



KEEP THE LIGHT BURNING

THE PARABLE OF THE TEN VIRGINS

M A T T H E W 2 5 : 1 - 9

“Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids[a] who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 The five who were foolish didn’t take enough olive oil for their lamps, 4 but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. 5 When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 “At midnight they were roused by the shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!’

7 “All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps. 8 Then the five foolish ones asked the others, ‘Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’

9 “But the others replied, ‘We don’t have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.’

M A T T H E W 2 5 : 1 0 - 1 3

10 “But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. 11 Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, ‘Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!’

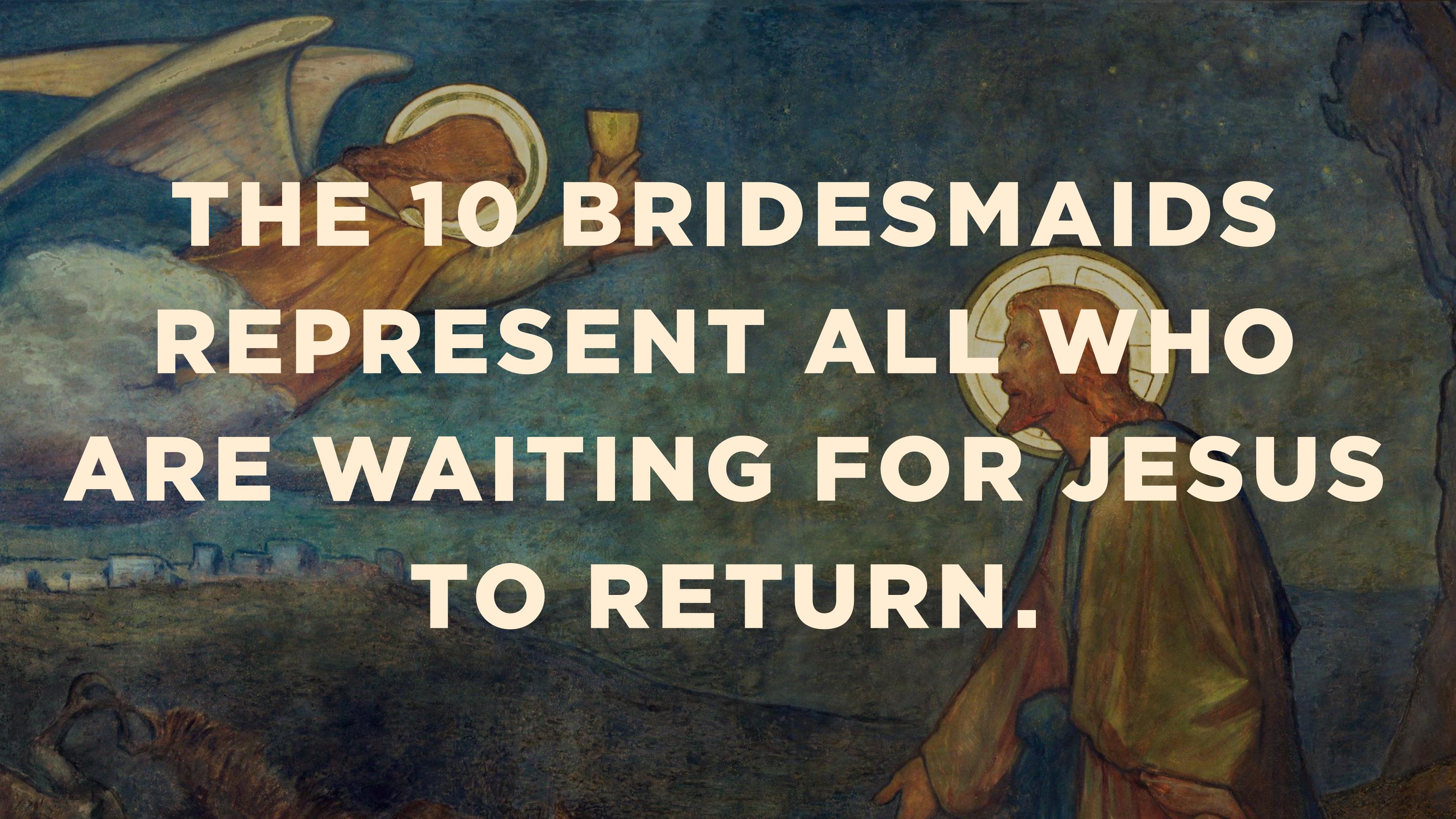
12 “But he called back, ‘Believe me, I don’t know you!’

13 “So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

A traditional Jewish wedding painting. In the center, a man in a red robe and a red sash (the groom) is seated, holding a golden chalice. He is looking towards a woman in a green dress (the bride) who is holding a golden ring. To the right, a man in a blue robe and a blue turban (the Shadchan, matchmaker) holds a long staff. In the background, a golden dragon-like creature is perched on a cloud. The entire scene is set against a gold and white patterned background.

JEWISH WEDDING CUSTOMS

- Betrothal – legally binding covenant (married under the law)
- Groom would return to his father’s house for about a year to “prepare a place.”
- While the marriage was under covenant, it was not “complete” until the marriage ceremony.
- When the time had come, the groom would go and fetch his bride and bring her to his father’s home. No one knew when he would arrive.
- The wedding and consummation made the marriage complete.



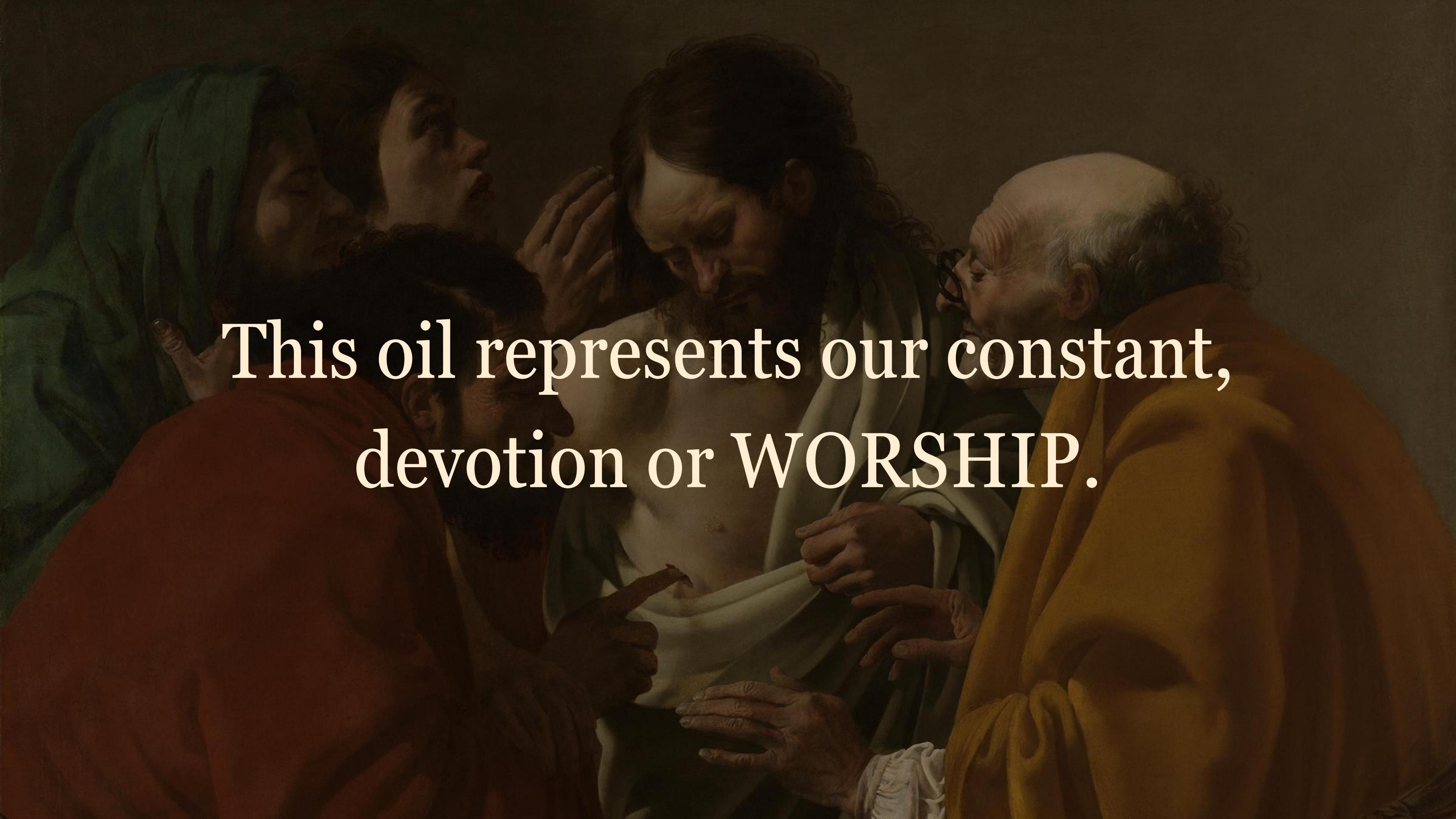
THE 10 BRIDESMAIDS
REPRESENT ALL WHO
ARE WAITING FOR JESUS
TO RETURN.



OIL AND LIGHT

EXODUS 27:20 - 21

“Command the people of Israel to bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to keep the lamps burning continually. The lampstand will stand in the Tabernacle, in front of the inner curtain that shields the Ark of the Covenant. Aaron and his sons must keep the lamps burning in the Lord’s presence all night. This is a permanent law for the people of Israel, and it must be observed from generation to generation.

A painting depicting a group of people in a dimly lit, somber setting. In the center, a man in a dark coat holds a white cloth over a small, dark object, possibly a body part. To his left, a woman in a green dress looks down with a pained expression. To his right, an older man with a white beard and a woman with a yellow cloth over her head also look down. The scene is lit from above, creating strong shadows and highlights on the figures' faces and hands.

This oil represents our constant,
devotion or WORSHIP.

EXODUS 13:21 - 22

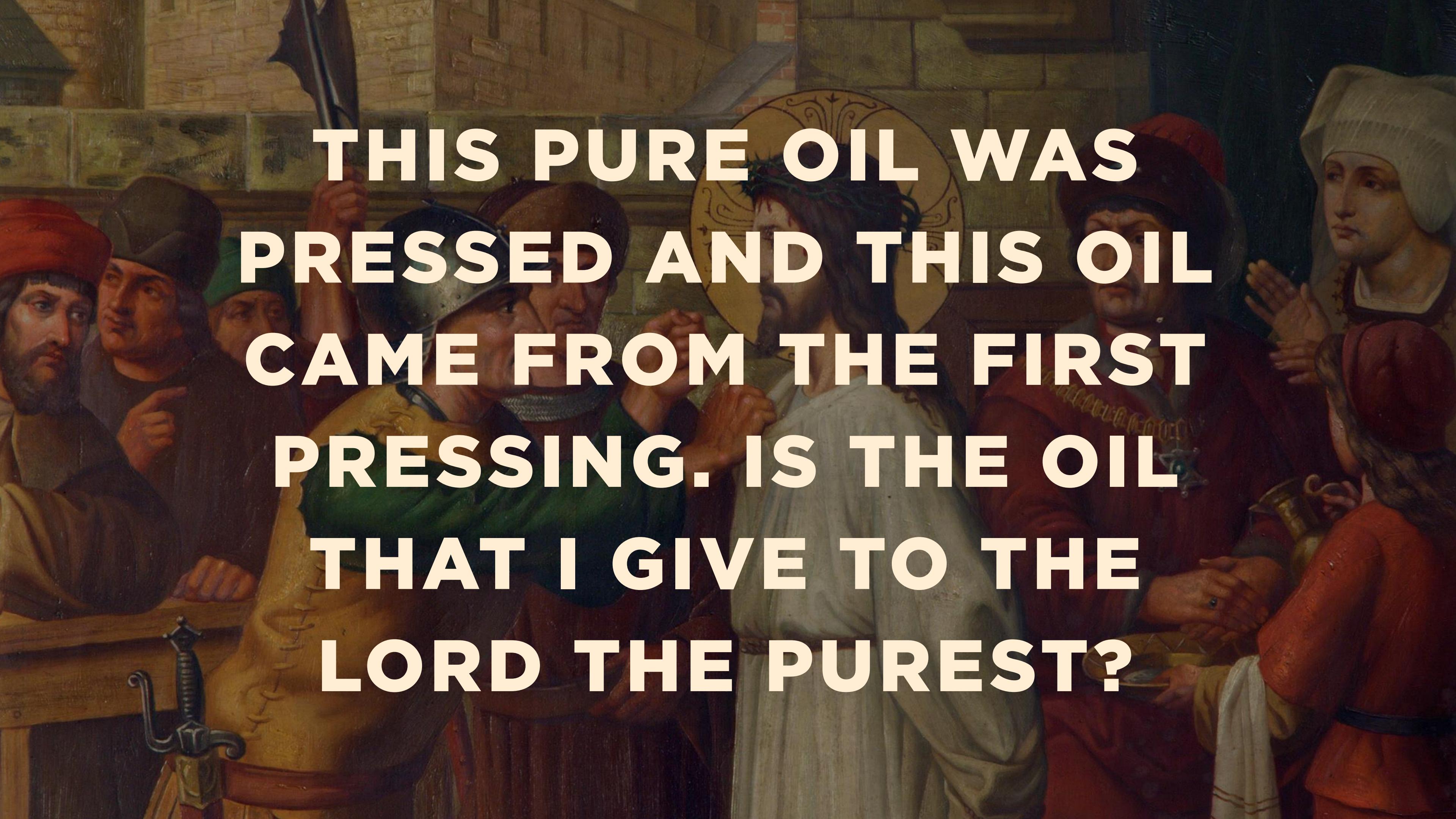
The Lord went ahead of them. He guided them during the day with a pillar of cloud, and he provided light at night with a pillar of fire. This allowed them to travel by day or by night. And the Lord did not remove the pillar of cloud or pillar of fire from its place in front of the people.

P S A L M S 1 1 9 : 1 0 5

Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.

JOHN 8:12

Jesus spoke to the people once more and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won’t have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.”



THIS PURE OIL WAS
PRESSED AND THIS OIL
CAME FROM THE FIRST
PRESSING. IS THE OIL
THAT I GIVE TO THE
LORD THE PUREST?

JOHN 12:23 - 26

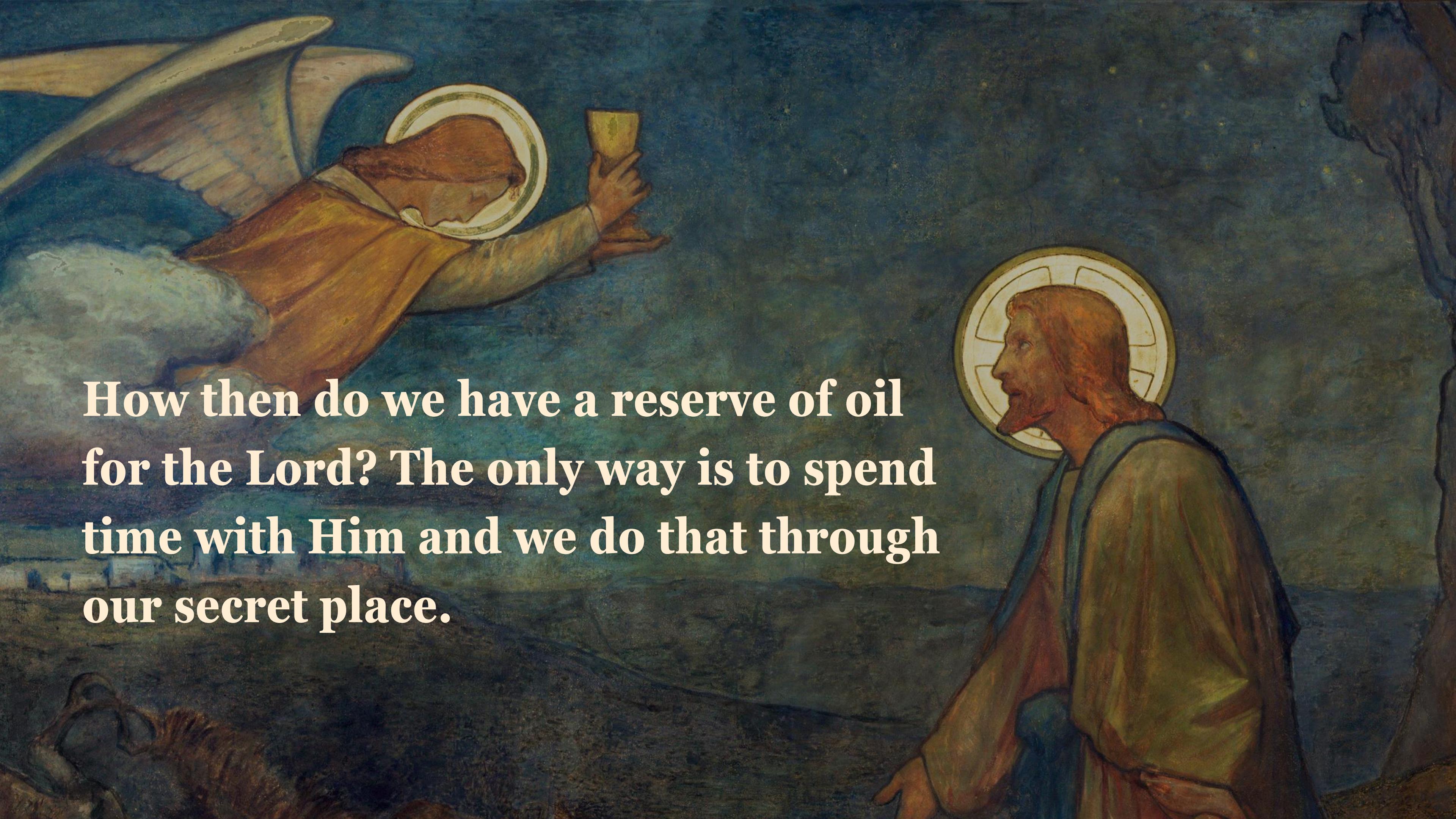
23 Jesus replied, “Now the time has come for the Son of Man[\[a\]](#) to enter into his glory. 24 I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. 25 Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. 26 Anyone who wants to serve me must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me.

JOHN 12:31 - 33

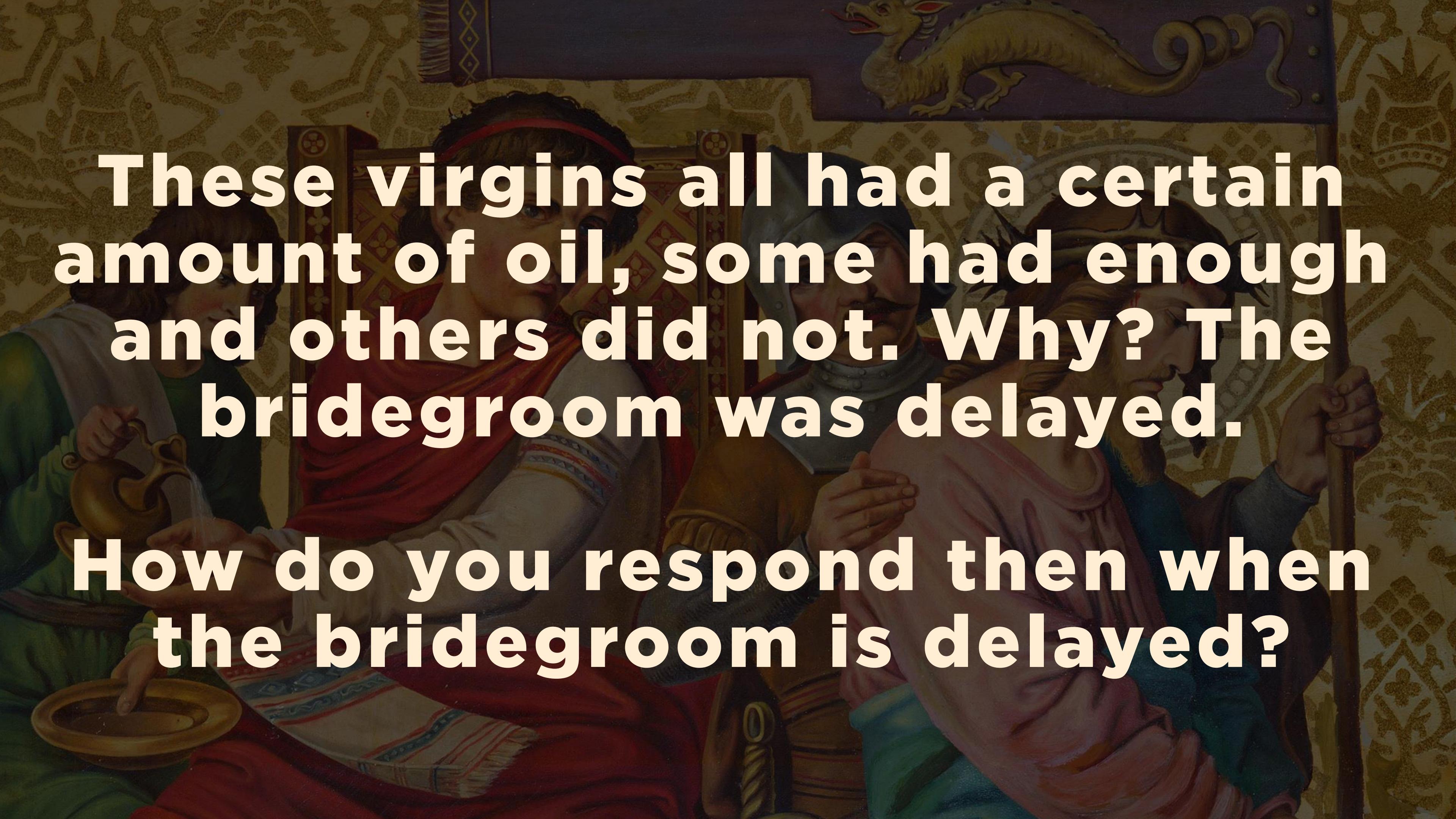
31 The time for judging this world has come, when Satan, the ruler of this world, will be cast out. 32 And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.” 33 He said this to indicate how he was going to die.

JOHN 12:35

35 Jesus replied, “My light will shine for you just a little longer. Walk in the light while you can, so the darkness will not overtake you. Those who walk in the darkness cannot see where they are going.

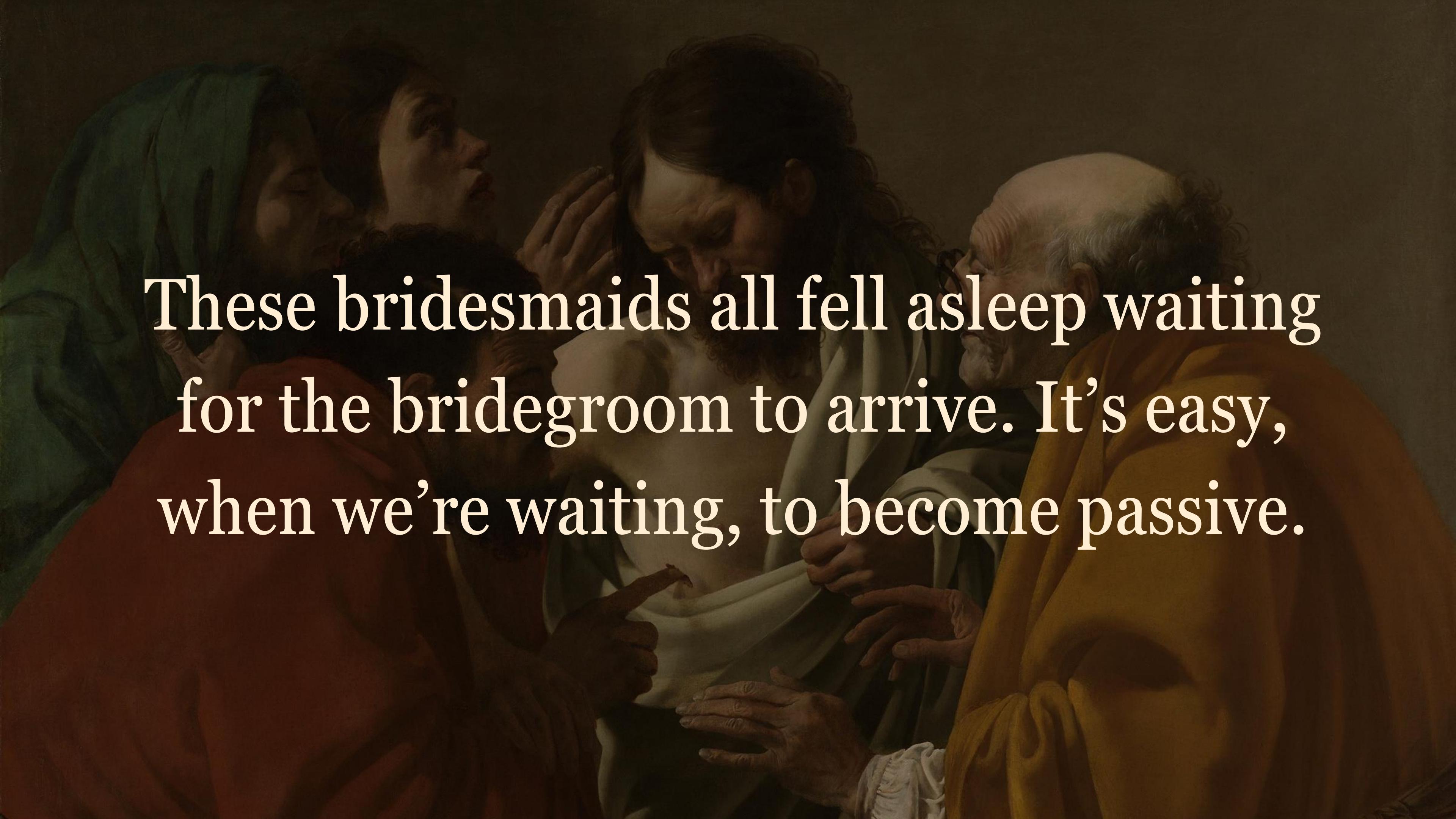
A painting depicting a scene from the parable of the talents. On the left, an angel with large, light-colored wings and a halo is shown in profile, holding a golden chalice in its right hand. On the right, a man with a halo around his head is shown in profile, looking down with a contemplative expression. The background is a dark, textured landscape.

How then do we have a reserve of oil
for the Lord? The only way is to spend
time with Him and we do that through
our secret place.



These virgins all had a certain amount of oil, some had enough and others did not. Why? The bridegroom was delayed.

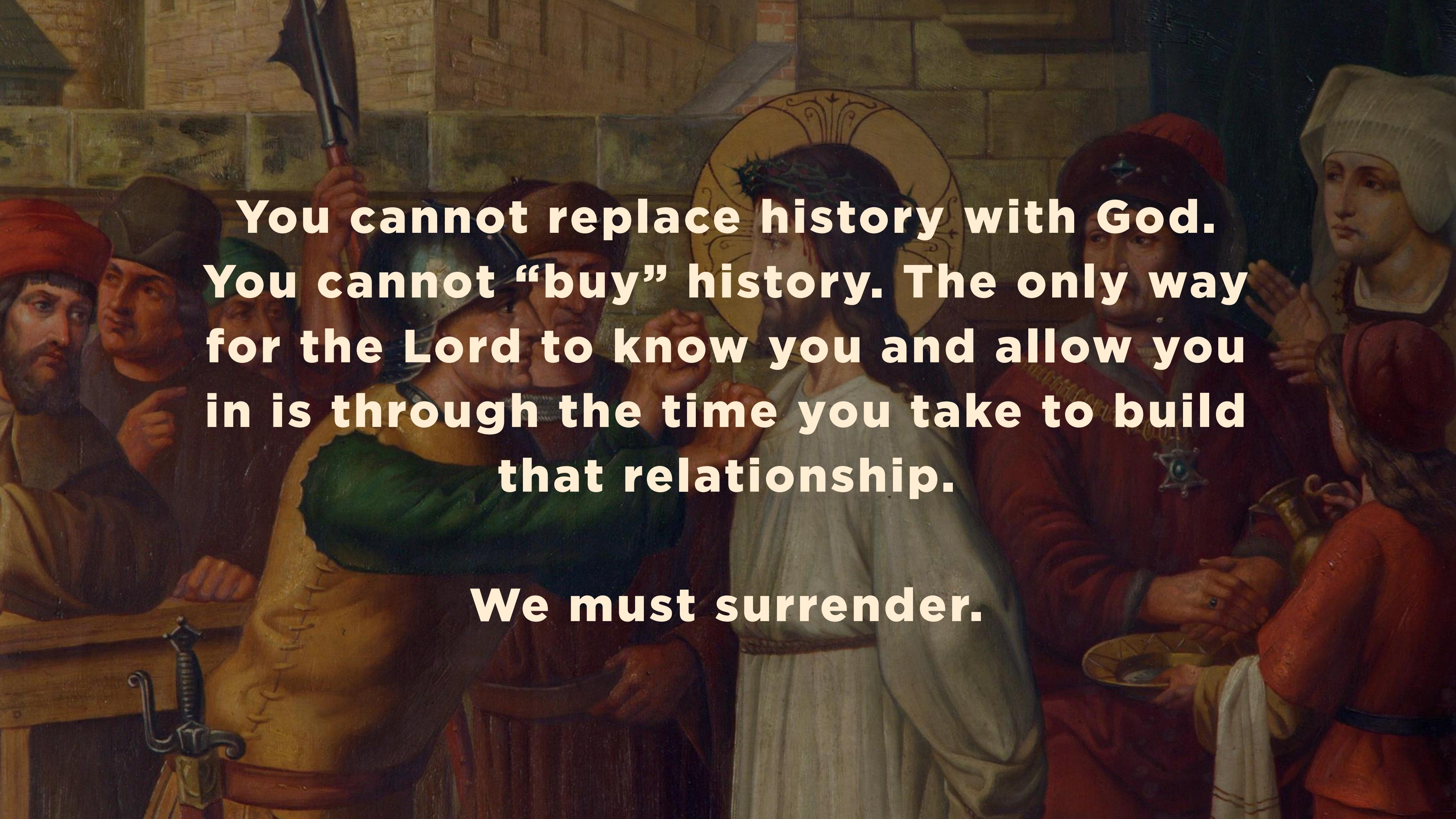
How do you respond then when the bridegroom is delayed?



These bridesmaids all fell asleep waiting
for the bridegroom to arrive. It's easy,
when we're waiting, to become passive.

J A M E S 1: 2 - 4

Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. 3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. 4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

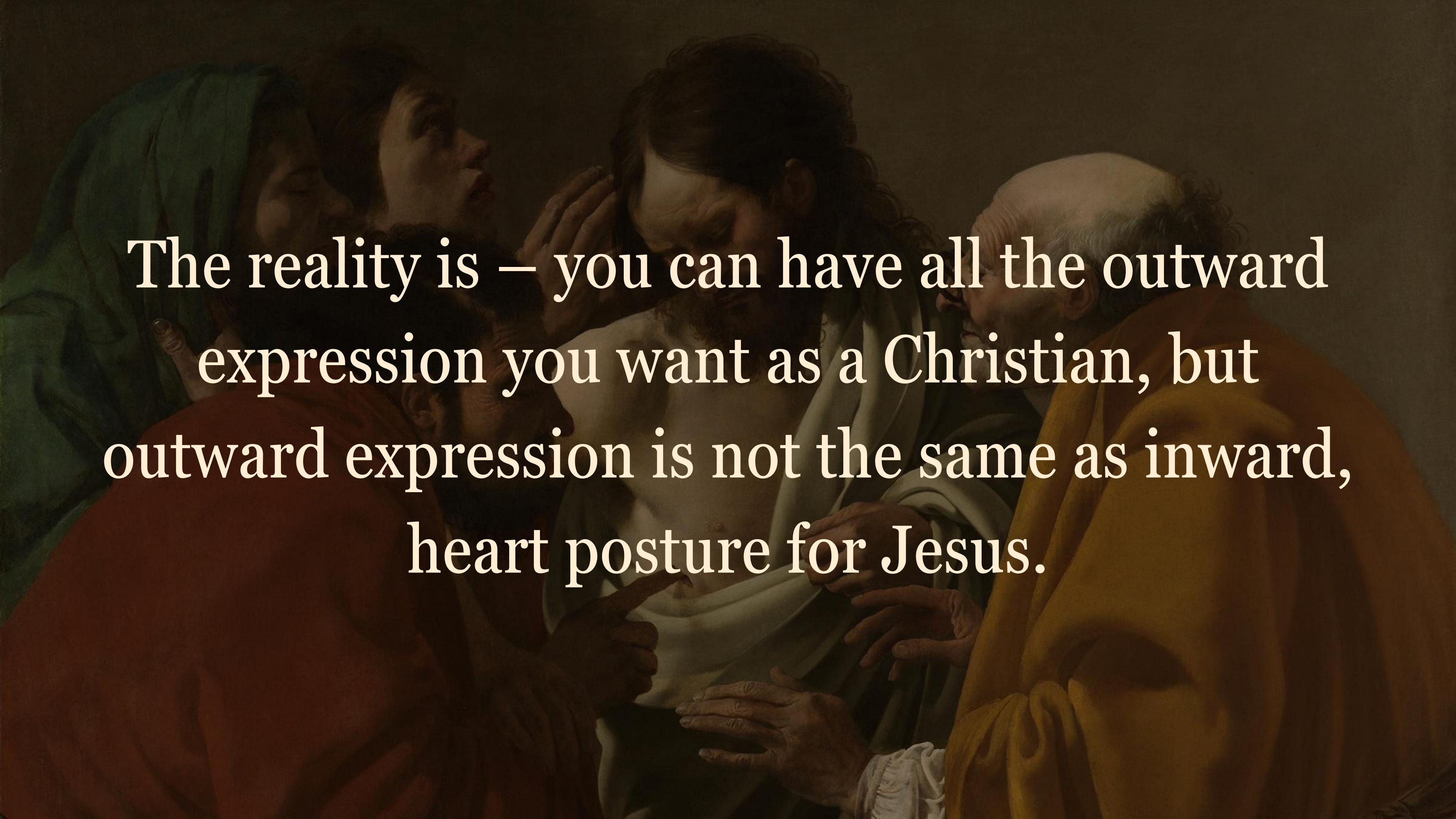
A dramatic painting depicting the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. He is shown on the cross, wearing a crown of thorns and a dark robe. A soldier stands to the left, holding a spear and a bucket. Another soldier is visible in the background. A woman in a red cloak and white headscarf stands to the right, looking down at Jesus. The scene is set against a dark, cloudy sky.

**You cannot replace history with God.
You cannot “buy” history. The only way
for the Lord to know you and allow you
in is through the time you take to build
that relationship.**

We must surrender.

EPHESIANS 3:20

Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think.

A painting of Jesus washing the feet of a disciple, with a dark overlay and text.

The reality is – you can have all the outward expression you want as a Christian, but outward expression is not the same as inward, heart posture for Jesus.