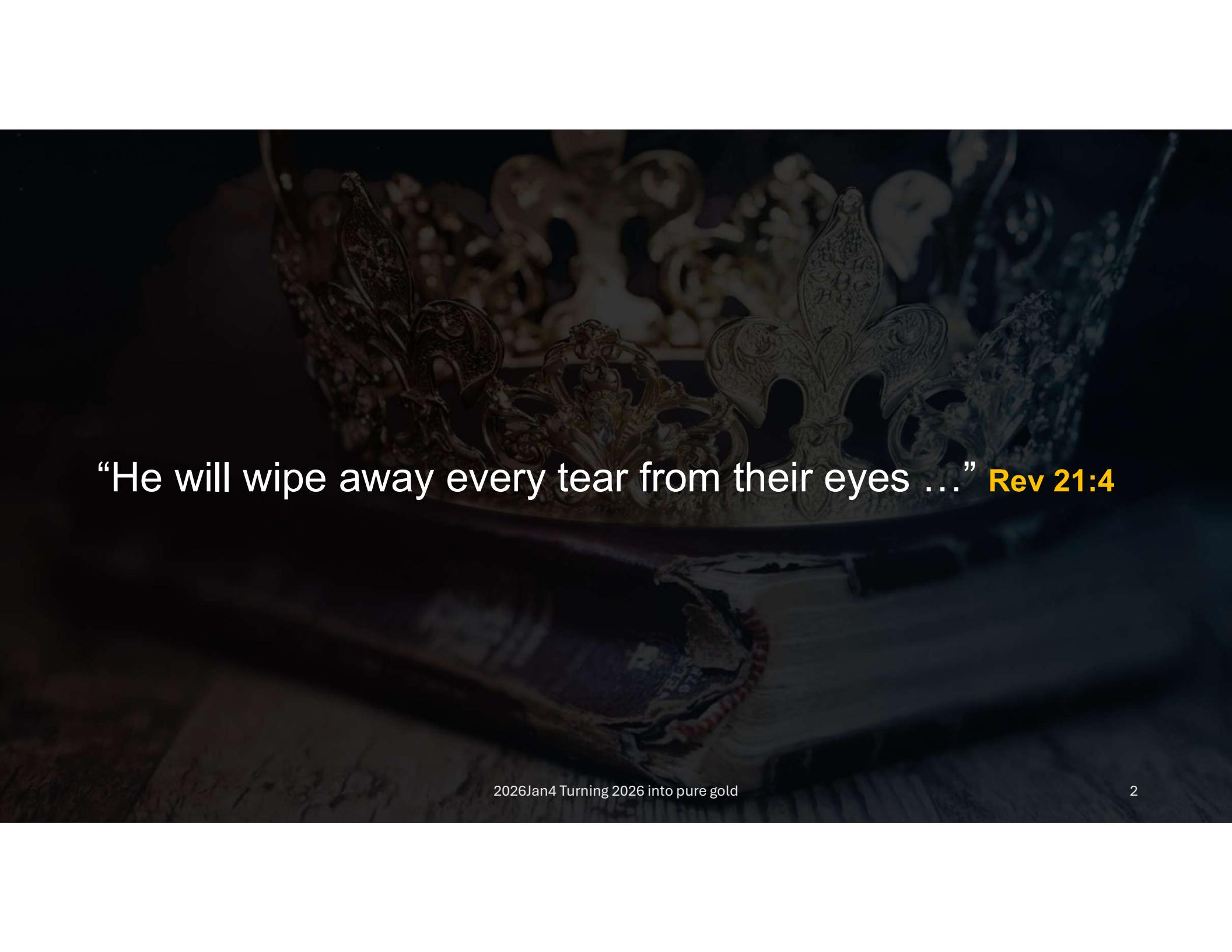
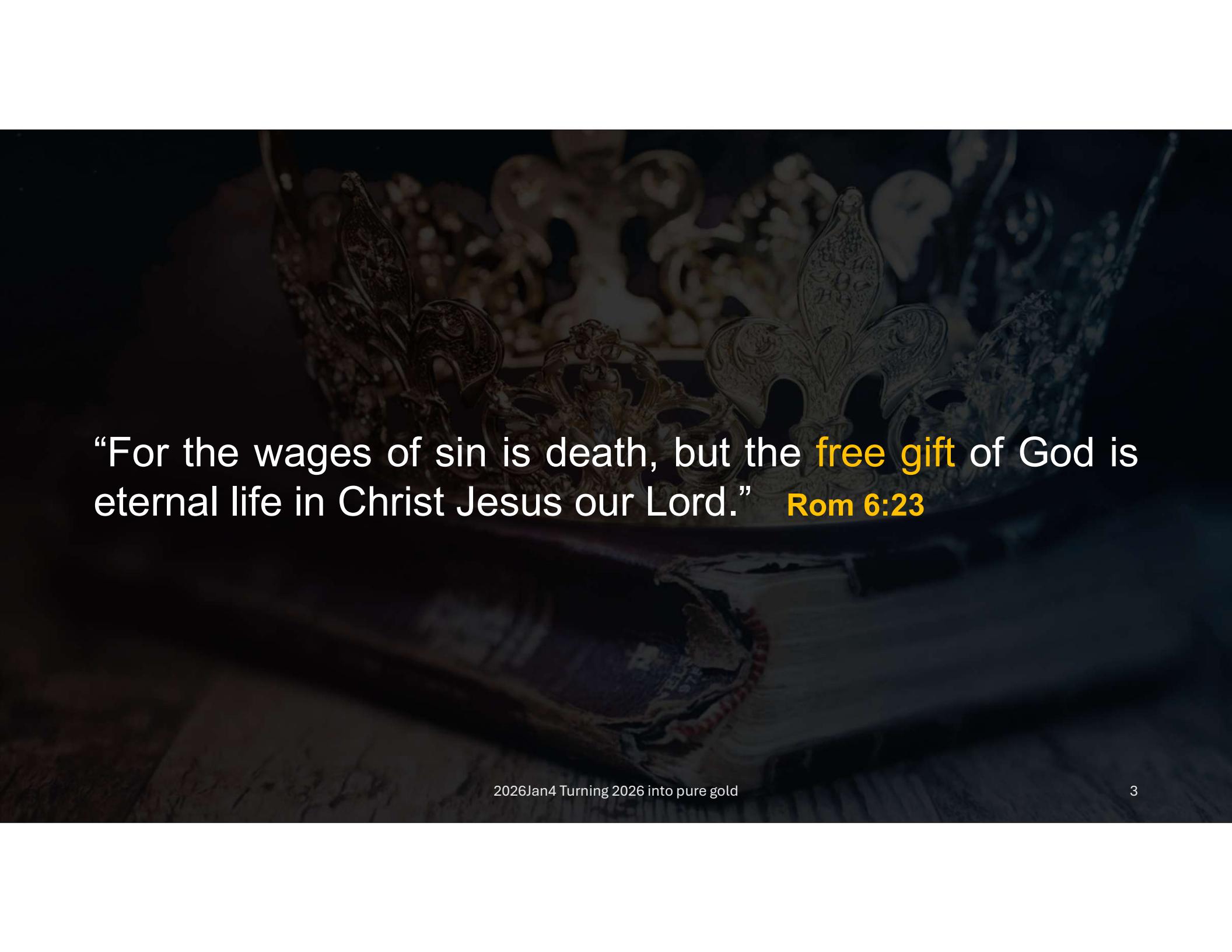




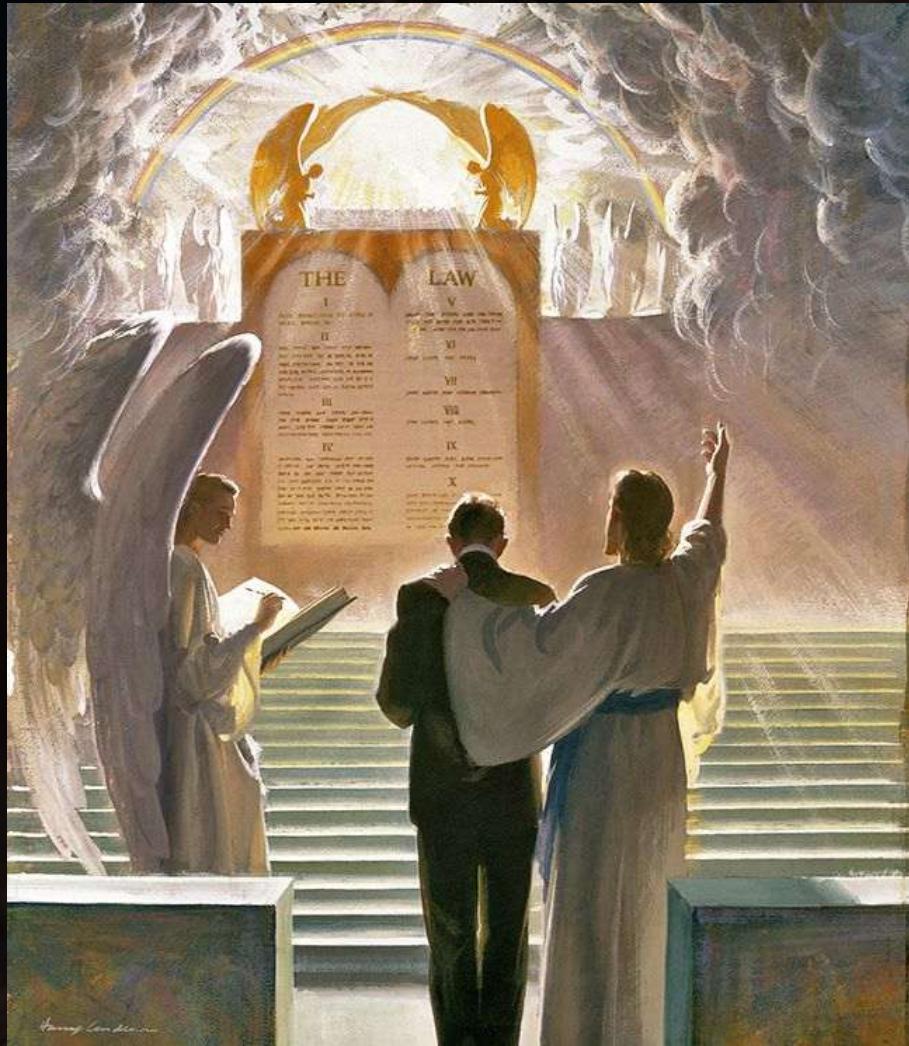
Turning
2026 into
pure gold



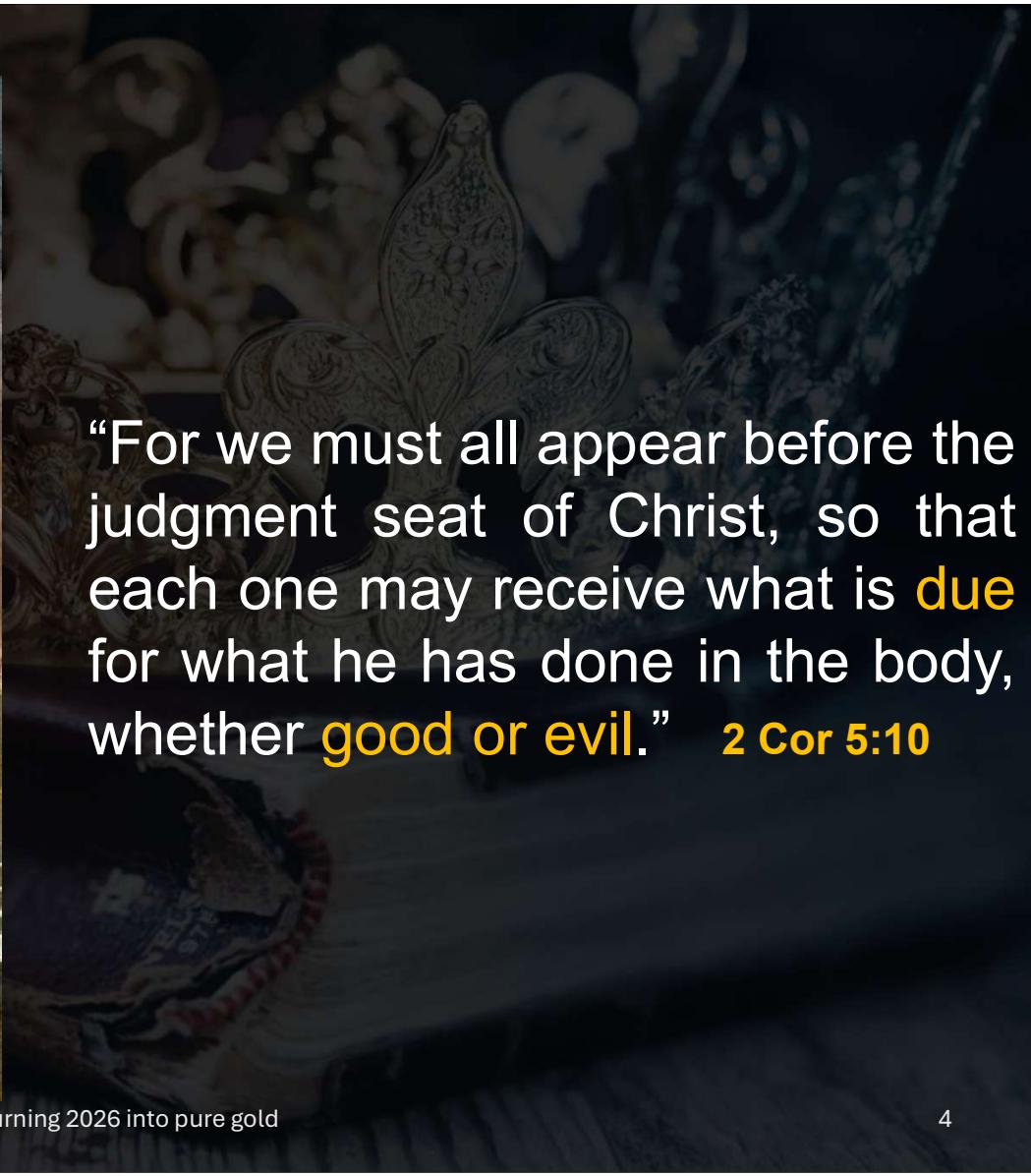
“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes ...” **Rev 21:4**



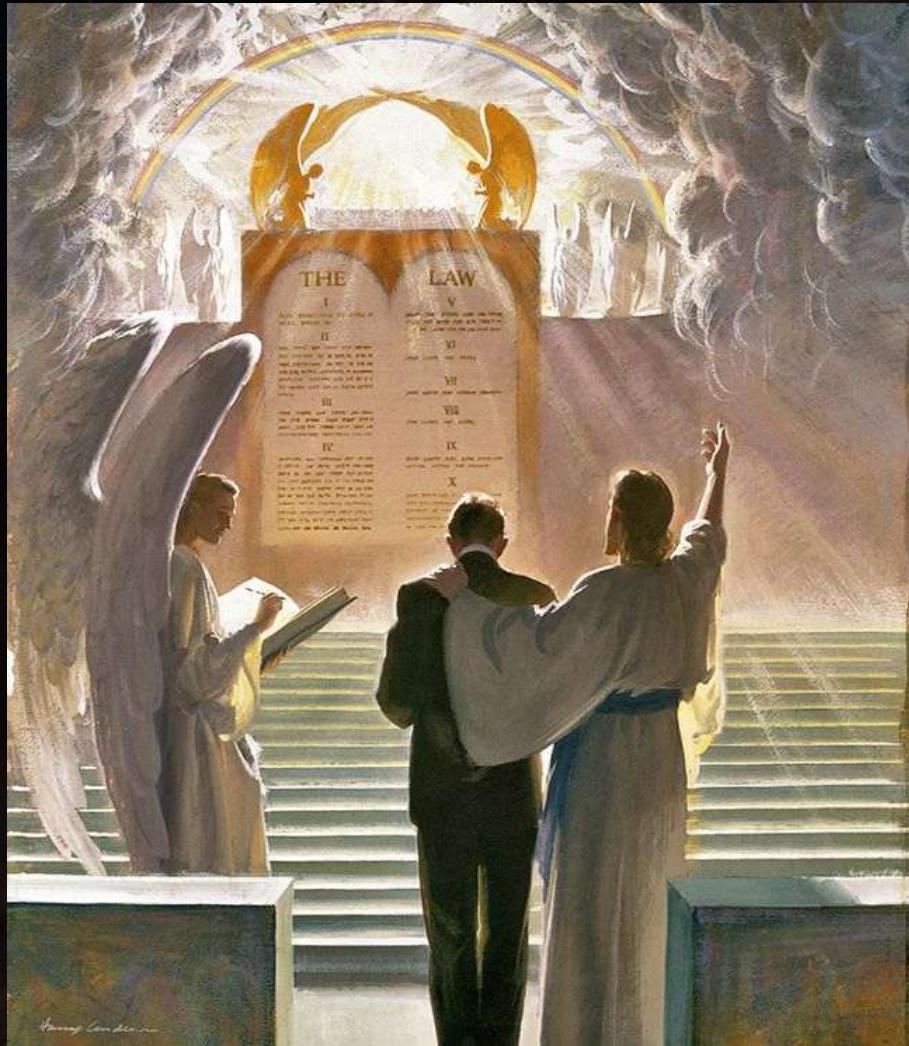
“For the wages of sin is death, but the **free gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **Rom 6:23**



2026Jan4 Turning 2026 into pure gold

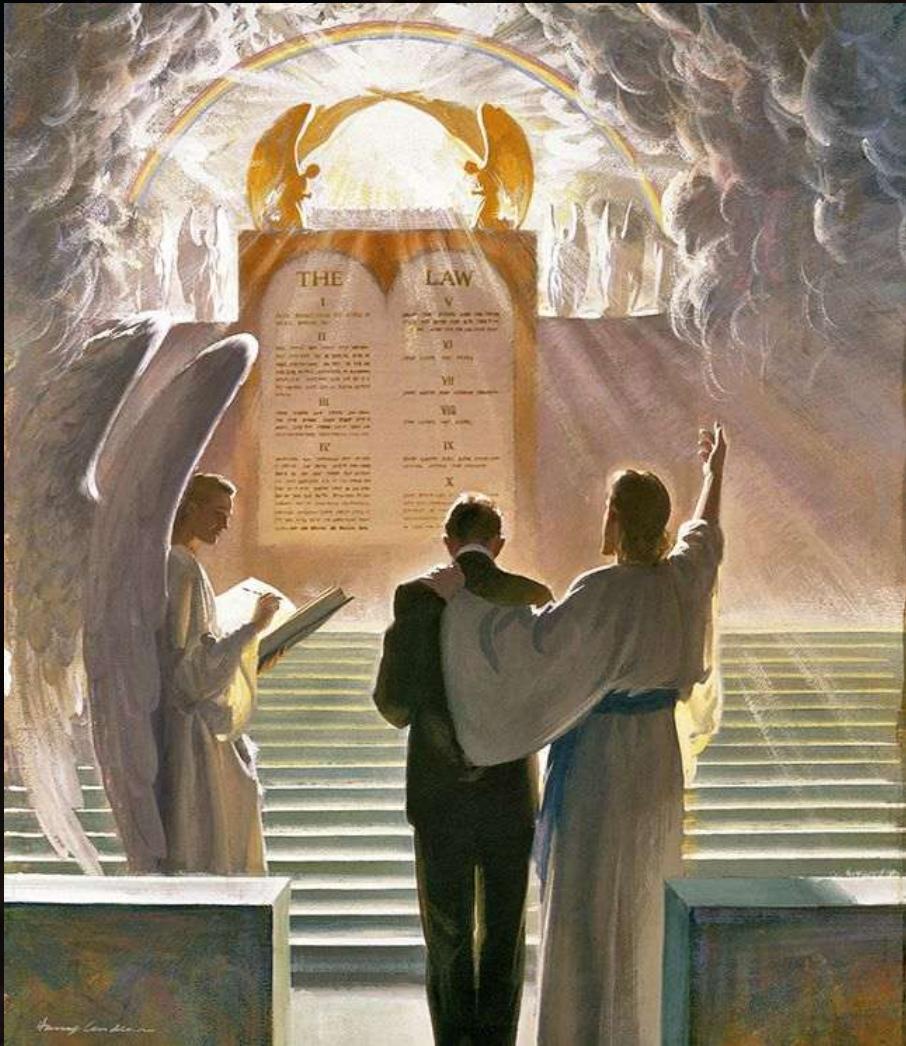


“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether **good or evil.**” **2 Cor 5:10**



2026Jan4 Turning 2026 into pure gold

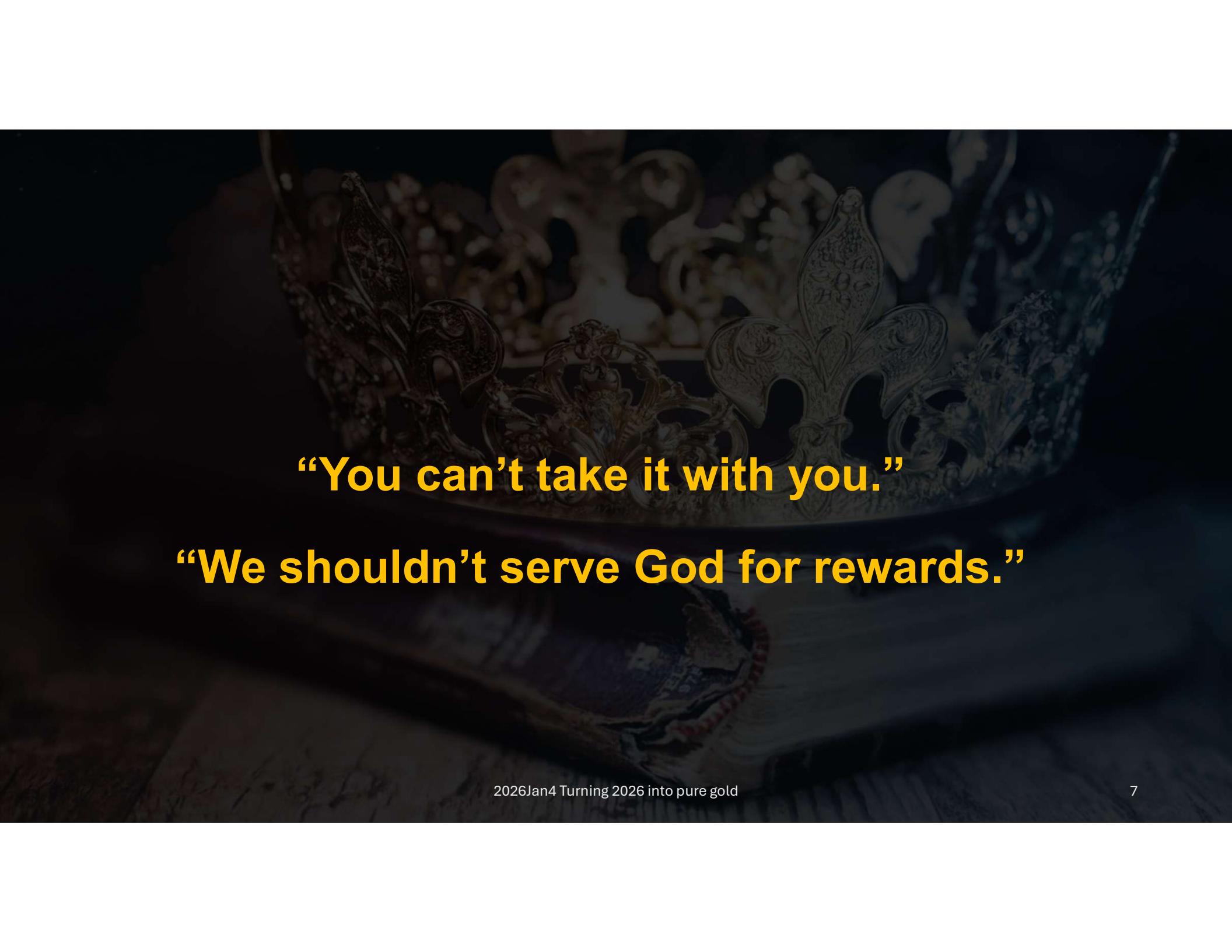
“According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹ For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw –



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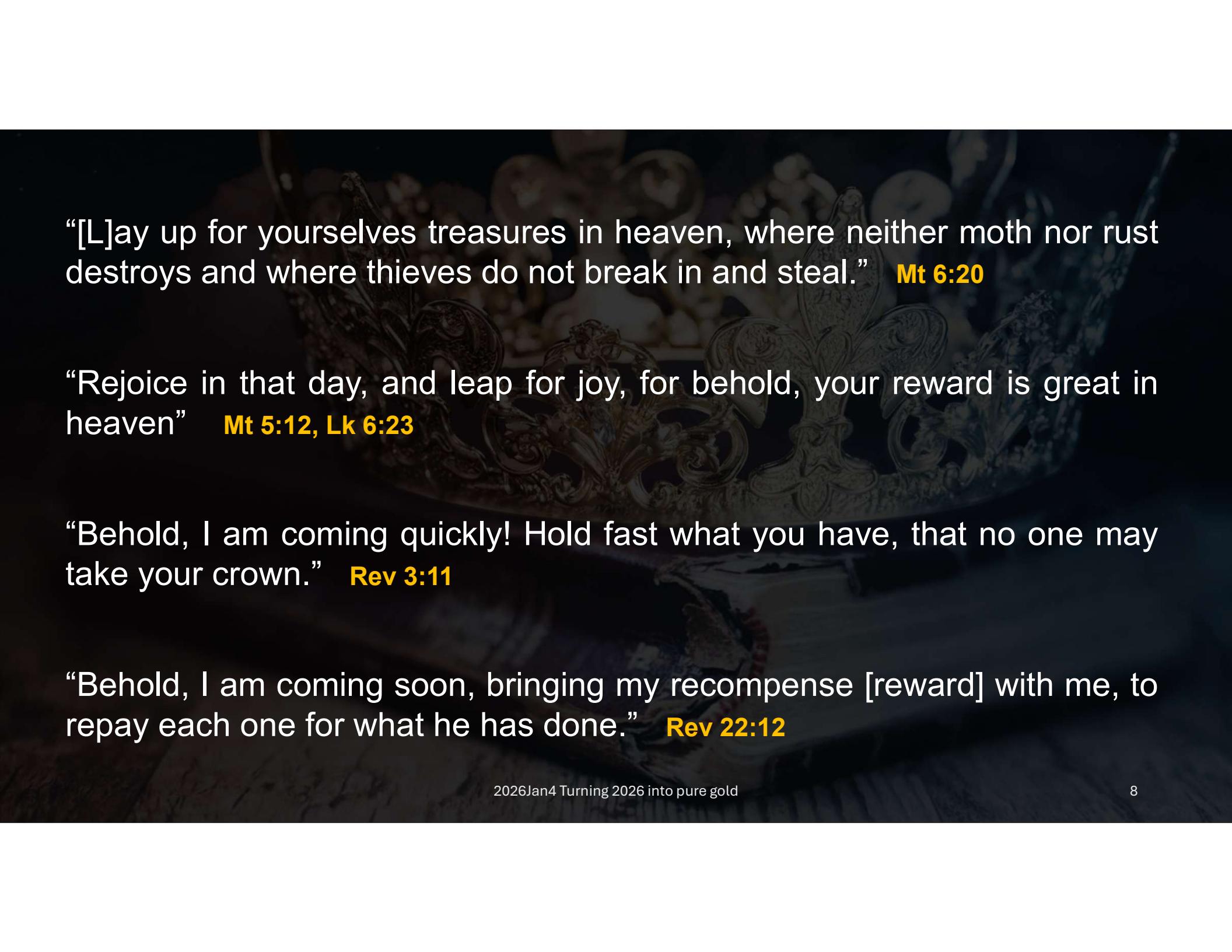
¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test **what sort of work** each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a **reward**. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire."

1 Cor 3:10-15



“You can’t take it with you.”

“We shouldn’t serve God for rewards.”

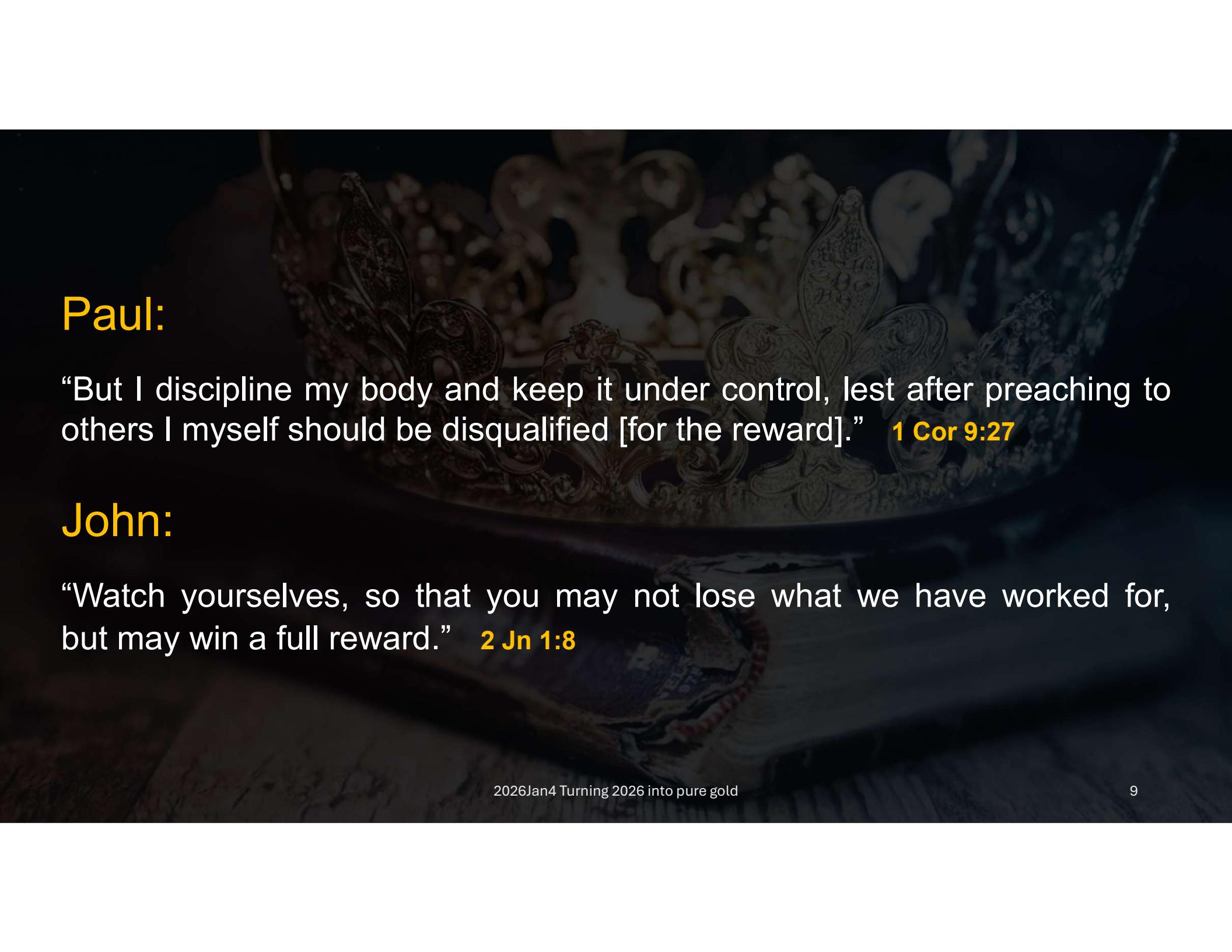


“[L]ay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.” **Mt 6:20**

“Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven” **Mt 5:12, Lk 6:23**

“Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” **Rev 3:11**

“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense [reward] with me, to repay each one for what he has done.” **Rev 22:12**

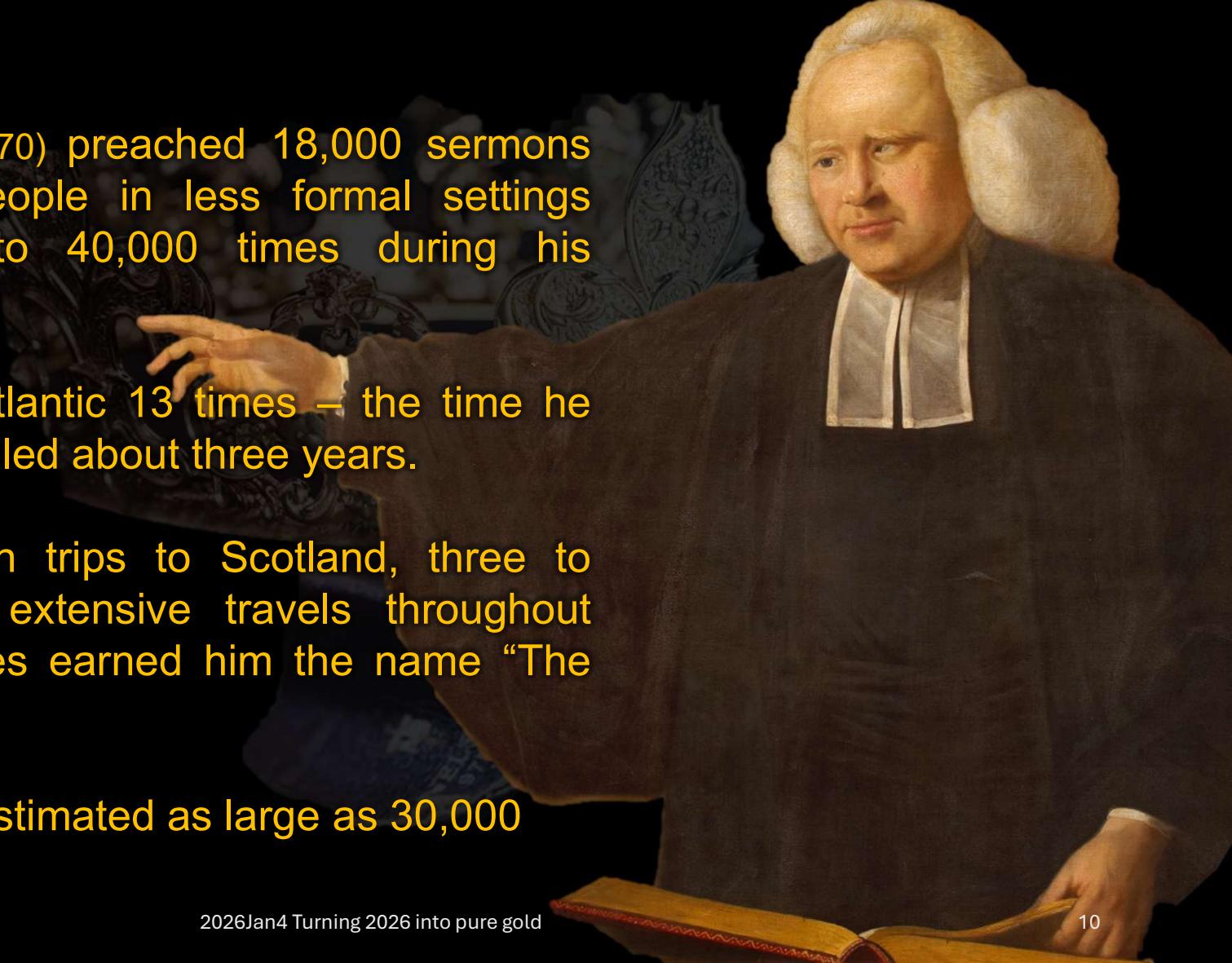


Paul:

“But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified [for the reward].” **1 Cor 9:27**

John:

“Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a full reward.” **2 Jn 1:8**



Whitefield (1714-1770) preached 18,000 sermons and instructed people in less formal settings another 30,000 to 40,000 times during his lifetime.

He crossed the Atlantic 13 times – the time he spent doing so totaled about three years.

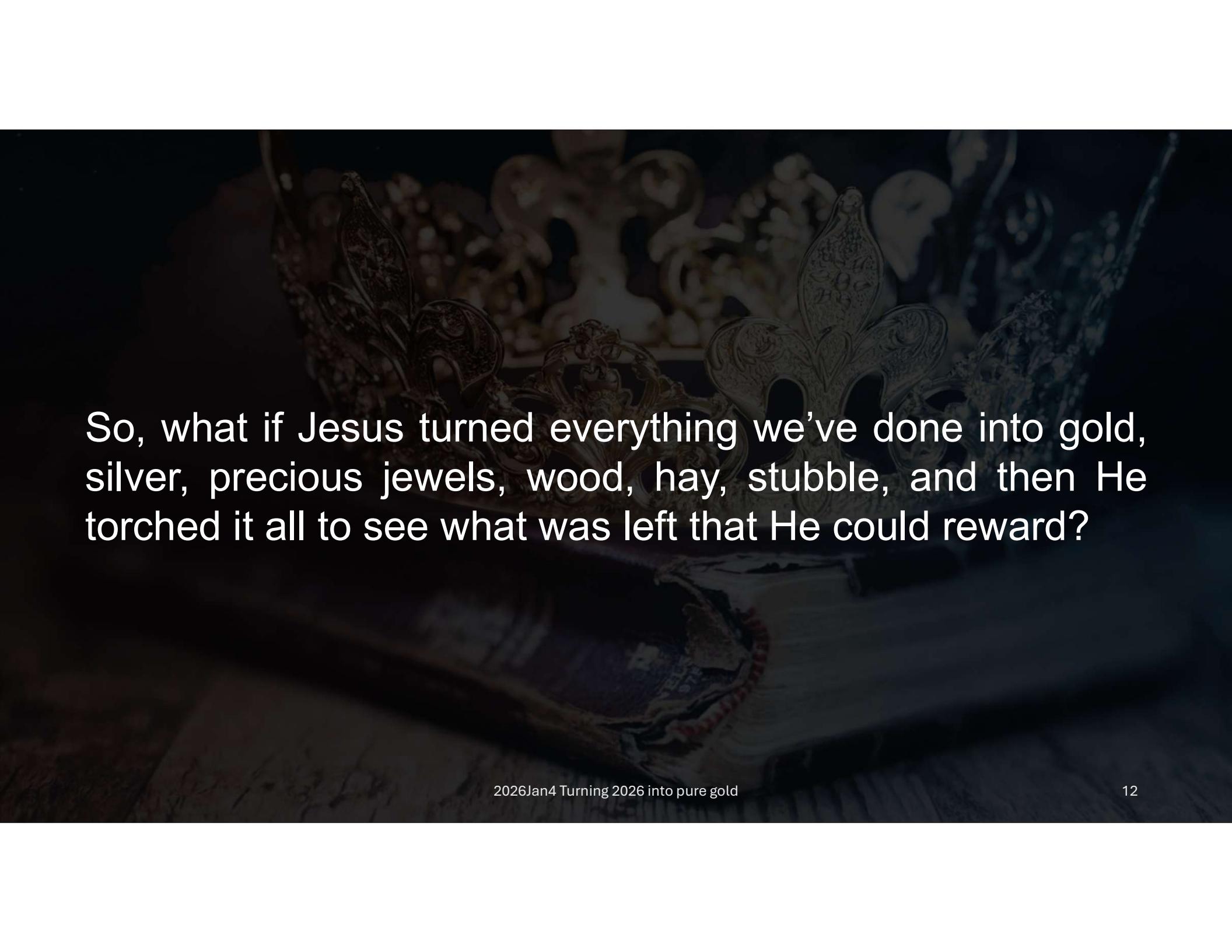
He made fourteen trips to Scotland, three to Ireland, and his extensive travels throughout England and Wales earned him the name “The Grand Itinerant.”

Spoke to crowds estimated as large as 30,000

“The Archbishop of Canterbury in 1675 was acquainted with Mr. Thomas Betterton the [actor]. One day the Archbishop . . . said to Betterton . . . ‘what is the reason you actors on stage can affect your congregations with speaking of things imaginary, as if they were real, while we in church speak of things real, which our congregations only receive as if they were imaginary?’

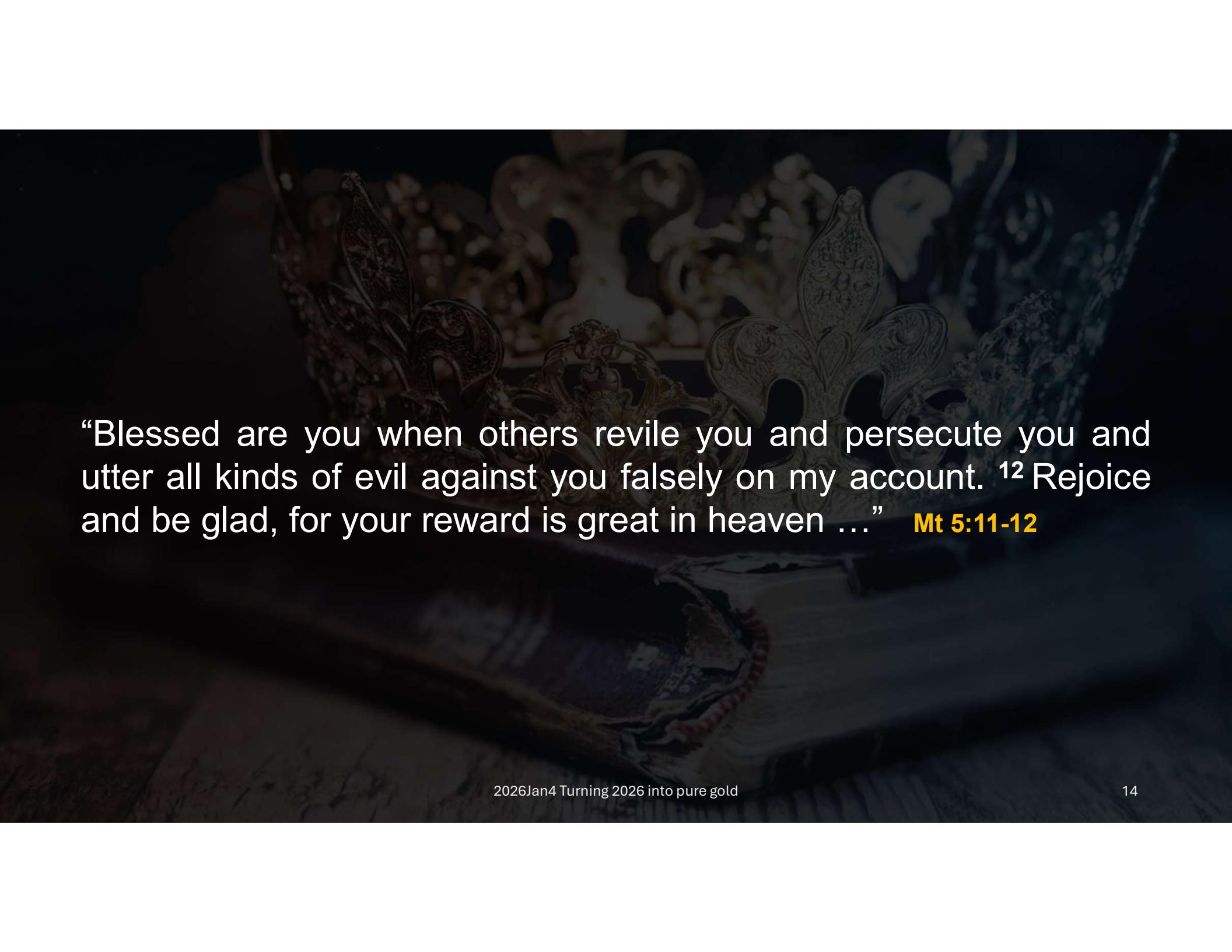
‘Why my Lord,’ says Betterton, ‘the reason is very plain. We actors on stage speak of things imaginary, as if they were real and you in the pulpit speak of things real as if they were imaginary.’”

“Therefore,” added Whitefield, ‘I will bawl [shout loudly], I will not be a velvet-mouthed preacher.”

A dark, artistic background featuring a crown and a hand holding a small object.

So, what if Jesus turned everything we've done into gold, silver, precious jewels, wood, hay, stubble, and then He torched it all to see what was left that He could reward?

1. Accepting injustice faithfully



“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven ...” **Mt 5:11-12**



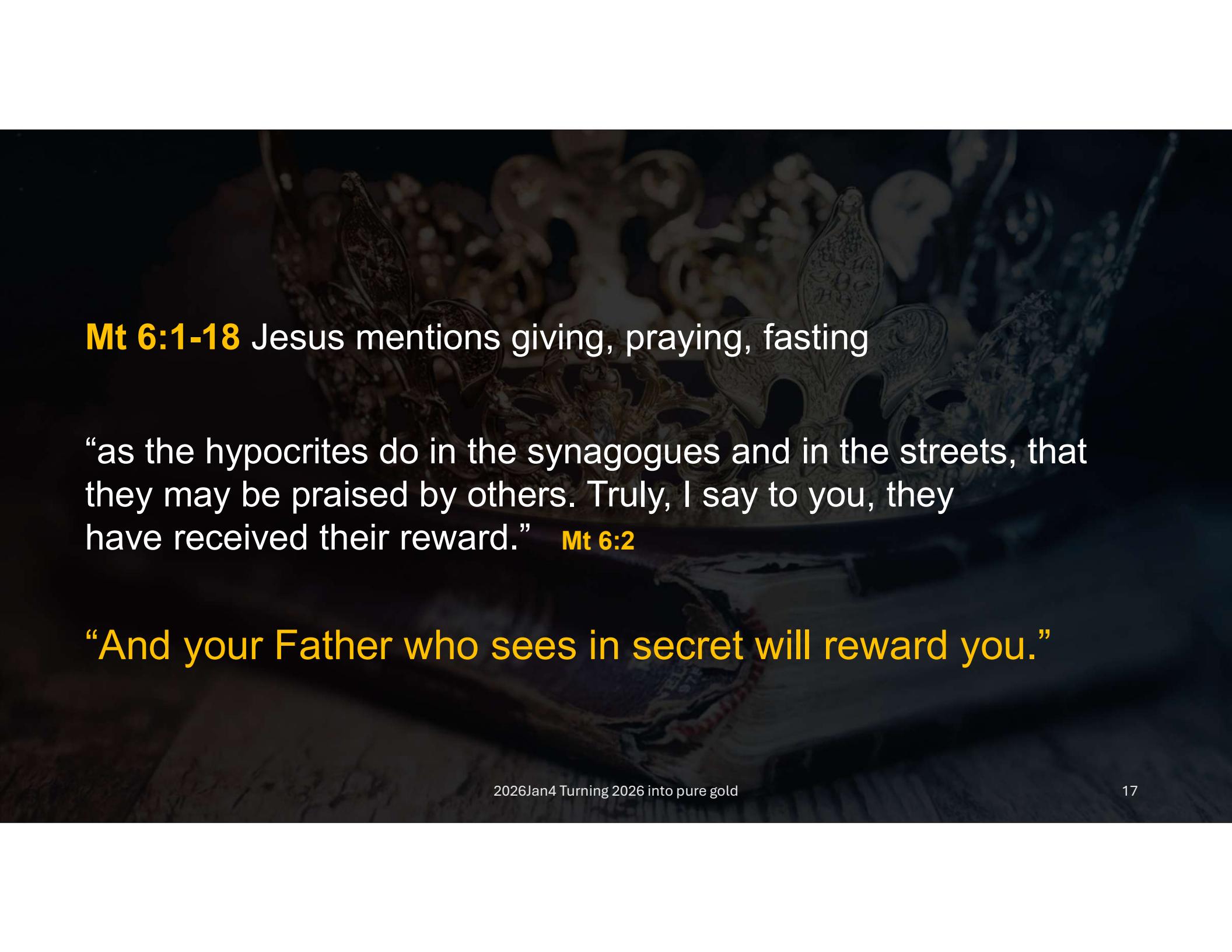
Old South Presbyterian Church
Newburyport, M

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“I am content to wait for the day of judgment for the clearing up of my character: and after I am dead, I desire no other epitaph than this, ‘here lies G.W. what sort of man he was the great day will discover.’”



2. Living a disciplined life without expecting the praise of others

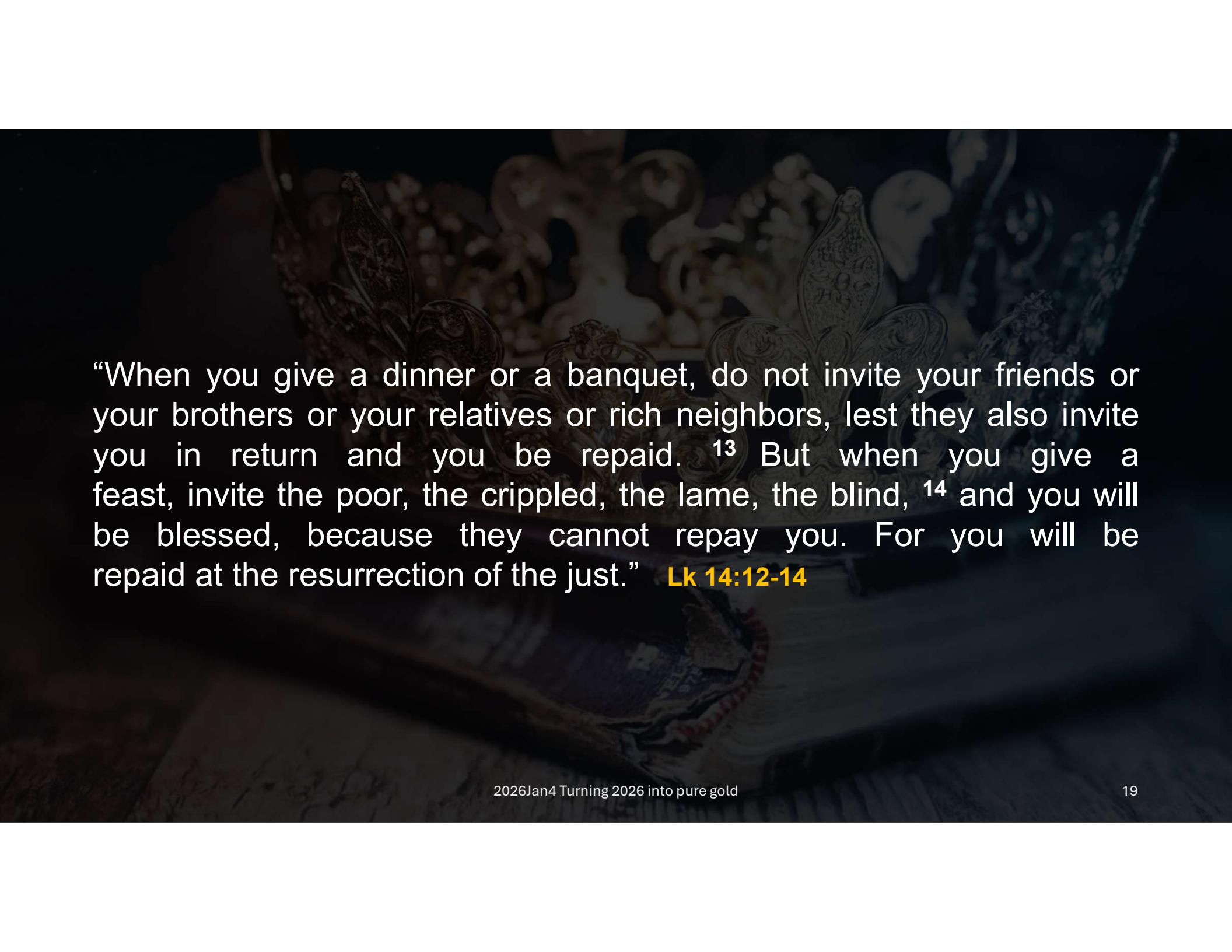


Mt 6:1-18 Jesus mentions giving, praying, fasting

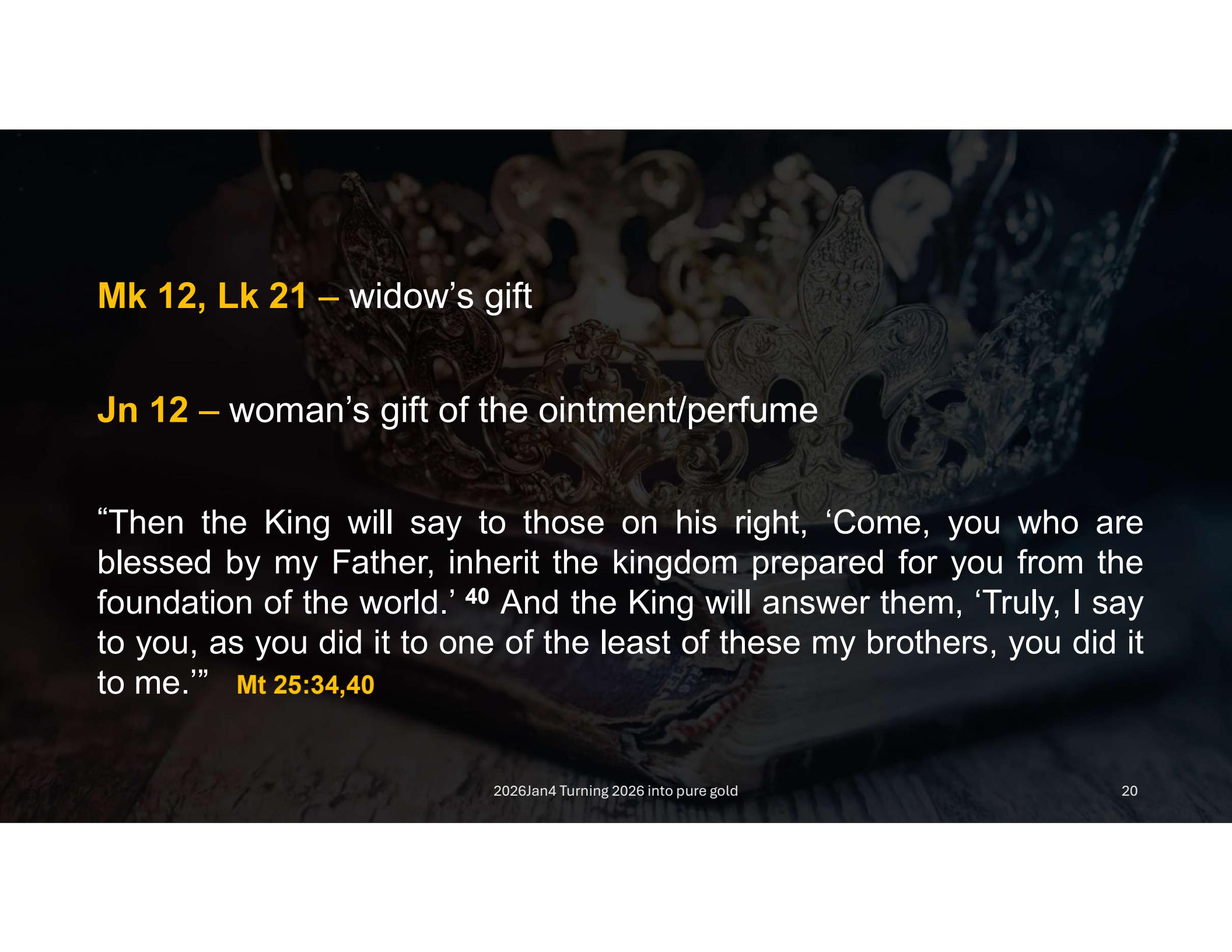
“as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward.” **Mt 6:2**

“And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

3. Practicing “true” generosity

A dark, ornate background featuring a chandelier and a painting of the Last Supper.

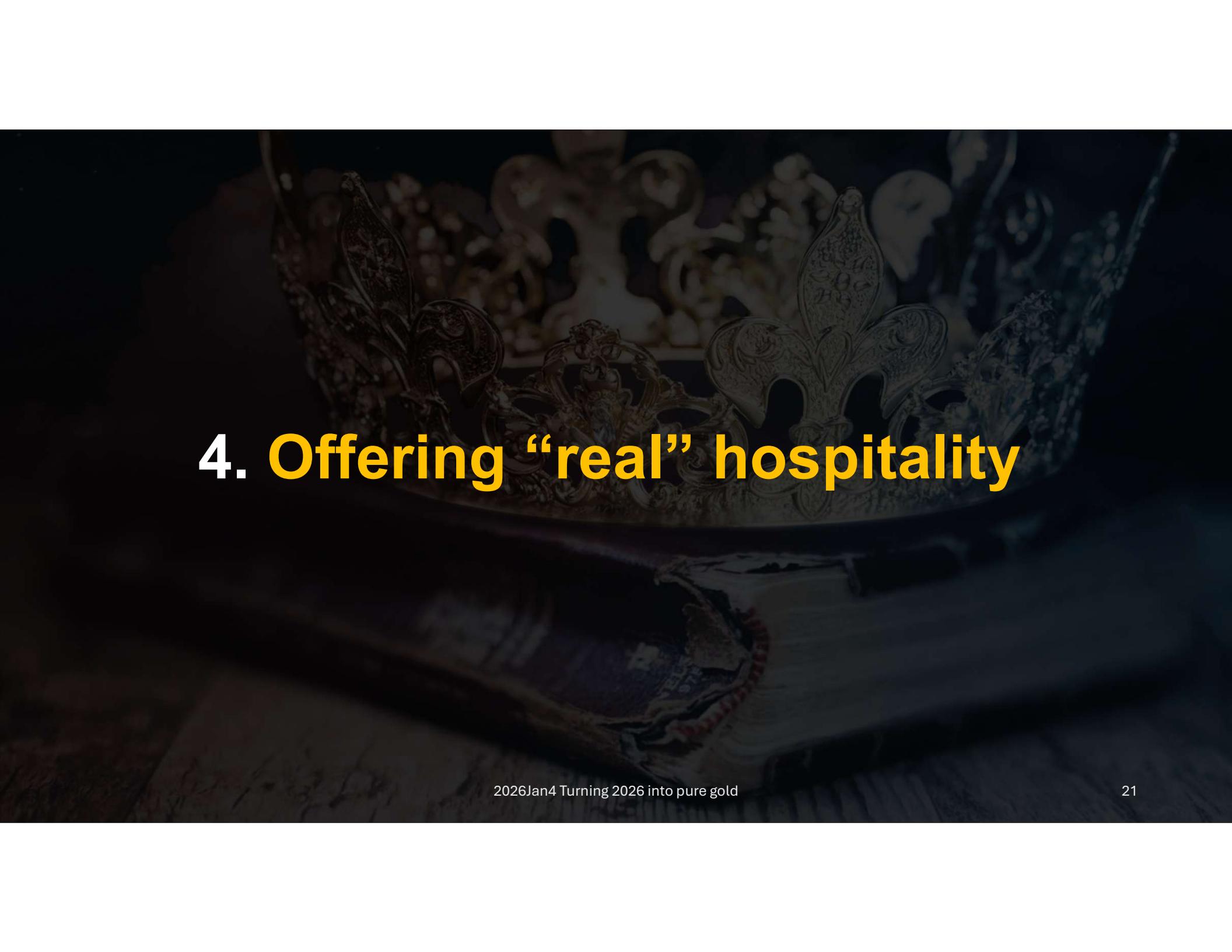
“When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, ¹⁴ and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” **Lk 14:12-14**



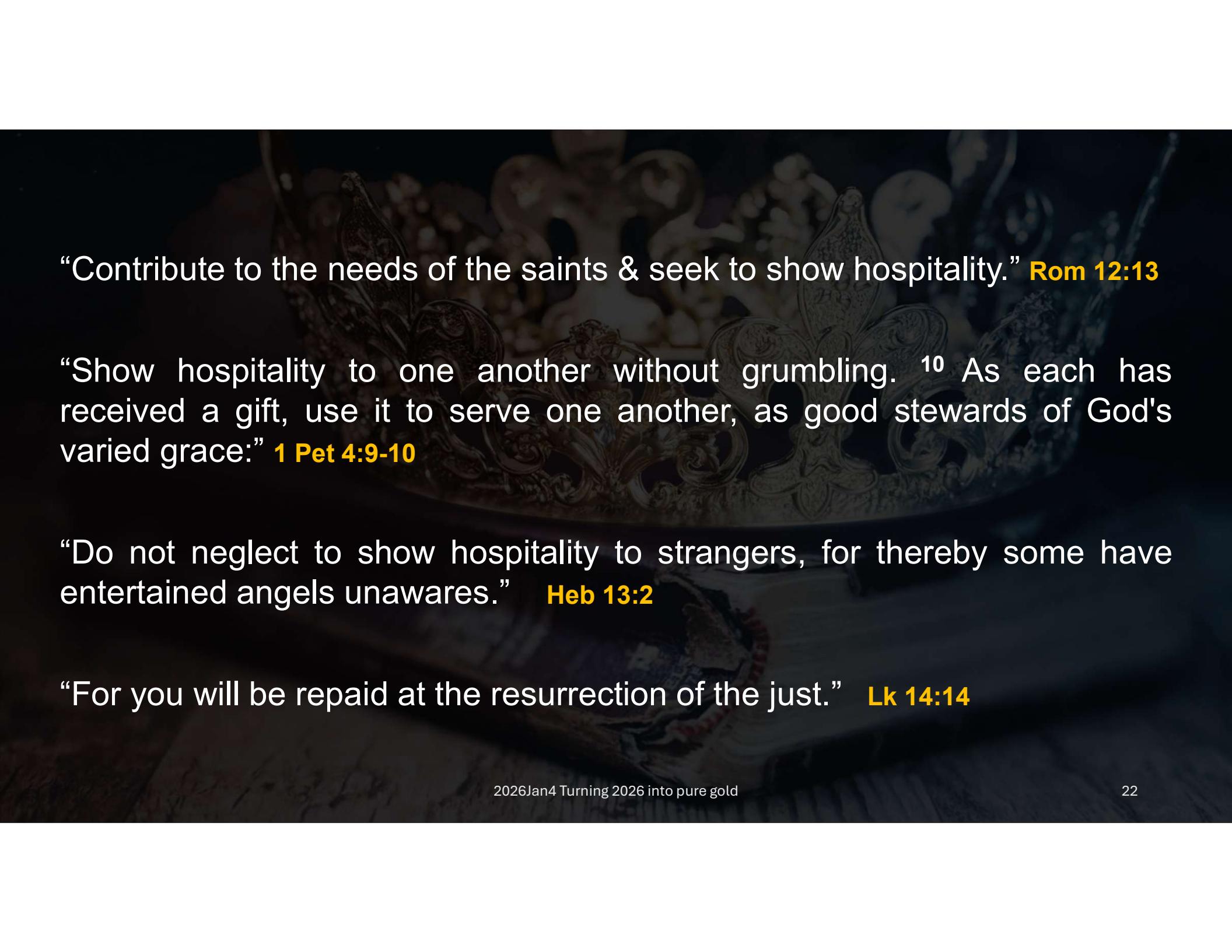
Mk 12, Lk 21 – widow's gift

Jn 12 – woman's gift of the ointment/perfume

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’ ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” **Mt 25:34,40**



4. Offering “real” hospitality

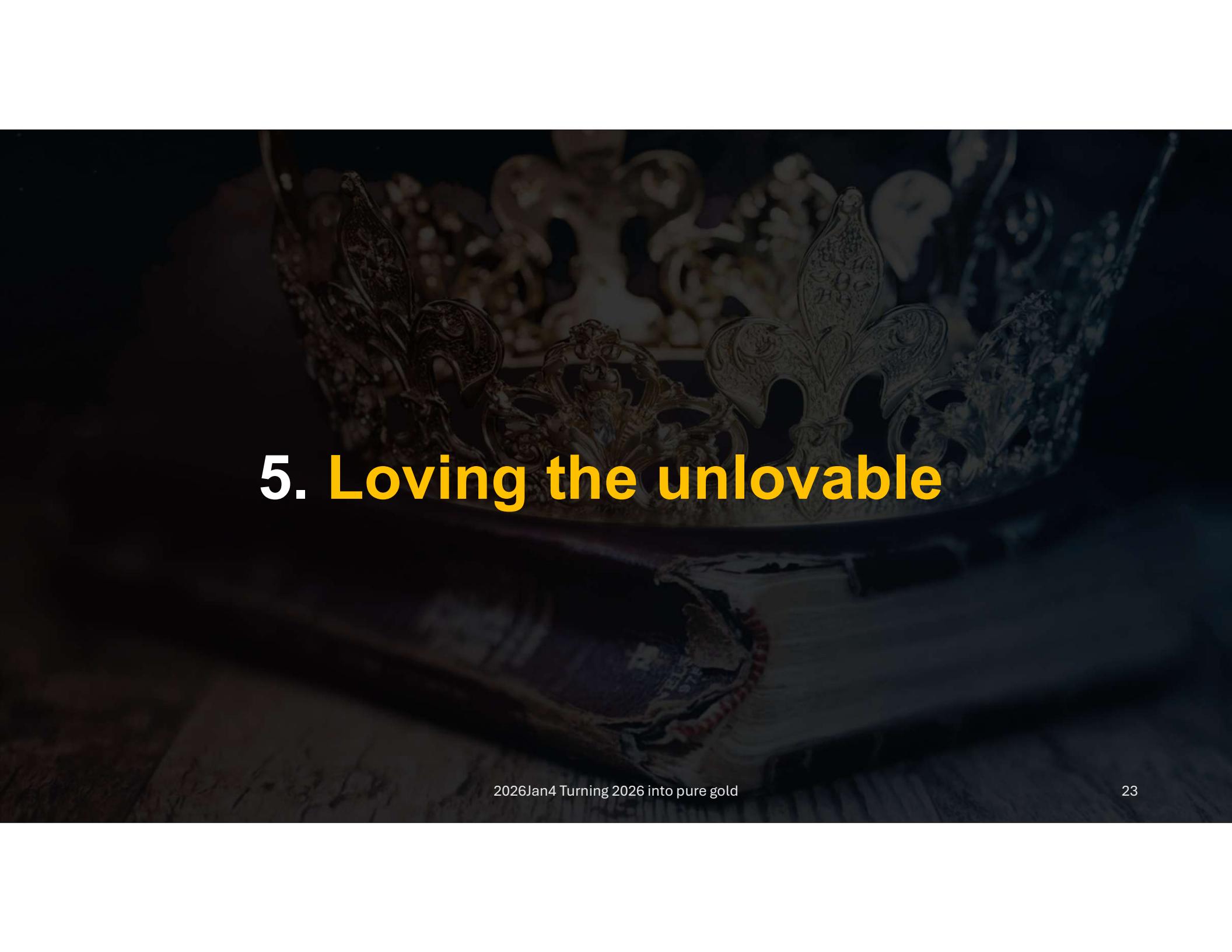


“Contribute to the needs of the saints & seek to show hospitality.” **Rom 12:13**

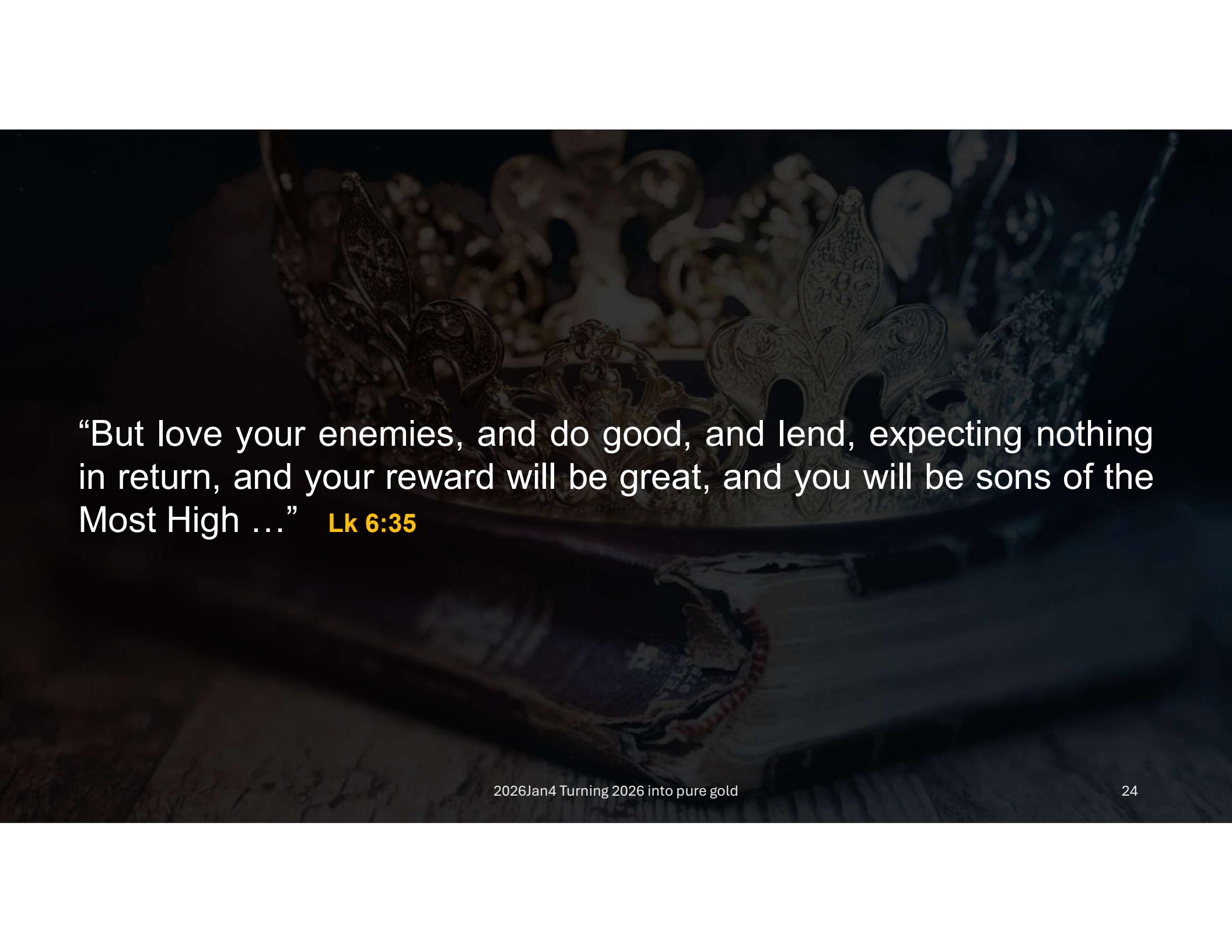
“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. ¹⁰ As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:” **1 Pet 4:9-10**

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” **Heb 13:2**

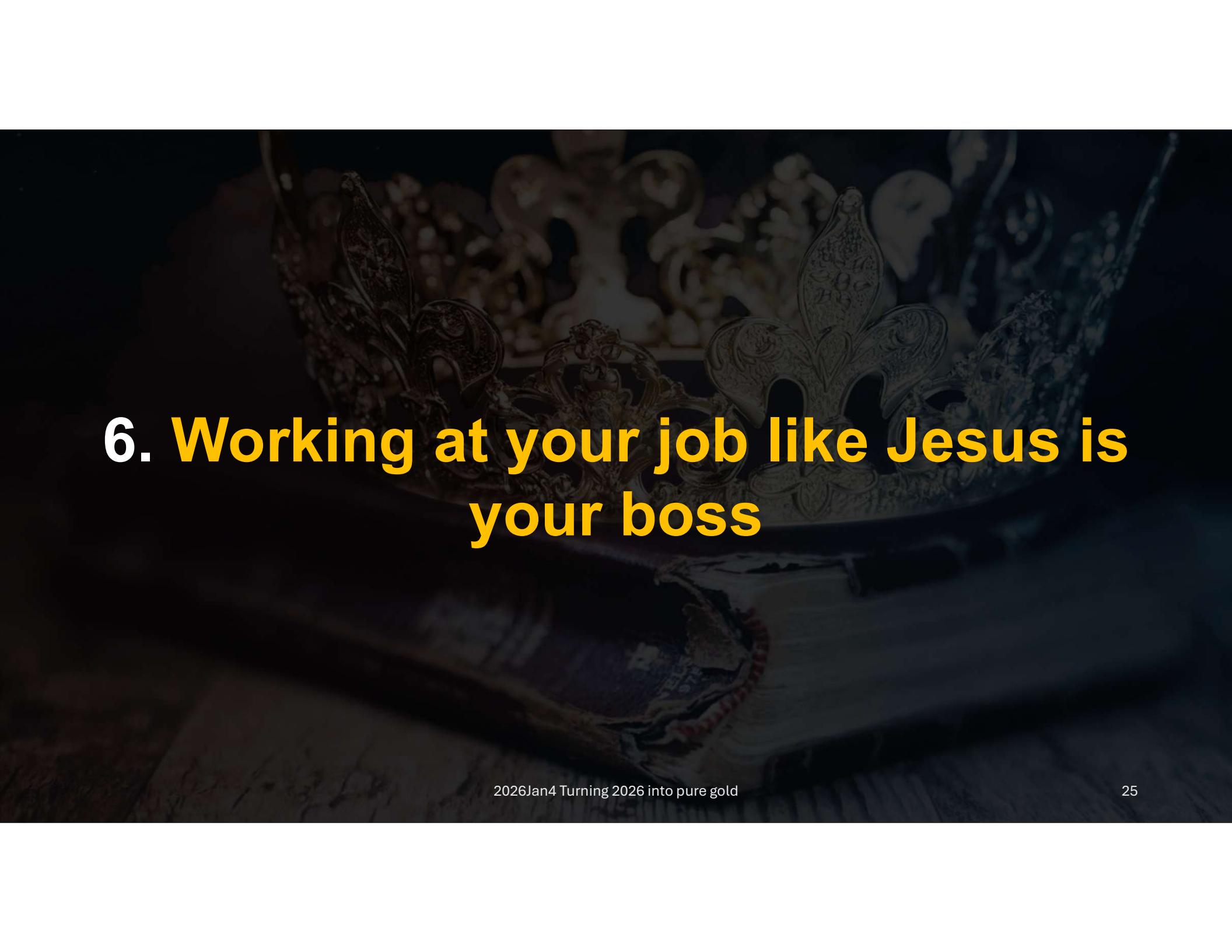
“For you will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.” **Lk 14:14**



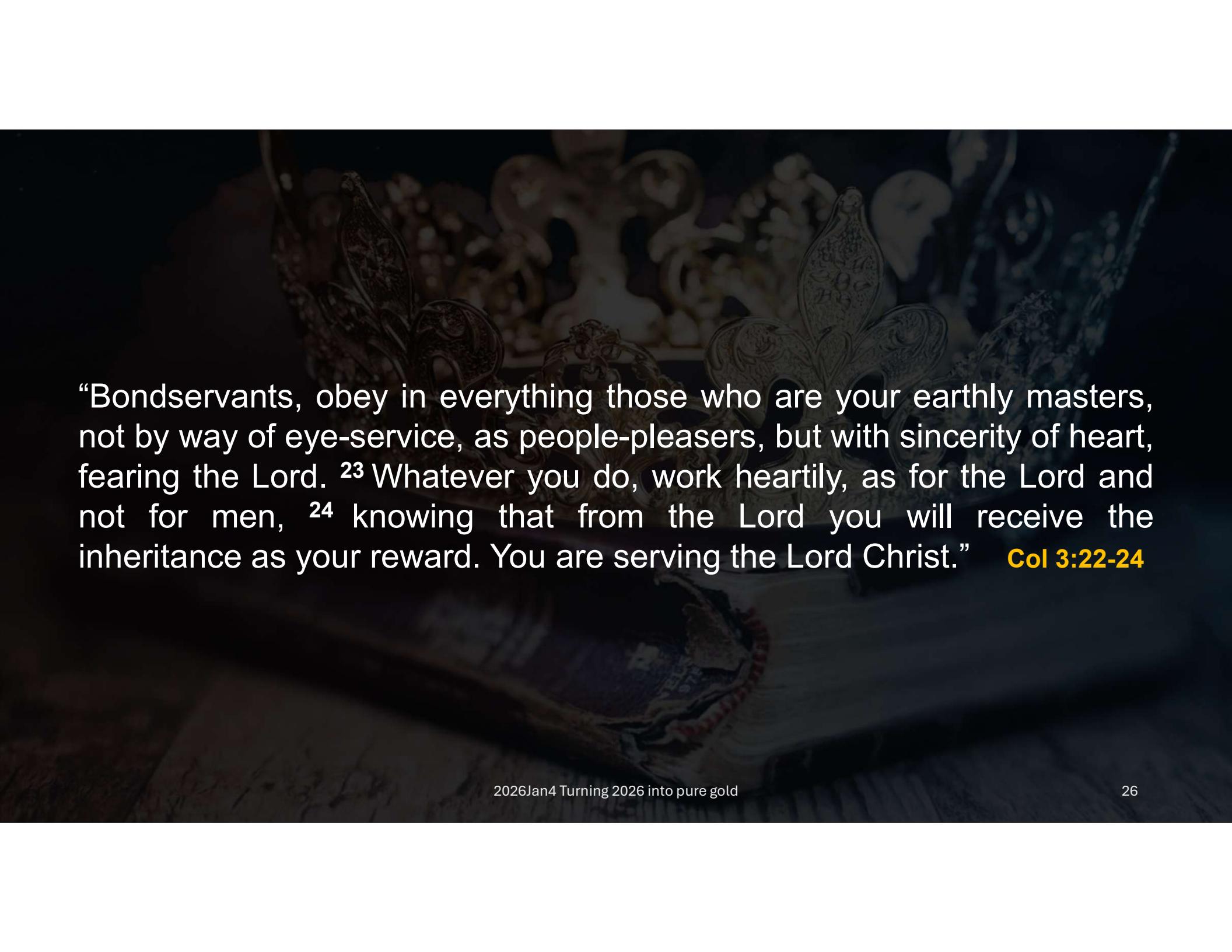
5. Loving the unlovable

A dark, artistic background featuring a crown and a hand holding a small object.

“But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High ...” **Lk 6:35**

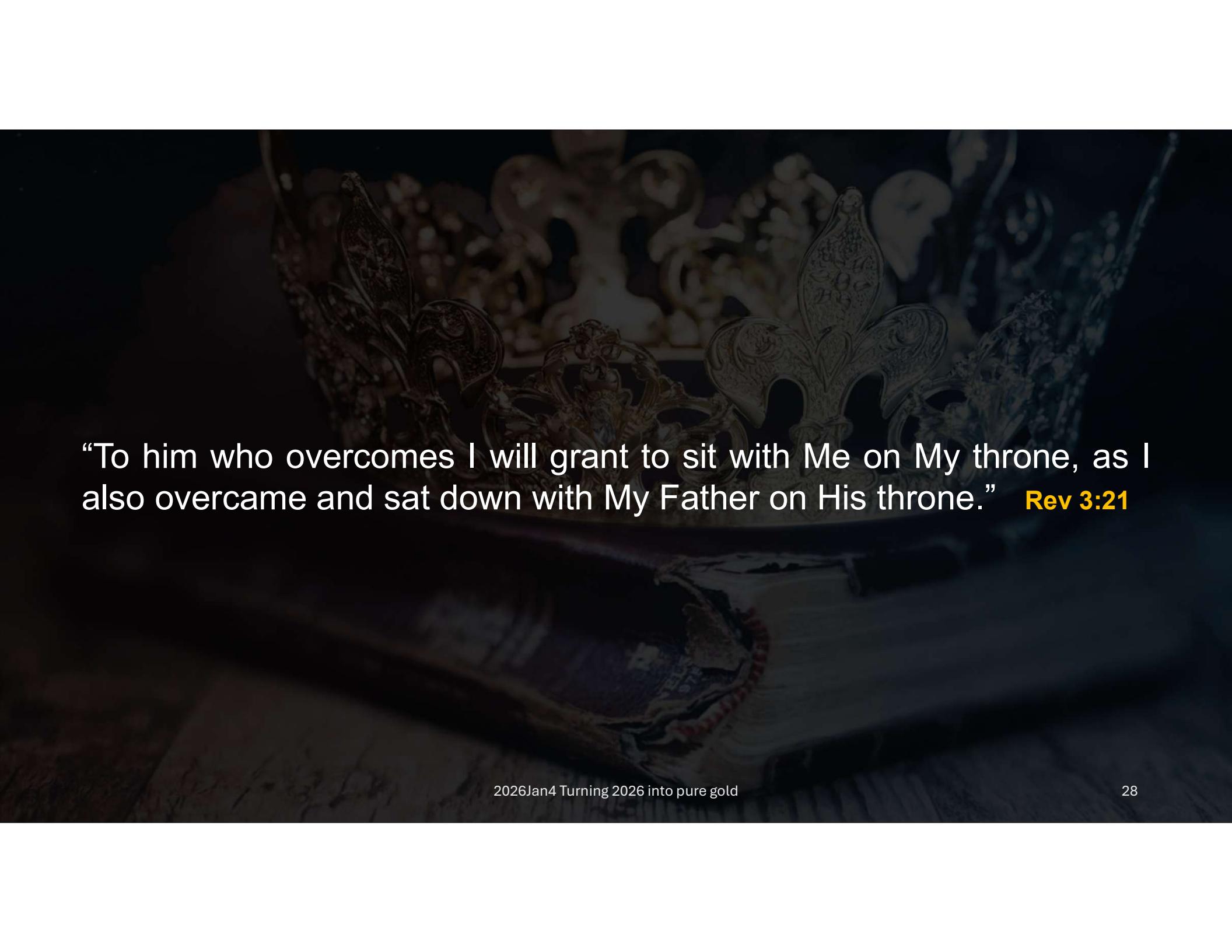


6. Working at your job like Jesus is your boss



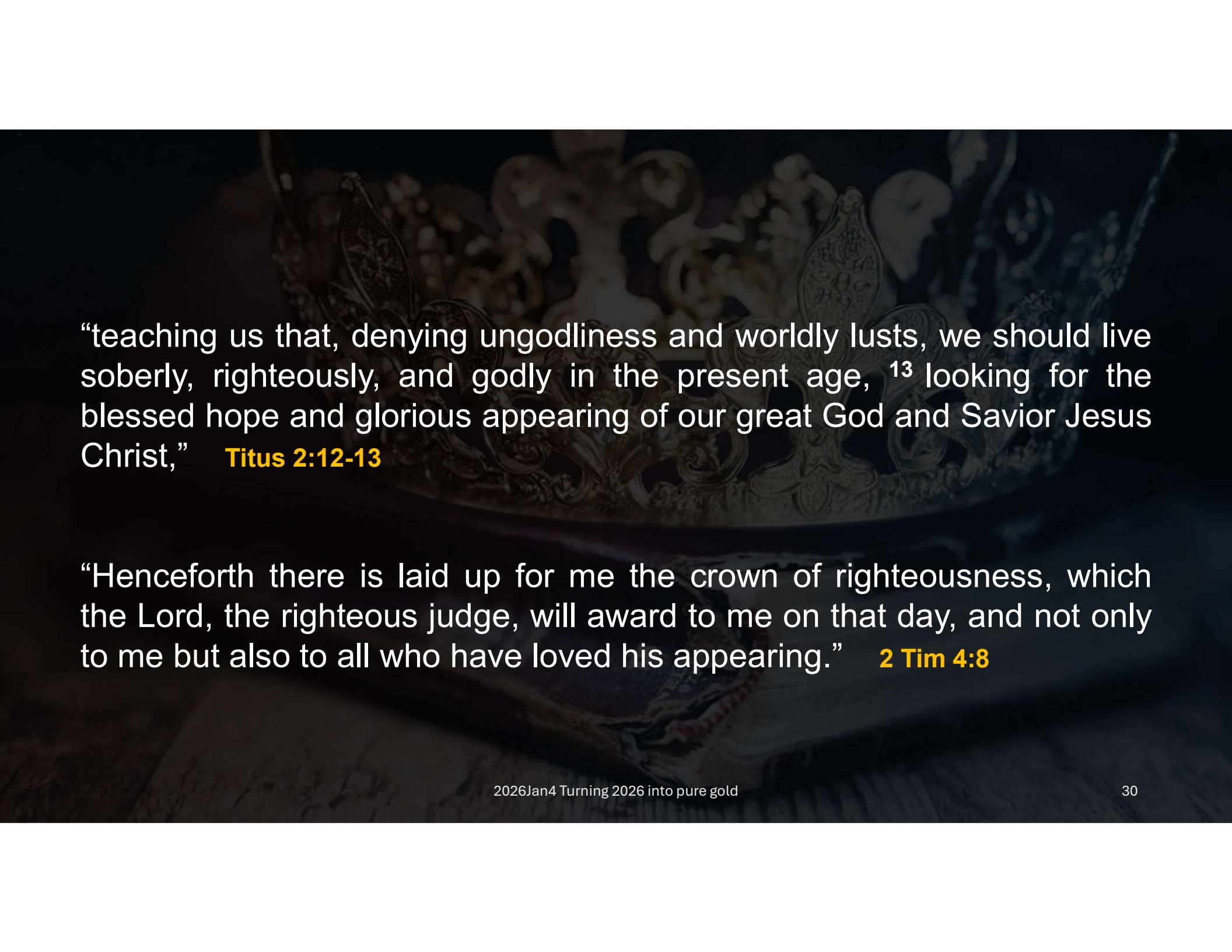
“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” **Col 3:22-24**

7. Overcoming adversity & temptation



“To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” **Rev 3:21**

8. Living looking for Christ's return



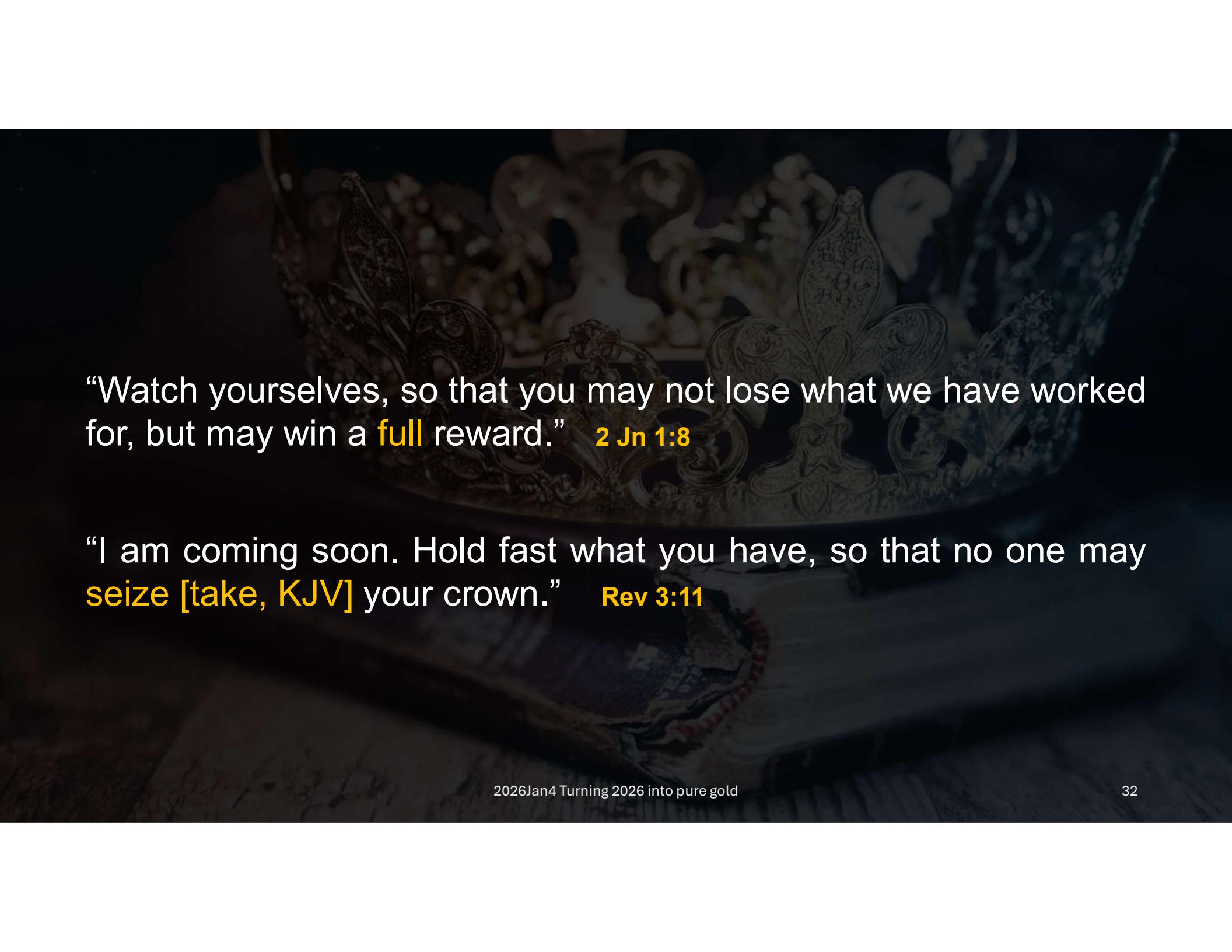
“teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,” **Titus 2:12-13**

“Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” **2 Tim 4:8**



WARNING

One can lose their reward(s)



“Watch yourselves, so that you may not lose what we have worked for, but may win a **full** reward.” **2 Jn 1:8**

“I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize [take, KJV] your crown.” **Rev 3:11**



John Stephen Akhwari in 2000

Akhwari was a runner from Tanzania and was among the 75 runners who began the 26-mile marathon in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

He cramped up at the 11.8 mile point due to the high altitude of the city.

As he jockeyed for position, he was hit and fell, badly wounding his shoulder and dislocating his knee.

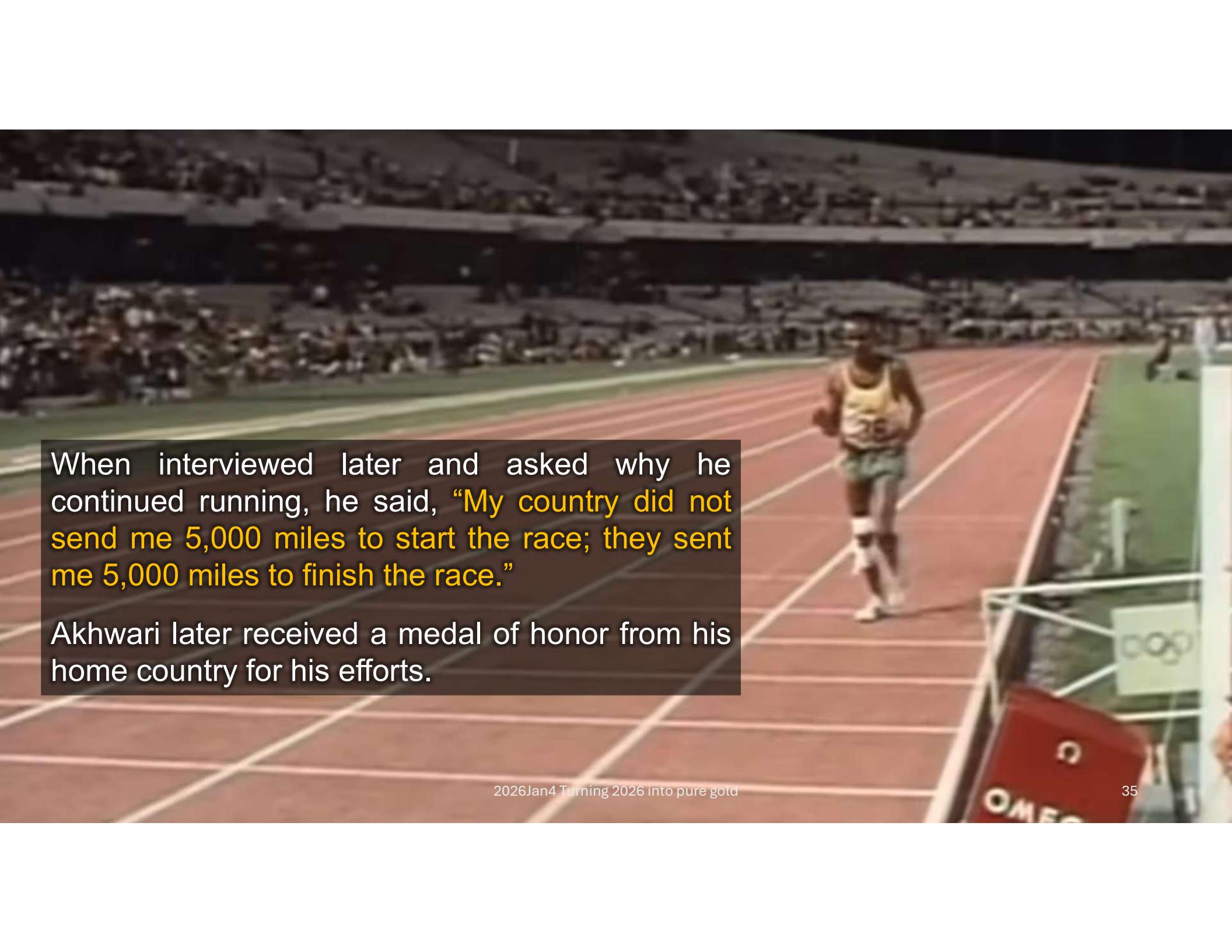
However, Akhwari continued running and eventually finished last among the 57 competitors who completed the race.

The winner of the marathon finished in 2:20:26 while Akhwari finished in 3:25:27.

The sun had set when Akhwari crossed the finish line and there were only a few thousand people left in the stadium.

A television crew was sent out when word was received that there was one more runner about to finish.

As Akhwari crossed the finish line, a cheer came from the small crowd.



When interviewed later and asked why he continued running, he said, “My country did not send me 5,000 miles to start the race; they sent me 5,000 miles to finish the race.”

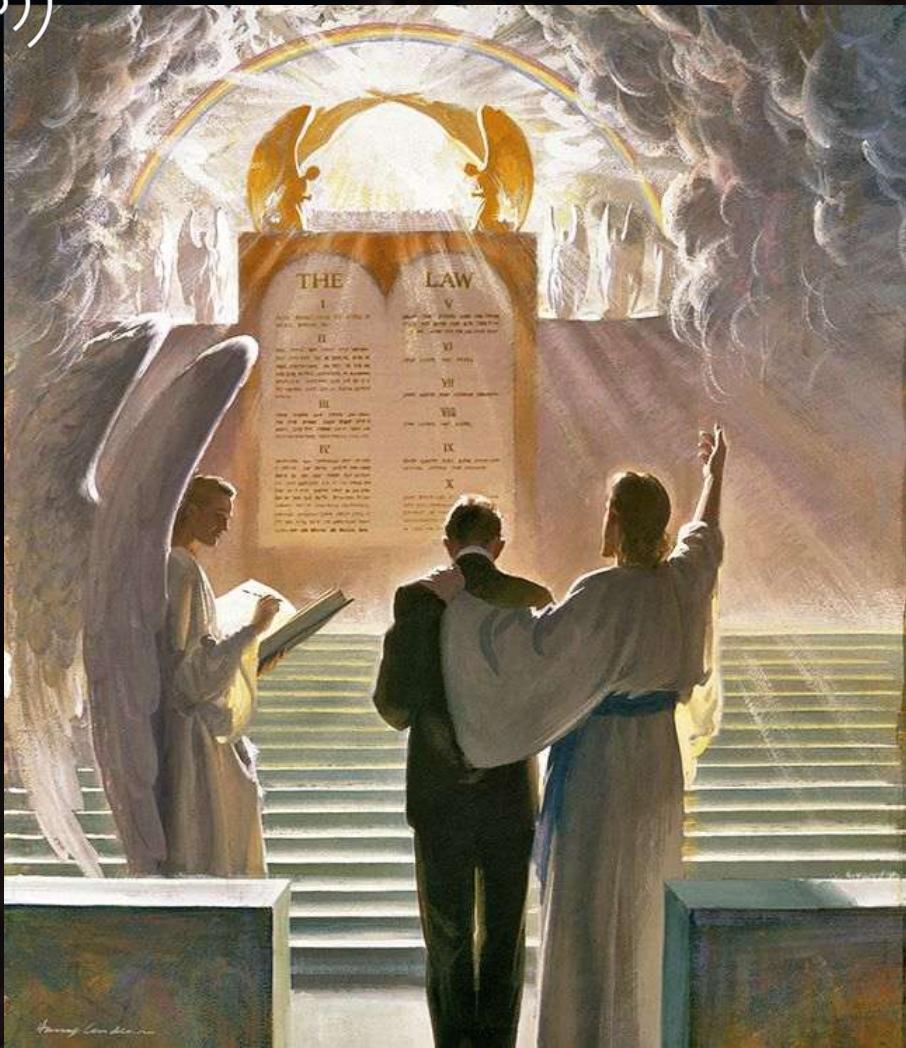
Akhwari later received a medal of honor from his home country for his efforts.



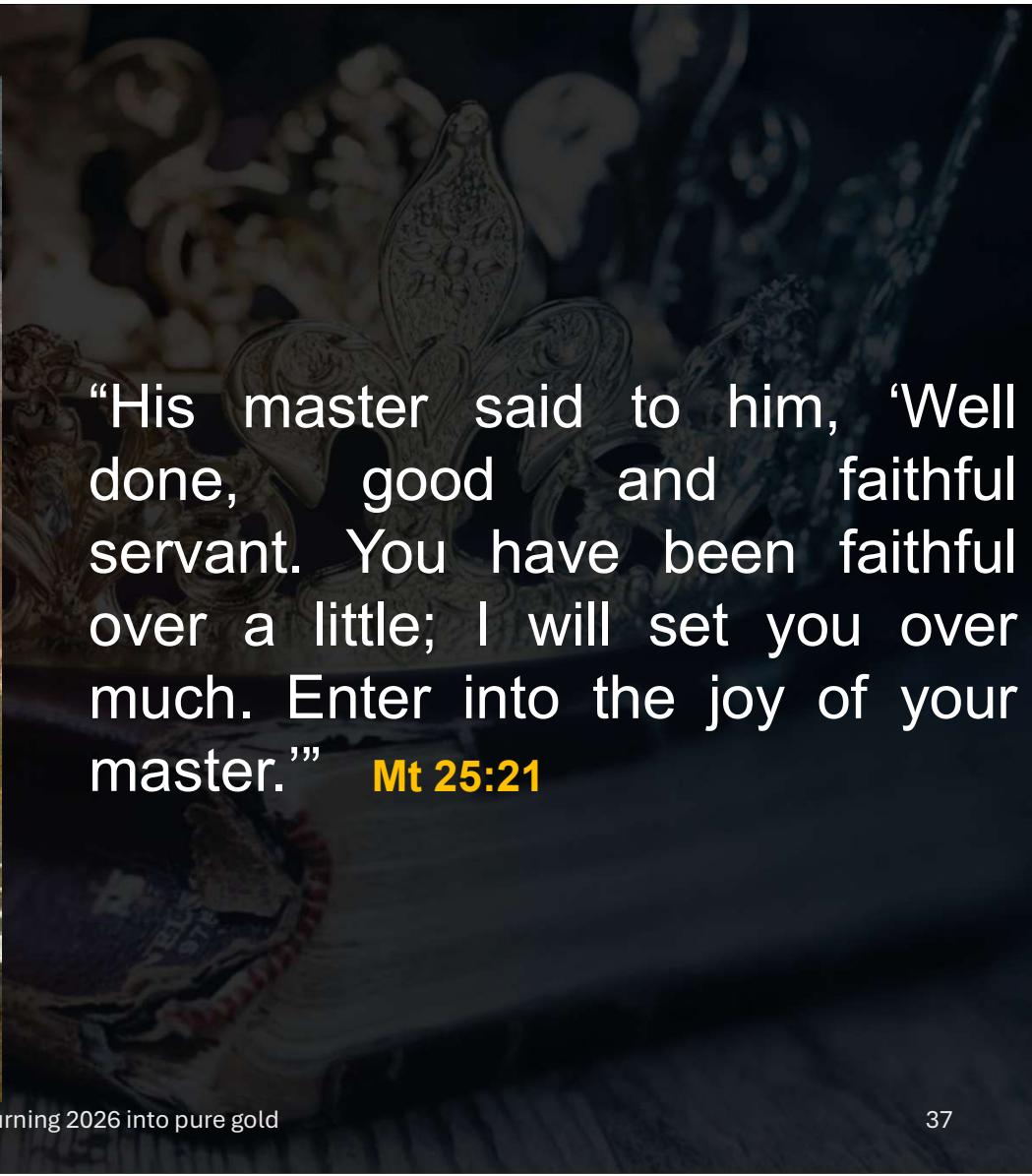
John Stephen Akhwari at the 2000
Sydney, Australia Olympic Games

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36



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“His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’” **Mt 25:21**