

Who is Jesus Looking For?

A study of Jesus'
early friends







“I have revealed your name to the men you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and **you gave them to me...**”

“When I was with them **I kept them safe and watched over them** in your name that you have given me. Not one of them was lost except the one destined for destruction, so that the scripture could be fulfilled....”

“The glory you gave to me I have given to them, that they may be one just as we are one - I in them and you in me - that they may be completely one, so that the world will know that you sent me, and **you have loved them just as you have loved me.**”

• John 17

The People
Jesus called
were...





Chorazin

Bethsaida

Gamla

Capernaum

Gennesaret

Cana

Sea of Galilee

Magdala

Gergesa

Tiberias

Hippos

Sepphoris

Nazareth

Nain

Jordan River

Gadara



While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called Peter) and Andrew his brother.. and going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. **And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching.**



The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” Now **Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.** Philip found Nathanael and said to him “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth...”.

- John 1v43-45

..Nathanael of Cana in Galilee..



While walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon (who is called **Peter**) and **Andrew** his brother, casting a net into the sea, for **they were fishermen**. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, **James** the son of Zebedee and **John** his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

- Matt 4:18-22

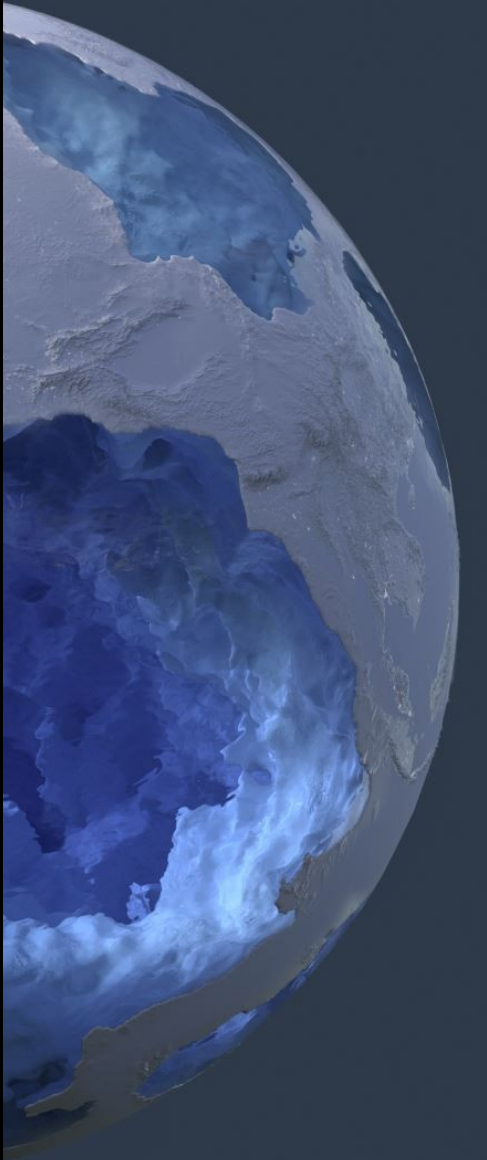




After this Jesus revealed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, and he revealed himself in this way. Simon **Peter**, **Thomas** (called the Twin), **Nathanael** of Cana in Galilee, the **sons of Zebedee**, and **two others** of his disciples were together. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. Just as day was breaking, Jesus stood on the shore...

- John 21:1-4





You are the ones who have remained with me in my trials. Thus I grant to you a kingdom, just as my Father granted to me, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

• Luke 22:28-30

So Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those in authority over them are called ‘benefactors.’ Not so with you; instead the one who is greatest among you must become like the youngest, and the leader like the one who serves. For who is greater, the one who is seated at the table, or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is seated at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.

• **Luke 22:25-27**





Elevation for the Lowly

Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?

Jam 2:5

The “Sinner” Disciples





Jesus went out again by the sea. The whole crowd came to him, and he taught them. As he went along, **he saw Levi [/Matthew], the son of Alphaeus, sitting at the tax booth.** “Follow me,” he said to him. And he got up and followed him.

• Mar 2:13-14



Mark 2:14-15

“Follow me,” he said to him. And he got up and followed him. As Jesus was having a meal in Matthew’s home, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with Jesus and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.

When the experts in the law and the Pharisees saw that he was eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, “Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?” When Jesus heard this he said to them, **“Those who are healthy don’t need a physician, but those who are sick do. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”**

· Mark 2:16-17





“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a **Pharisee** and the other a **tax collector**. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘**God, be merciful to me, a sinner!**’ I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”


· Luke 18:9-14

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

- 1 Pet 2:24-25

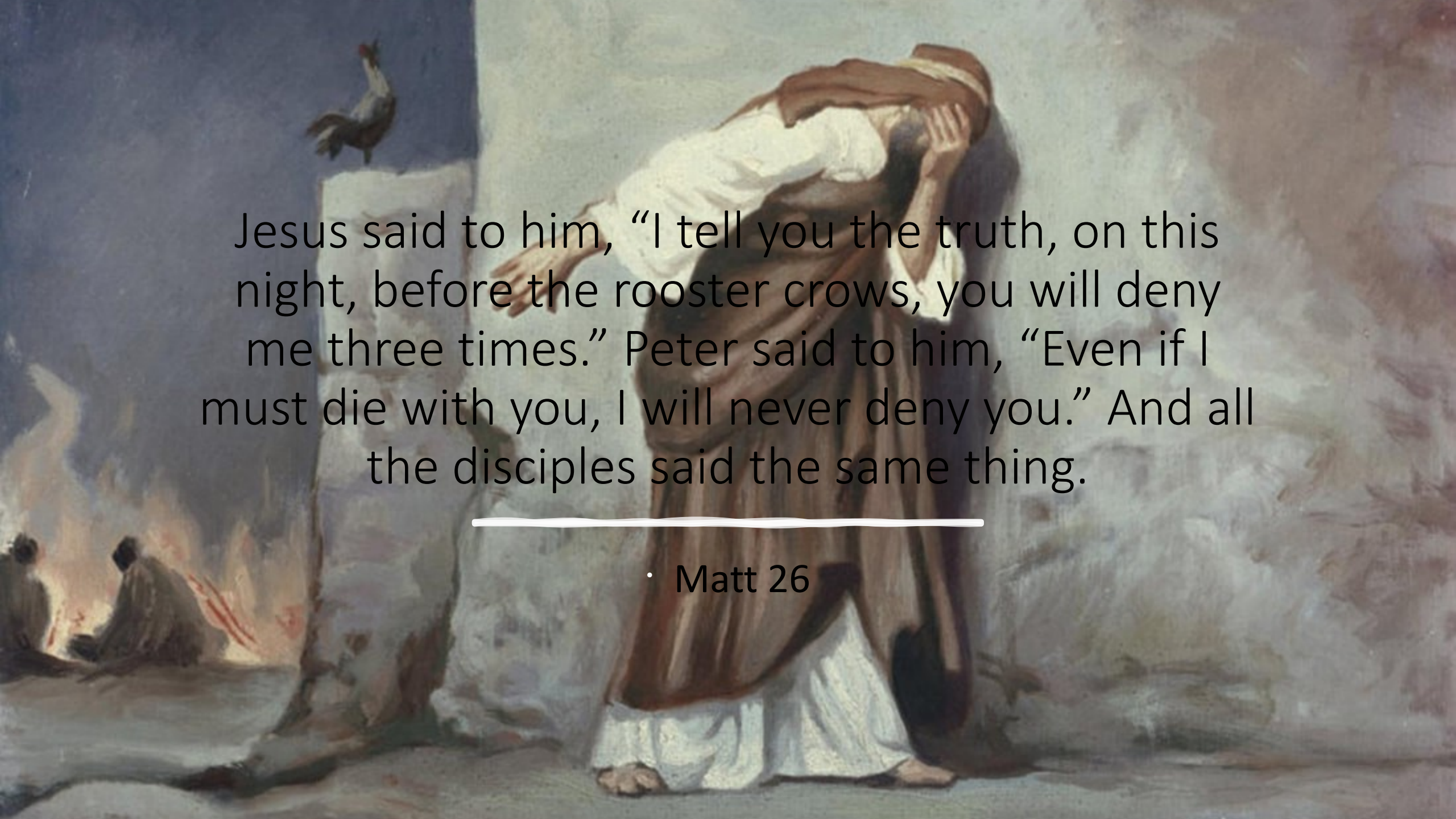
But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.**

- Eph 2:4-10



The “Doubting” Disciples





Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, on this night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will never deny you.” And all the disciples said the same thing.

• Matt 26

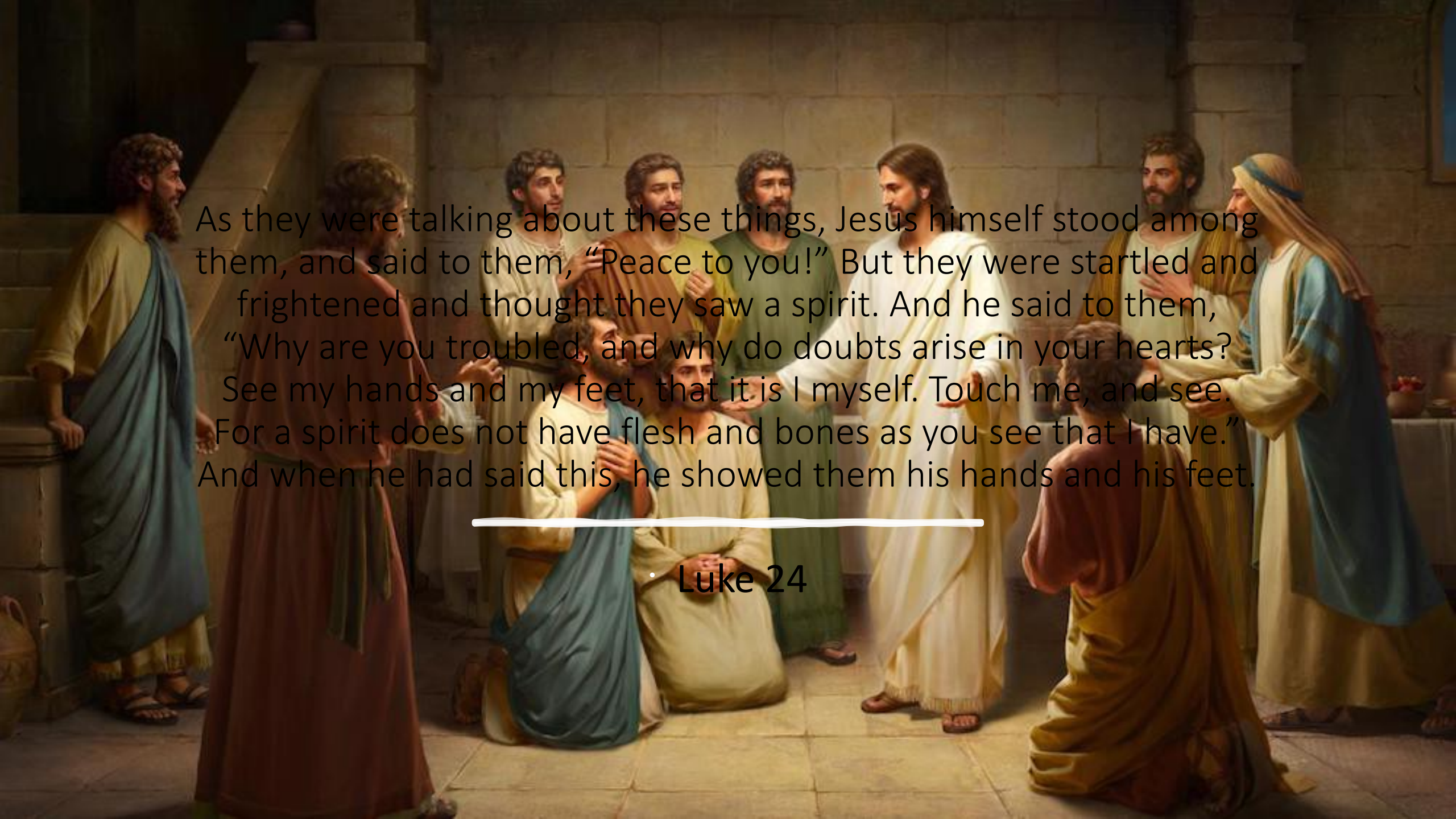
And immediately,
while [Jesus] was still
speaking, Judas came,
one of the twelve,
and with him a crowd
with swords and
clubs.... And **all [the
disciples]** left him and
fled.

• **Mark 14**

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.”

Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.”

• John 20

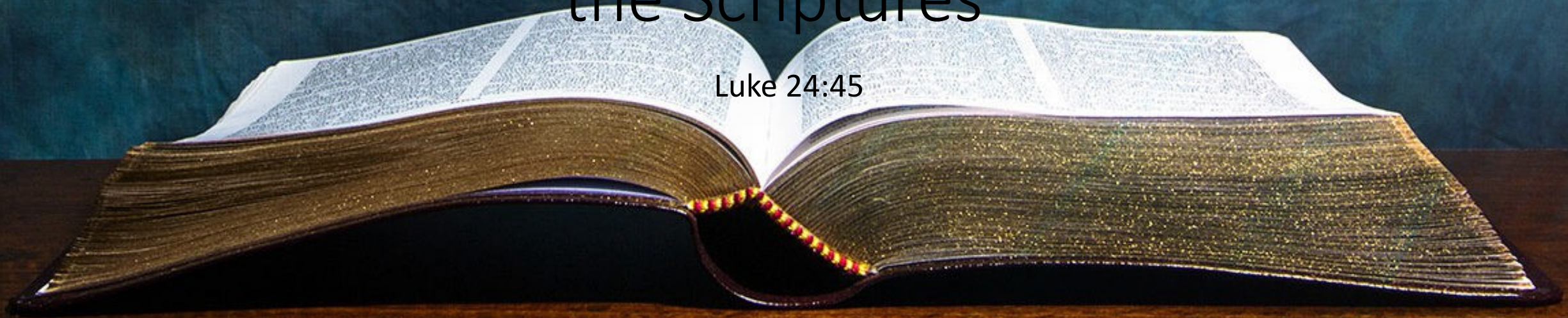


As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.

• Luke 24

Then he opened their minds to understand
the Scriptures

Luke 24:45



Confidence for the Doubtful

Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.

John 17:24-26



A person is standing on a rocky cliff, looking out from a cave opening. The sun is shining brightly through the opening, creating a lens flare effect. The scene is bathed in warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The background shows a vast landscape with mountains and a clear sky.

Confidence for the Doubtful

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 8:35-39



Takeaways

- God's desire is to elevate the Lowly, your human measurables are not relevant to God.
- Sin is common to all, through Jesus, God is looking to complete a work in you, to enhance your unique capabilities, slowly work off your rough edges, and provide healing and wellness
- Doubt is not to be feared but expected, God will put us to the test. Only by giving up on God and rejecting the call of Jesus do we truly fail him. Doubt, questions, or a lack of courage are learning opportunities which Jesus will use to work with us, not hold against us.