



WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT

2021  
SESSION  
3  
TERM 3

WHAT THE  
BIBLE  
IS ABOUT



THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

ETSI  
DOCTRINA  
NON DARETUR

(As if doctrine is not given)

**“We know  
nothing  
of religion here:  
we think only of  
Christ.”**

C.S. Lewis (1946). *The Great Divorce*.

## CHAPTER 1

**I**N the beginning <sup>R</sup>was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. [v. 14; 17:5, 24]

**2** <sup>R</sup>The same was in the beginning  
with God. Gen. 1:1

**3** <sup>R</sup>All things were made by him;  
and without him was not any thing  
made that was made. [Eph. 3:9]

# The Four Gospels

## The Messiah

The Promised One is here; see His Credentials.  
(To the Jew)

Matthew



Mark

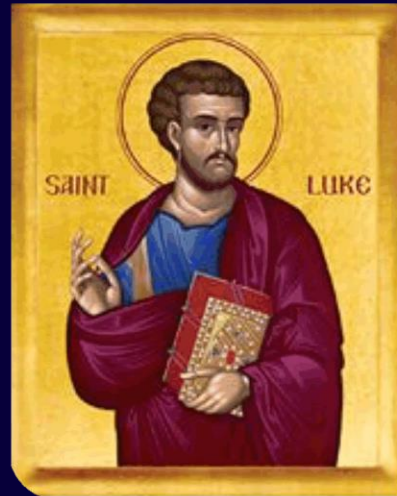


## Suffering Servant

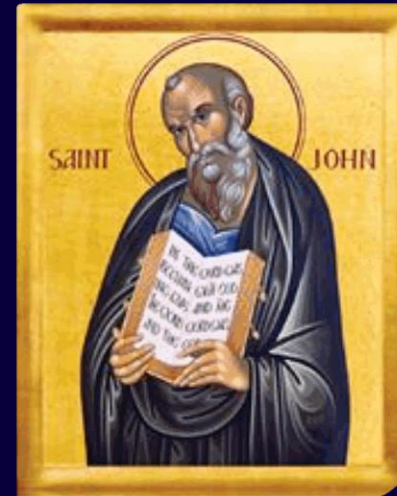
This is how He worked; see His Power  
(To Romans)

## Son of Man

This what He was like; see His Nature.  
(To the Greek)



Luke



John

## Son of God

This is who He really was; see His Godship.  
(To Christians)

## Key Theme

# JOHN

JESUS IS THE CHRIST: BELIEVE AND LIVE!

“<sup>30</sup>And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>**but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.**”

JOHN 20:31

# Themes in the Gospel of John

1 Jesus is God,  
the "I am"

He existed before creation. As the sent Son of God, he reflects the Sender.

2 Signs and  
Wonders  
Validate  
Him

Signs, wonders, and witnesses validate that Jesus is the Messiah, the Christ.

3 The Trinity

Father, Son, and Spirit are united in their work of revelation and redemption.

4 Salvation

Jesus' death is the basis of salvation, obtained through believing in the living Jesus as the Son of God.

5 Eternal Life

Jesus is the giver of eternal life. Believers through the Spirit can experience some of salvation's benefits in the present age.

6 Mission

Believers are called to continue Jesus' mission.



# The Gospel of John

## OPPORTUNITY

Christ presents Himself to:

- His disciples—1:19-2:12
- The Jews—2:13-3:36
- The Samaritans—4:1-54
- The Jewish leaders—5:1-47
- The multitudes—6:1-71

## OPPOSITION

There is conflict with the Jewish leaders over:

- Moses—7:1-8:11
- Abraham—8:12-59
- Who Messiah is—9:1-10:42
- His miraculous power—11:1-12:36
- They would not believe on Him-12:37-50

## OUTCOME

Christ's farewell message to His beloved disciples:

- The faith of the disciples—13-17
- The unbelief of the Jews—18-19
- The victory of Christ—20-21



*The*  
GOSPEL  
*of* JOHN

OPPORTUNITY

# Literary Structure – 1<sup>st</sup> of the 9-fold Chiasms

**A**

The Word became flesh (1:1-18)

**B**

The testimony of John the Baptist (1:19-28)

**C**

A. The

The lamb of God (1:29-34)

**D**

Father's

The first disciple of Jesus (1:35-42)

**E**

Son (flesh  
and Spirit)

Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael (1:43-51)

**D'**

B. Human  
testimony

The wedding at Cana (2:1-12)

**C'**

C. A dove

Jesus cleanses the Temple (2:13-25)

**B'**

D. Beginning of  
evangelism

Nicodemus visits Jesus (3:1-21)

**A'**

E. The call

John the Baptist's final witness (3:22-26)

THE **GOSPEL**  
OF **JOHN**

**CHAPTER 1**

**CHRIST THE WORD**

## Summary of John, Chapter 1

“In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God,  
and the Word was God.  
He was in the beginning with God.”



THE  
*Word*  
BECAME  
*Flesh*

# 7

● John identified seven names and titles of Jesus that identify Him as eternal God:

1. The **Word** (eternal, creative, incarnate)
2. The **Light**
3. The **Son of God**
4. The **Lamb of God**
5. The **Messiah**
6. The **King of Israel**
7. The **Son of Man**



**Jesus** of Nazareth  
is **God**  
come in the flesh!

**God is here!**



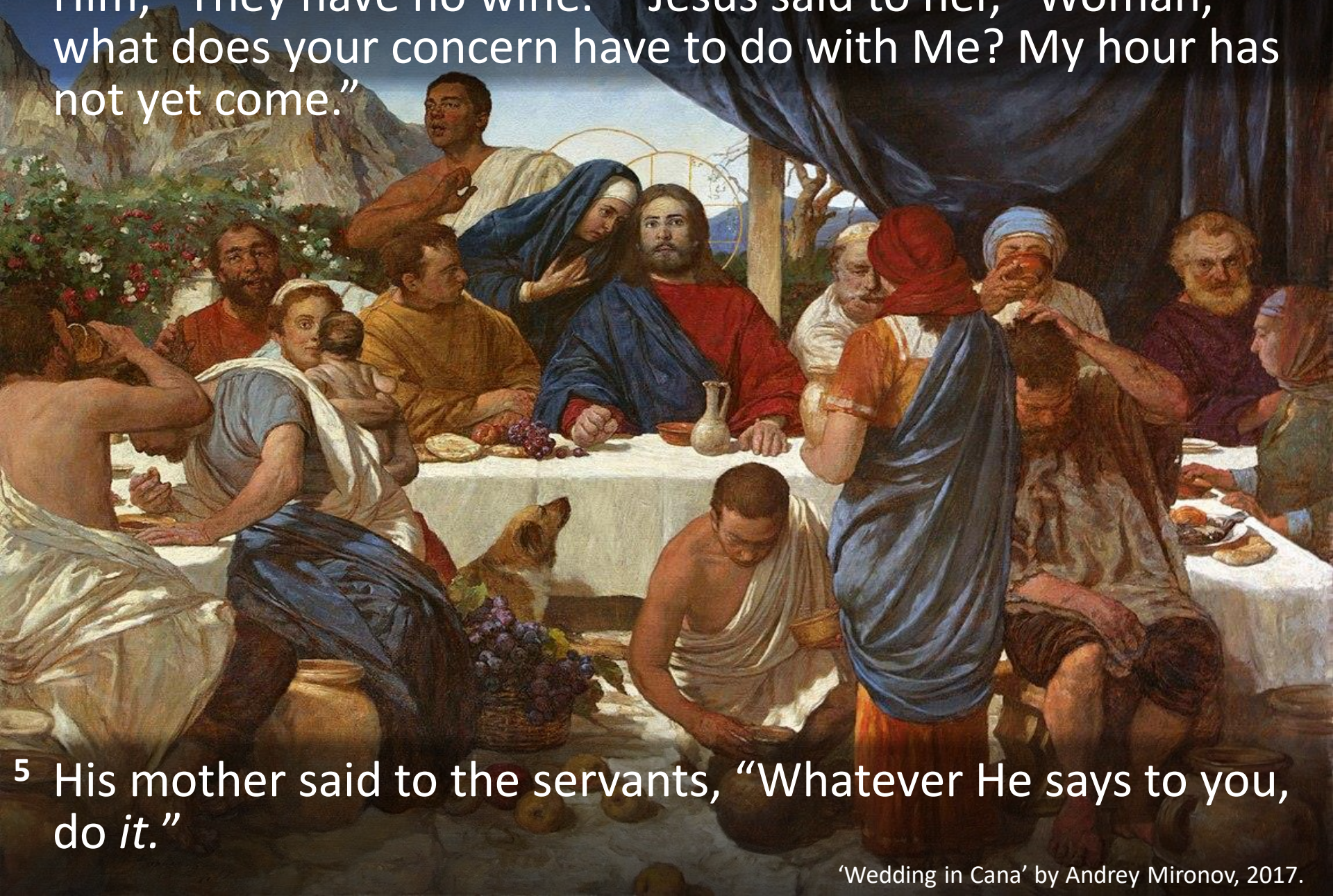
THE **GOSPEL**  
OF **JOHN**

**CHAPTER 2**

**CHRIST THE CREATOR**



<sup>3</sup> And when they ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.” <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come.”



<sup>5</sup> His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

<sup>6</sup> Now there were set there six waterpots of stone, according to the manner of purification of the Jews, containing twenty or thirty gallons apiece.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to them, "Fill the waterpots with water." And they filled them up to the brim.



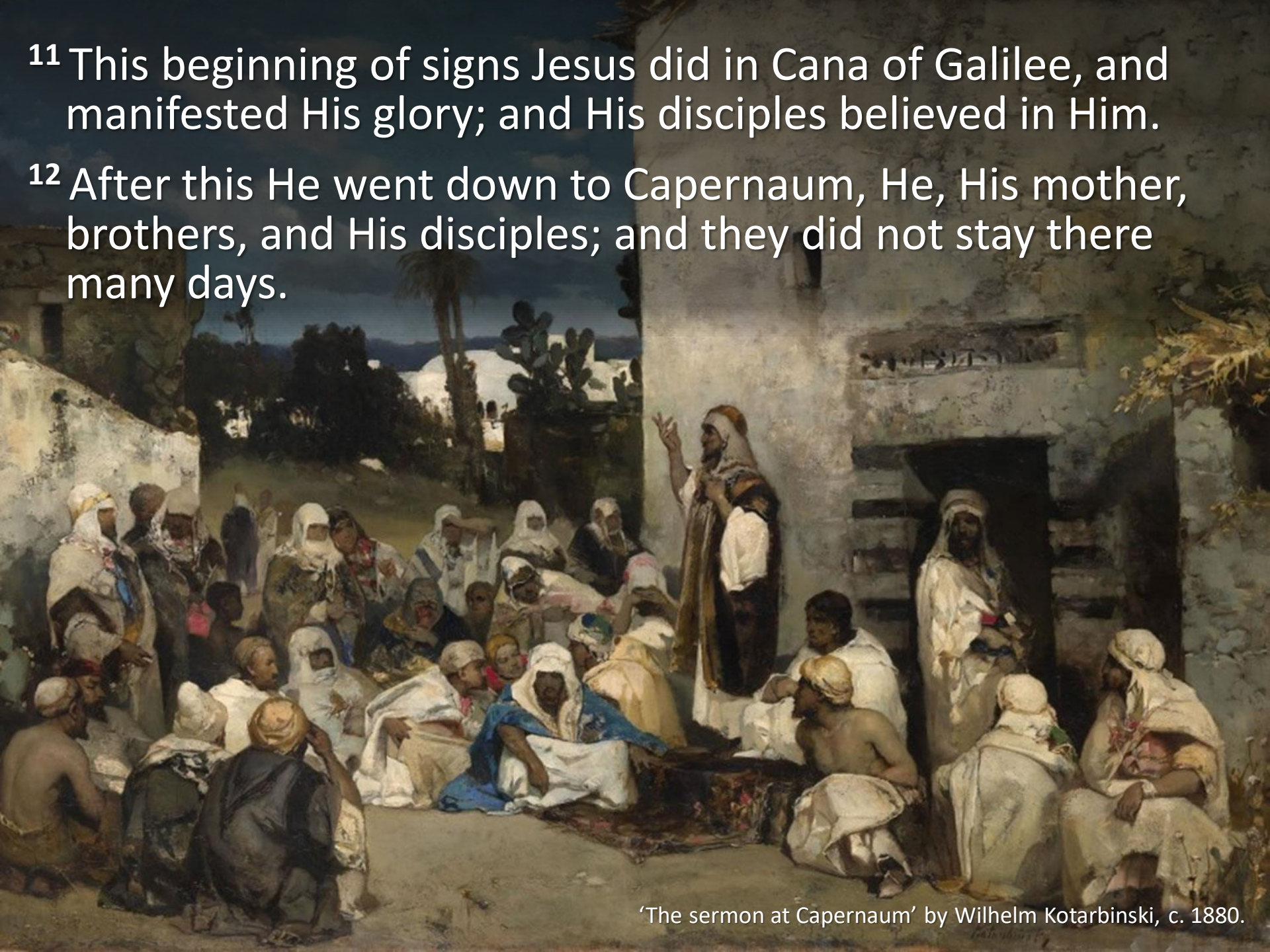
<sup>8</sup> And He said to them, “Draw *some* out now, and take *it* to the master of the feast.” And they took *it*. <sup>9</sup> When the master of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the master of the feast called the bridegroom. <sup>10</sup> And he said to him, “Every man at the beginning sets out the good wine, and when the *guests* have well drunk, then the inferior. You have kept the good wine until now!”



‘Marriage at Cana’ by Paolo Veronese 1572

<sup>11</sup> This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.

<sup>12</sup> After this He went down to Capernaum, He, His mother, brothers, and His disciples; and they did not stay there many days.



'The sermon at Capernaum' by Wilhelm Kotarbinski, c. 1880.

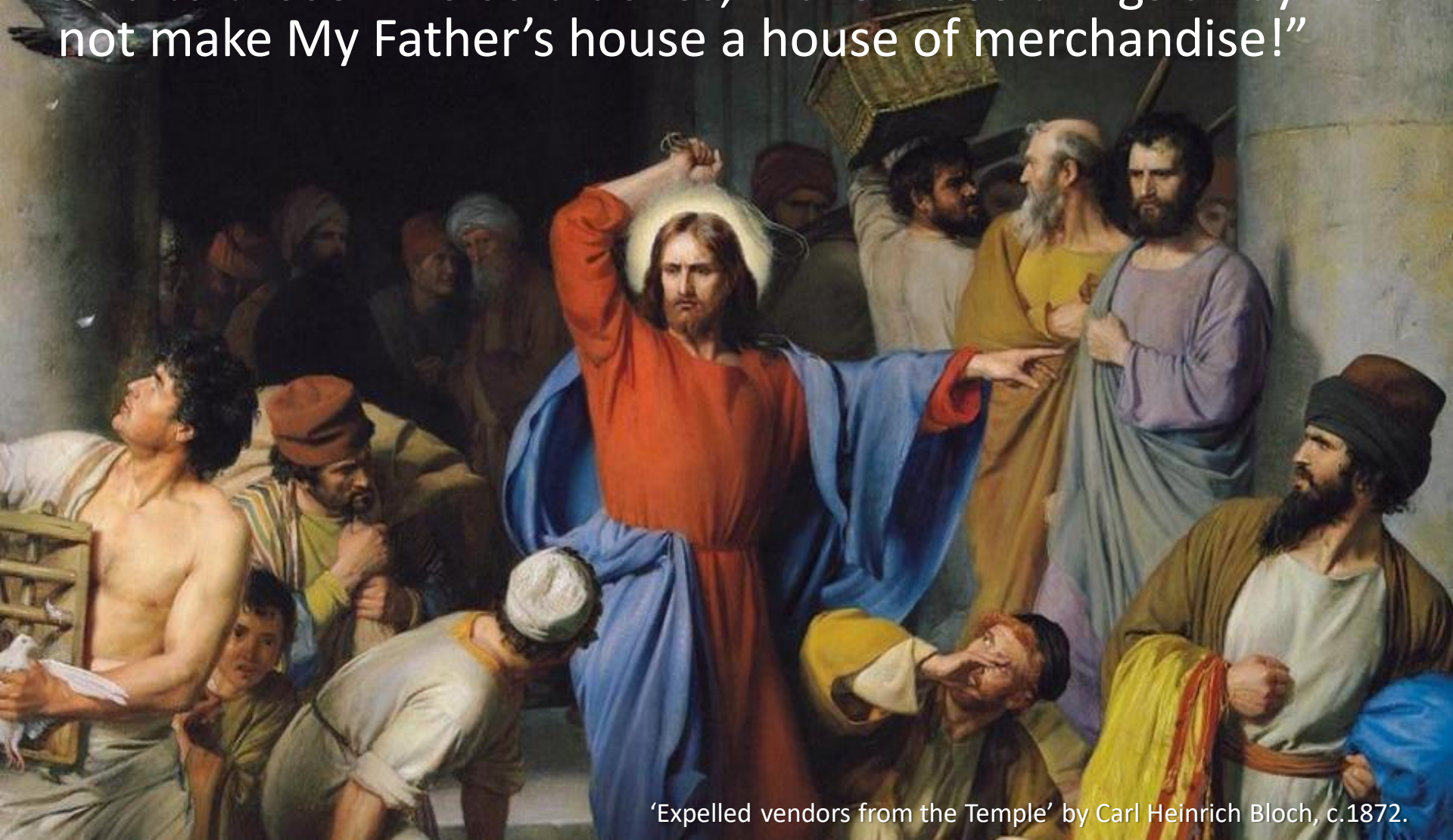
# Jesus cleanses the temple

<sup>13</sup> Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business.

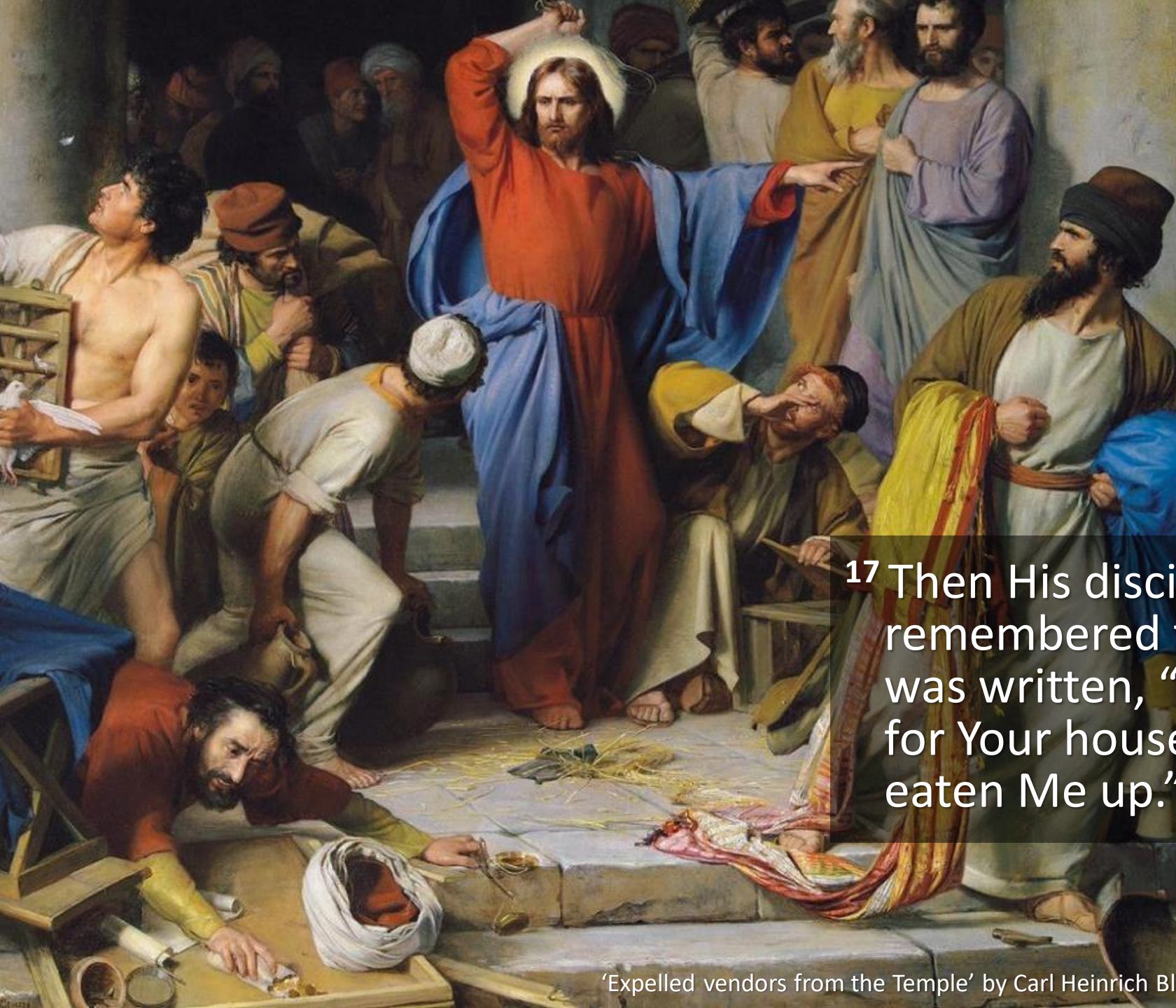


'The Merchants Chased from the Temple' by James Tissot, 1886-1894.

<sup>15</sup> When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. <sup>16</sup> And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!"



'Expelled vendors from the Temple' by Carl Heinrich Bloch, c.1872.



<sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

‘Expelled vendors from the Temple’ by Carl Heinrich Bloch, c.1872.

## Jesus cleanses the temple

<sup>18</sup> So the Jews answered and said to Him, “What sign do You show to us, since You do these things?”

<sup>19</sup> Jesus answered and said to them,

**“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”**

<sup>20</sup> Then the Jews said, “It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?”

<sup>21</sup> But He was speaking of the temple of His body.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore, when He had risen from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; and they believed the Scripture and the word which Jesus had said.



## The discerner of hearts

<sup>23</sup> Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all *men*, <sup>25</sup> and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.



“The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*,  
And desperately wicked;  
Who can know it?”

Jeremiah 17:9

THE **GOSPEL**  
OF **JOHN**

**CHAPTER 3**

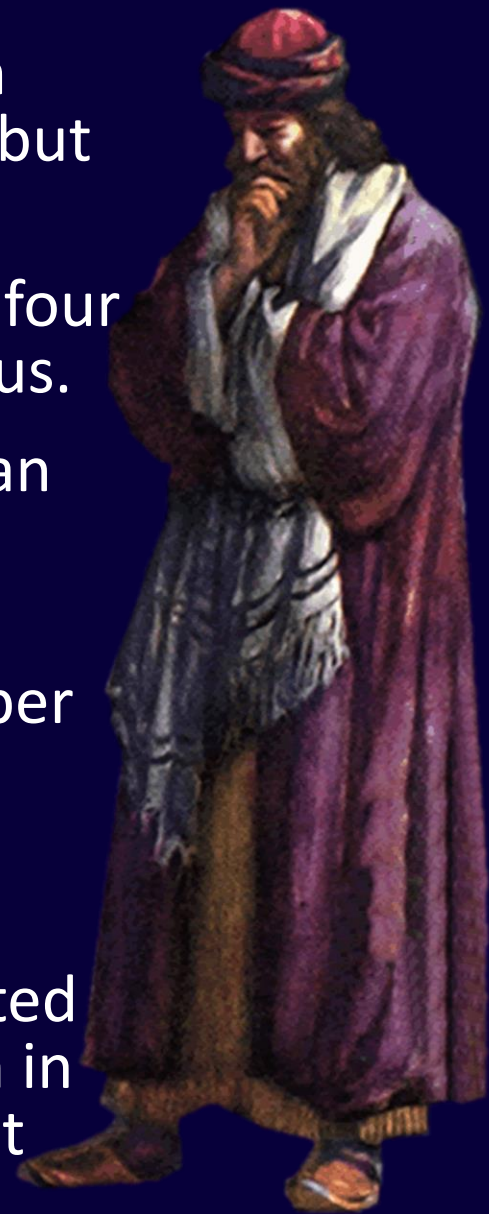
**CHRIST THE SAVIOUR**



**3** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. **2** This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

# The man named Nicodemus

- He was a Pharisee and a ruler (archon), which suggests he was a member of the Sanhedrin, but not a chief priest.
- The Talmud records Nicodemus as one of the four richest men in Jerusalem and a disciple of Jesus.
- Per the Talmud, he was brother of the historian Josephus and a very wealthy member of the Sanhedrin.
- Hoskyns records that Nicodemus was a member of the aristocratic family that furnished the Hasmonean king, Aristobulus II, with his ambassador to Pompey in 63 BC.
- His son apparently was the man who negotiated the terms of surrender to the Roman garrison in Jerusalem prior to the final destruction of that city in AD 70.



<sup>3</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

**JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID TO HIM, “MOST ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU, UNLESS ONE IS BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.”**

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered,

“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

<sup>7</sup> Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”



<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?”

<sup>11</sup> Most assuredly, I say to you,  
We speak what We know  
and testify what We have  
seen, and you do not receive  
Our witness.

<sup>12</sup> If I have told you earthly  
things and you do not  
believe, how will you believe  
if I tell you heavenly things?

<sup>13</sup> No one has ascended to  
heaven but He who came  
down from heaven, *that*  
*is*, the Son of Man who is in  
heaven.



'Jesus and Nicodemus by' Crijn Hendricksz Volmarijn, c. 16

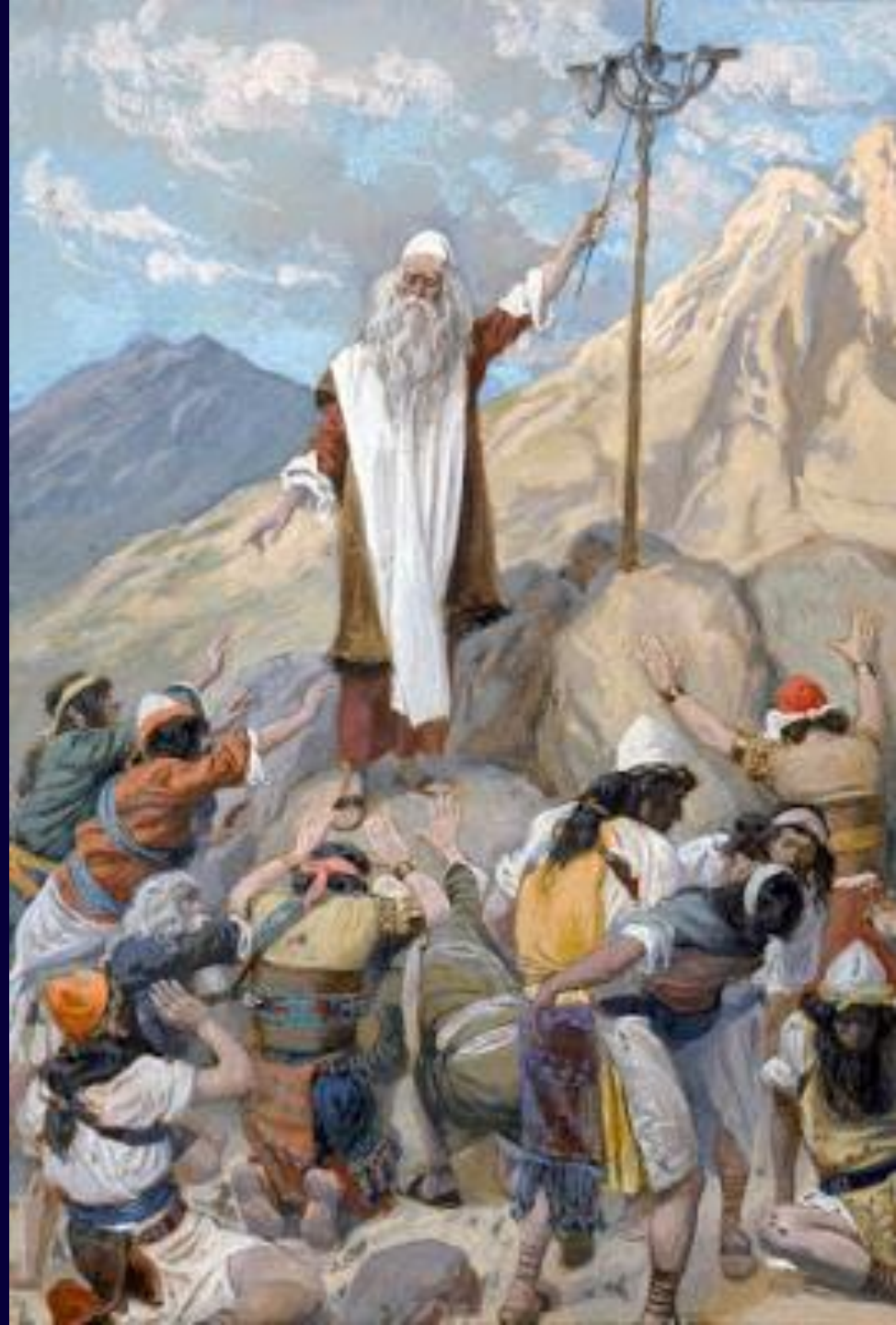


<sup>14</sup> And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

## *John 3:16*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

'The Brazen Serpent' by James Tissot, 1896-1902.



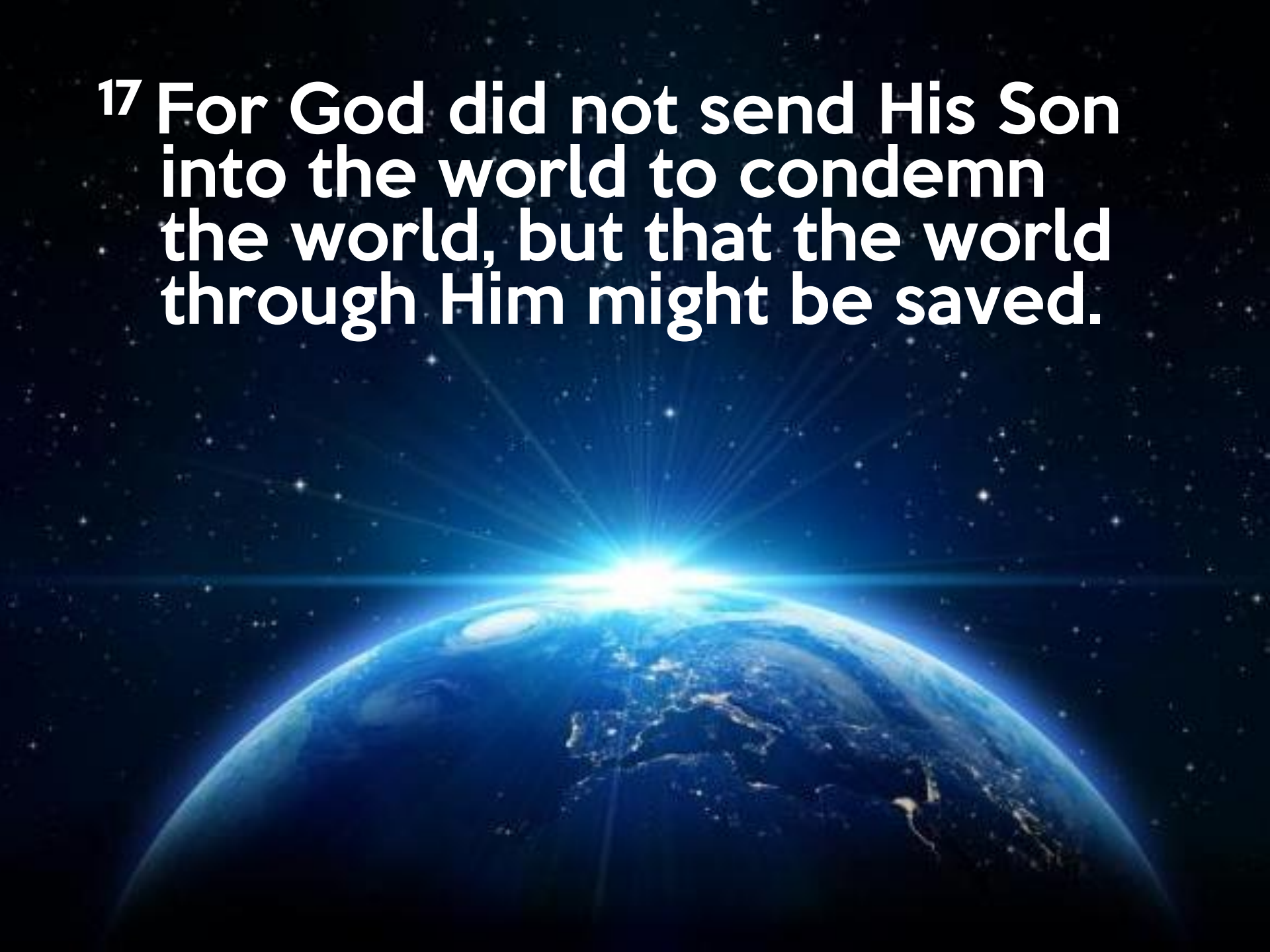
# John 3:16

**For God  
So  
Loved  
the world** (*kosmos*)  
**that He gave  
His only  
begotten  
Son,  
that whosoever  
believes  
in Him  
should not perish  
but have  
everlasting  
life.**

the greatest being  
the greatest degree  
the greatest affection  
the greatest object of love  
the greatest act  
the greatest treasure  
the greatest relationship  
the greatest gift  
the greatest company  
the greatest trust  
the greatest object of faith  
the greatest deliverance  
the greatest assurance  
the greatest promise  
the greatest blessing

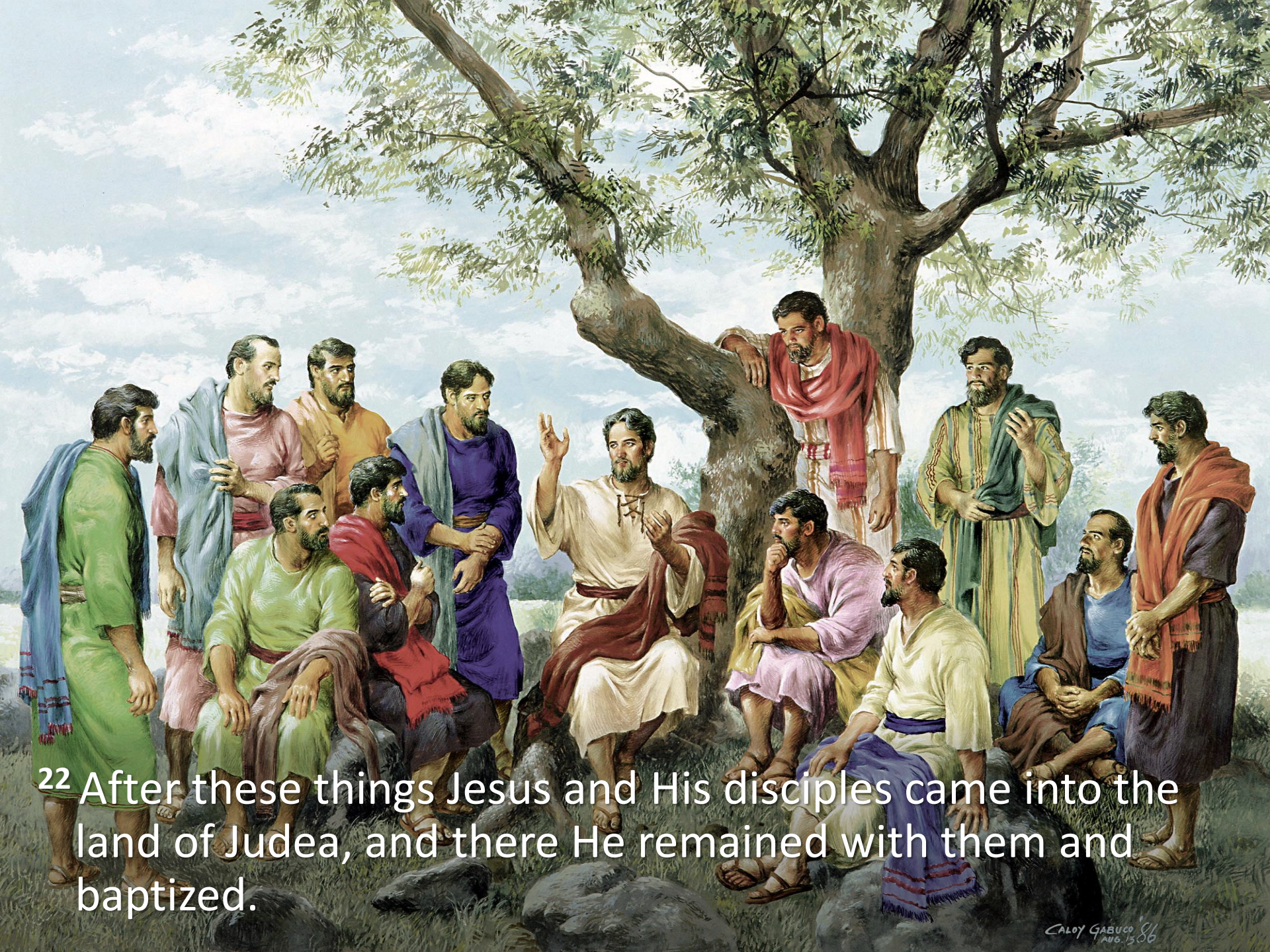


**17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.**



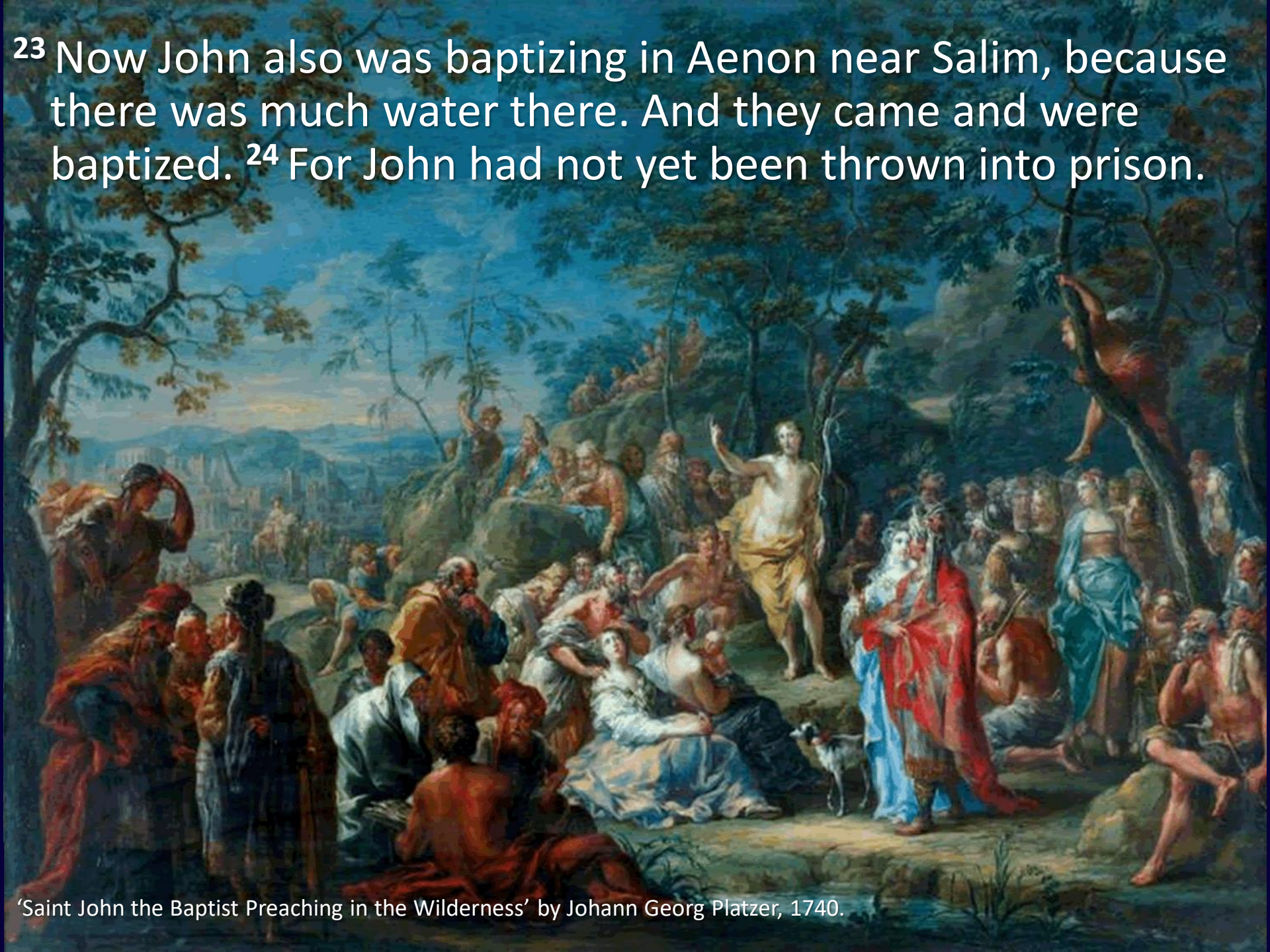
- 18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
- 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.
- 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.
- 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”





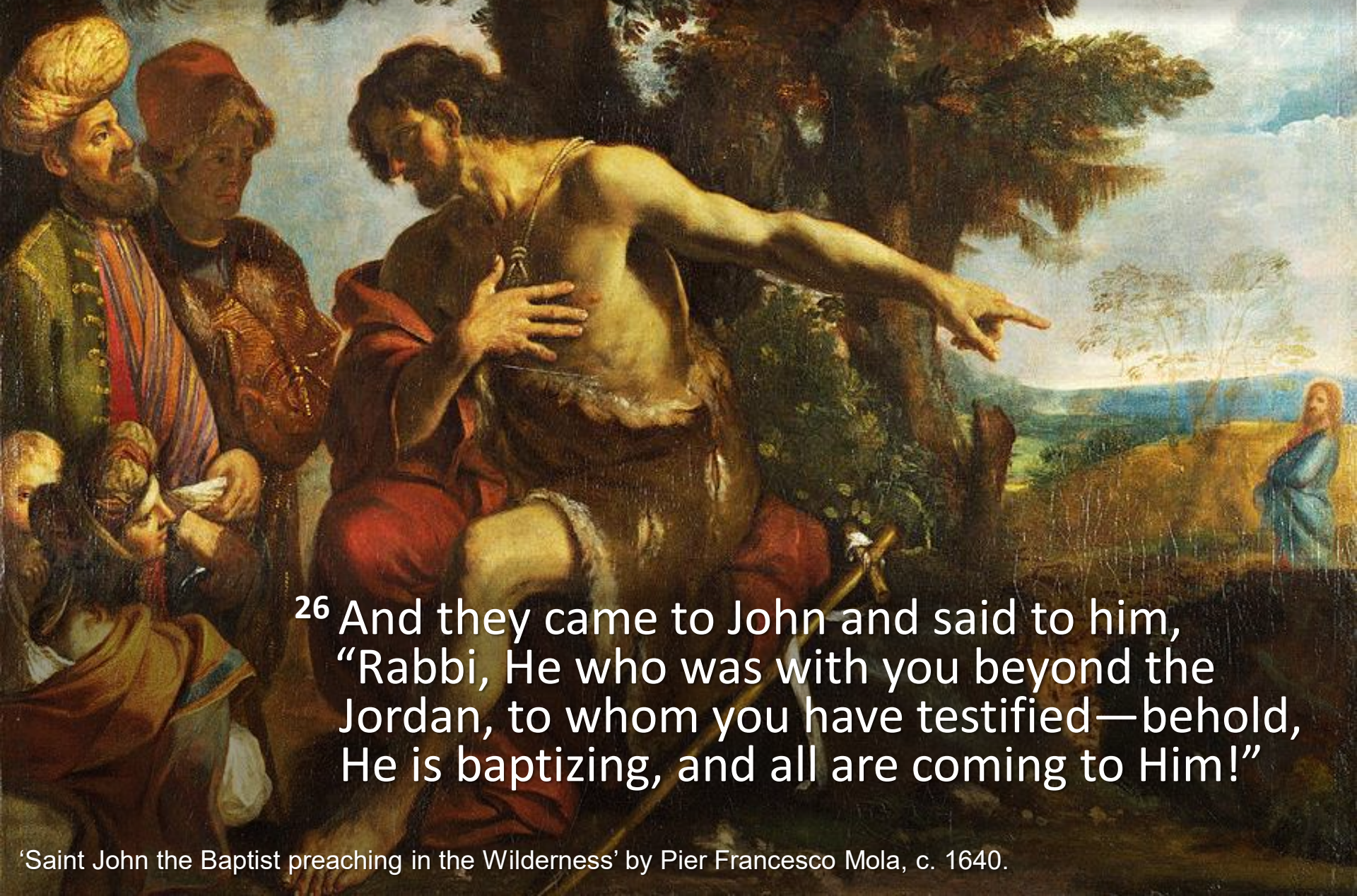
<sup>22</sup> After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.

<sup>23</sup> Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized. <sup>24</sup> For John had not yet been thrown into prison.



'Saint John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness' by Johann Georg Platzer, 1740.

**25** Then there arose a dispute between *some* of John's disciples and the Jews about purification.



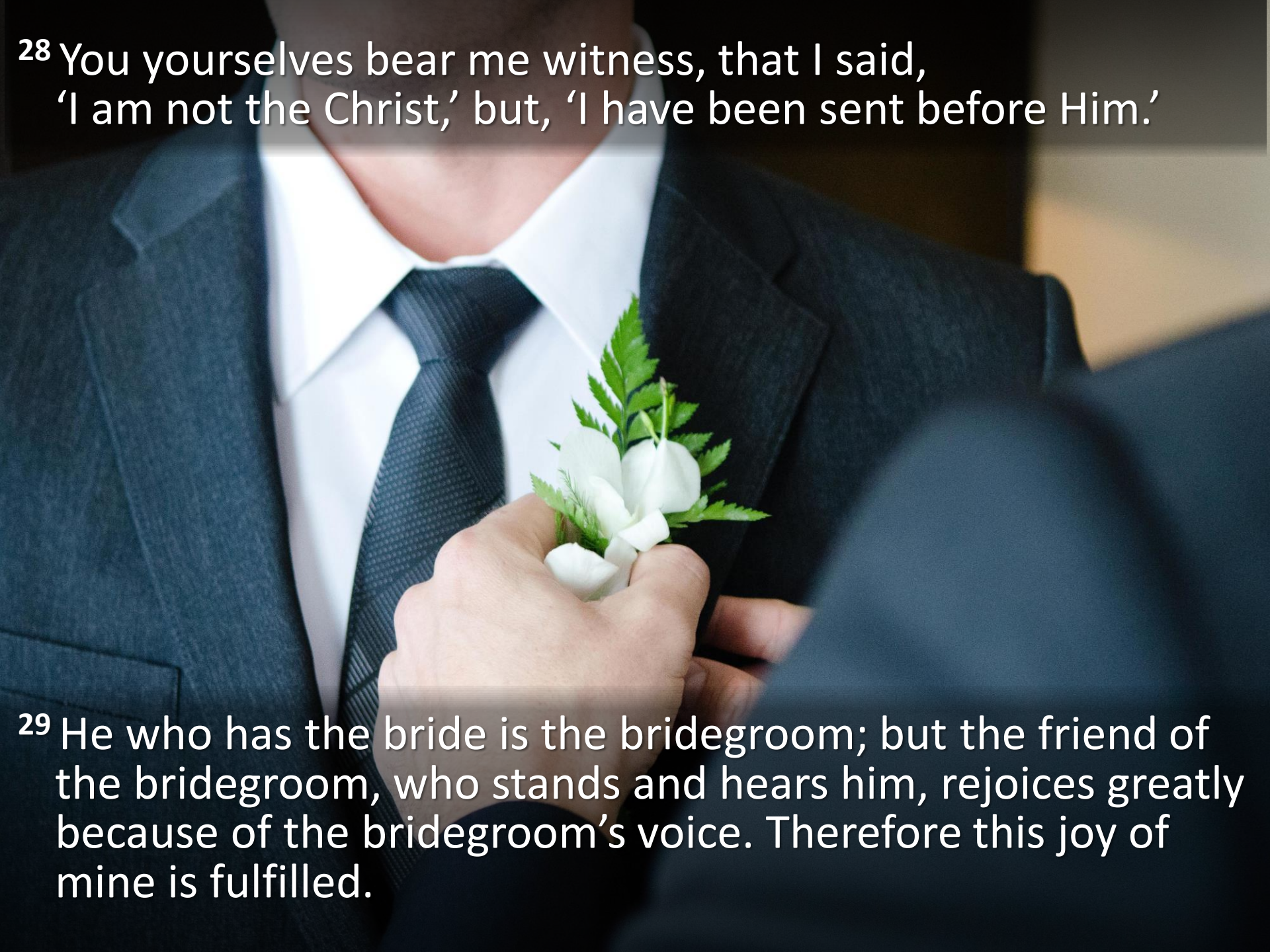
**26** And they came to John and said to him, “Rabbi, He who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you have testified—behold, He is baptizing, and all are coming to Him!”

<sup>27</sup> John answered and said,

**“A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.”**







<sup>28</sup> You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ,' but, 'I have been sent before Him.'

<sup>29</sup> He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is fulfilled.

<sup>30</sup> He must increase, but I *must* decrease.

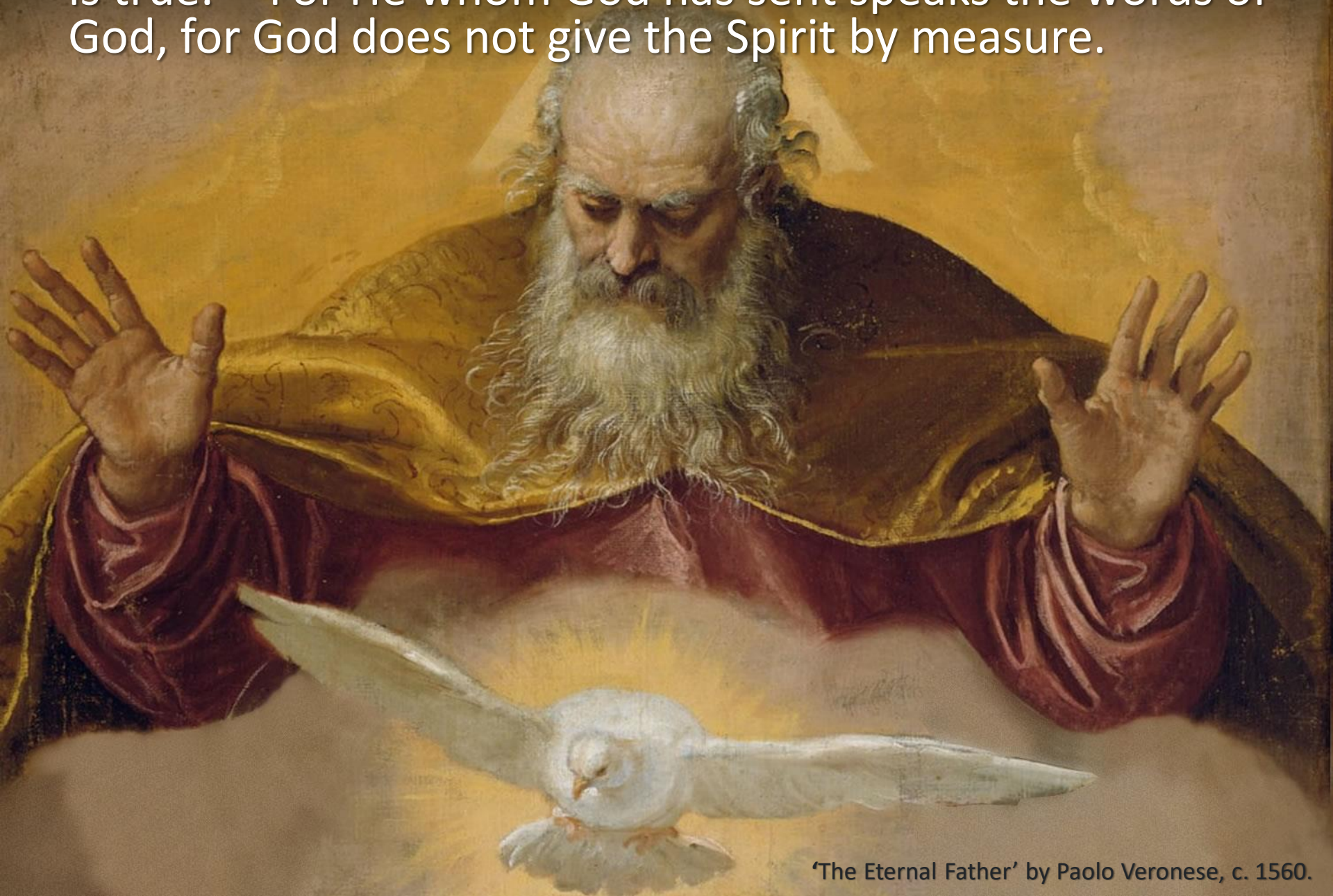
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HE MUST  
**INCREASE**  
BUT I MUST  
**DECREASE**

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<sup>31</sup> He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all. <sup>32</sup> And what He has seen and heard, that He testifies; and no one receives His testimony.

<sup>33</sup> He who has received His testimony has certified that God is true. <sup>34</sup> For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.



'The Eternal Father' by Paolo Veronese, c. 1560.

<sup>35</sup> The Father loves the Son,  
and has given all things  
into His hand.

<sup>36</sup> He who believes in the  
Son has everlasting life;  
and he who does not  
believe the Son shall not  
see life, but the wrath of  
God abides on him.”



THE **GOSPEL**  
OF **JOHN**

**CHAPTER 4**

**CHRIST THE WATER OF LIFE**

# Literary Structure – 2<sup>st</sup> of the 9-fold Chiasms

**A**

Jesus and the woman of Samaria (4:1-26)

**B**

One sows and another reaps (4:27-38)

**C**

A. Food

Faith of Samaria (4:39-42)

and drink

**D**

B. Doing the

Jesus returns to Galilee (4:43-45)

Father's works

**E**

C. To listen to the

Healing the official's son (4:46-54)

Word and believe

**D'**

D. People who

Jesus heals on the Sabbath (5:1-18)

don't believe

Jesus

**C'**

E. Healing

The authority of the Son (5:19-30)

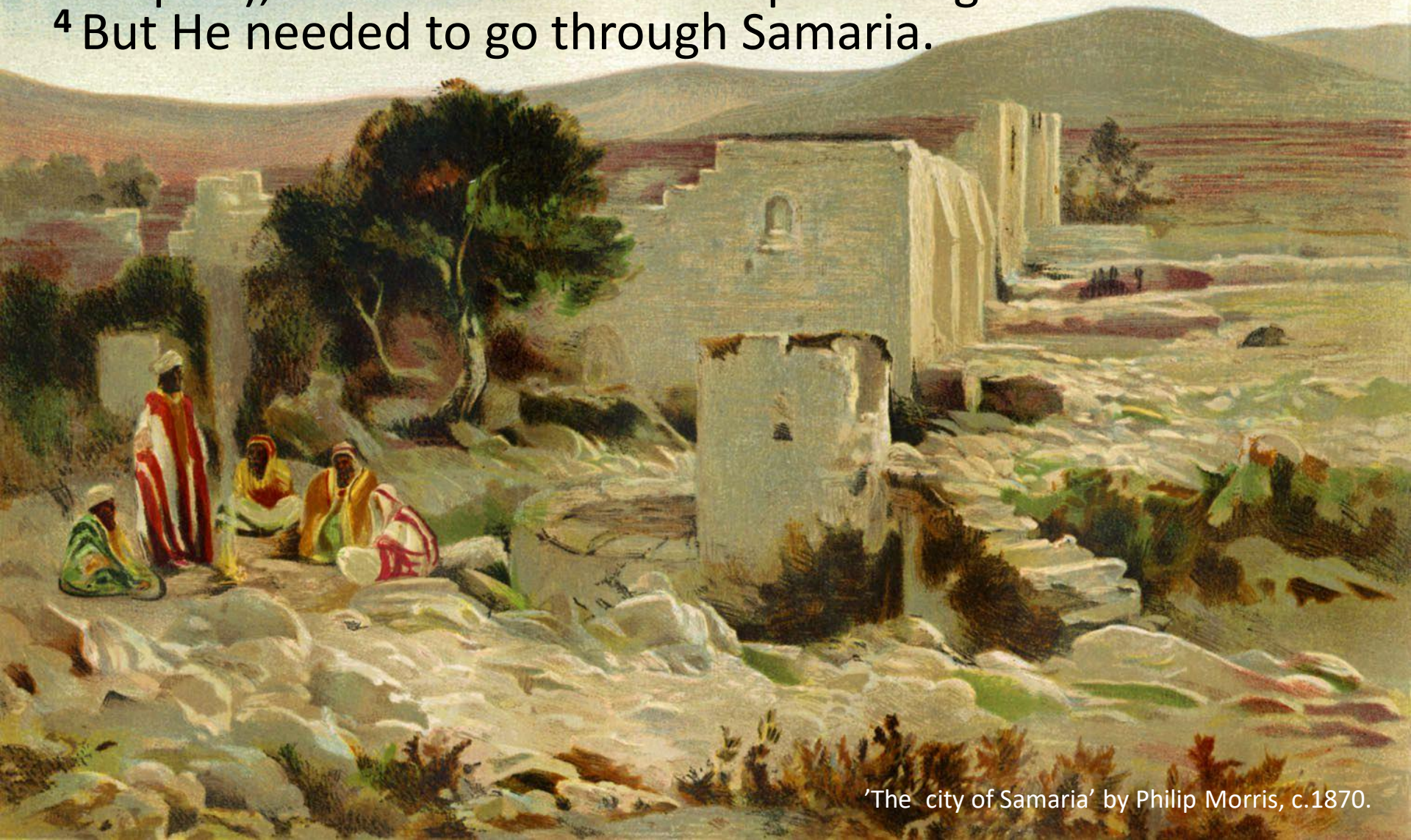
**B'**

Witnesses to Jesus (5:31-47)

**A'**

Feeding the five thousand (6:2-25)

4 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples), <sup>3</sup> He left Judea and departed again to Galilee. <sup>4</sup> But He needed to go through Samaria.



'The city of Samaria' by Philip Morris, c.1870.

- <sup>5</sup> So He came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
- <sup>6</sup> Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from *His* journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.



'Steps leading to Jacob's Well' by Underwood, 1906.



<sup>7</sup> A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”  
<sup>8</sup> For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

<sup>9</sup> Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, “How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?”  
For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to Him, "Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water?"

<sup>12</sup> Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"



<sup>13</sup> Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, <sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw.”



<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”

<sup>17</sup> The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’

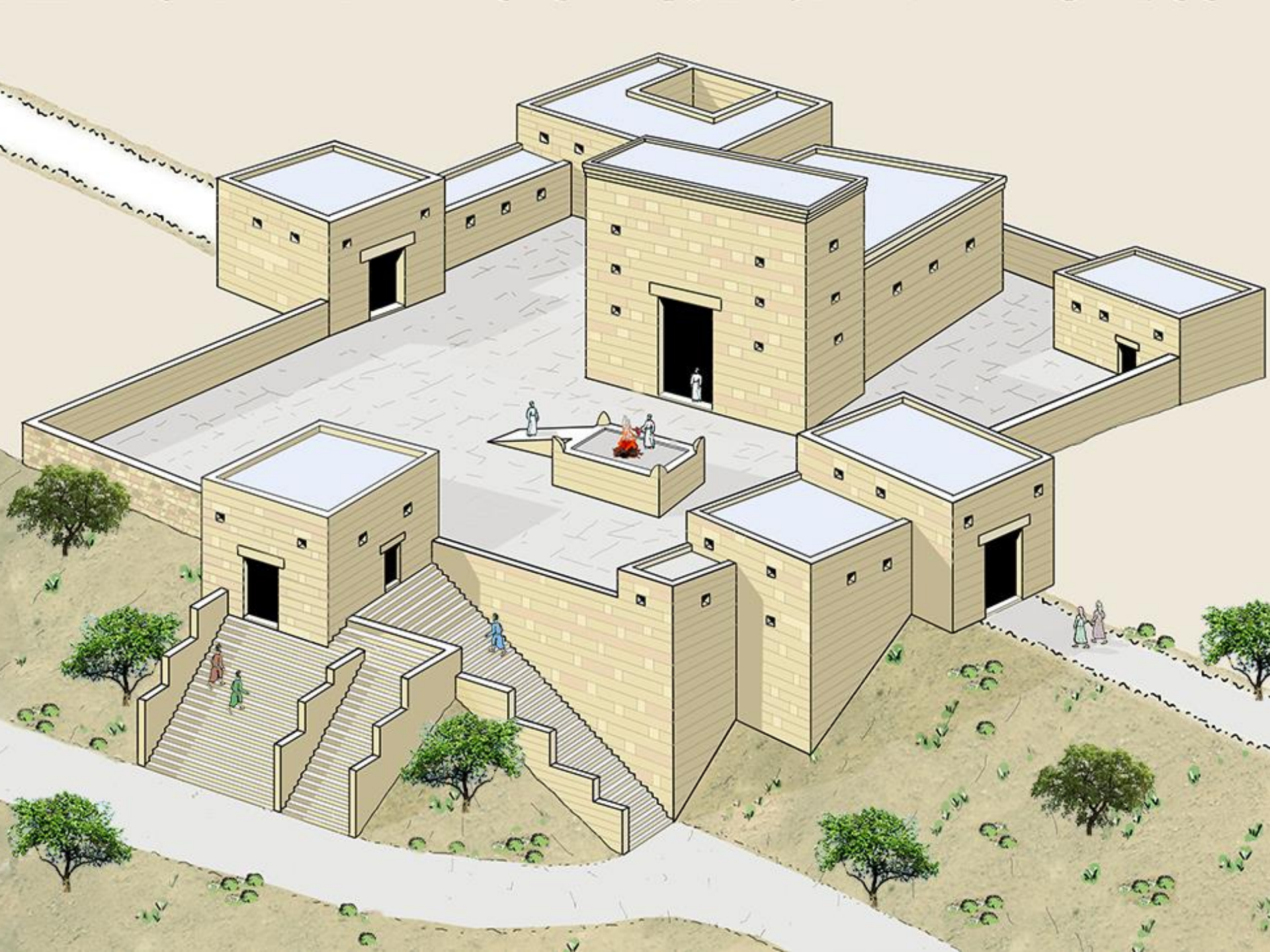
<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”



<sup>19</sup> The woman said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.









<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. <sup>24</sup> God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

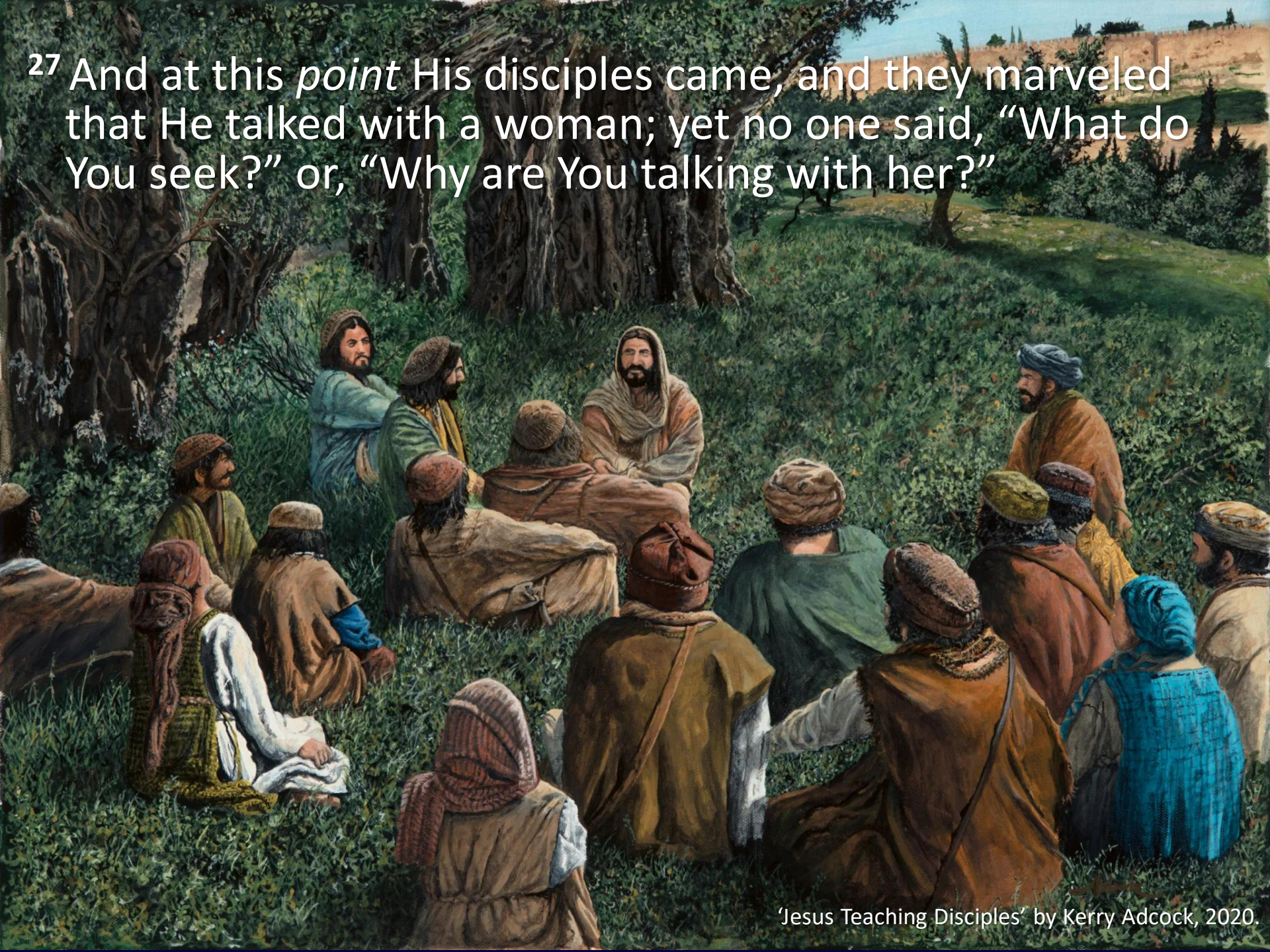
<sup>25</sup> The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.”

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her,

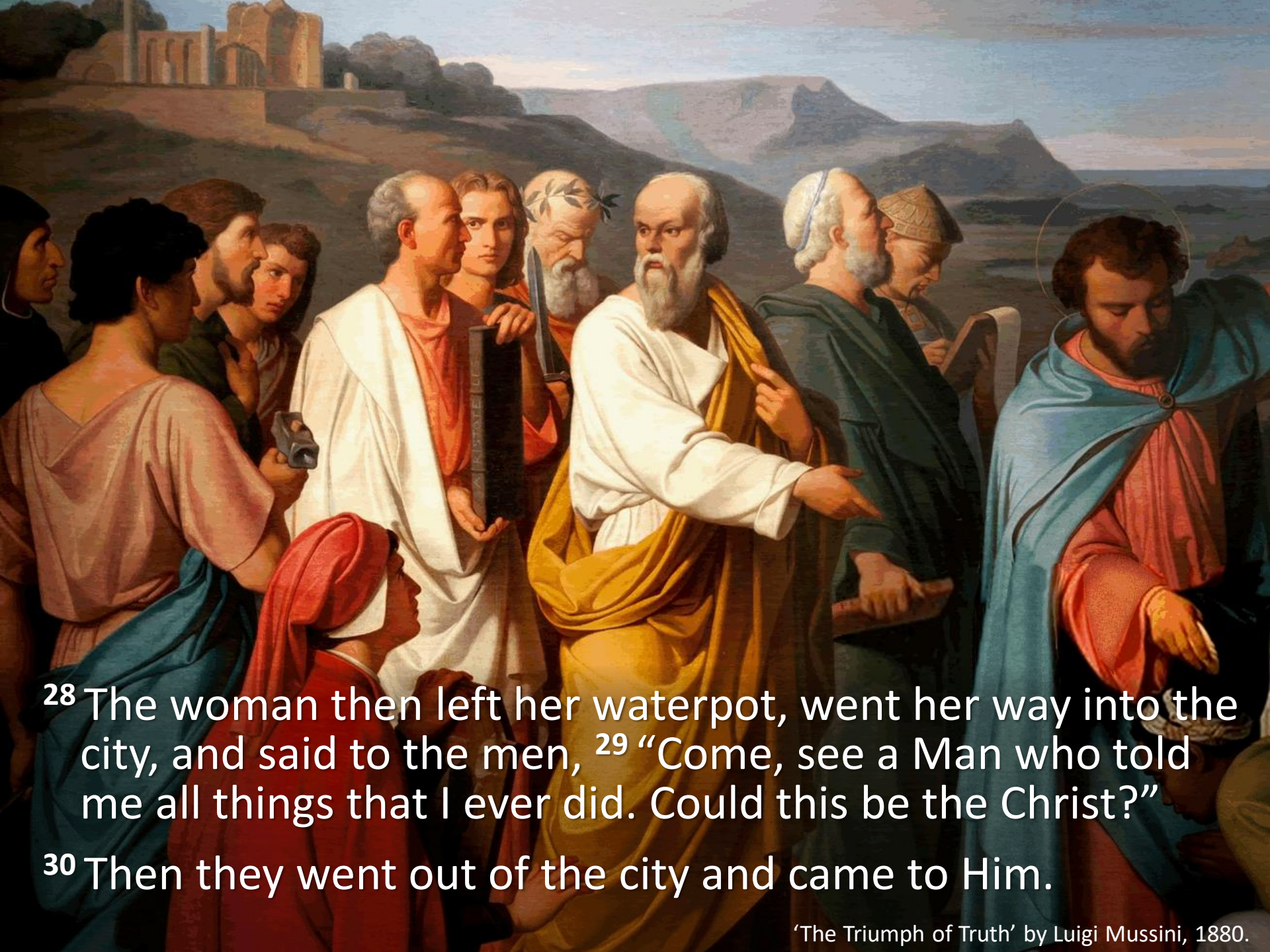
**I WHO SPEAK  
TO YOU AM  
HE.**



<sup>27</sup> And at this *point* His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You seek?” or, “Why are You talking with her?”



‘Jesus Teaching Disciples’ by Kerry Adcock, 2020.



<sup>28</sup> The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, <sup>29</sup> “Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?”

<sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

<sup>30</sup> Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

<sup>31</sup> In the meantime His disciples urged Him, saying, “Rabbi, eat.” <sup>32</sup> But He said to them, “I have food to eat of which you do not know.” <sup>33</sup> Therefore the disciples said to one another, “Has anyone brought Him *anything* to eat?”

<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘There are still four months and *then* comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!



<sup>36</sup> And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together.

<sup>37</sup> For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.'

<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored: others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."



<sup>39</sup> And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days.



'Raising of Lazarus' by Aertgen van Leyden, c. 1530.

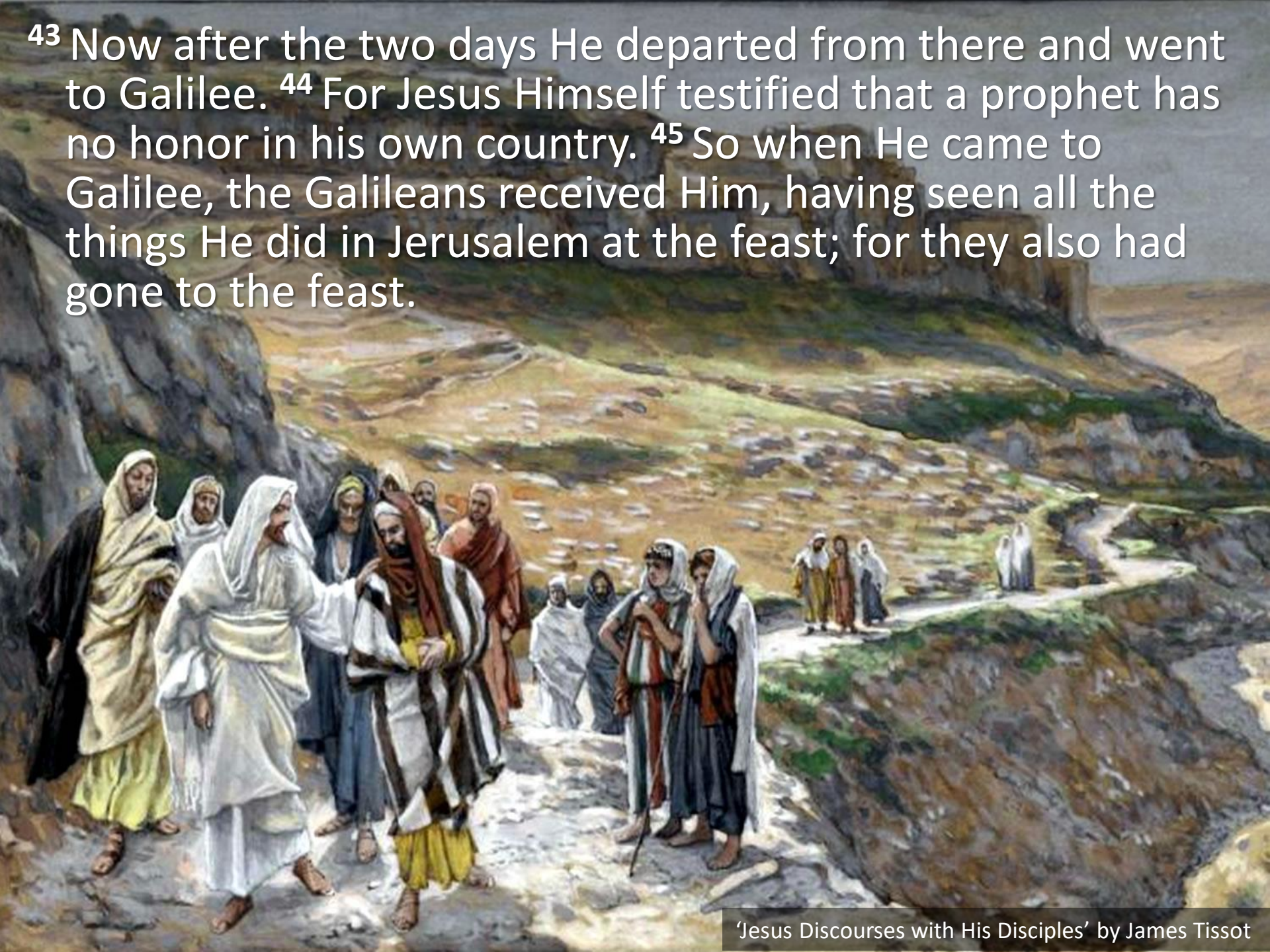
# AND MANY MORE BELIEVED BECAUSE OF HIS WORD.



<sup>42</sup>Then they said to the woman, “Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard *Him* and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.”



<sup>43</sup> Now after the two days He departed from there and went to Galilee. <sup>44</sup> For Jesus Himself testified that a prophet has no honor in his own country. <sup>45</sup> So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, having seen all the things He did in Jerusalem at the feast; for they also had gone to the feast.



<sup>46</sup> So Jesus came again to Cana of Galilee where He had made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman whose son was sick at Capernaum.





<sup>47</sup> When he heard that Jesus had come out of Judea into Galilee, he went to Him and implored Him to come down and heal his son, for he was at the point of death.

“Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.”

“Sir, come down before my child dies!”

“Go your way; your son lives.”



‘Jesus Heals the Official’s Son’ by James Tissot

<sup>51</sup> And as he was now going down, his servants met him and told *him*, saying,

“Your son lives!”

<sup>52</sup> Then he inquired of them the hour when he got better. And they said to him,

“Yesterday at the seventh hour the fever left him.”

<sup>53</sup> So the father knew that *it was* at the same hour in which Jesus said to him, “Your son lives.” And he himself believed, and his whole household.



**54** This again *is* the second sign Jesus did when He had come out of Judea into Galilee.

