

The CHOSEN

First Congregational Church

505 West Mulberry Street, Kokomo, IN 46901

kokomofirstcongo.org



*How can we
pray for you?*

Please scan the QR code or use
the Care Connection Cards to share
your prayer requests and praises.

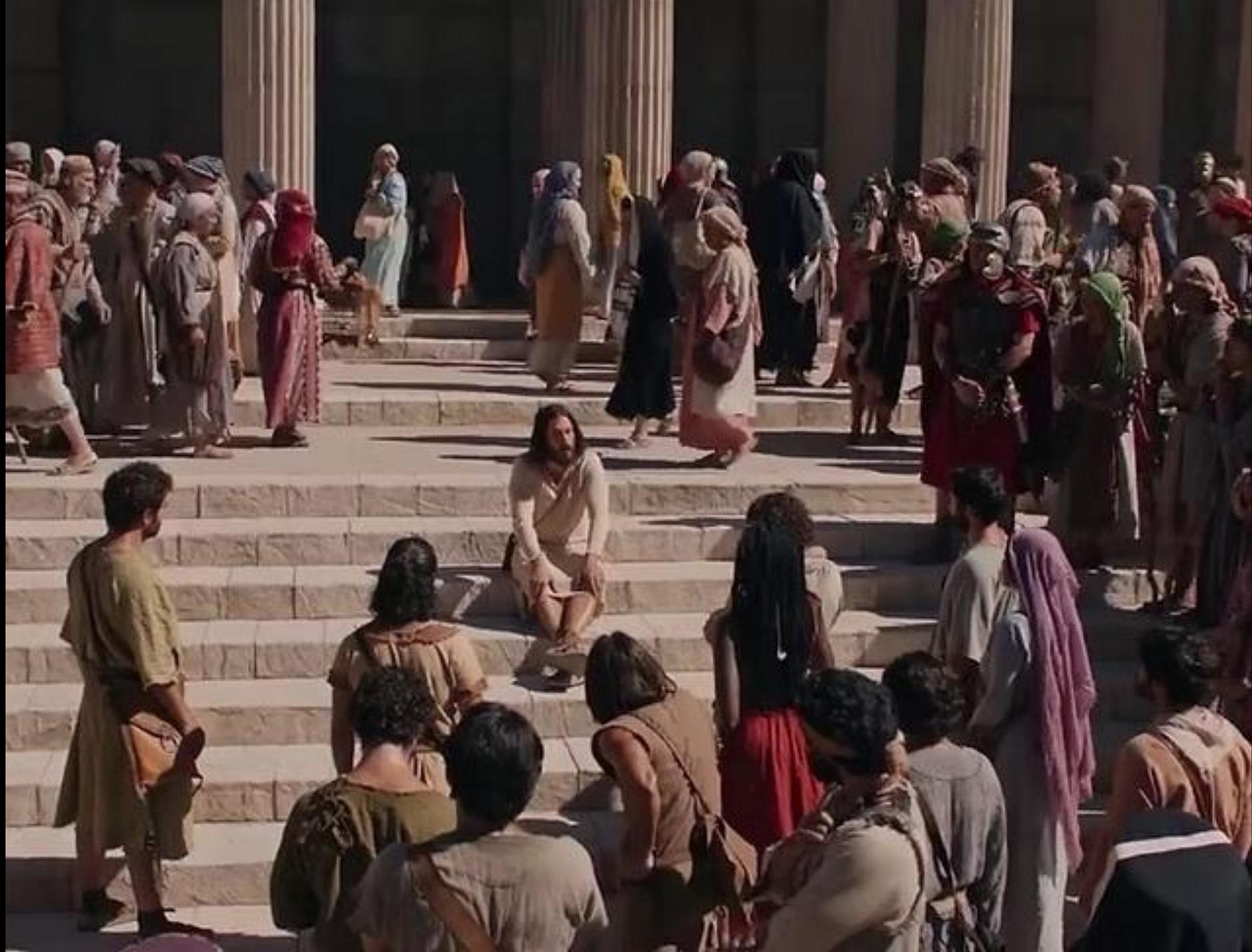


PLATFORM SANCTUARY RENOVATION PRESENTATION

March 15, 2026

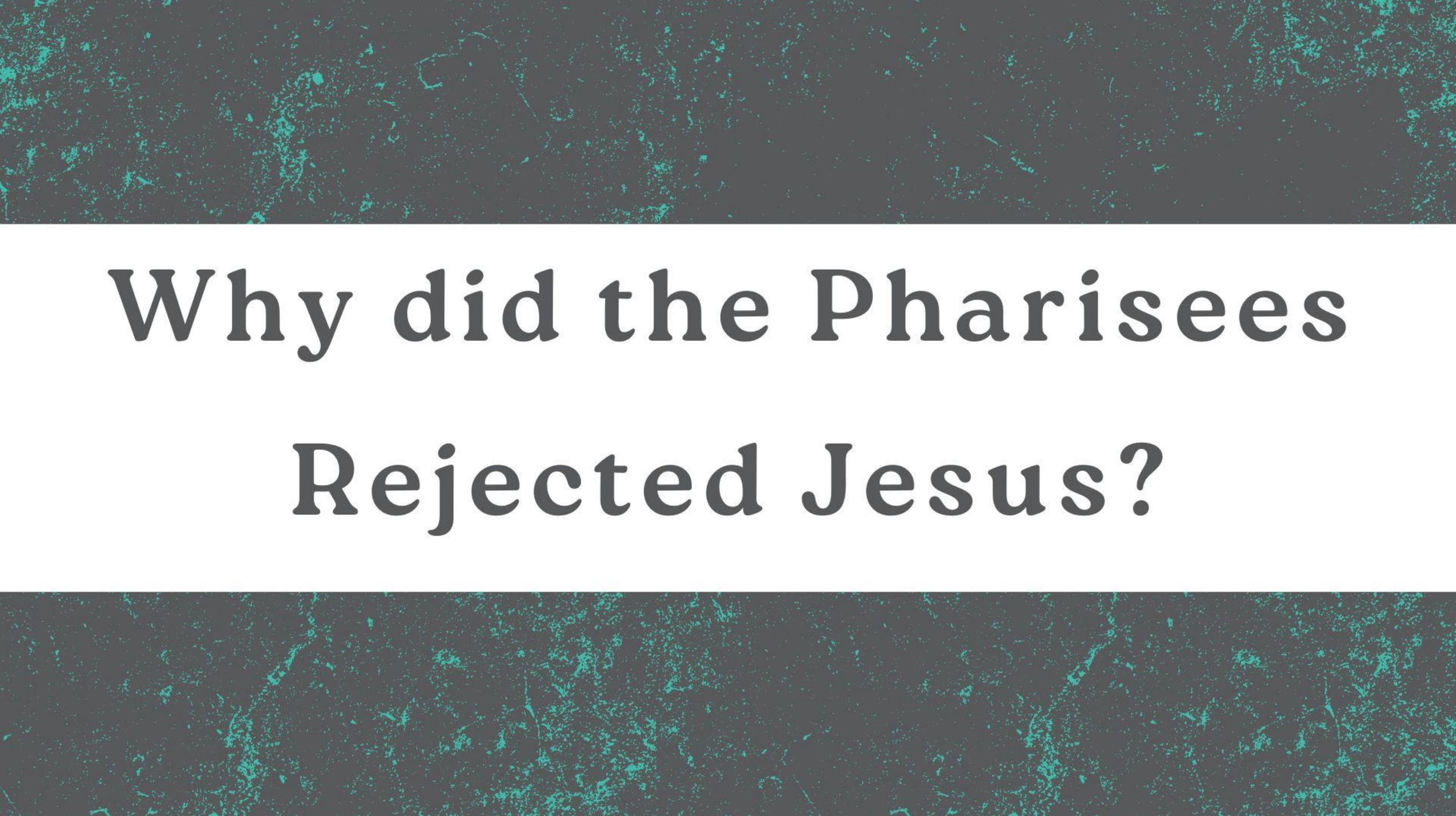
Following the Morning Service









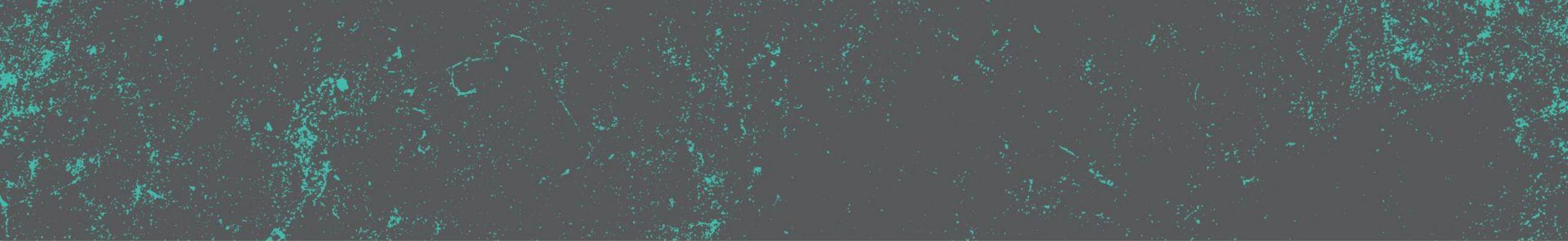


**Why did the Pharisees
Reject Jesus?**

And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!

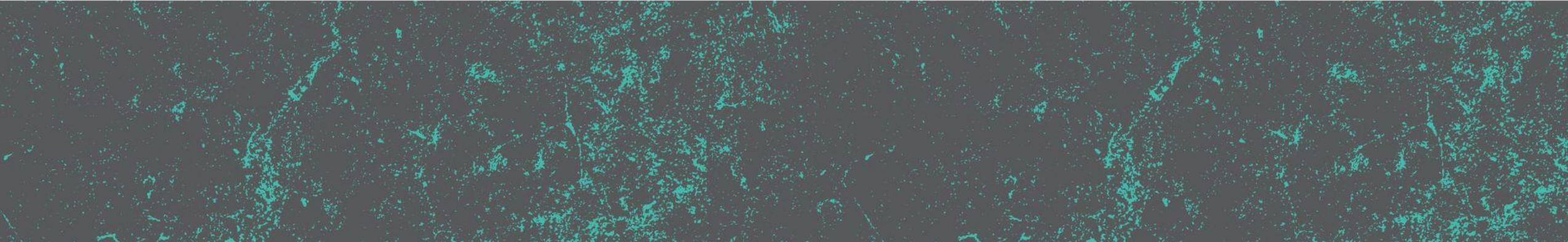
Matthew 23:30-32 NIV

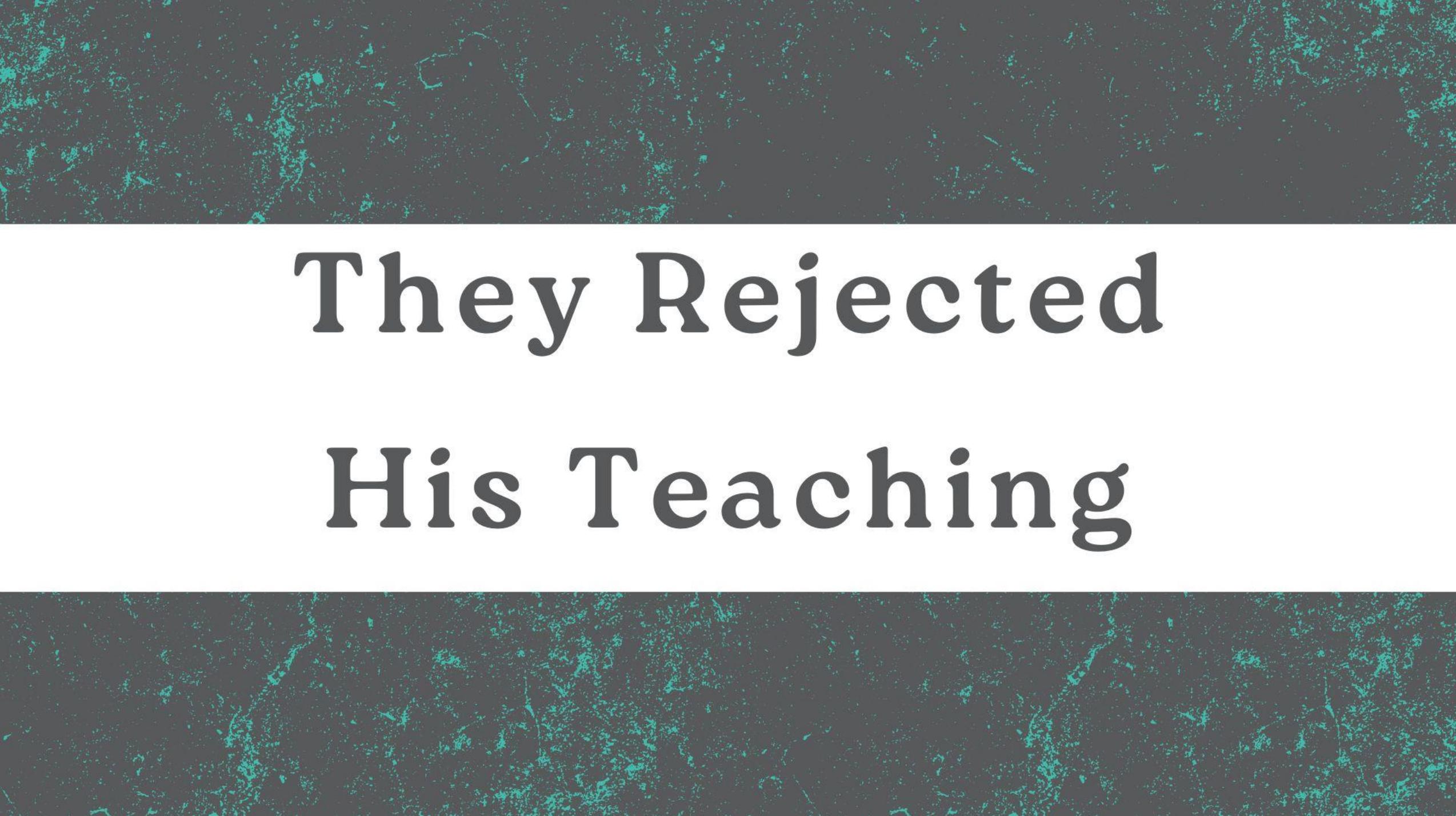




They lacked

Humble Self-reflection





**They Rejected
His Teaching**



“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment.

Matthew 5:21-22 NIV



“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also.

Matthew 5:27, 38-39 NIV



**They Rejected
His Authority**

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him, but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.

Matthew 21:45-46 NIV



Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

Matthew 22:15-17 NIV



But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

Matthew 22:18-21 NIV





Give to God
What Is God's

**Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord
is one. Love the Lord your God with all your
heart and with all your soul and with all
your strength.**

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NIV



Hearing that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, the Pharisees got together. One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Matthew 22:34-40 NIV





**They Rejected
His Rebuke**

So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

Matthew 23:3-7 NIV



**“Everything they do is done for people to see:
They make their phylacteries wide and the
tassels on their garments long; they love the
place of honor at banquets and the most
important seats in the synagogues; they love
to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces
and to be called ‘Rabbi’ by others.**

Matthew 23:3-7 NIV



“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel.”

Matthew 23:23-24 NIV



Application

- 1. Accept Jesus' teaching in our lives.**
- 2. Accept Jesus' authority over us.**
- 3. Accept the call to a new way of life.**
- 4. Recognize that Jesus has even greater righteousness in store for us.**

**“For I tell you that unless your
righteousness surpasses that of
the Pharisees and the teachers of
the law, you will certainly not
enter the kingdom of heaven.”**

Matthew 5:20 NIV



**Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.
Colossians 3:23-24 NIV**

