A stylized world map with a network overlay. The map is rendered in shades of gray and light blue, with a network of gray 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



# Courage in Life

Acts 23

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





*“Worship leader George Beverly Shea kidded Billy Graham that the latter would be unemployed in Heaven -- while Shea would still have a job leading worship.”*

Billy Graham

Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well



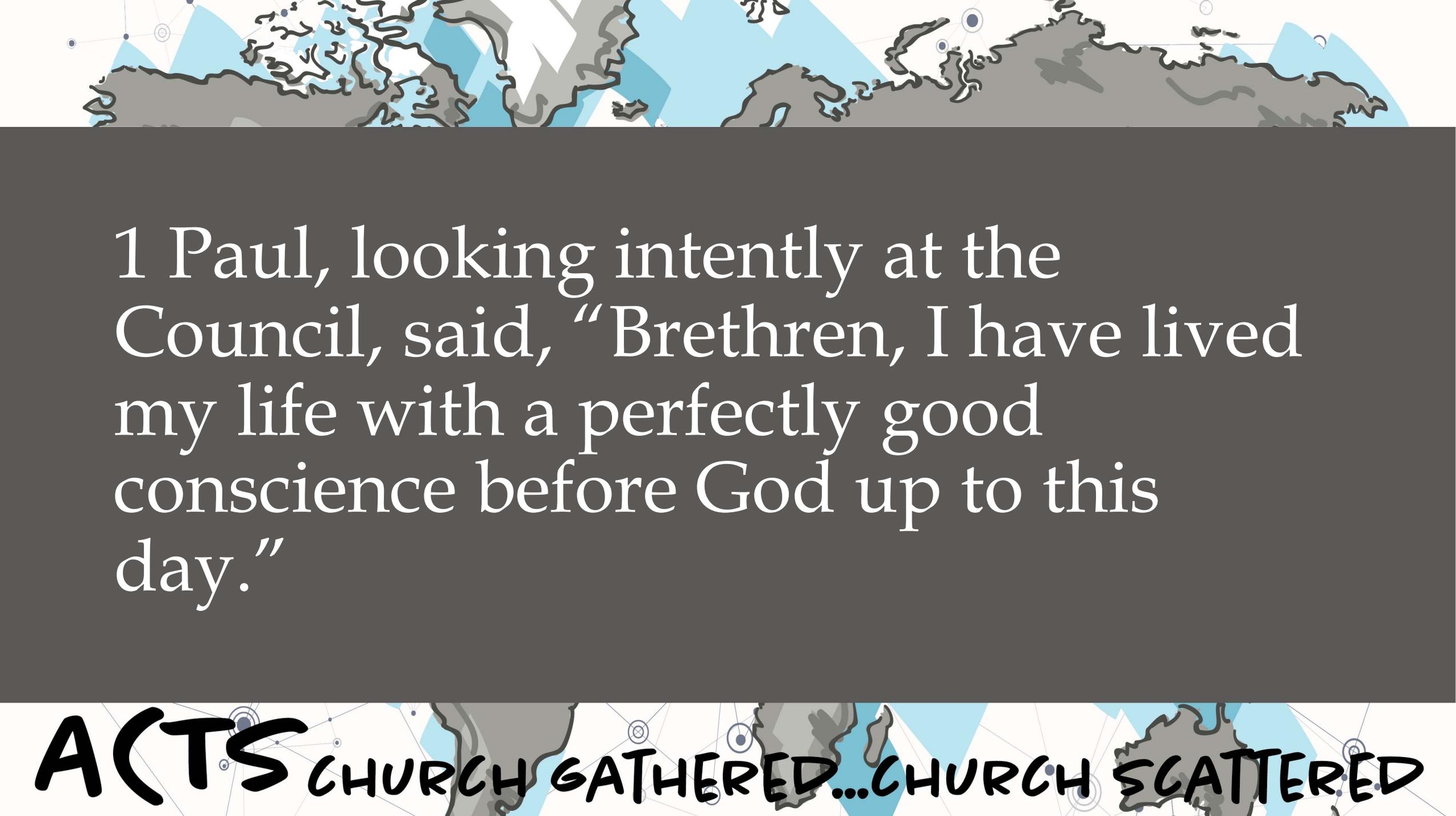
**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**

*“End of Construction. Thank you 'for your patience.”* Inscription on Ruth Bell Graham's grave -- inspired by a road sign she saw.'

Billy Graham

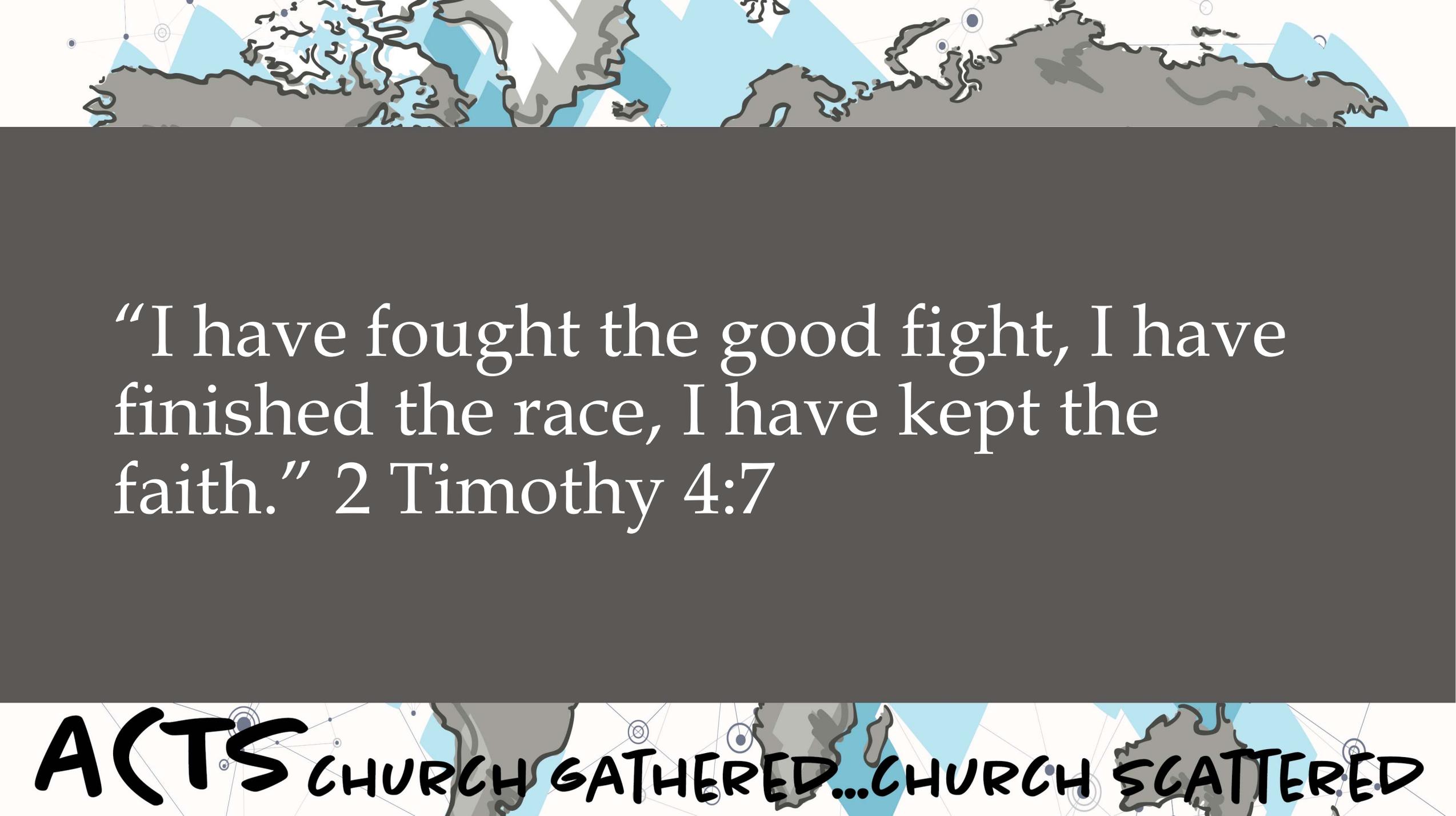
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**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



1 Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, “Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day.”

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



“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Timothy 4:7

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



# Life Well Lived 1

- Gave of himself
- Gave his training
- Gave his ambitions
- Gave his life



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



*“I'm in a win-win playoff.”*

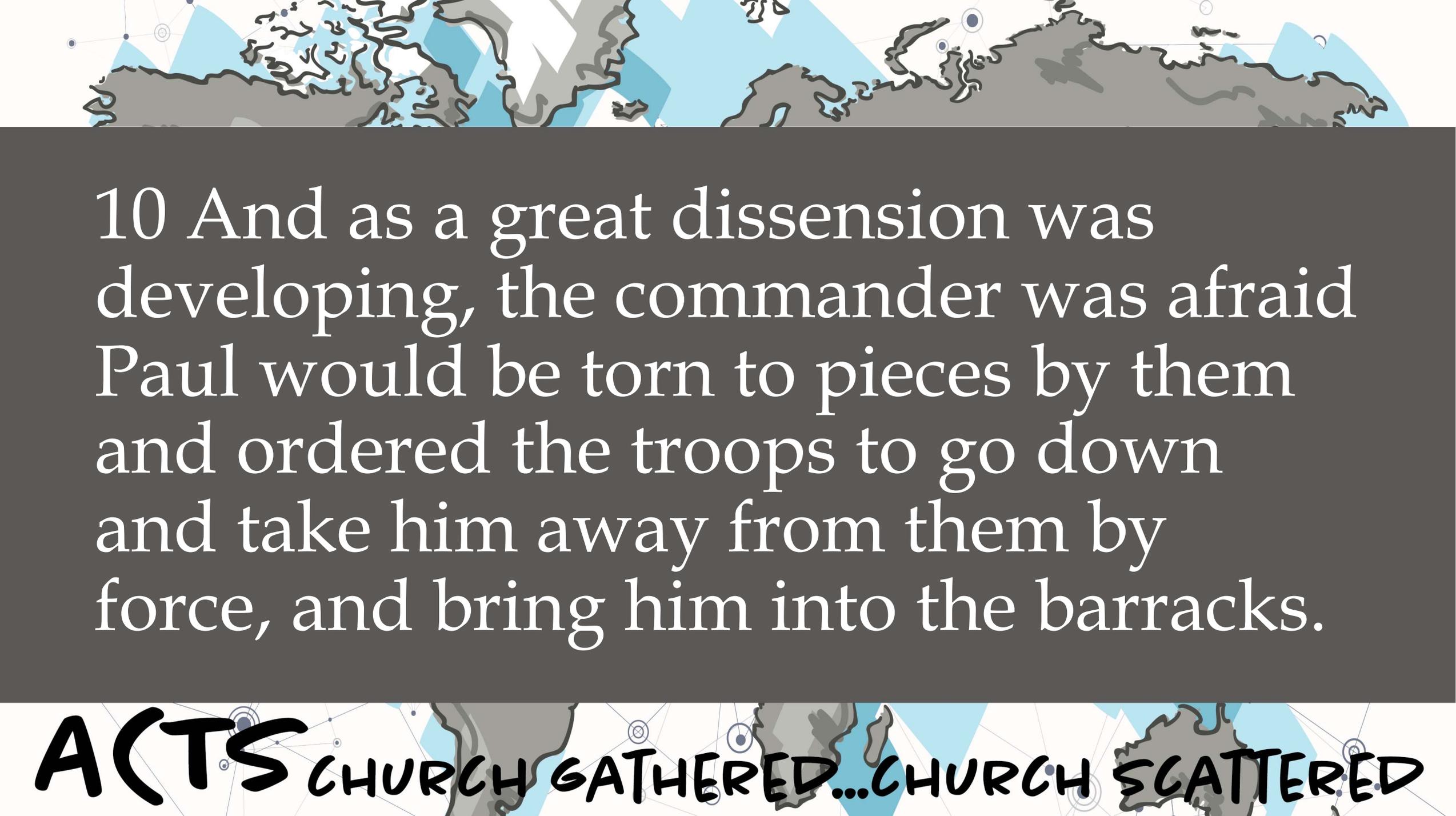
Response of a Christian dying of cancer at thirty on the prospect of miraculous healing.’

Billy Graham

Nearing Home: Life, Faith, and Finishing Well

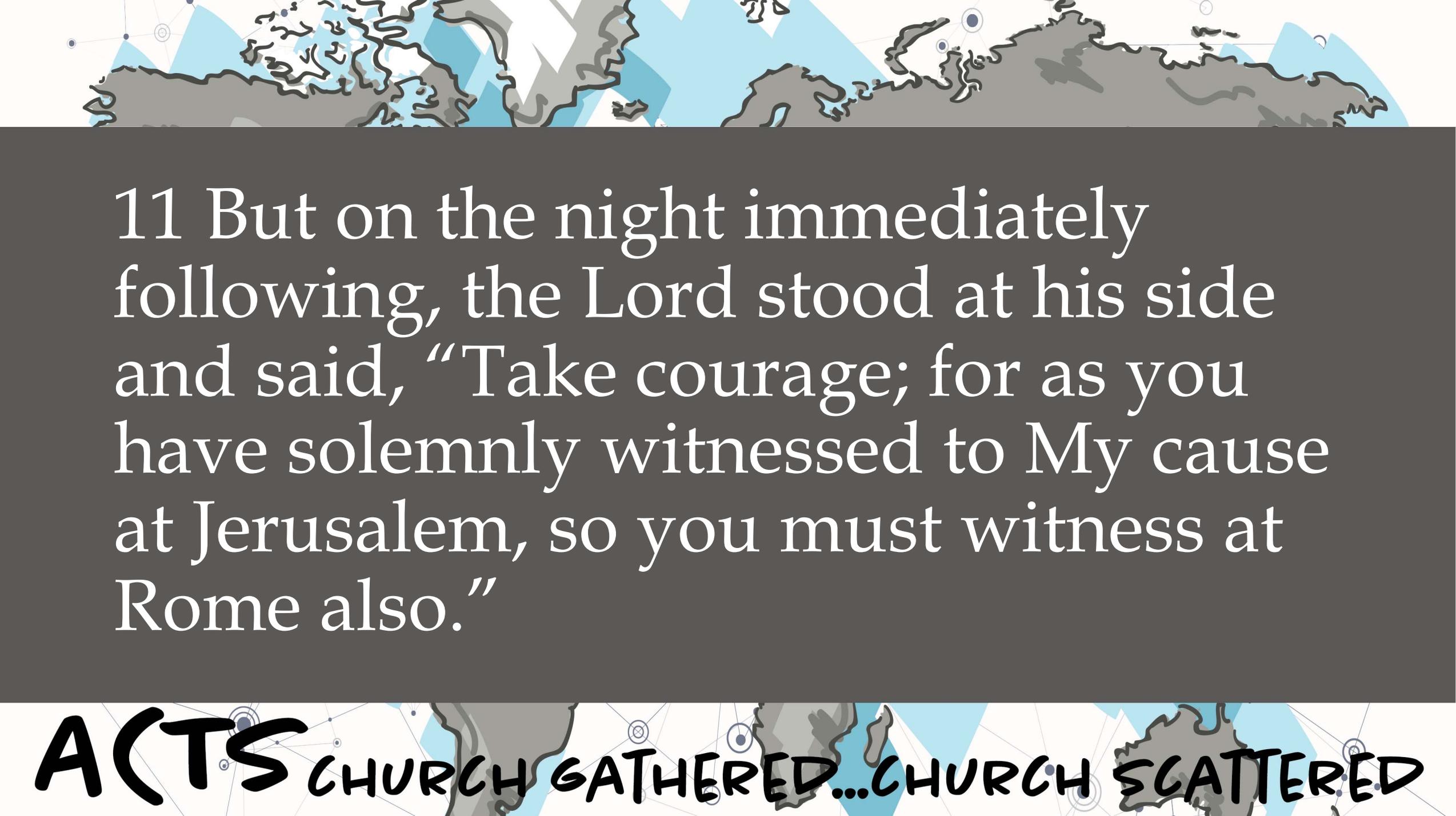


**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



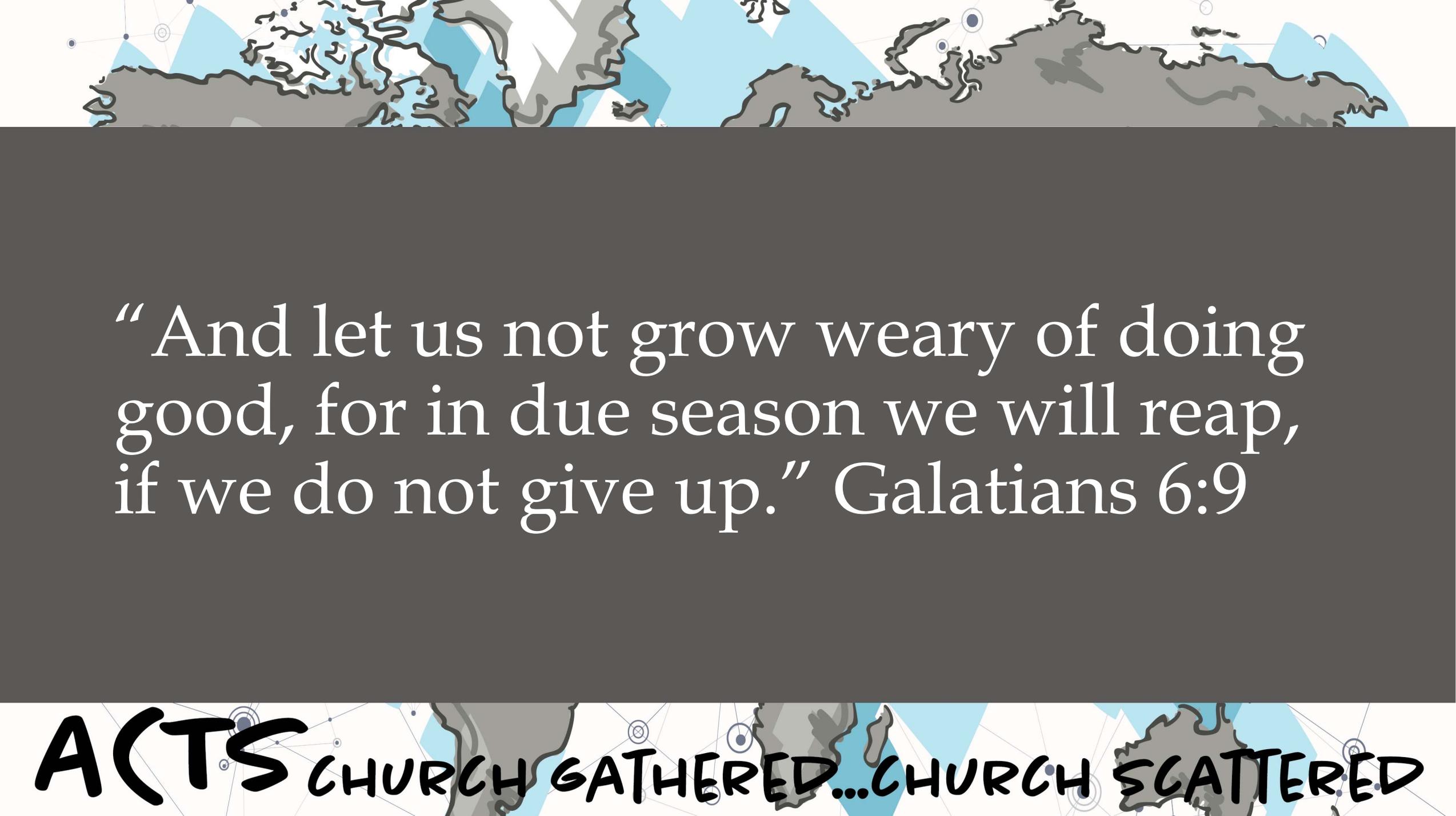
10 And as a great dissension was developing, the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them and ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force, and bring him into the barracks.

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



11 But on the night immediately following, the Lord stood at his side and said, "Take courage; for as you have solemnly witnessed to My cause at Jerusalem, so you must witness at Rome also."

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



“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9

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

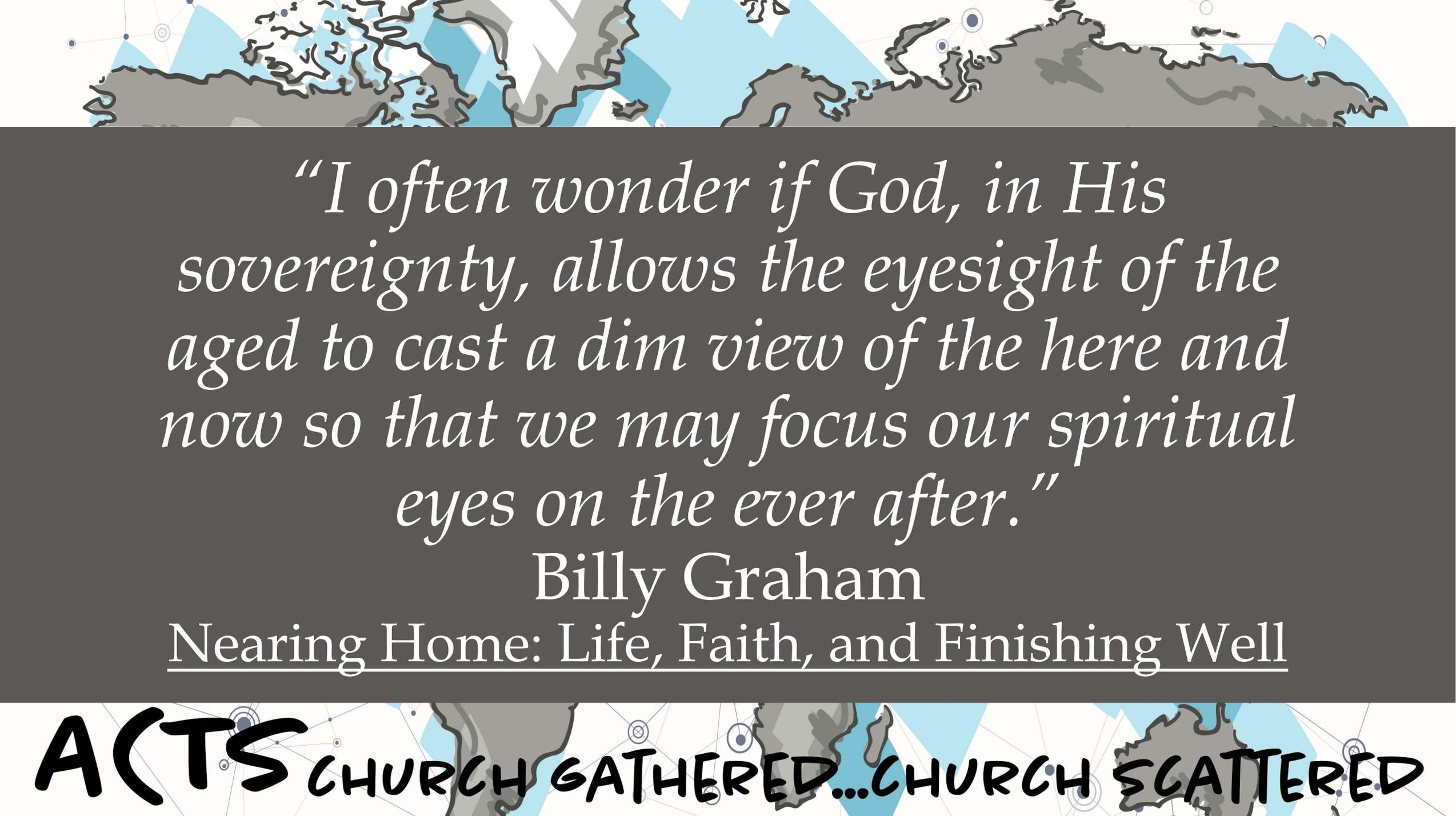


# Listening Well 10-11

- Troubled Times
- Trials by Enemies
- Testing Within
- Take Courage!



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

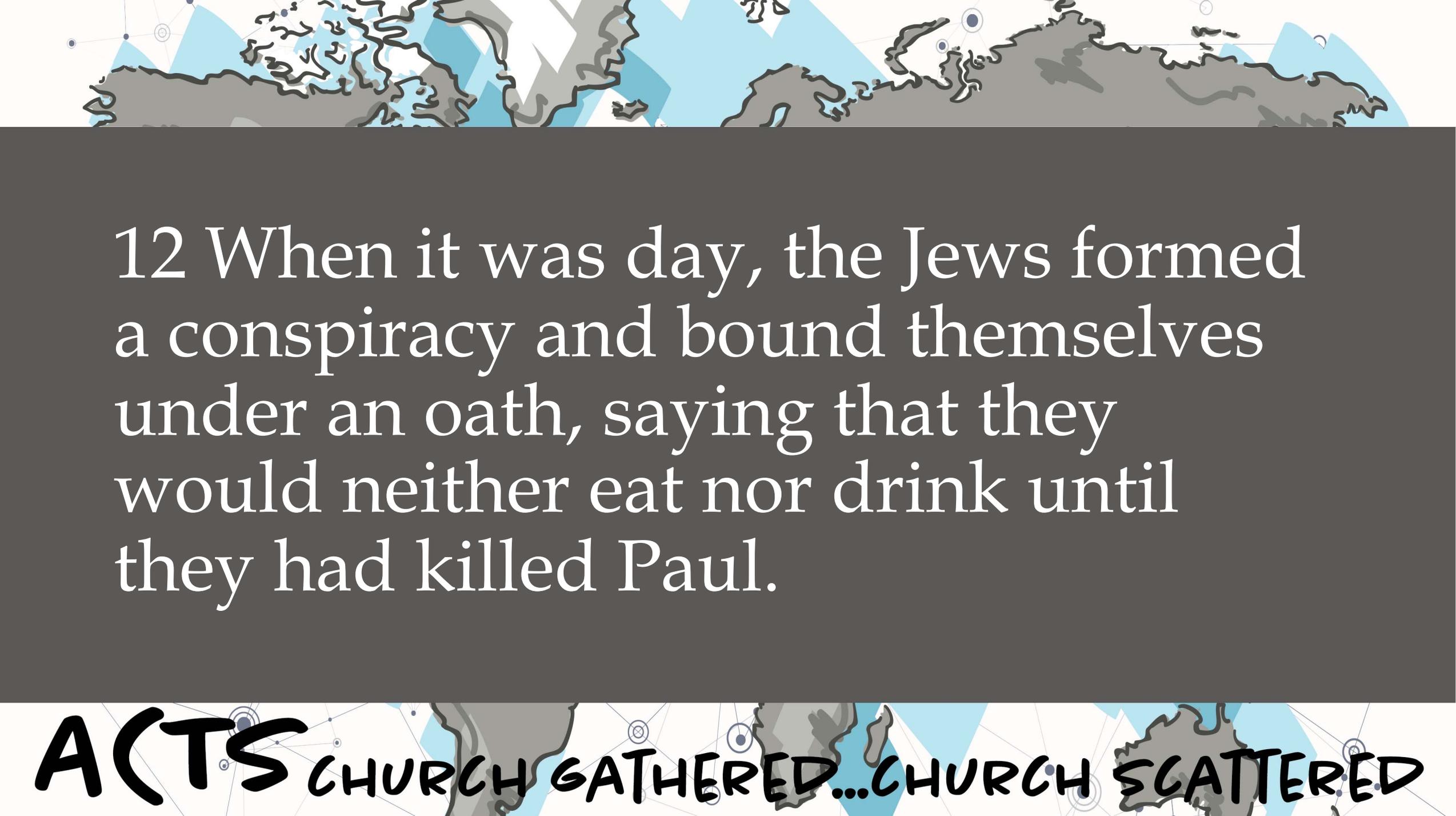


*“I often wonder if God, in His sovereignty, allows the eyesight of the aged to cast a dim view of the here and now so that we may focus our spiritual eyes on the ever after.”*

Billy Graham

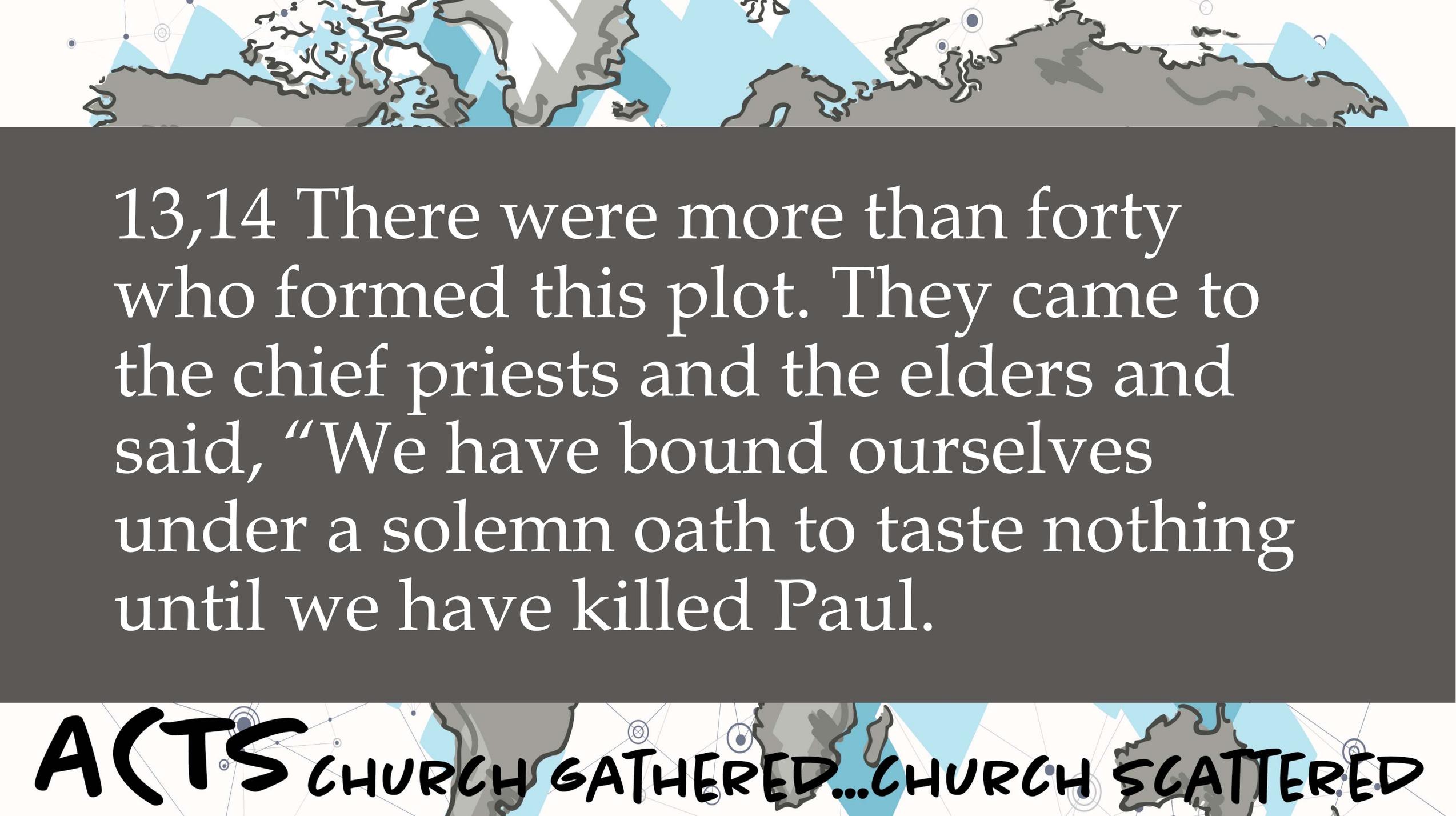
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**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



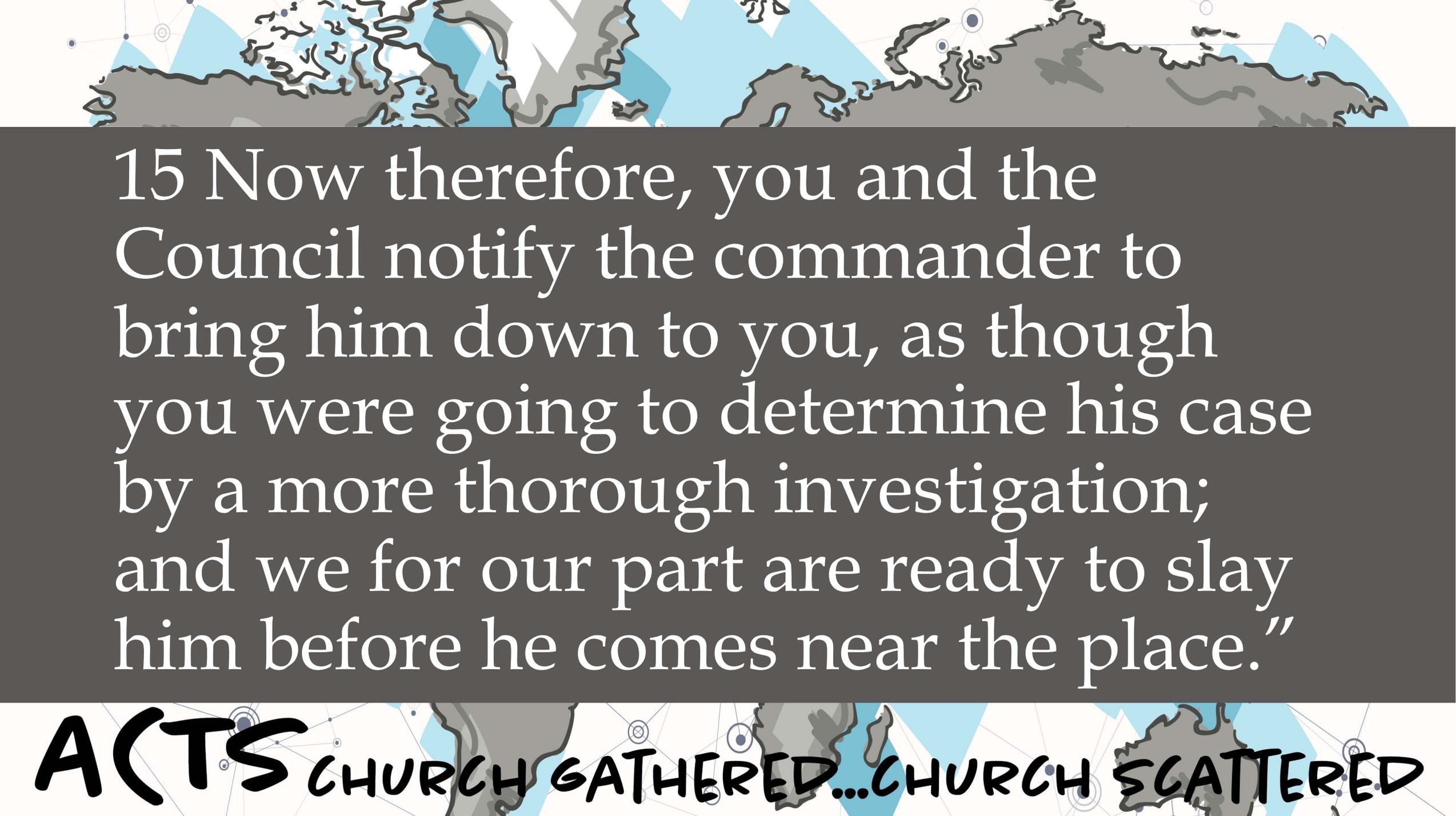
12 When it was day, the Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves under an oath, saying that they would neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

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



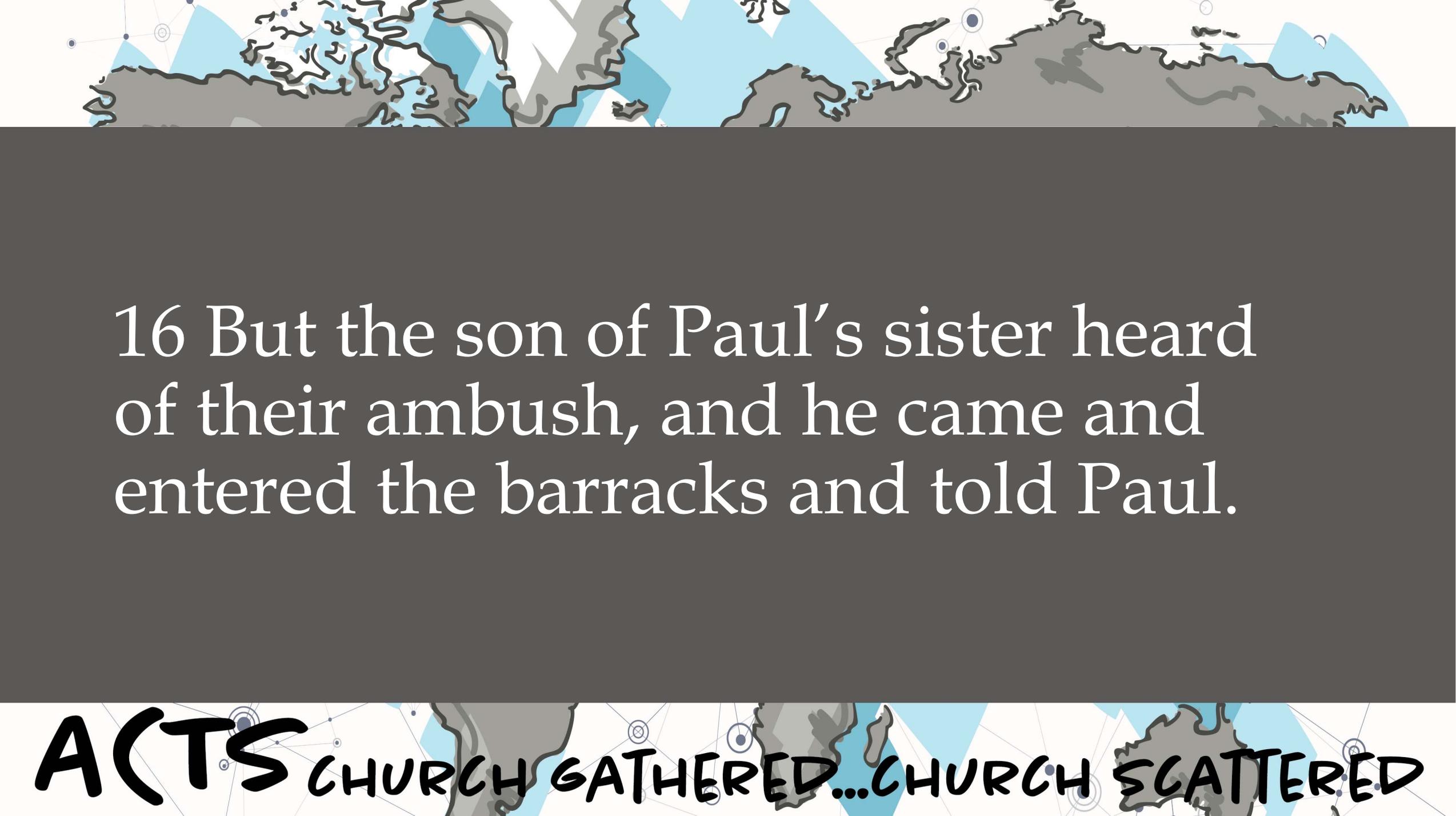
13,14 There were more than forty who formed this plot. They came to the chief priests and the elders and said, “We have bound ourselves under a solemn oath to taste nothing until we have killed Paul.

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



15 Now therefore, you and the Council notify the commander to bring him down to you, as though you were going to determine his case by a more thorough investigation; and we for our part are ready to slay him before he comes near the place.”

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



16 But the son of Paul's sister heard of their ambush, and he came and entered the barracks and told Paul.

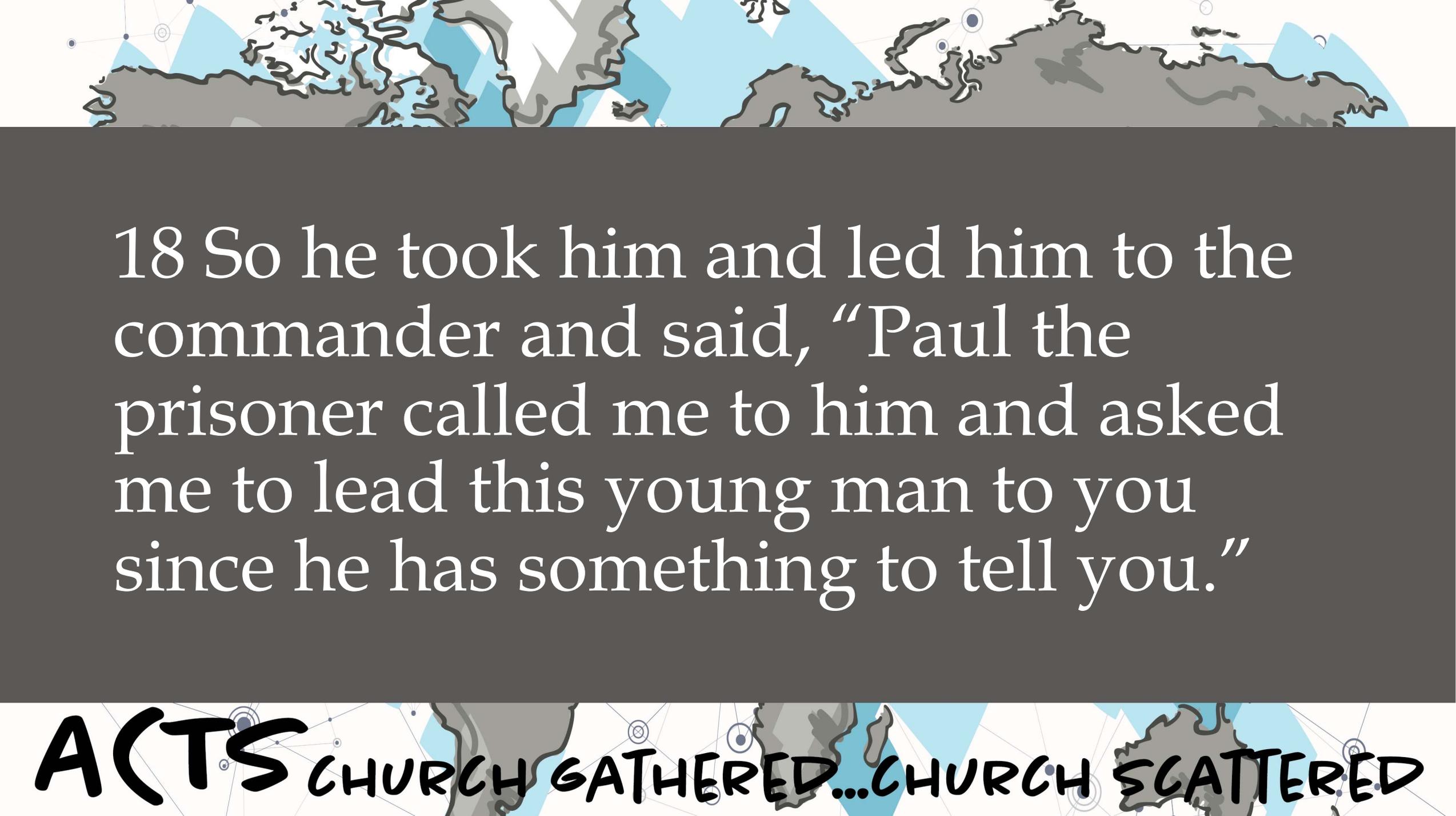
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



17 Paul called one of the centurions to him and said, “Lead this young man to the commander, for he has something to report to him.”

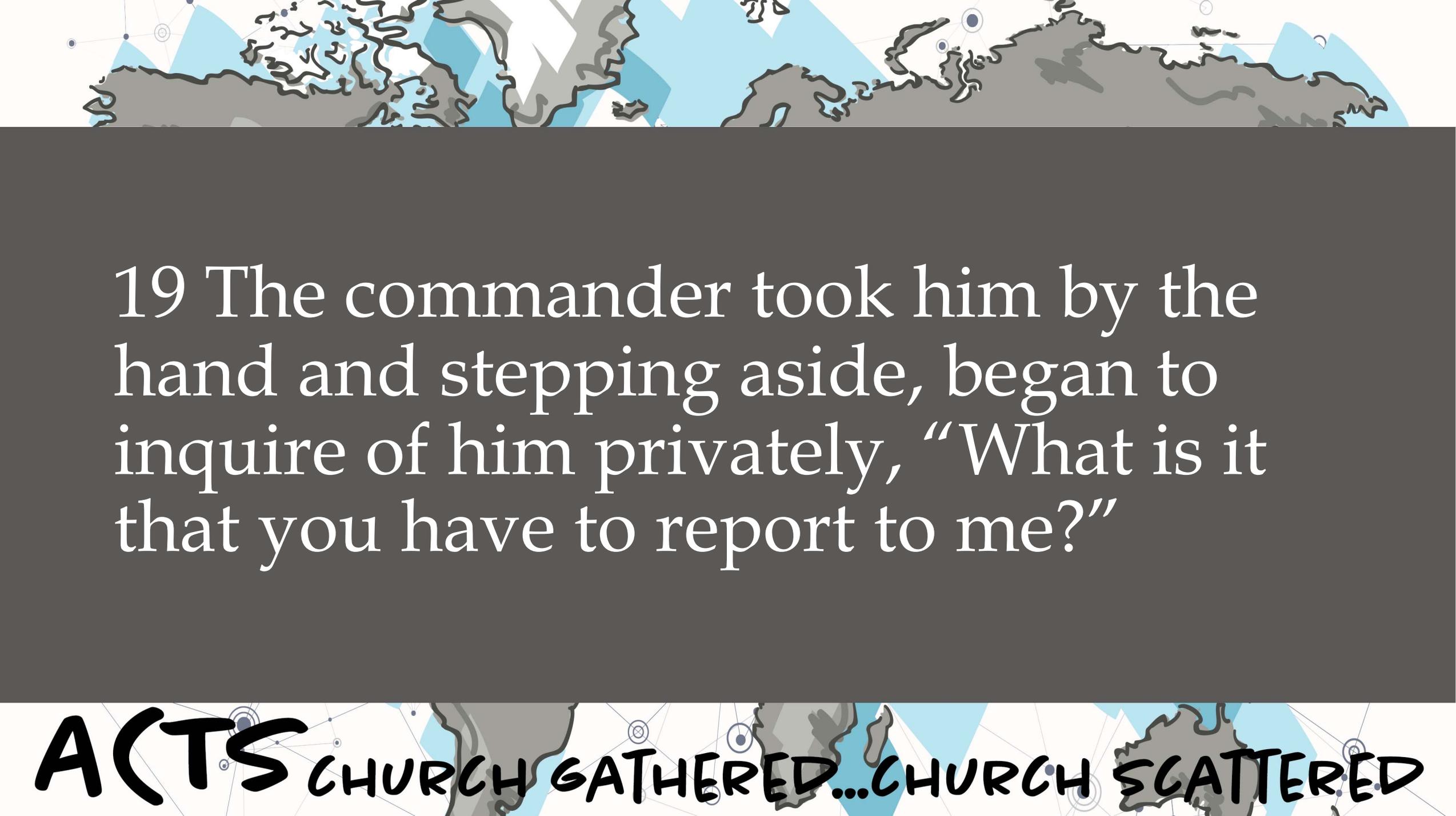


**ACTS CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED**



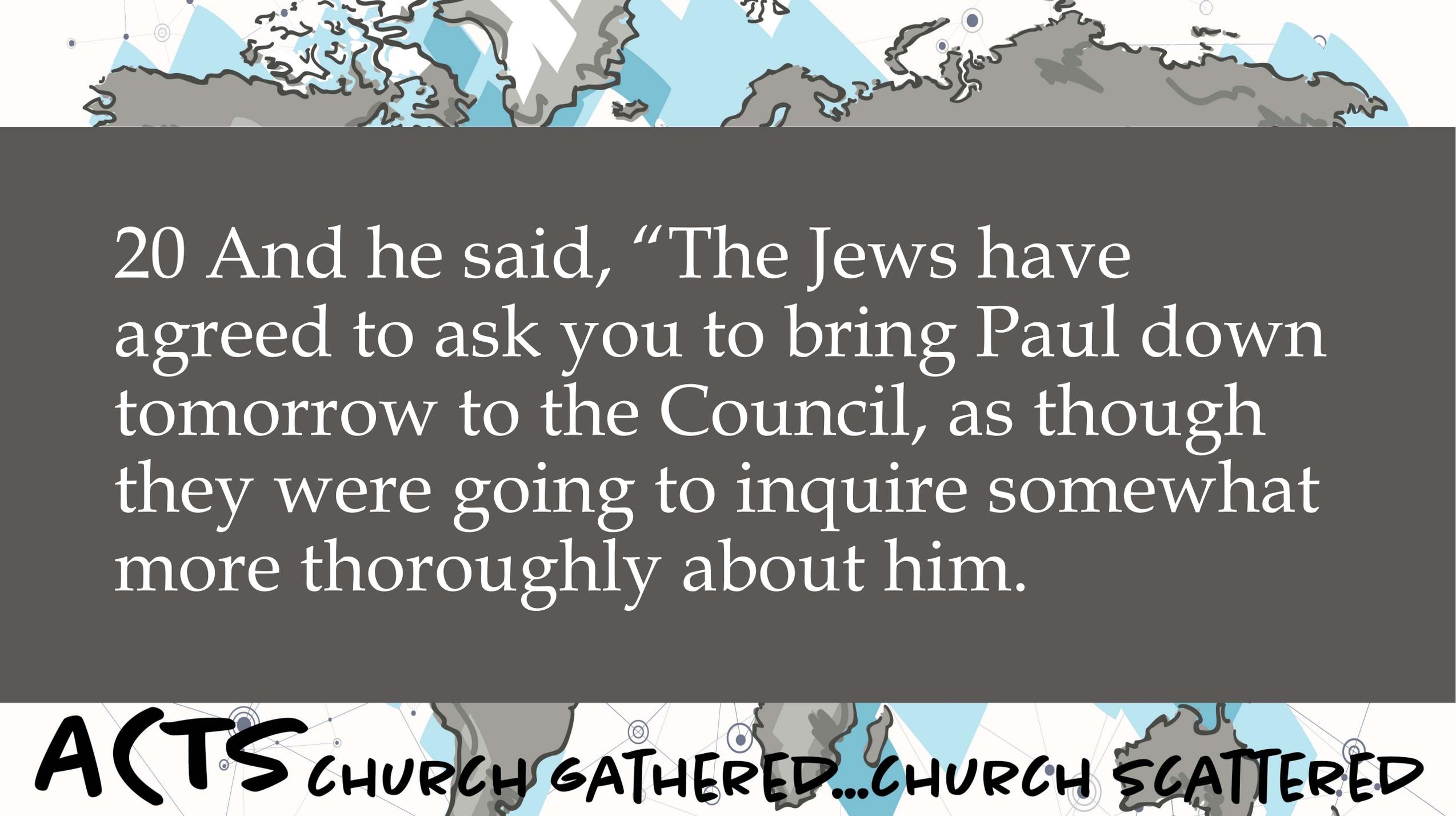
18 So he took him and led him to the commander and said, “Paul the prisoner called me to him and asked me to lead this young man to you since he has something to tell you.”

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



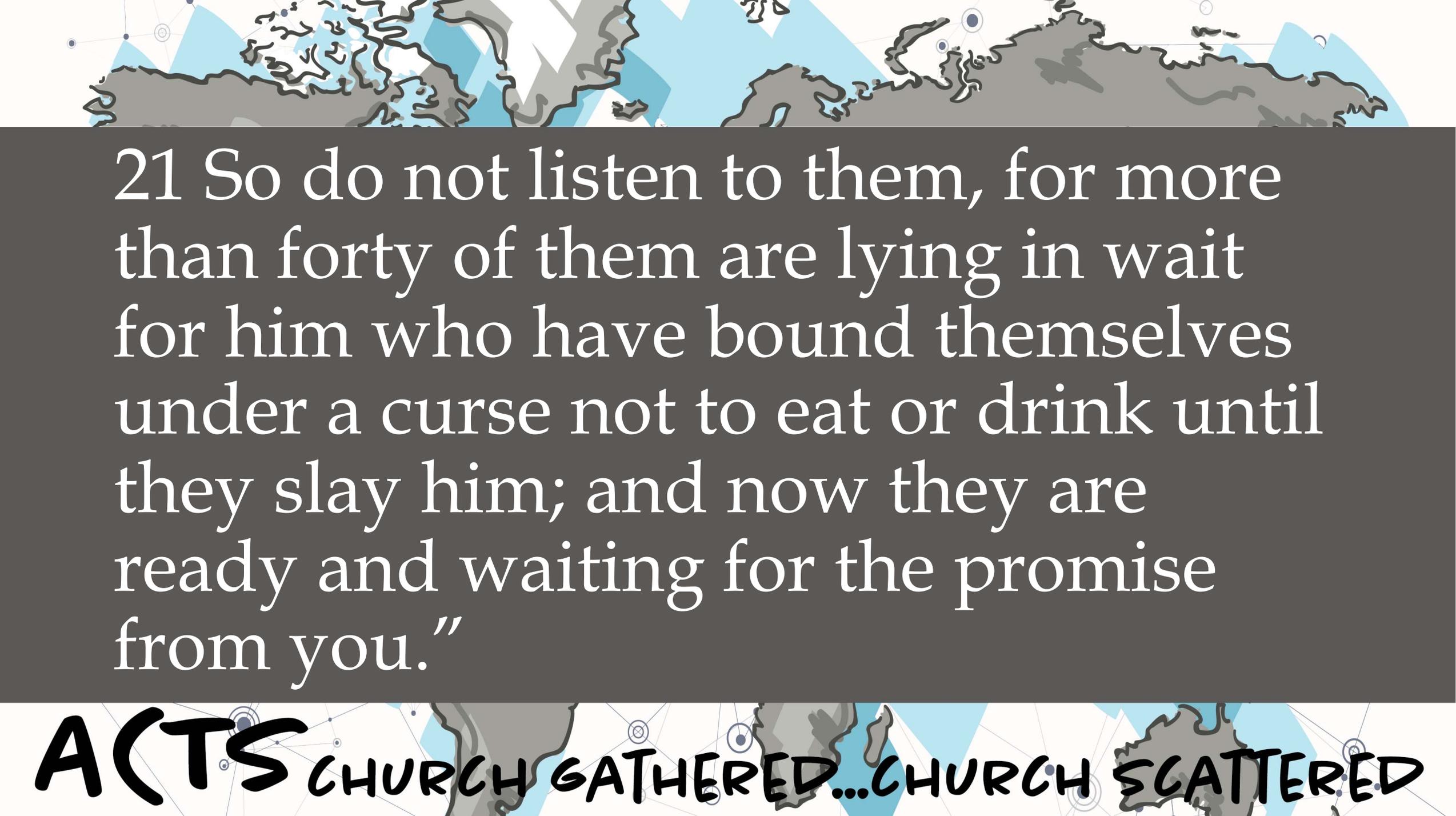
19 The commander took him by the hand and stepping aside, began to inquire of him privately, “What is it that you have to report to me?”

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



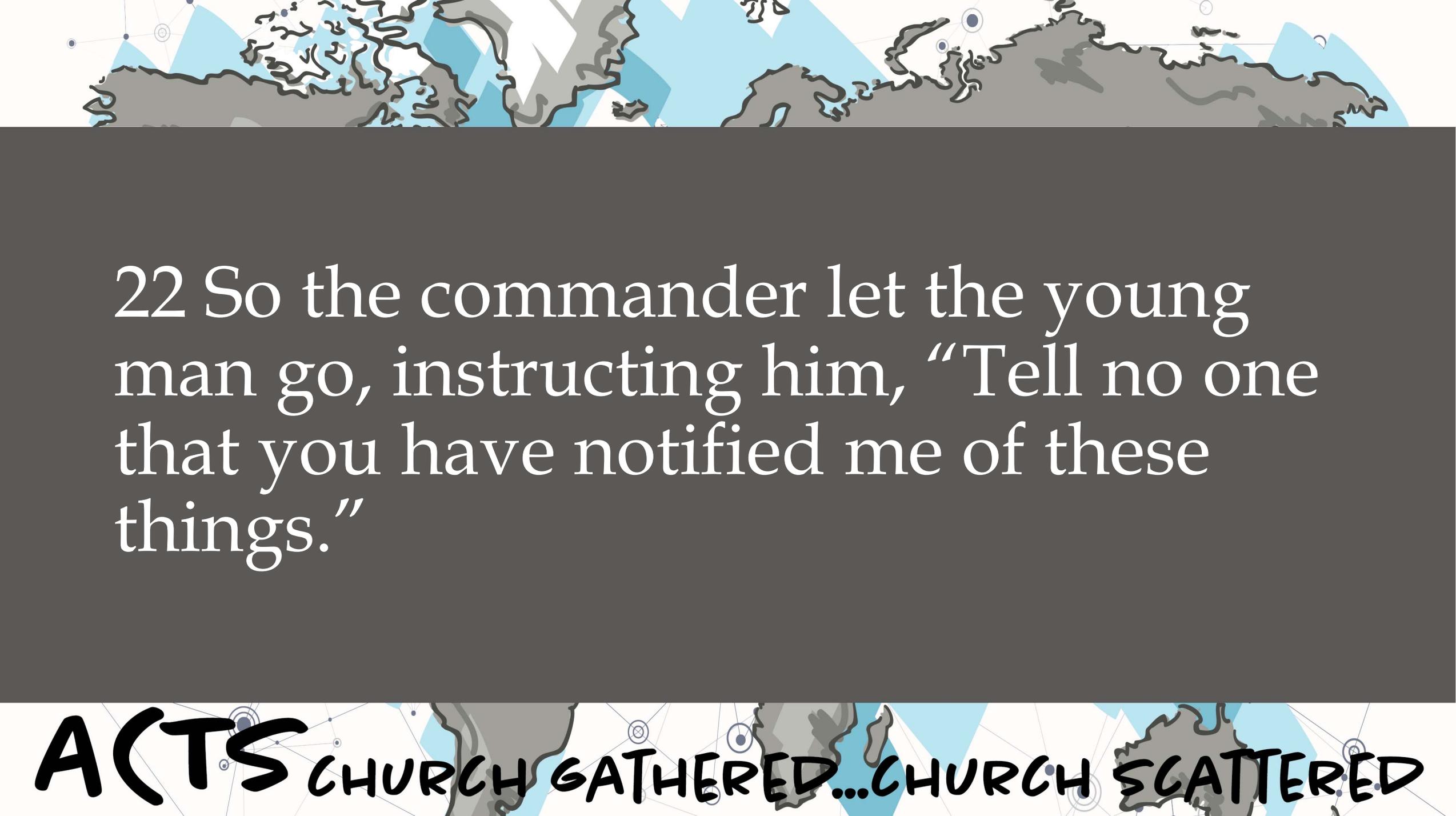
20 And he said, “The Jews have agreed to ask you to bring Paul down tomorrow to the Council, as though they were going to inquire somewhat more thoroughly about him.

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



21 So do not listen to them, for more than forty of them are lying in wait for him who have bound themselves under a curse not to eat or drink until they slay him; and now they are ready and waiting for the promise from you.”

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



22 So the commander let the young man go, instructing him, “Tell no one that you have notified me of these things.”

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

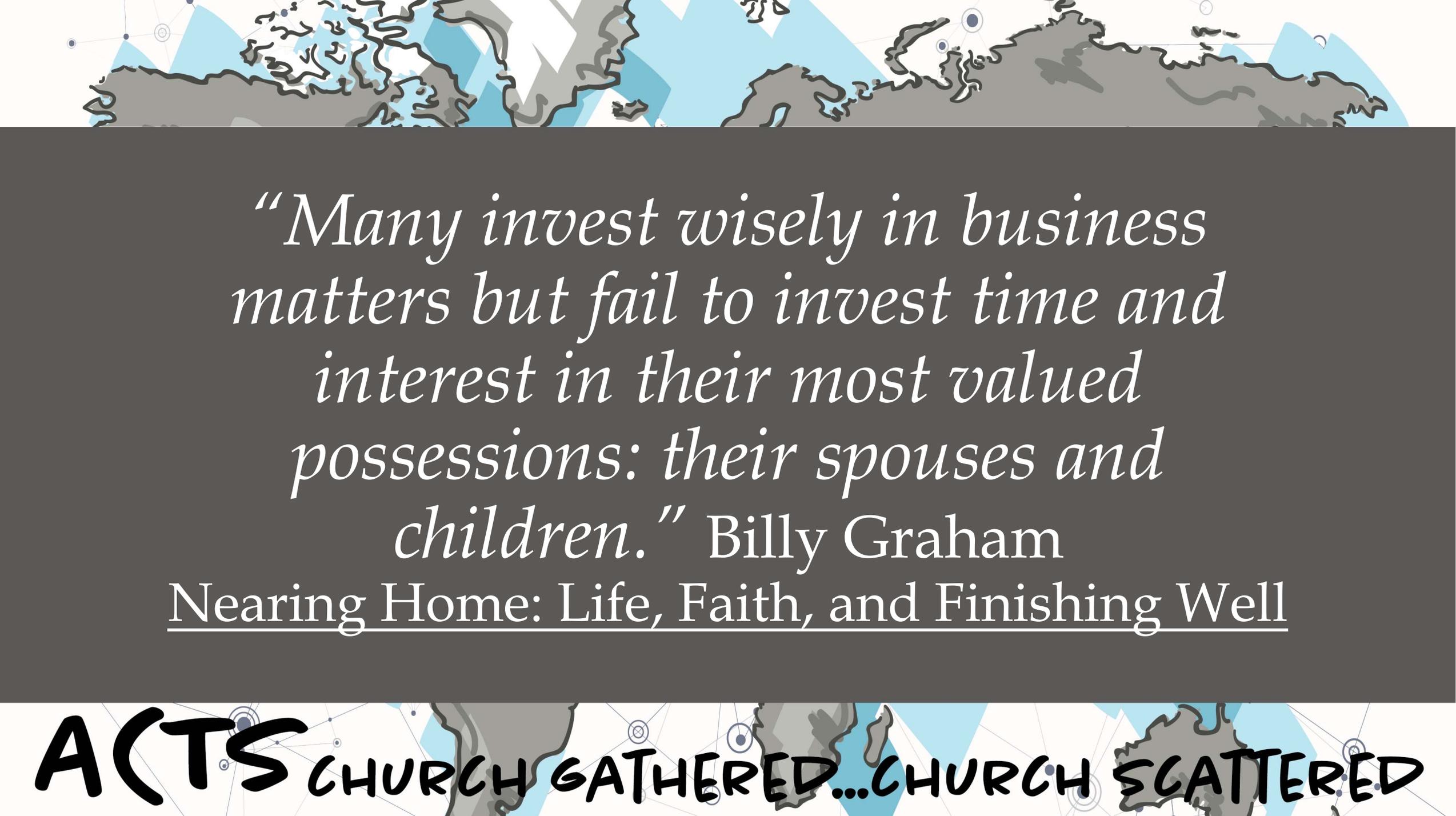


# Looking for Help 12-22

- Enemies from within the Jews
- Controlling circumstances = outcome?
- Be sure your sin will find you out! Nephew
- Boy > Paul > Guard > Commander > Heart
- Providence of God – *‘heart of the King...’*



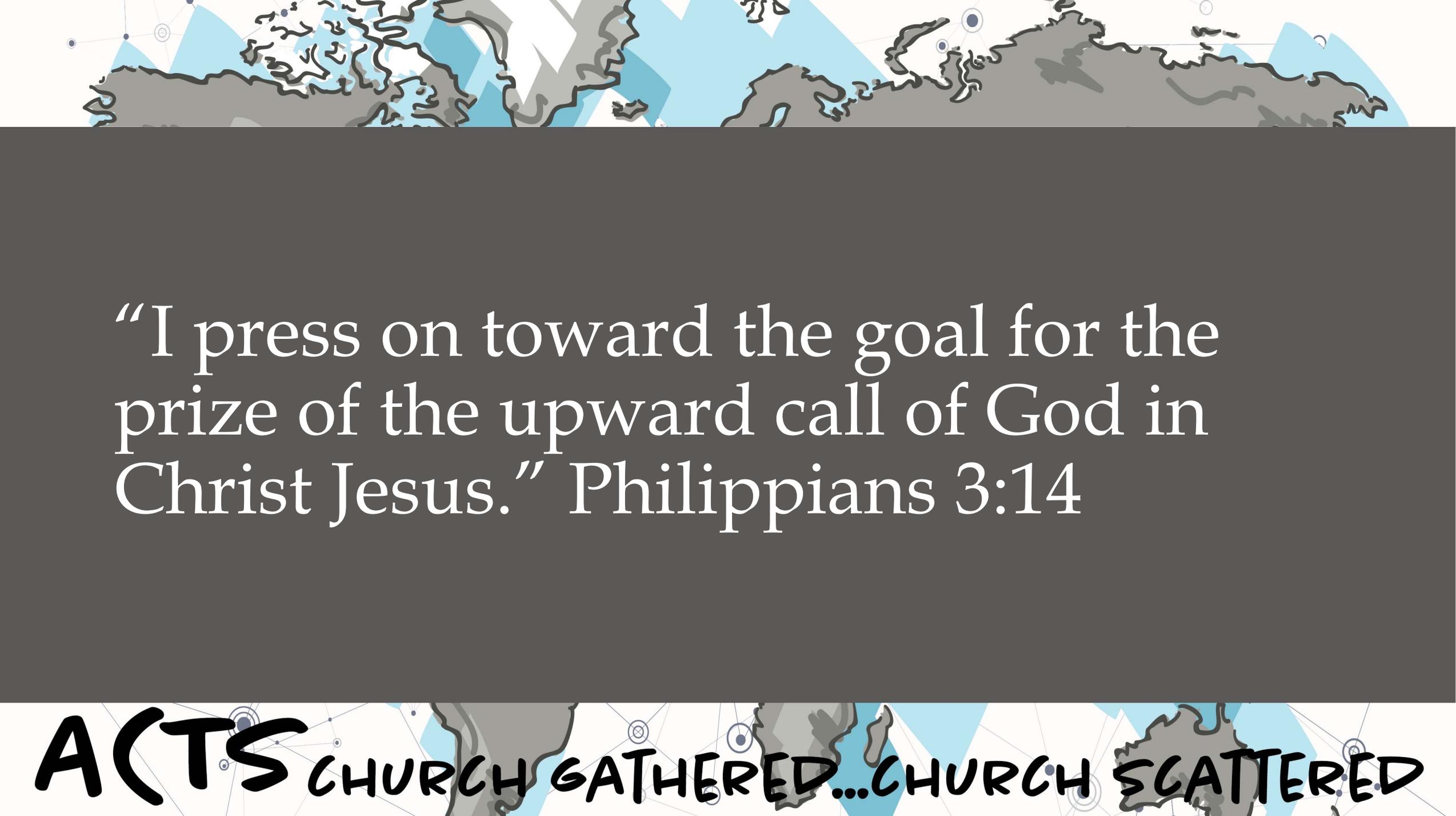
**ACTS** CHURCH GATHERED...CHURCH SCATTERED



*“Many invest wisely in business matters but fail to invest time and interest in their most valued possessions: their spouses and children.”* Billy Graham

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



“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

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

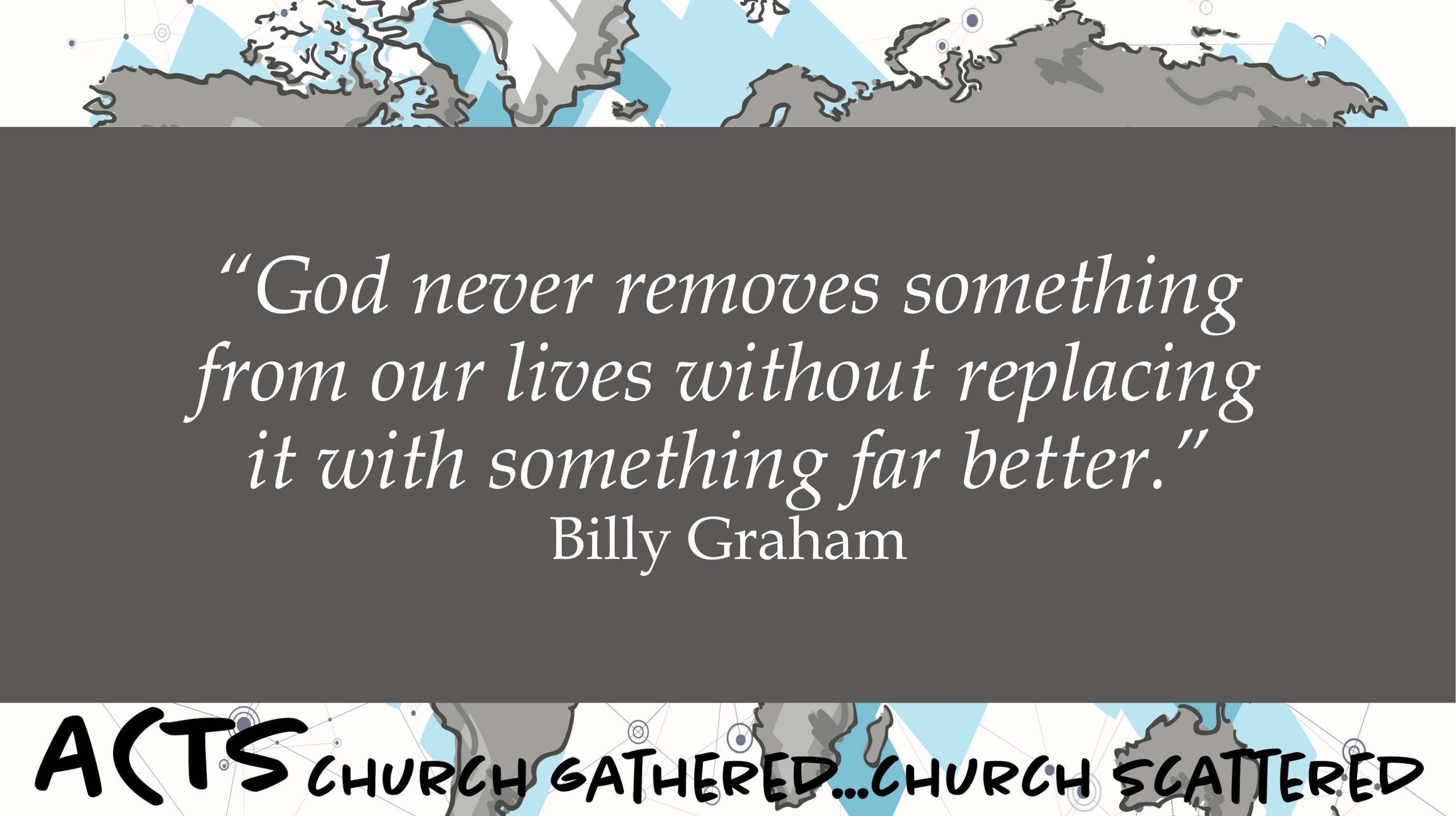


# Courage in Life

- What are we afraid of missing?
- What are we afraid of loosing?
- Who are we afraid of disappointing?
- What will it cost? What will it gain?



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



*“God never removes something  
from our lives without replacing  
it with something far better.”*

Billy Graham

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

