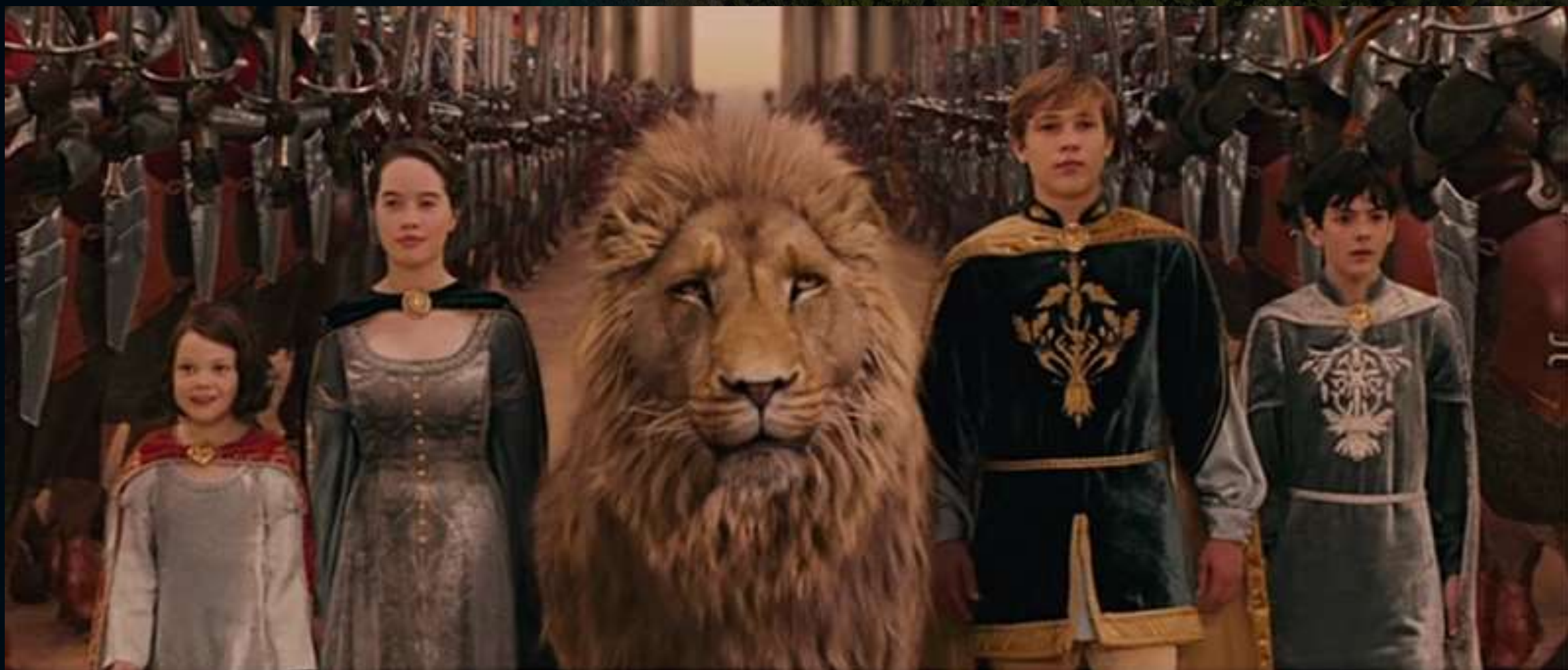


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Abundant Life

**The Hiddenness
of God**



But amidst all these rejoicings Aslan himself quietly slipped away. And when the Kings and Queens noticed that he wasn't there they said nothing about it. For Mr. Beaver had warned them, "He'll be coming and going" he had said. "One day you'll see him and another you

won't. He doesn't like being tied down—and of course he has other countries to attend to. It's quite all right. He'll often drop in. Only you mustn't press him. He's wild, you know. Not like a tame lion." C S Lewis

Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus, “Lord, the one you love is sick.”

4 When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

John 11:1-16 (NIV)

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Abundant Life

6 So when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days, 7 and then he said to his disciples, “Let us go back to Judea.”

8 “But Rabbi,” they said, “a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?”

9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world’s light.

John 11:1-16 (NIV)

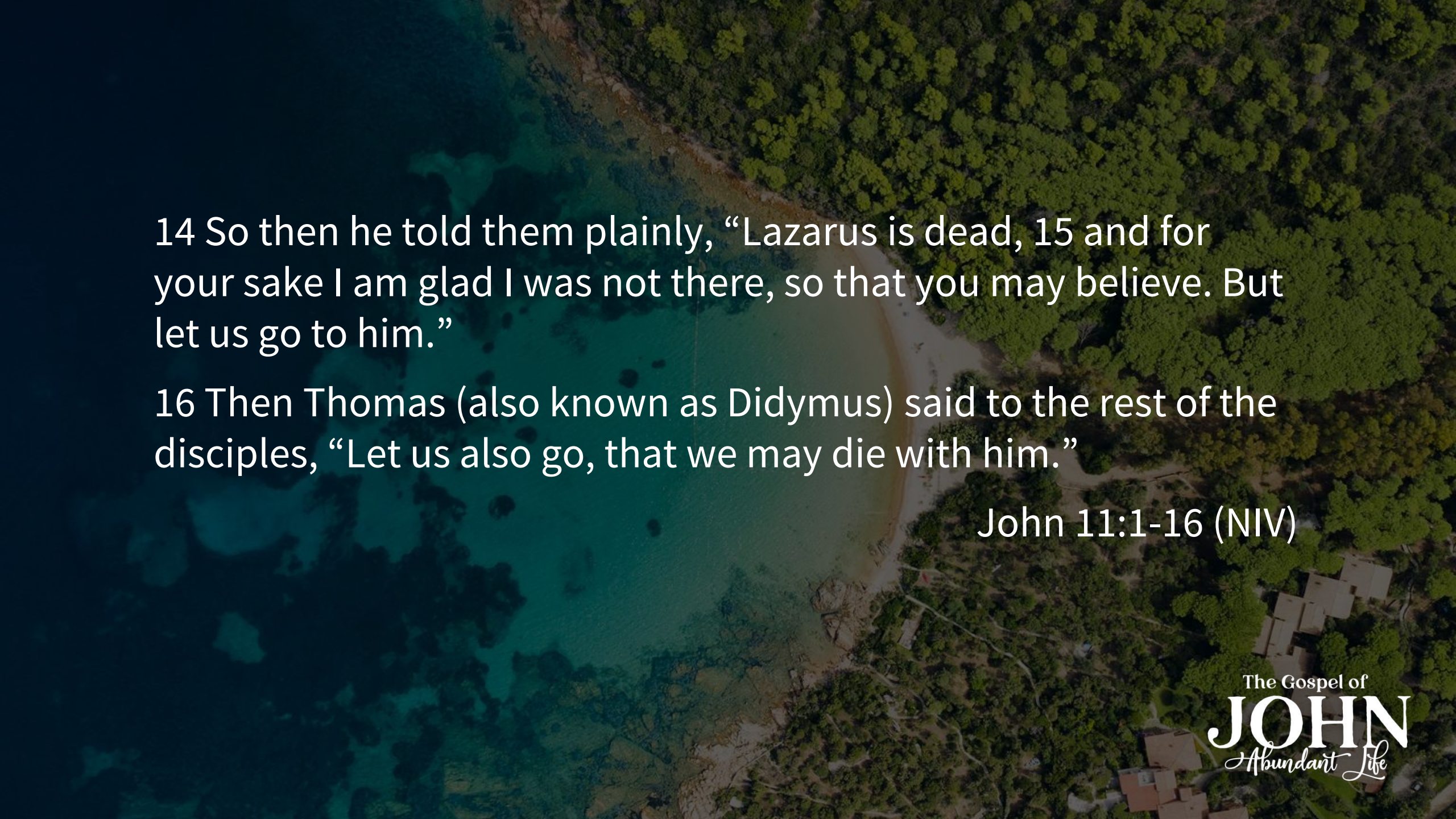
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10 It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light.”

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up.”

12 His disciples replied, “Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better.” 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

John 11:1-16 (NIV)



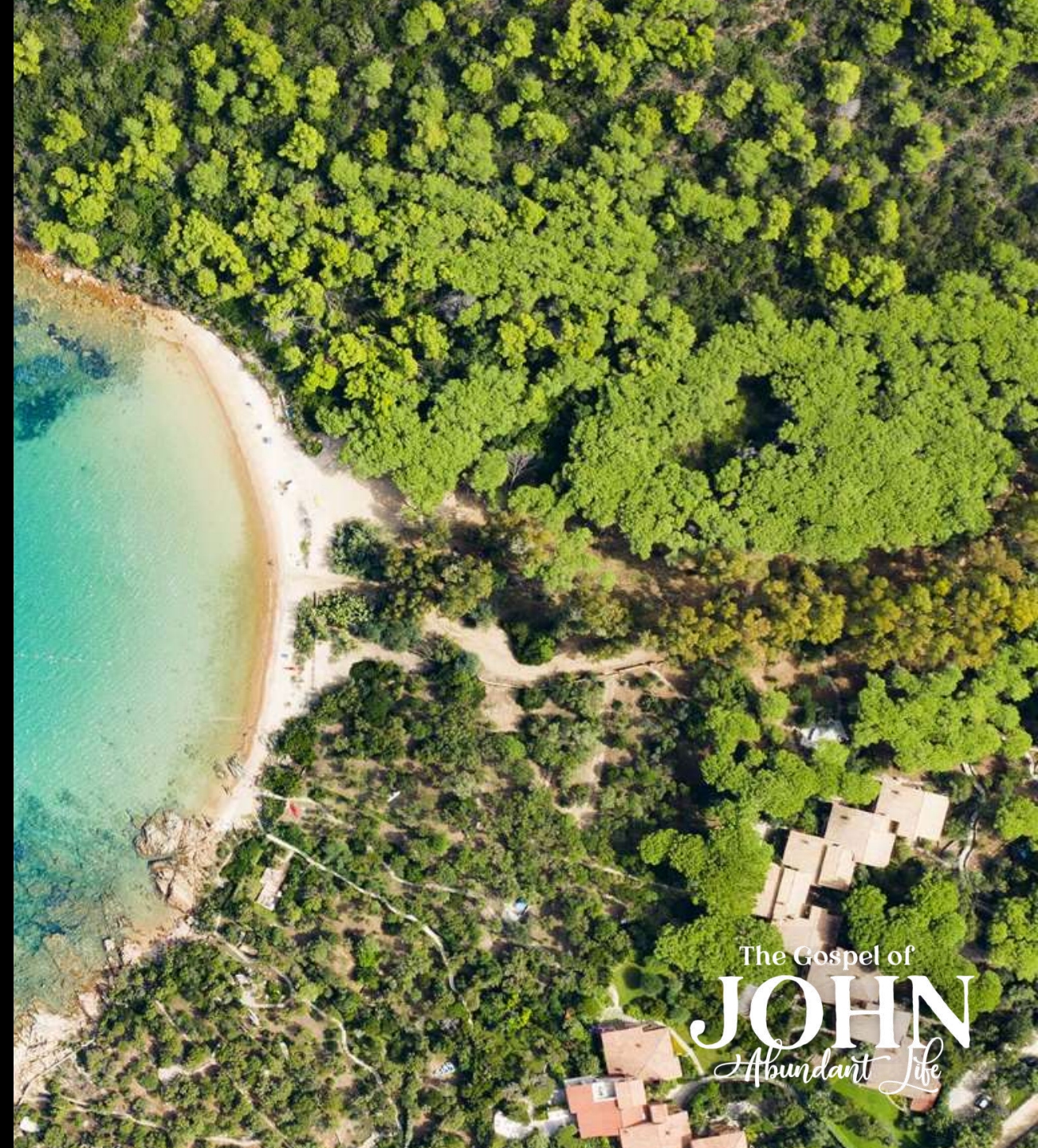
14 So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.”

16 Then Thomas (also known as Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

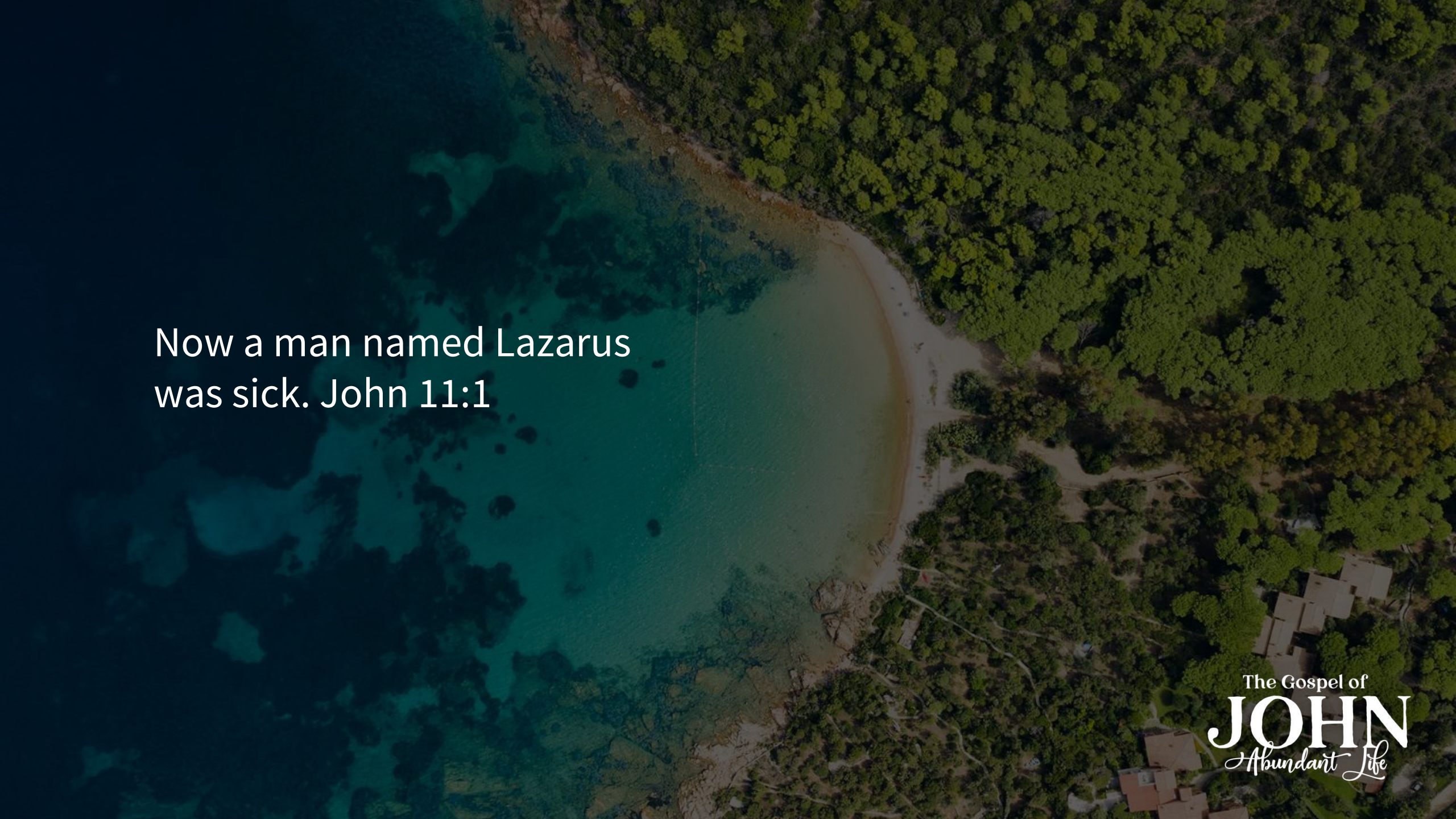
John 11:1-16 (NIV)

1. Bad Things

v1-3



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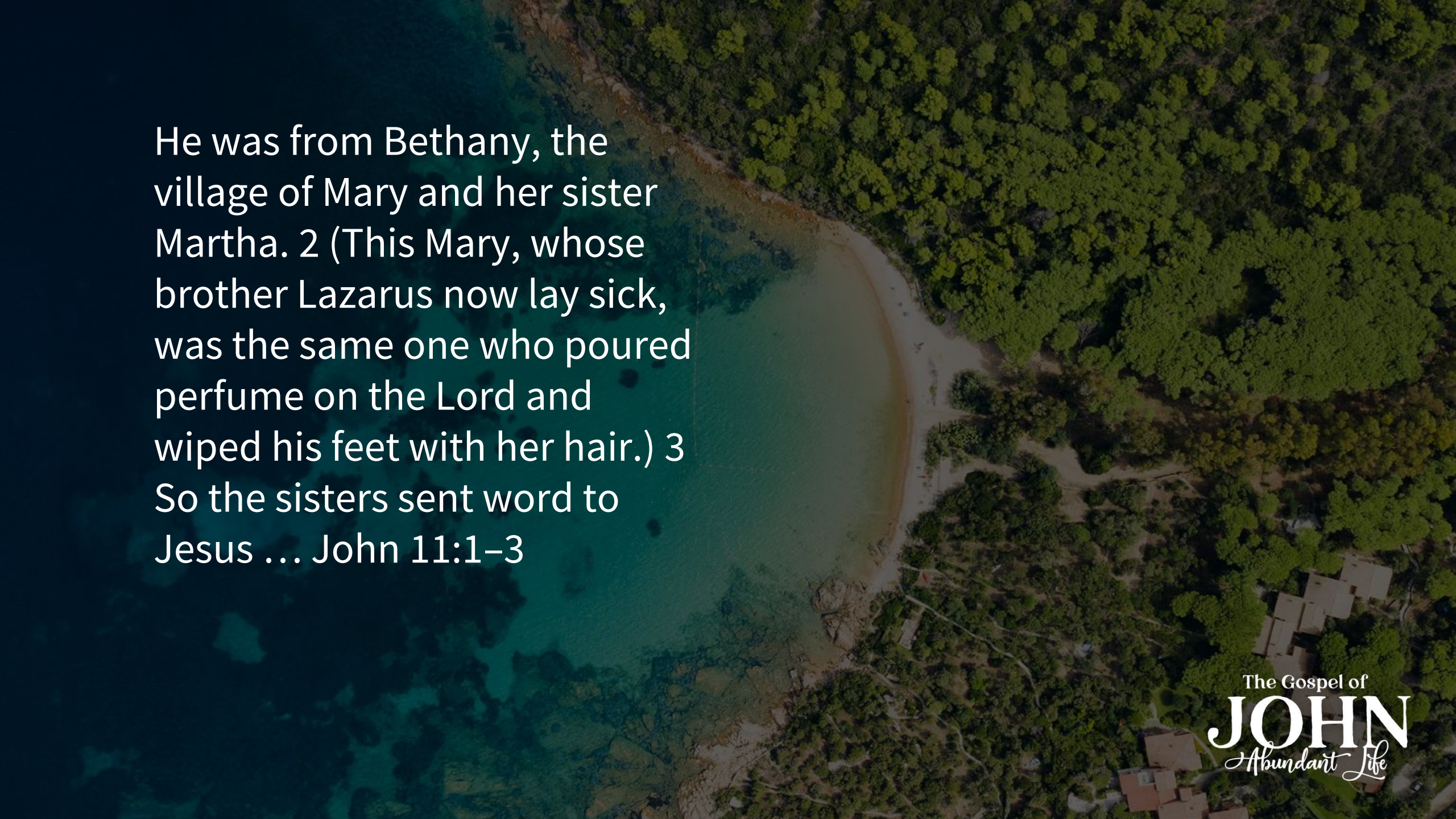
Now a man named Lazarus
was sick. John 11:1

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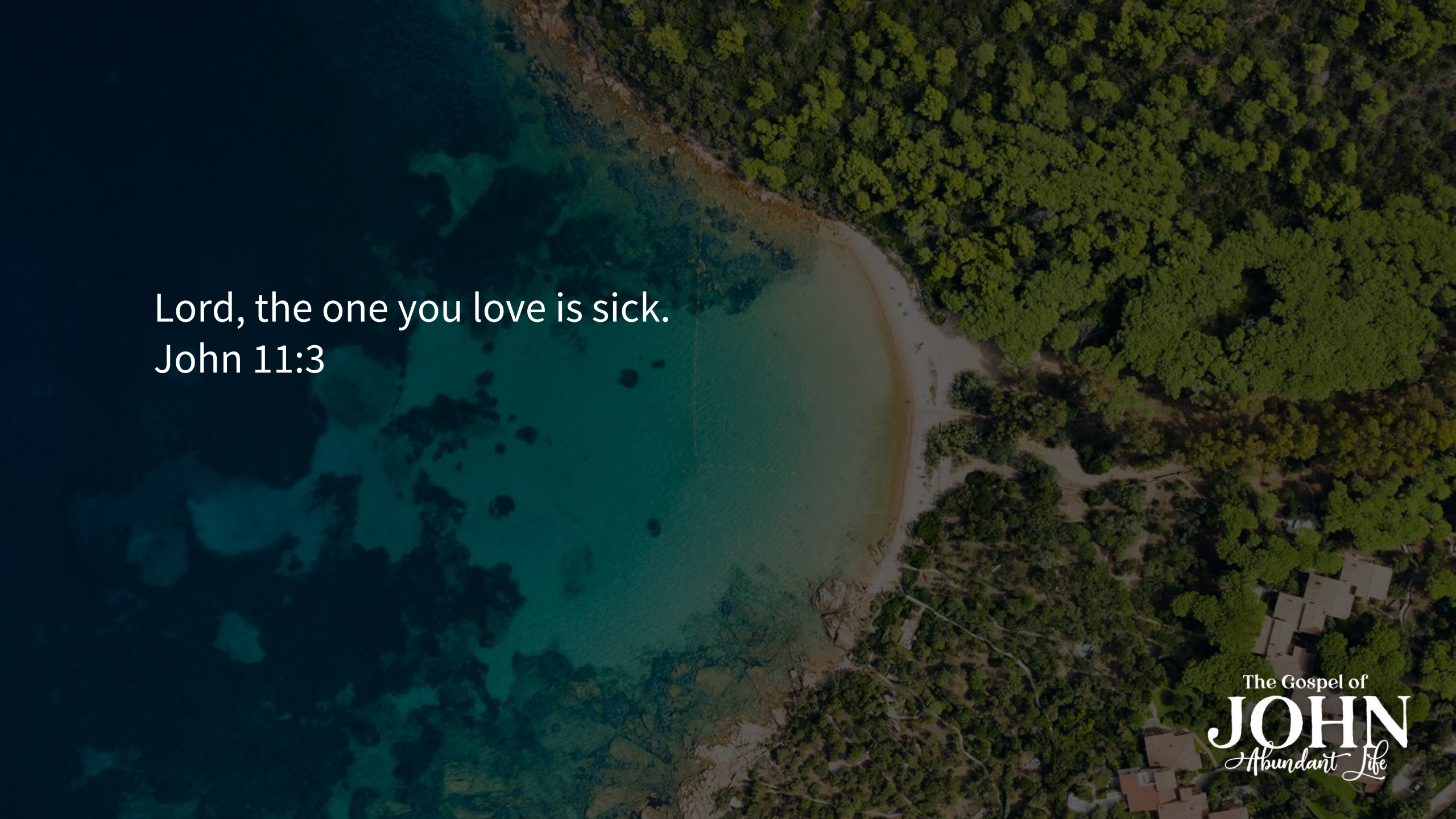


**Sickness is a very visible fracture of God's
good creation**

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He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 (This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.) 3 So the sisters sent word to Jesus ... John 11:1–3

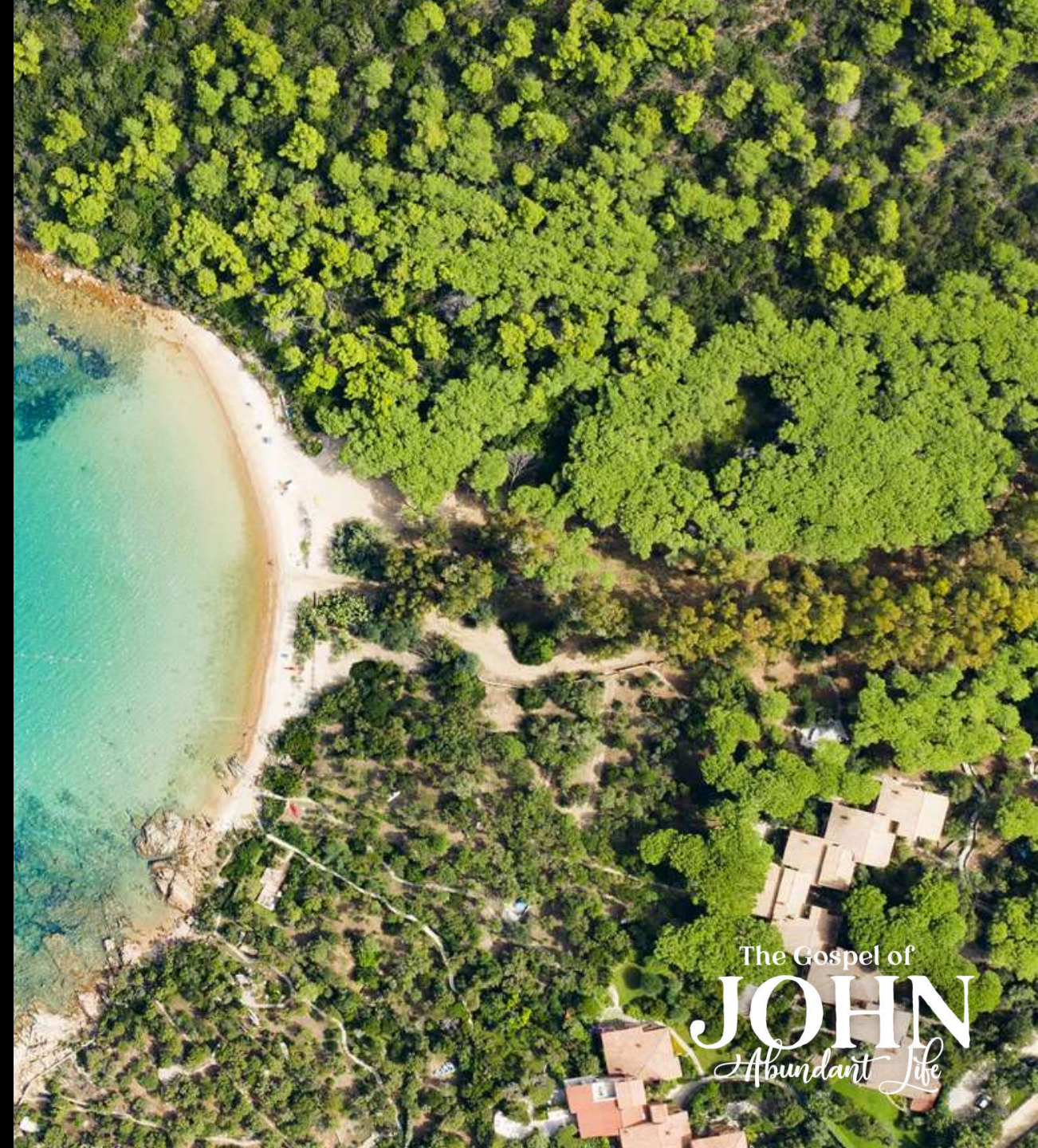


Lord, the one you love is sick.
John 11:3

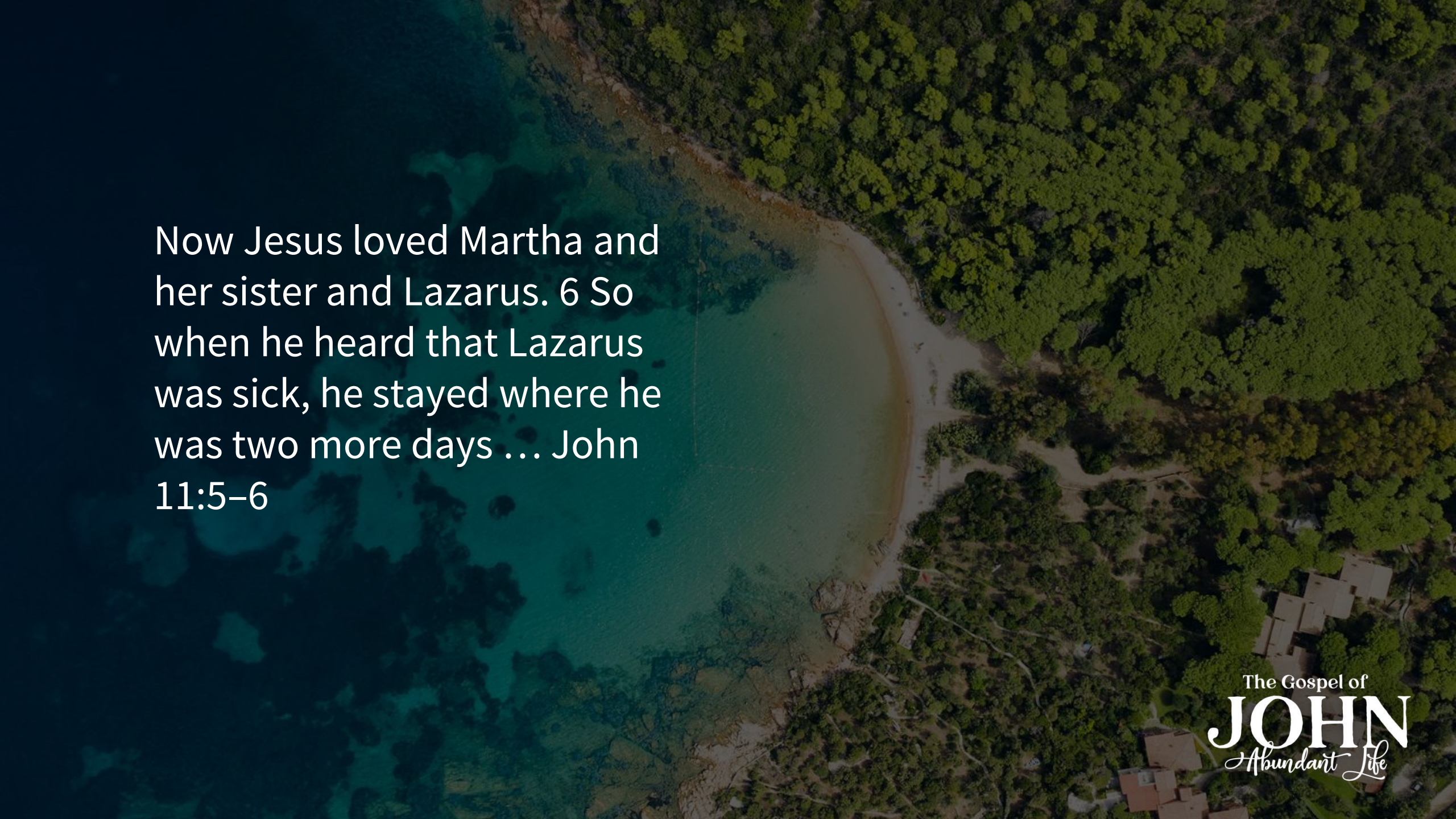
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2. Jesus is Hidden

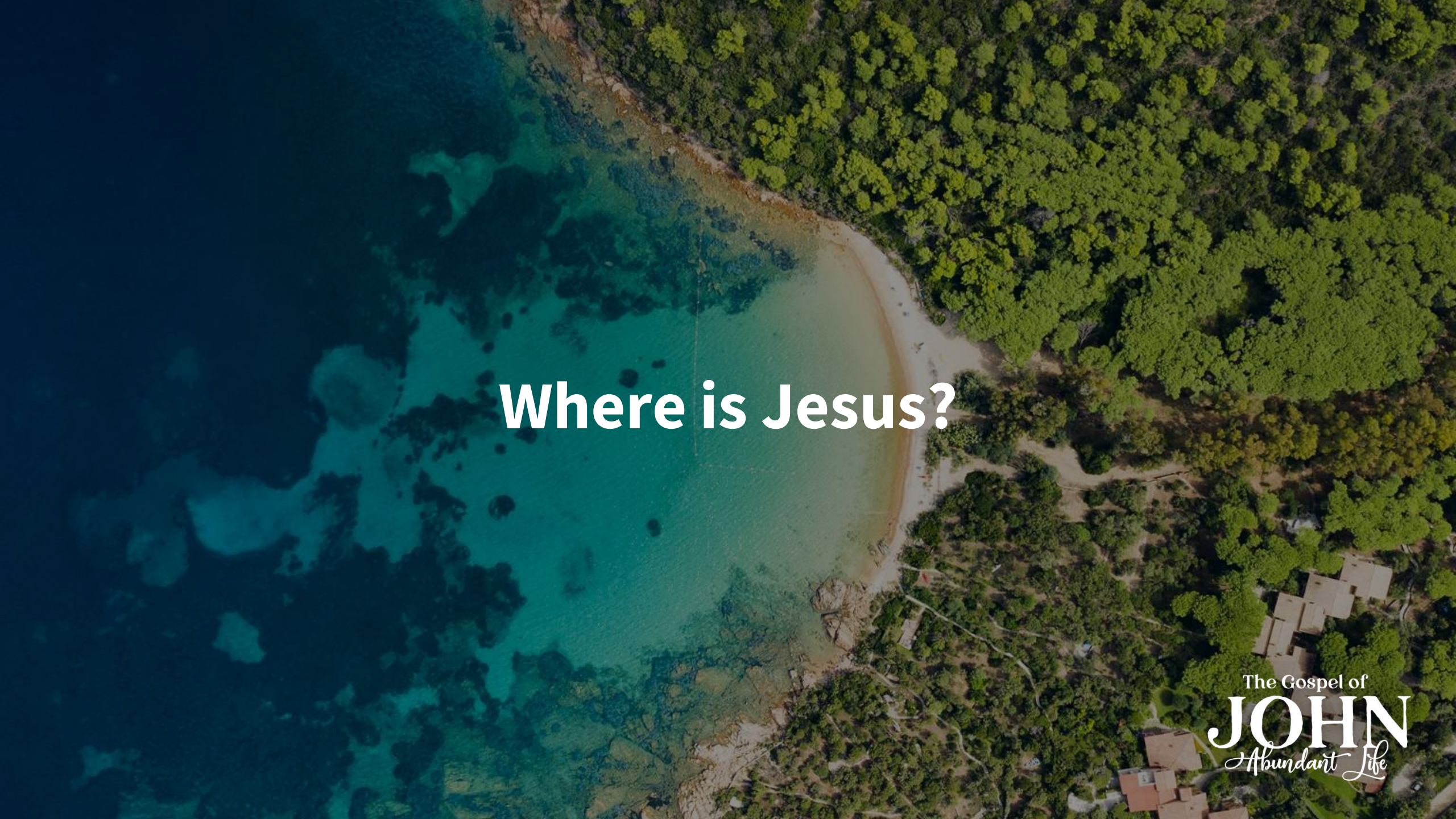
v5-7



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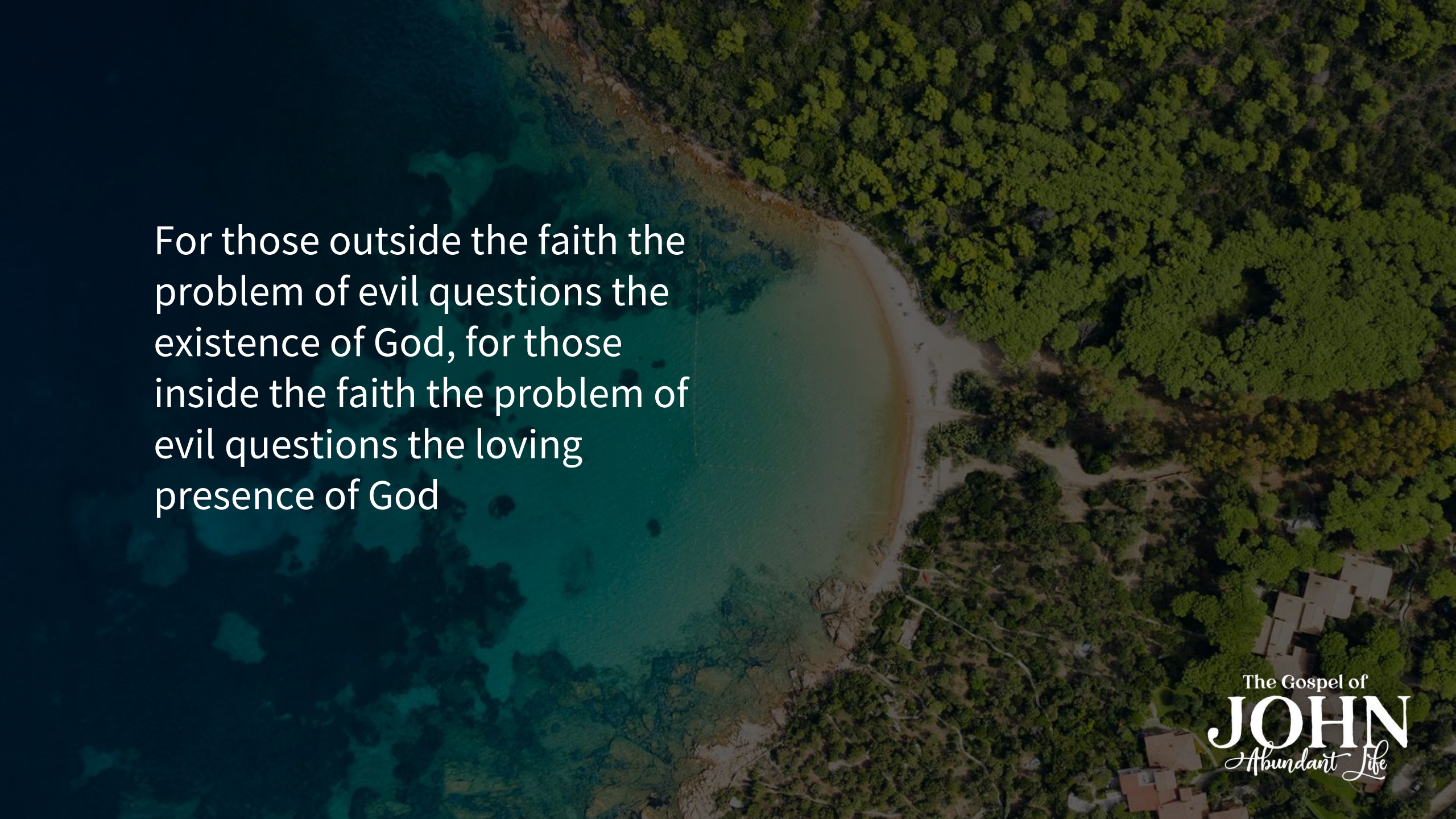


Now Jesus loved Martha and
her sister and Lazarus. 6 So
when he heard that Lazarus
was sick, he stayed where he
was two more days ... John
11:5–6



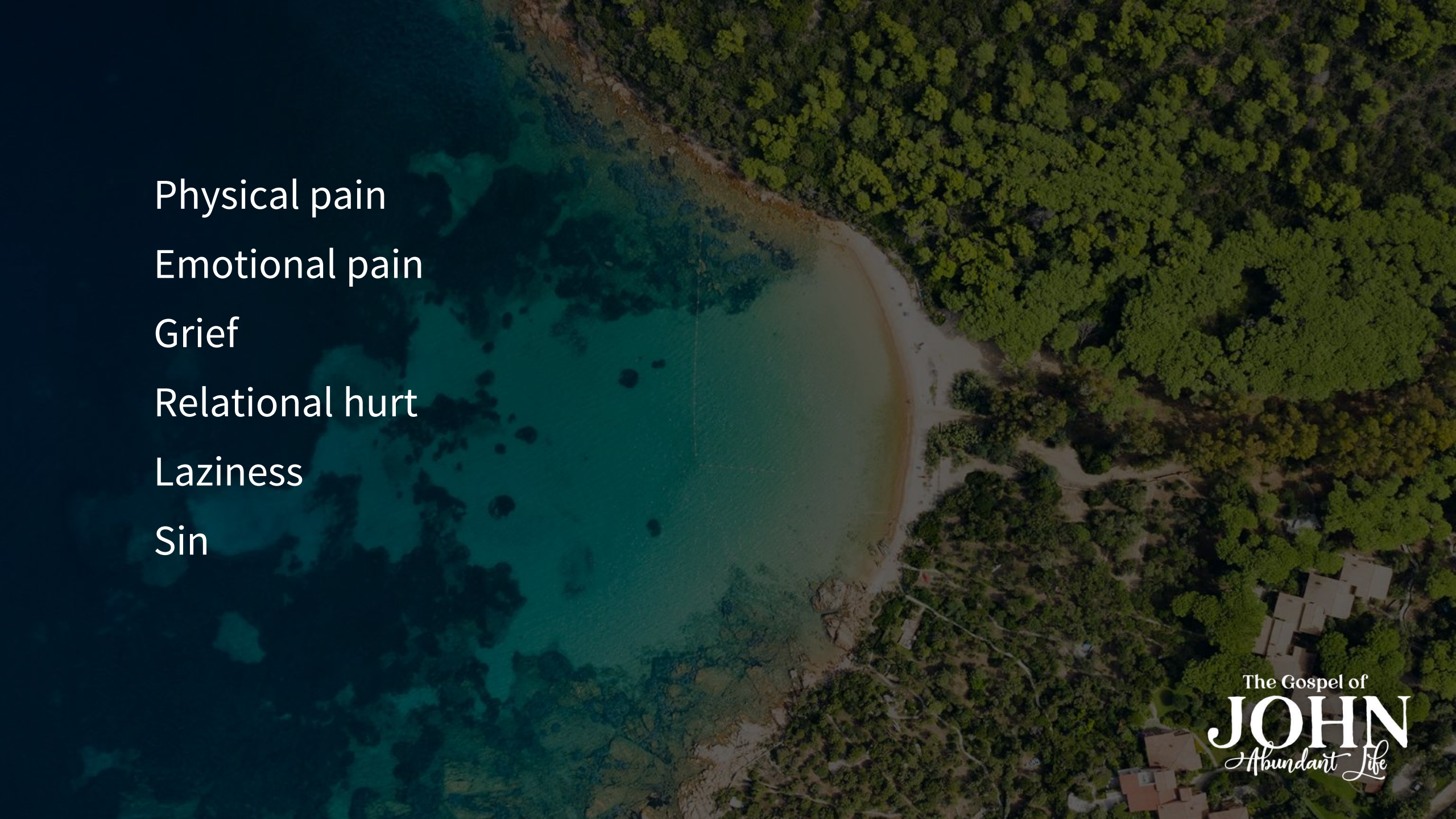
Where is Jesus?

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For those outside the faith the
problem of evil questions the
existence of God, for those
inside the faith the problem of
evil questions the loving
presence of God

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An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The left side of the image shows deep turquoise water with darker patches of coral or rocks. A narrow, light-colored sandy beach curves along the shoreline. To the right of the beach is a dense, lush green forest that covers the land. In the bottom right corner, a small cluster of buildings with reddish-brown roofs is visible, partially obscured by the trees.

Physical pain

Emotional pain

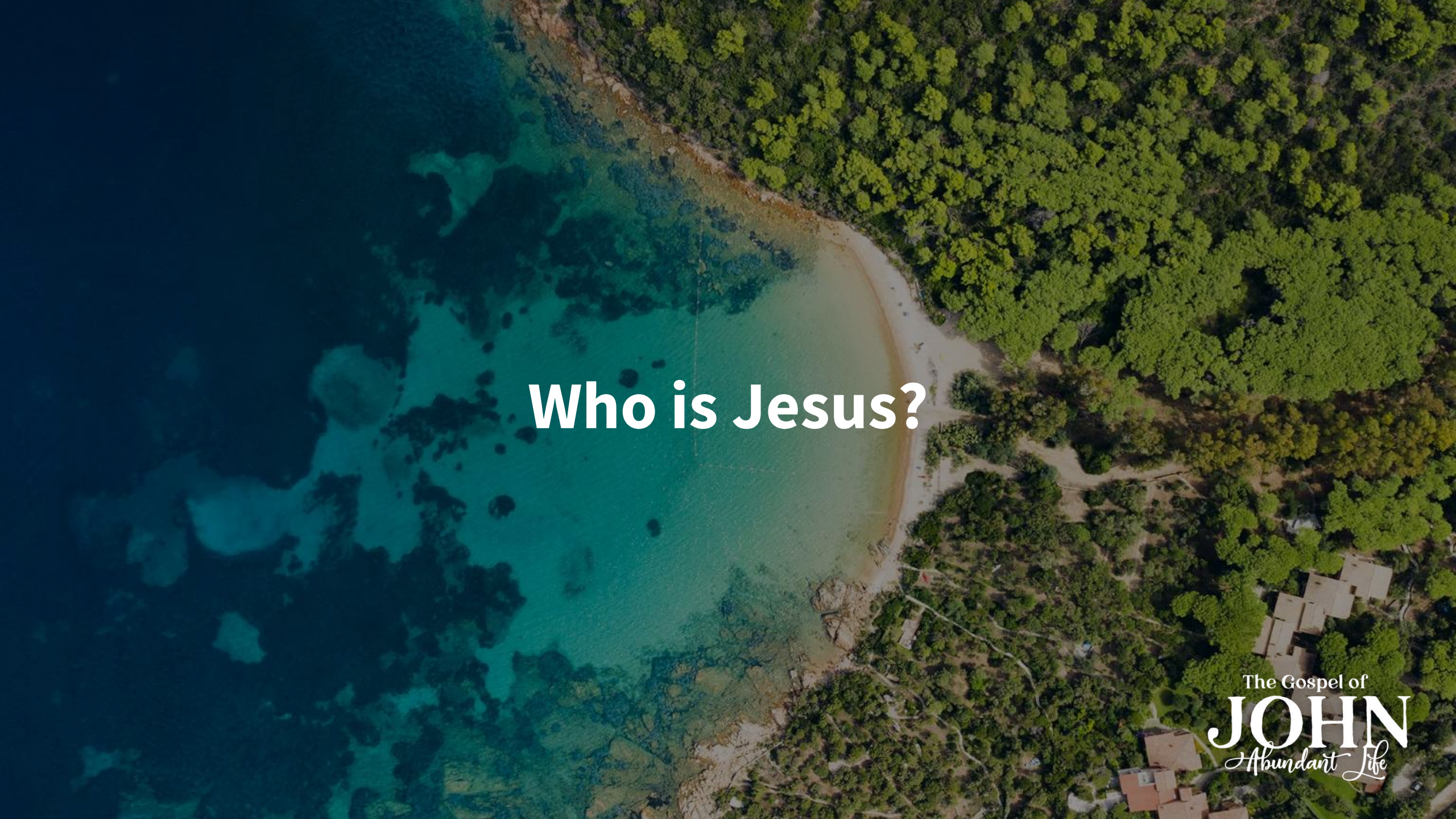
Grief

Relational hurt

Laziness

Sin

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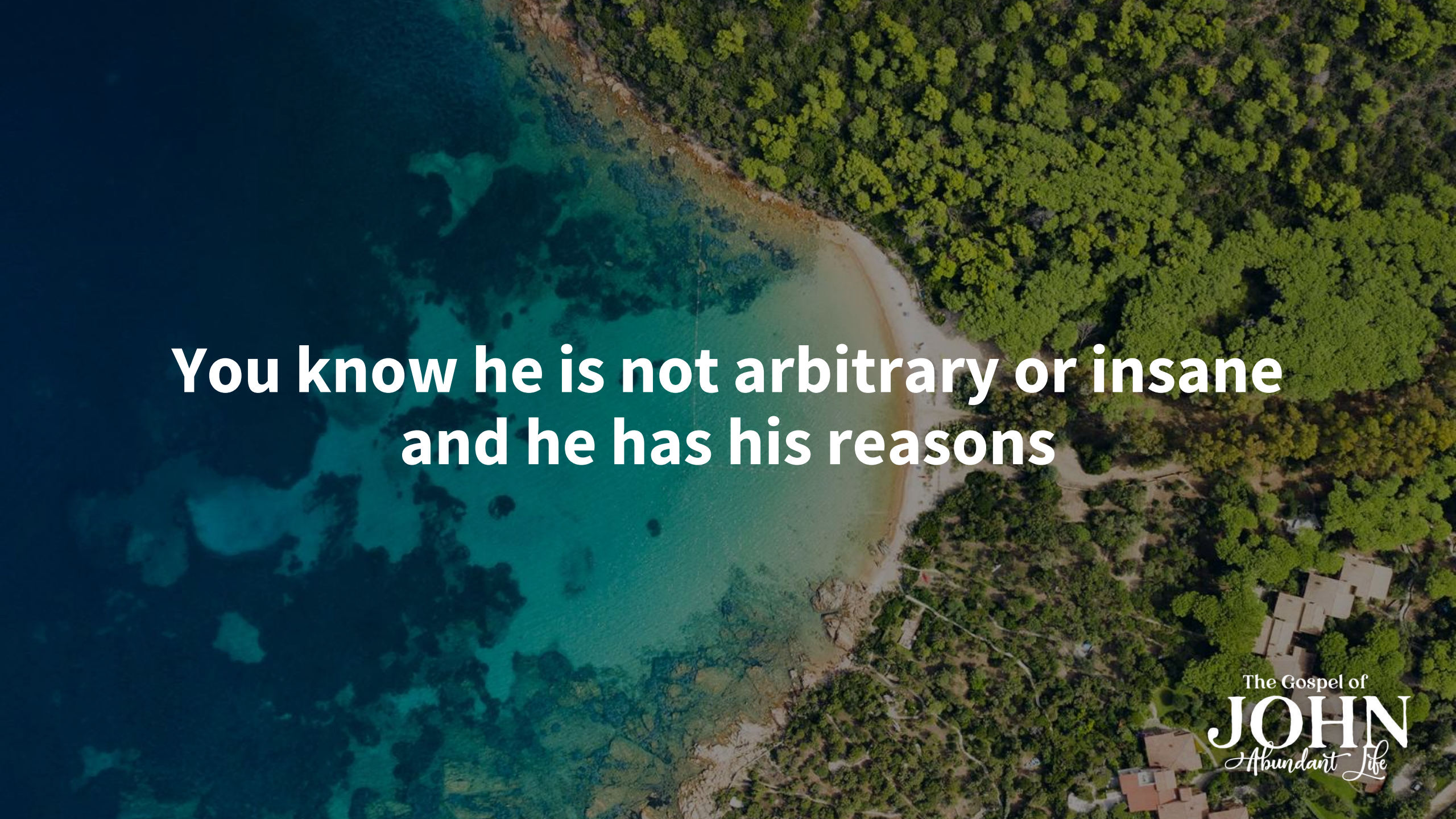
Who is Jesus?

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An aerial photograph of a tropical coastline. The left side of the image shows deep blue ocean water transitioning into a shallow, turquoise lagoon. A narrow, crescent-shaped sandy beach separates the lagoon from a dense, lush green forest that covers the right side of the image. In the bottom right corner, a small cluster of buildings with reddish-brown roofs is visible, partially obscured by the trees.

Wait

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**You know he is not arbitrary or insane
and he has his reasons**

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**He knows what it is like to
not get the answer you want
from God.**

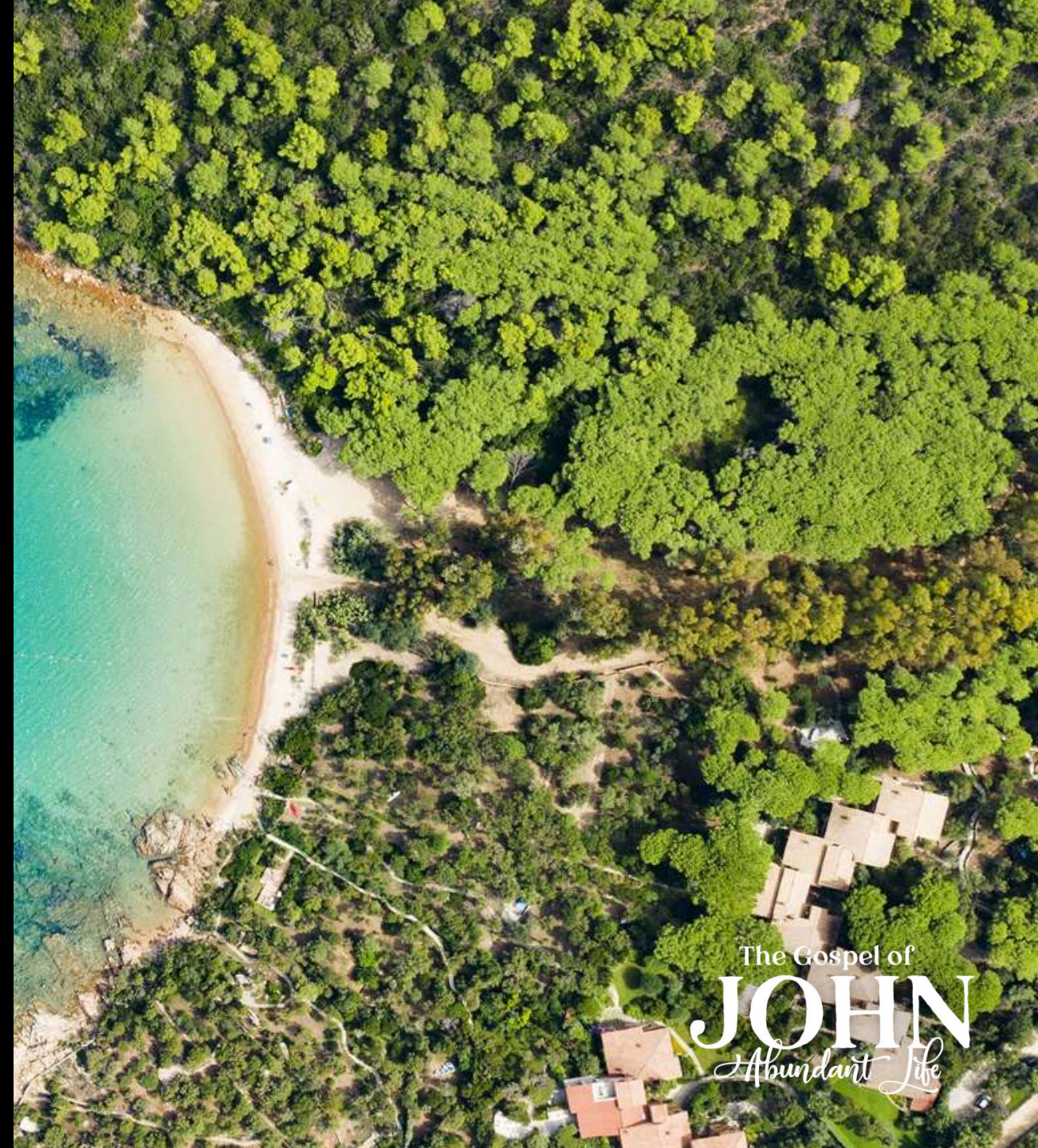
*“Father, if you are willing, take
this cup from me; yet not my
will, but yours be done.” Luke
22:42*

**He knows what it is like to be
in a place where God is
obscured.**

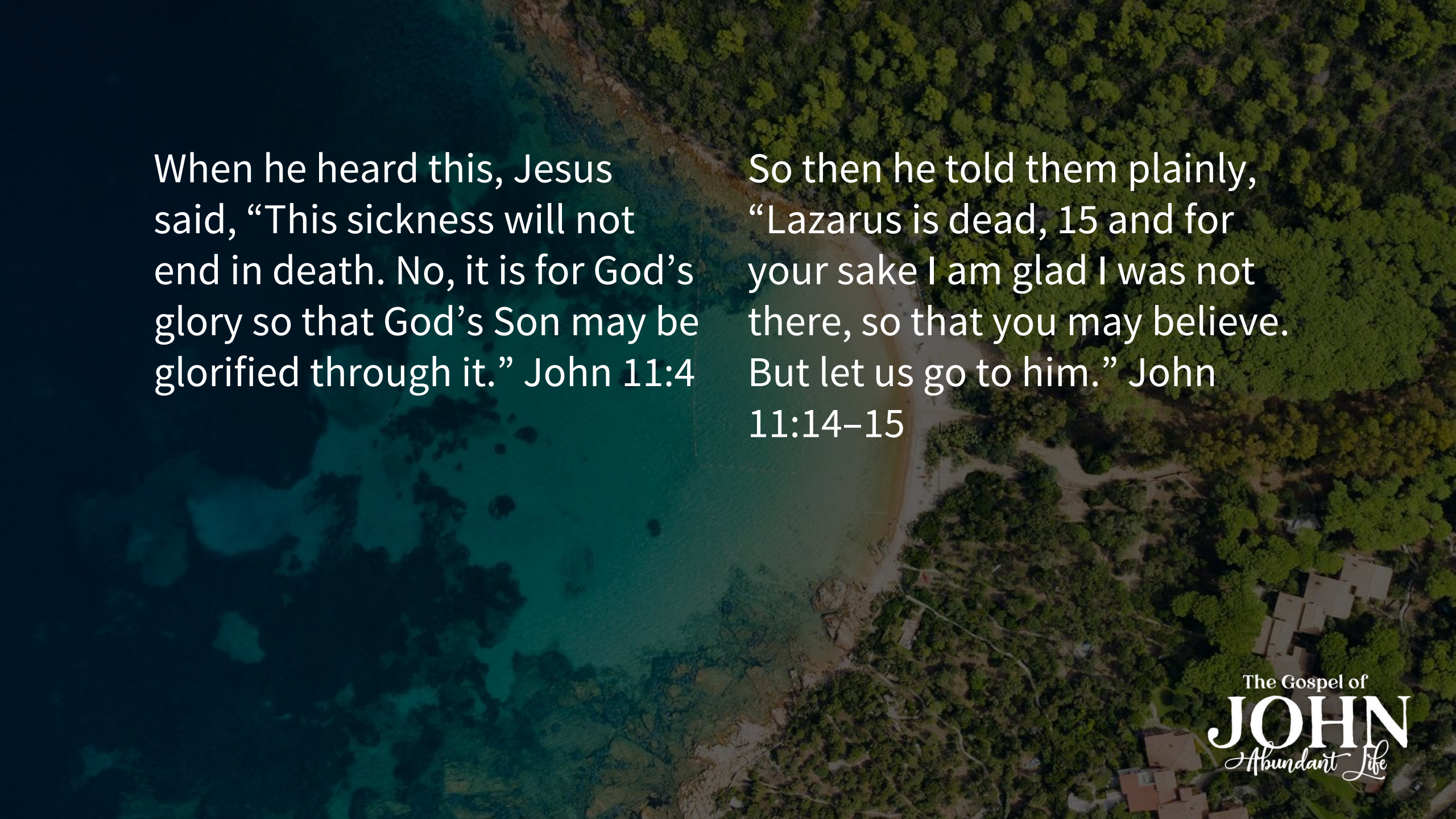
*“My God, my God, why have you
forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46*

3. Seeing Jesus

v4-14

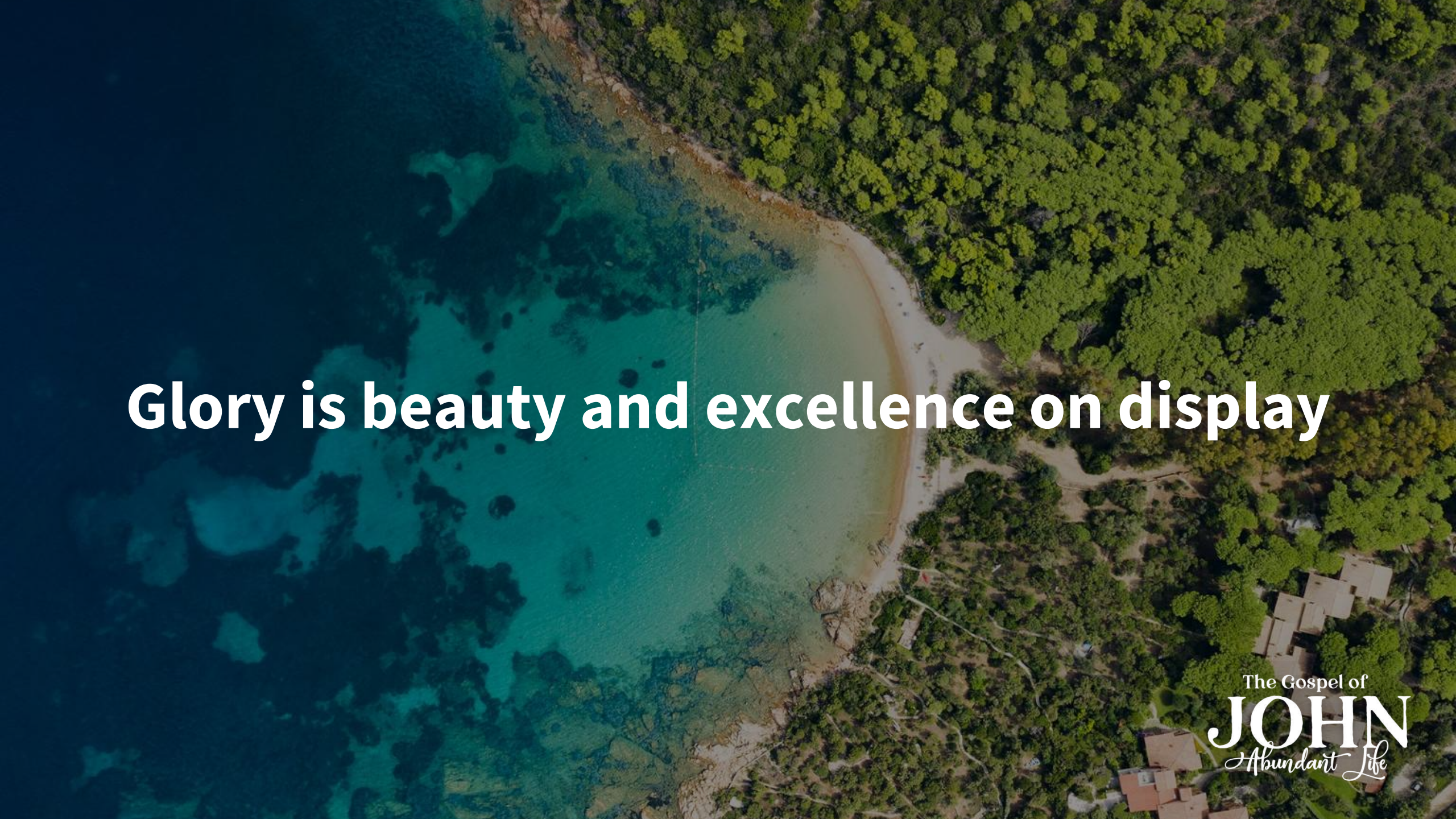


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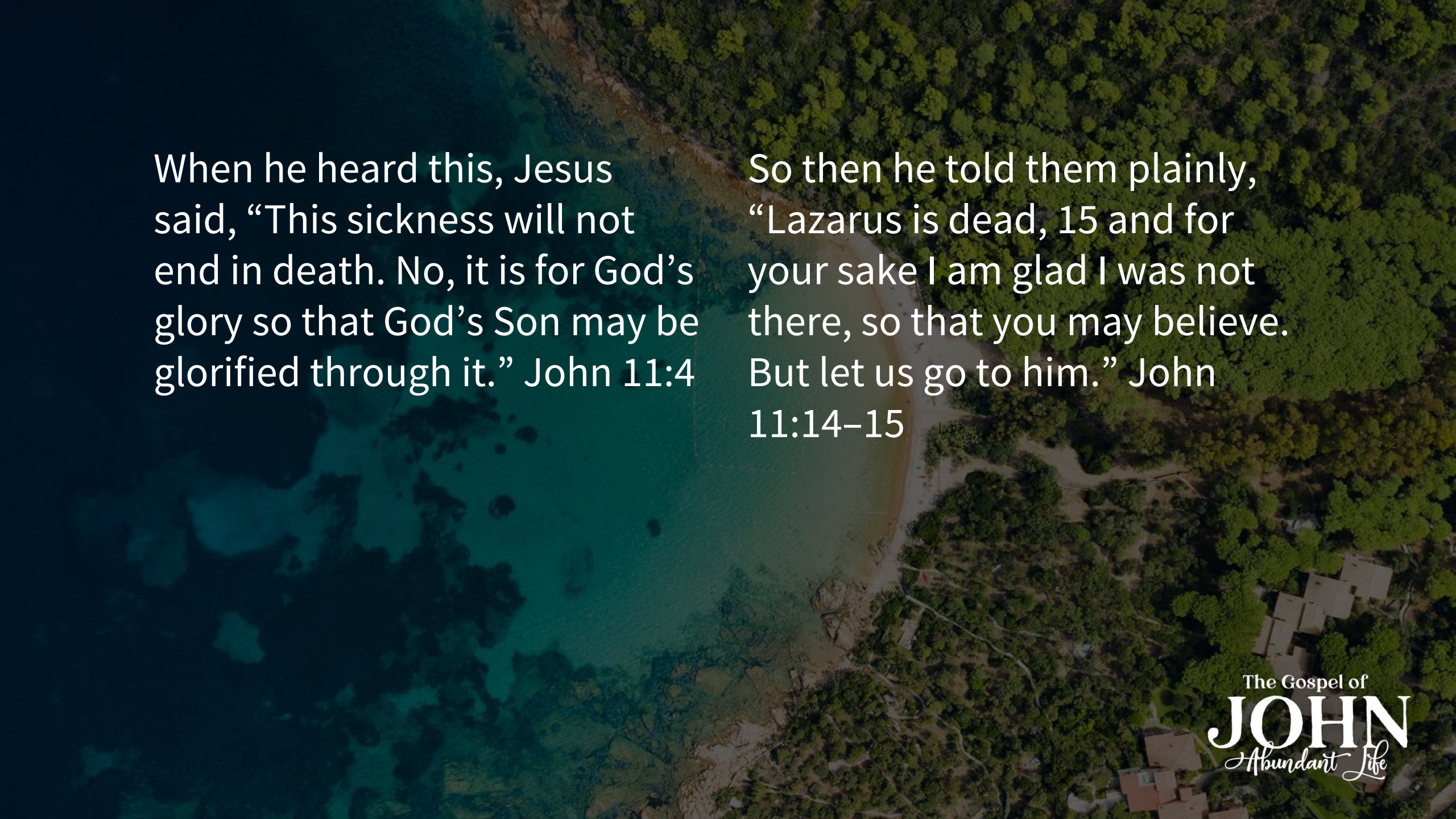
When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” John 11:4

So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” John 11:14–15



Glory is beauty and excellence on display

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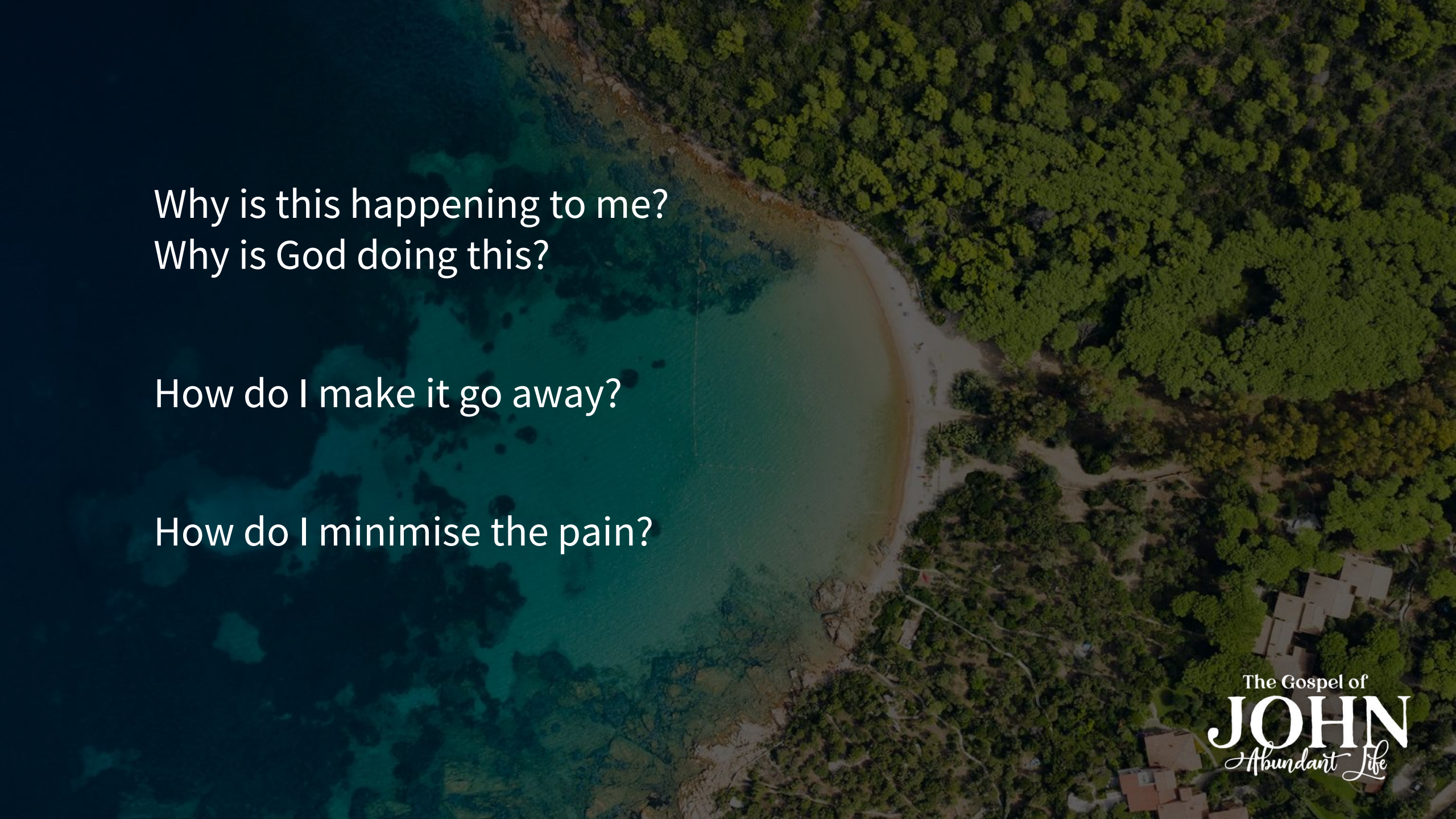
When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.” John 11:4

So then he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead, 15 and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” John 11:14–15



In Jesus God's glory and our good
coalesce

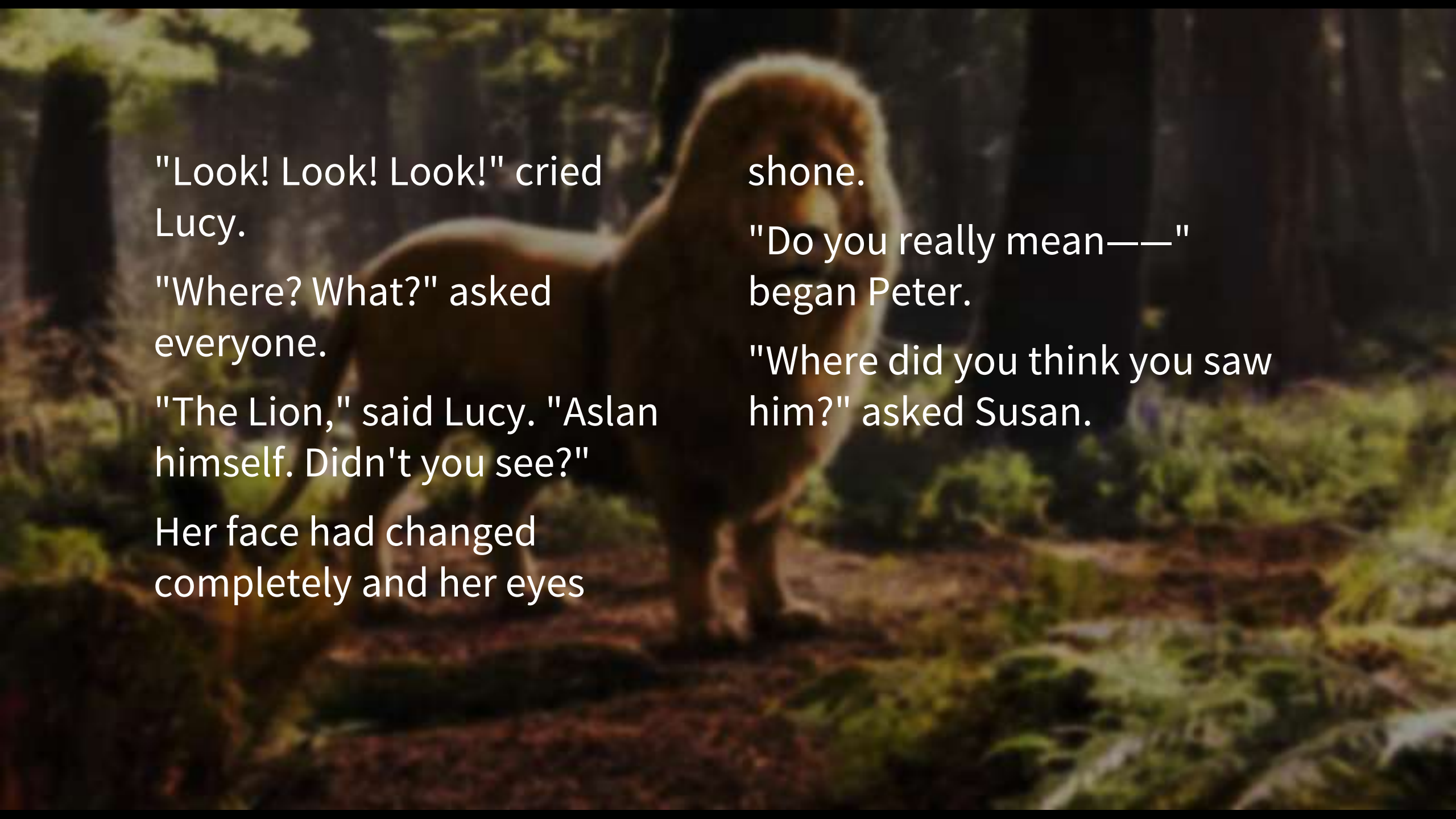
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Why is this happening to me?
Why is God doing this?

How do I make it go away?

How do I minimise the pain?

A young lion with a light brown mane stands in a forest, looking towards the right. The forest floor is covered in green moss and fallen leaves, with tall trees in the background.

"Look! Look! Look!" cried Lucy.

"Where? What?" asked everyone.

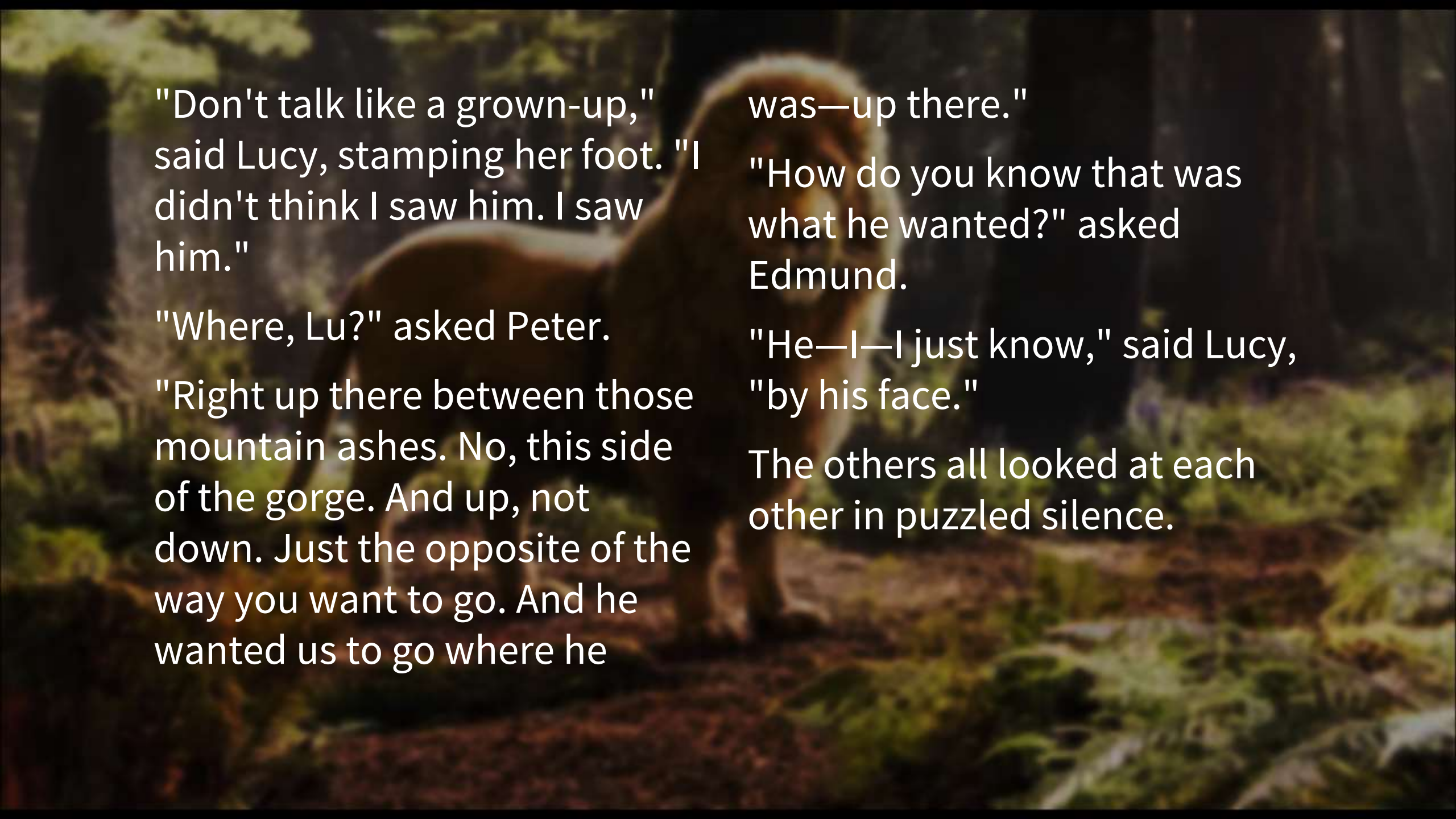
"The Lion," said Lucy. "Aslan himself. Didn't you see?"

Her face had changed completely and her eyes

shone.

"Do you really mean——" began Peter.

"Where did you think you saw him?" asked Susan.

A young gorilla with light brown fur is standing in a forest, looking towards the right. The background is filled with green foliage and tree trunks, creating a natural, slightly blurred setting.

"Don't talk like a grown-up," said Lucy, stamping her foot. "I didn't think I saw him. I saw him."

"Where, Lu?" asked Peter.

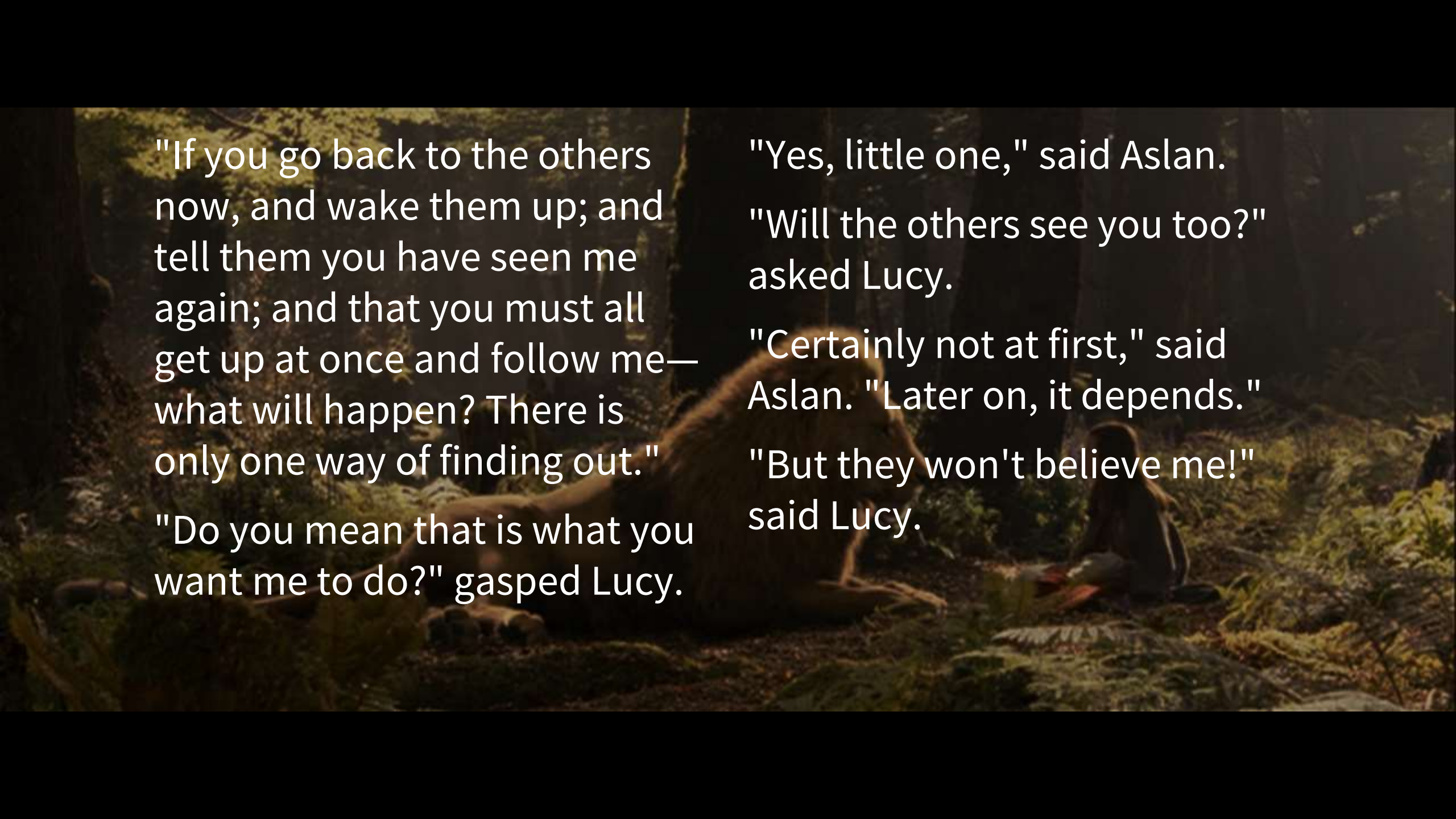
"Right up there between those mountain ashes. No, this side of the gorge. And up, not down. Just the opposite of the way you want to go. And he wanted us to go where he

was—up there."

"How do you know that was what he wanted?" asked Edmund.

"He—I—I just know," said Lucy, "by his face."

The others all looked at each other in puzzled silence.



"If you go back to the others now, and wake them up; and tell them you have seen me again; and that you must all get up at once and follow me—what will happen? There is only one way of finding out."

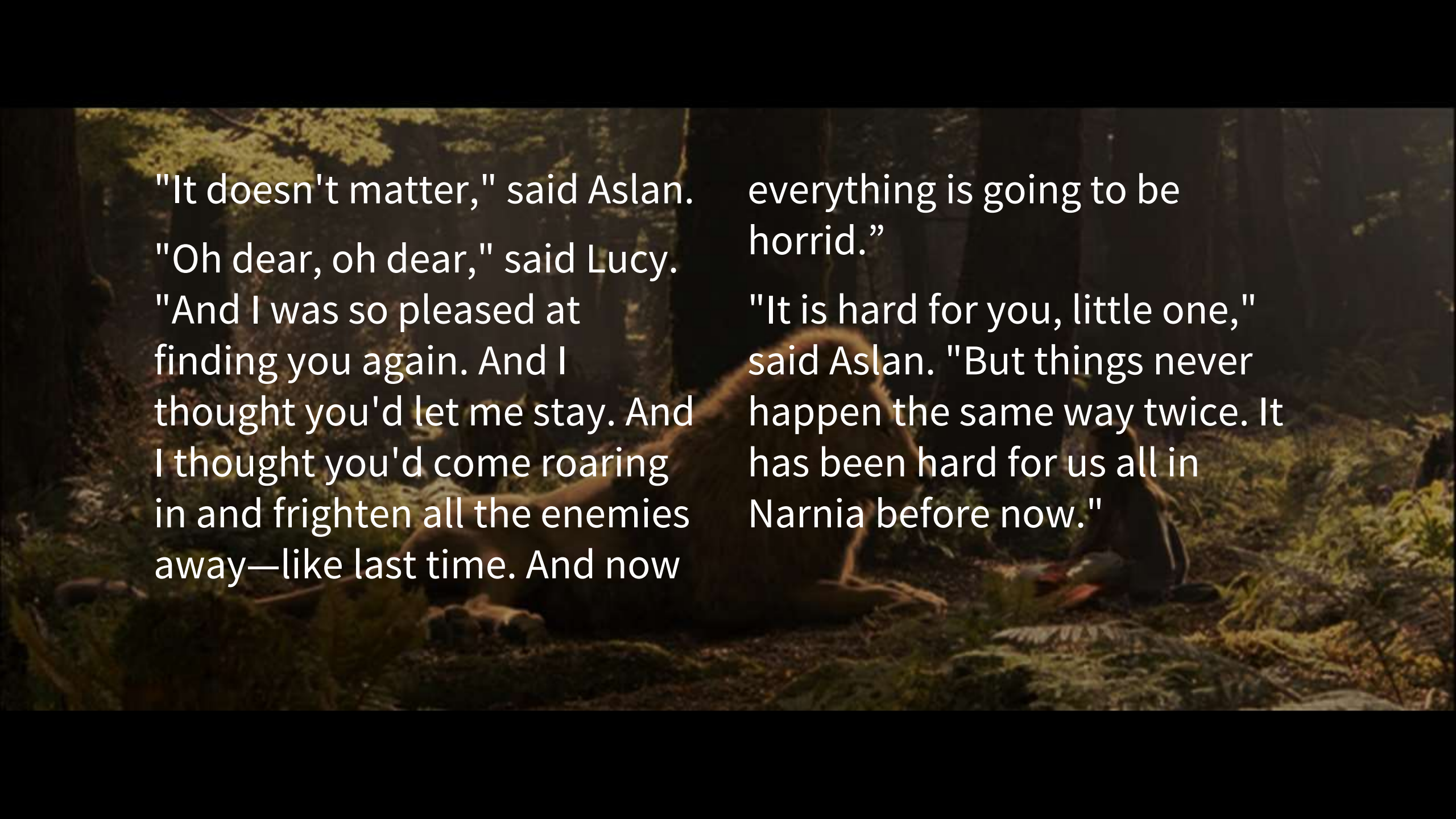
"Do you mean that is what you want me to do?" gasped Lucy.

"Yes, little one," said Aslan.

"Will the others see you too?" asked Lucy.

"Certainly not at first," said Aslan. "Later on, it depends."

"But they won't believe me!" said Lucy.



"It doesn't matter," said Aslan.
"Oh dear, oh dear," said Lucy.
"And I was so pleased at finding you again. And I thought you'd let me stay. And I thought you'd come roaring in and frighten all the enemies away—like last time. And now

everything is going to be horrid."

"It is hard for you, little one," said Aslan. "But things never happen the same way twice. It has been hard for us all in Narnia before now."

Lucy buried her head in his mane to hide from his face. But there must have been magic in his mane. She could feel lion-strength going into her. Quite suddenly she sat up. "I'm sorry, Aslan," she said. "I'm ready now."

