Good Goes Bad



36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also
called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means
Son of Encouragement), 37 and who owned a tract of land,
sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles'
feet.

Acts 4:36-37

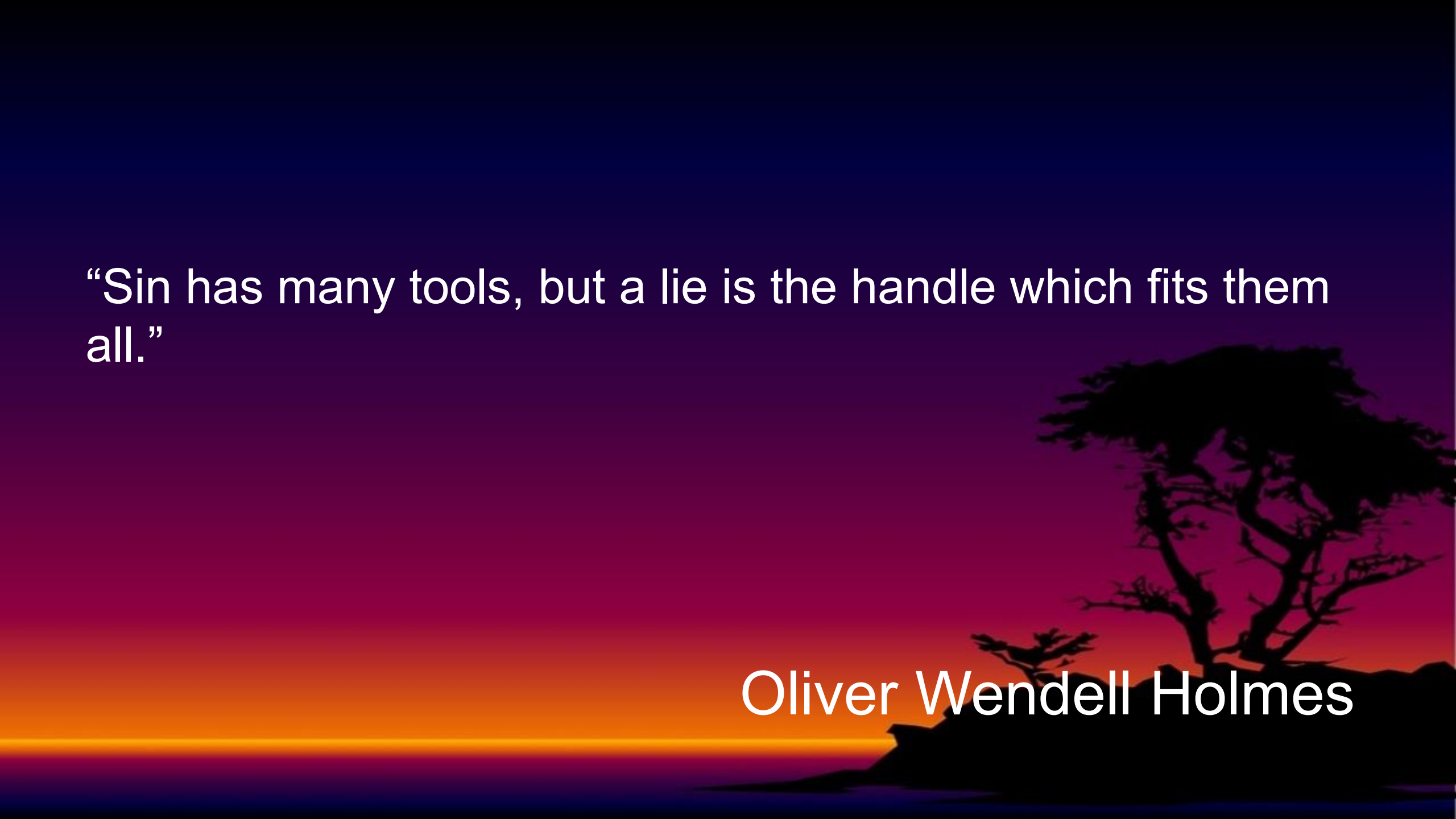
But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a
piece of property, 2 and kept back some of the price for
himself, with his wife's full knowledge, and bringing a
portion of it, he laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 But Peter said,
"Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy
Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land?

Acts 5:1-16

4 While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And
after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it
that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have
not lied to men but to God.” 5 And as he heard these
words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great
fear came over all who heard of it. 6 The young men got up
and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they
buried him.

Acts 5:1-16

“Sin has many tools, but a lie is the handle which fits them all.”

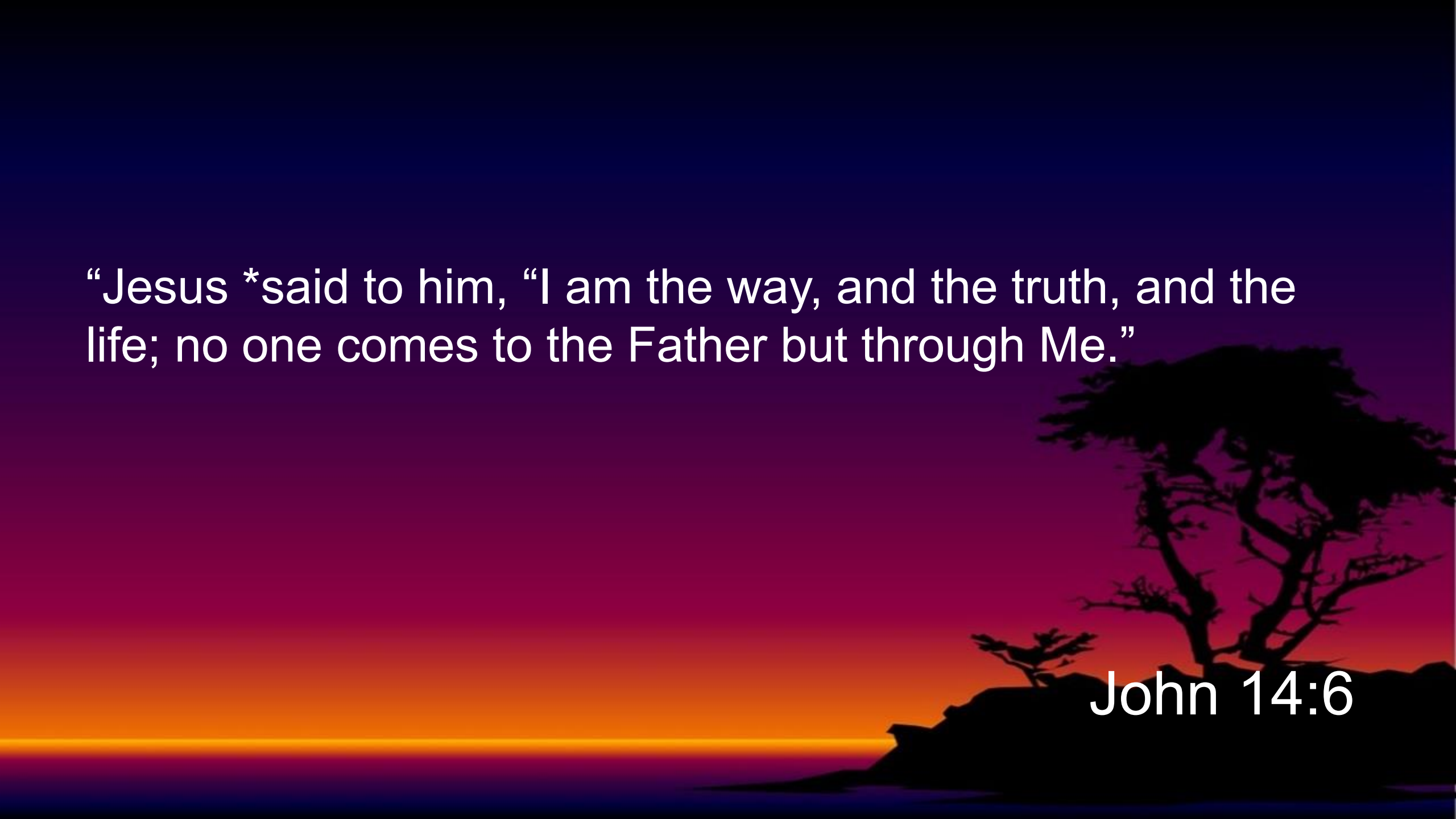


Oliver Wendell Holmes

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

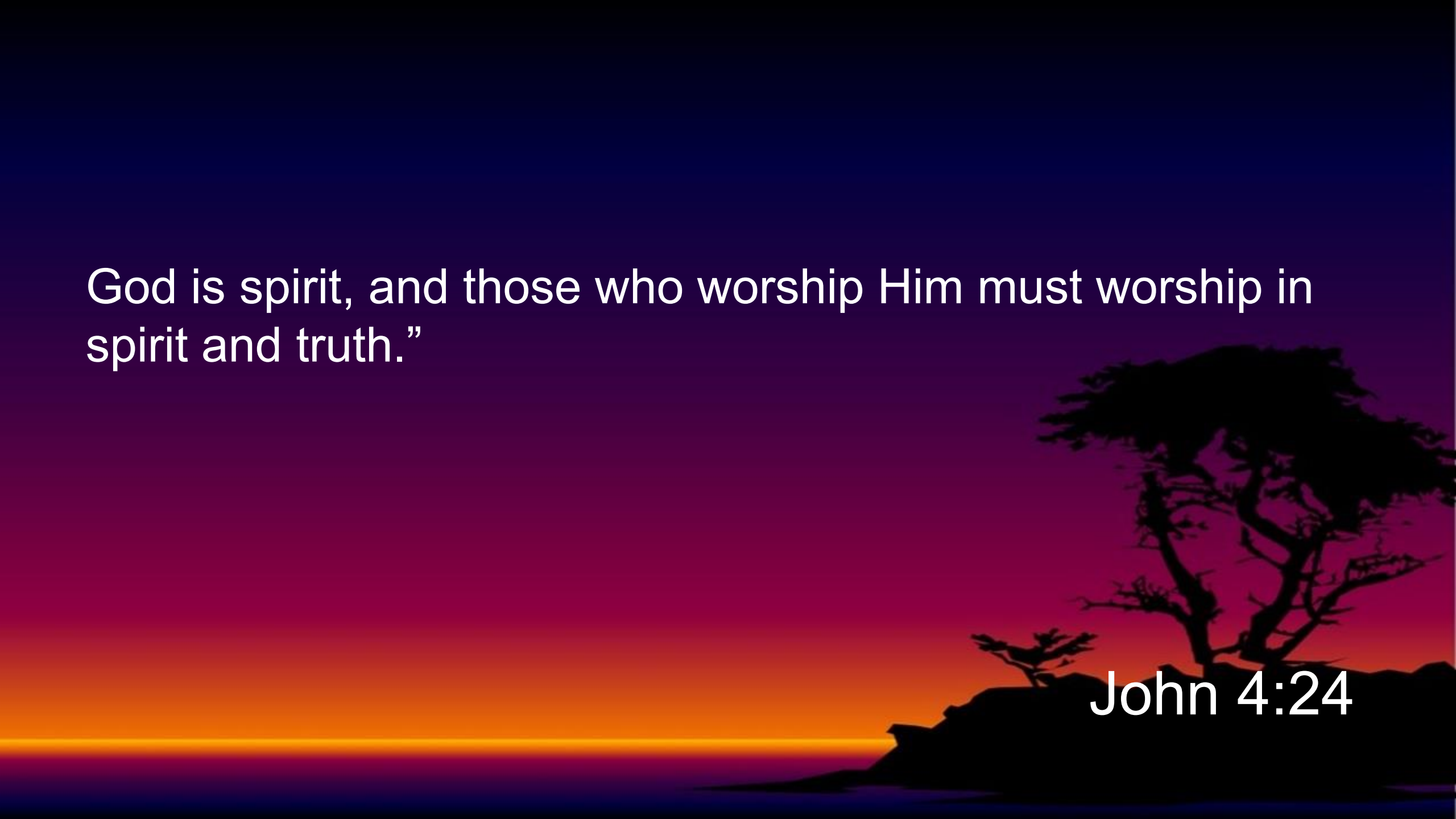
John 8:44

“Jesus *said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”



John 14:6

God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”



John 4:24

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

Romans 1:16



7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and
his wife came in, not knowing what had happened. 8 And
Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land
for such and such a price?” And she said, “Yes, that was
the price.” 9 Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have
agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test?
Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband
are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”

Acts 5:1-16

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her
last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and
they carried her out and buried her beside her husband. 11
And great fear came over the whole church, and over all
who heard of these things.

Acts 5:1-16

“It is understandable that burial in hot climates takes place soon after death. But just why Ananias was buried so quickly and why his wife was not told seems strange, though we are not told enough about the circumstances to offer any explanation.”

Richard N. Longenecker

What Ananias did also must be seen in the context of its time. This was a critical juncture for the early church and such impurity, sin, scandal and satanic infiltration could have corrupted the entire church at its root. “The Church has never been harmed or hindered by opposition from without; it has been perpetually harmed and hindered by perils from within.”

G. Campbell Morgan

“The true marvel in the passage is not so much that God killed Ananias and Sapphira, but that God has not executed justice on all of us, and that instead his Son came to die so that there might be a church community that enjoyed his Father’s favor and salvation.”

R. Albert Mohler, Jr.

“True Christians do not lose their salvation by sinning. The punishment of Ananias and Sapphira, though extreme, was for this life only.”

James Boice

12 At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders
were taking place among the people; and they were all
with one accord in Solomon’s portico. 13 But none of the
rest dared to associate with them; however, the people
held them in high esteem. 14 And all the more believers in
the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly
added to their number,

Acts 5:1-16

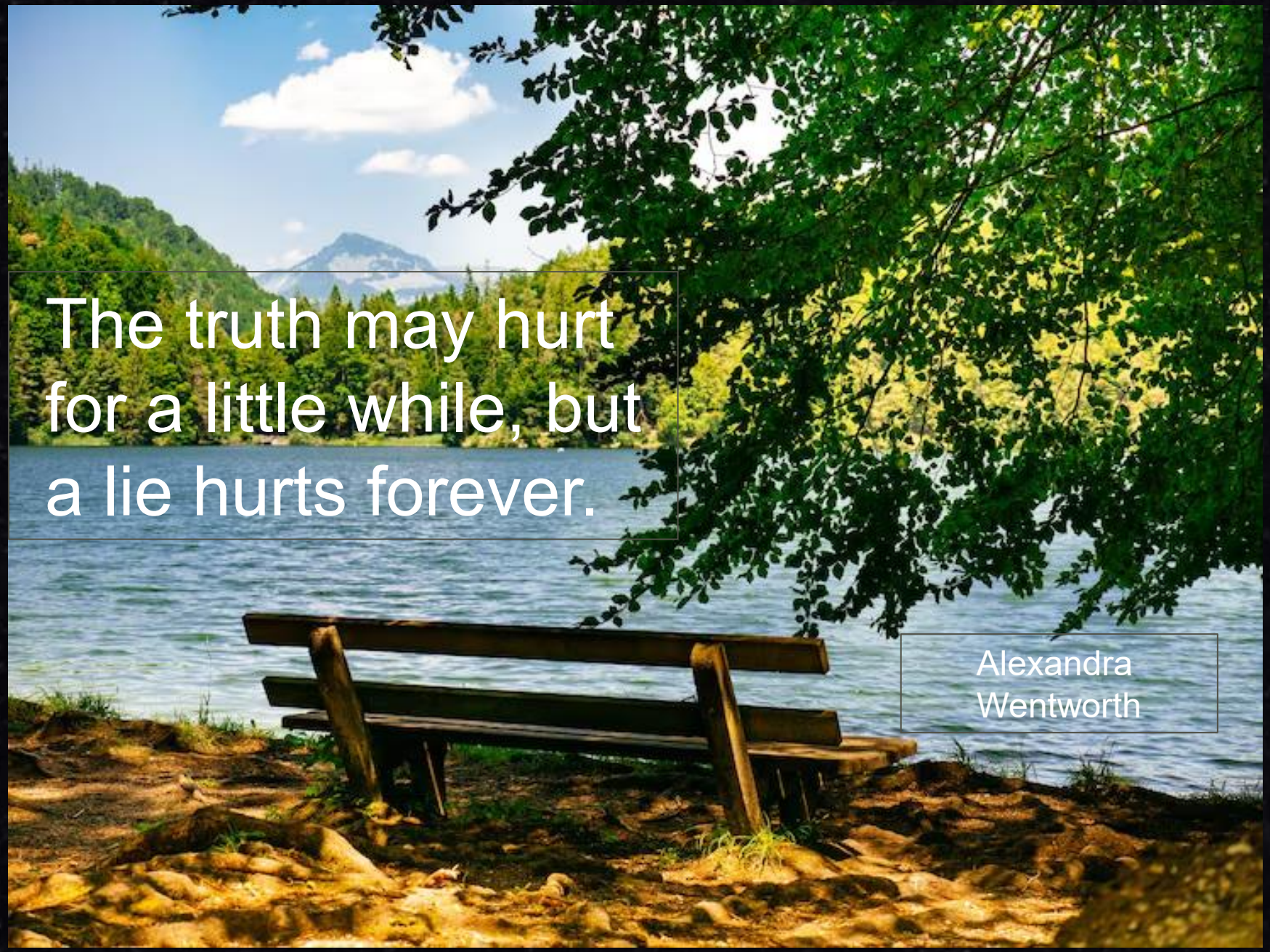
15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into
the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when
Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of
them. 16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of
Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who
were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all
being healed.

Acts 5:1-16

“None of the rest dared join them: The community of Christians had a marvelous reputation for integrity, and everybody knew it was a serious thing to be a follower of Jesus. An Ananias and Sapphira incident would reduce the level of casual commitment.”

David Guzak


“we should take an honest look at our lives regarding deceit. Are we truthful people? Do we engage in exaggeration and coloring? Are we promoting spiritual deception about our own commitments? Are we trying outwardly or subtly to make ourselves appear to be what we are not?”
R. Kent Hughes


The truth may hurt for a little while, but a lie hurts forever.
Alexandra Wentworth



Good Goes Bad

This story follows the story of Barnabas. He was commended for helping others. Ananias and Sapphira decide to provide help but somewhere along the way things go wrong. They lie and deceive others, and they pay for it with their lives. In spite of all this the church continues to grow and make a difference in their community.

Acts 5:1-16

