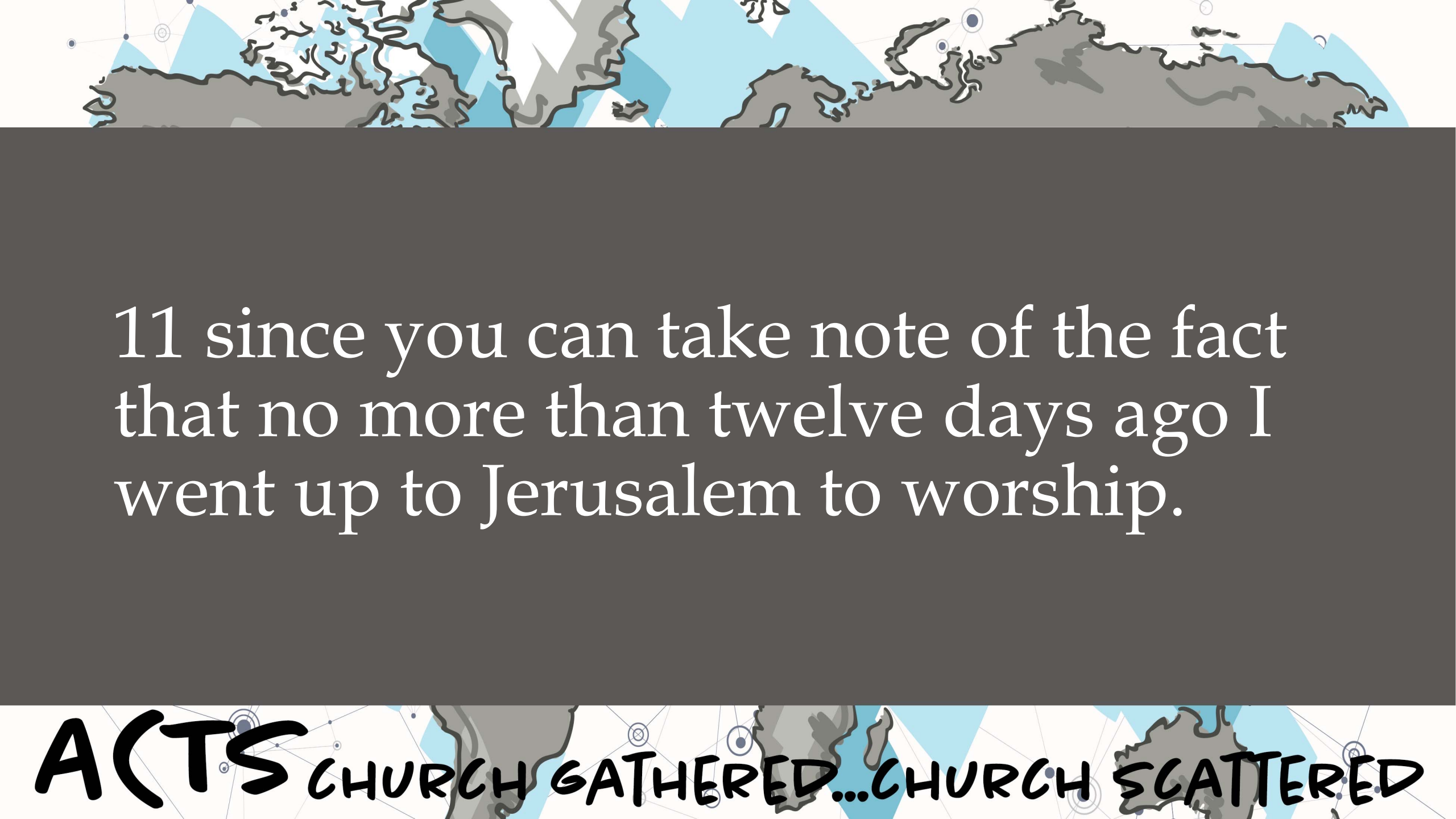
**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**





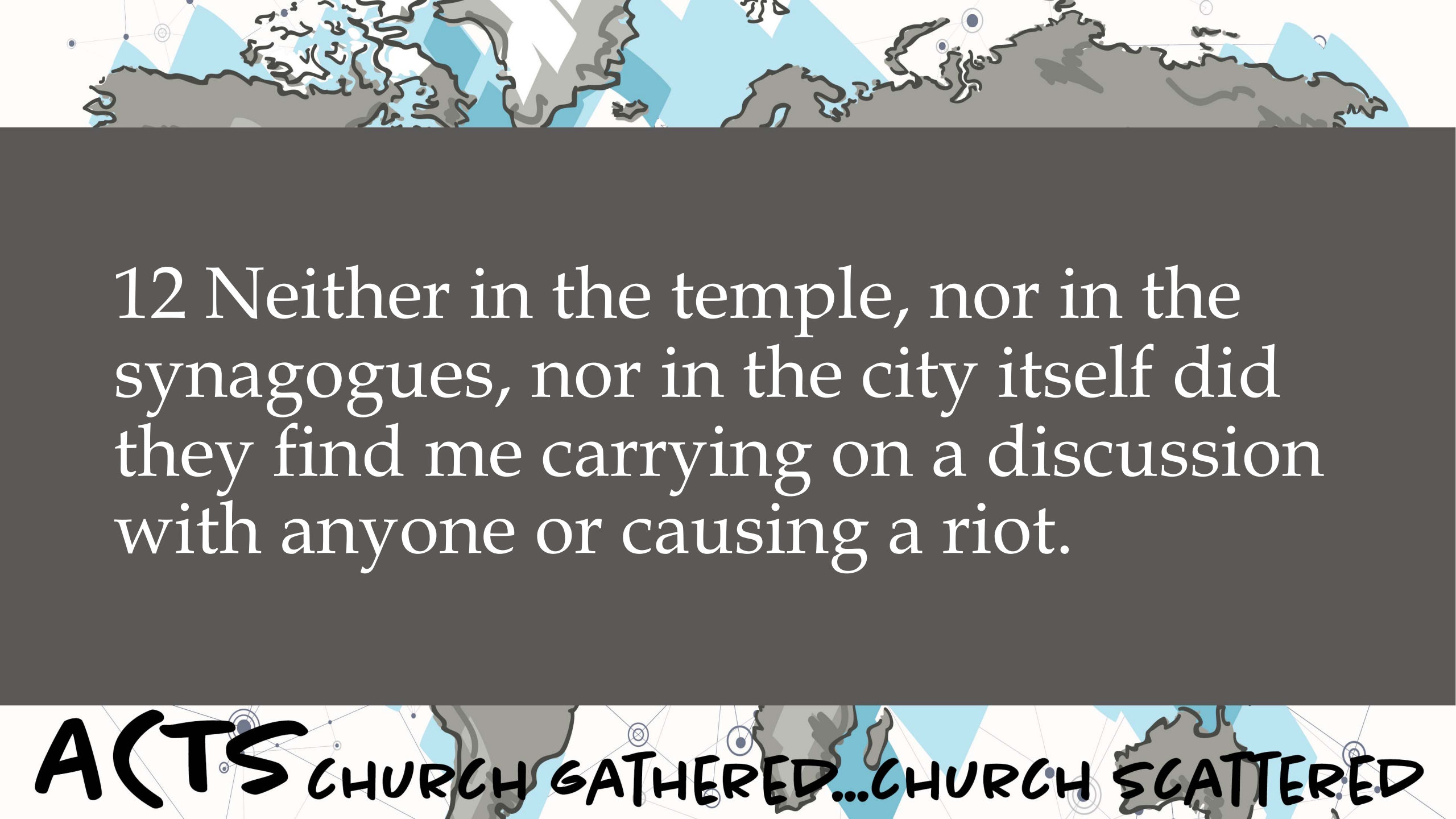
10 When the governor had nodded for him to speak, Paul responded: “Knowing that for many years you have been a judge to this nation, I cheerfully make my defense,

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**




11 since you can take note of the fact that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



12 Neither in the temple, nor in the synagogues, nor in the city itself did they find me carrying on a discussion with anyone or causing a riot.

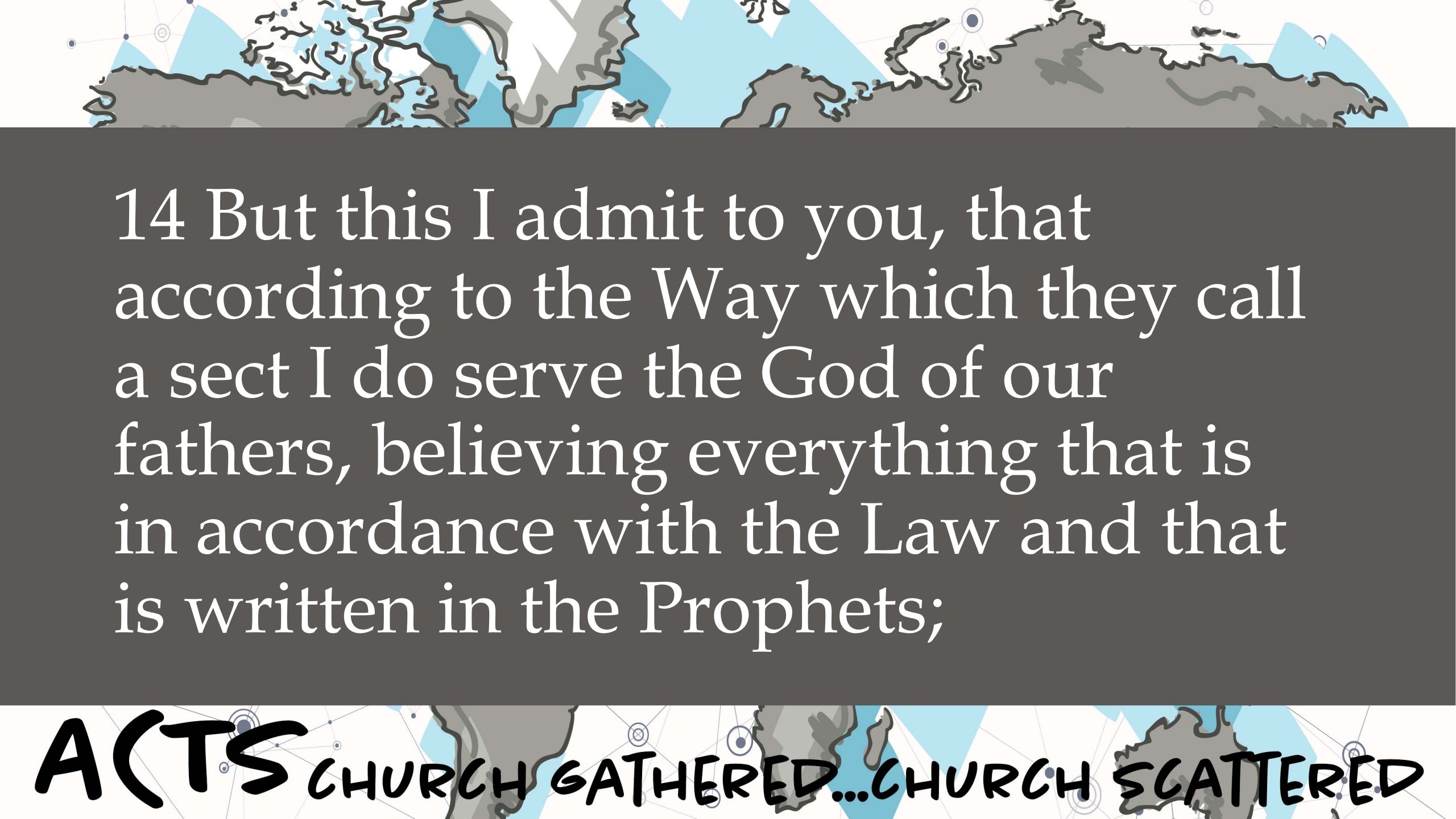
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



13 Nor can they prove to you the charges of which they now accuse me.

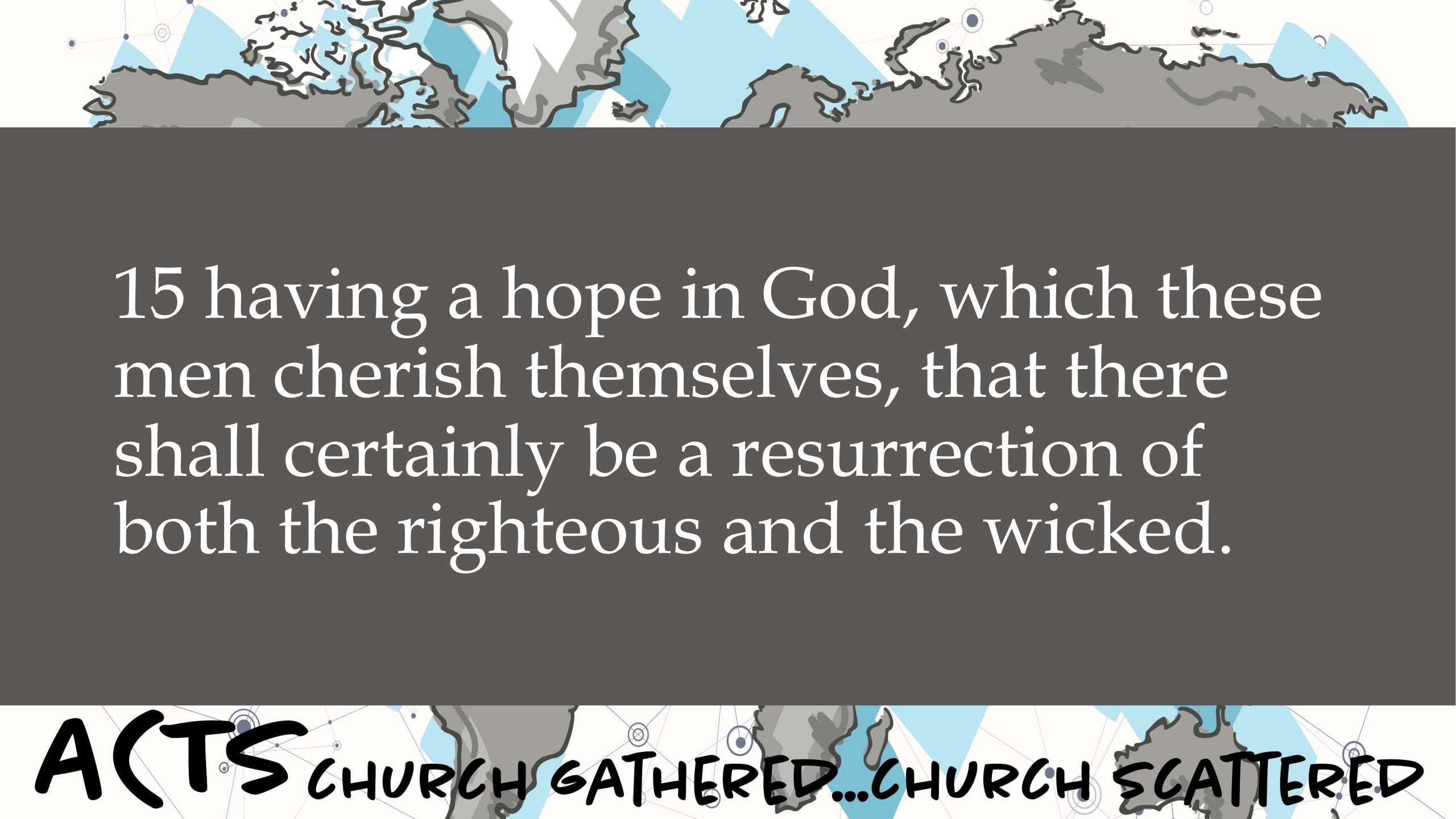
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





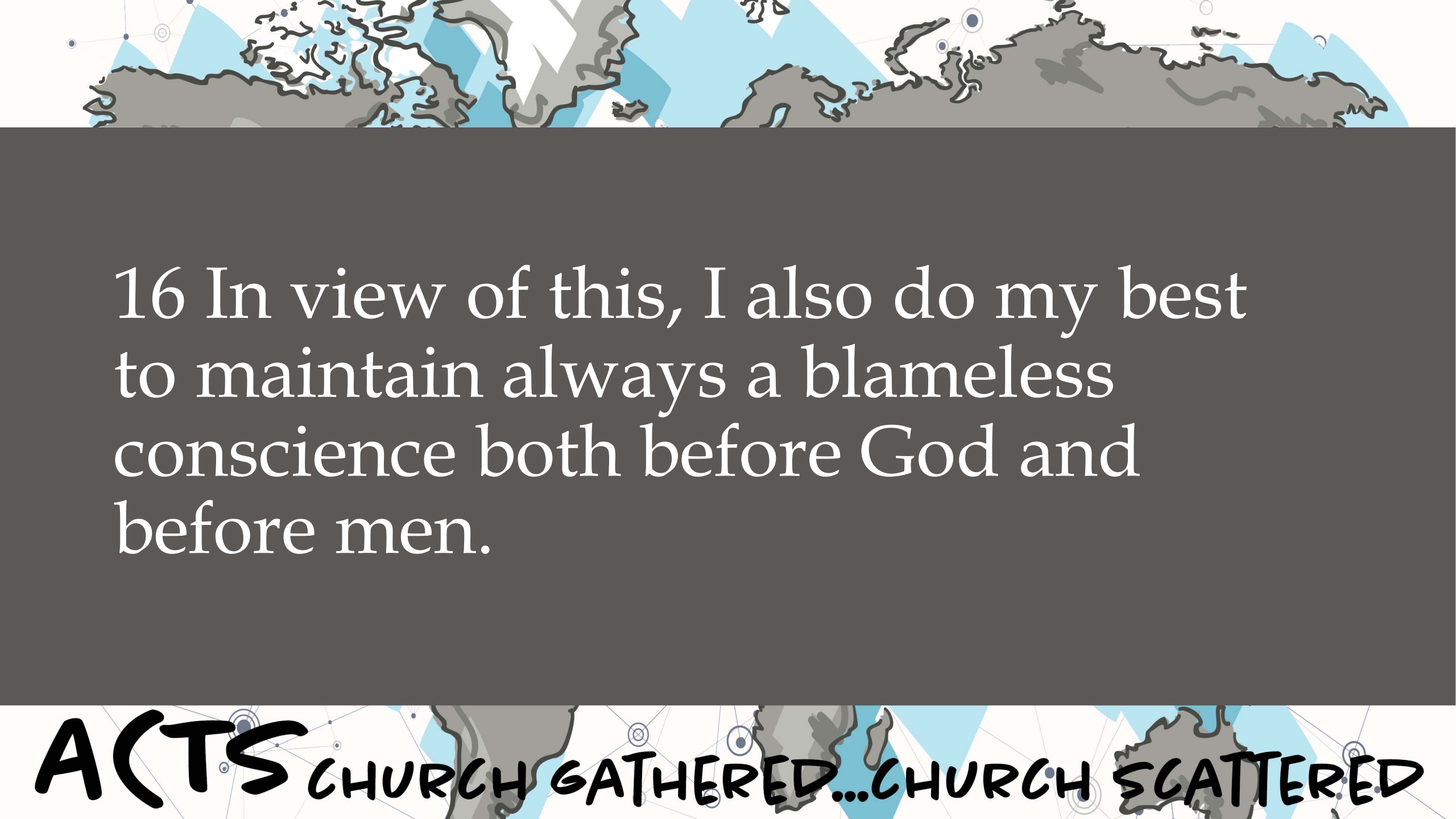
14 But this I admit to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect I do serve the God of our fathers, believing everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets;

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



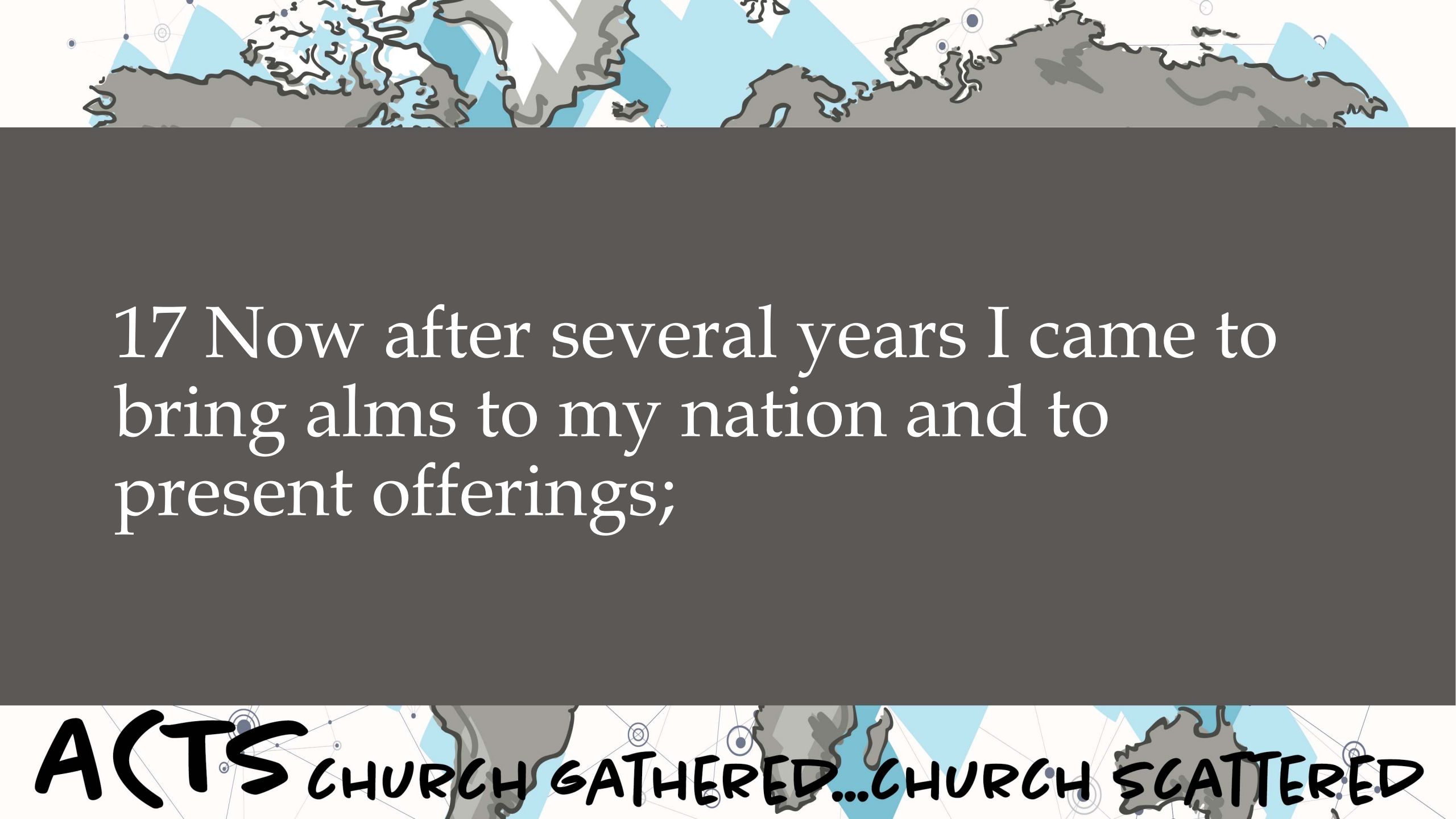
15 having a hope in God, which these men cherish themselves, that there shall certainly be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



16 In view of this, I also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

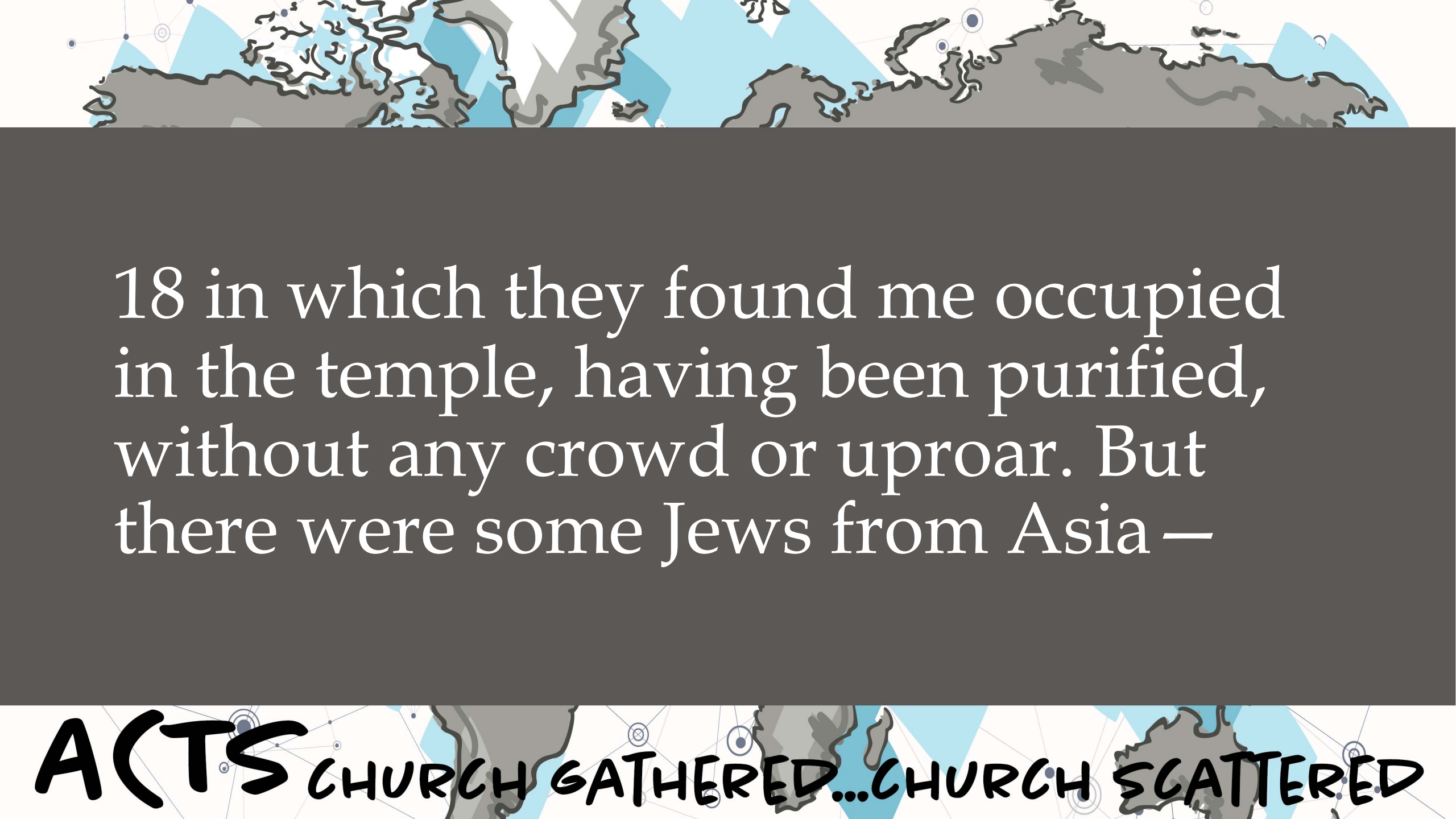
**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



17 Now after several years I came to  
bring alms to my nation and to  
present offerings;

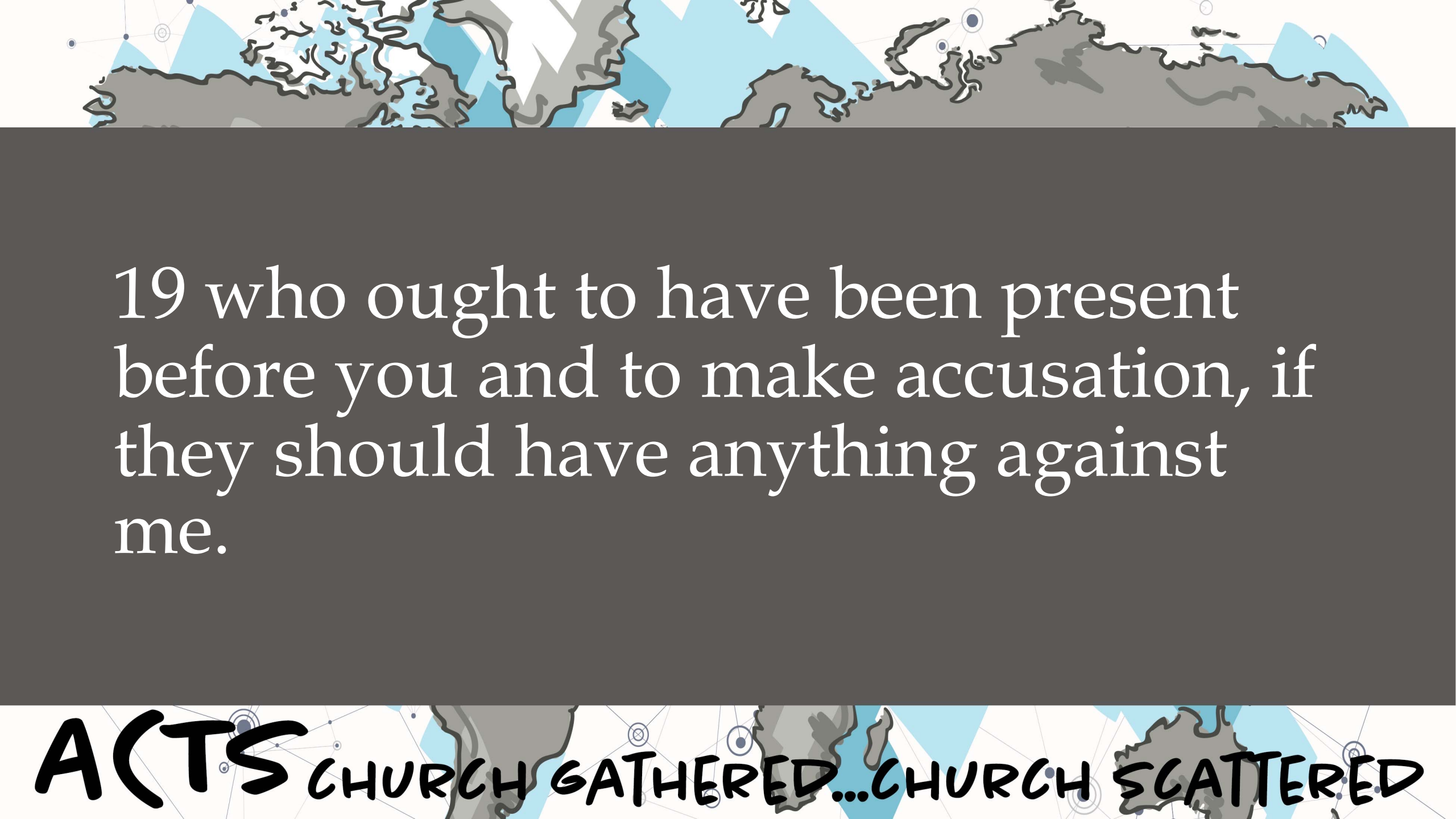
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





18 in which they found me occupied  
in the temple, having been purified,  
without any crowd or uproar. But  
there were some Jews from Asia —

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



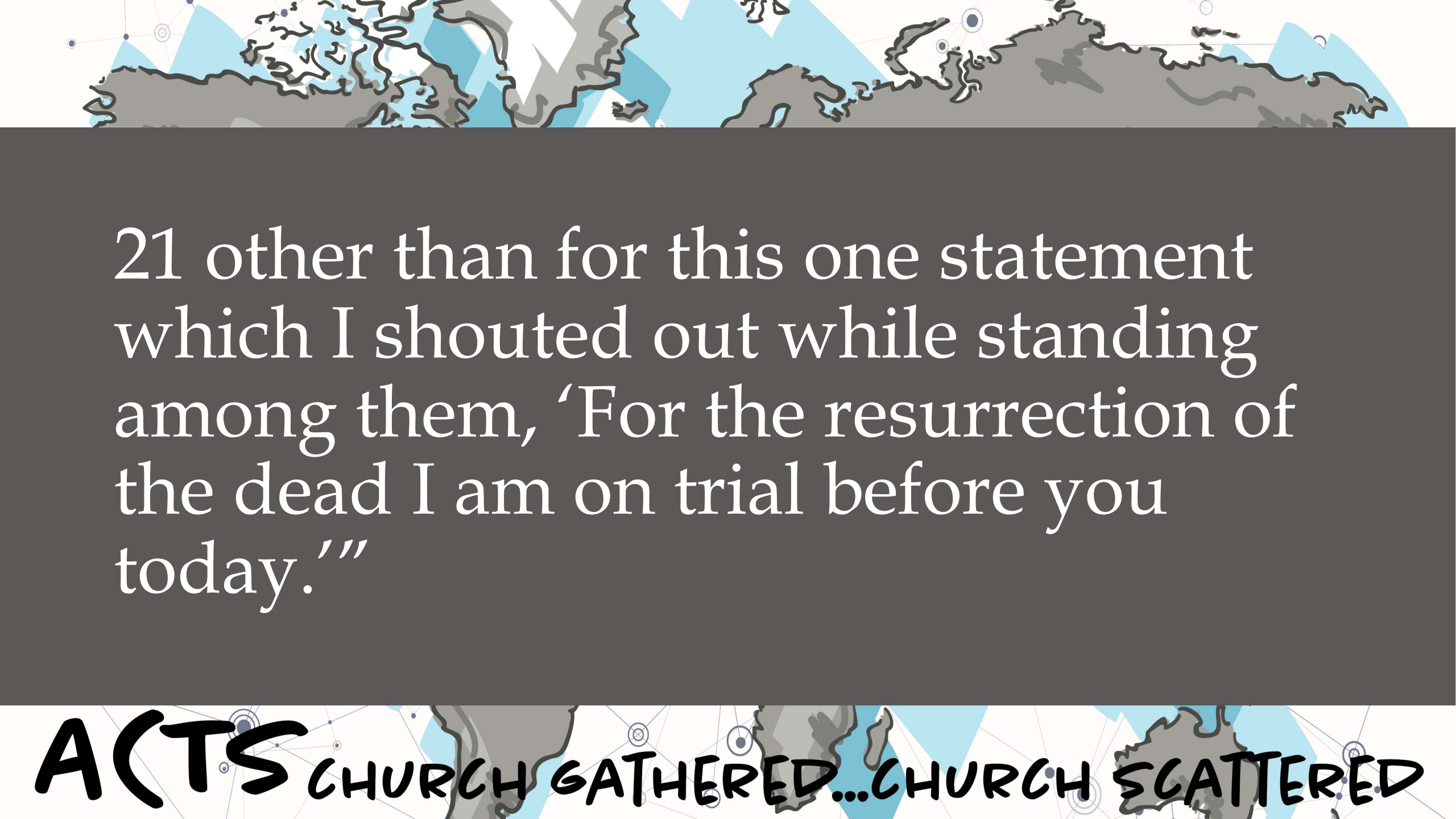
19 who ought to have been present before you and to make accusation, if they should have anything against me.

**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



20 Or else let these men themselves  
tell what misdeed they found when I  
stood before the Council,

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21 other than for this one statement which I shouted out while standing among them, ‘For the resurrection of the dead I am on trial before you today.’”

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**

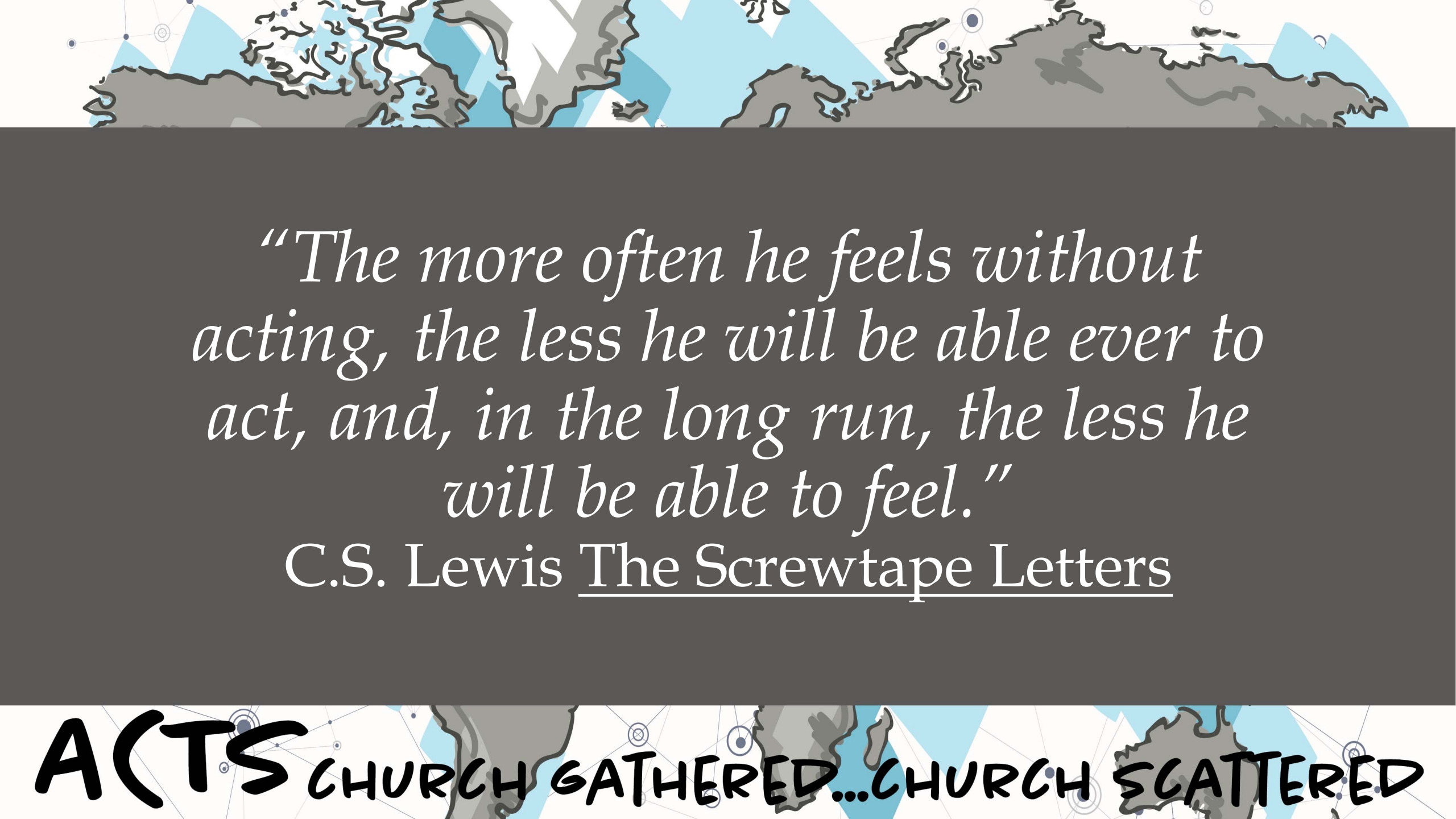


# Life is godly – Loving! 10-21

- I worship as I believe
- My worship was not interfering with any
- My faith is as old as the OT and honorable
- Resurrection! That is the question! Vs 21



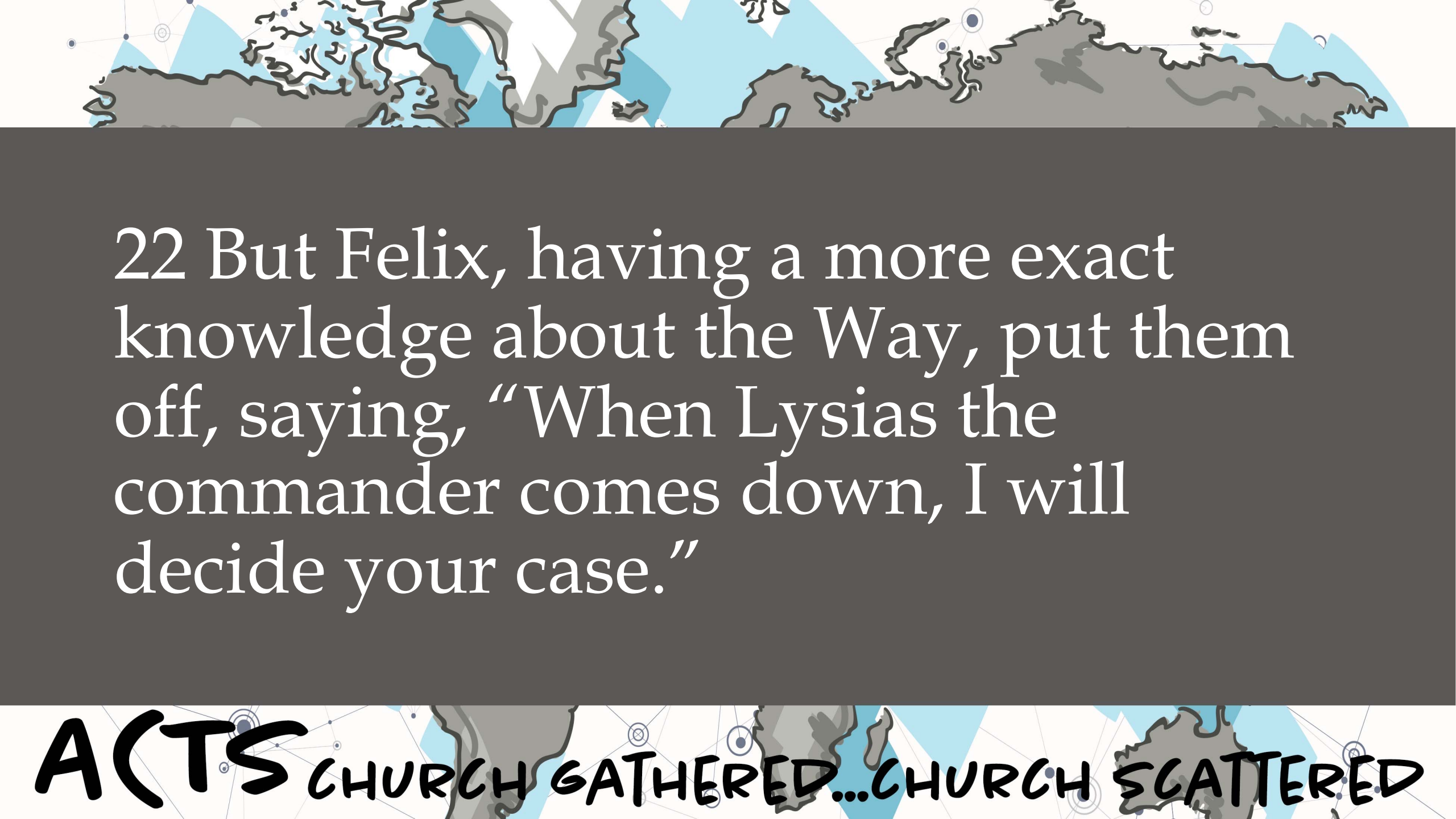
**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



*“The more often he feels without acting, the less he will be able ever to act, and, in the long run, the less he will be able to feel.”*

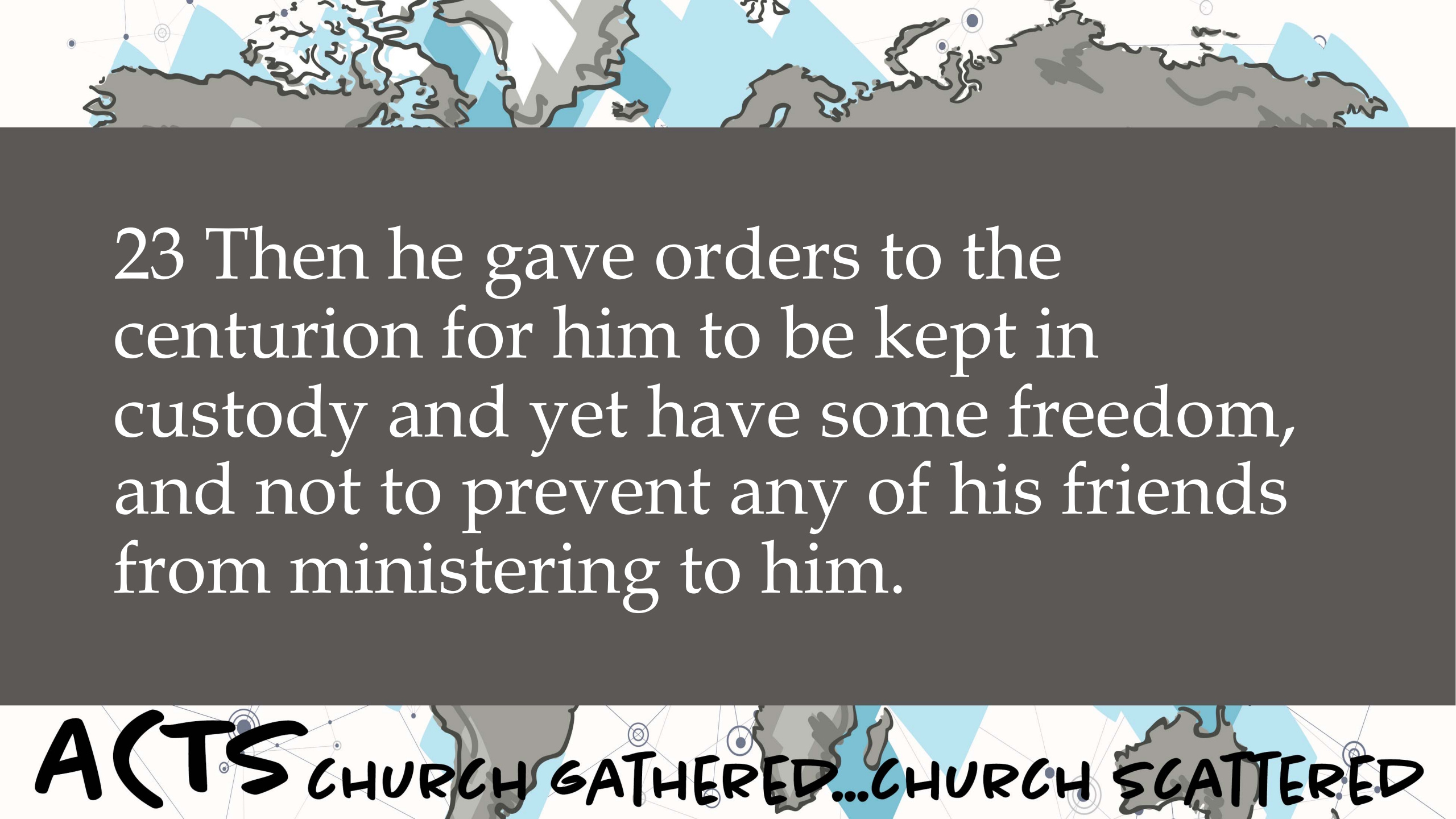
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**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



22 But Felix, having a more exact knowledge about the Way, put them off, saying, “When Lysias the commander comes down, I will decide your case.”

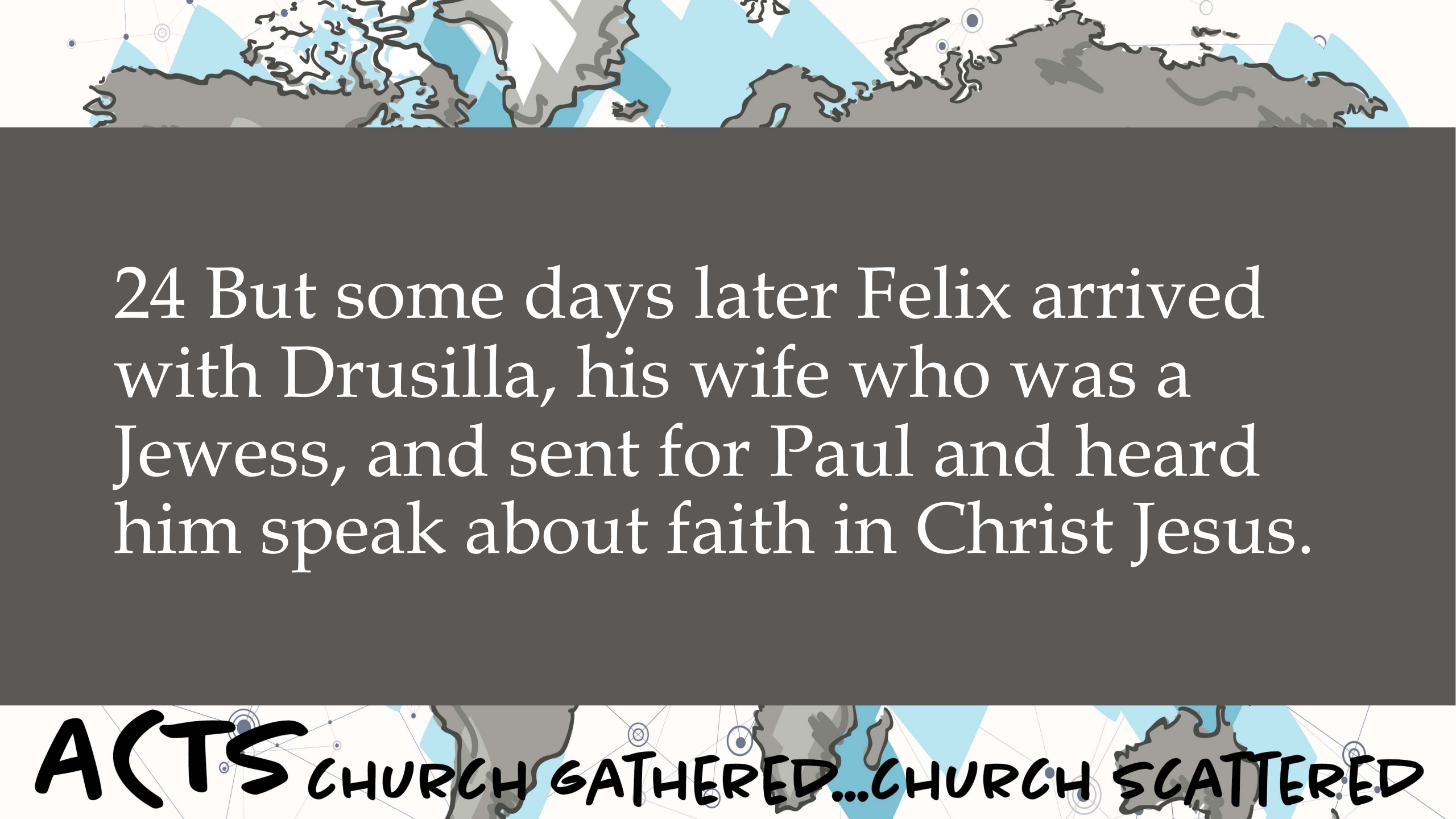
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



23 Then he gave orders to the centurion for him to be kept in custody and yet have some freedom, and not to prevent any of his friends from ministering to him.

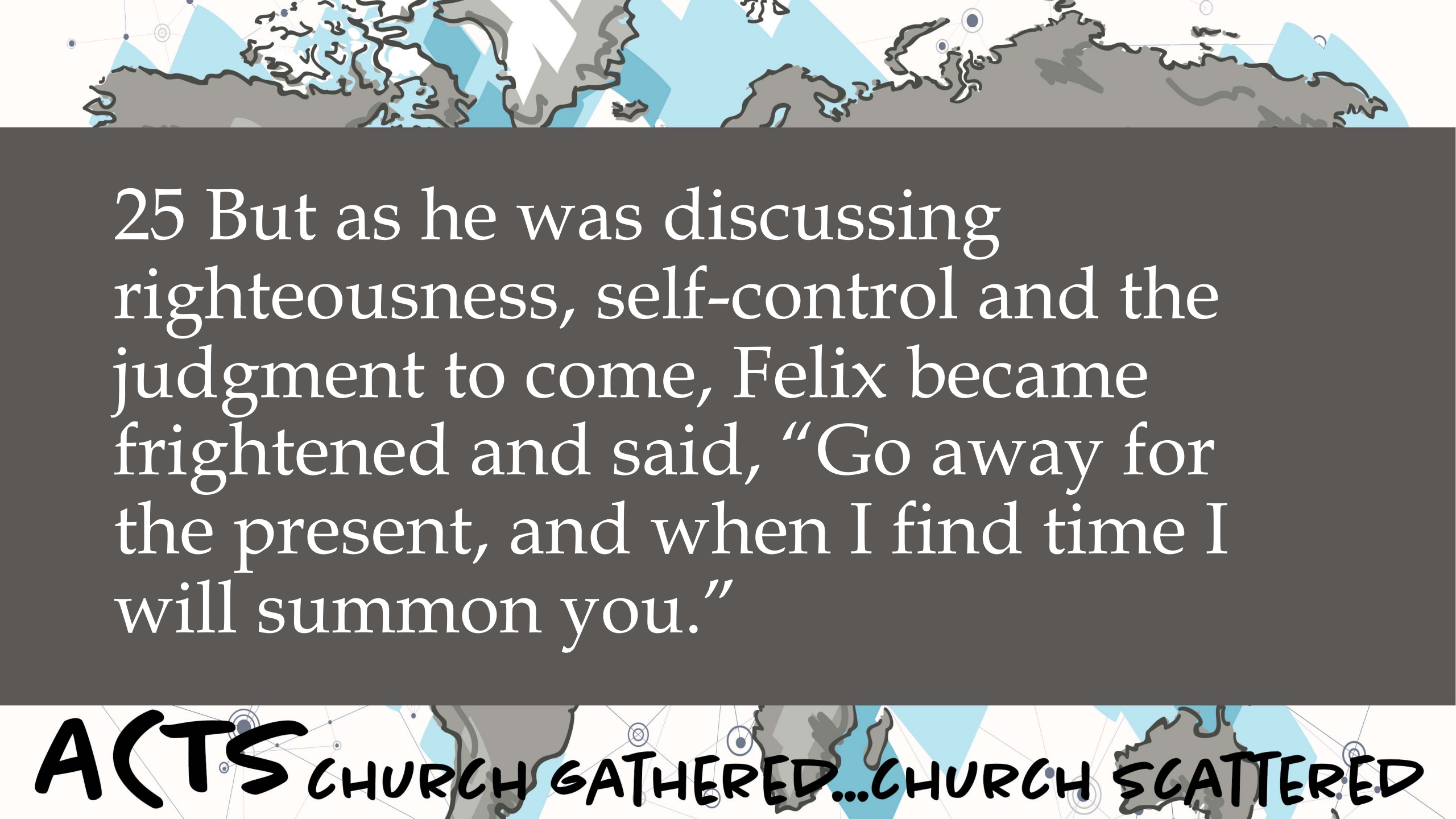
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED





24 But some days later Felix arrived with Drusilla, his wife who was a Jewess, and sent for Paul and heard him speak about faith in Christ Jesus.

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



25 But as he was discussing righteousness, self-control and the judgment to come, Felix became frightened and said, “Go away for the present, and when I find time I will summon you.”

**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**




# Life is believing - Delaying... 22-27

- I can wait for evidence
- I can wait for you to mess up
- I can wait for advice from others
- I can wait for a better time



**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“The game is to have them all running about with fire extinguishers when there is a flood, and all crowding to that side of the boat which is already nearly gunwale under.”*

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**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**




## What can wait?

- Prayer – until the only one to pray for is you
- Reading – until there is no one to share with
- Fellowship – until there are none to enjoy
- Worship – until there is no soft heart
- Repent – now is the only time to change!



**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



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