

A sculpture of a cherub with large, feathered wings, looking down with a thoughtful expression. The sculpture is made of a light-colored material, possibly marble or stone, and is set against a soft, glowing background. The cherub's wings are spread out, and its face is turned downwards, with its hand near its chin in a contemplative pose.

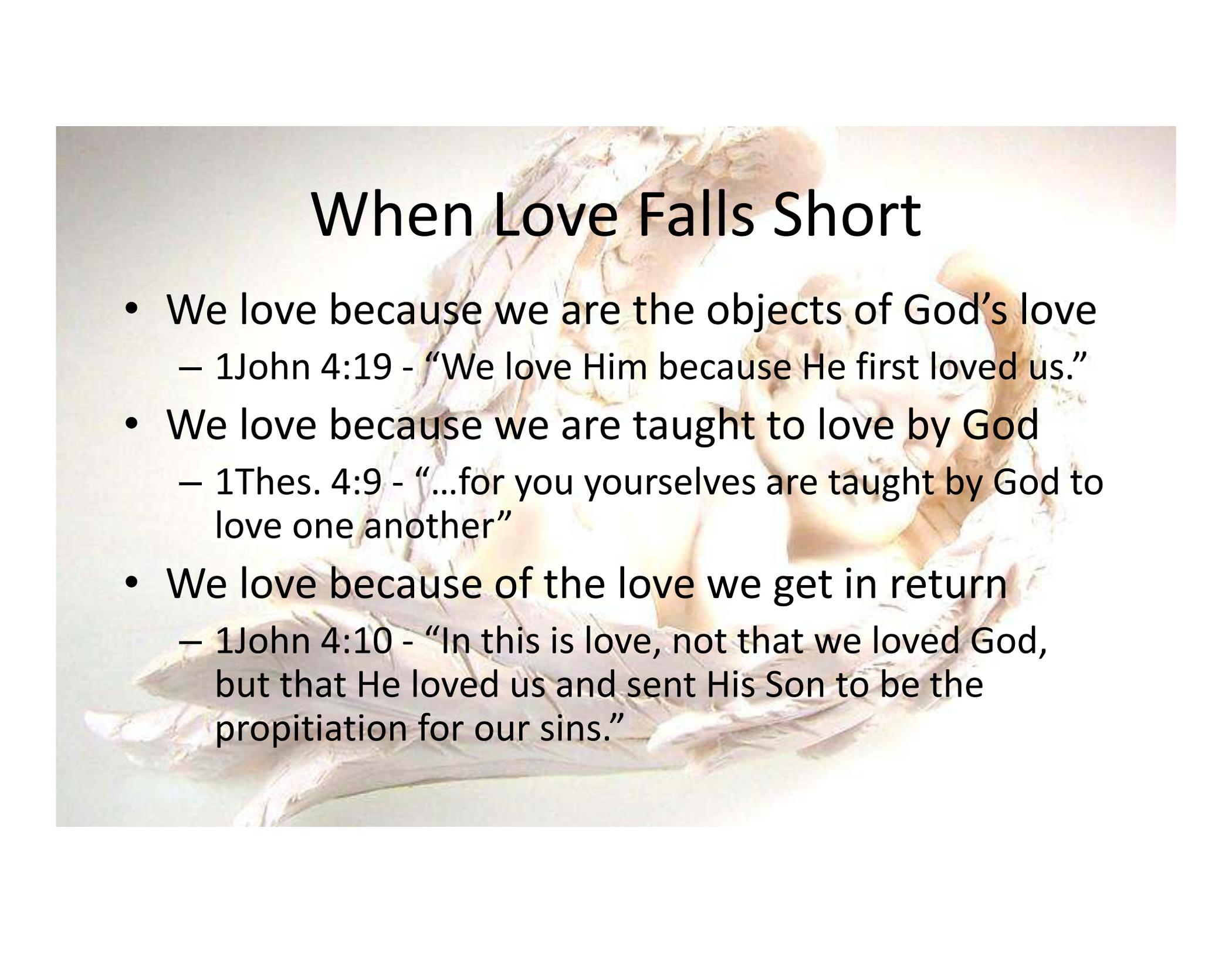
When Love Falls Short

Mark 12:38-44

When Love Falls Short

- Only God is perfect; we are always striving toward perfection, and that includes in the matter of love, too
- Our loves at best are only secondary, learned, or responsive



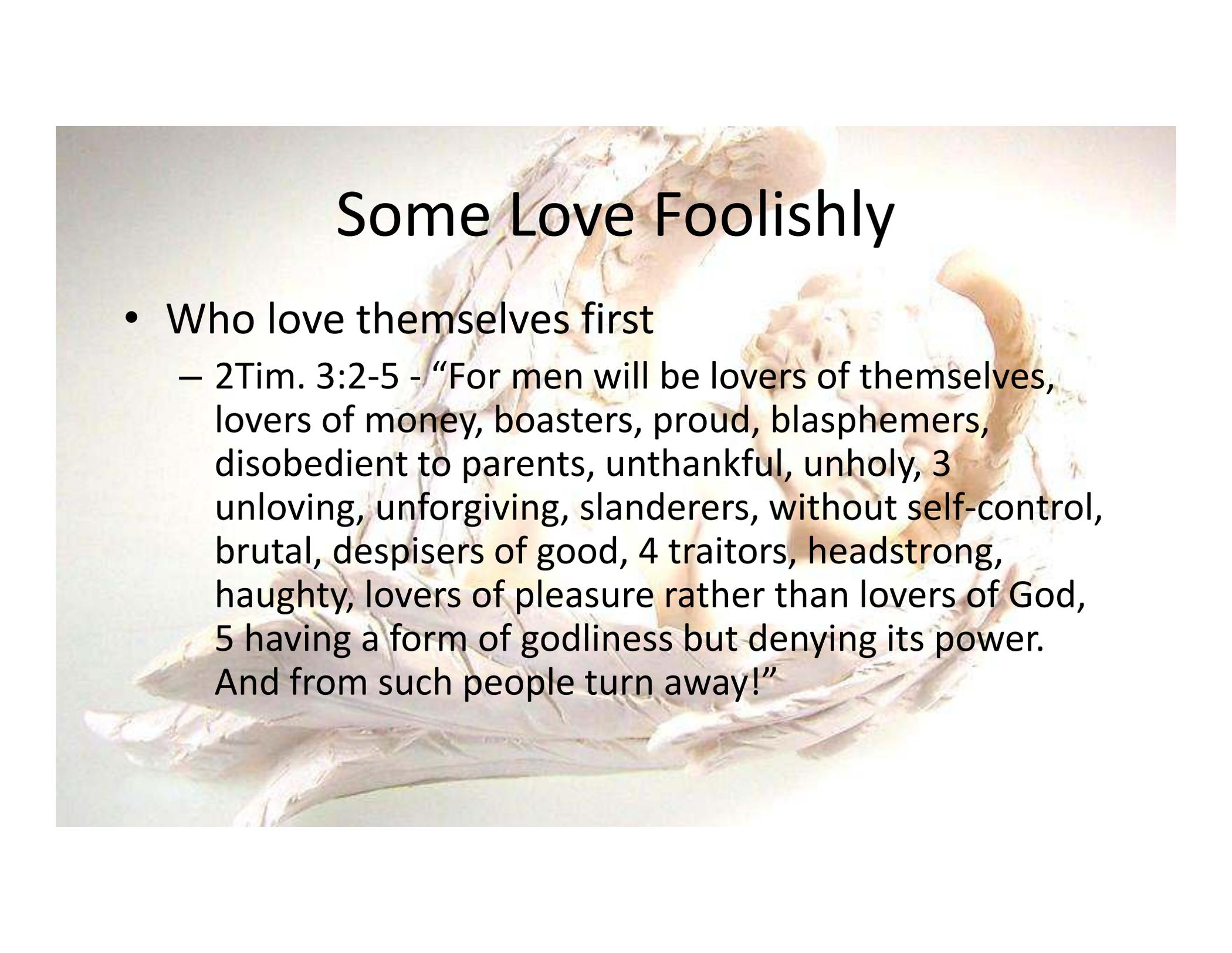


When Love Falls Short

- We love because we are the objects of God's love
 - 1John 4:19 - "We love Him because He first loved us."
- We love because we are taught to love by God
 - 1Thes. 4:9 - "...for you yourselves are taught by God to love one another"
- We love because of the love we get in return
 - 1John 4:10 - "In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

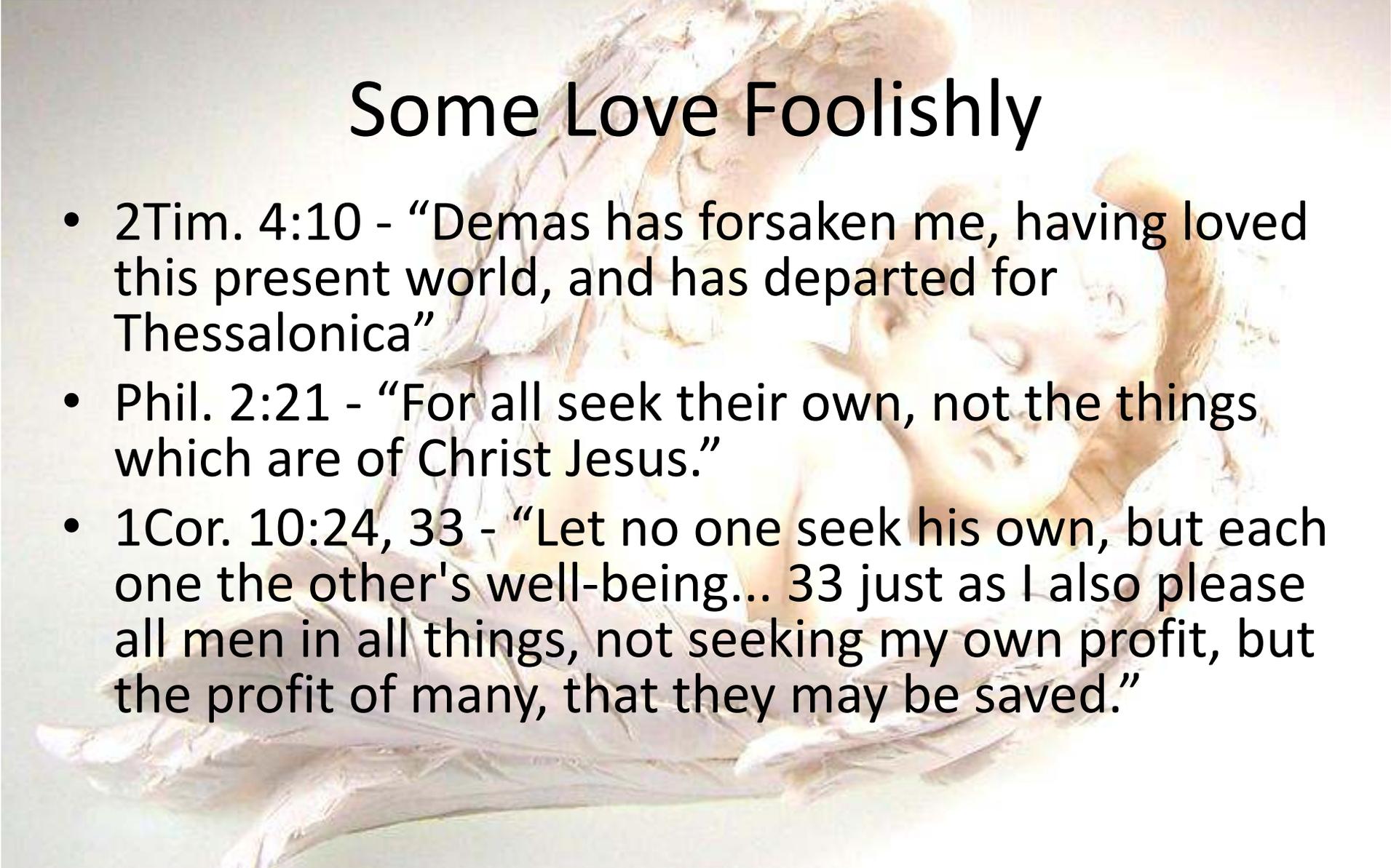
Mark 12:38-44

- “Then He said to them in His teaching, Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, 39 the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts, 40 who devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayers. These will receive greater condemnation. 41 Now Jesus sat opposite the treasury and saw how the people put money into the treasury. And many who were rich put in much. 42 Then one poor widow came and threw in two mites, which make a quadrans. 43 So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”



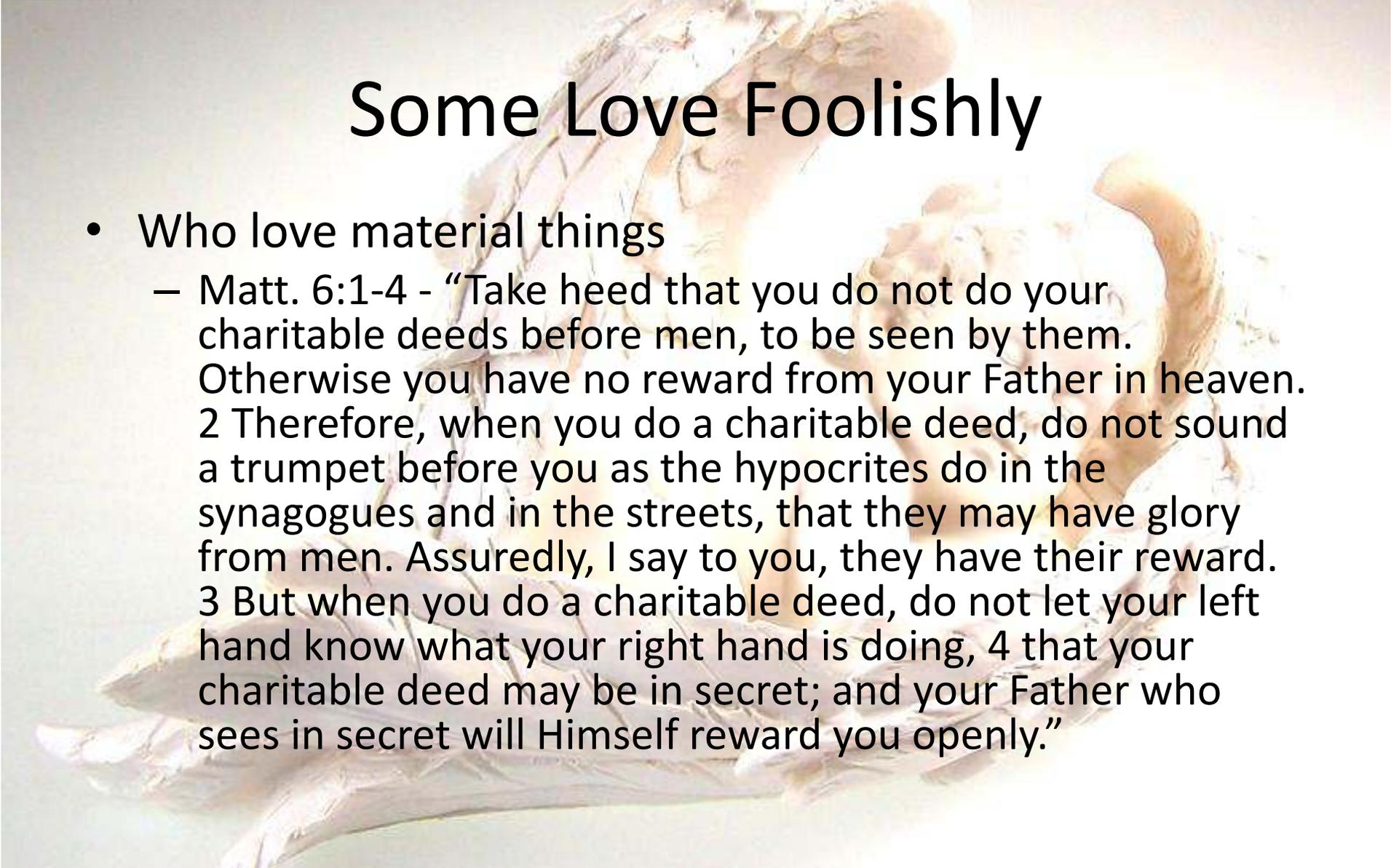
Some Love Foolishly

- Who love themselves first
 - 2Tim. 3:2-5 - “For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!”



Some Love Foolishly

- 2Tim. 4:10 - “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica”
- Phil. 2:21 - “For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.”
- 1Cor. 10:24, 33 - “Let no one seek his own, but each one the other's well-being... 33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.”

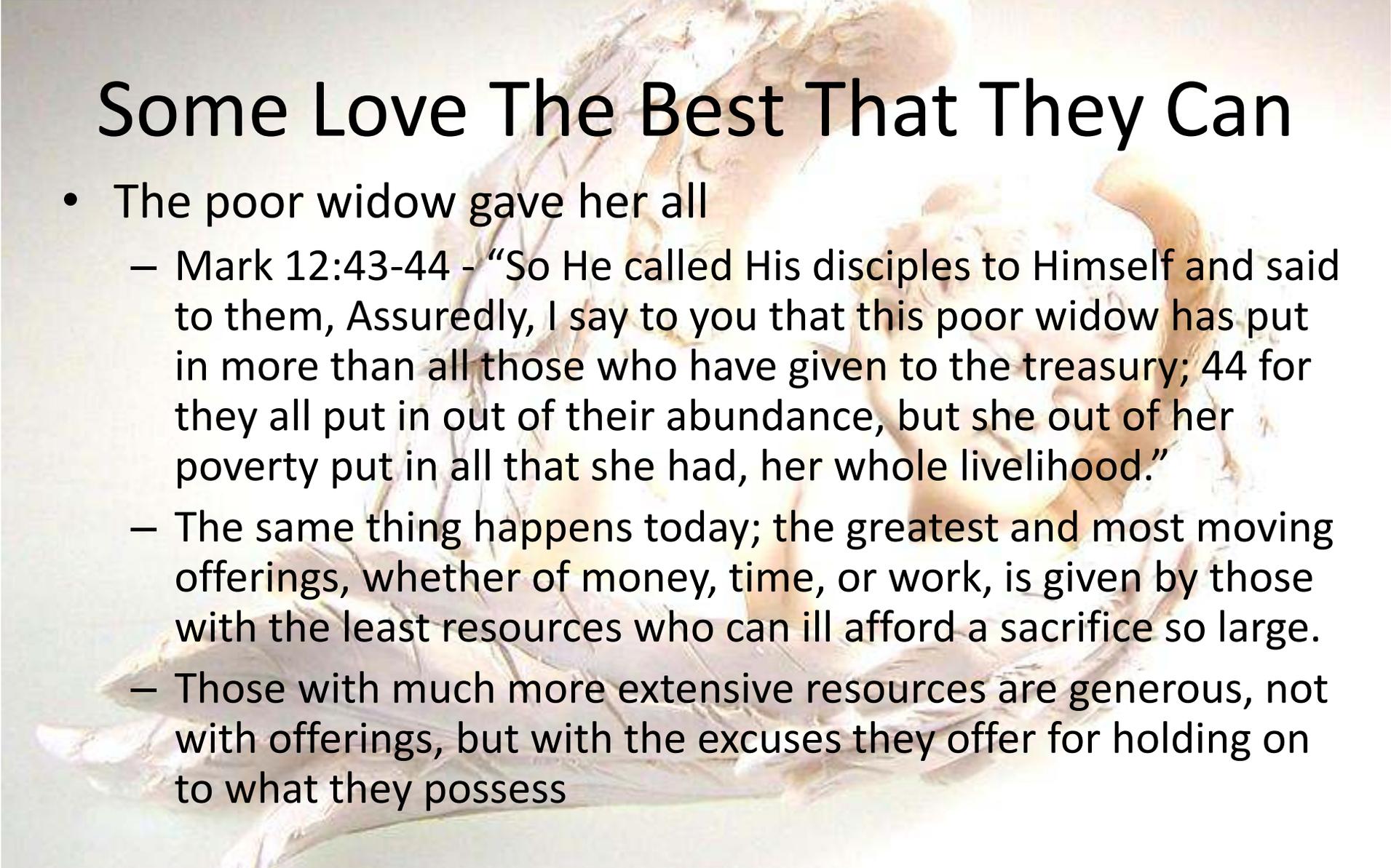


Some Love Foolishly

- Who love material things
 - Matt. 6:1-4 - “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. 2 Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. 3 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4 that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

Some Love The Best That They Can

- She was everything the religious scribes and the rich hypocrites were not
 - Mark 12:28-31 - “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, Which is the first commandment of all? 29 Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is: 'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. 30 'And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. 31 And the second, like it, is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these.”



Some Love The Best That They Can

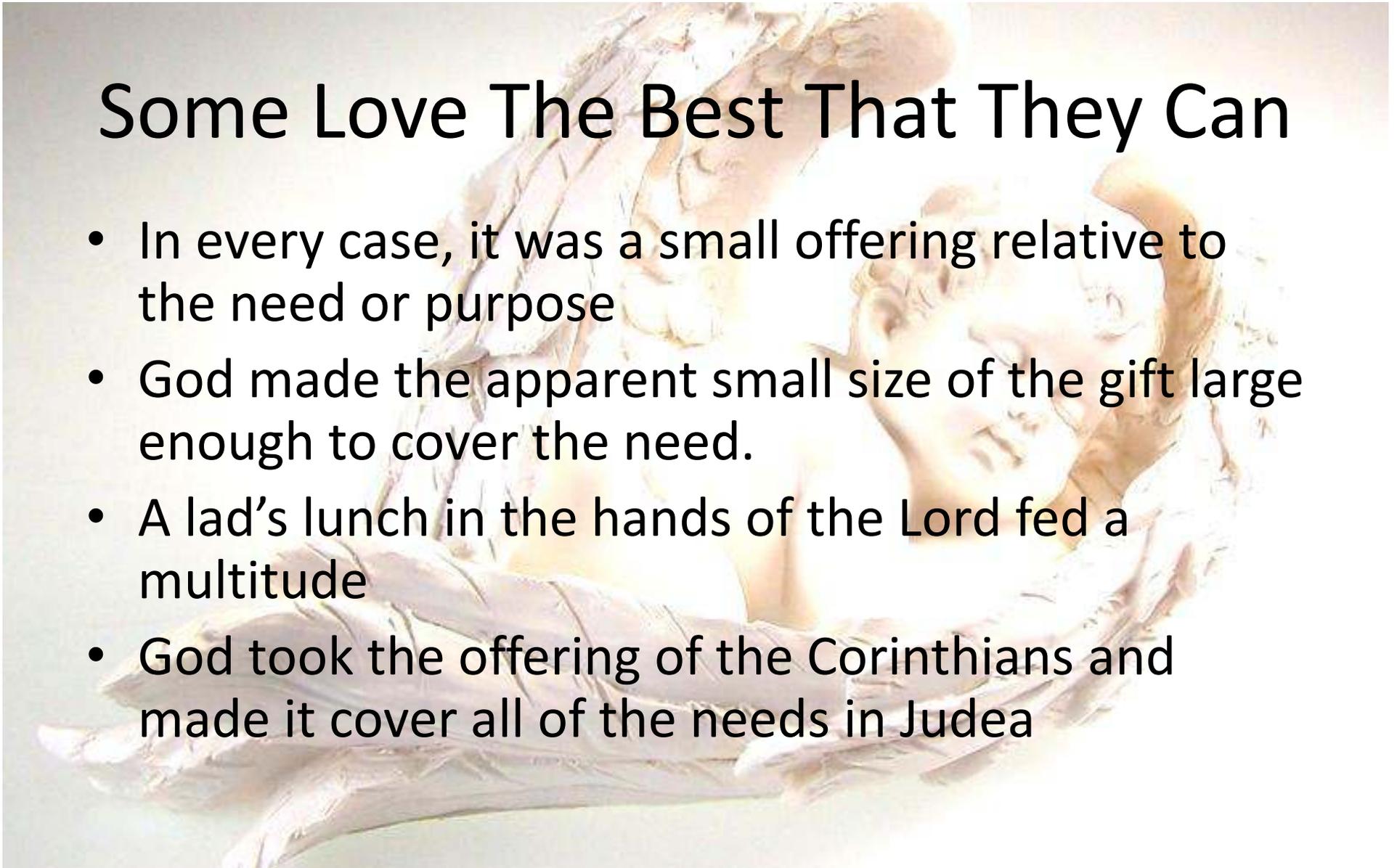
- The poor widow gave her all
 - Mark 12:43-44 - “So He called His disciples to Himself and said to them, Assuredly, I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury; 44 for they all put in out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty put in all that she had, her whole livelihood.”
 - The same thing happens today; the greatest and most moving offerings, whether of money, time, or work, is given by those with the least resources who can ill afford a sacrifice so large.
 - Those with much more extensive resources are generous, not with offerings, but with the excuses they offer for holding on to what they possess

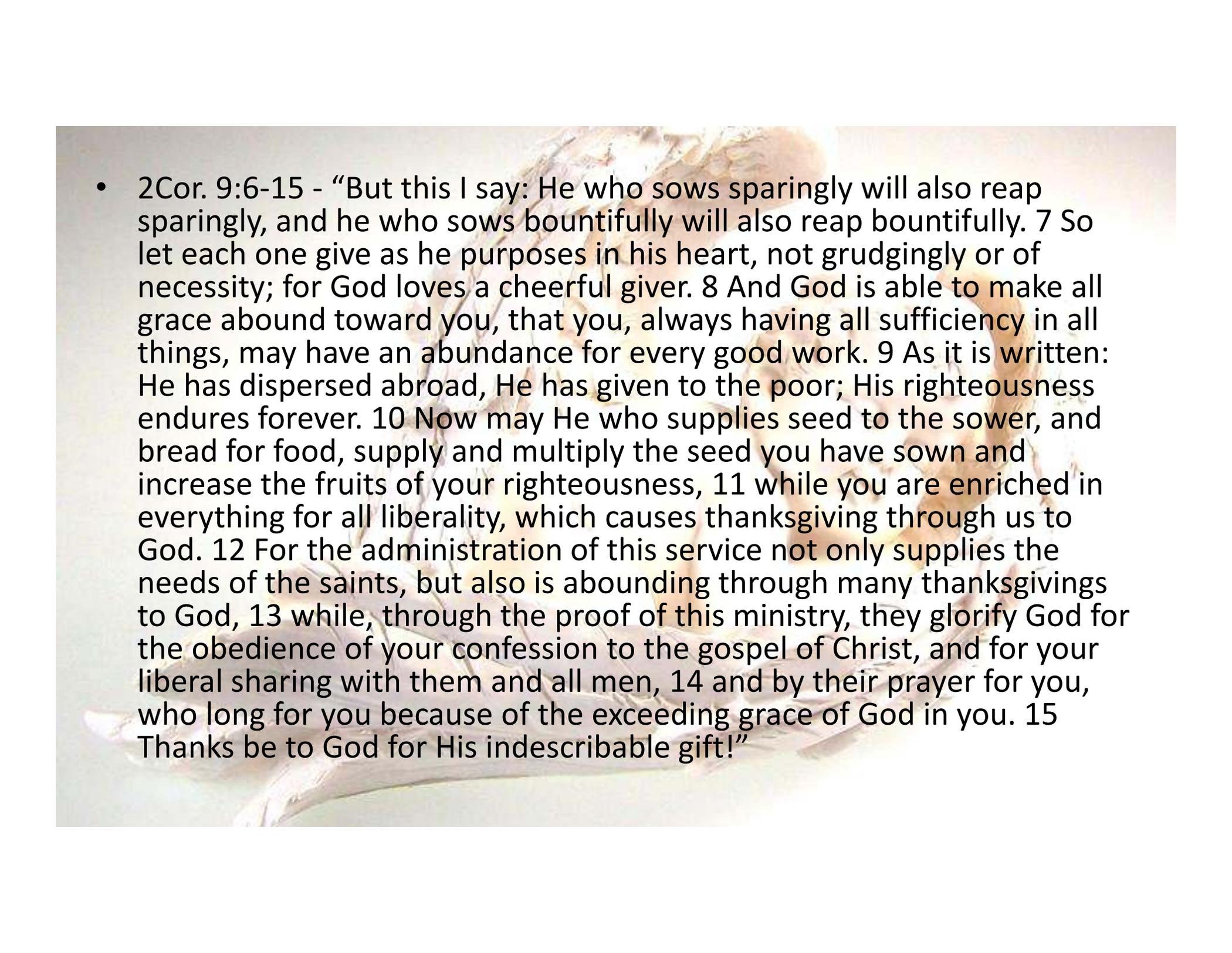
Some Love The Best That They Can

- Abraham offered his son - Gen. 22:1-14
- Hannah gave her son Samuel to God - 1Sam. 1:28
- The widow gave the last of her food to Elijah - 1Kings 17:8-16
- Mary gave up a very expensive box of ointment and her own hair to honor the Lord - John 12:1-8
- Stephen, James, and others who gave their lives for the Lord

Some Love The Best That They Can

- In every case, it was a small offering relative to the need or purpose
- God made the apparent small size of the gift large enough to cover the need.
- A lad's lunch in the hands of the Lord fed a multitude
- God took the offering of the Corinthians and made it cover all of the needs in Judea



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- 2Cor. 9:6-15 - “But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. 7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. 9 As it is written: He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. 10 Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, 11 while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God. 12 For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God, 13 while, through the proof of this ministry, they glorify God for the obedience of your confession to the gospel of Christ, and for your liberal sharing with them and all men, 14 and by their prayer for you, who long for you because of the exceeding grace of God in you. 15 Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!”

Some Love The Best That They Can

- The attitude of our hearts in giving makes all the difference
 - 1Cor. 13:3 - “And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.”
- How we give is more important than how much we give
 - 2Cor. 9:7 - “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”

Some Love The Best That They Can

- So it is with our love:
 - Both loves fall short
 - But when it is our best, given with our all, God makes it big enough and good enough to cover the need.

