

A stylized world map with a network overlay. The map is rendered in shades of gray and blue, with a network of lines and nodes connecting various points across the globe. The word "ACTS" is written in large, bold, black, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the map.

ACTS

CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



What must I do?

Acts 16:16-40

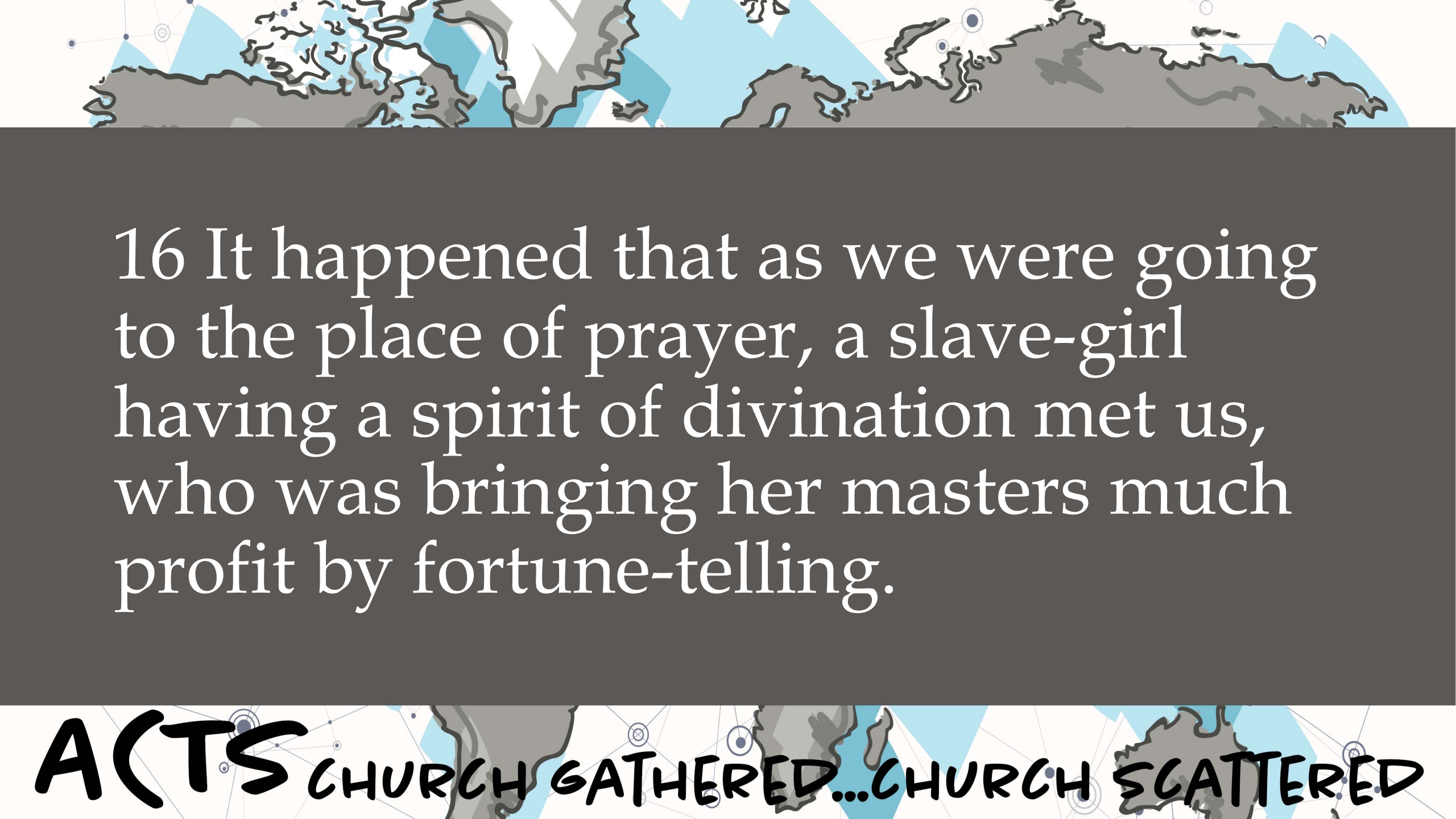


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

*“So, if we only lead one soul to Christ,
we may set a stream in motion that will
flow on when we are dead and gone ...”*

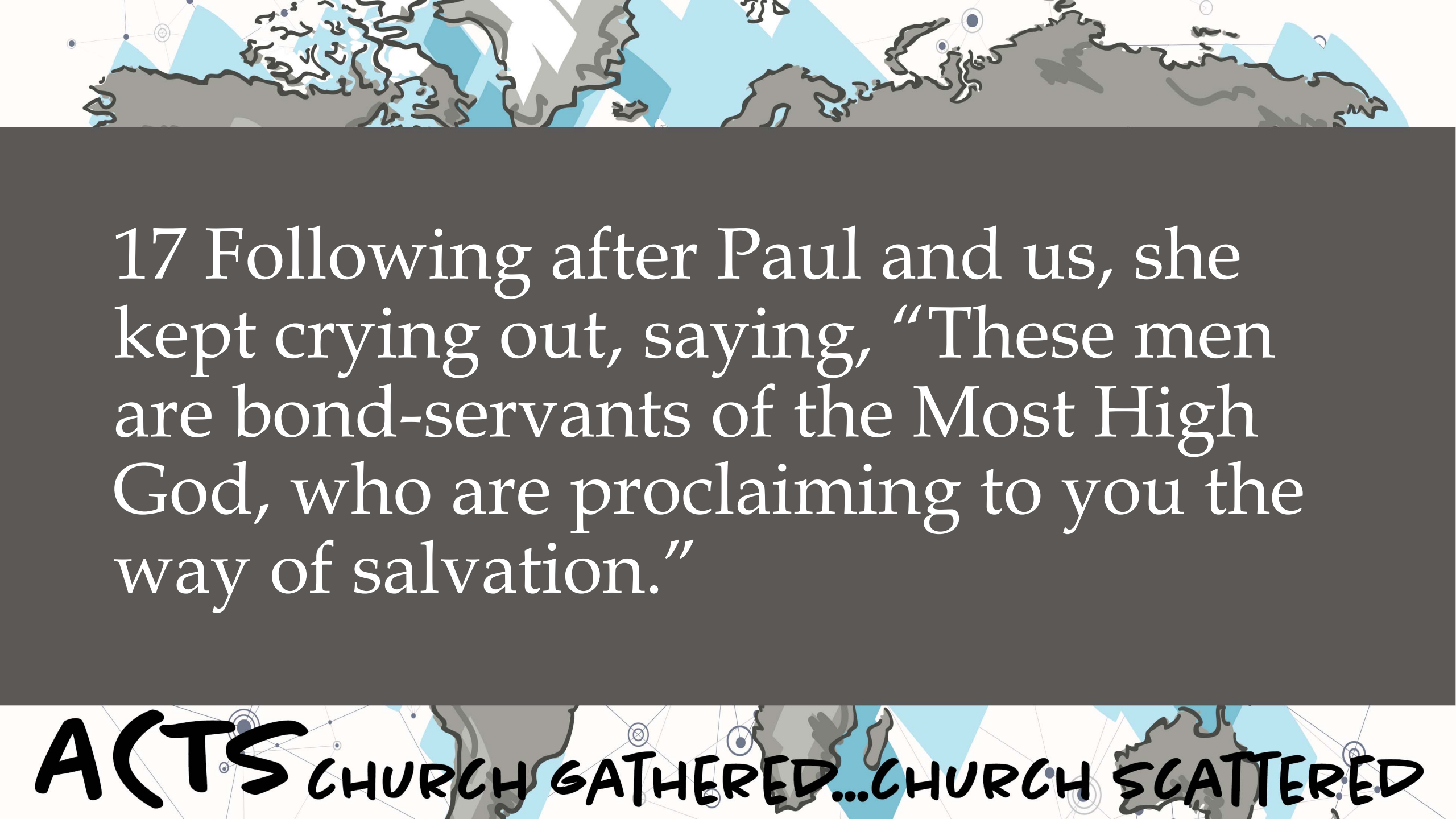
D.L. Moody The Overcoming Life

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



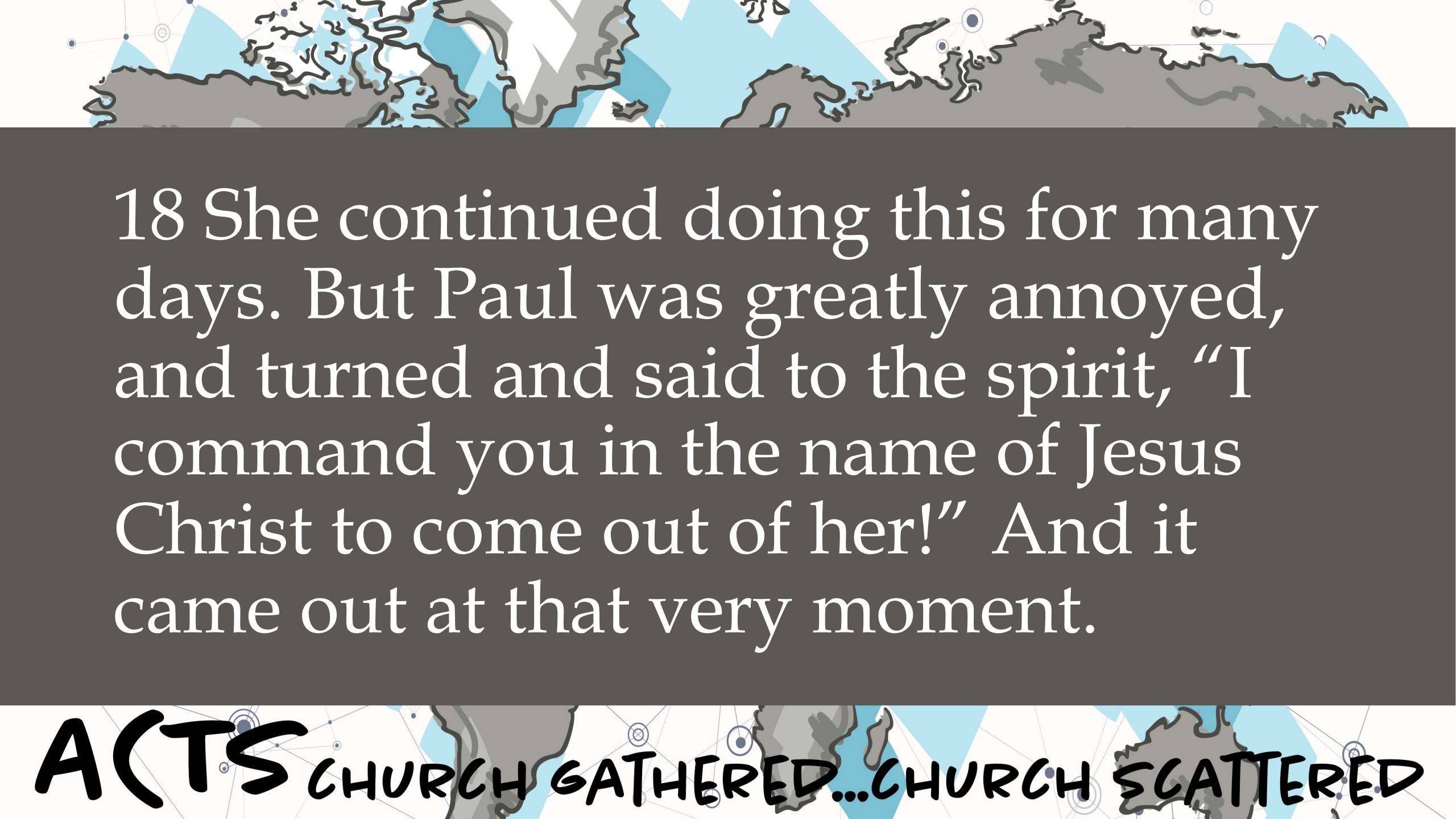
16 It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave-girl having a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



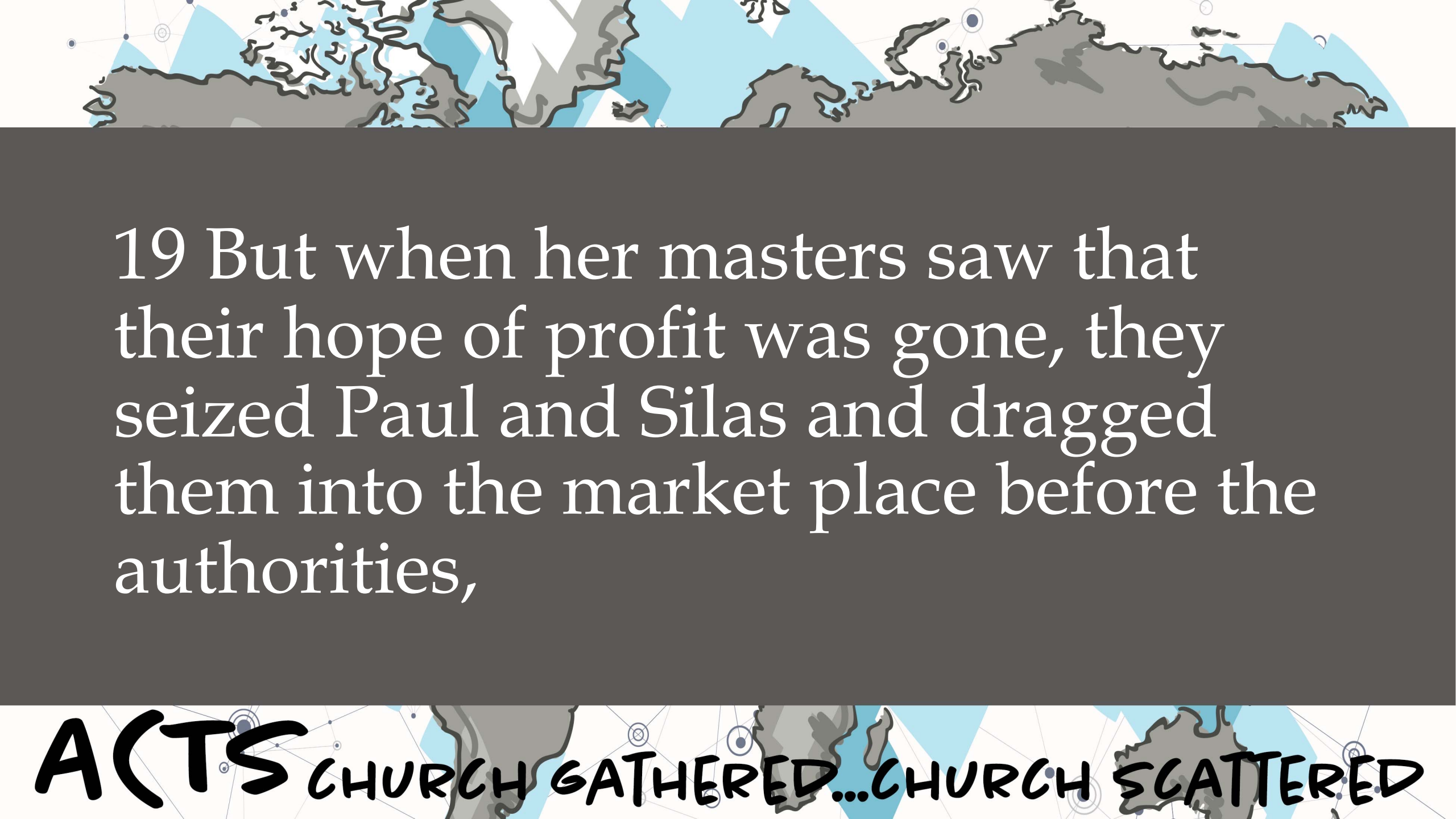
17 Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you the way of salvation.”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



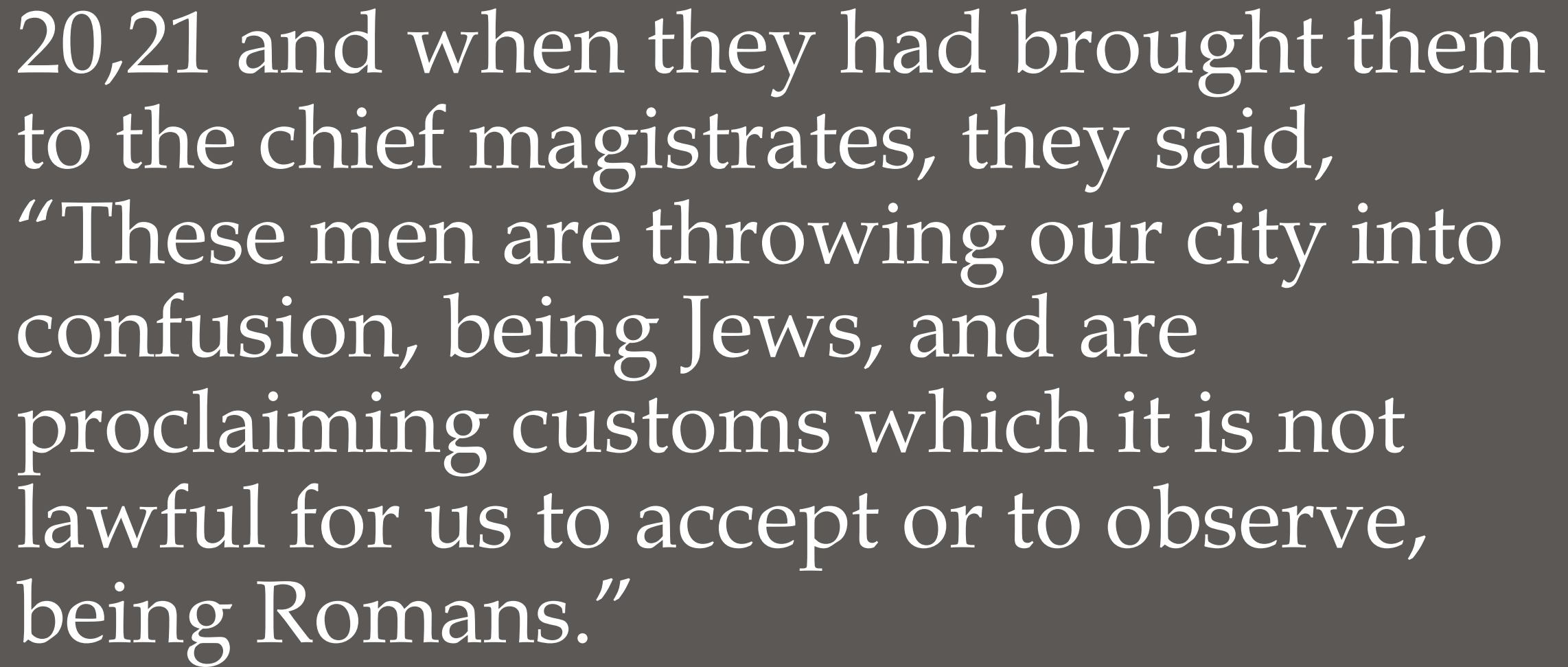
18 She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed, and turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities,

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



20,21 and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans.”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED




Report 16-21

- In Philippi – sharing faith
- ‘divination’ – predicting lives & choices
- Confirming Gospel – James 2:19
- Demon removed = business lost!



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

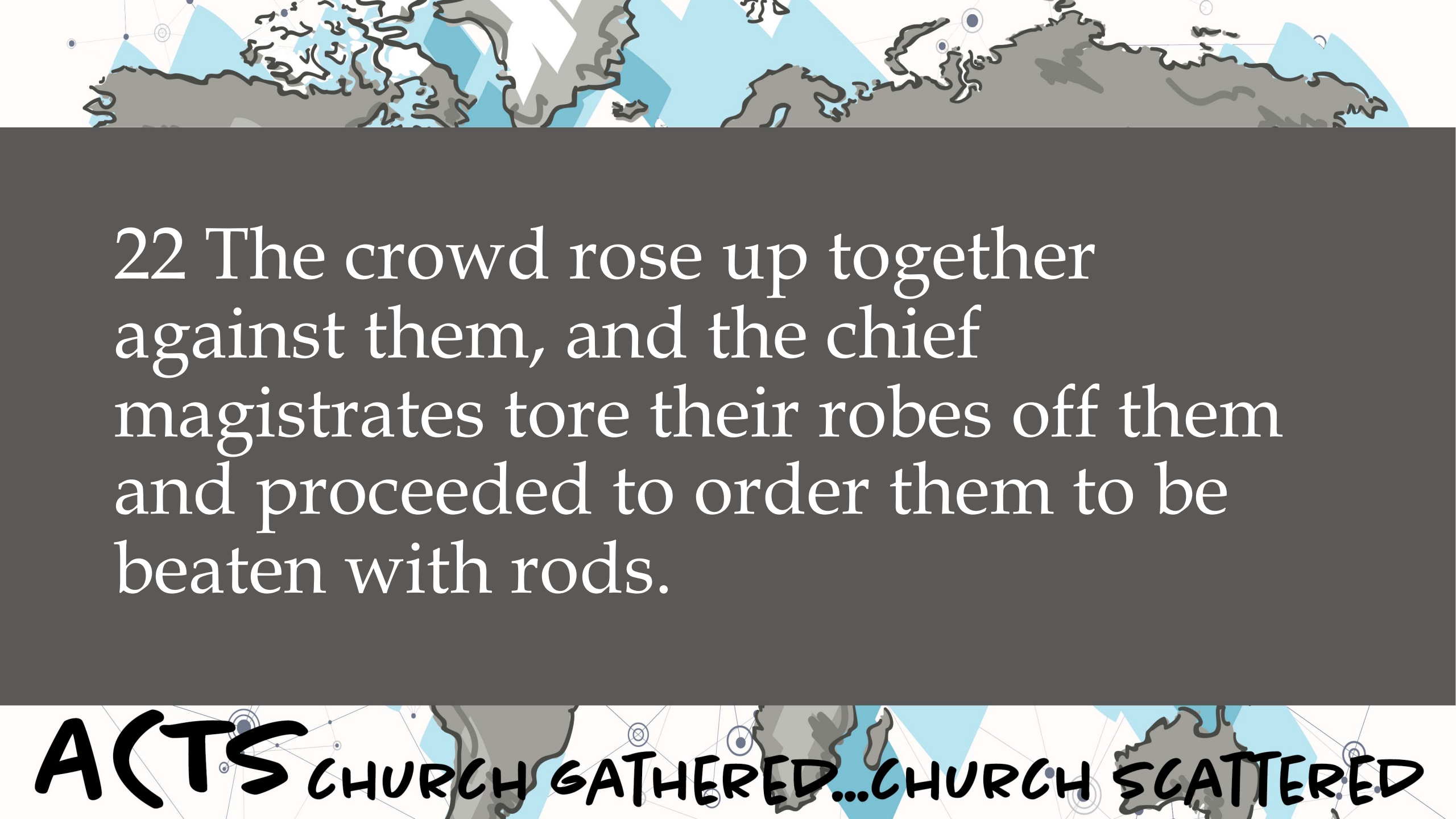


*“A moderated religion is as good
for us as no religion at all –
and more amusing.”*

C.S. Lewis The Screwtape Letters

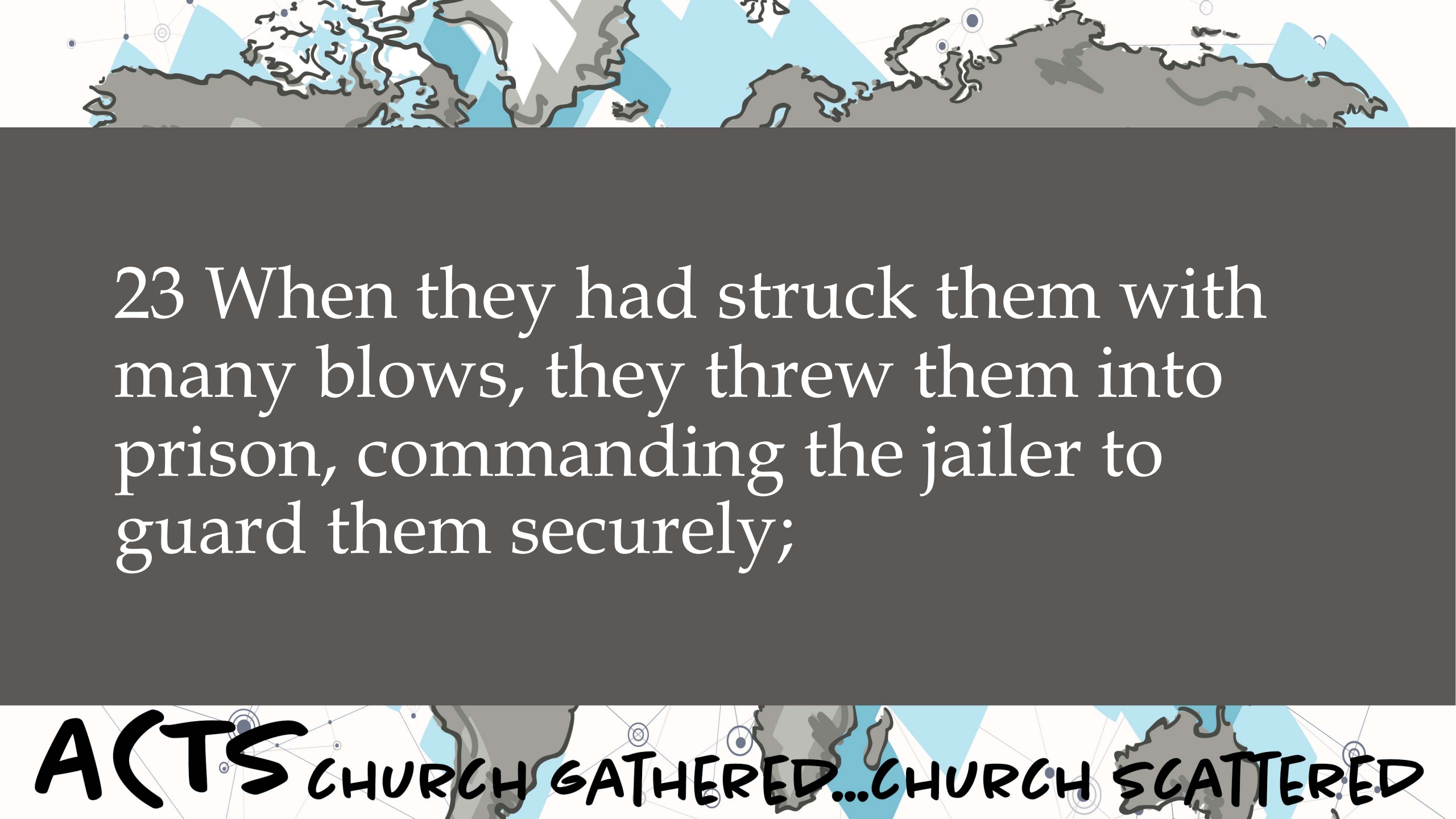


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



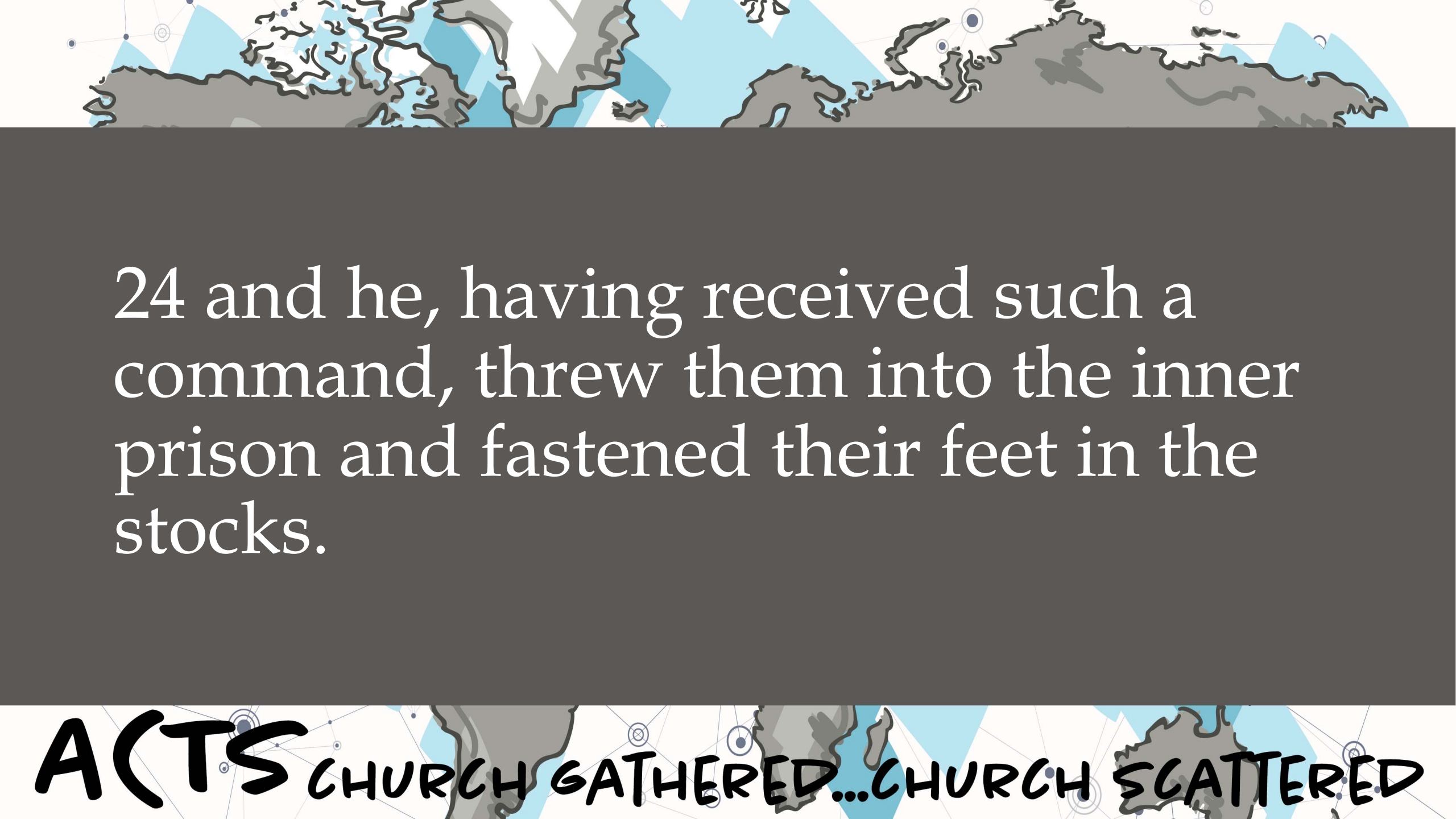
22 The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their robes off them and proceeded to order them to be beaten with rods.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



23 When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to guard them securely;

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



24 and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Response 22-24

- 'we were going' – w/Luke & Timothy
- 'them' – Paul & Silas
- Beaten and jailed in stocks



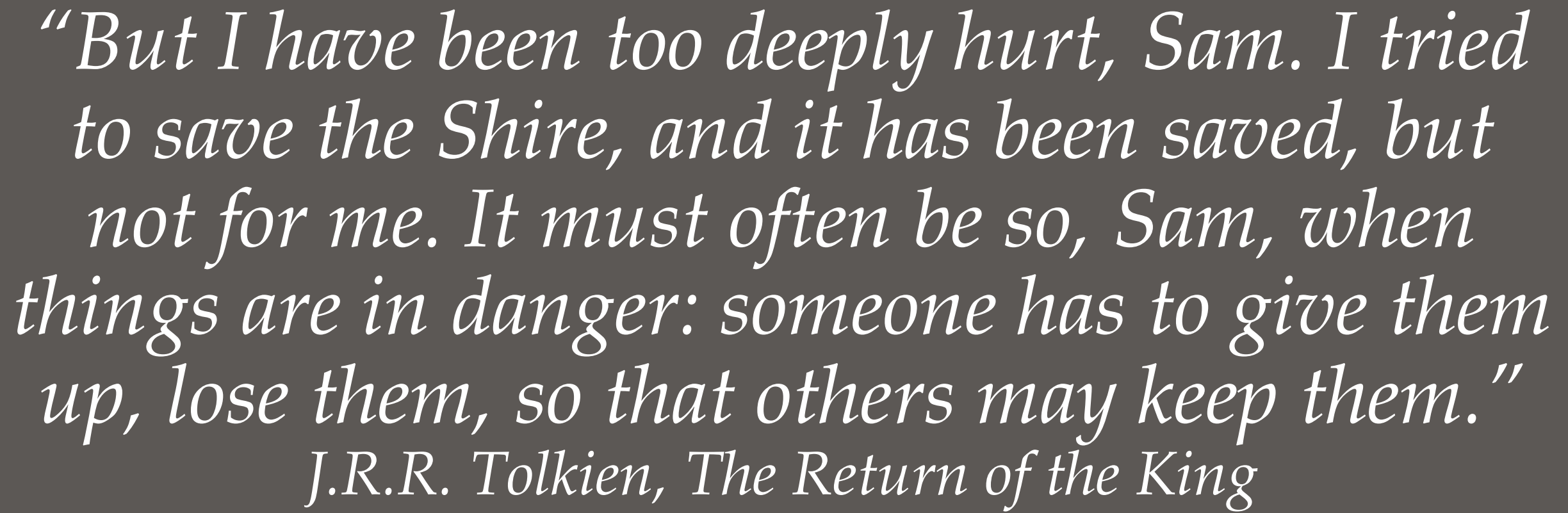
ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Roman Stocks of Outdoor Prison

Stocks of Prison along Via Dolorosa

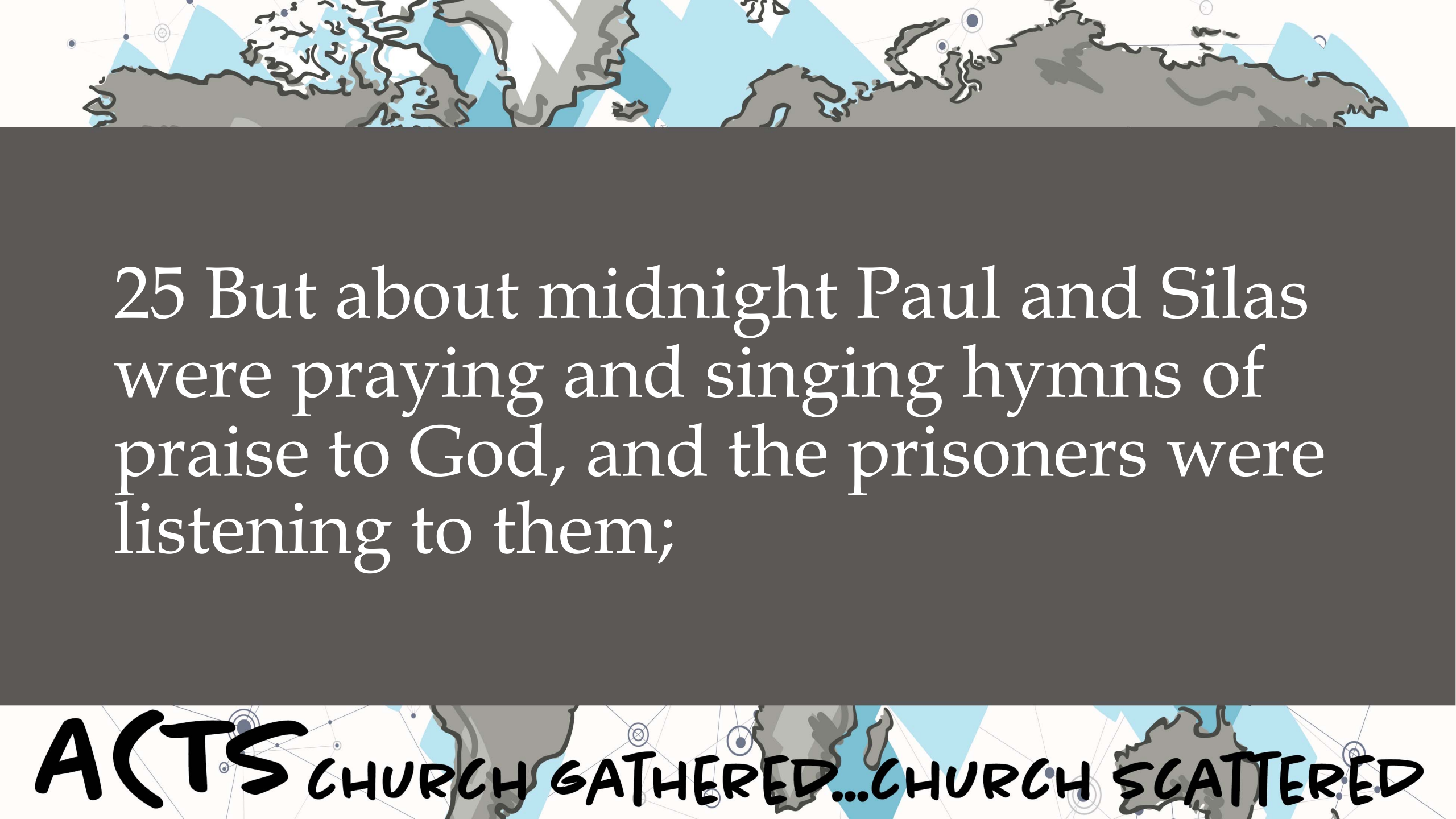




“But I have been too deeply hurt, Sam. I tried to save the Shire, and it has been saved, but not for me. It must often be so, Sam, when things are in danger: someone has to give them up, lose them, so that others may keep them.”

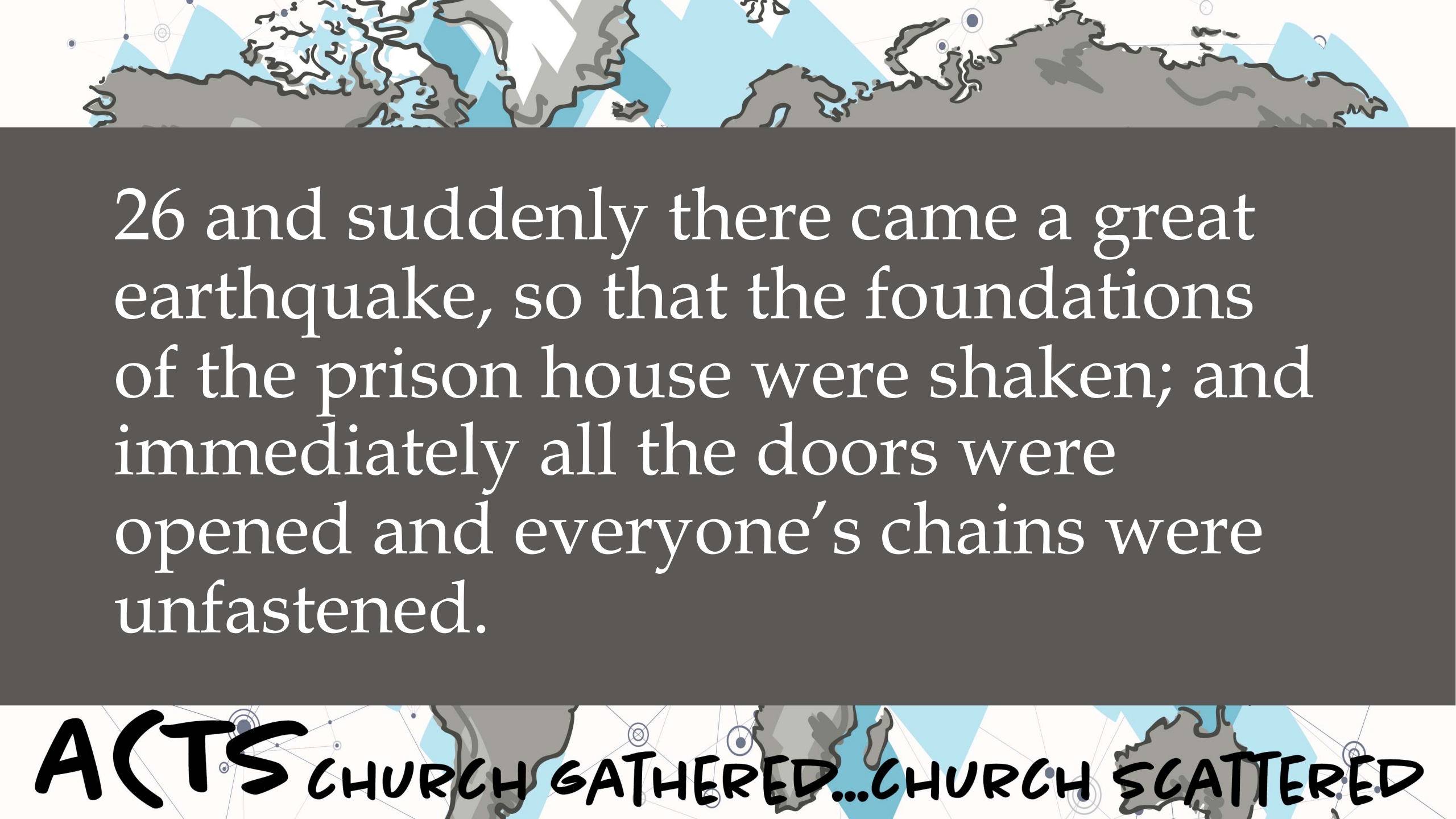
J.R.R. Tolkien, The Return of the King

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



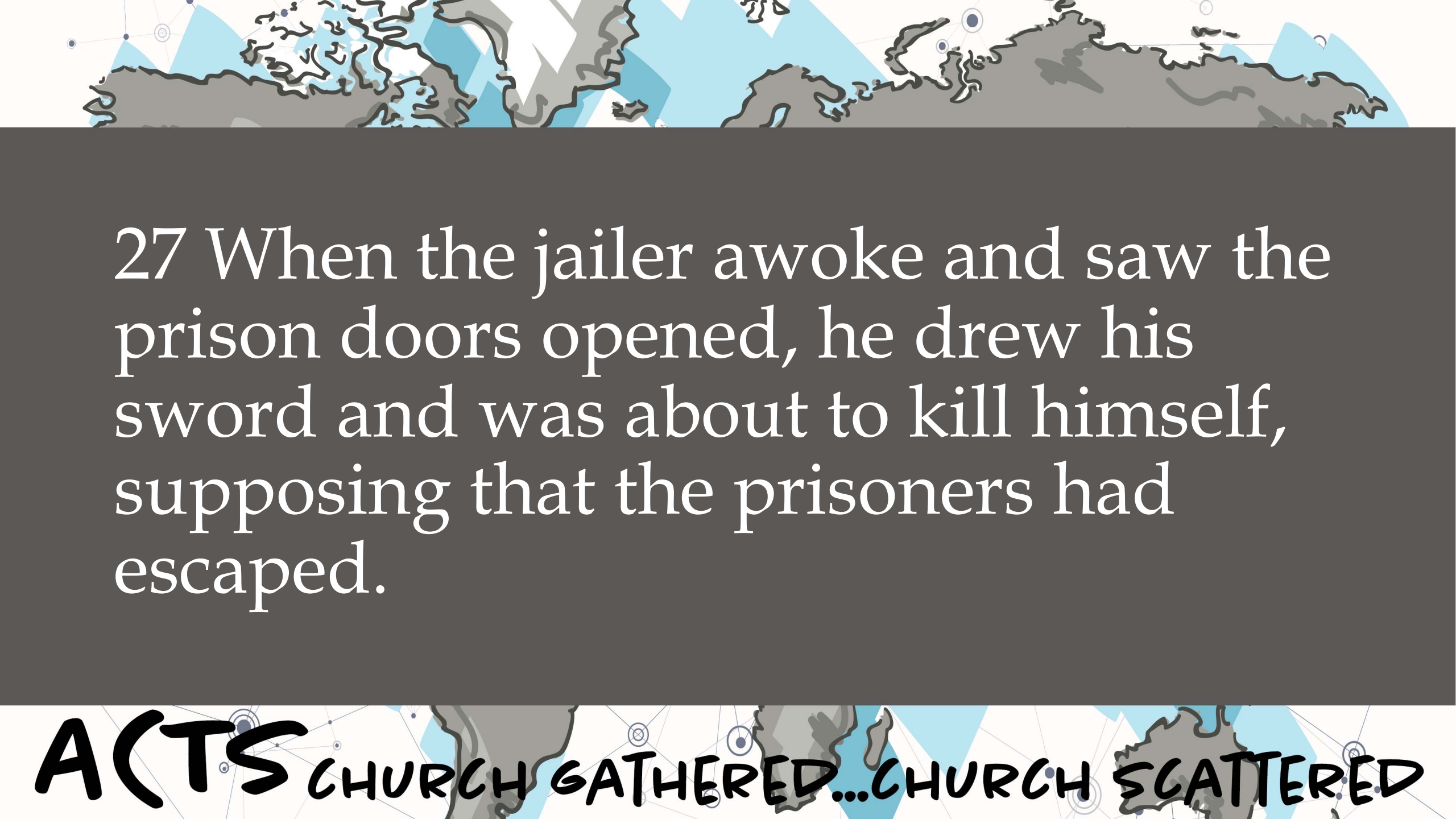
25 But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



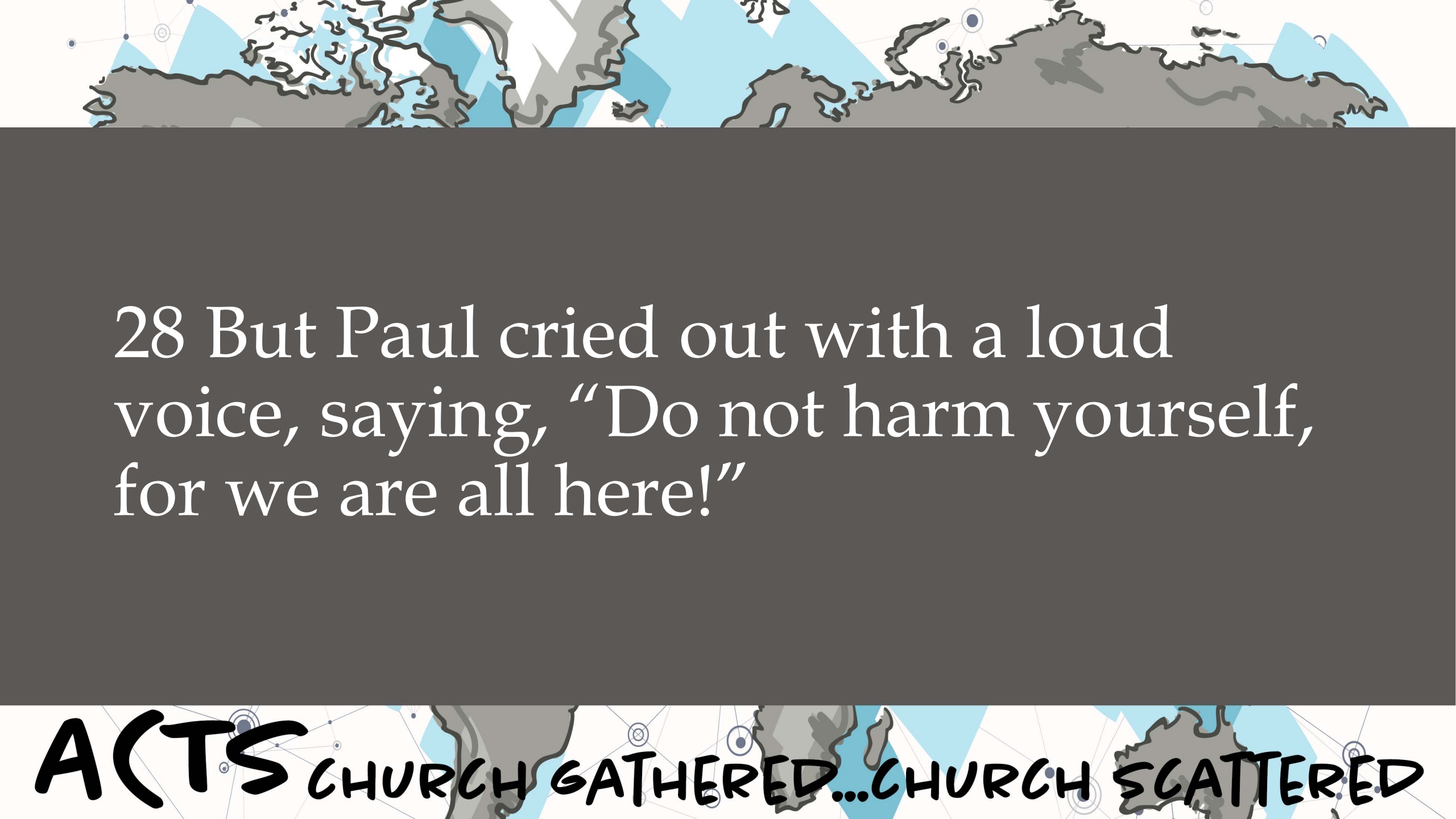
26 and suddenly there came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



27 When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



28 But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



Reply 25-28

- Freed by miracle – held by love!
- Singing in the face of persecution
- Jailer faced hopeless outcome – suicide?
- Paul & Silas protected him



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“Faith makes all things possible ...
love makes all things easy.”*

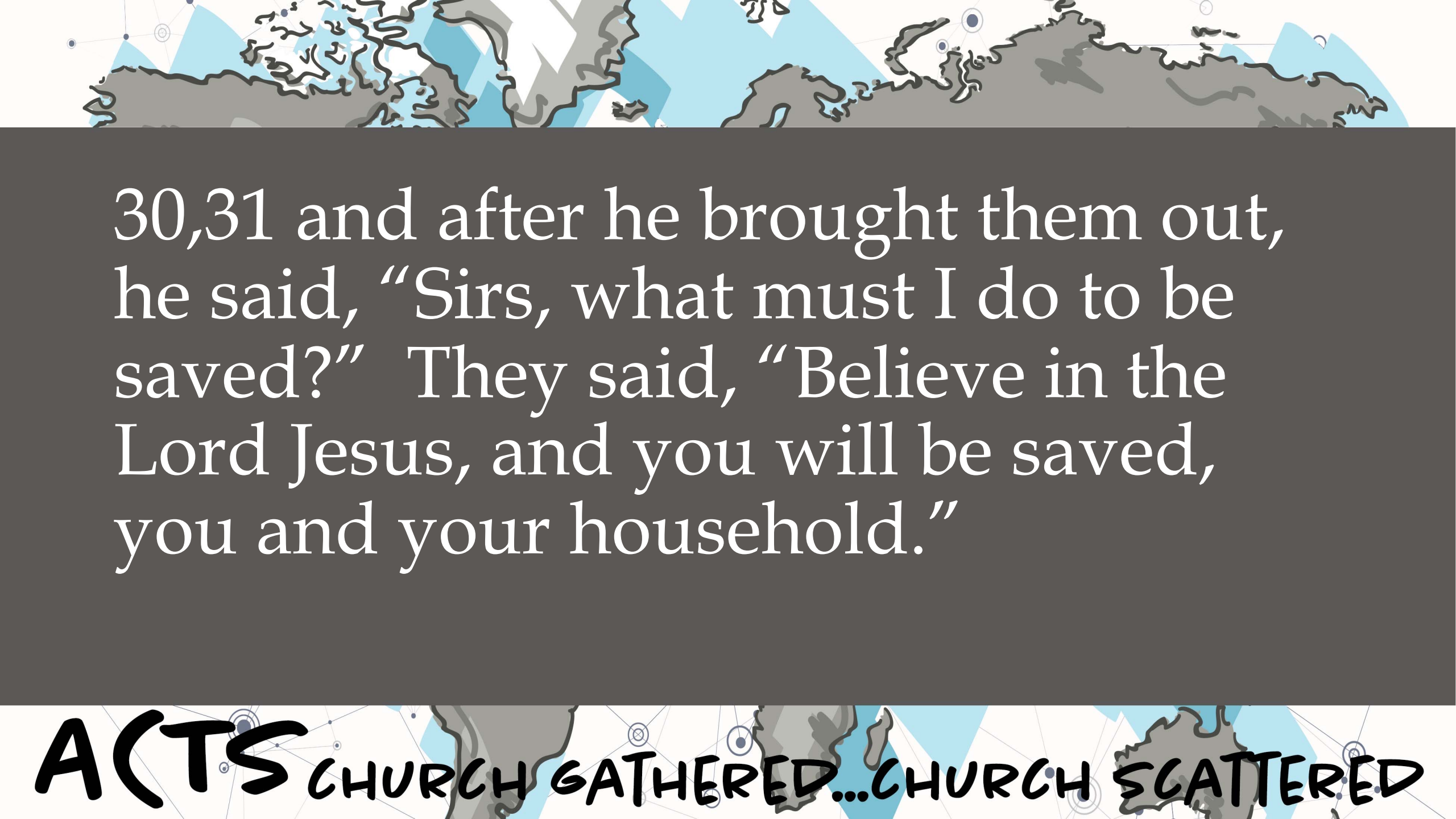
D.L. Moody

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



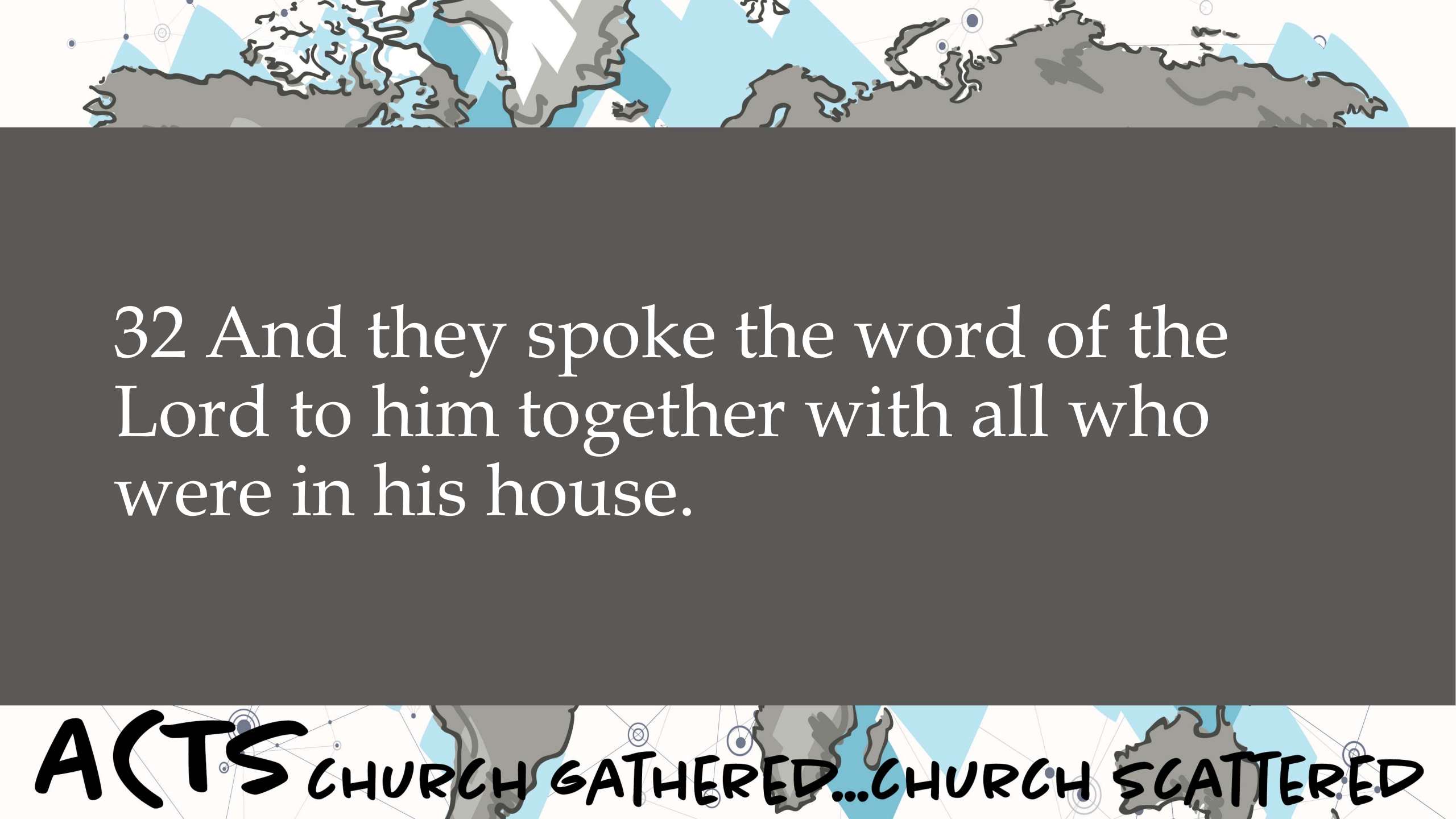
29 And he called for lights and
rushed in, and trembling with fear he
fell down before Paul and Silas,

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



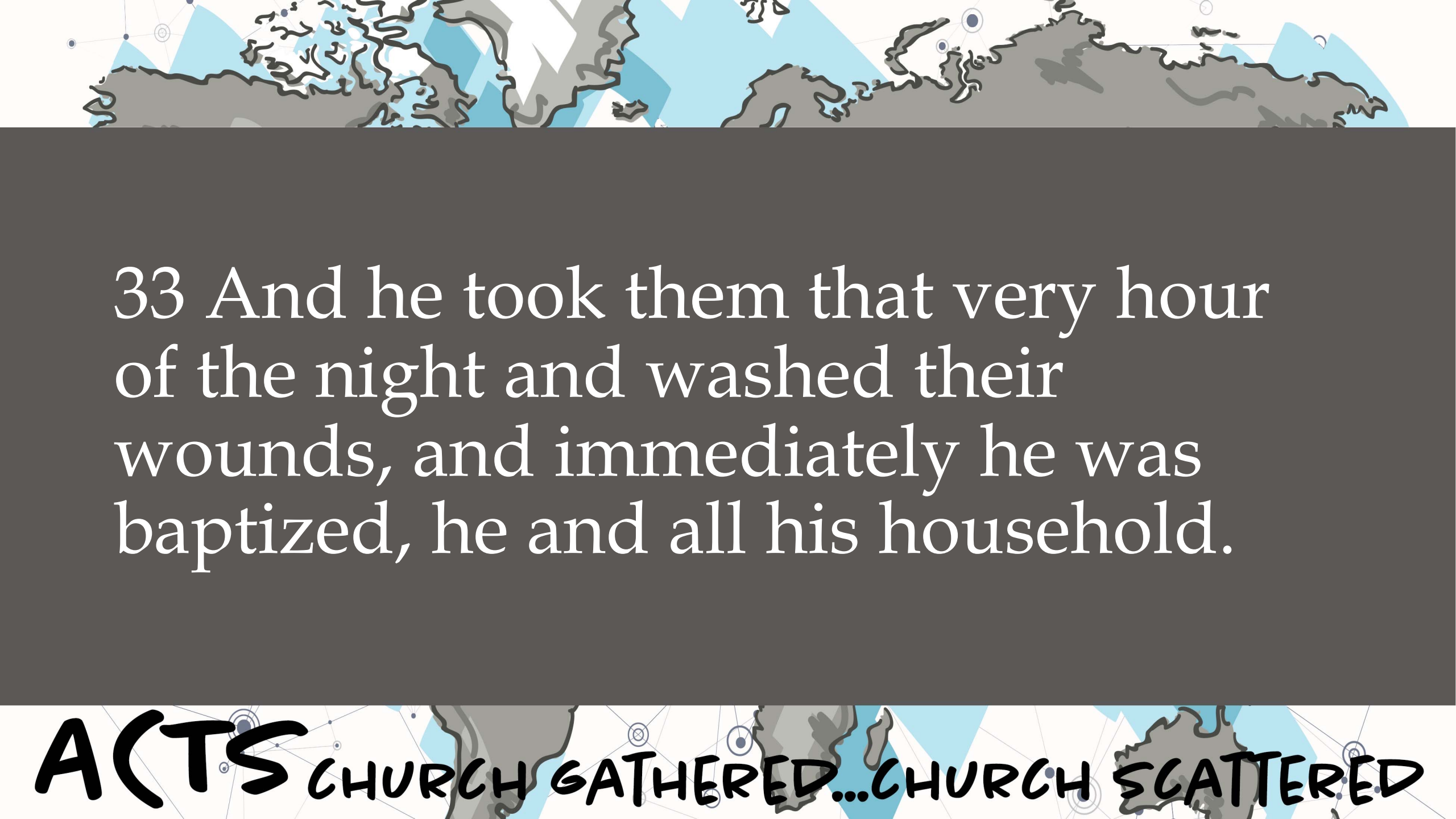
30,31 and after he brought them out, he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



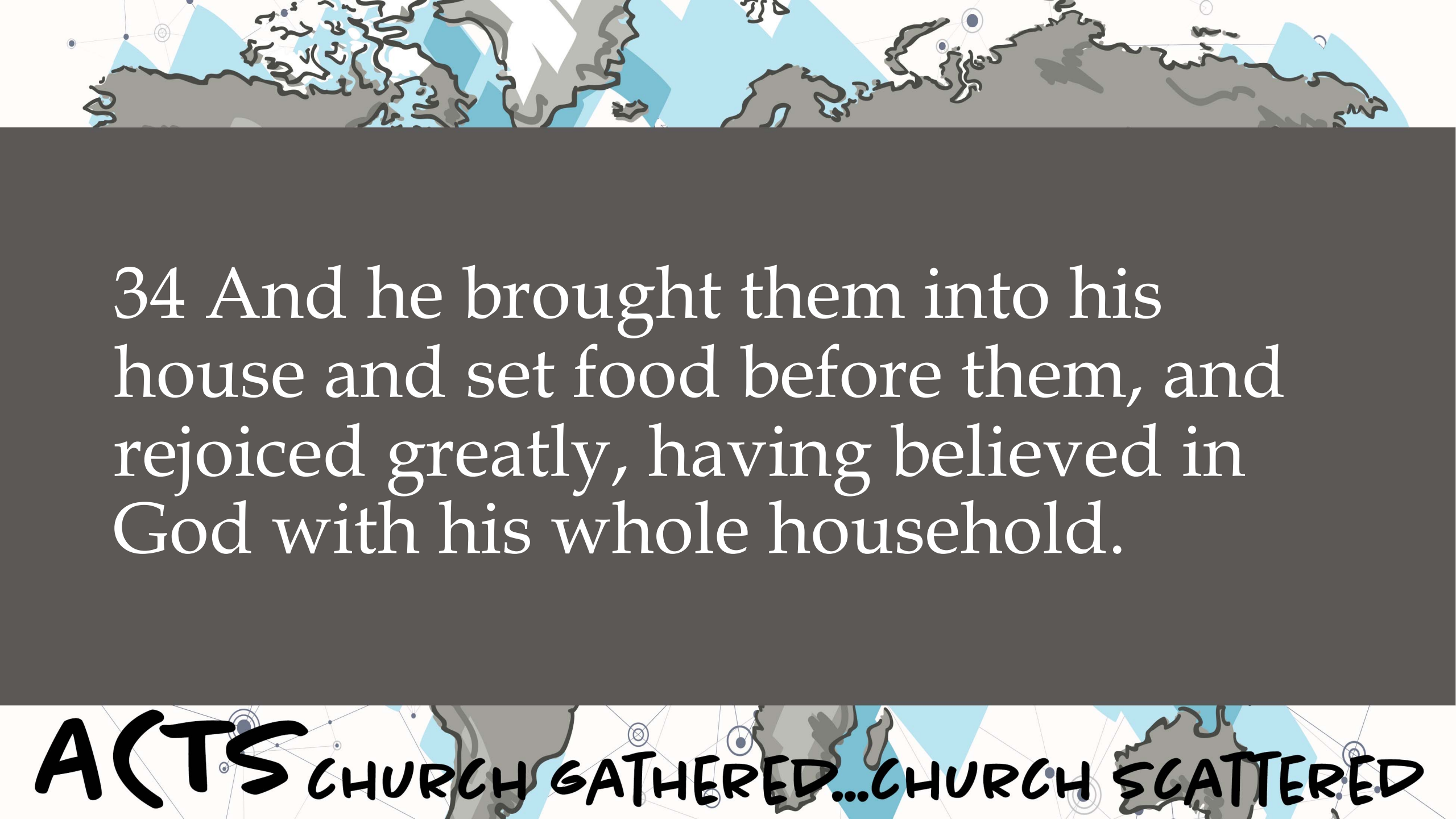
32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



33 And he took them that very hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



34 And he brought them into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with his whole household.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

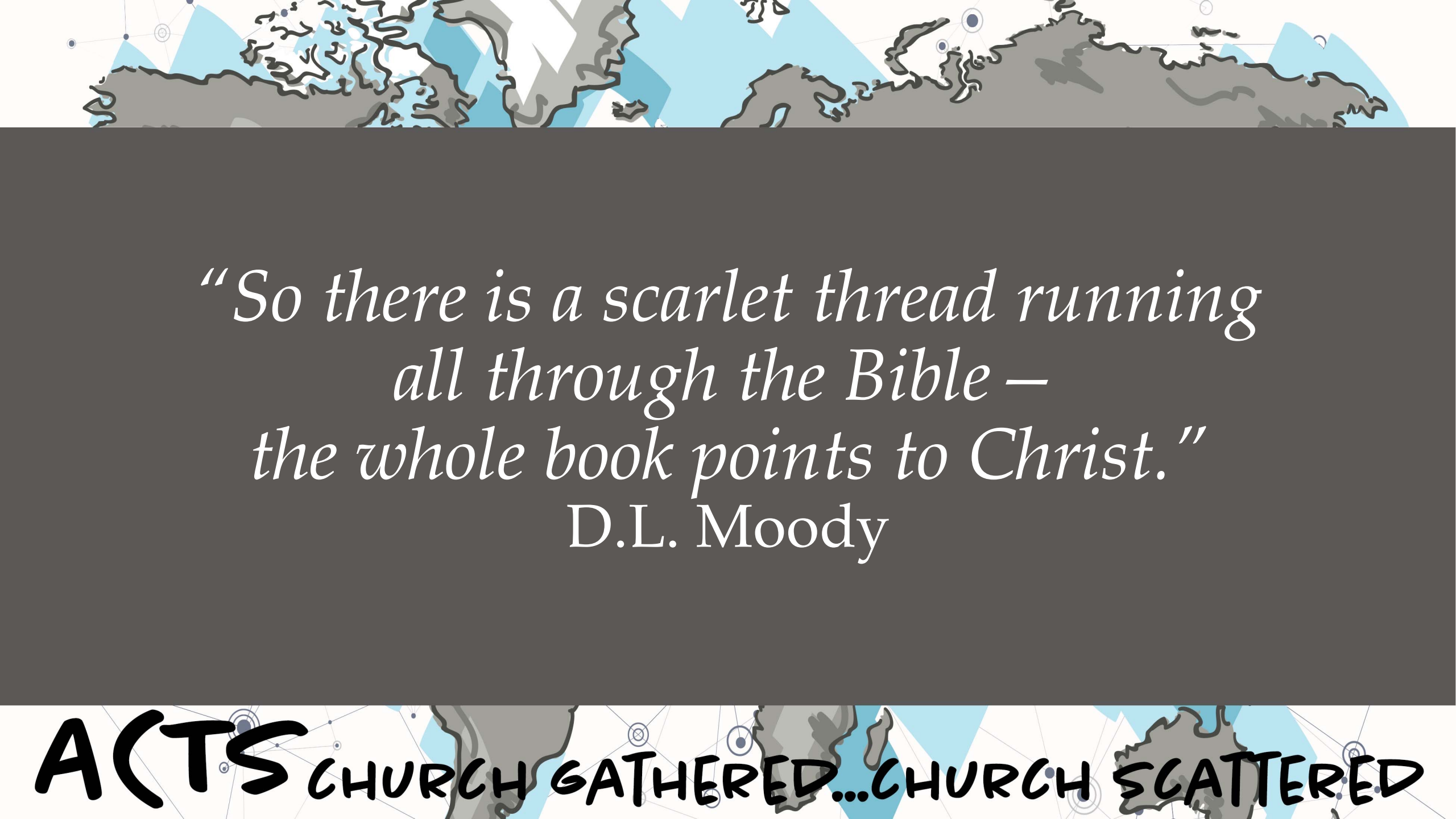


Relief 29-34

- 'light' – cistern prison
- 'what must I do to be saved?'
- Shared the Word with 'all' 'in his house'
- Psalm 23 – 'table before me...'

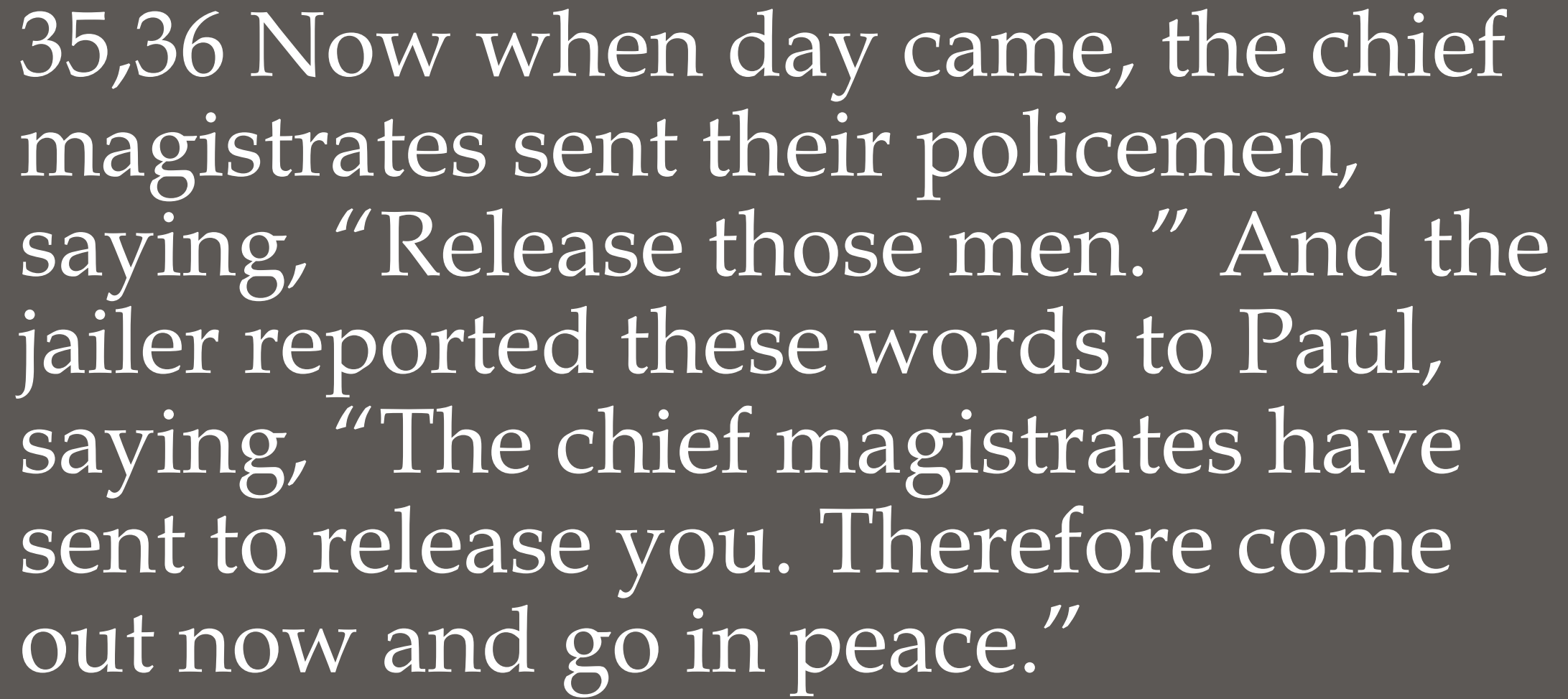


ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



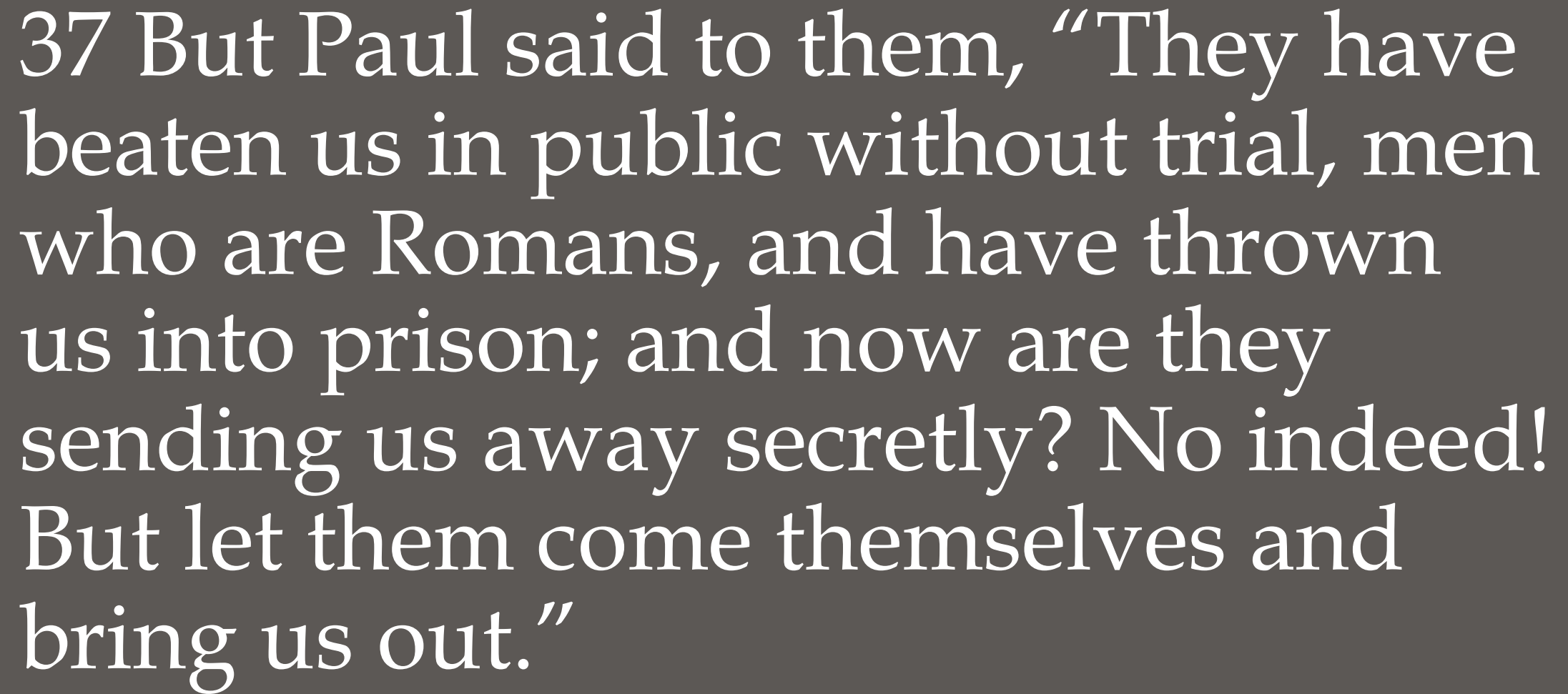
*“So there is a scarlet thread running
all through the Bible –
the whole book points to Christ.”
D.L. Moody*

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



35,36 Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men." And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go in peace."

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



37 But Paul said to them, “They have beaten us in public without trial, men who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out.”

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

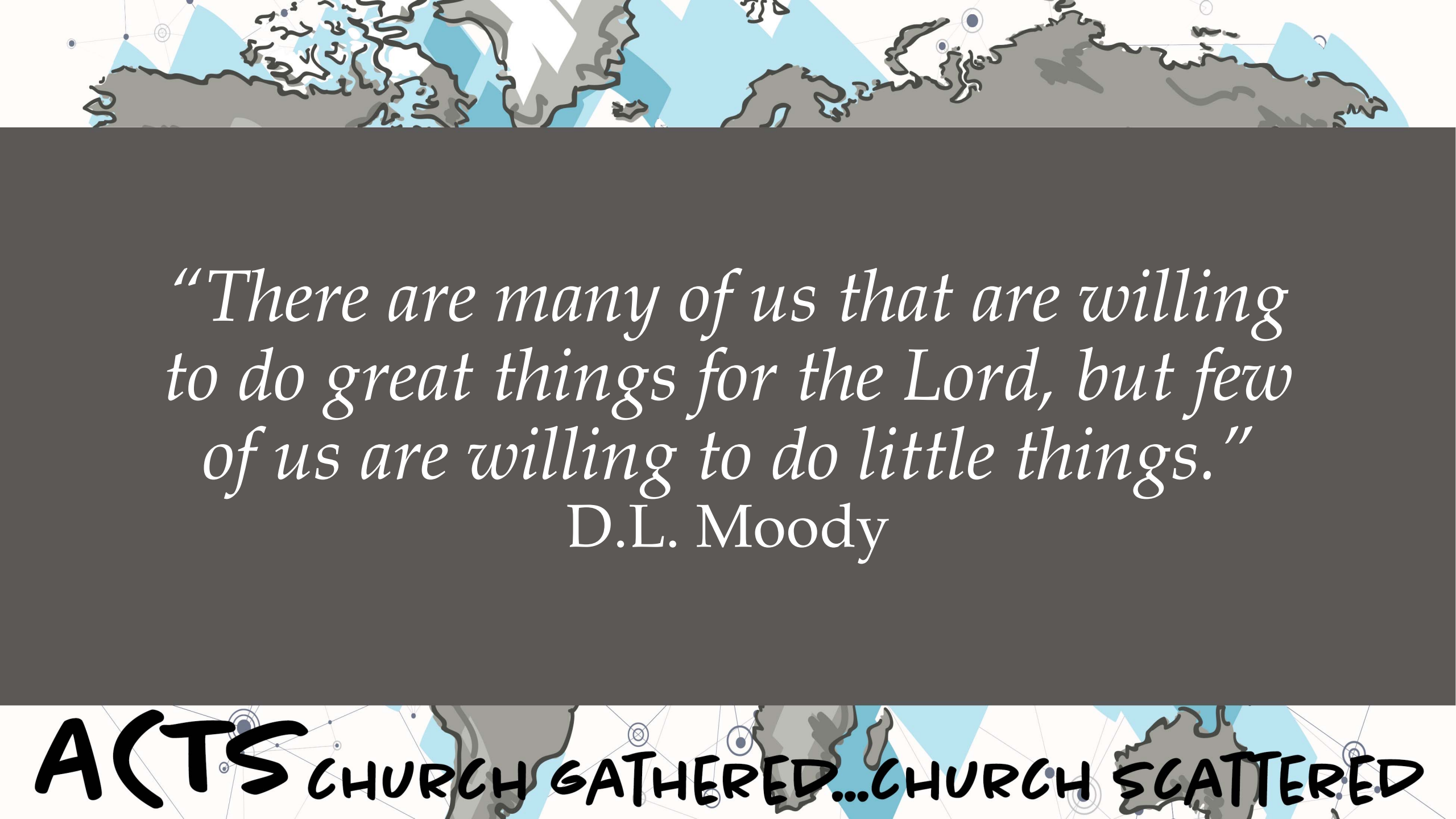


Release 35-37

- ‘release these men’ –
- Who got out? Who did we catch?
- Roman citizenship – fair treatment!
- Come release us in person –




ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



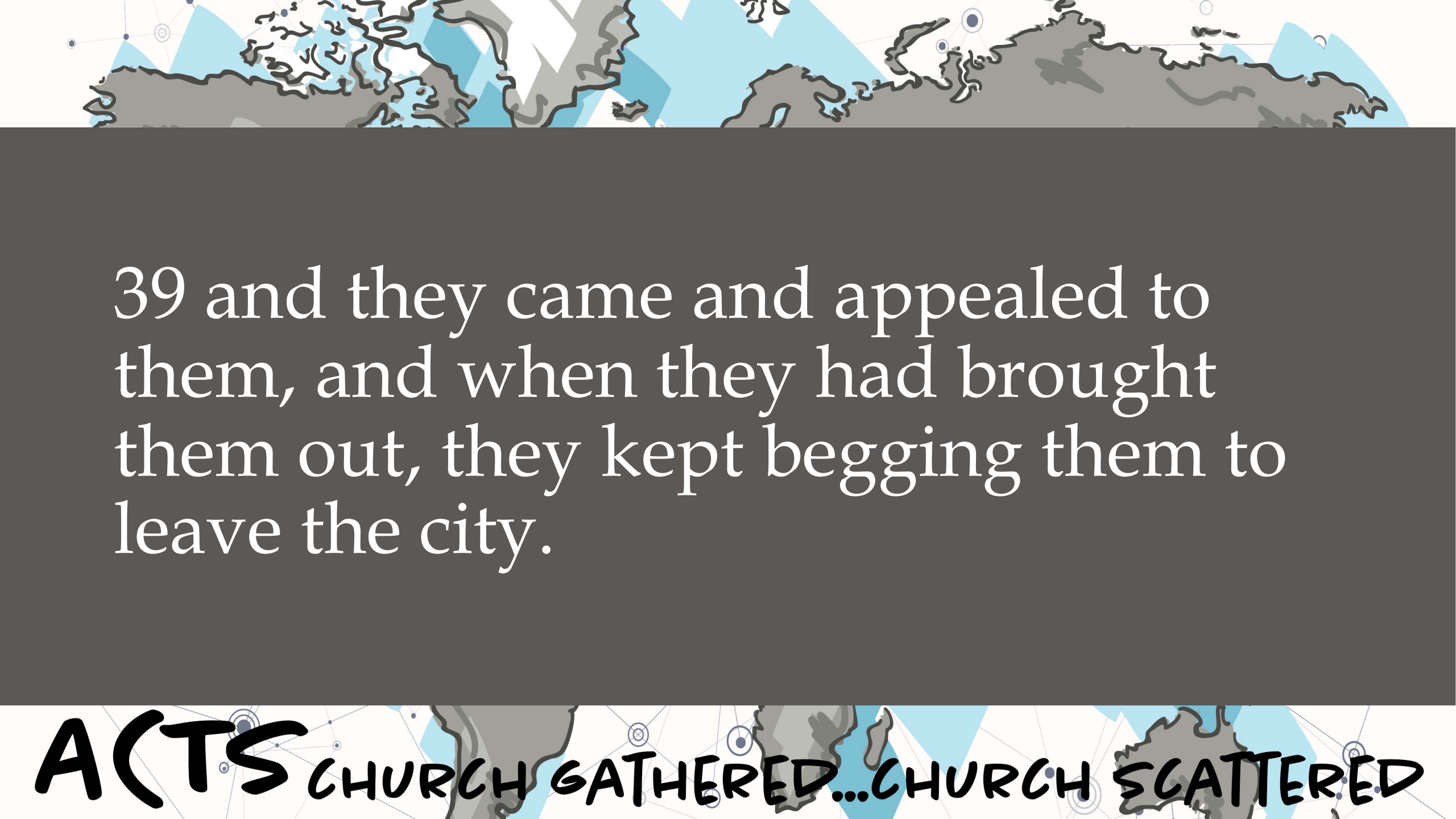
“There are many of us that are willing to do great things for the Lord, but few of us are willing to do little things.”
D.L. Moody

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



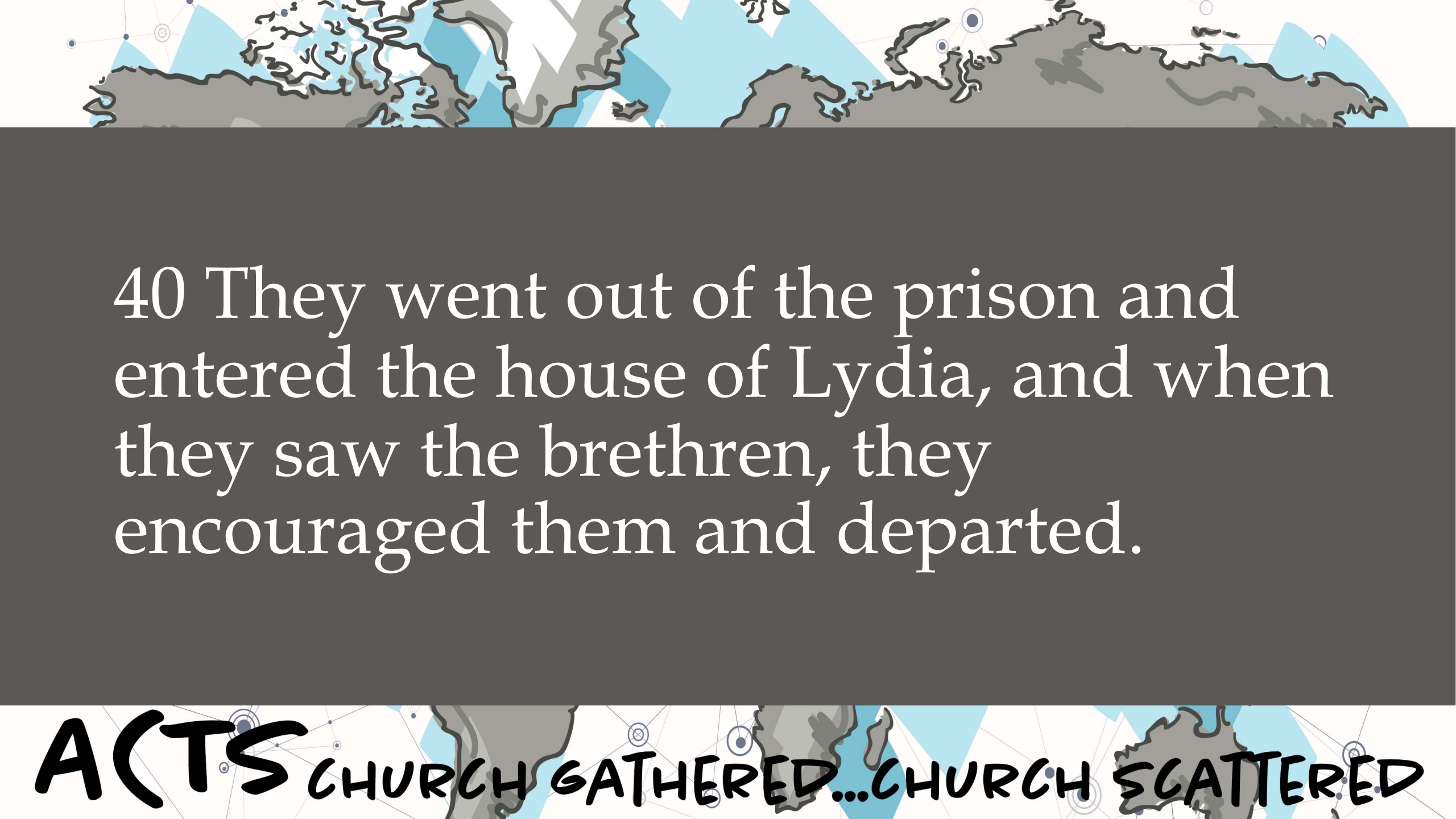
38 The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that they were Romans,

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



39 and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them to leave the city.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



40 They went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia, and when they saw the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED

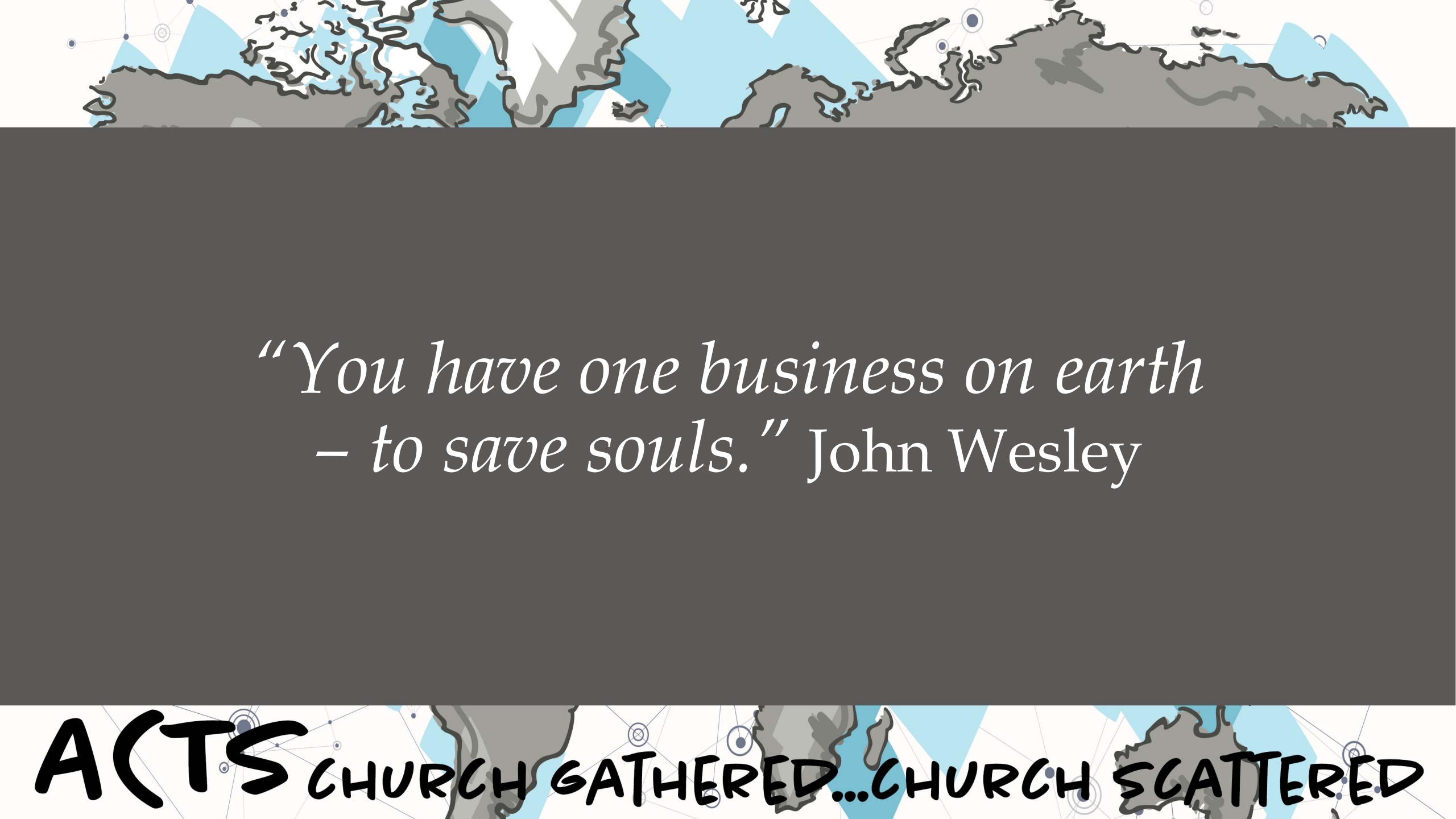


Return 38-40

- Magistrates embarrassed
- Paul & Silas back to work
- ‘encouraged them’ – ‘come alongside’
- Hope to the hopeless!
 - Believers – Missionaries – Jailer – Lost



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“You have one business on earth
– to save souls.” John Wesley*

ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



What must we do?

- Come to faith!
- Find God's peace in ALL things!
- Share the Good News!
- Life of encouragements to disciples!



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*He knows the worst about you and
is the One who loves you the most.”*

A.W. Tozer

And He Dwelt Among Us:
Teachings from the Gospel of John



ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED