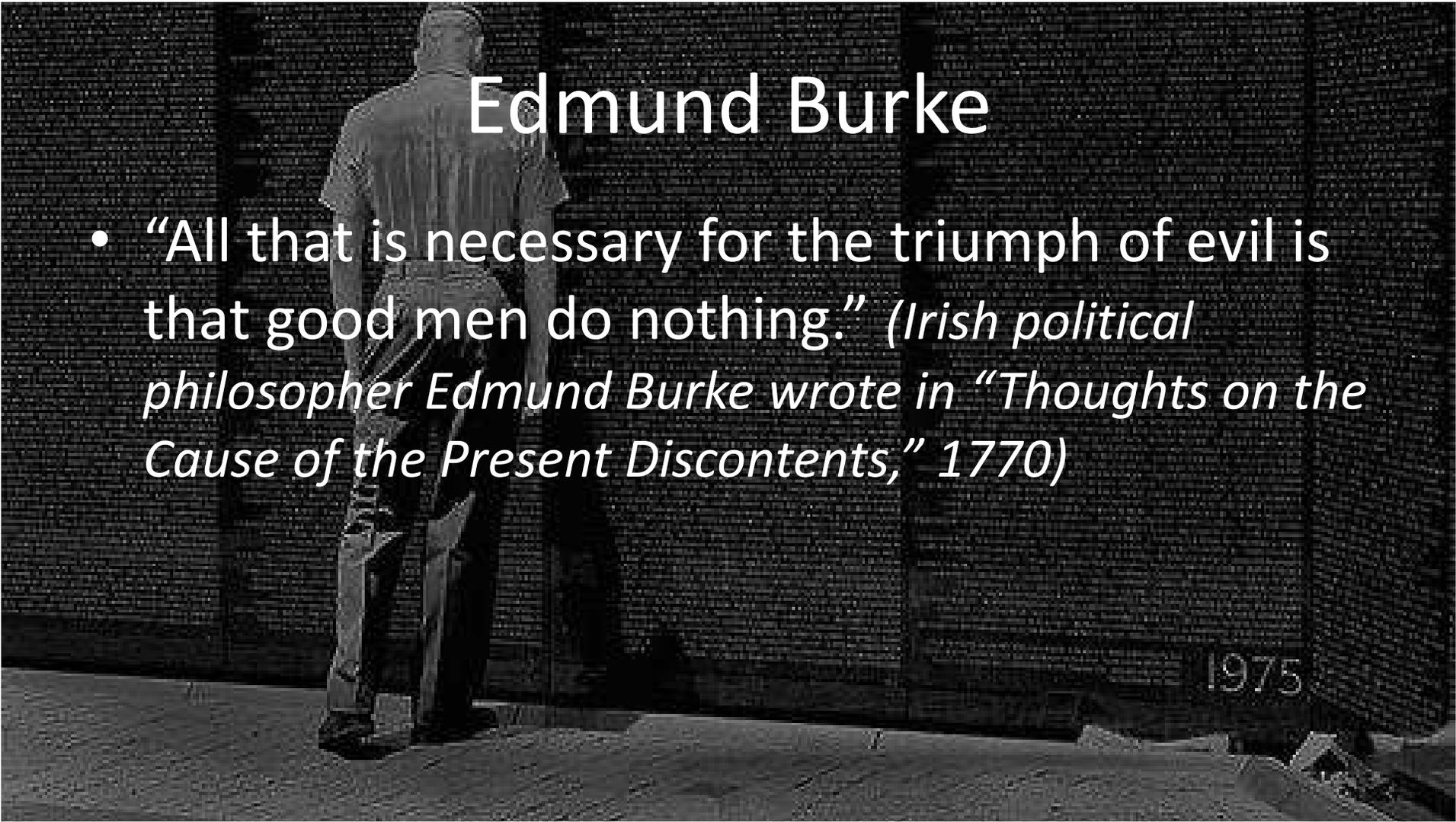




“All That is Necessary for the
Triumph of Evil”

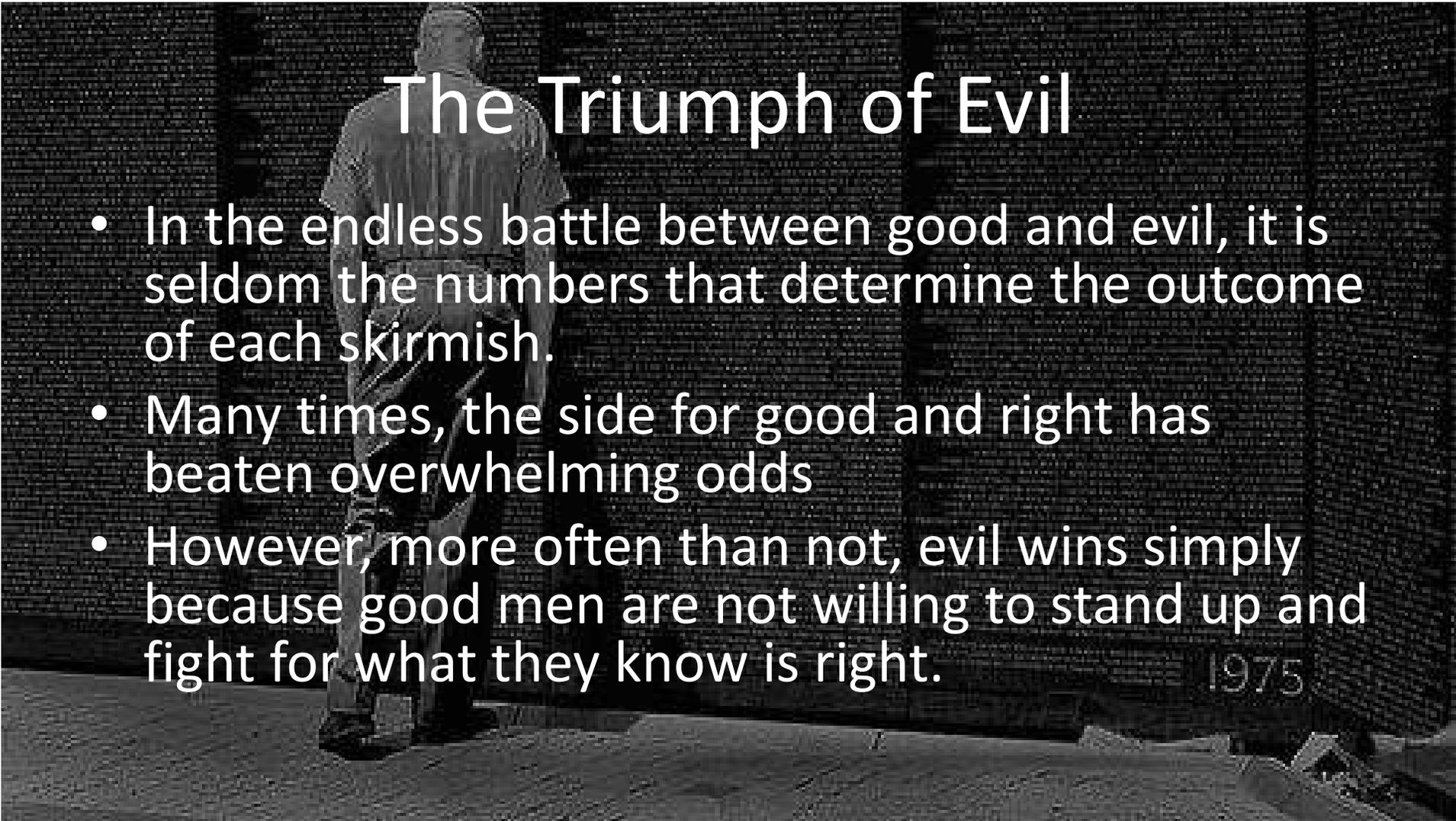
1975



Edmund Burke

- “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” (*Irish political philosopher Edmund Burke wrote in “Thoughts on the Cause of the Present Discontents,” 1770*)

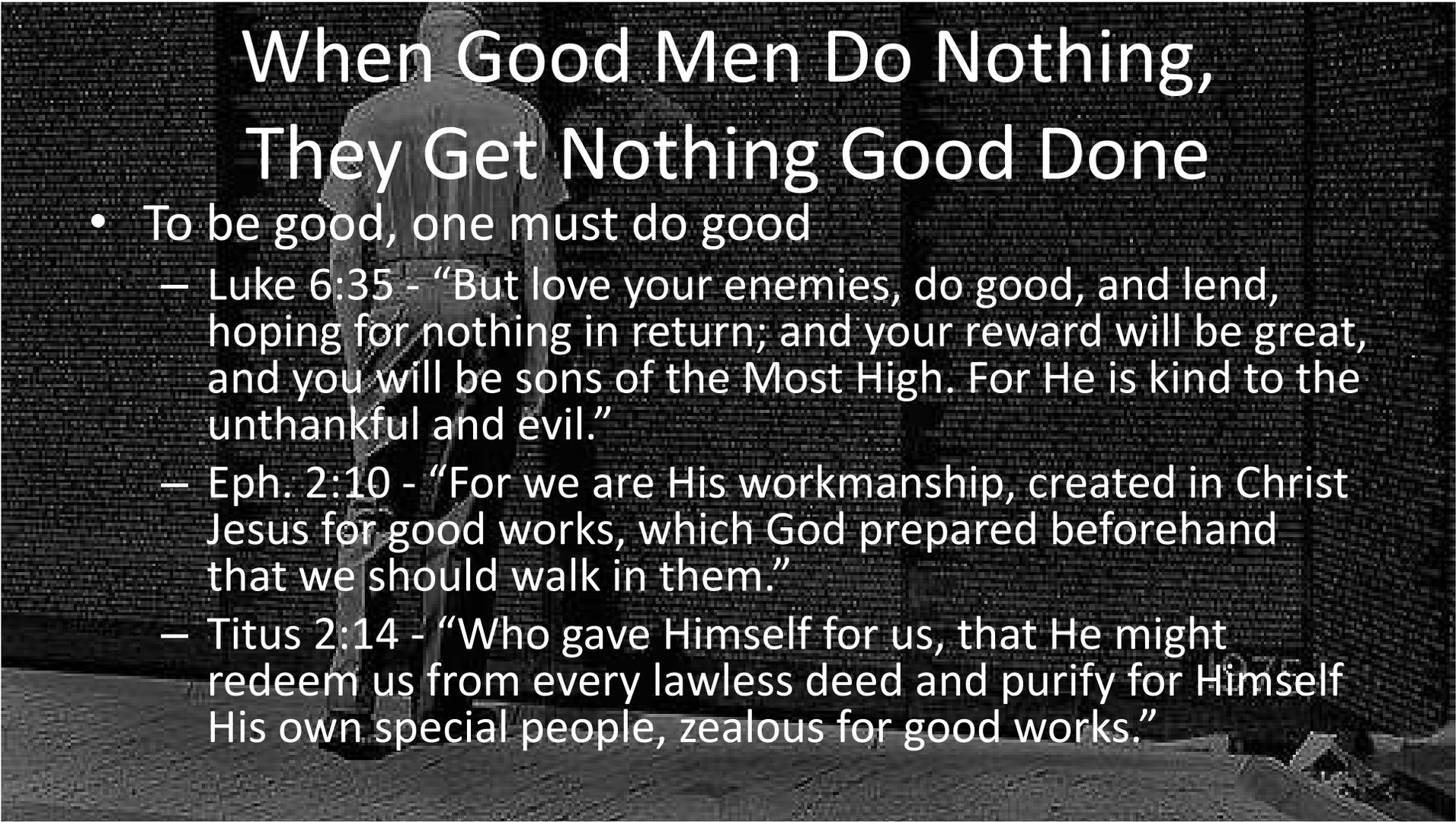
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The Triumph of Evil

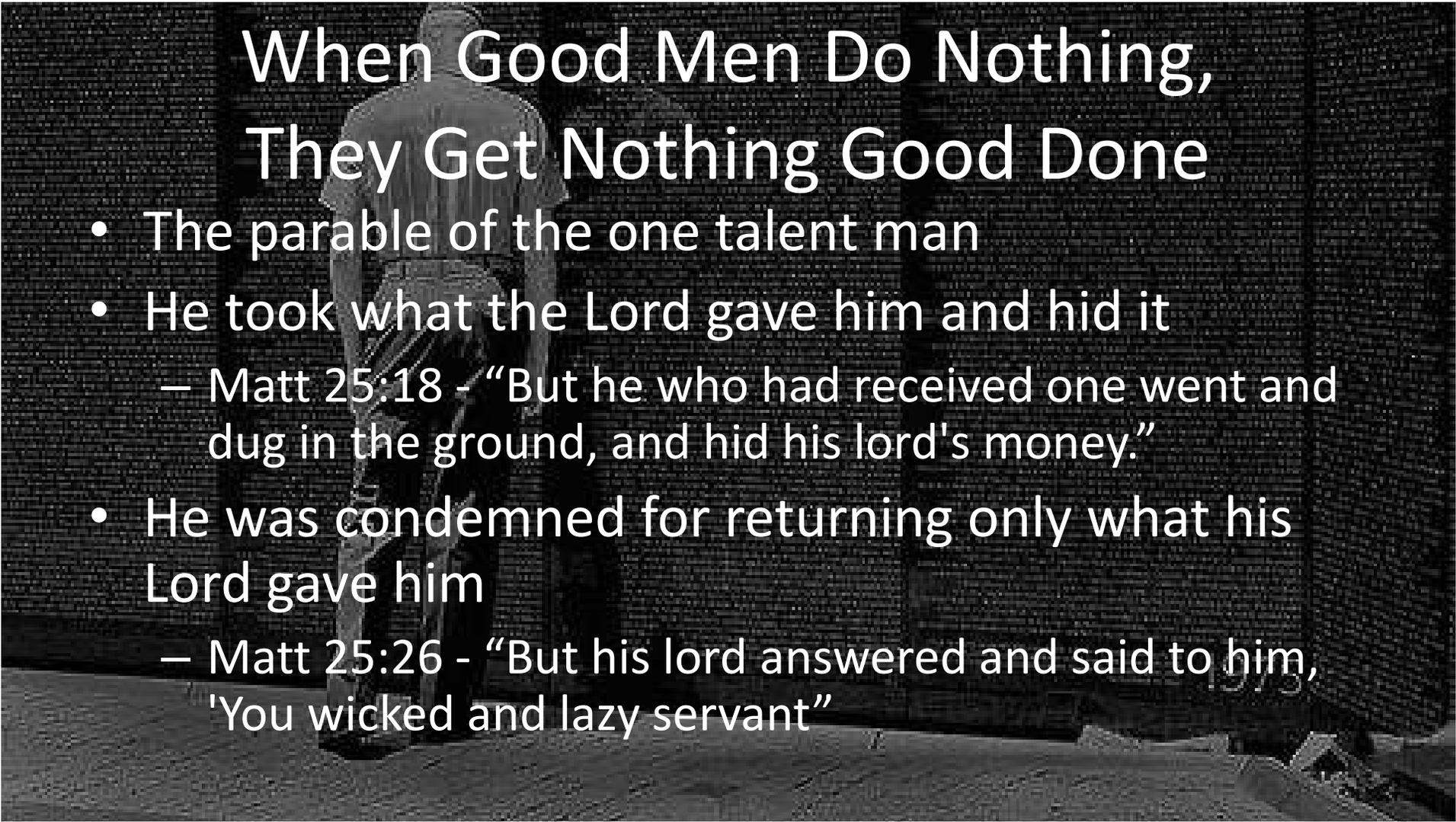
- In the endless battle between good and evil, it is seldom the numbers that determine the outcome of each skirmish.
- Many times, the side for good and right has beaten overwhelming odds
- However, more often than not, evil wins simply because good men are not willing to stand up and fight for what they know is right.

1975



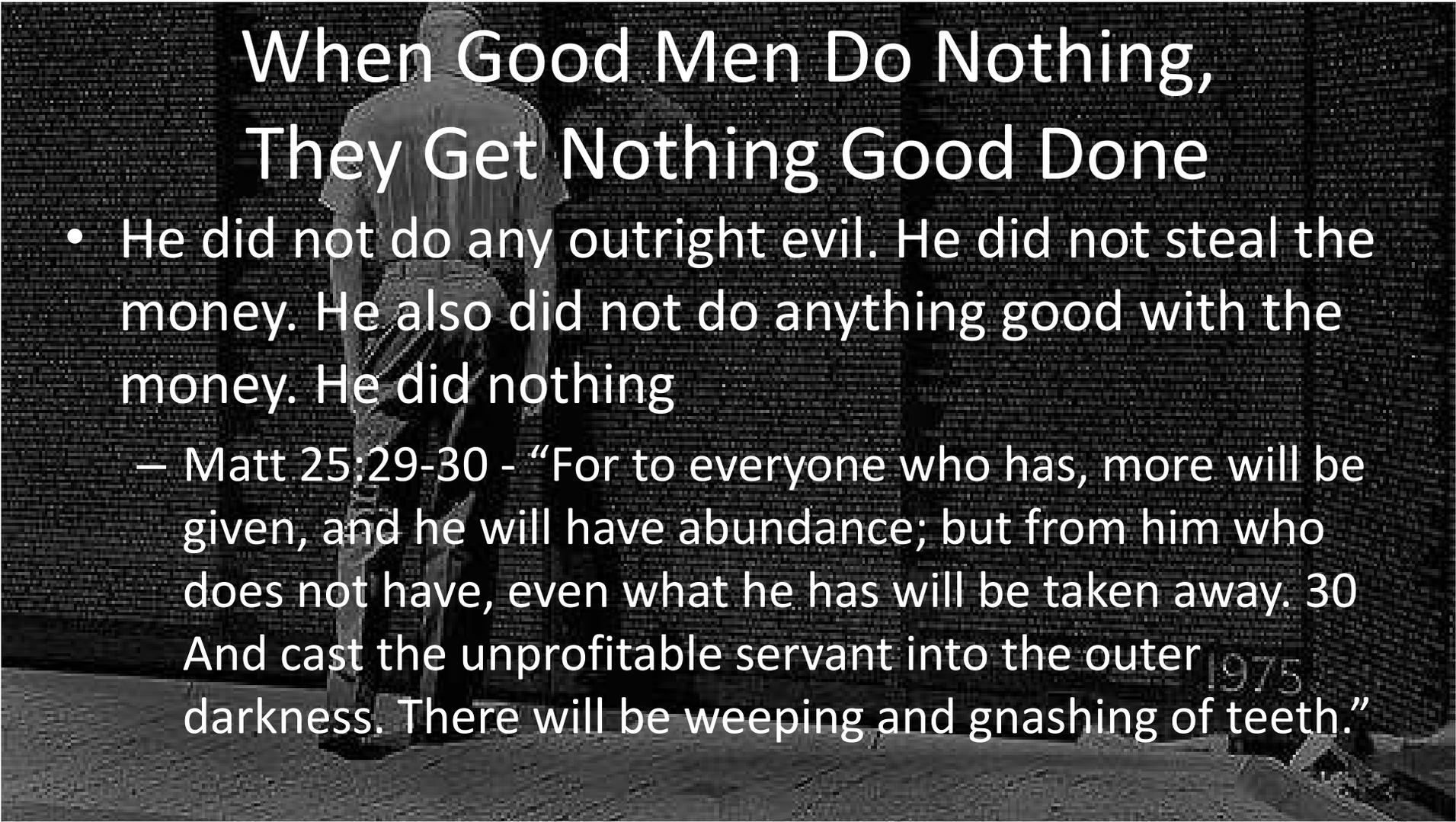
When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

- To be good, one must do good
 - Luke 6:35 - “But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.”
 - Eph. 2:10 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”
 - Titus 2:14 - “Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.”



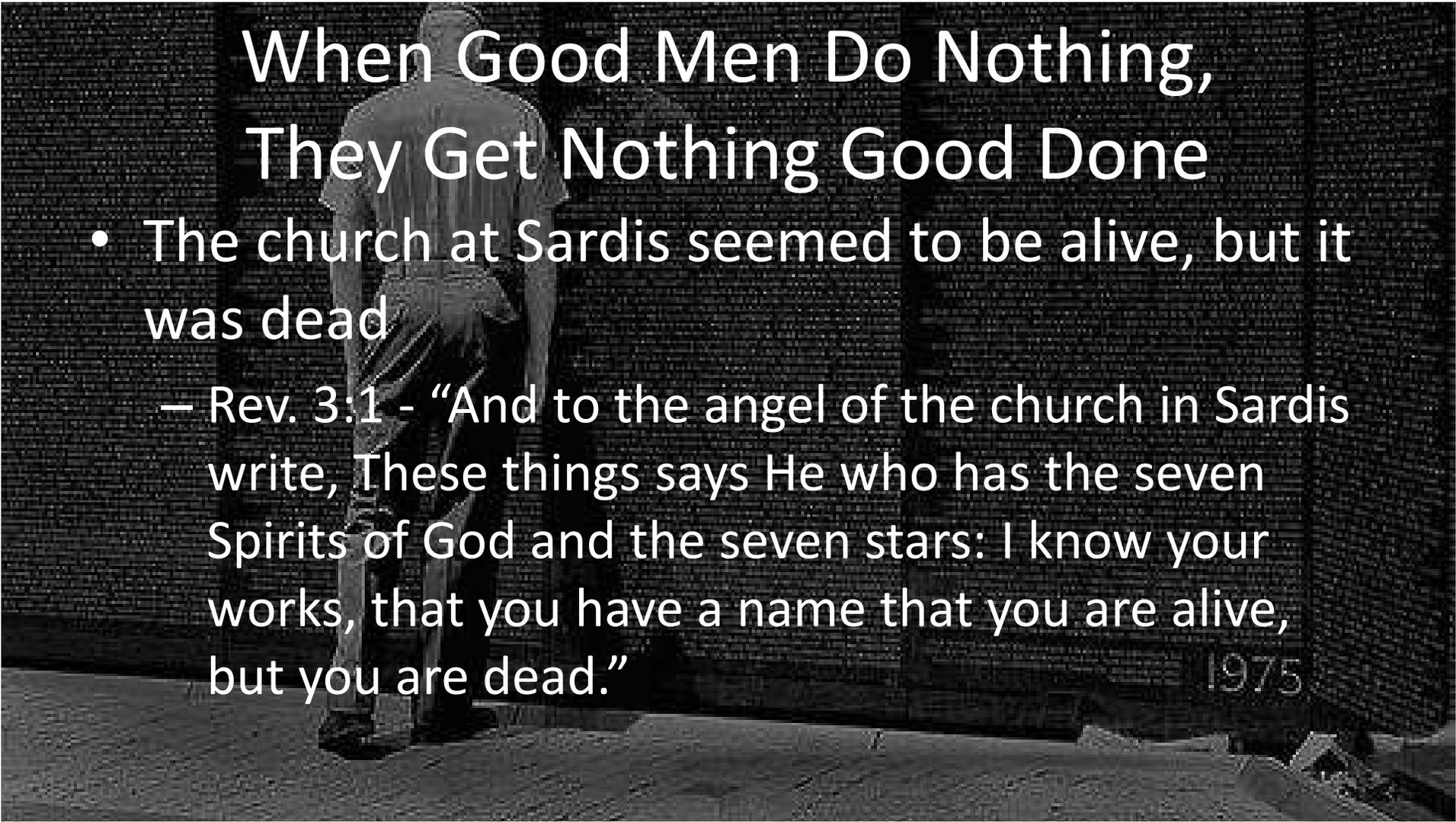
When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

- The parable of the one talent man
- He took what the Lord gave him and hid it
 - Matt 25:18 - “But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord's money.”
- He was condemned for returning only what his Lord gave him
 - Matt 25:26 - “But his lord answered and said to him, 'You wicked and lazy servant’”



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

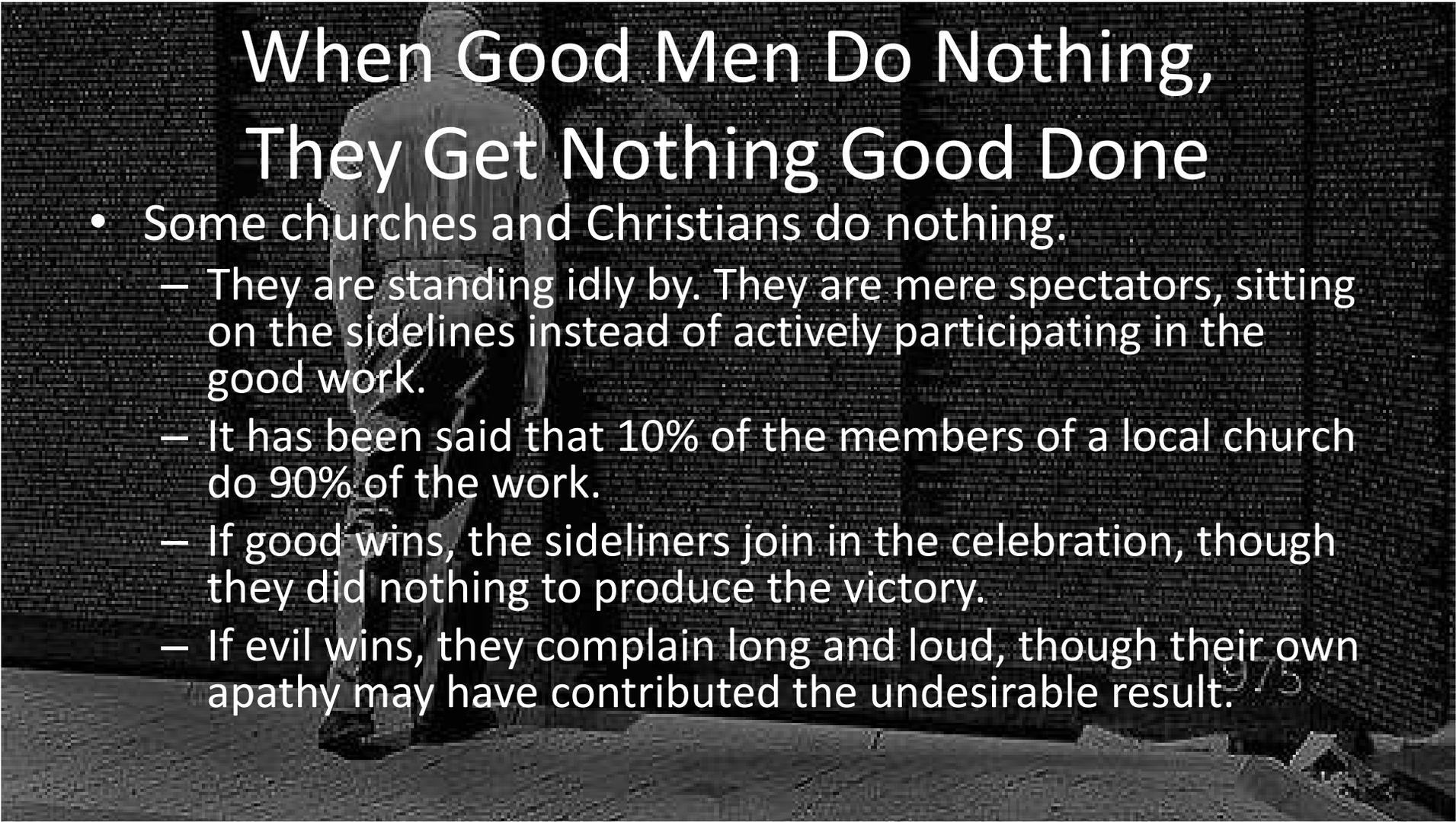
- He did not do any outright evil. He did not steal the money. He also did not do anything good with the money. He did nothing
 - Matt 25:29-30 - “For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

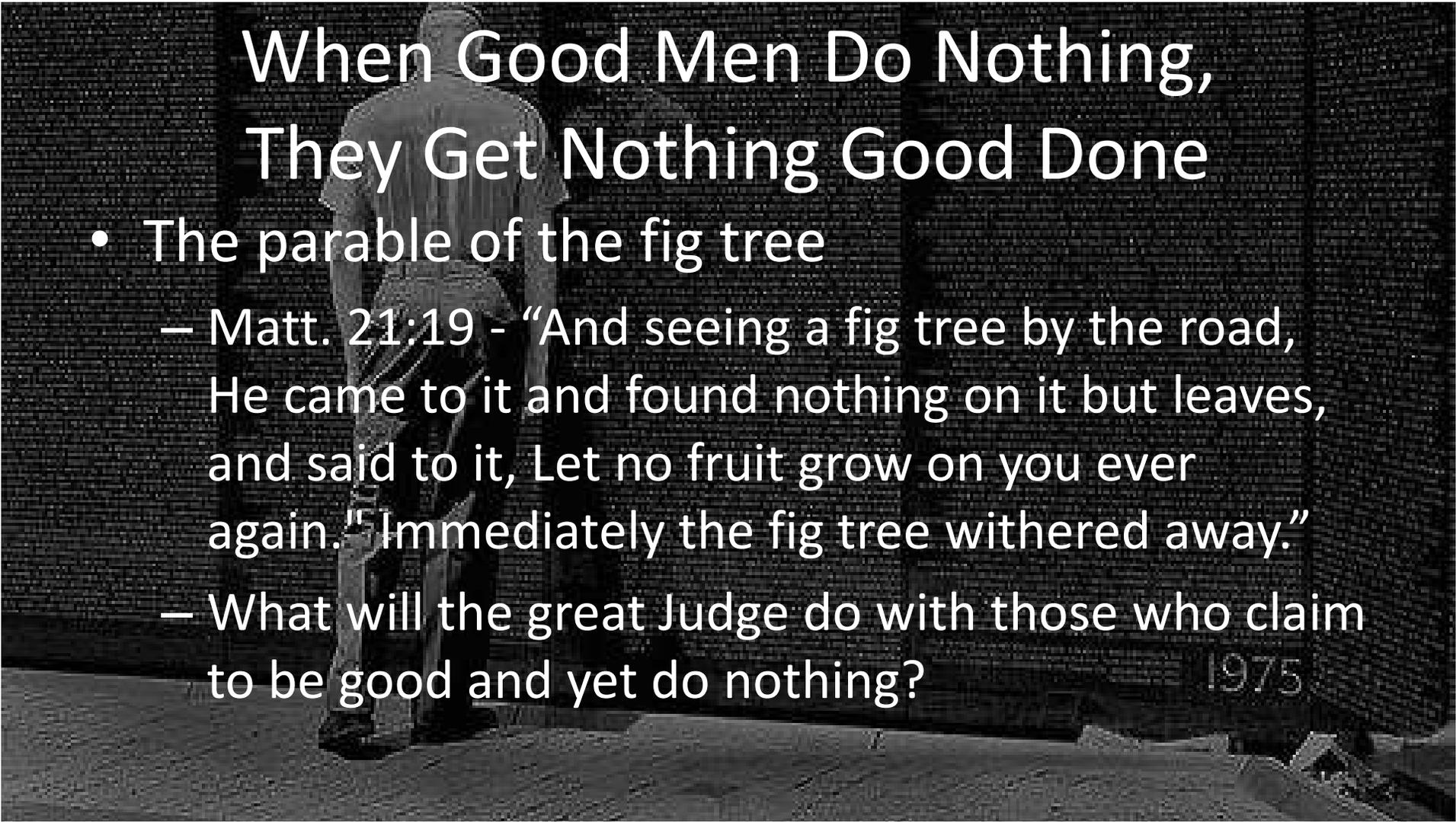
- The church at Sardis seemed to be alive, but it was dead
 - Rev. 3:1 - “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.”

1975



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

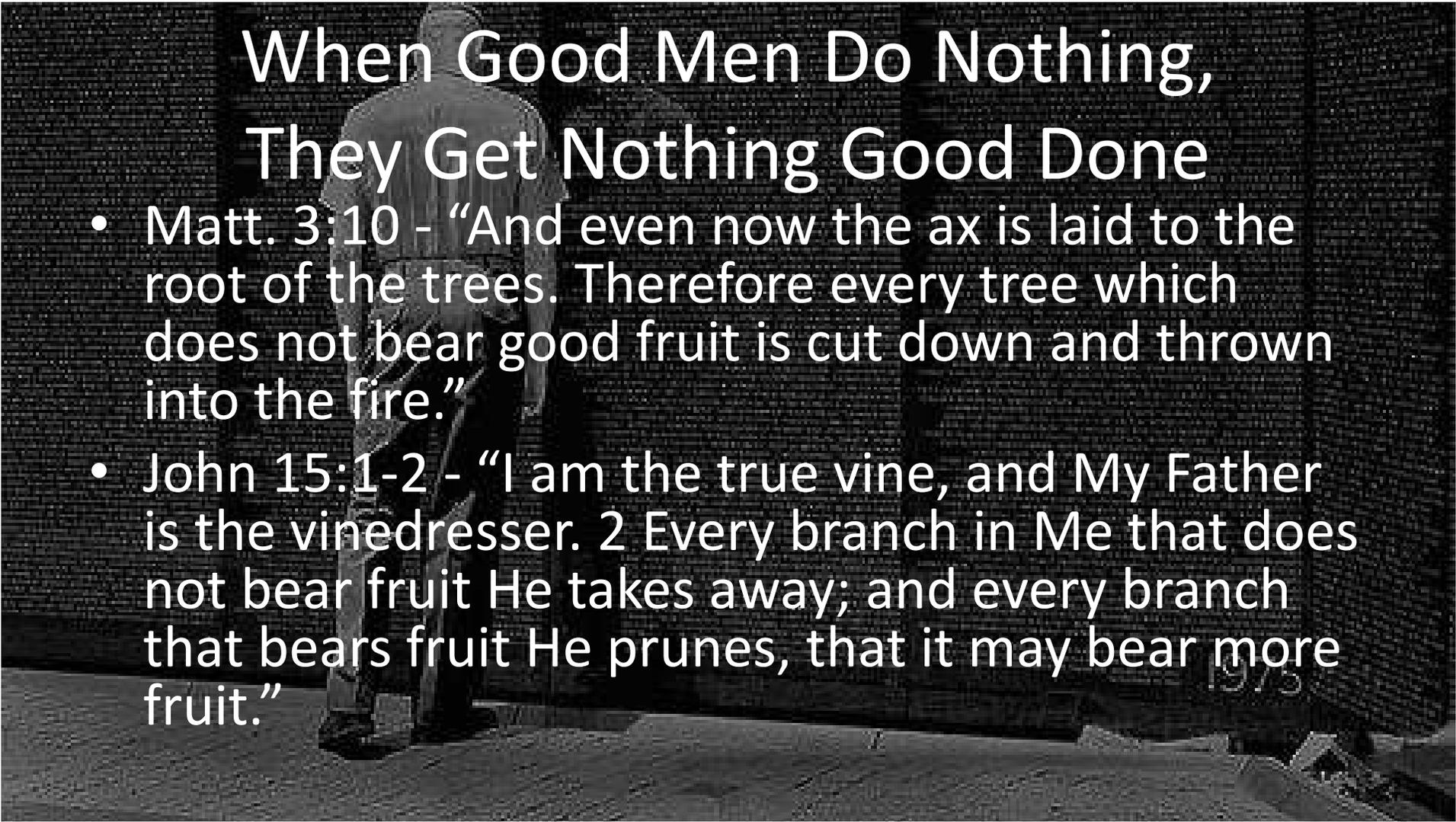
- Some churches and Christians do nothing.
 - They are standing idly by. They are mere spectators, sitting on the sidelines instead of actively participating in the good work.
 - It has been said that 10% of the members of a local church do 90% of the work.
 - If good wins, the sideliners join in the celebration, though they did nothing to produce the victory.
 - If evil wins, they complain long and loud, though their own apathy may have contributed the undesirable result.



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

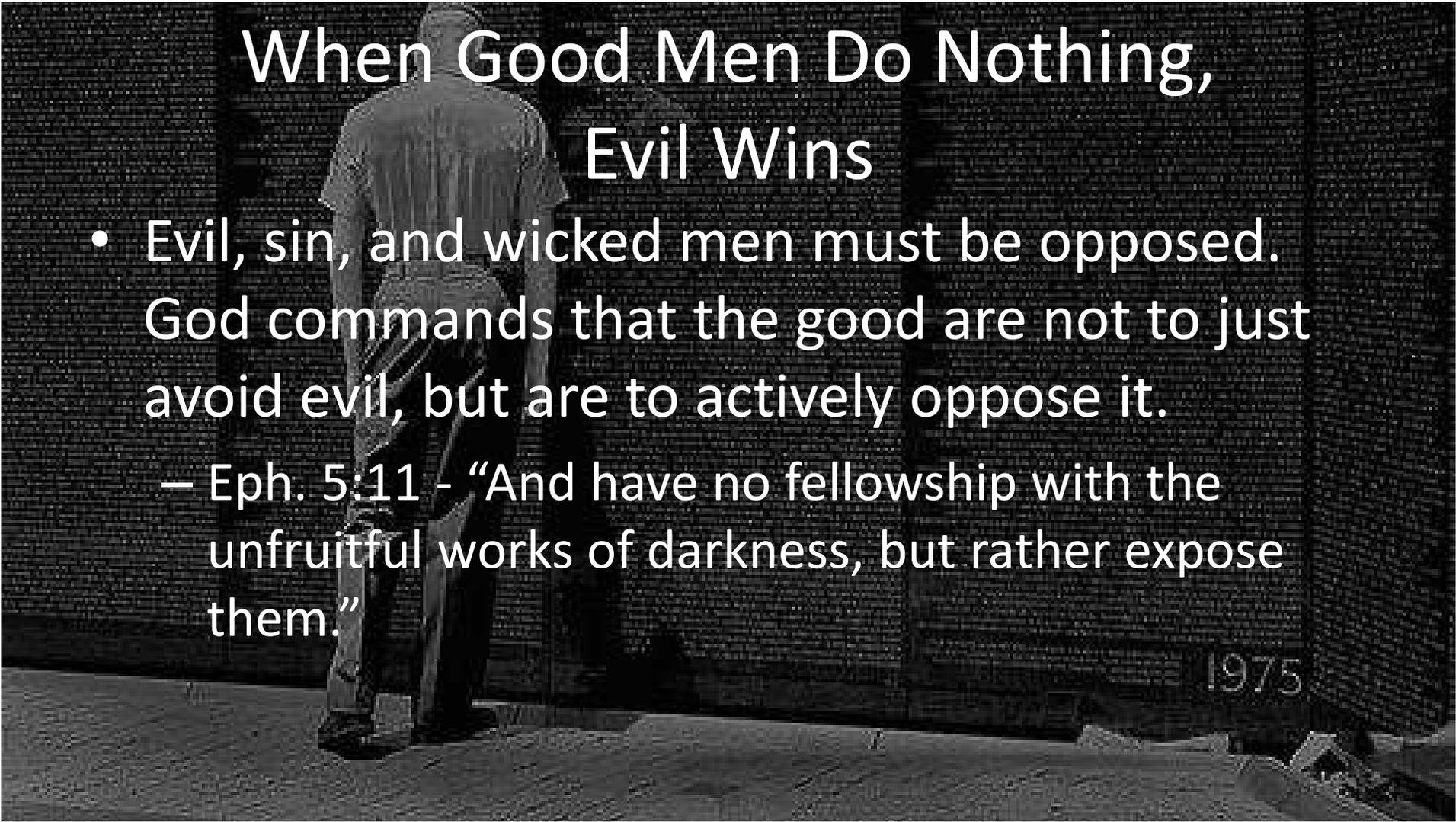
- The parable of the fig tree
 - Matt. 21:19 - “And seeing a fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it but leaves, and said to it, Let no fruit grow on you ever again.” Immediately the fig tree withered away.”
 - What will the great Judge do with those who claim to be good and yet do nothing?

1975



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Get Nothing Good Done

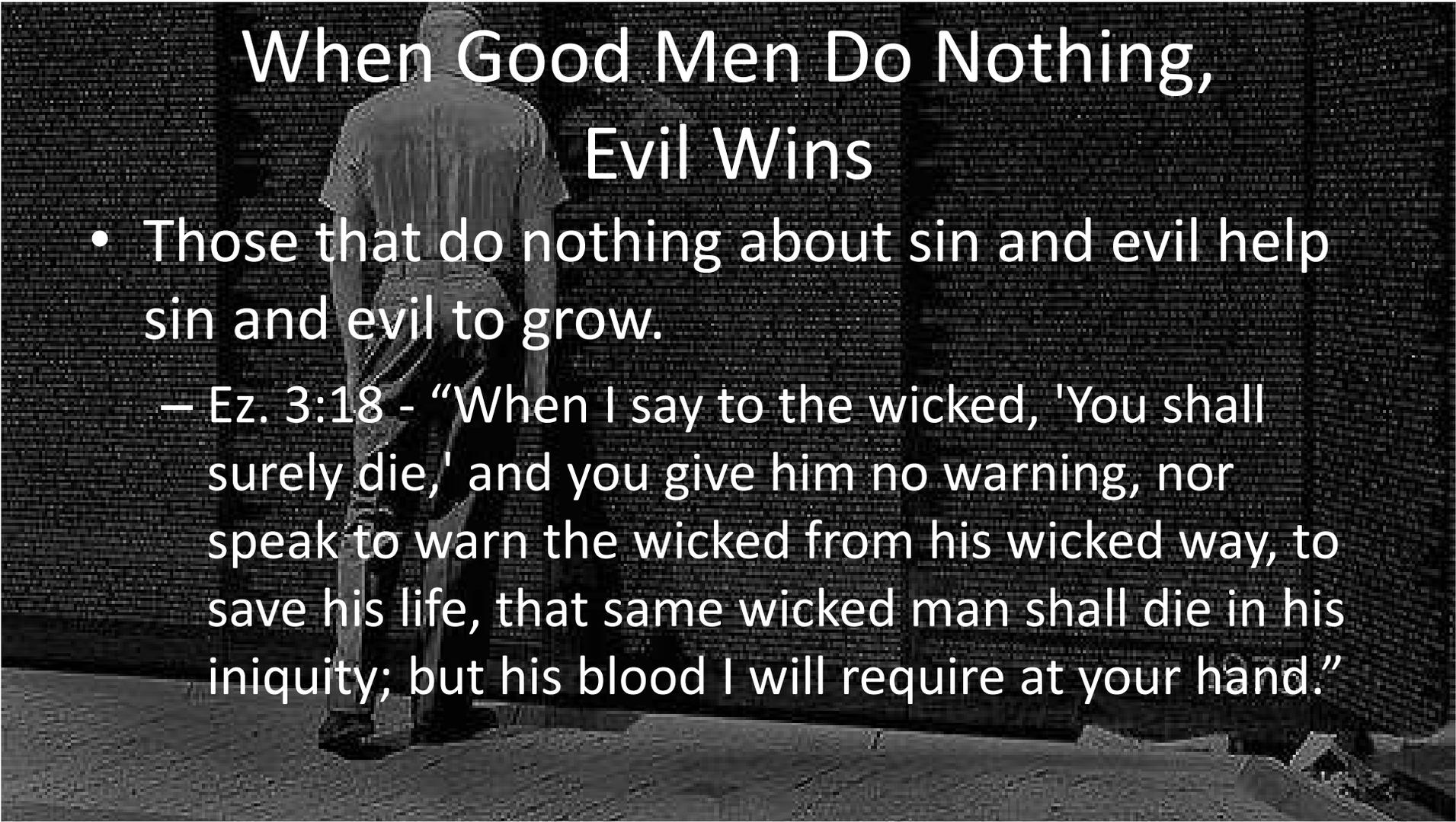
- Matt. 3:10 - “And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”
- John 15:1-2 - “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. 2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.”



When Good Men Do Nothing, Evil Wins

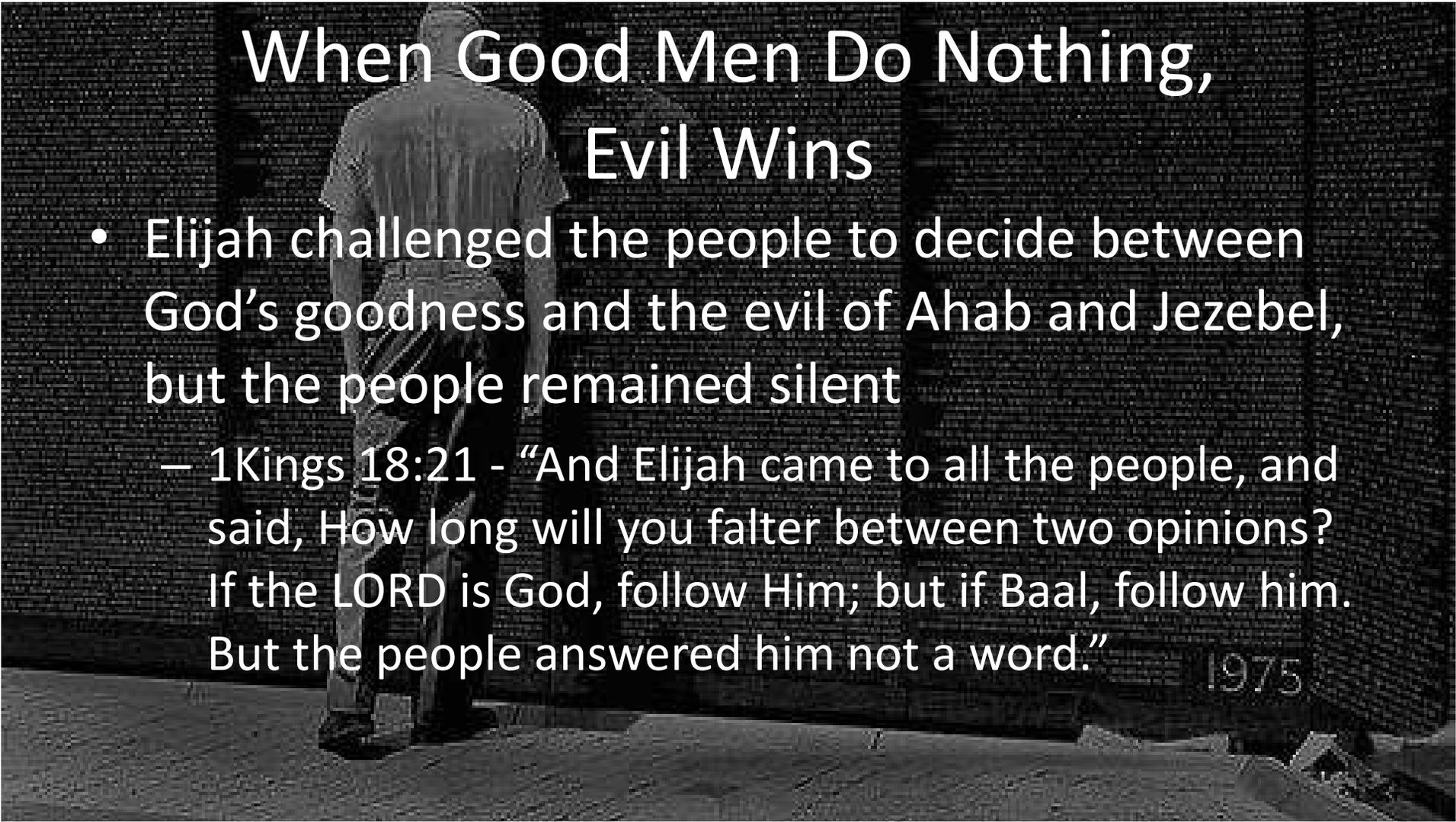
- Evil, sin, and wicked men must be opposed. God commands that the good are not to just avoid evil, but are to actively oppose it.
 - Eph. 5:11 - “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.”

1975



When Good Men Do Nothing, Evil Wins

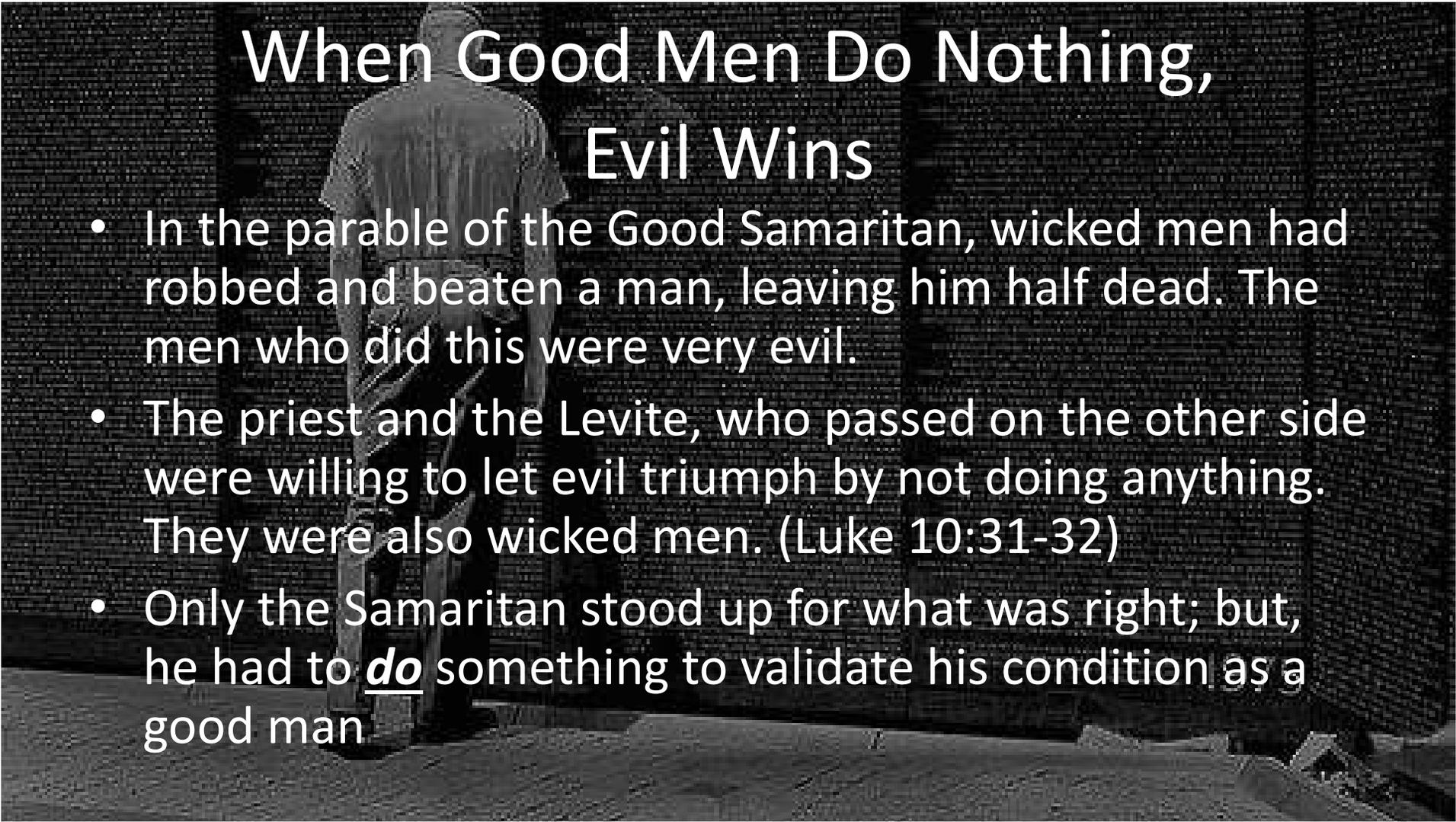
- Those that do nothing about sin and evil help sin and evil to grow.
 - Ez. 3:18 - “When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.”



When Good Men Do Nothing, Evil Wins

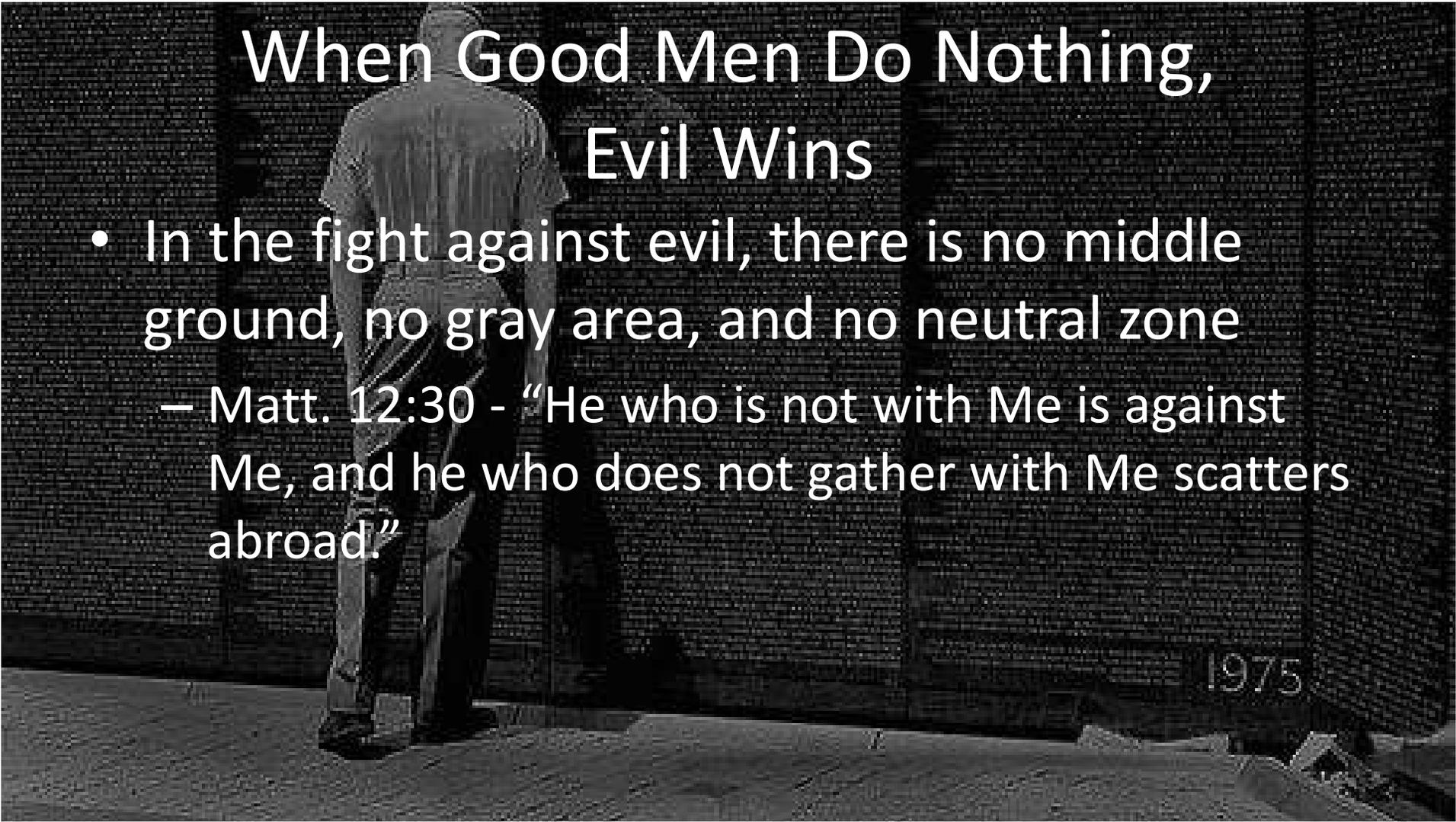
- Elijah challenged the people to decide between God's goodness and the evil of Ahab and Jezebel, but the people remained silent
 - 1Kings 18:21 - "And Elijah came to all the people, and said, How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him. But the people answered him not a word."

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When Good Men Do Nothing, Evil Wins

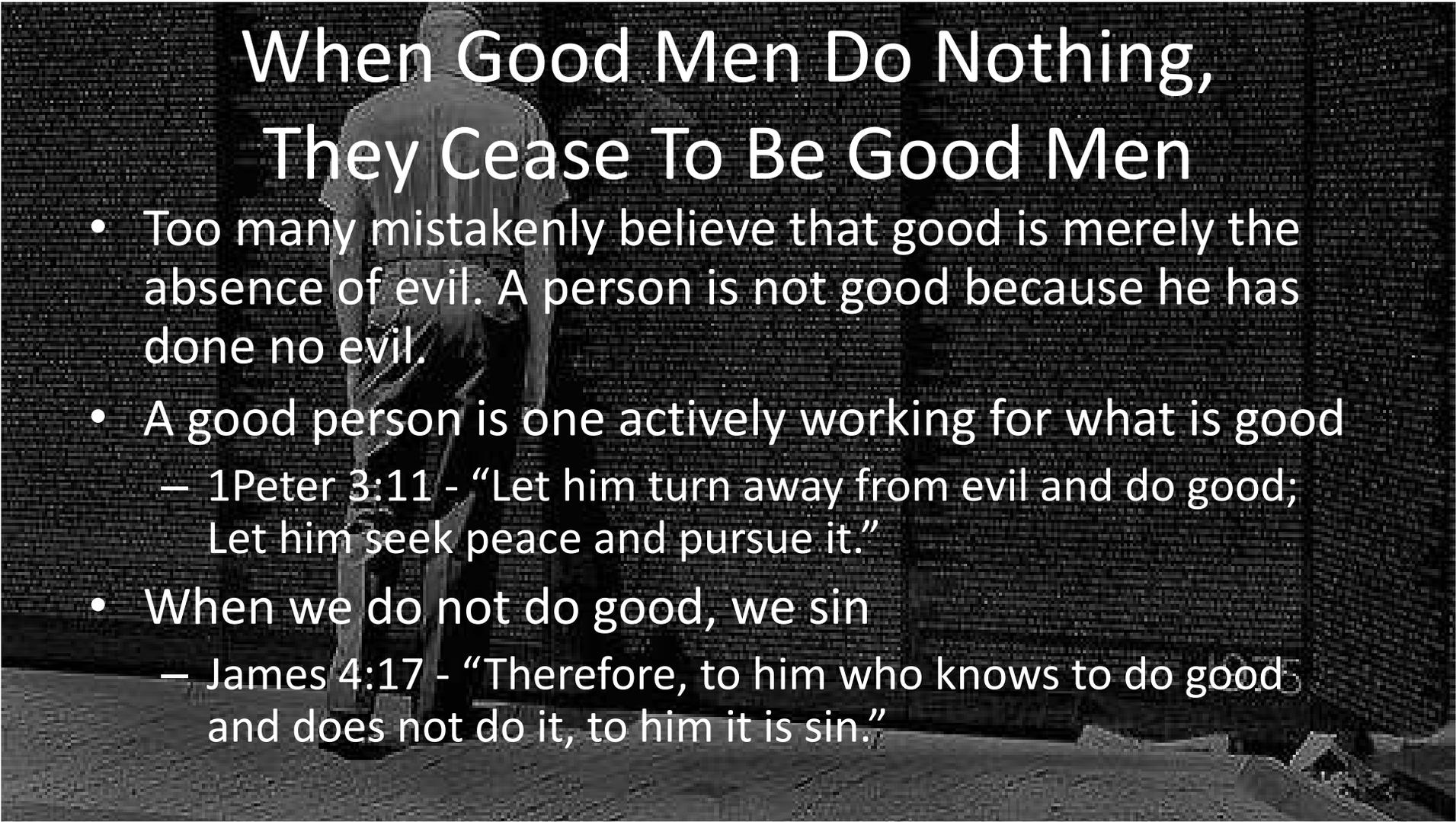
- In the parable of the Good Samaritan, wicked men had robbed and beaten a man, leaving him half dead. The men who did this were very evil.
- The priest and the Levite, who passed on the other side were willing to let evil triumph by not doing anything. They were also wicked men. (Luke 10:31-32)
- Only the Samaritan stood up for what was right; but, he had to do something to validate his condition as a good man



When Good Men Do Nothing, Evil Wins

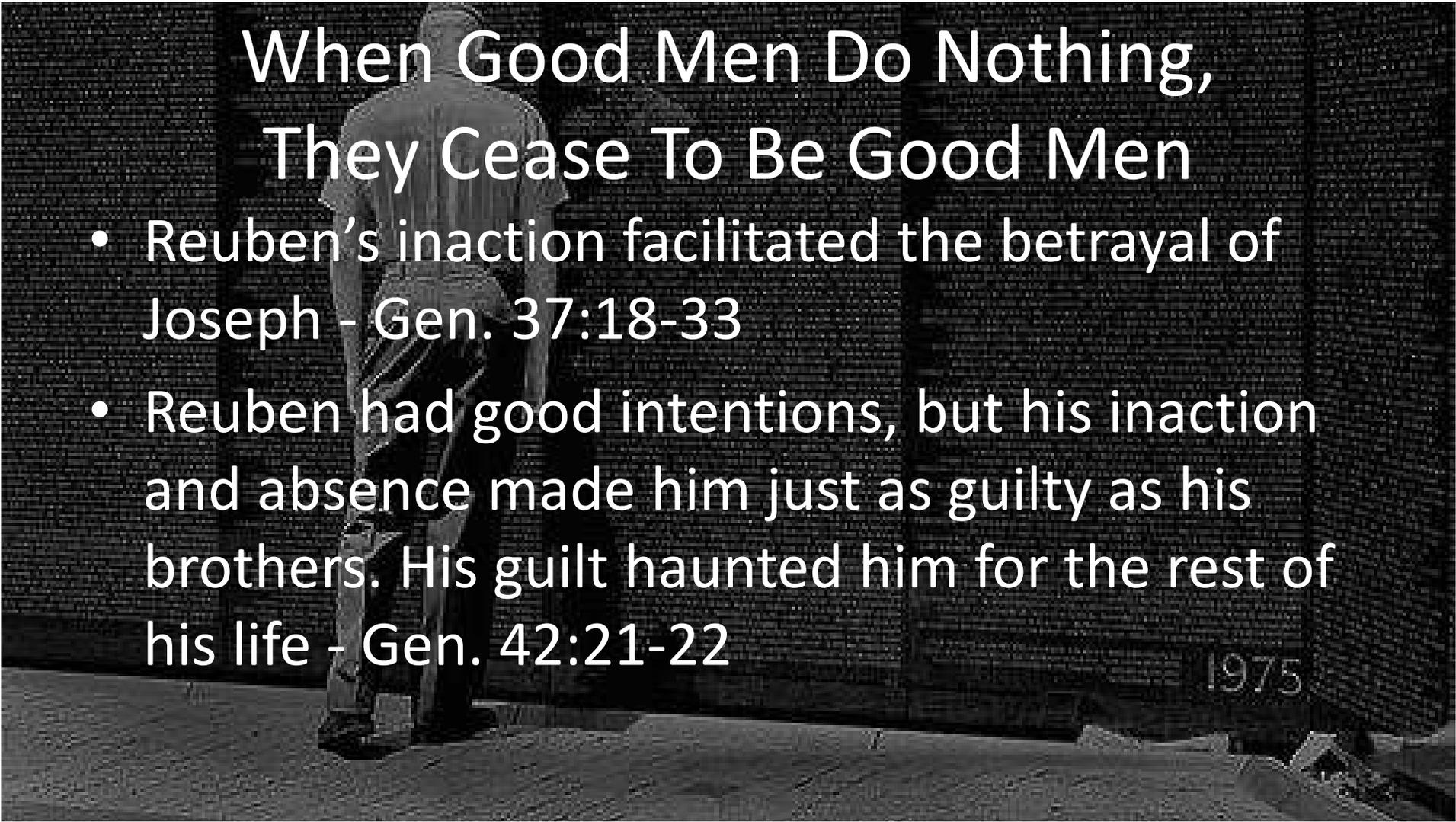
- In the fight against evil, there is no middle ground, no gray area, and no neutral zone
 - Matt. 12:30 - “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.”

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When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

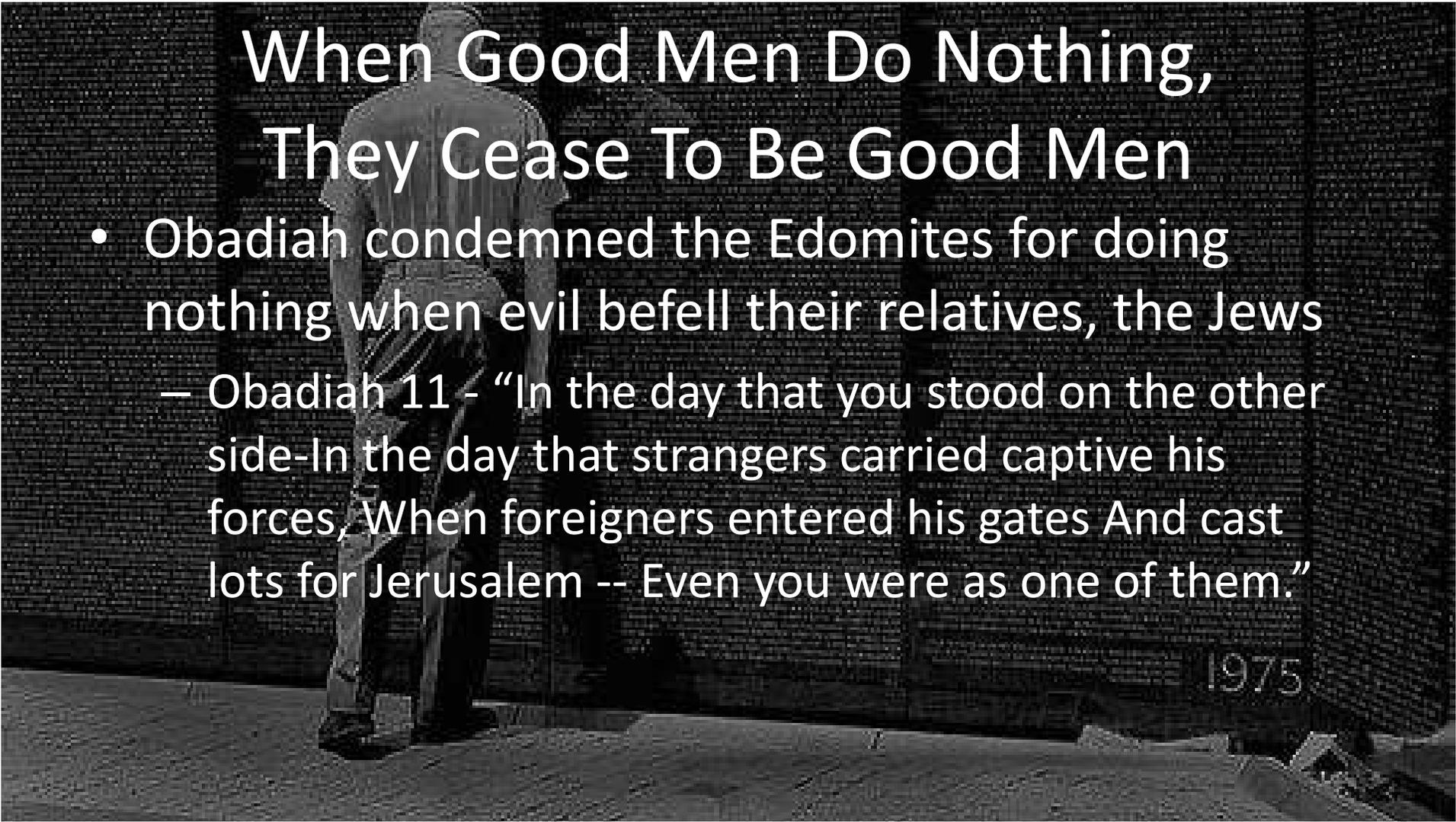
- Too many mistakenly believe that good is merely the absence of evil. A person is not good because he has done no evil.
- A good person is one actively working for what is good
 - 1Peter 3:11 - “Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it.”
- When we do not do good, we sin
 - James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

- Reuben's inaction facilitated the betrayal of Joseph - Gen. 37:18-33
- Reuben had good intentions, but his inaction and absence made him just as guilty as his brothers. His guilt haunted him for the rest of his life - Gen. 42:21-22

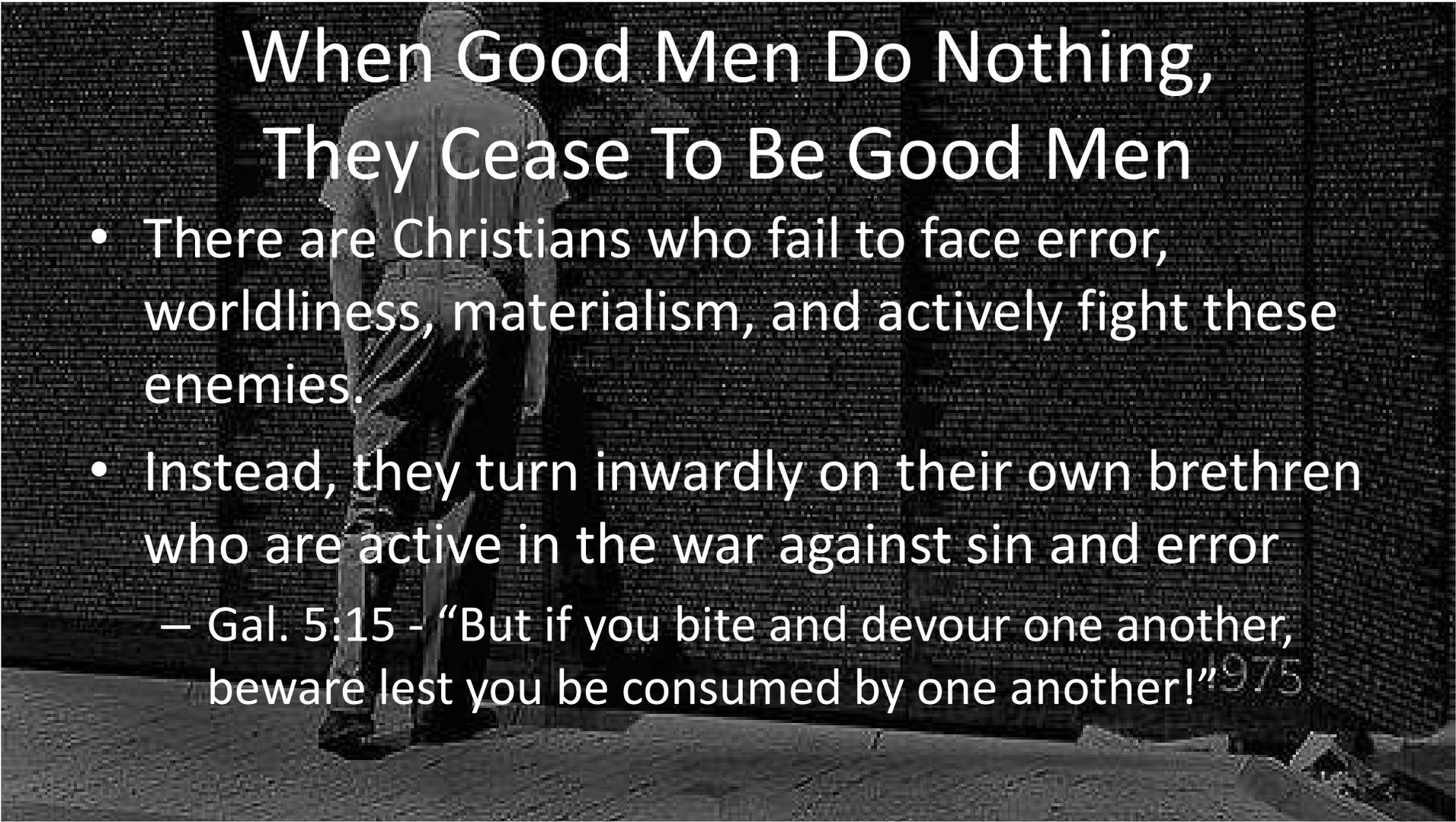
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When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

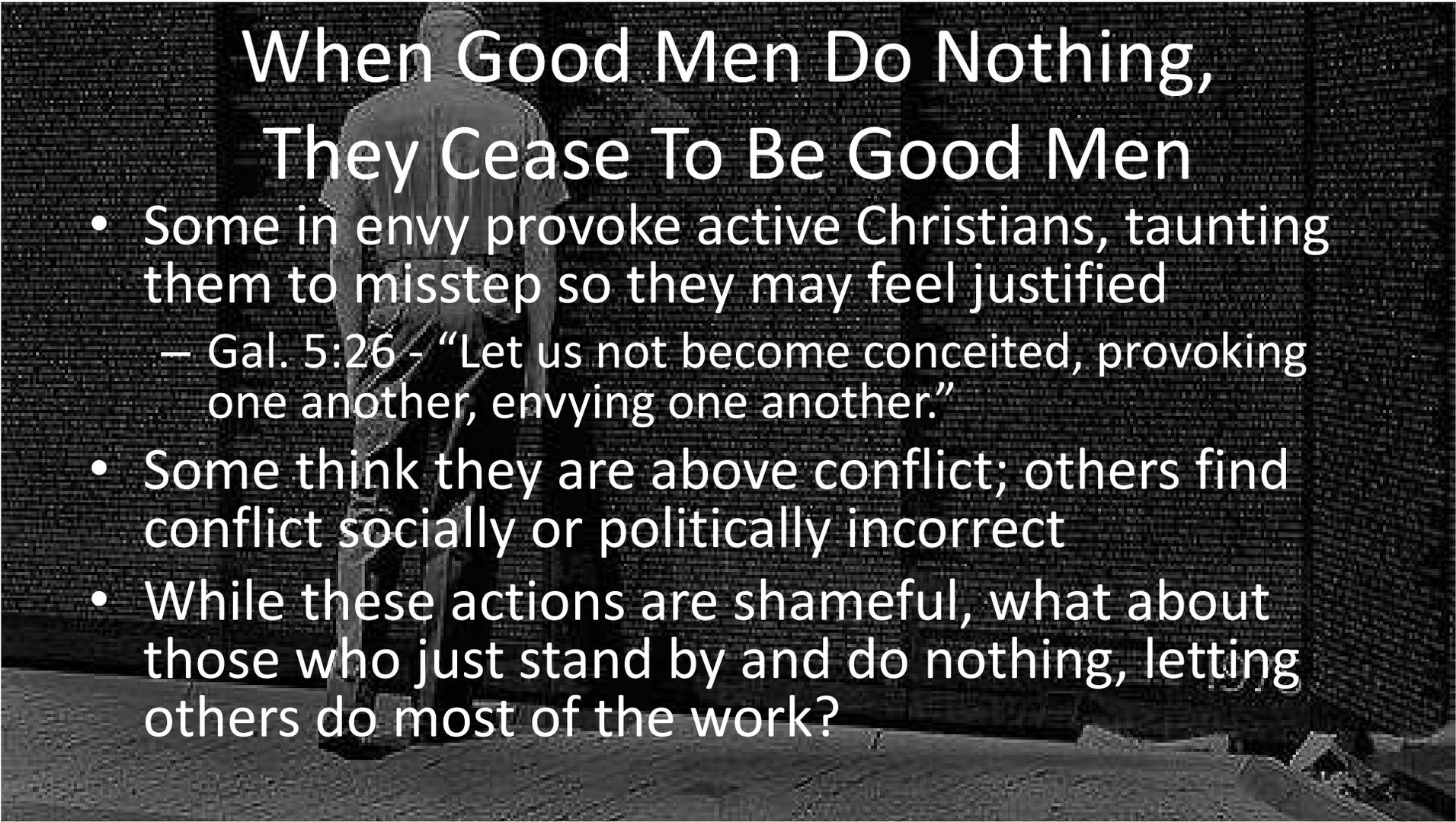
- Obadiah condemned the Edomites for doing nothing when evil befell their relatives, the Jews
 - Obadiah 11 - “In the day that you stood on the other side-In the day that strangers carried captive his forces, When foreigners entered his gates And cast lots for Jerusalem -- Even you were as one of them.”

1975



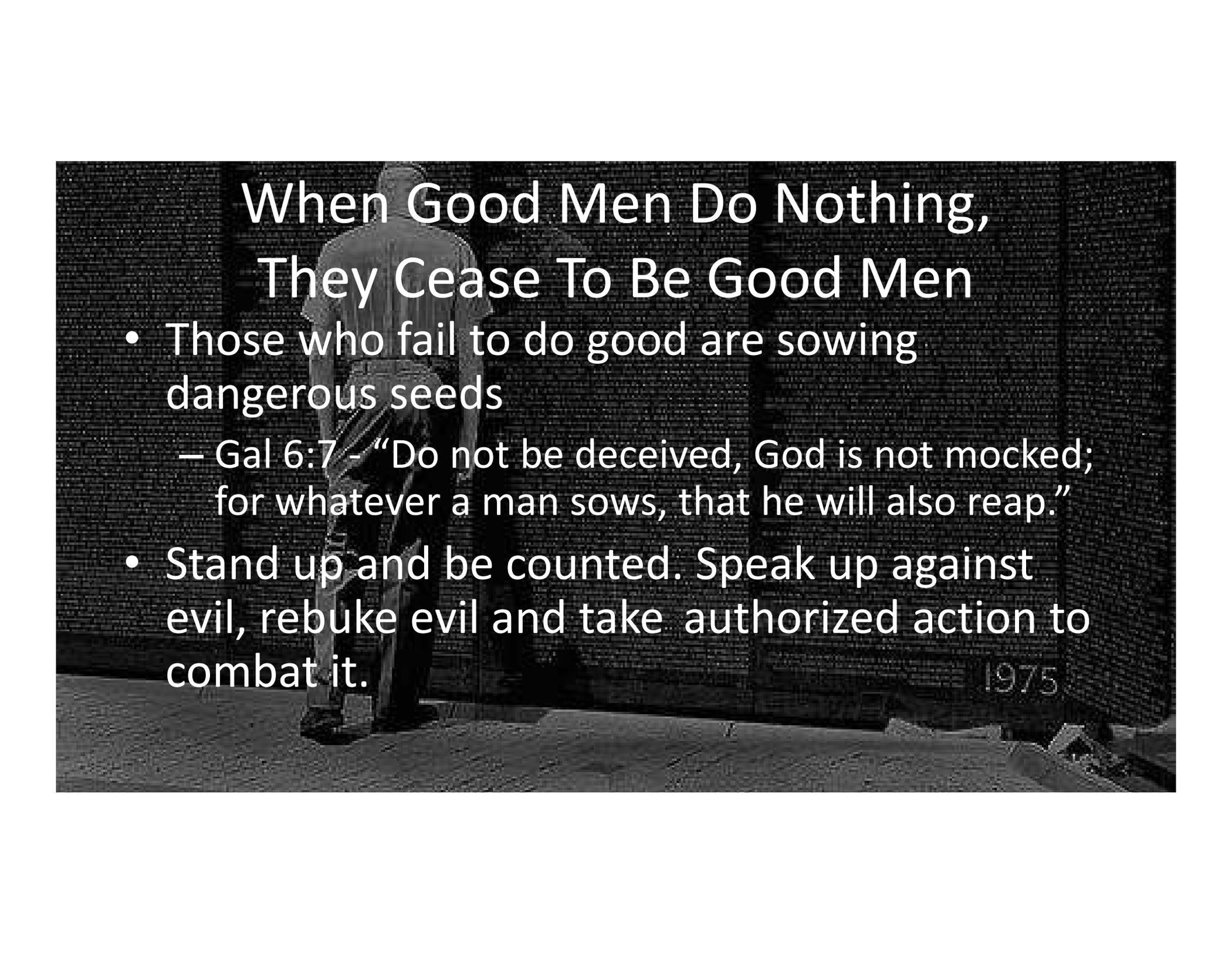
When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

- There are Christians who fail to face error, worldliness, materialism, and actively fight these enemies.
- Instead, they turn inwardly on their own brethren who are active in the war against sin and error
 - Gal. 5:15 - “But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!”¹⁹⁷⁵



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

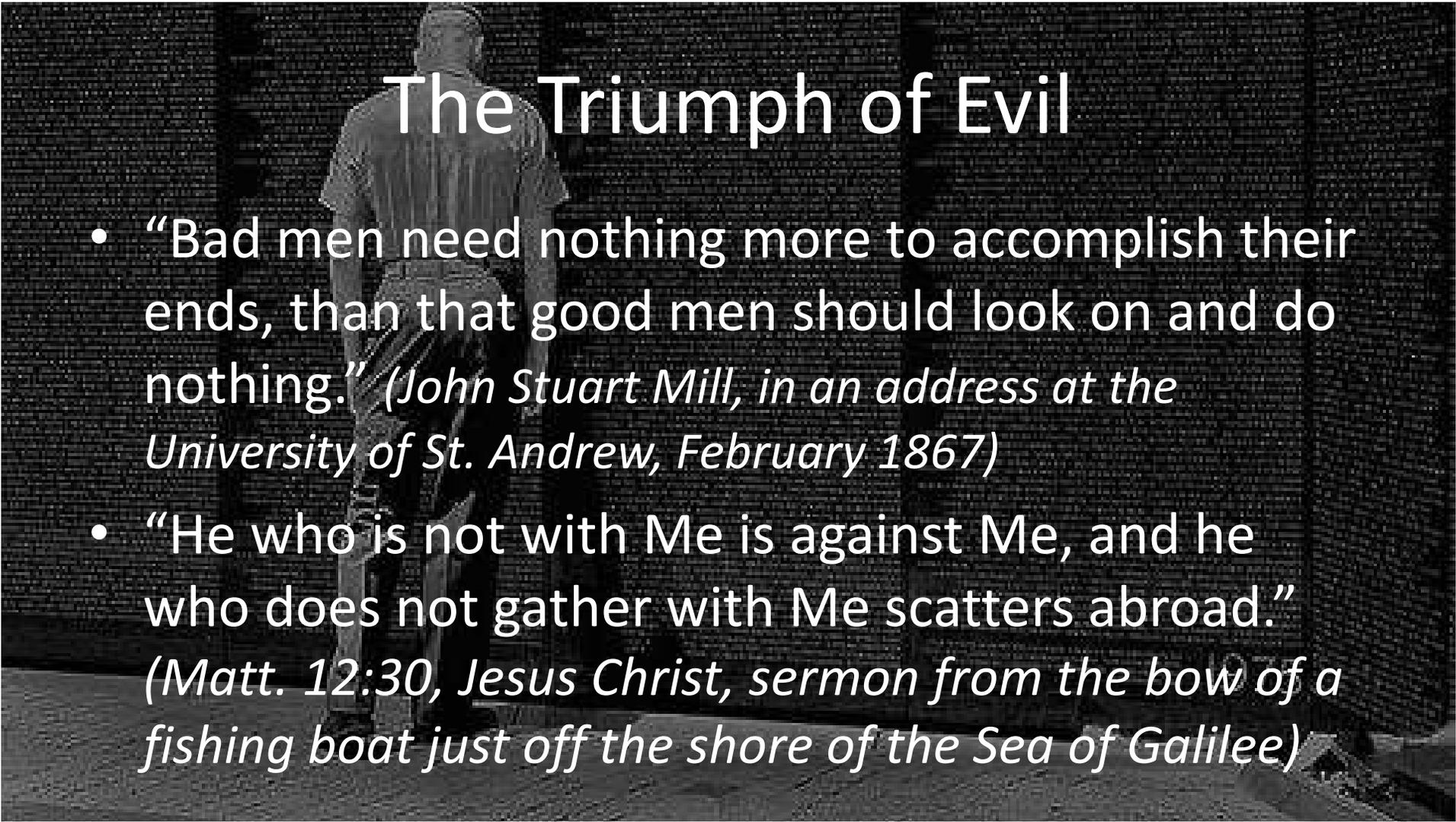
- Some in envy provoke active Christians, taunting them to misstep so they may feel justified
 - Gal. 5:26 - “Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”
- Some think they are above conflict; others find conflict socially or politically incorrect
- While these actions are shameful, what about those who just stand by and do nothing, letting others do most of the work?



When Good Men Do Nothing, They Cease To Be Good Men

- Those who fail to do good are sowing dangerous seeds
 - Gal 6:7 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.”
- Stand up and be counted. Speak up against evil, rebuke evil and take authorized action to combat it.

1975

A man in a dark suit and light shirt is walking away from the camera in a dark, textured environment. The background is a dark, grainy wall with vertical lines. The man is in the center-left of the frame, walking towards the right.

The Triumph of Evil

- “Bad men need nothing more to accomplish their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.” (*John Stuart Mill, in an address at the University of St. Andrew, February 1867*)
- “He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.” (*Matt. 12:30, Jesus Christ, sermon from the bow of a fishing boat just off the shore of the Sea of Galilee*)