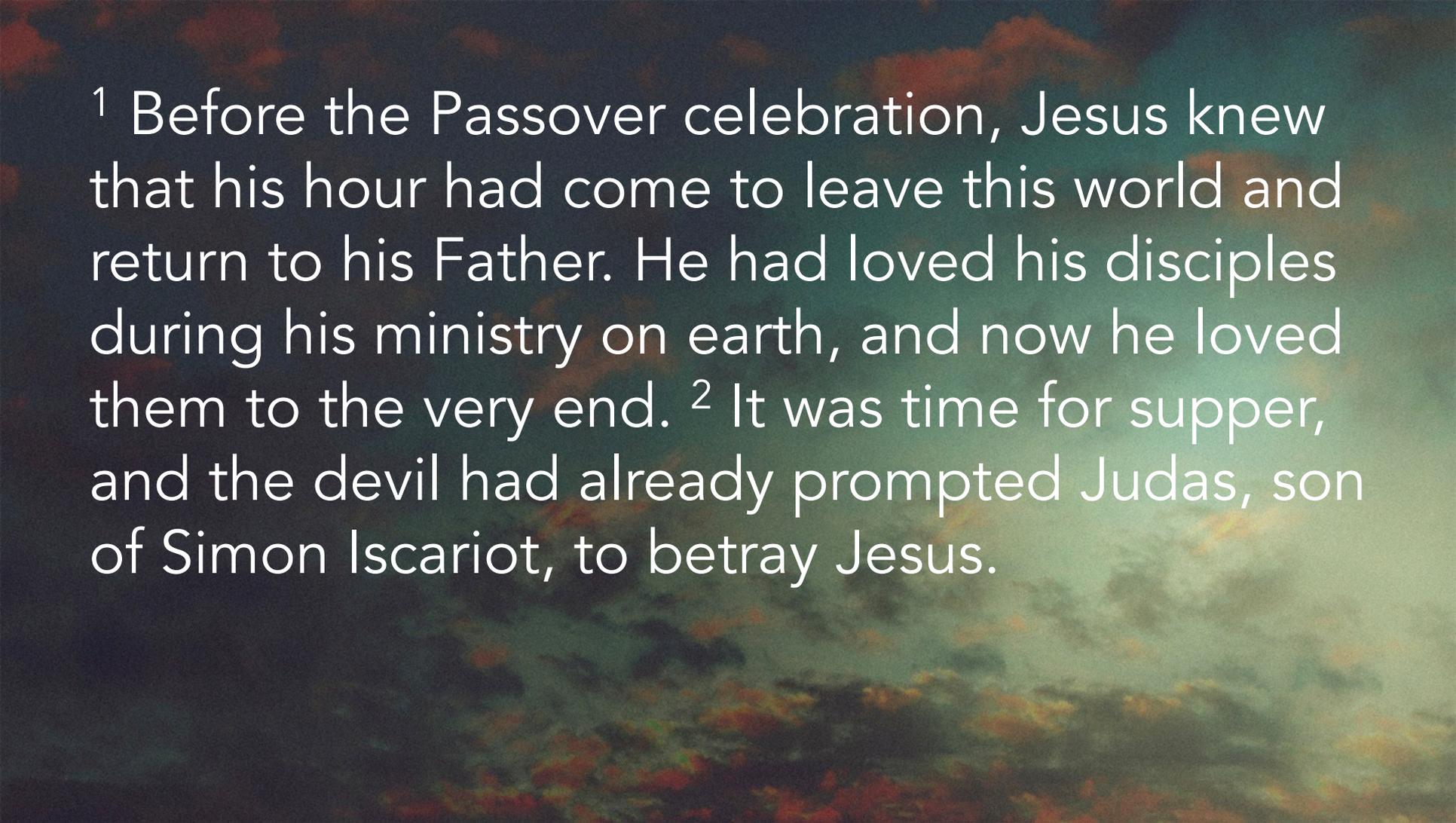


TRUE LOVE IS
ALWAYS EXPRESSED
IN HUMBLE SERVICE

JOHN 13:1-17 (NLT)





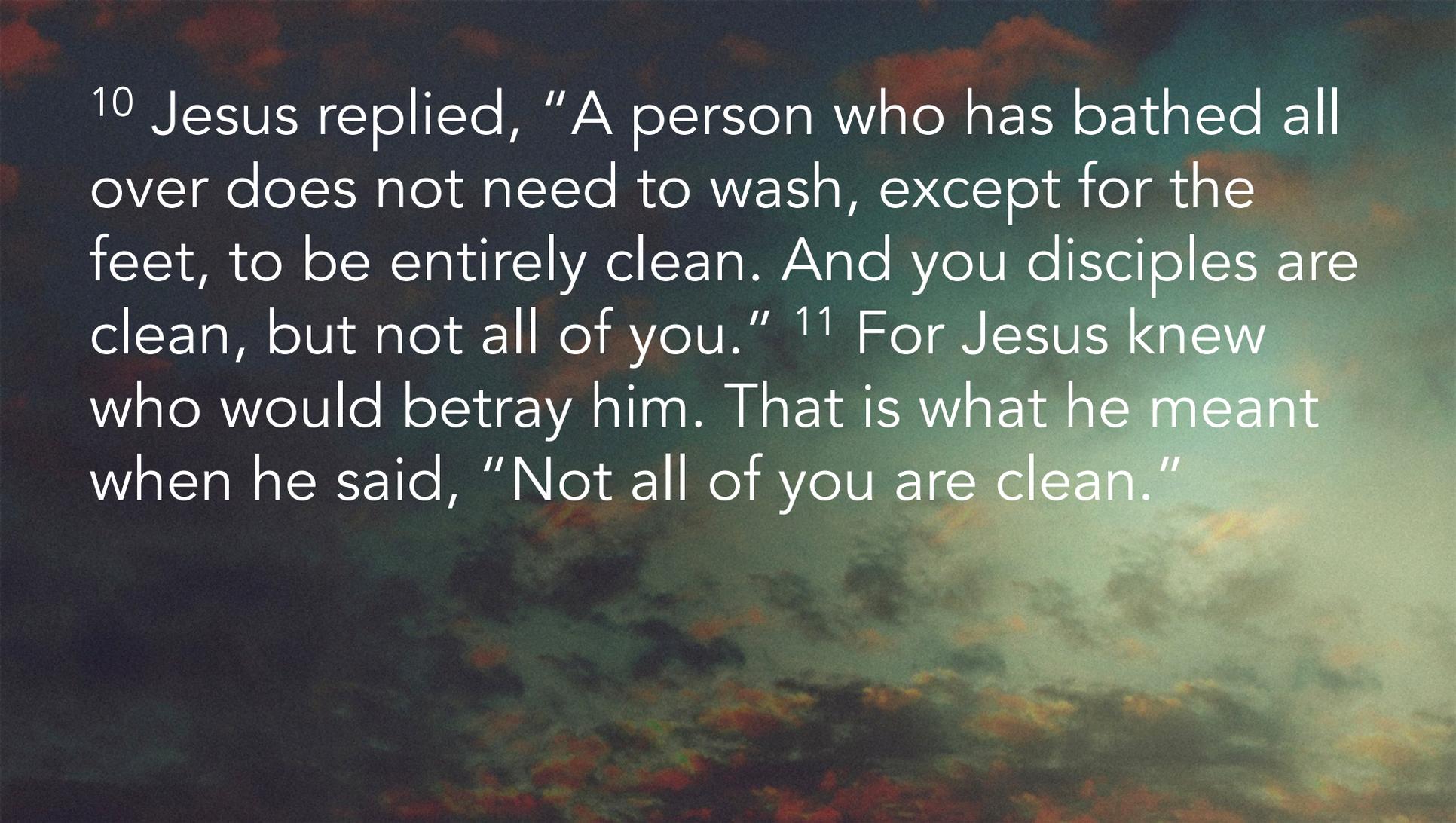
¹ Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and now he loved them to the very end. ² It was time for supper, and the devil had already prompted Judas, son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus.

³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

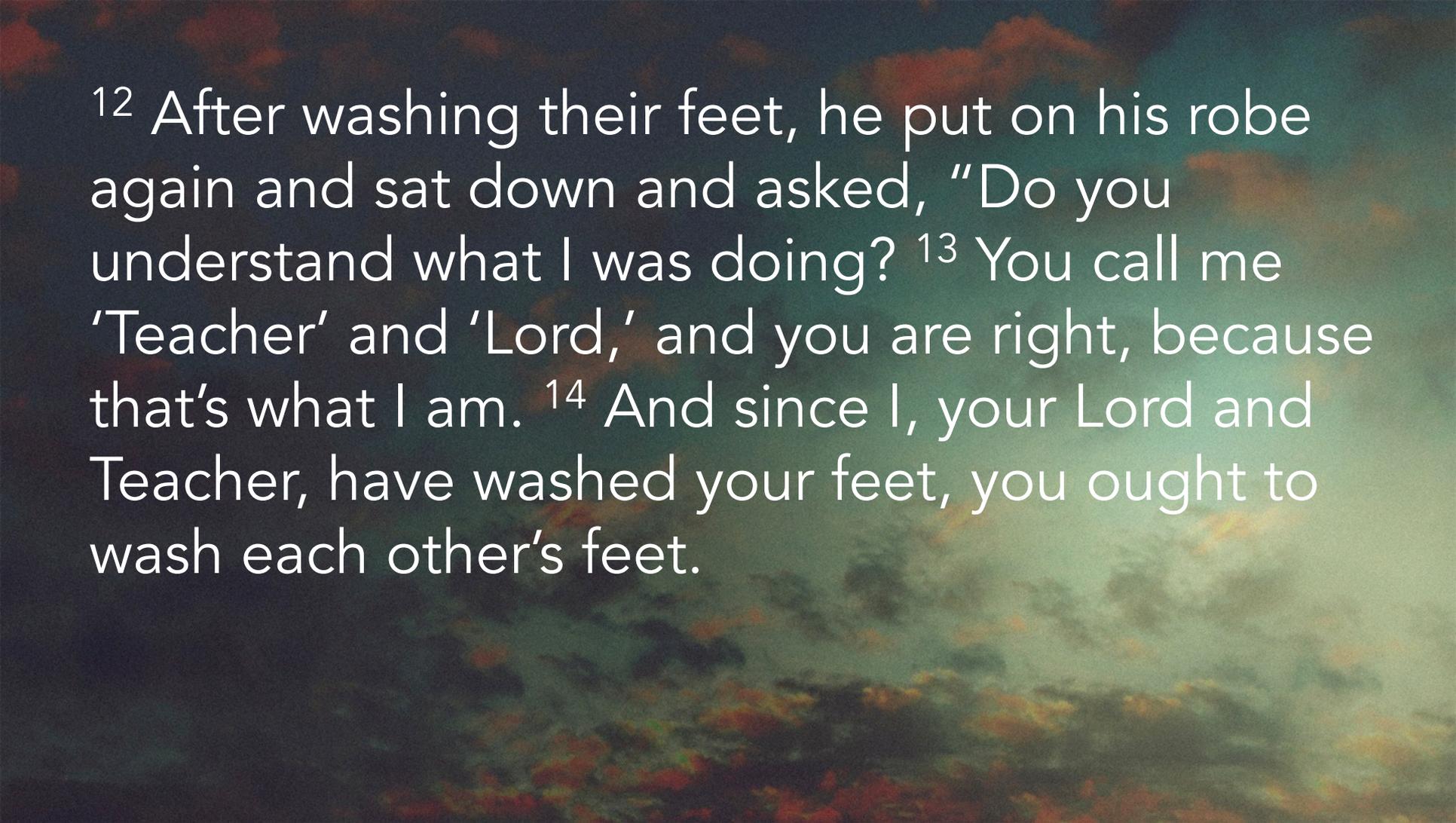
⁶ When Jesus came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

⁷ Jesus replied, "You don't understand now what I am doing, but someday you will."

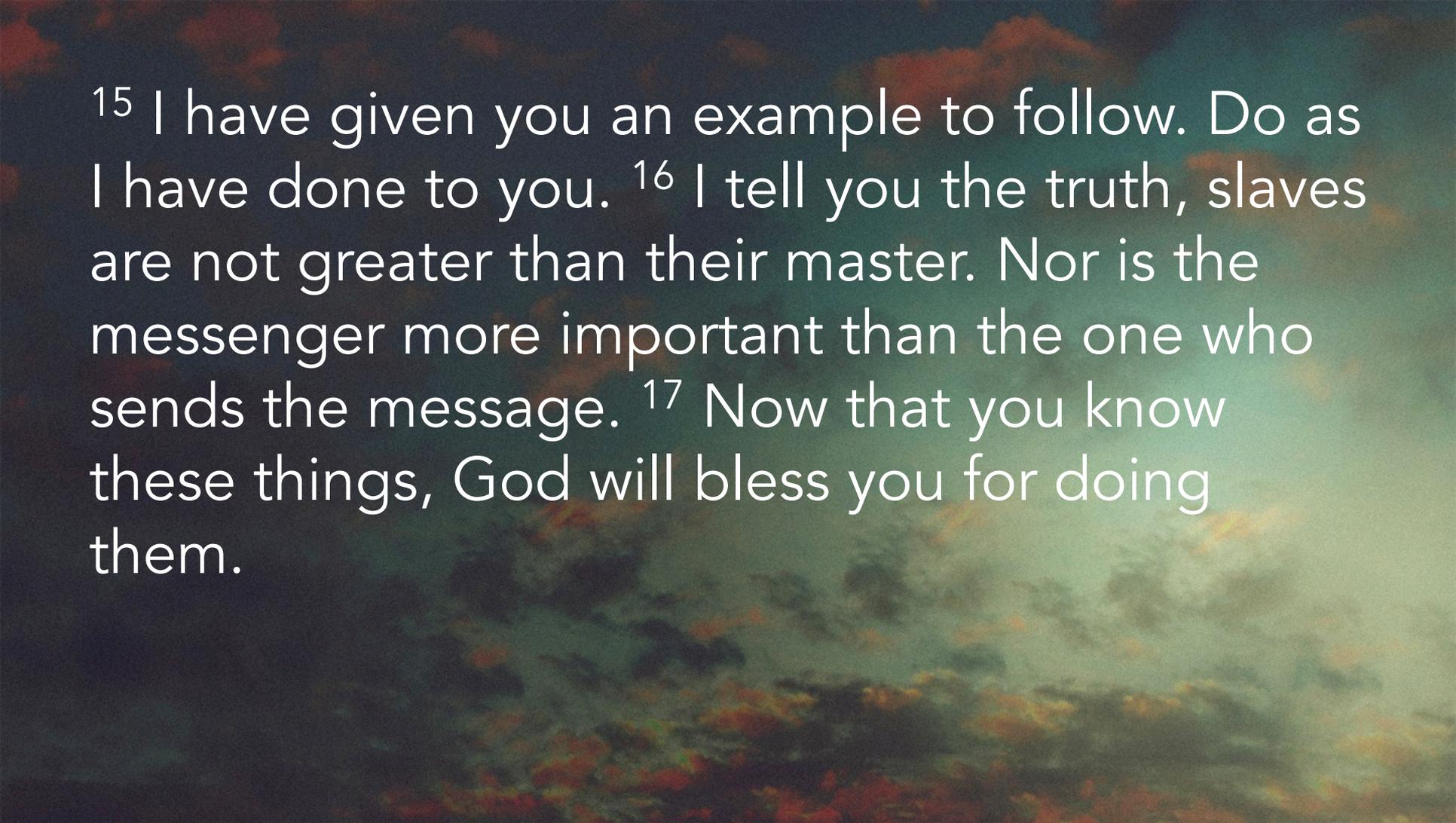
⁸ "No," Peter protested, "you will never ever wash my feet!" Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to me." ⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"



¹⁰ Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." ¹¹ For Jesus knew who would betray him. That is what he meant when he said, "Not all of you are clean."



¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet.



¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.

Historical Context Of John 13-17

- End of Jesus' public ministry.
- Jewish leaders had rejected him (John 1:11)
- Jesus spent his final hours with his closest disciples eating the Passover meal
- 24 hours later, 2 of them would pass away
- Jesus was 33. Most of the apostles were in their 20s.

The Heart Of Jesus

- Weight of His impending death was heavy on Jesus
- Yet Jesus never indulged in self pity
- His focus that night was to prepare his disciples for His departure.
- So he showed his love for them, warned them of His death, promised them of divine help and prayed over them.

Jesus' Love For His Disciples

Jesus promised many divine blessings to His disciples:

- Hope of Heaven (14:3)
- Ability to do greater works (14:12)
- Assurance of answered prayer (14:13-14)
- Coming of Holy Spirit (14:16)

Jesus' Love For His Disciples

Jesus promised many divine blessings to His disciples:

- Supernatural peace of mind (14:27)
- Lasting fruitfulness (15:5)
- Unspeakable joy (15:11)

Key Text – John 13:1

Before the Passover celebration, Jesus knew that his hour had come to leave this world and return to his Father. He had loved his disciples during his ministry on earth, and **now he loved them to the very end.**

The Disciples' Heart Condition

Then they began to argue among themselves about who would be the greatest among them.

Luke 22:24

Seating Arrangement At Last Supper

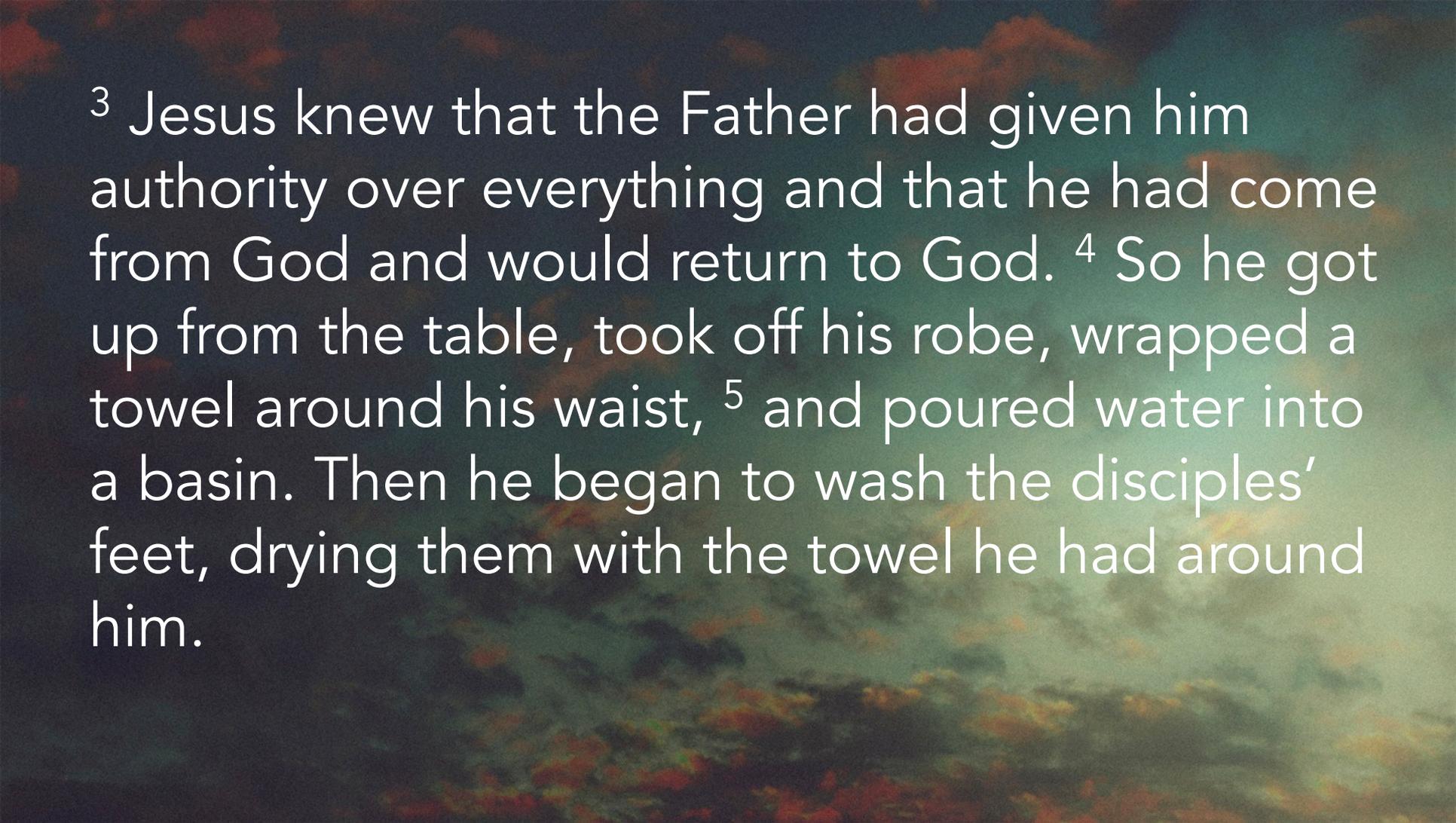


Seating Arrangement At Last Supper





THE PRACTICAL NEED FOR FEET WASHING



³ Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything and that he had come from God and would return to God. ⁴ So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist, ⁵ and poured water into a basin. Then he began to wash the disciples' feet, drying them with the towel he had around him.

The Social Significance Of Feet Washing

- Feet were regarded as a lowly part of the human anatomy
- Feet washing was the job assigned to the lowest of servants
- Disciples were not expected to wash their rabbi's feet
- It was even more scandalous for a rabbi to wash his disciples' feet

⁶ Though he was God,
he did not think of equality with God
as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges;
he took the humble position of a slave
and was born as a human being.

When he appeared in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God
and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:6-8

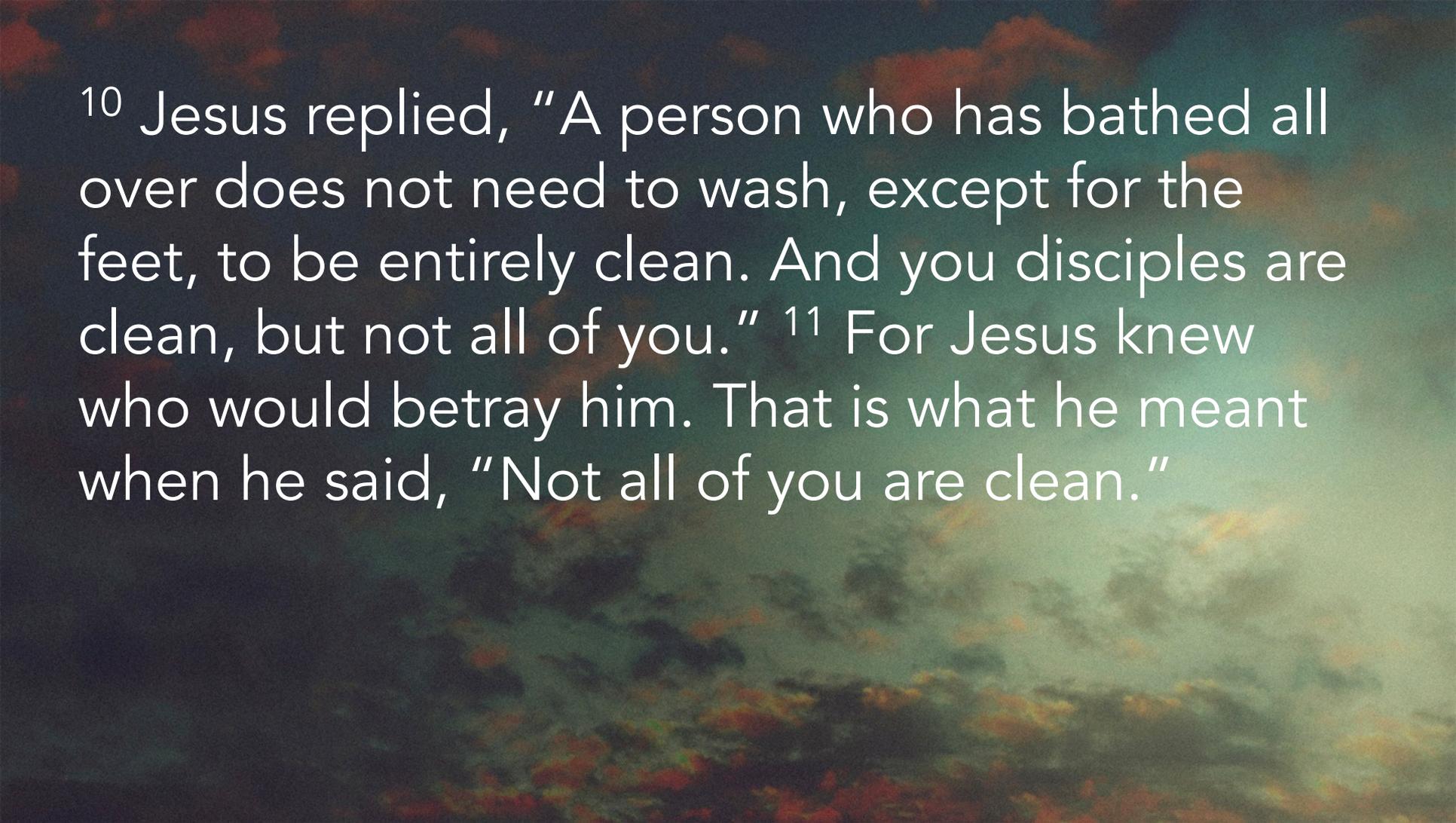


THE SPIRITUAL PARALLEL OF FEET WASHING

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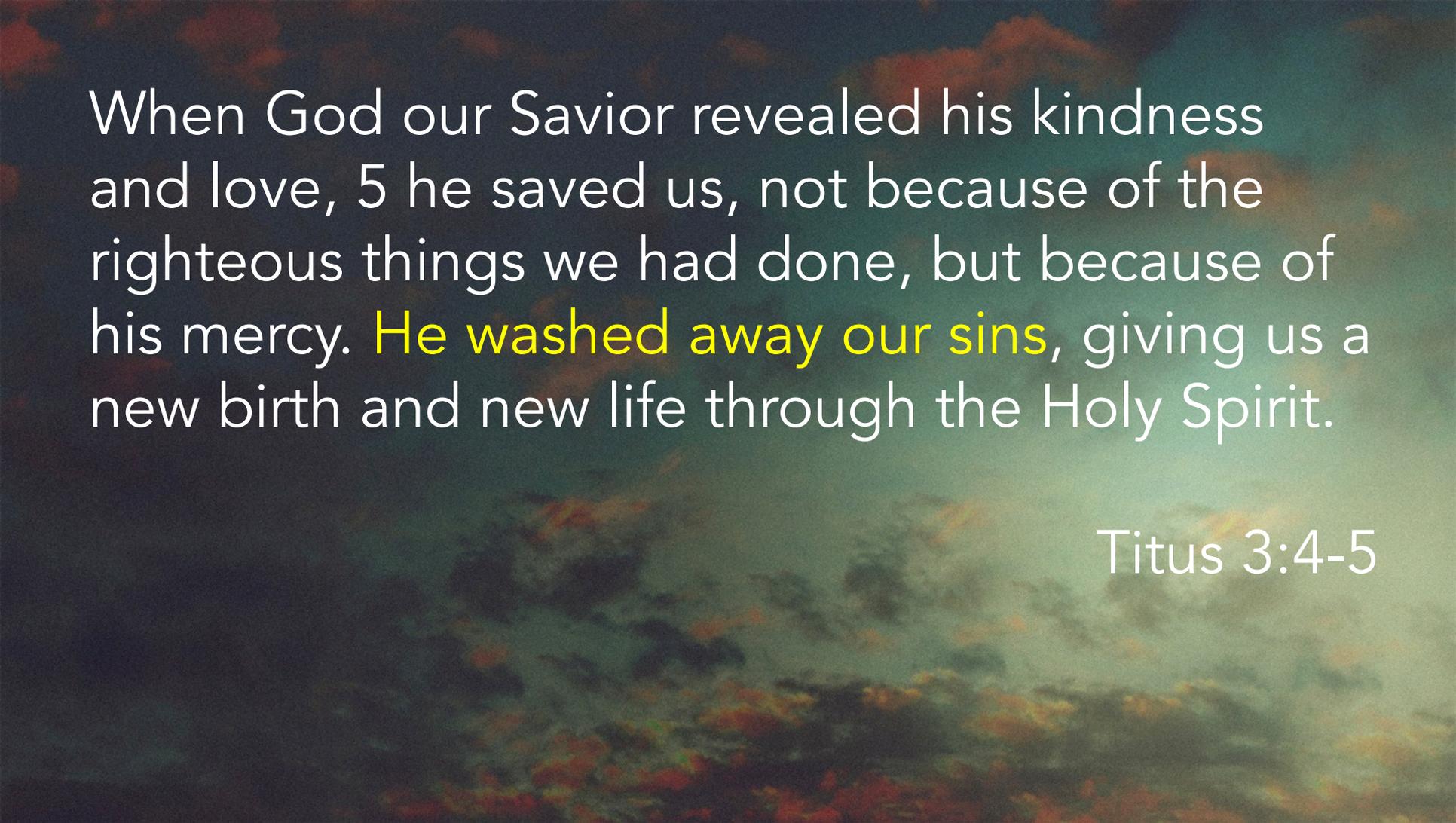
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The Spiritual Parallel

- All the apostles, except for Judas, had already been spiritually cleansed by the Lord. So they didn't need another "bath" (Spiritual conversion).

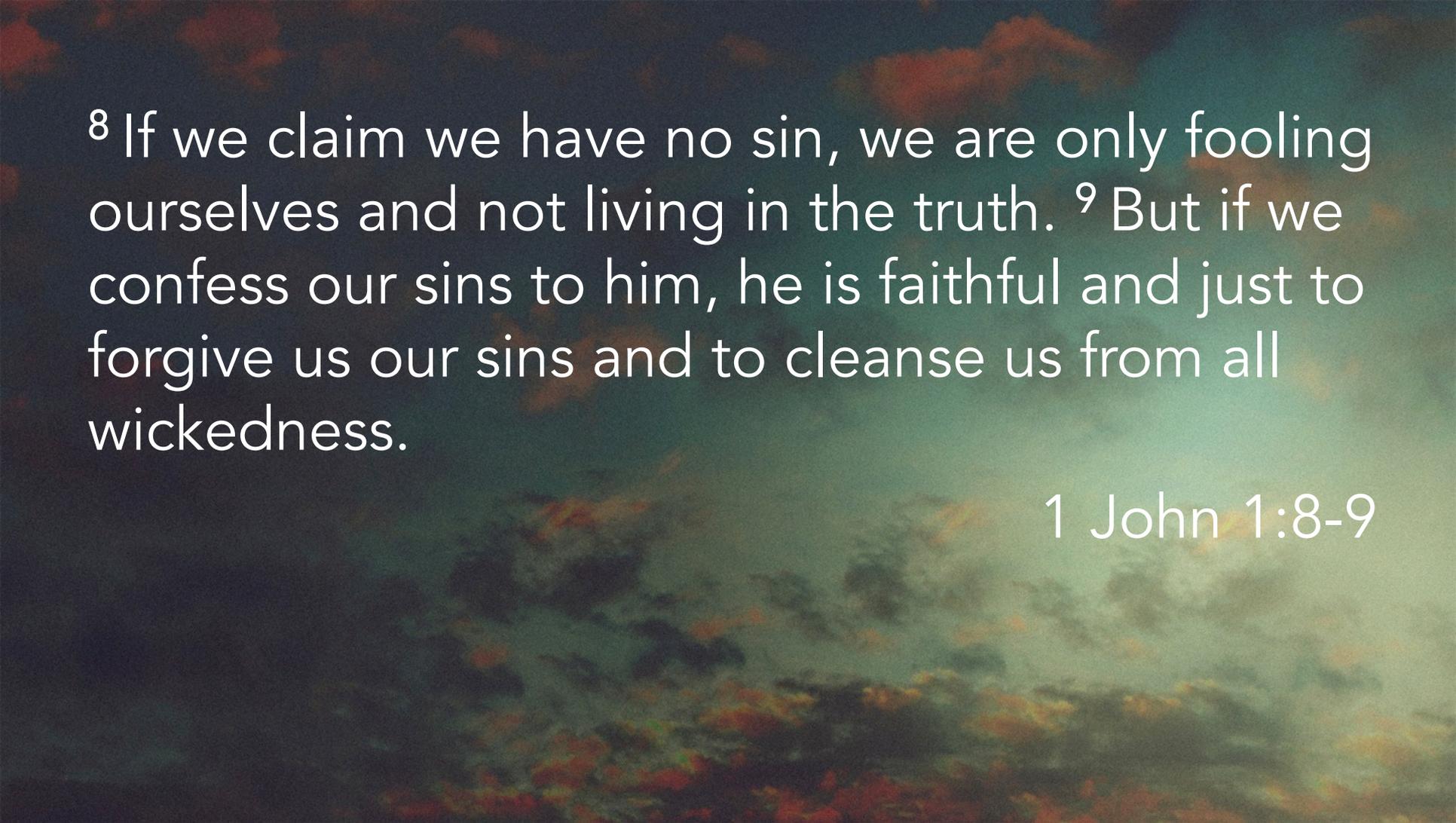


When God our Savior revealed his kindness and love, 5 he saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. **He washed away our sins**, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

Titus 3:4-5

The Spiritual Parallel

- All the apostles, except for Judas, had already been spiritually cleansed by the Lord. So they didn't need another "bath" (Spiritual conversion).
- But for them to continue fellowshiping with Jesus, they needed to have "their feet washed frequently" by Jesus (Confession and Forgiveness of Sins).



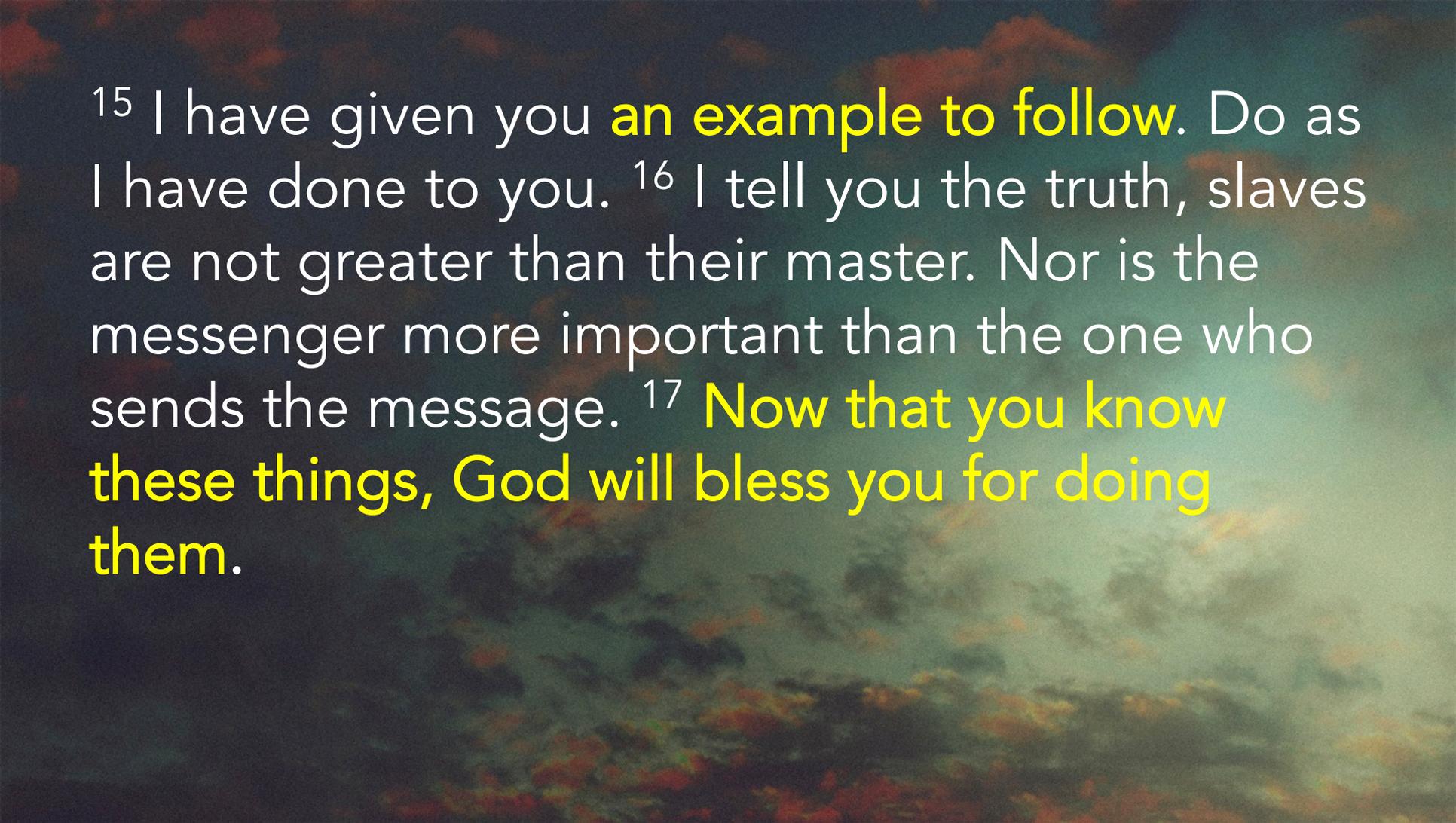
⁸ If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth. ⁹ But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.

1 John 1:8-9



THE EXAMPLE SET BY JESUS

¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, **you ought to wash each other’s feet.**



¹⁵ I have given you **an example to follow**. Do as I have done to you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, slaves are not greater than their master. Nor is the messenger more important than the one who sends the message. ¹⁷ **Now that you know these things, God will bless you for doing them.**

Spiritual Lessons For Disciples

A. KINGDOM VALUES ARE OPPOSITE TO
WORLD VALUES

Luke 22:25-27

²⁵ Jesus told them, "In this world the kings and great men lord it over their people, yet they are called 'friends of the people.' ²⁶ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and **the leader should be like a servant.**

Luke 22:25-27

²⁷ Who is more important, the one who sits at the table or the one who serves? The one who sits at the table, of course. But not here! **For I am among you as one who serves.**

Spiritual Lessons For Disciples

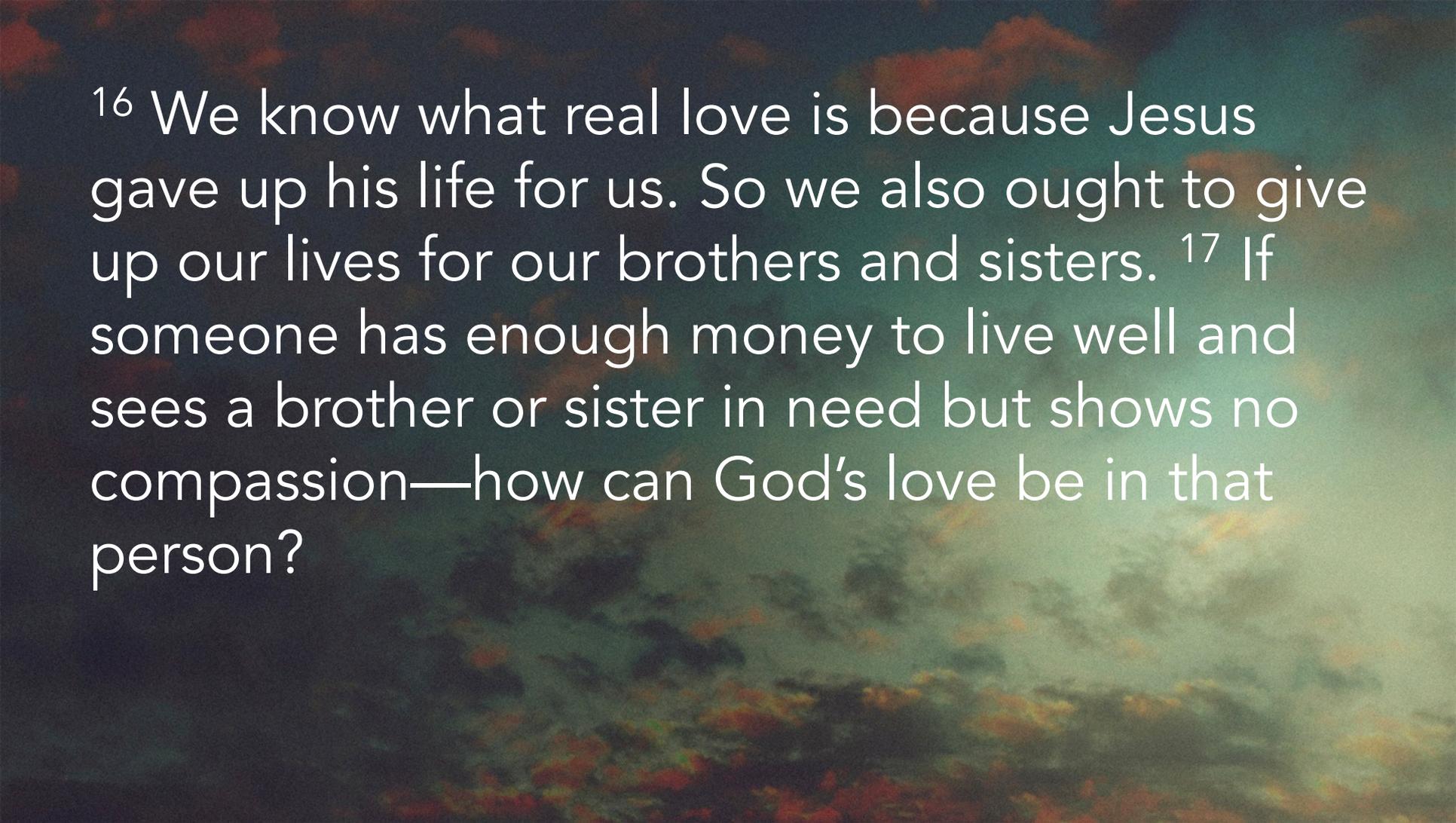
B. JESUS CAME TO SERVE OTHERS

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

Spiritual Lessons For Disciples

C. TRUE LOVE ALWAYS EXPRESSES ITSELF
THROUGH PRACTICAL HUMBLE SERVICE.



¹⁶ We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?

18 Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. **19** Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God.

1 John 3:16-19



CONTEMPLATION TIME

How Do I Meditate On Scripture?

1. Open your heart to the Holy Spirit. Pray for divine illumination as you read a passage three times.
2. Read the passage once. Take time to understand the big picture in the passage.
3. Read the passage again. This time, identify characters, theme and spiritual lesson.

How Do I Meditate On Scripture?

4. Read the passage the third time.
Personalise the passage. (If needed, insert your name at the relevant point, as if God is speaking directly to you about the passage.)
Pause to hear what God is saying to you.
5. Spend time to pray and talk to Him on that personal revelation. Worship God.

How Do I Meditate On Scripture?

6. Record what you learn in your journal.
7. Resolve to act on that personal revelation.

Meditation of Mark 10:45

Jesus Came To Serve

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve **others** and to give his life as a ransom for **many**.

Mark 10:45