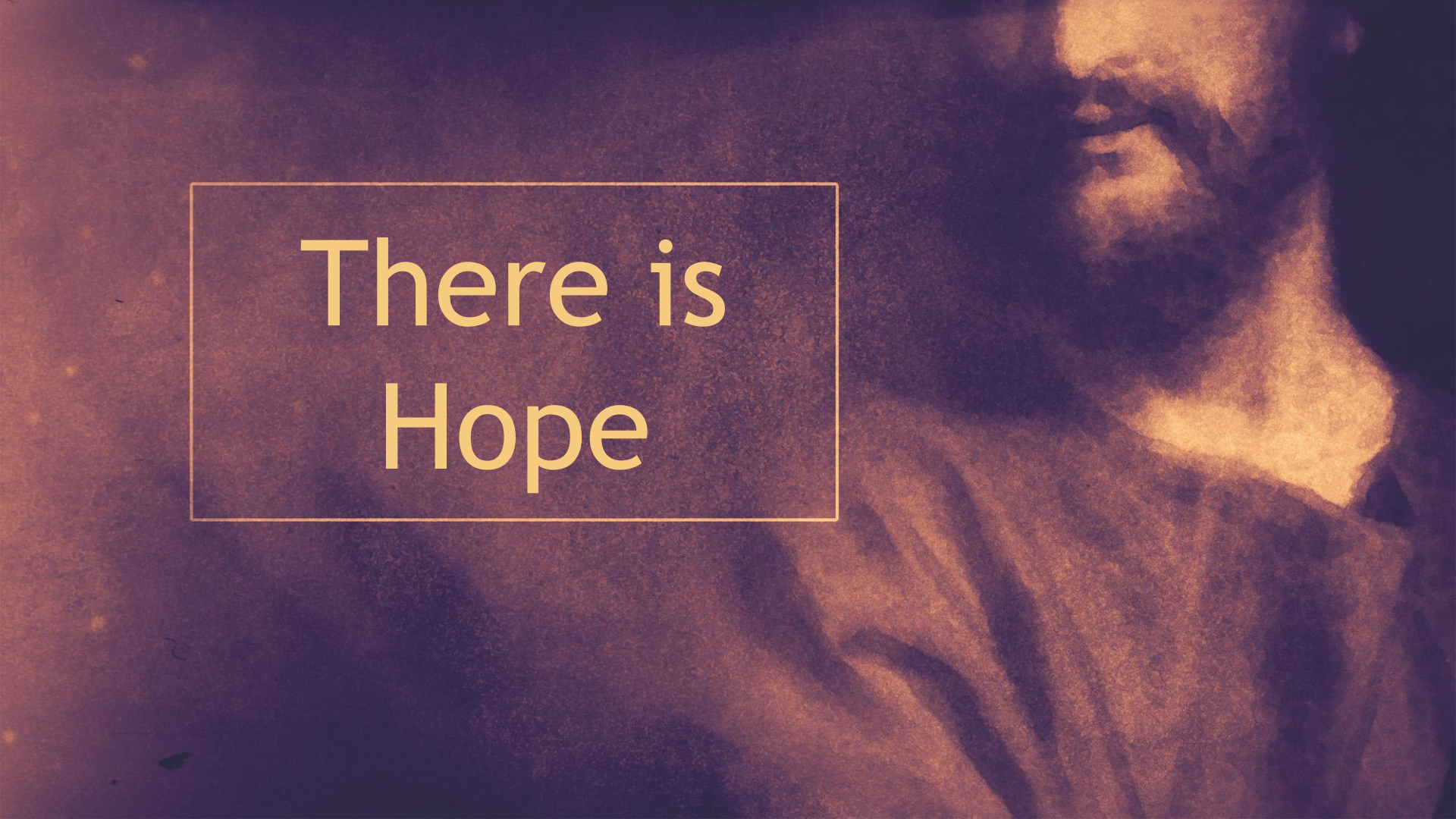

There is
Hope

The tale of the crucified criminals

Both were deserving of their sentence

Both mocked Jesus


One thief had a change of heart
There is Hope

32 Two other men, both criminals, were also led
out with him to be executed. 33 When they came
to the place called the Skull, they crucified him
there, along with the criminals—one on his right,
the other on his left. 34 Jesus said, “Father,
forgive them, for they do not know what they are
doing.” And they divided up his clothes by casting
lots.

35 The people stood watching, and the rulers even
sneered at him. They said, “He saved others; let him
save himself if he is God’s Messiah, the Chosen One.”
36 The soldiers also came up and mocked him. They
offered him wine vinegar 37 and said, “If you are the
king of the Jews, save yourself.”
38 There was a written notice above him, which read:
THIS IS THE KING OF THE JEWS.
39 One of the criminals who hung there hurled insults
at him: “Aren’t you the Messiah? Save yourself and
us!”

40 But the other criminal rebuked him. “Don’t you
fear God,” he said, “since you are under the
same sentence? 41 We are punished justly, for we
are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man
has done nothing wrong.”
42 Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you
come into your kingdom.”
43 Jesus answered him, “Truly I tell you, today
you will be with me in paradise.”

Luke 23:32-43

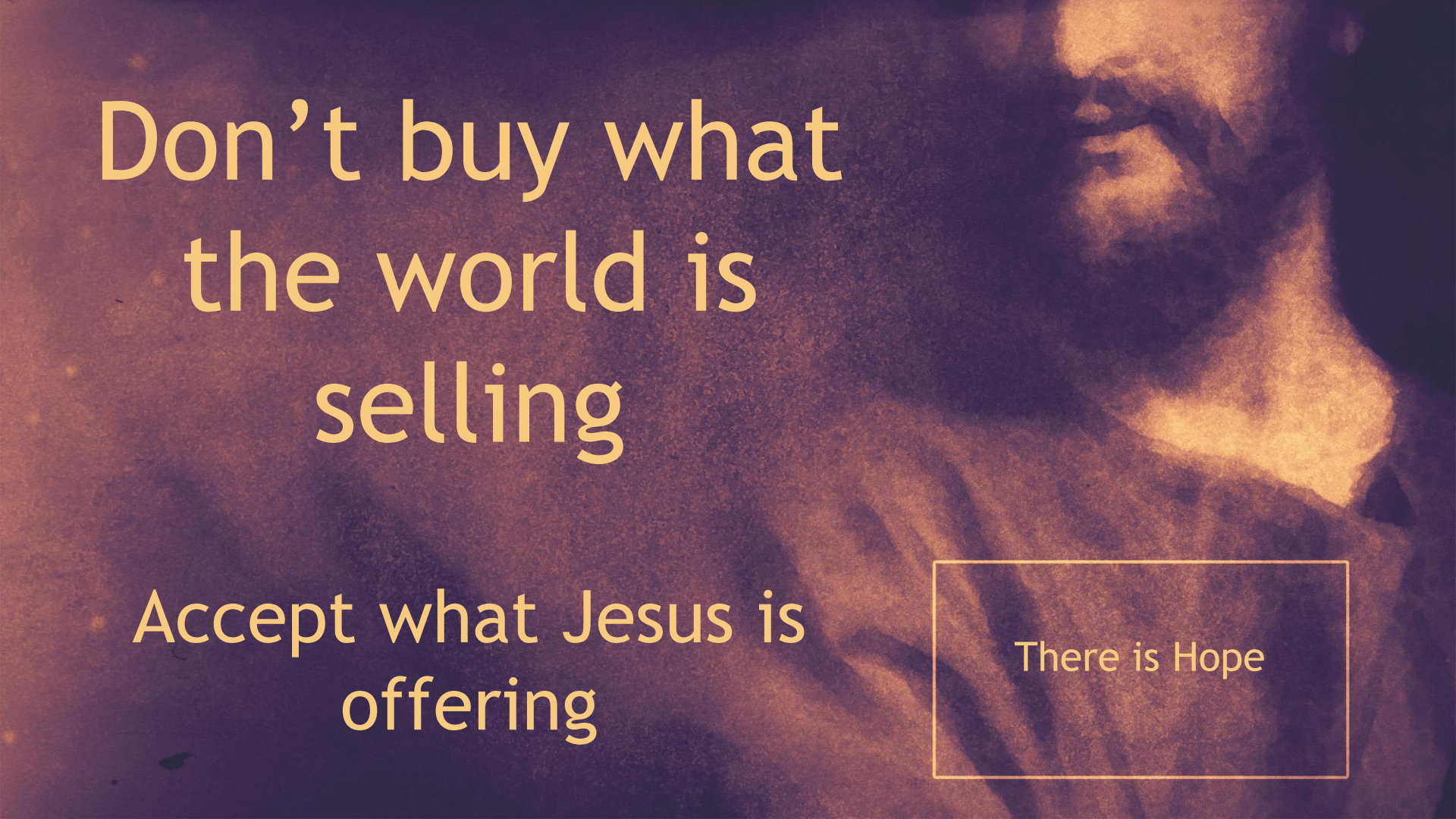
Lessons from the criminal on the cross:

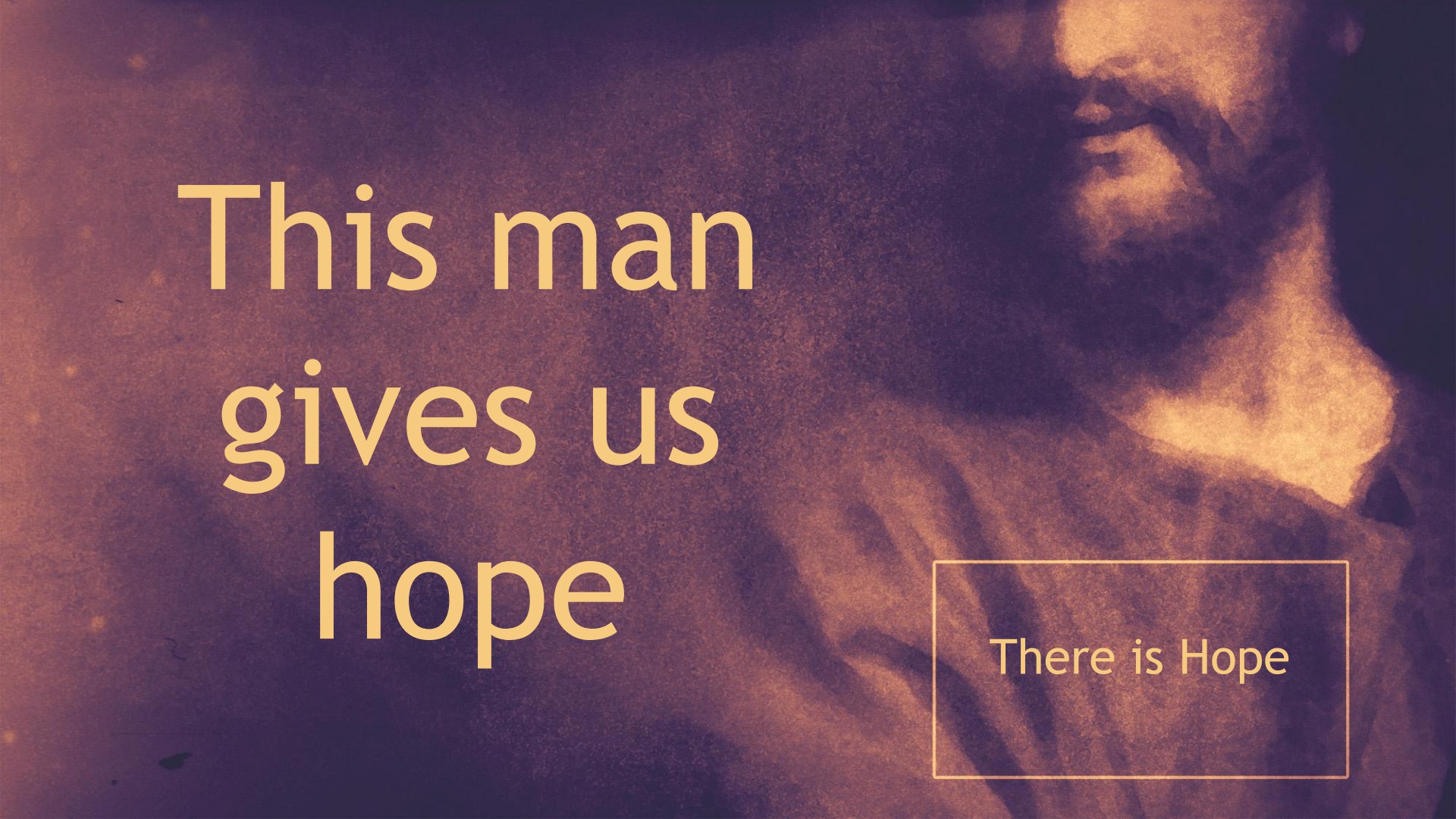
Jesus values what others discard

The one who deserved eternal punishment received eternal life

What did the criminal really have to offer Jesus

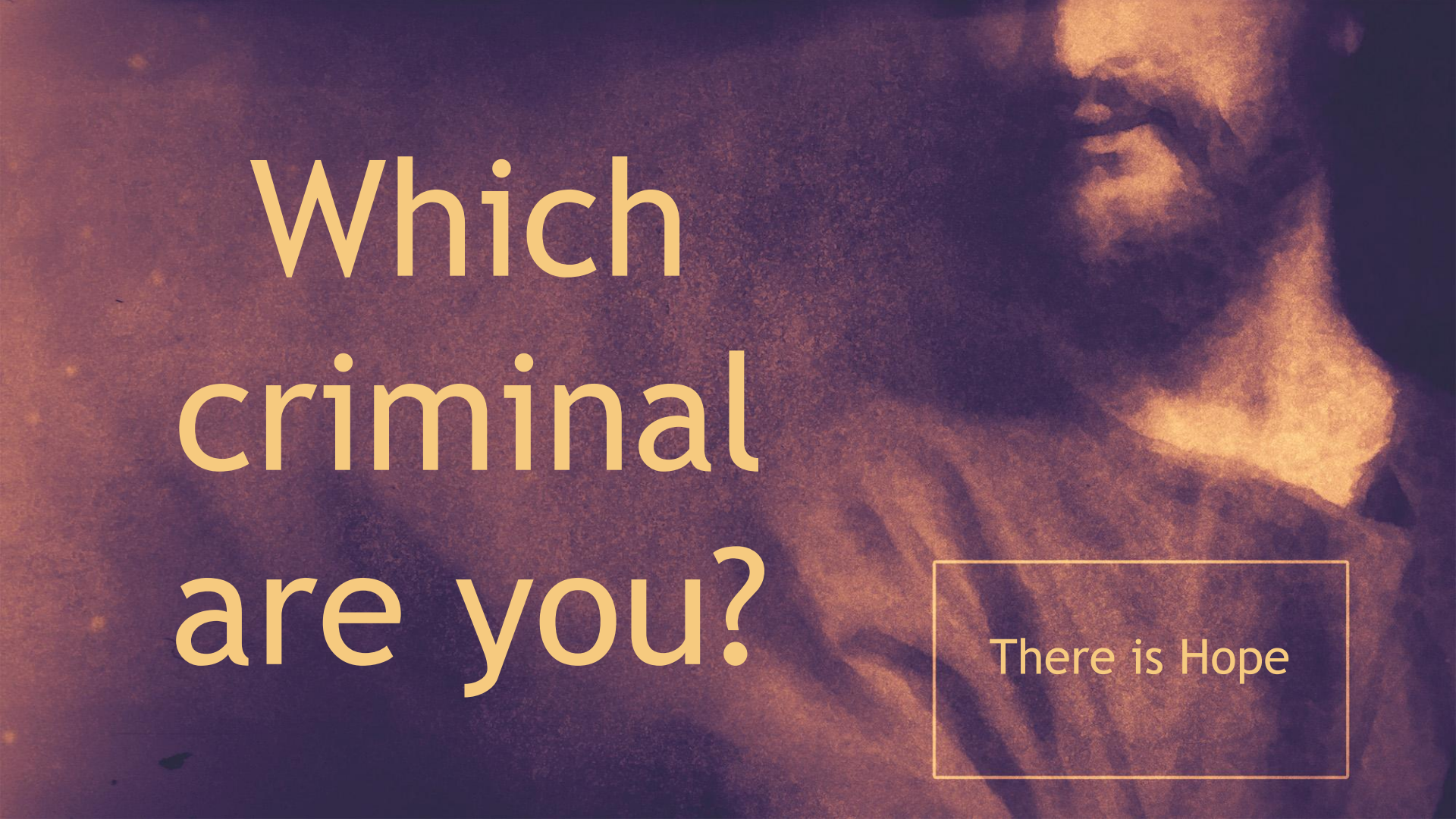
An eternal change of direction can happen in an instant


Don’t buy what the world is selling
Accept what Jesus is offering
There is Hope


This man gives us hope
There is Hope

18 I pray that the eyes of your heart may be
enlightened in order that you may know the
hope to which he has called you, the riches of
his glorious inheritance in his holy people,
19 and his incomparably great power for us
who believe.

Ephesians 1:18-19a


Which criminal are you?
There is Hope

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every
name,
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should
bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus
Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9-11