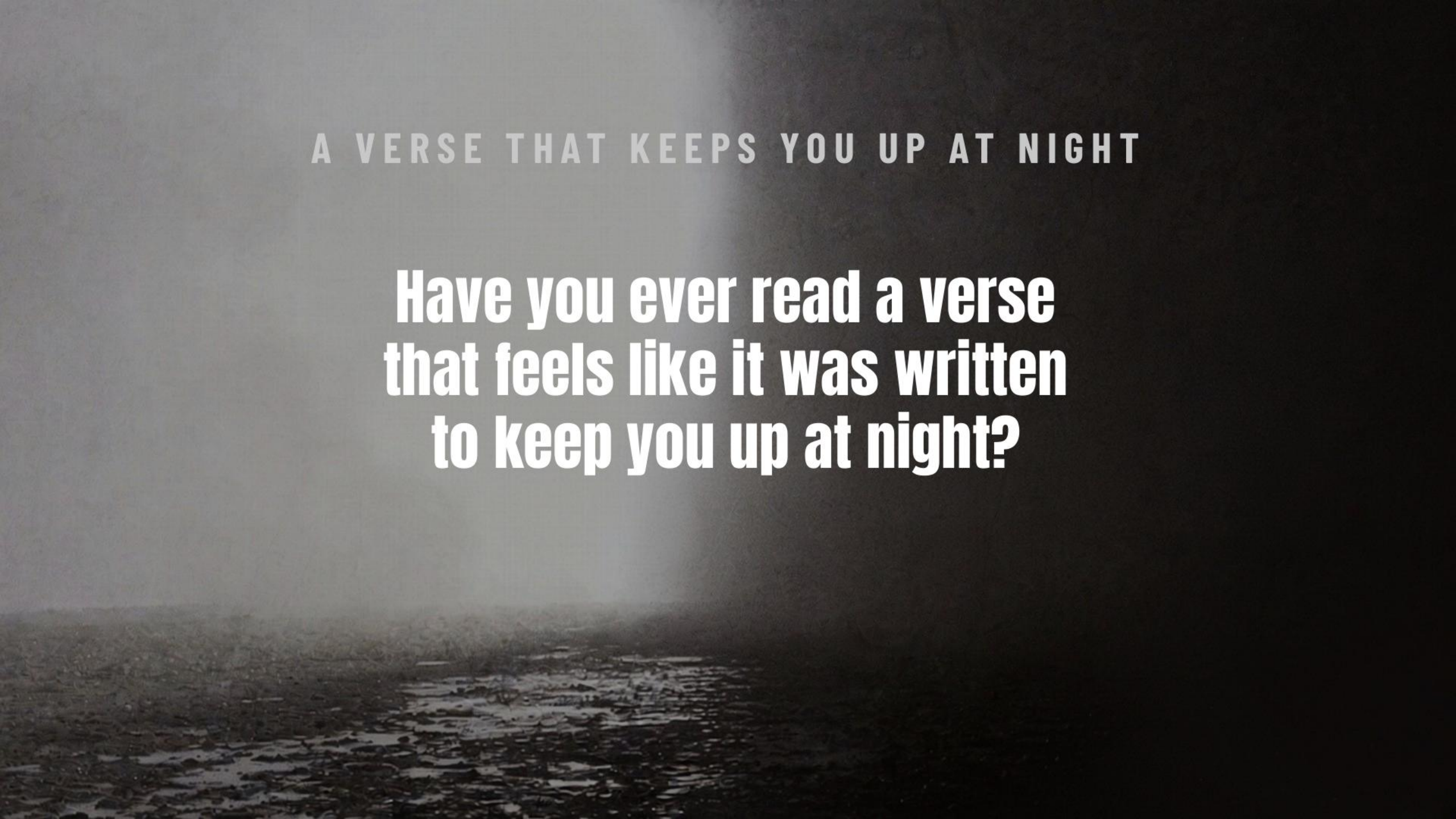
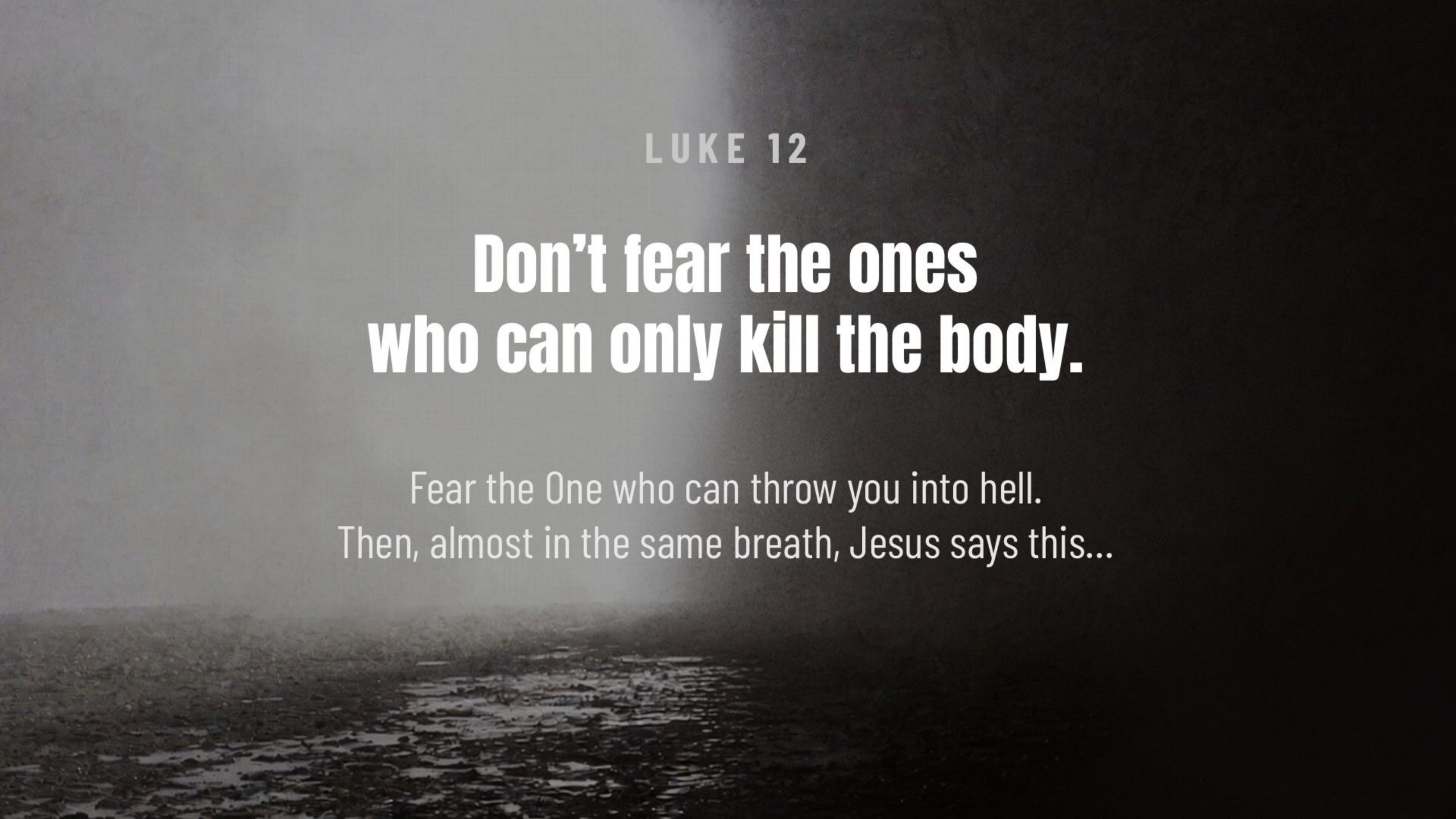

A VERSE THAT KEEPS YOU UP AT NIGHT
Have you ever read a verse
that feels like it was written
to keep you up at night?


LUKE 12
Don’t fear the ones
who can only kill the body.
Fear the One who can throw you into hell.
Then, almost in the same breath, Jesus says this...

LUKE 12:8-10 NLT

Everyone who acknowledges Me publicly here on earth, the Son of Man will also acknowledge in the presence of God's angels.

But anyone who denies Me here on earth will be denied before God's angels.

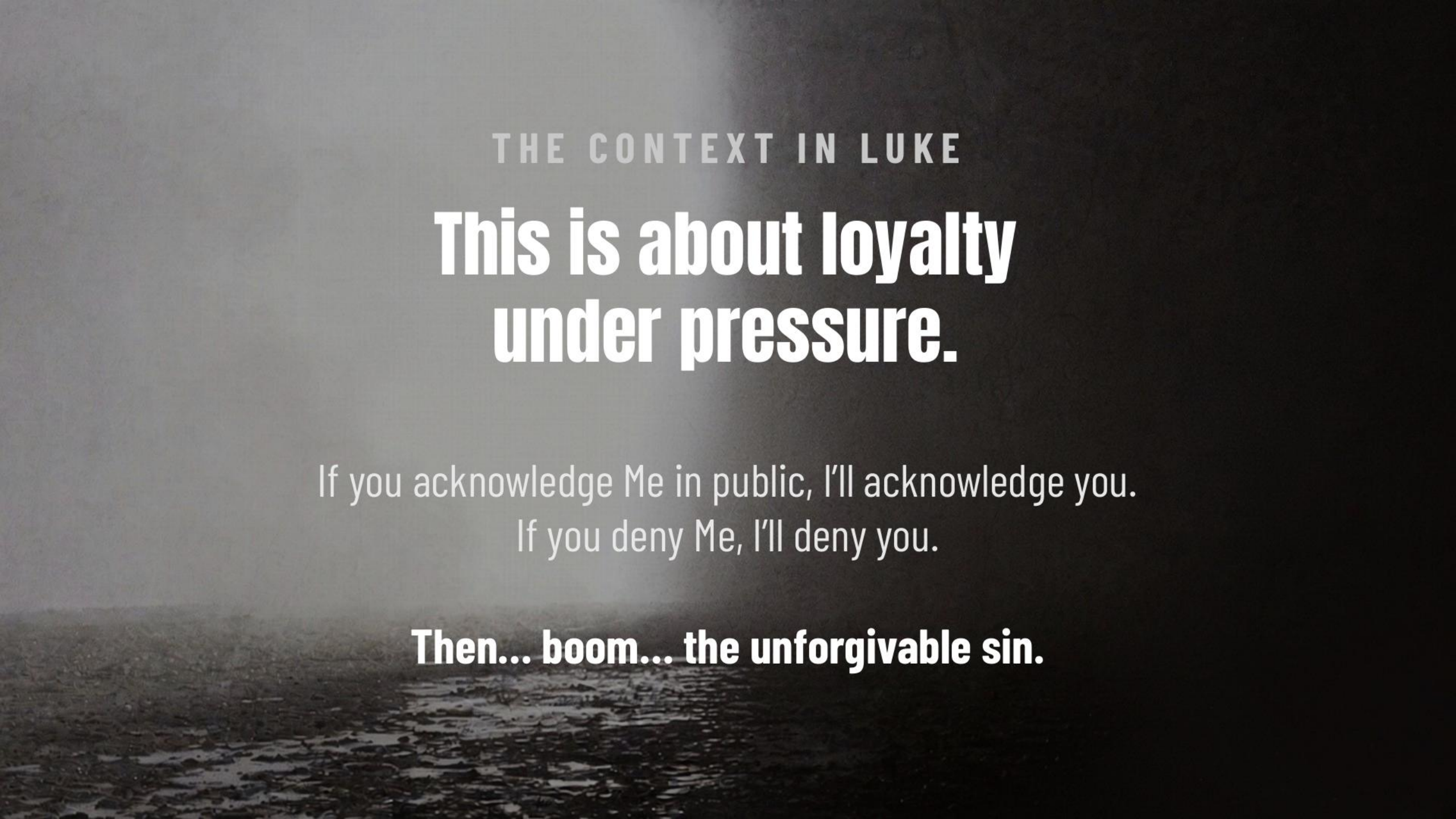
Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man can be forgiven, but anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME

Wait... have I done that?

What about when I joke about speaking in tongues?
What about that angry prayer when I was 24?
That time I was so mad at God I said something I shouldn't have?


LUKE JUST KEEPS MOVING
No parable.
No story.
No explanation.
The most terrifyingly vague sentence in the Gospels — then the narrative continues.

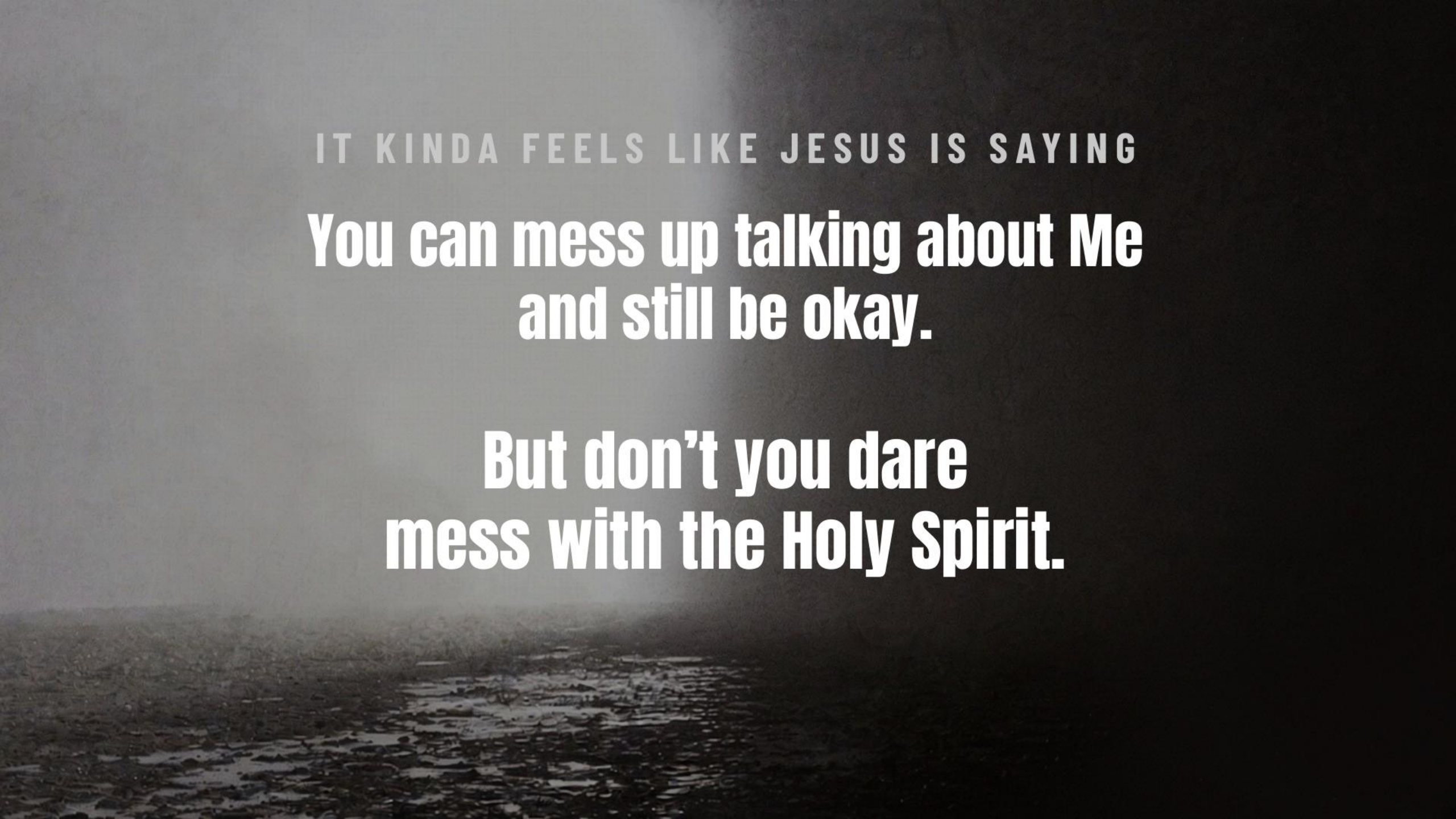


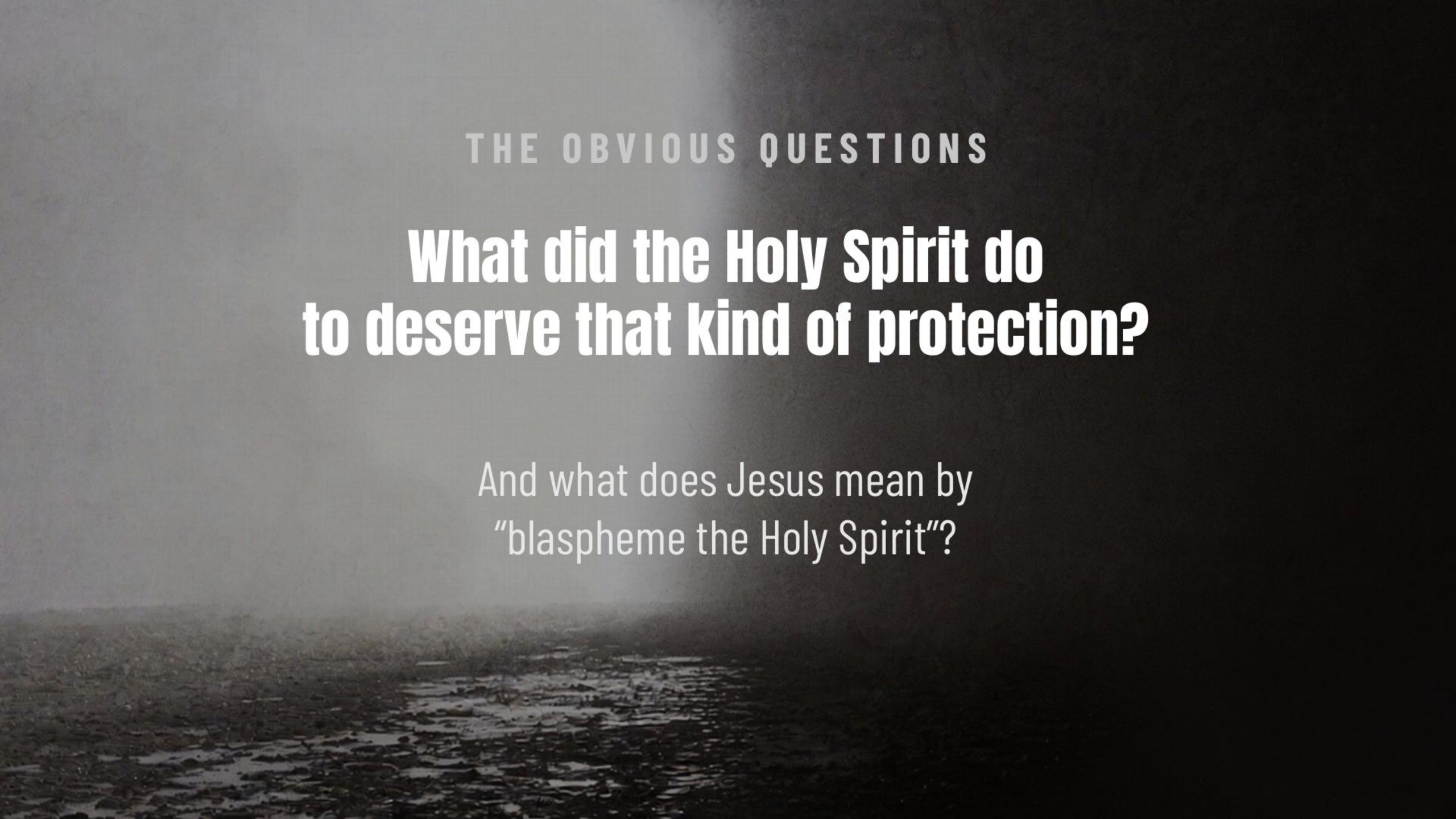
THE CONTEXT IN LUKE

This is about loyalty under pressure.

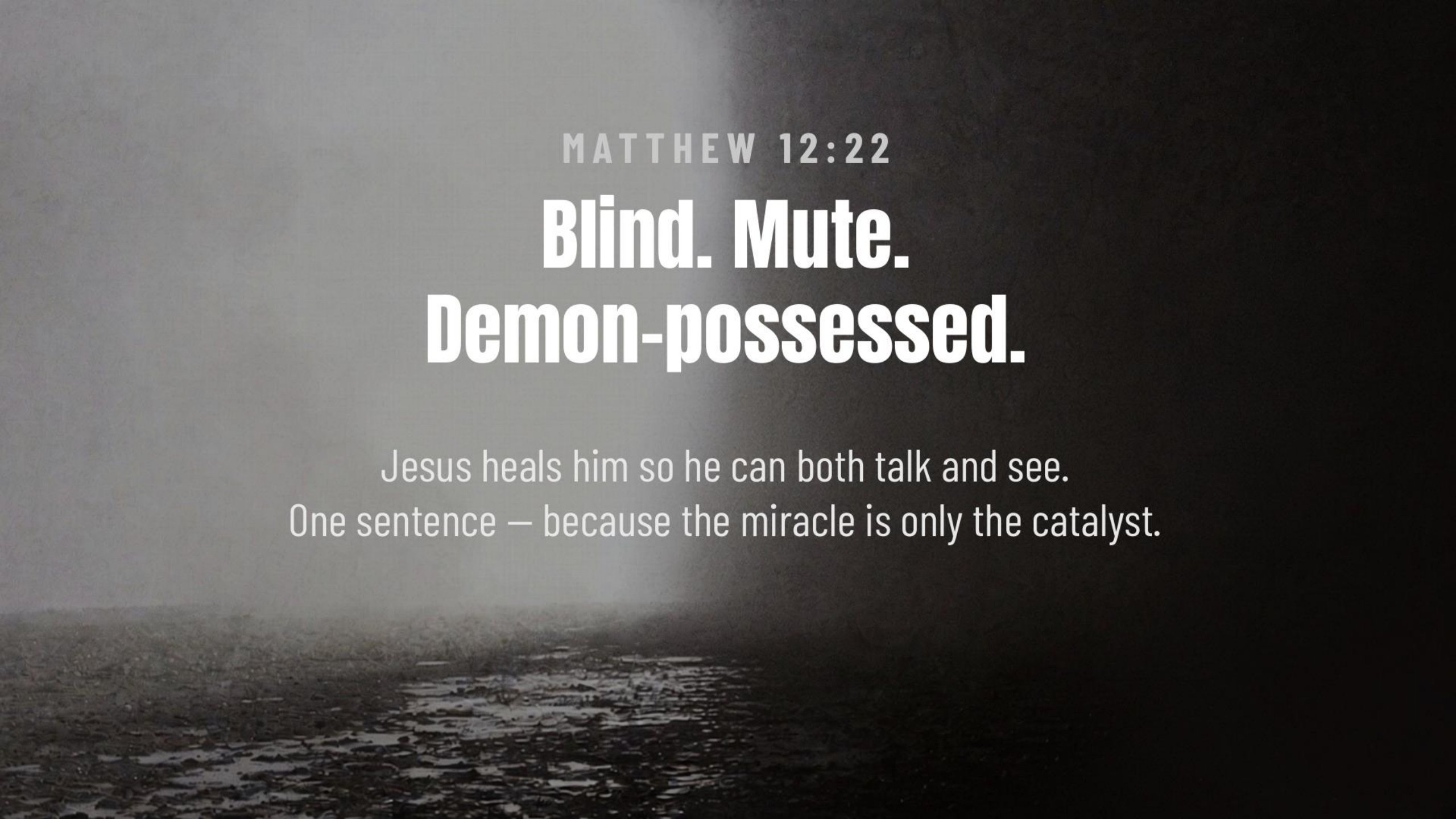
If you acknowledge Me in public, I'll acknowledge you.
If you deny Me, I'll deny you.

Then... boom... the unforgivable sin.


IT KINDA FEELS LIKE JESUS IS SAYING
You can mess up talking about Me
and still be okay.
But don't you dare
mess with the Holy Spirit.


THE OBVIOUS QUESTIONS
What did the Holy Spirit do to deserve that kind of protection?
And what does Jesus mean by "blaspheme the Holy Spirit"?

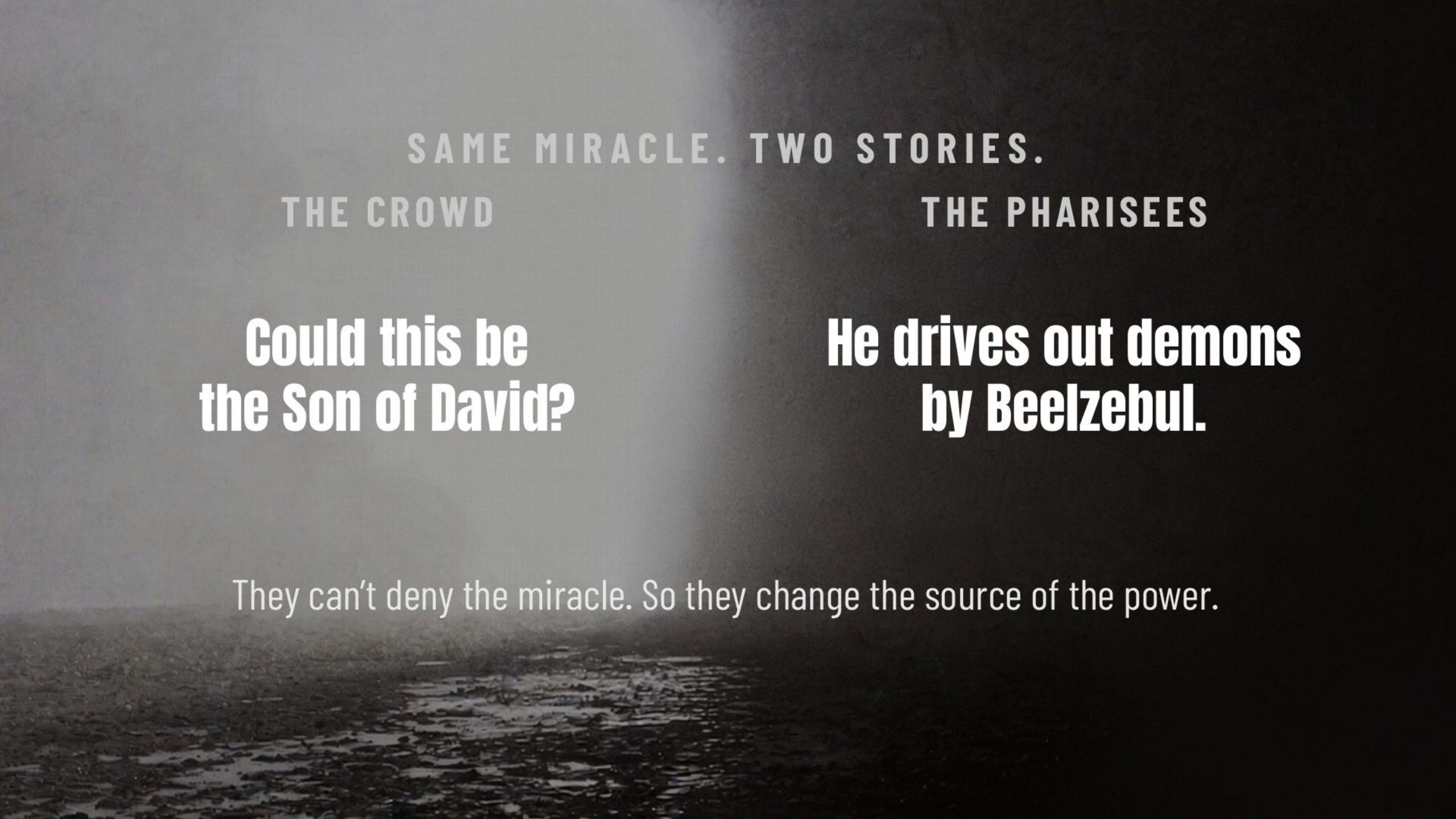

LUKE IS THIN ON CONTEXT
Matthew and Mark give us the scene.
Same warning. More story.



MATTHEW 12:22

Blind. Mute. Demon-possessed.

Jesus heals him so he can both talk and see.
One sentence — because the miracle is only the catalyst.


SAME MIRACLE. TWO STORIES.
THE CROWD
THE PHARISEES
Could this be the Son of David?
He drives out demons by Beelzebul.
They can't deny the miracle. So they change the source of the power.



WHO IS BEELZEBUL?

From “Prince Baal” to “Lord of the Flies.”

Canaanite title: Baal-zebul — Prince, exalted lord.
Israel twisted one letter: Baal-zebub — lord of pests.
By Jesus’ day: a name for the prince of demons.


THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN
Yes, something supernatural just happened.
But it wasn't God.
It was the devil.


LOOK AT WHAT THEY NAMED EVIL
A man just got his life back.
Sight. Speech. Freedom.
And they called it satanic.


JESUS DIAGNOSES THEM
A kingdom divided
against itself cannot stand.
If Satan is fighting Satan, his whole operation is collapsing.


THE LINE THAT TIES THE SCENE TOGETHER
If it is by the Spirit of God
that I drive out demons,
then the kingdom of God
has come upon you.
MATTHEW 12:28 NIV

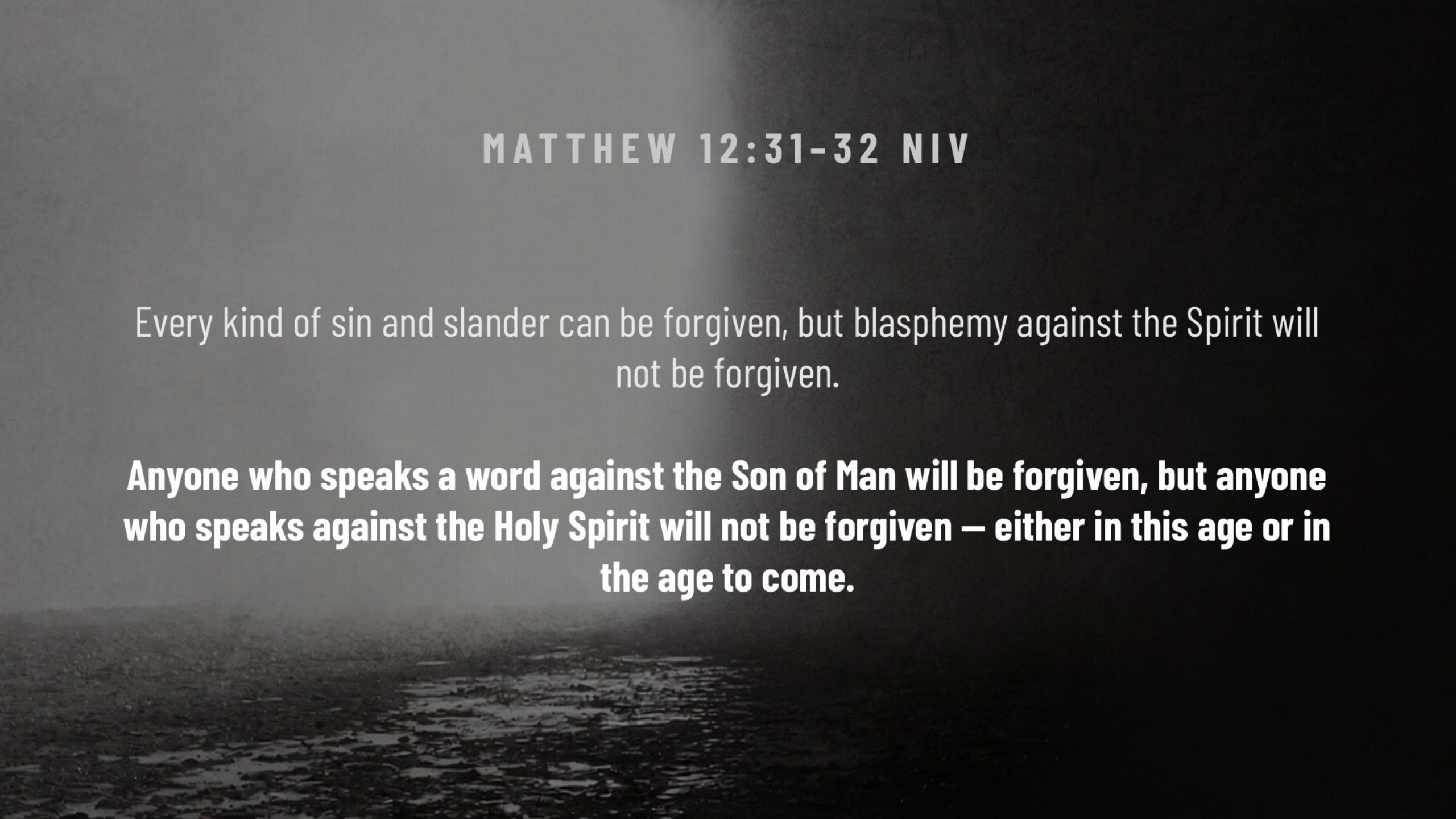


WHAT THE MIRACLE MEANS

As God's kingdom invades earth, it drives demons off His territory.

Casting out demons is not a sideshow.
It is the kingdom showing up.

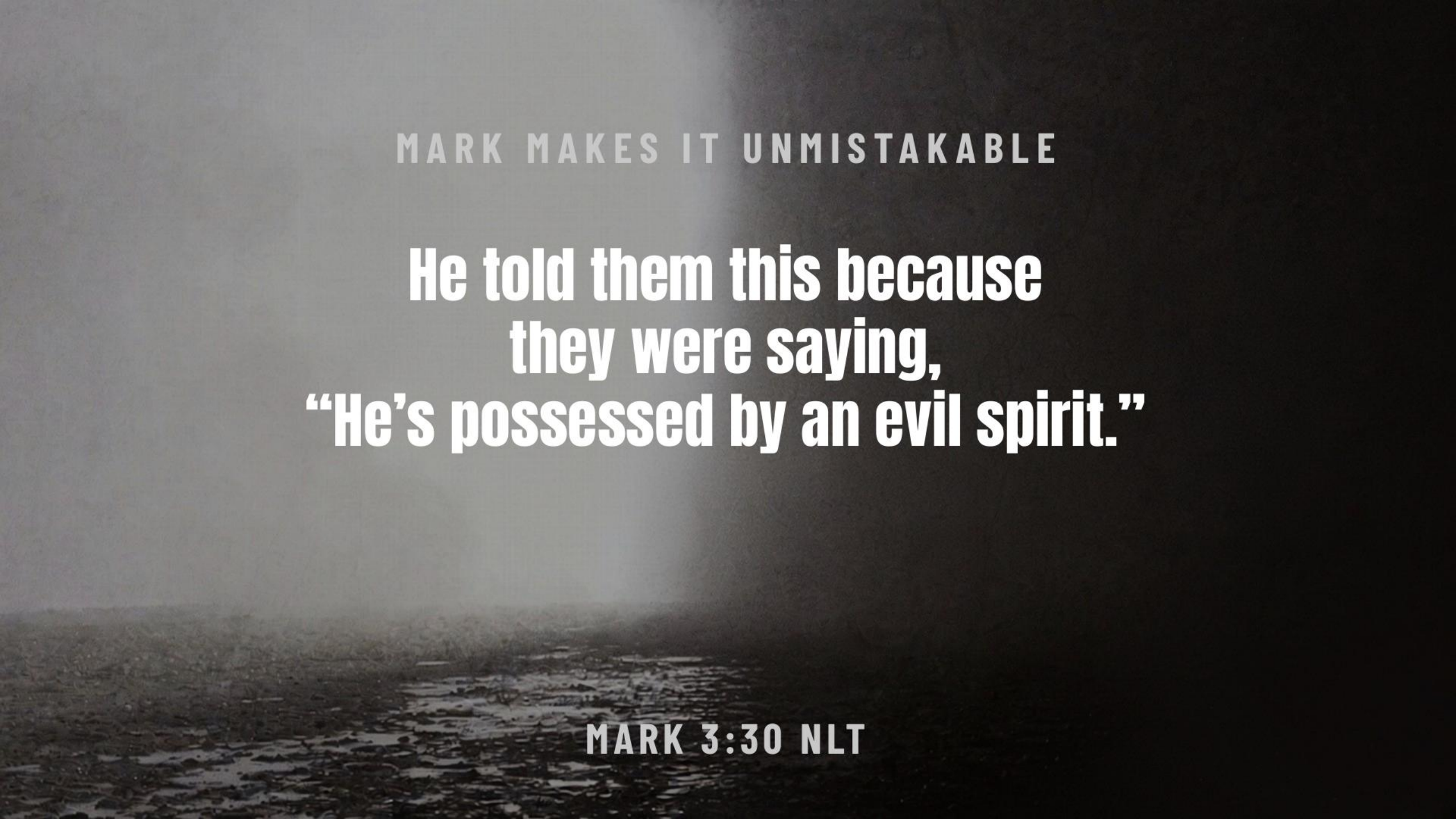

THIS IS THE CHARGE
They are calling
God's kingdom
Satan's kingdom.
They're calling Light, Darkness.

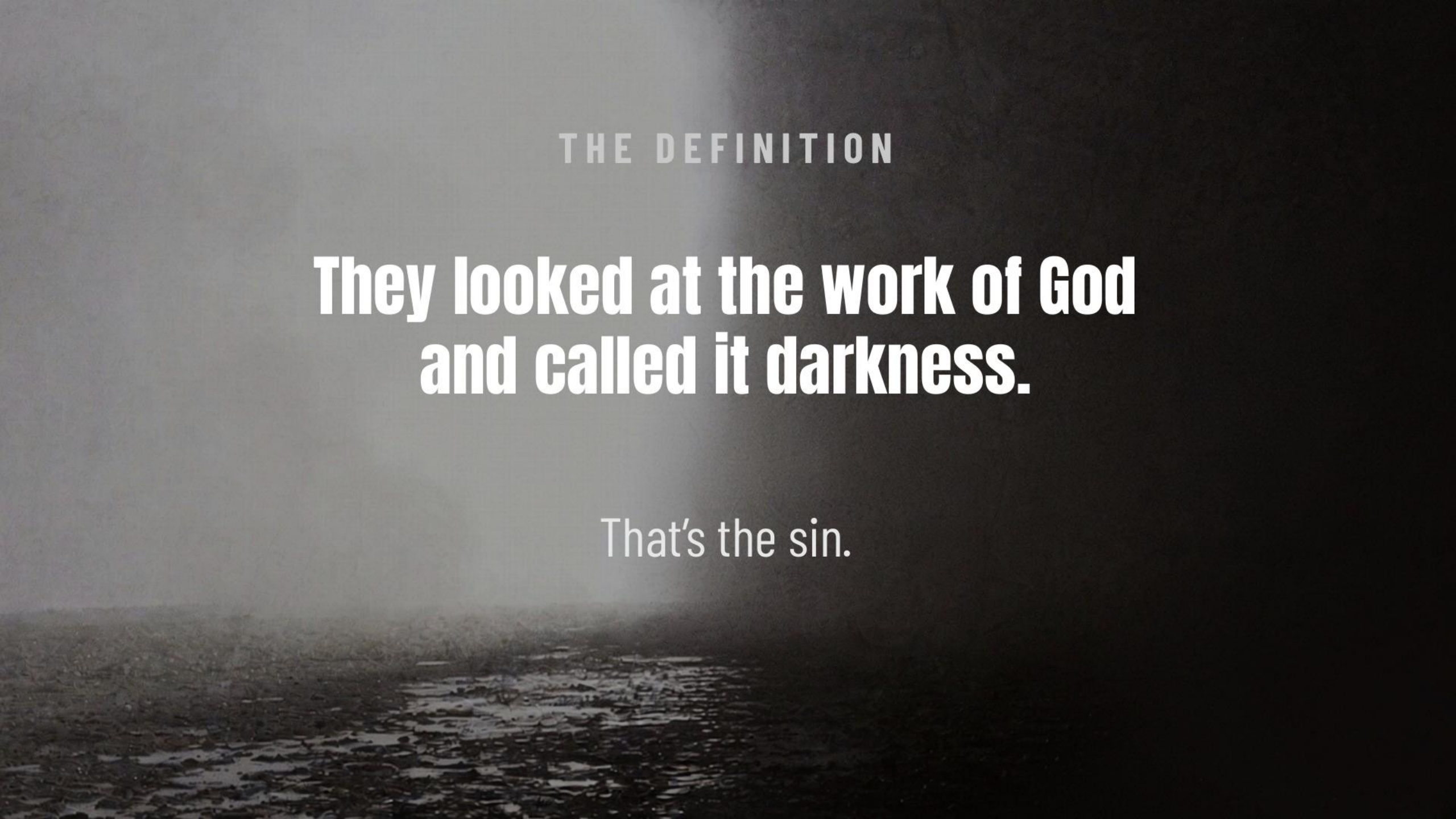


MATTHEW 12:31-32 NIV

Every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

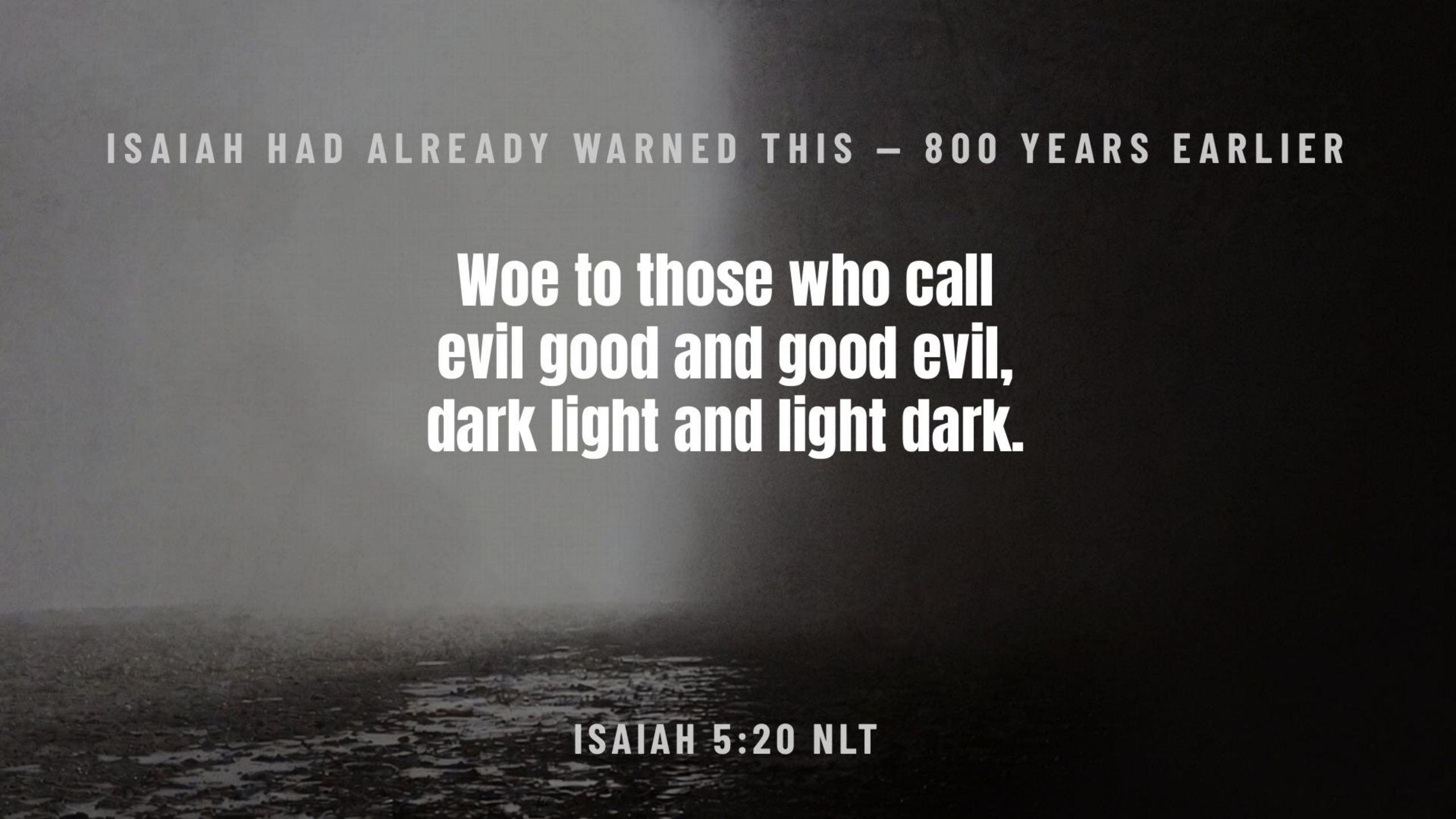
Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven — either in this age or in the age to come.

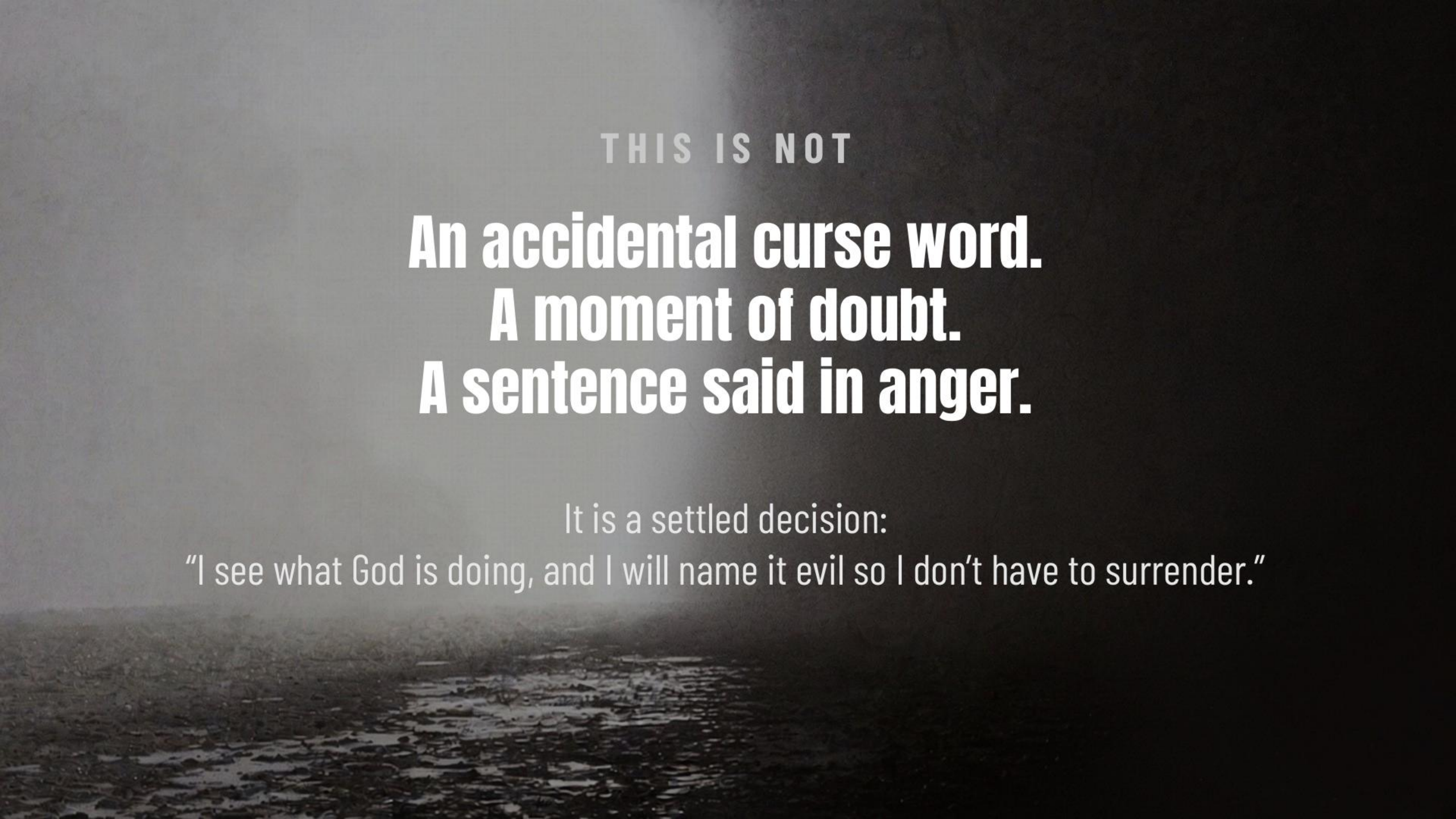

MARK MAKES IT UNMISTAKABLE
He told them this because
they were saying,
“He’s possessed by an evil spirit.”
MARK 3:30 NLT

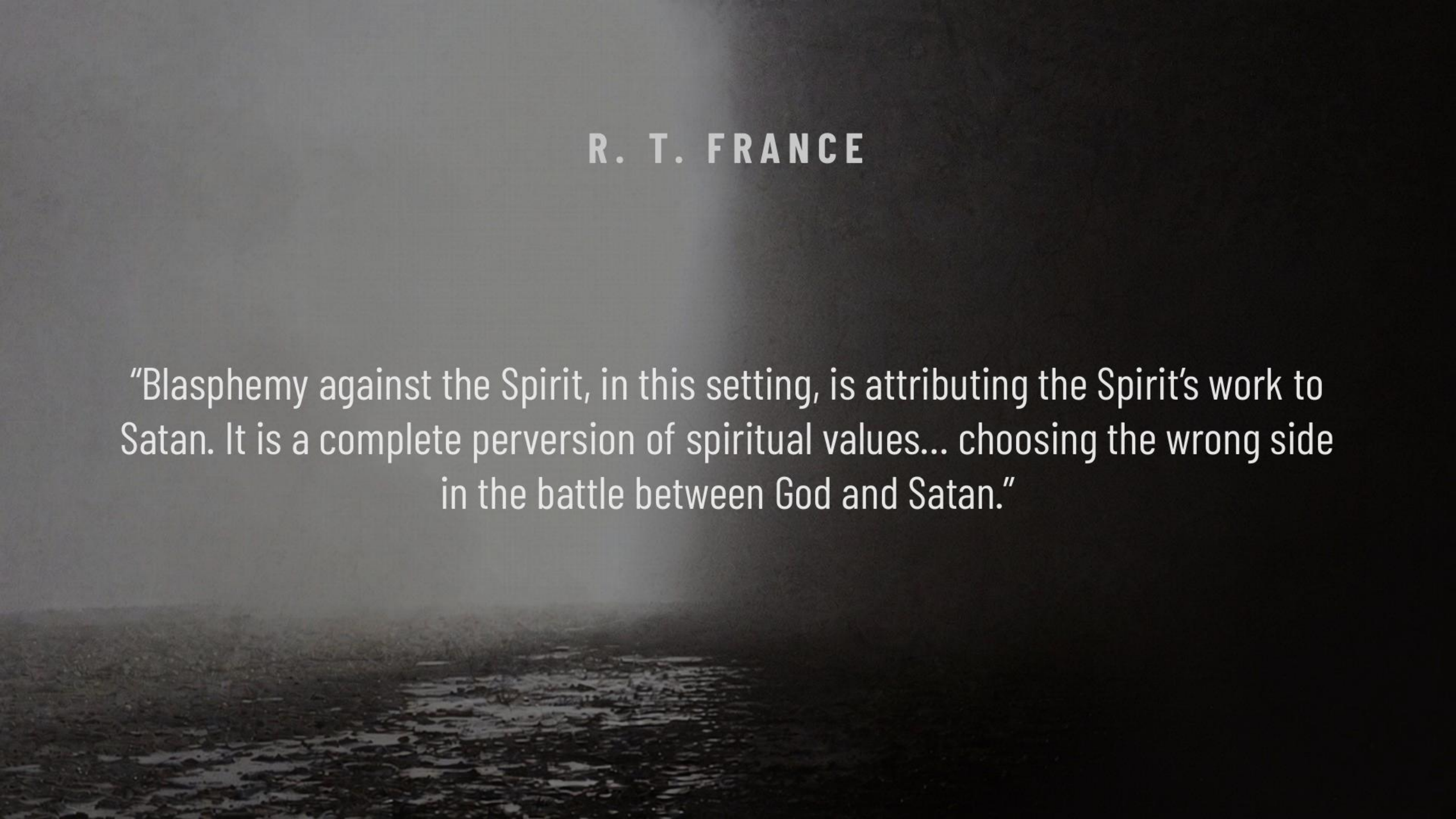

THE DEFINITION
They looked at the work of God
and called it darkness.
That's the sin.


IMAGINE YOUR HOUSE IS ON FIRE
The fire department arrives.
They're putting out the fire and pulling people out.
You refuse to leave. You scream:
"These guys aren't firefighters. They're arsonists."


MORE THAN UNGRATEFUL
You're making it impossible for anyone to help you.
The only Person who can save you —
you've decided is the enemy.


ISAIAH HAD ALREADY WARNED THIS — 800 YEARS EARLIER
Woe to those who call
evil good and good evil,
dark light and light dark.
ISAIAH 5:20 NLT


THIS IS NOT
An accidental curse word.
A moment of doubt.
A sentence said in anger.
It is a settled decision:
“I see what God is doing, and I will name it evil so I don’t have to surrender.”

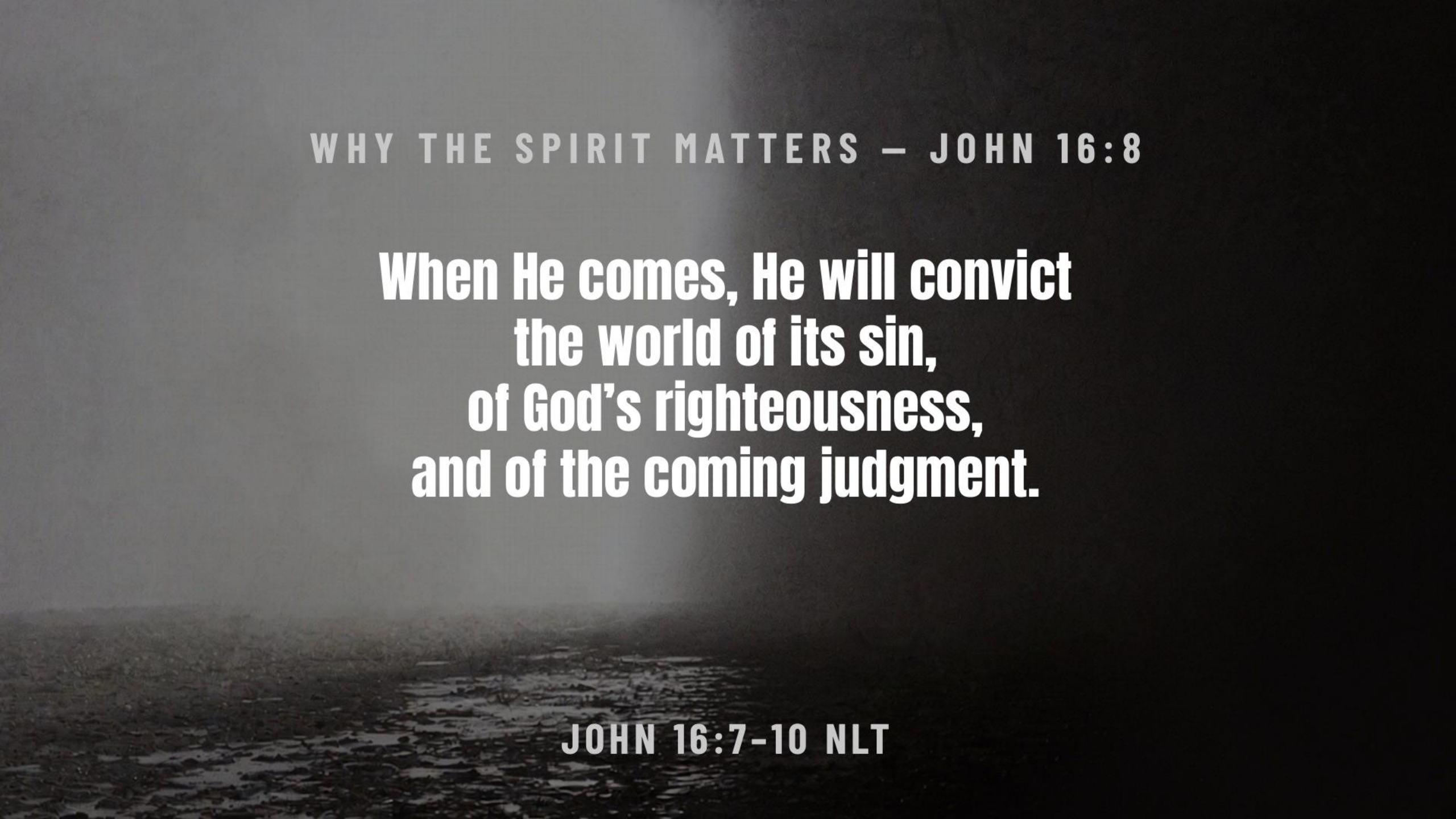


R. T. FRANCE

"Blasphemy against the Spirit, in this setting, is attributing the Spirit's work to Satan. It is a complete perversion of spiritual values... choosing the wrong side in the battle between God and Satan."


WHY IT CANNOT BE FORGIVEN
Not because God's grace ran out.
Because the person has slammed the door
on the only One who can convict them,
soften them, and lead them to repentance.

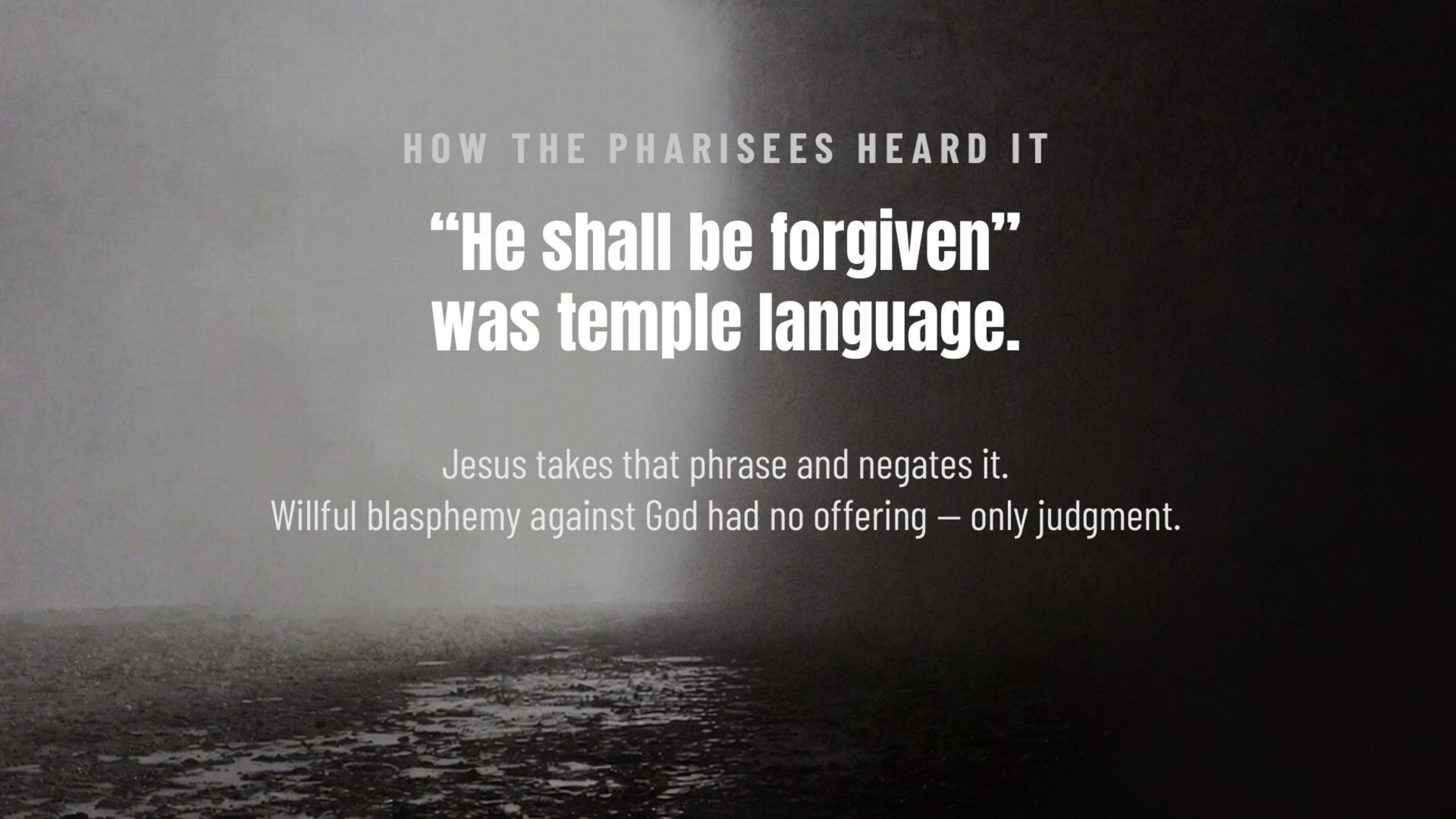

THE SIMPLEST WAY TO SAY IT
You can't be forgiven
if you keep calling
the medicine poison.


WHY THE SPIRIT MATTERS — JOHN 16:8
When He comes, He will convict
the world of its sin,
of God's righteousness,
and of the coming judgment.
JOHN 16:7-10 NLT

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU KEEP REFUSING

Call conviction “religious guilt.”
Call the Spirit “the devil.”

Eventually your conscience stops working.
Not because God stopped knocking.
Because you welded the door shut.



HOW THE PHARISEES HEARD IT

“He shall be forgiven” was temple language.

Jesus takes that phrase and negates it.
Willful blasphemy against God had no offering — only judgment.

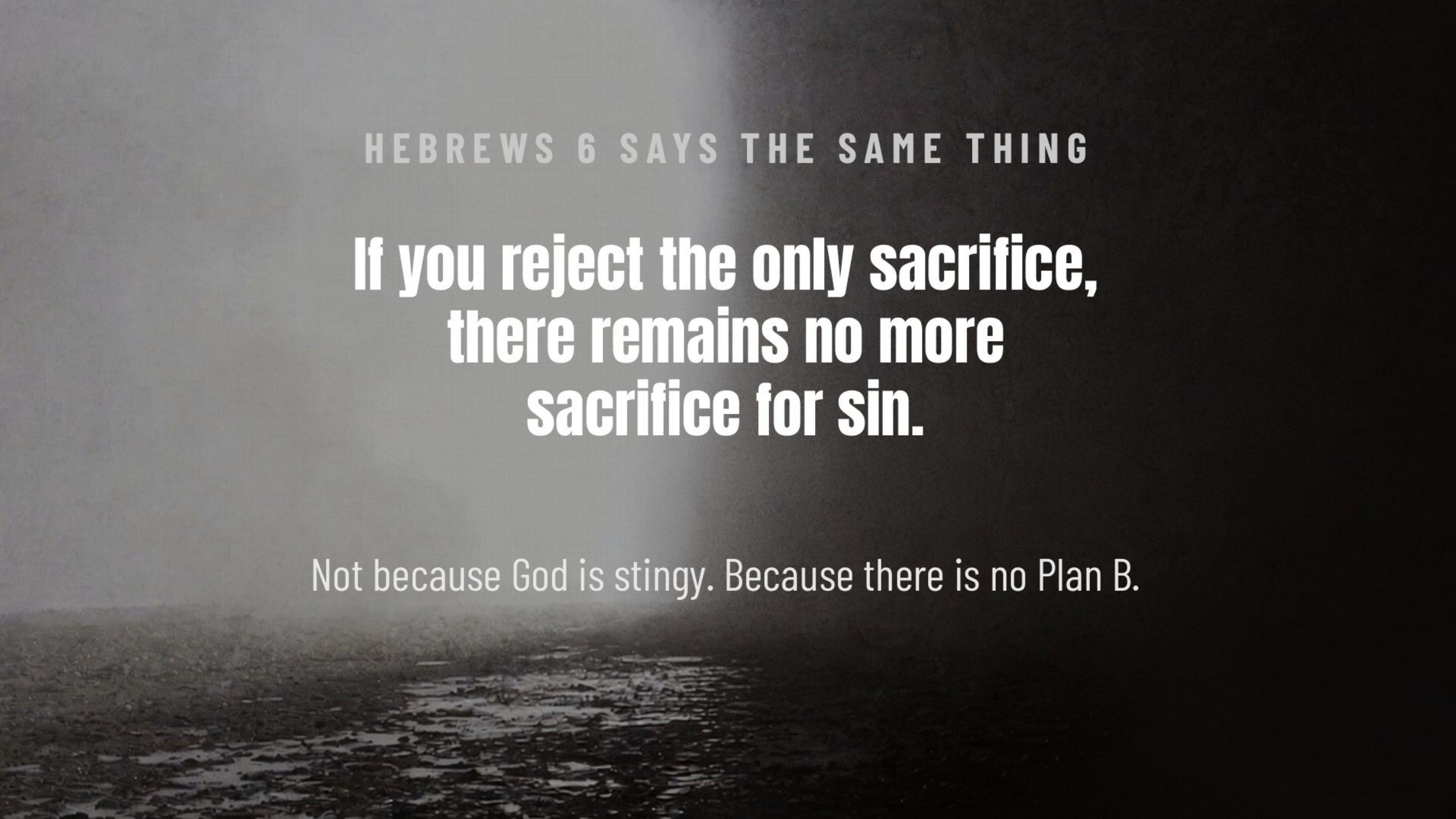
HEAR IT THE WAY THEY HEARD IT

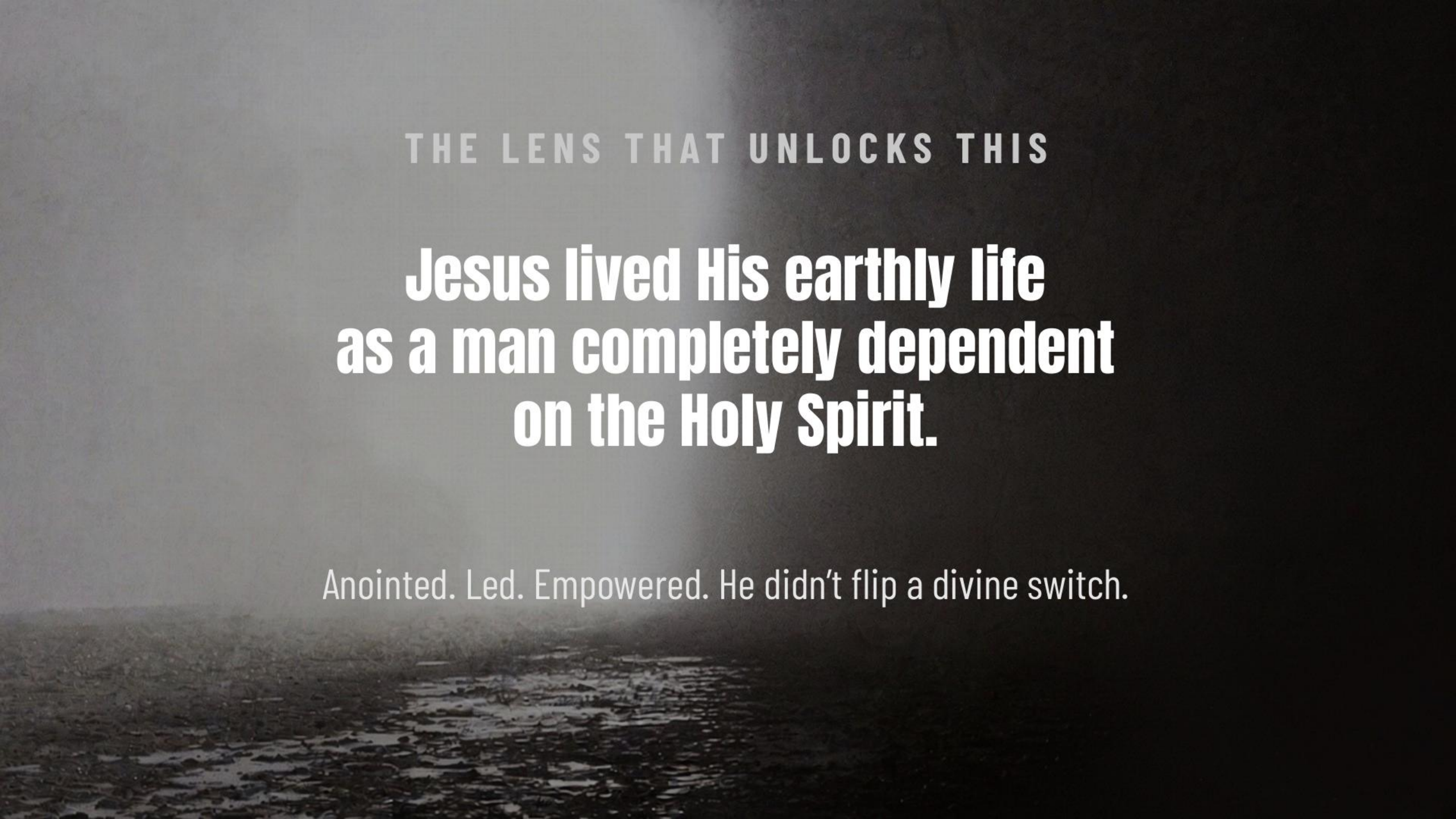
1. “Will not be forgiven” is temple language turned inside out.

2. This is rejecting the source of salvation — looking at the Messiah and calling His Spirit Satan.

3. If that is where your heart stays, there is no other sacrifice left.


MATTHEW 12:32
This life and the next.
If you die still calling God's kingdom Satan's kingdom,
the verdict follows you.

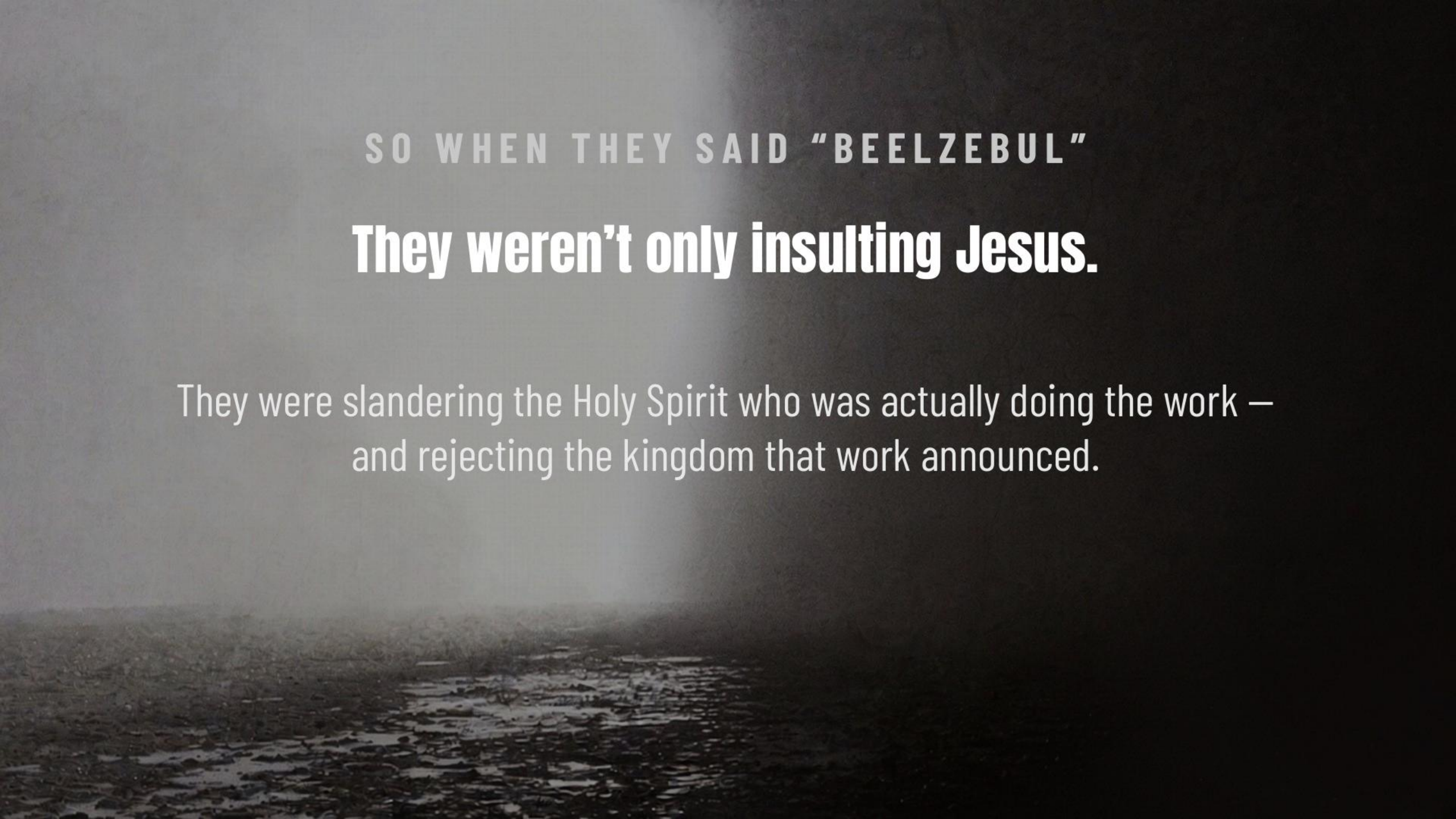

HEBREWS 6 SAYS THE SAME THING
If you reject the only sacrifice, there remains no more sacrifice for sin.
Not because God is stingy. Because there is no Plan B.


THE LENS THAT UNLOCKS THIS
Jesus lived His earthly life as a man completely dependent on the Holy Spirit.
Anointed. Led. Empowered. He didn't flip a divine switch.

ACTS 10:38 NIV

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with Him.


SO WHEN THEY SAID “BEELZEBUL”
They weren’t only insulting Jesus.
They were slandering the Holy Spirit who was actually doing the work —
and rejecting the kingdom that work announced.

TWO DIFFERENT CATEGORIES

AGAINST THE SON OF MAN

Can be forgiven.

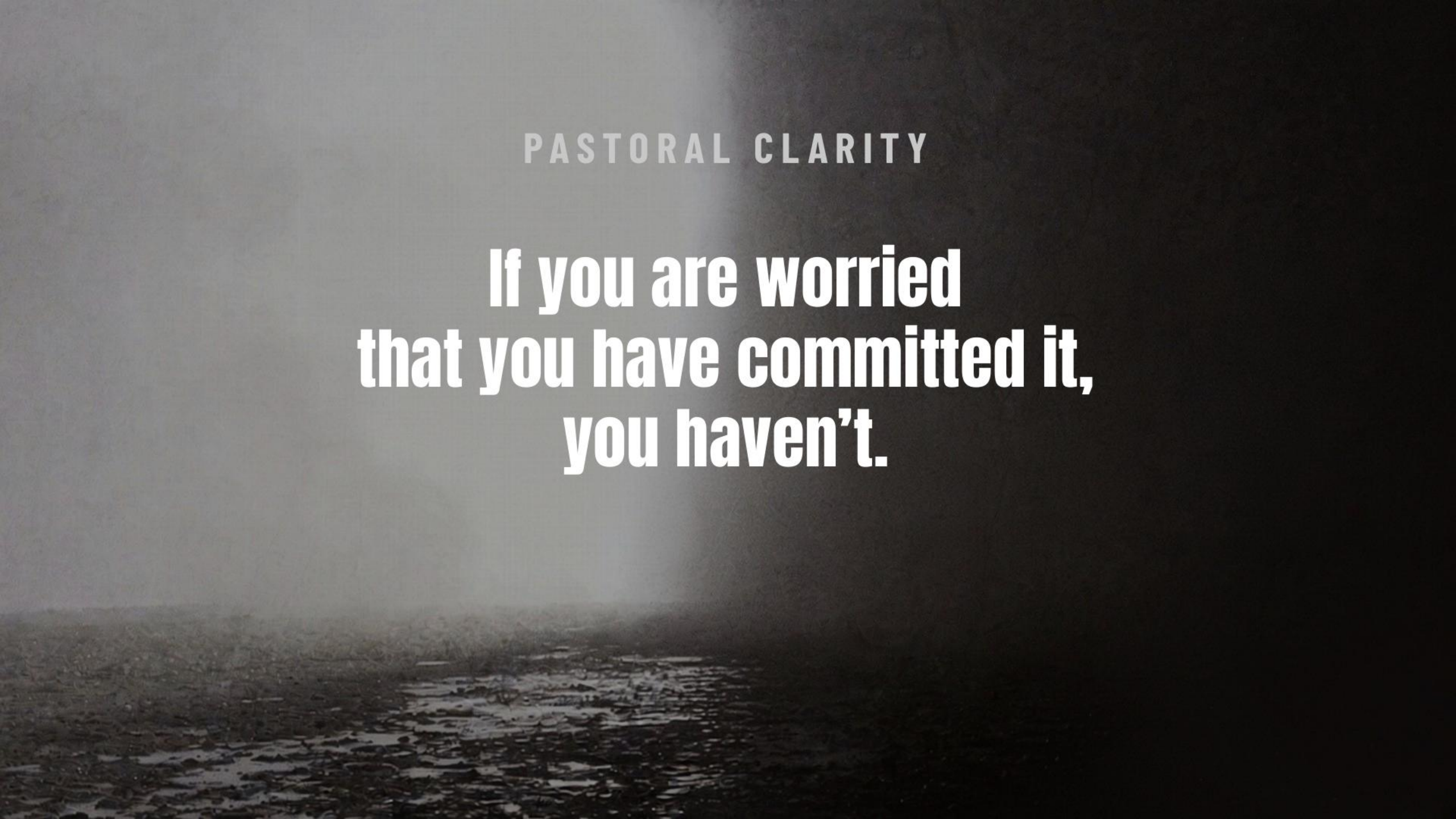
Peter denied Him three times
and was restored.

AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

Will not be forgiven.

Rejecting the agent of conviction
and spiritual life.


SO WHAT IS THE UNPARDONABLE SIN?
Not a single sentence
you said in anger.
It is a willful rejection of the Spirit's witness about Jesus —
calling His kingdom Satan's kingdom.


PASTORAL CLARITY
If you are worried
that you have committed it,
you haven’t.

HOW YOU CAN TELL

A seared conscience doesn't lose sleep over this.

A heart that still feels conviction, still wants to be right with God, still flinches at the thought of being cut off...

that heart is still being worked on by the Holy Spirit.

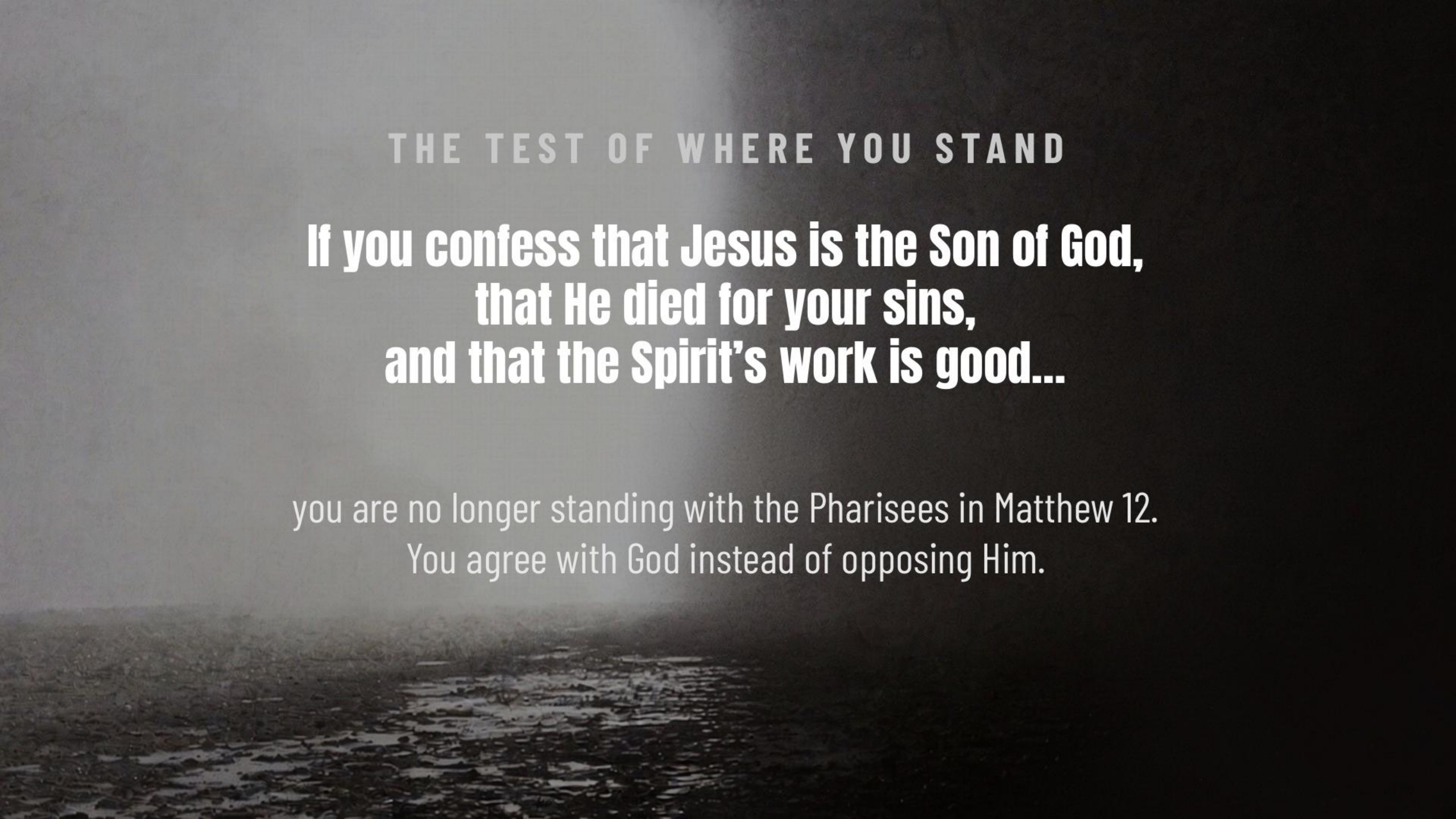

THE PEOPLE WHO COMMIT THIS SIN
They don't sit in church wondering if they did.
They sit outside the church and call the whole thing a scam.



ONE MORE PASTORAL NOTE

This warning may not lock a person out of later repentance.

Acts says some Pharisees later believed.
The New Testament is full of people who first called the movement a cult — then changed their minds.

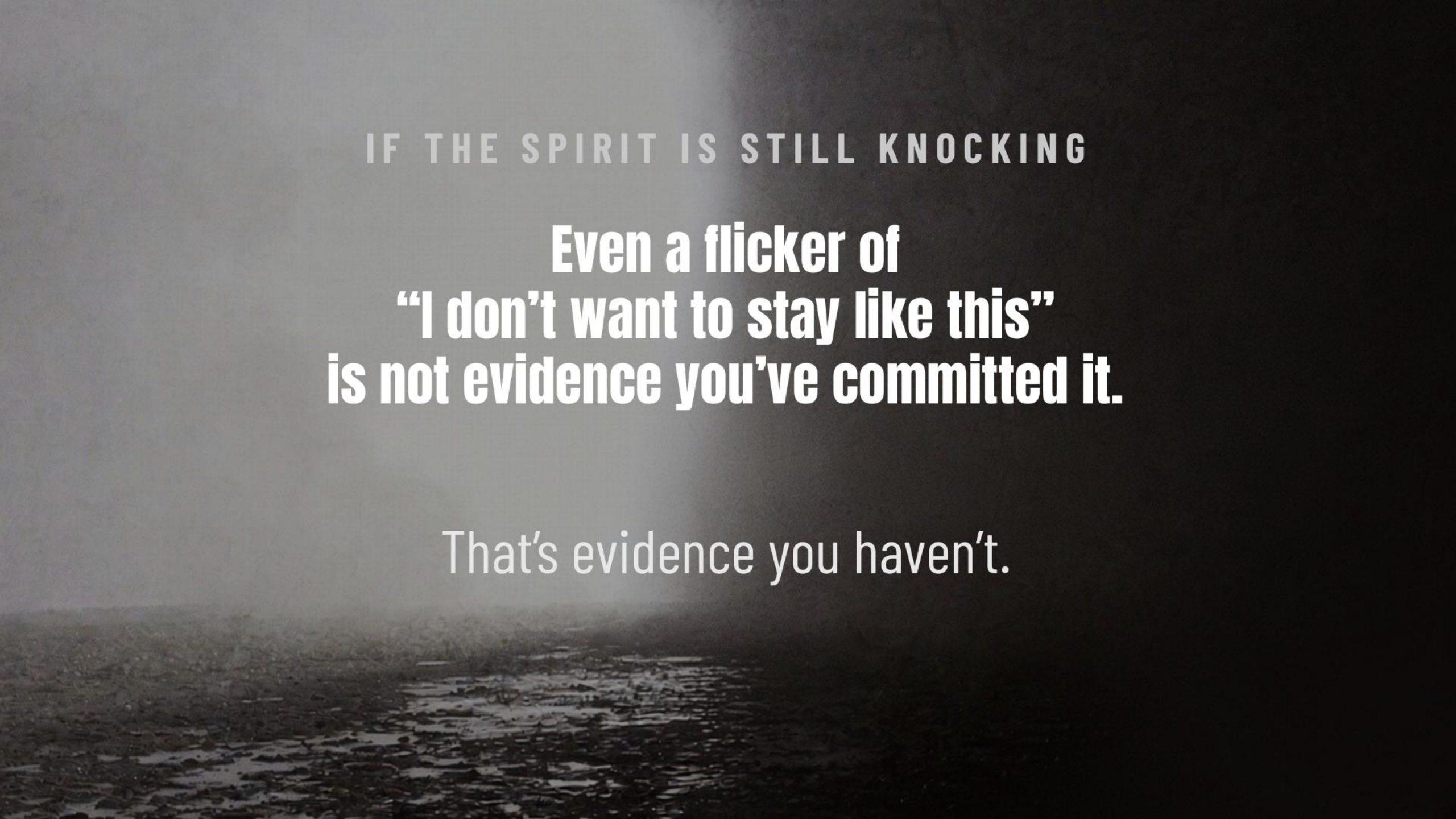


THE TEST OF WHERE YOU STAND

**If you confess that Jesus is the Son of God,
that He died for your sins,
and that the Spirit's work is good...**

you are no longer standing with the Pharisees in Matthew 12.
You agree with God instead of opposing Him.


THE GOOD NEWS IS WIDE
Every sin and blasphemy
can be forgiven.
Every one.
The only people who miss it are the ones who refuse the Forgiver.


IF THE SPIRIT IS STILL KNOCKING
Even a flicker of
“I don’t want to stay like this”
is not evidence you’ve committed it.
That’s evidence you haven’t.