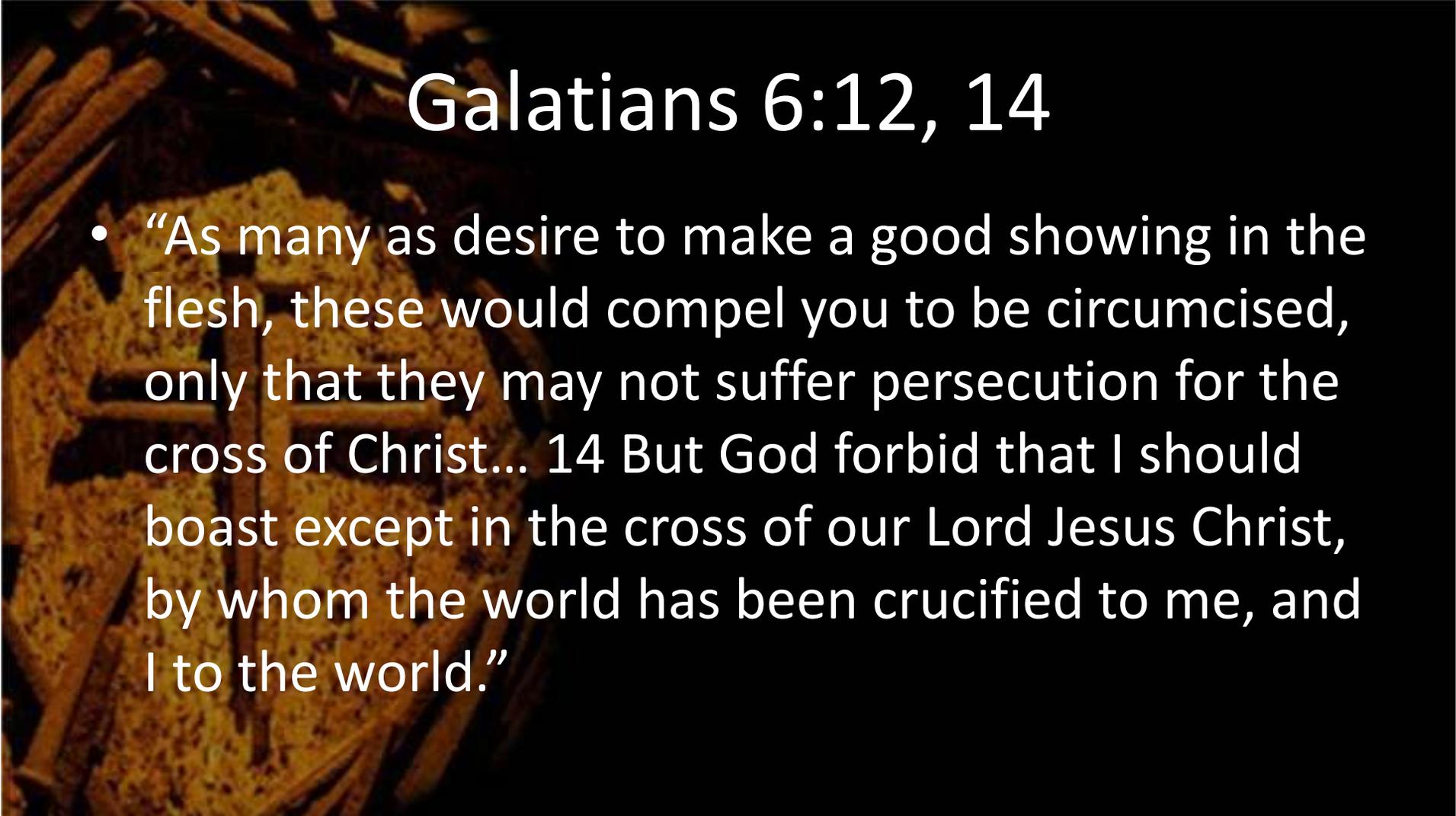


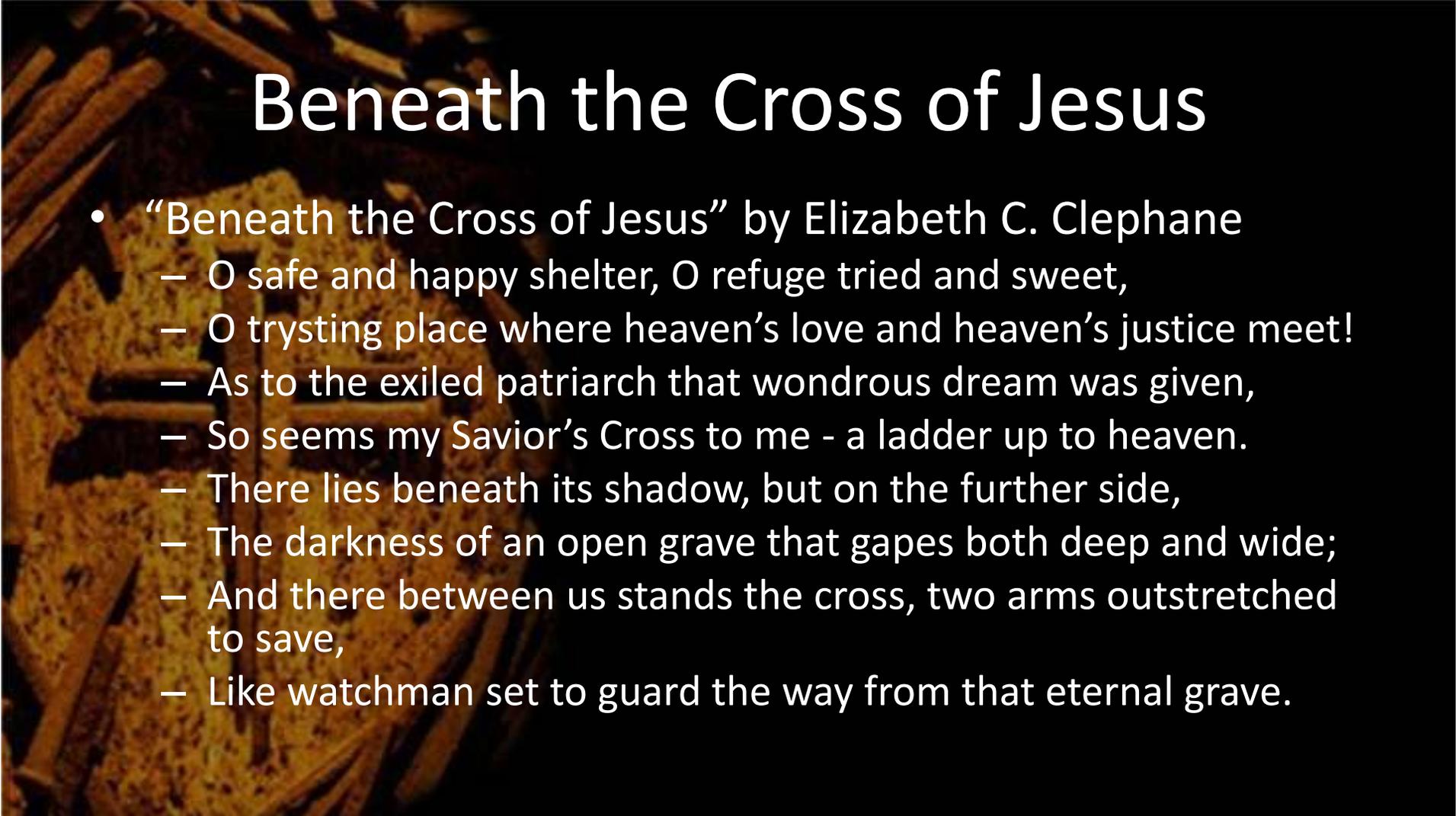
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

Galatians 6:12, 14



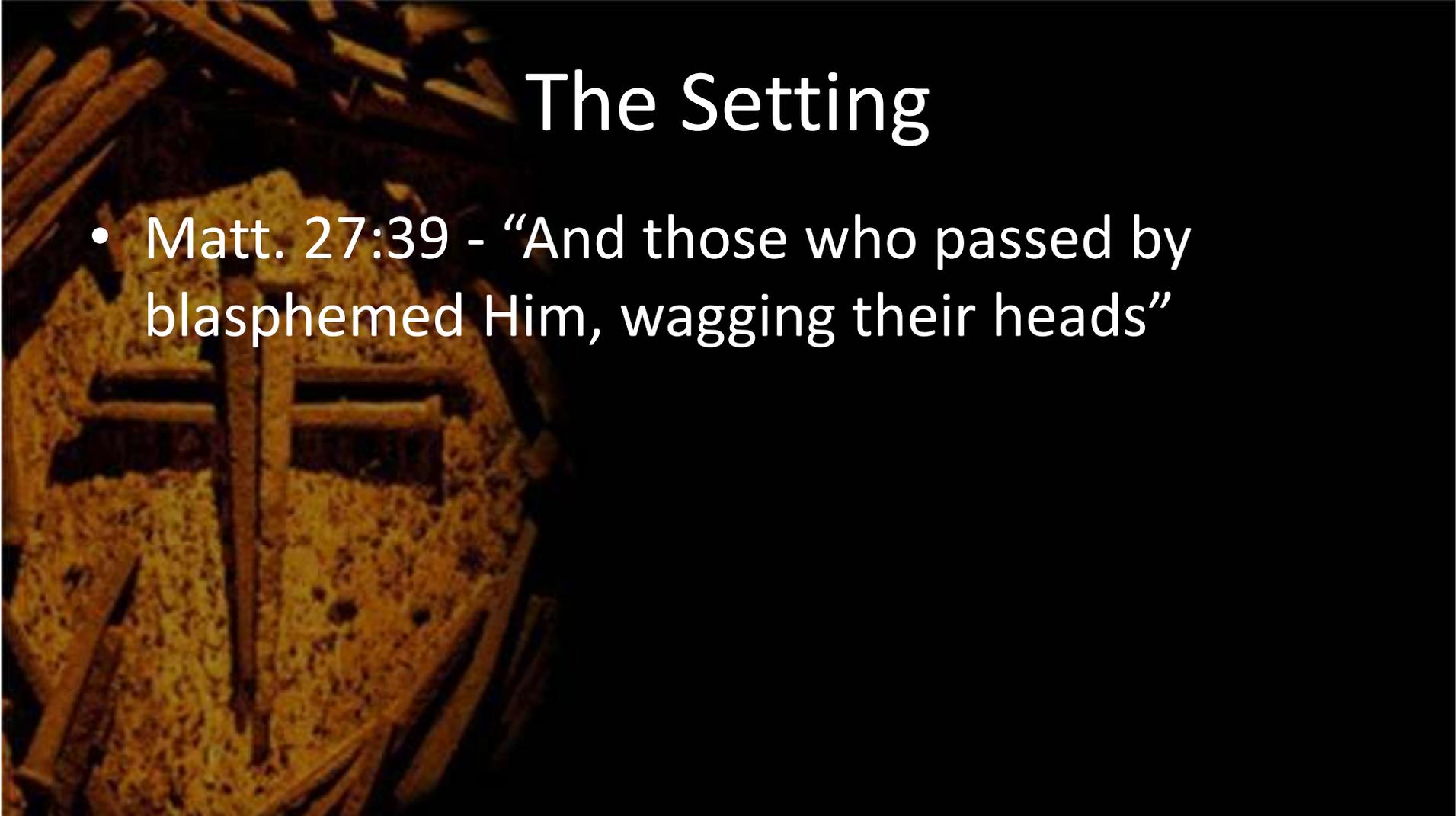
Galatians 6:12, 14

- “As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ... 14 But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”



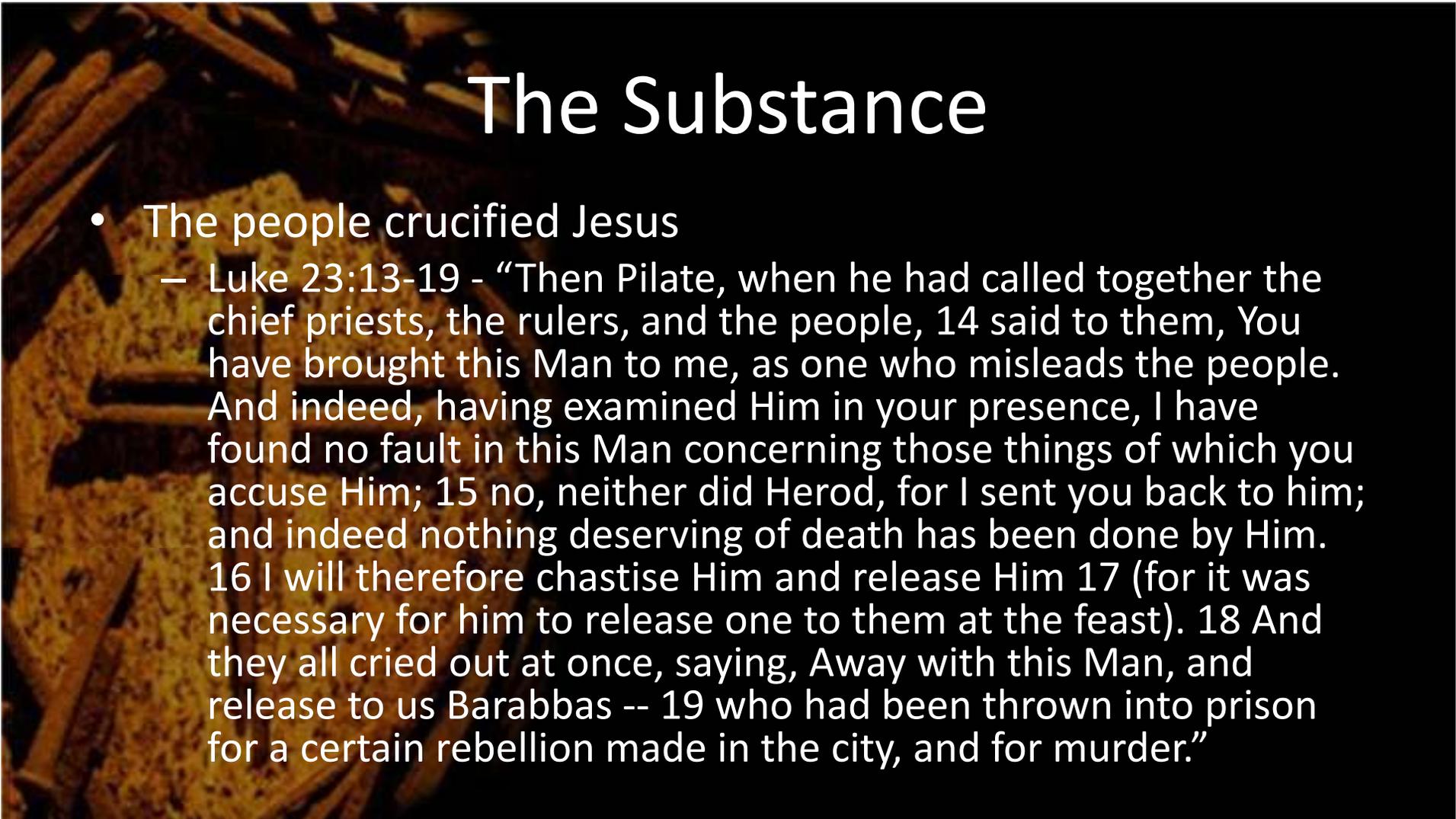
Beneath the Cross of Jesus

- “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” by Elizabeth C. Clephane
 - O safe and happy shelter, O refuge tried and sweet,
 - O trysting place where heaven’s love and heaven’s justice meet!
 - As to the exiled patriarch that wondrous dream was given,
 - So seems my Savior’s Cross to me - a ladder up to heaven.
 - There lies beneath its shadow, but on the further side,
 - The darkness of an open grave that gapes both deep and wide;
 - And there between us stands the cross, two arms outstretched to save,
 - Like watchman set to guard the way from that eternal grave.



The Setting

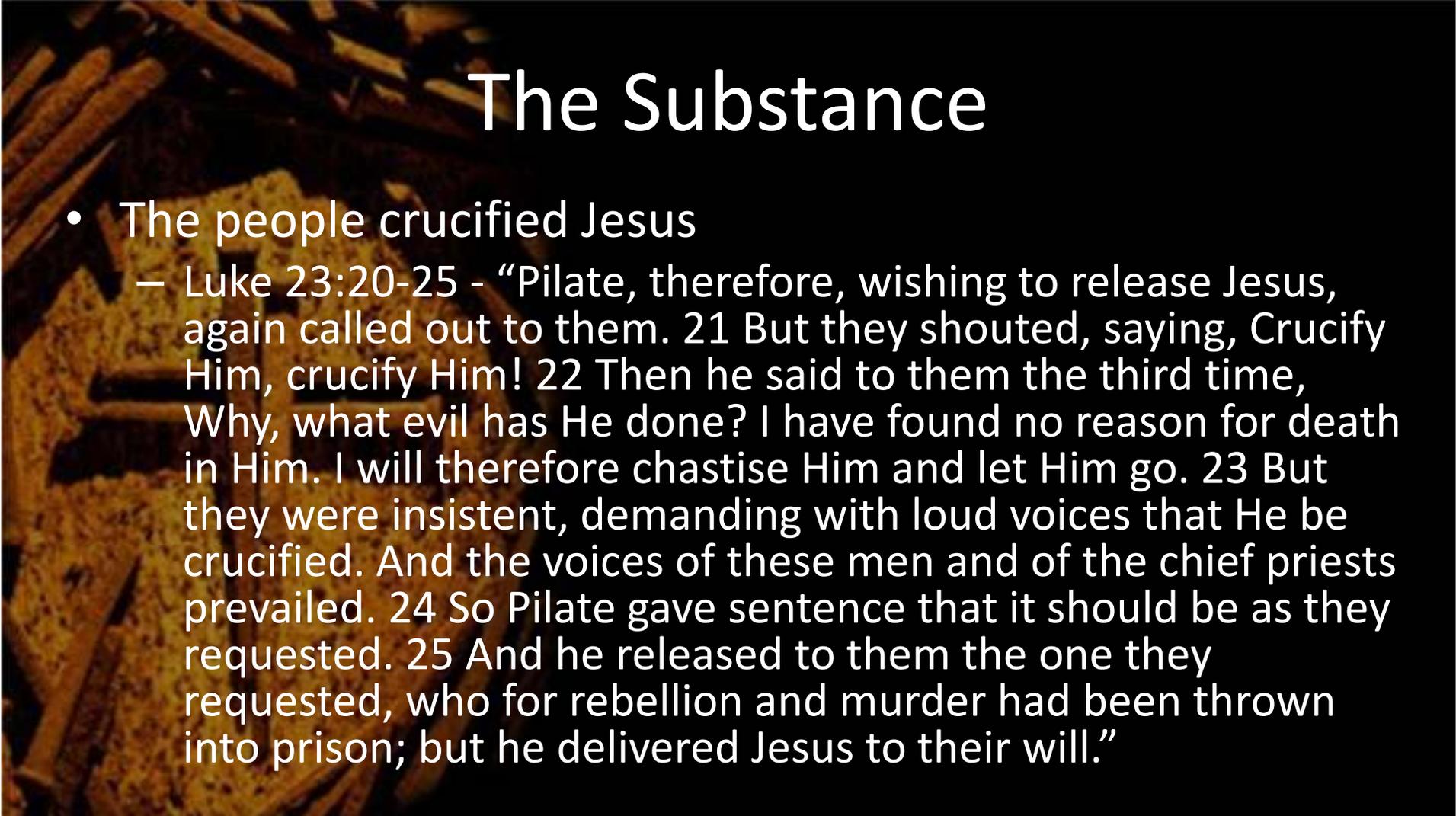
- Matt. 27:39 - “And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads”



The Substance

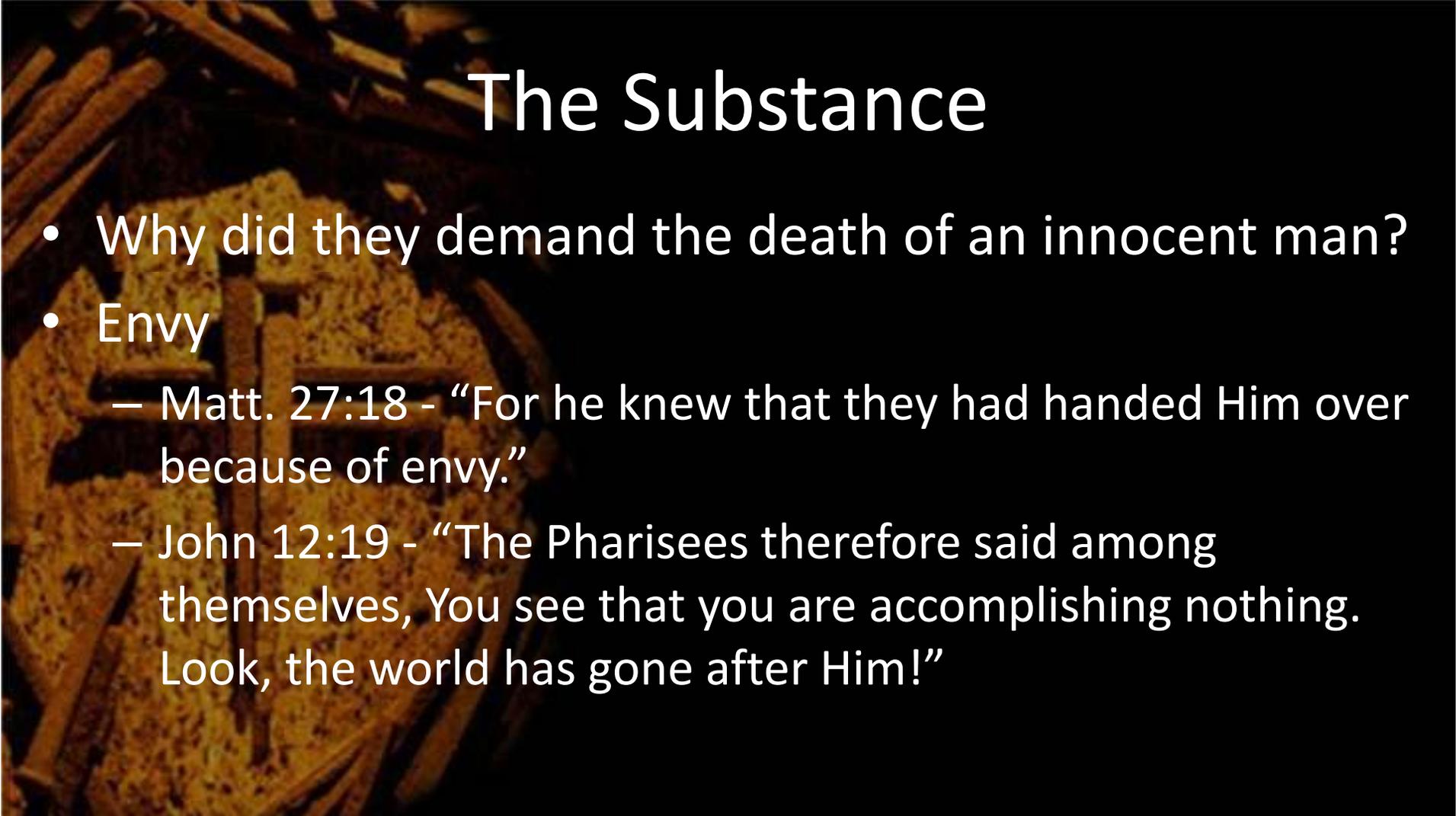
- The people crucified Jesus

- Luke 23:13-19 - “Then Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests, the rulers, and the people, 14 said to them, You have brought this Man to me, as one who misleads the people. And indeed, having examined Him in your presence, I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; 15 no, neither did Herod, for I sent you back to him; and indeed nothing deserving of death has been done by Him. 16 I will therefore chastise Him and release Him 17 (for it was necessary for him to release one to them at the feast). 18 And they all cried out at once, saying, Away with this Man, and release to us Barabbas -- 19 who had been thrown into prison for a certain rebellion made in the city, and for murder.”



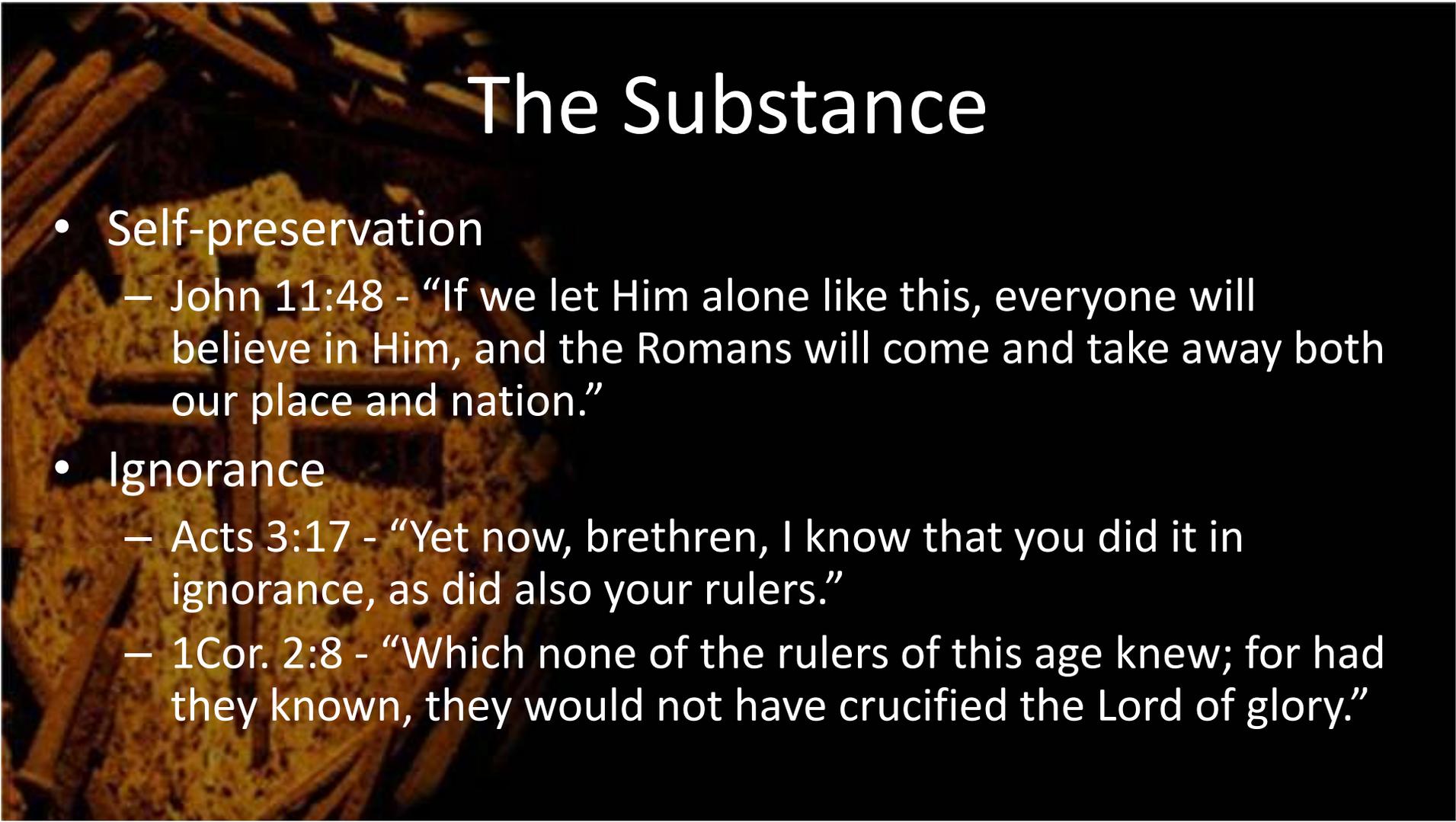
The Substance

- The people crucified Jesus
 - Luke 23:20-25 - “Pilate, therefore, wishing to release Jesus, again called out to them. 21 But they shouted, saying, Crucify Him, crucify Him! 22 Then he said to them the third time, Why, what evil has He done? I have found no reason for death in Him. I will therefore chastise Him and let Him go. 23 But they were insistent, demanding with loud voices that He be crucified. And the voices of these men and of the chief priests prevailed. 24 So Pilate gave sentence that it should be as they requested. 25 And he released to them the one they requested, who for rebellion and murder had been thrown into prison; but he delivered Jesus to their will.”



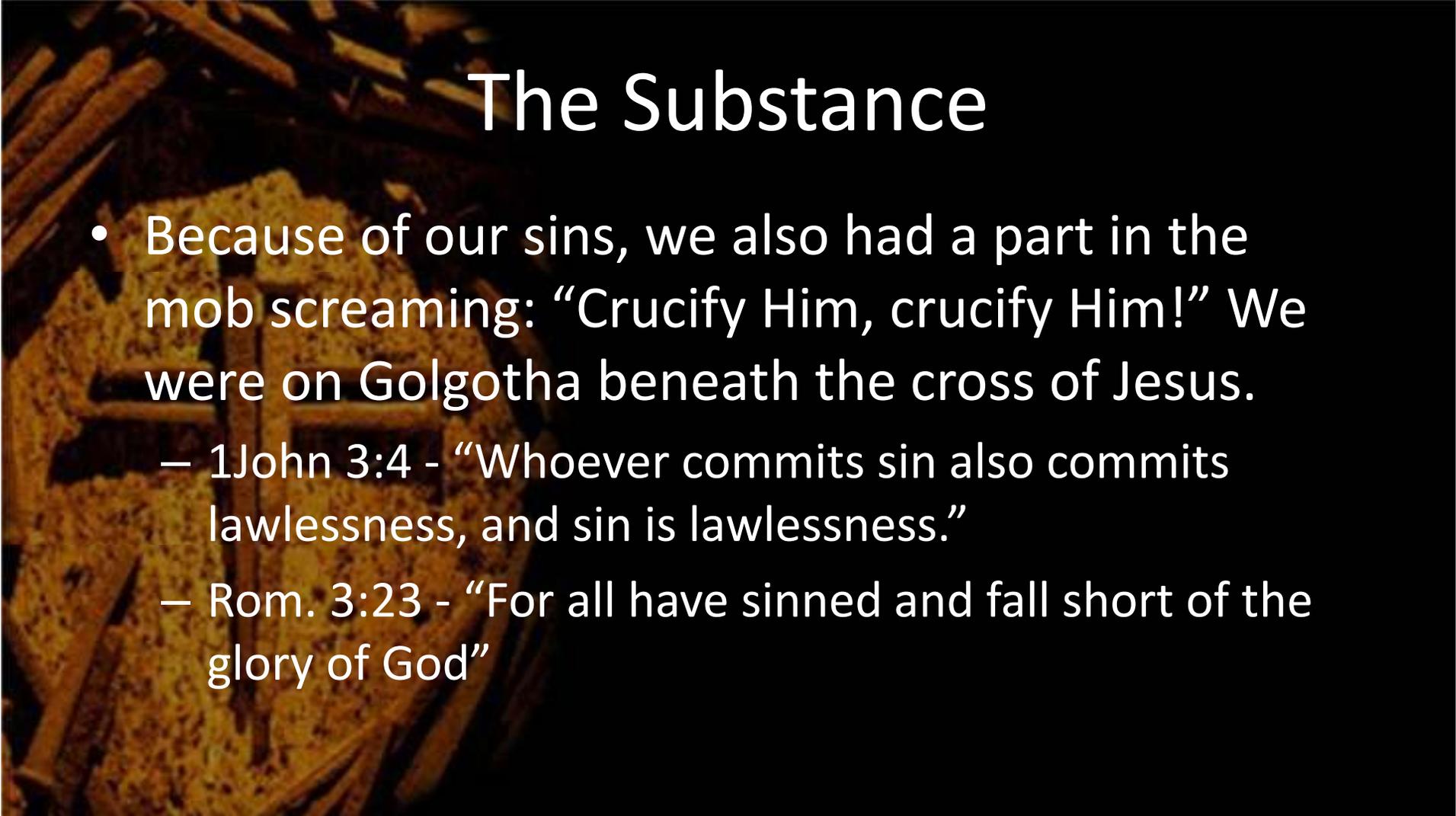
The Substance

- Why did they demand the death of an innocent man?
- Envy
 - Matt. 27:18 - “For he knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.”
 - John 12:19 - “The Pharisees therefore said among themselves, You see that you are accomplishing nothing. Look, the world has gone after Him!”



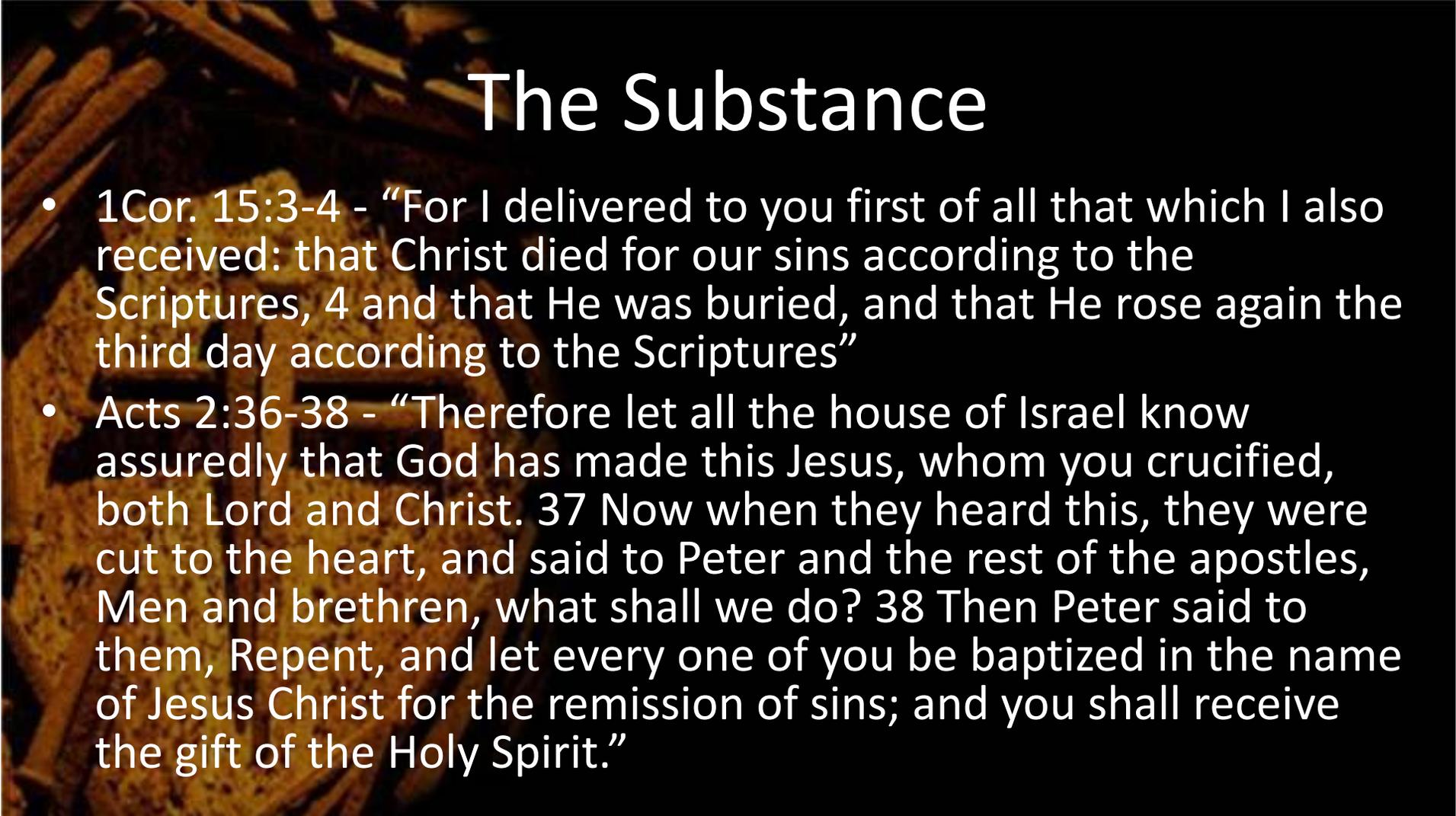
The Substance

- Self-preservation
 - John 11:48 - “If we let Him alone like this, everyone will believe in Him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and nation.”
- Ignorance
 - Acts 3:17 - “Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers.”
 - 1Cor. 2:8 - “Which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”



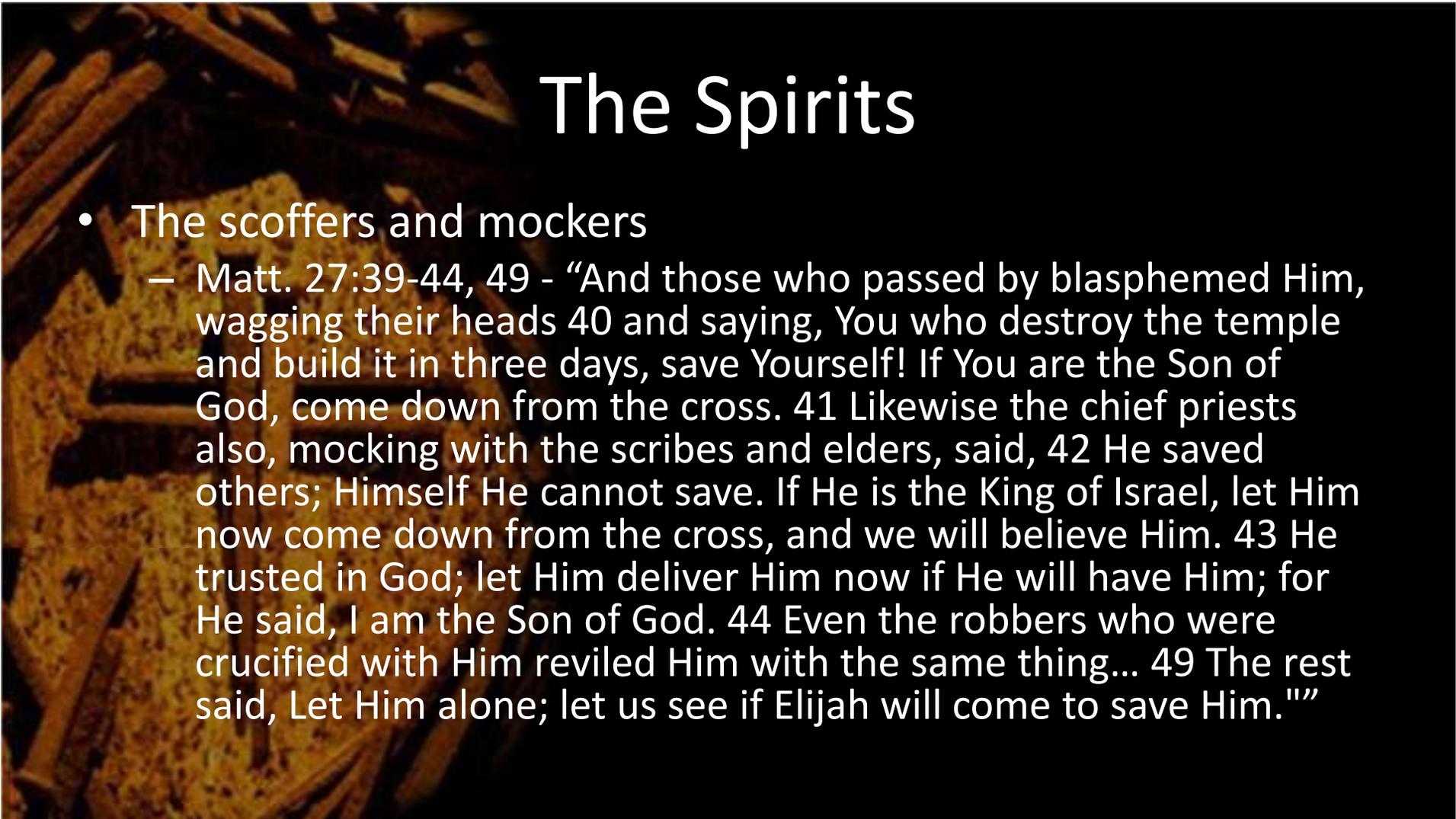
The Substance

- Because of our sins, we also had a part in the mob screaming: “Crucify Him, crucify Him!” We were on Golgotha beneath the cross of Jesus.
 - 1John 3:4 - “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”
 - Rom. 3:23 - “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”



The Substance

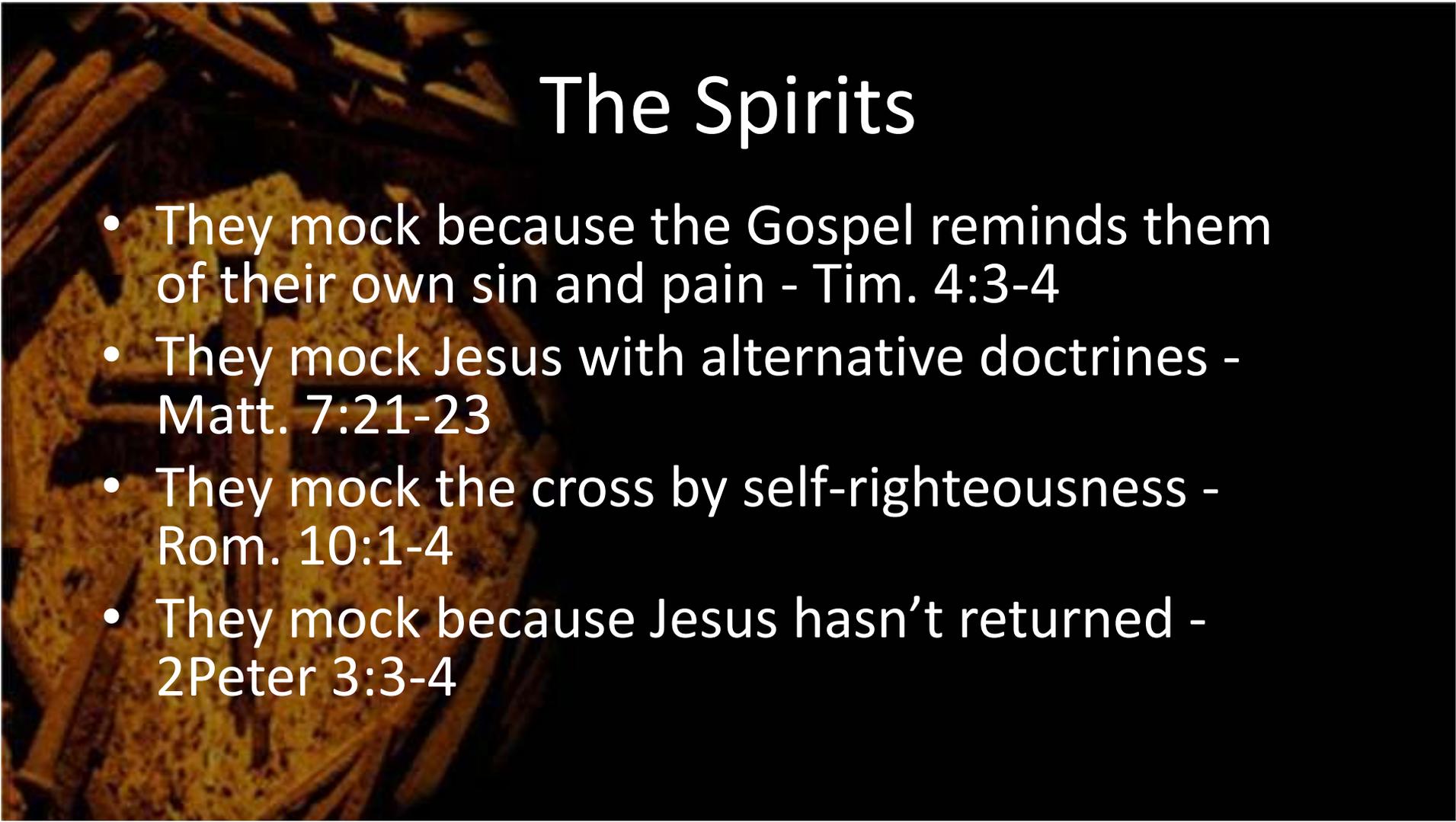
- 1Cor. 15:3-4 - “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures”
- Acts 2:36-38 - “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”



The Spirits

- The scoffers and mockers

- Matt. 27:39-44, 49 - “And those who passed by blasphemed Him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, You who destroy the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the cross. 41 Likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He is the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. 43 He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, I am the Son of God. 44 Even the robbers who were crucified with Him reviled Him with the same thing... 49 The rest said, Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him.””



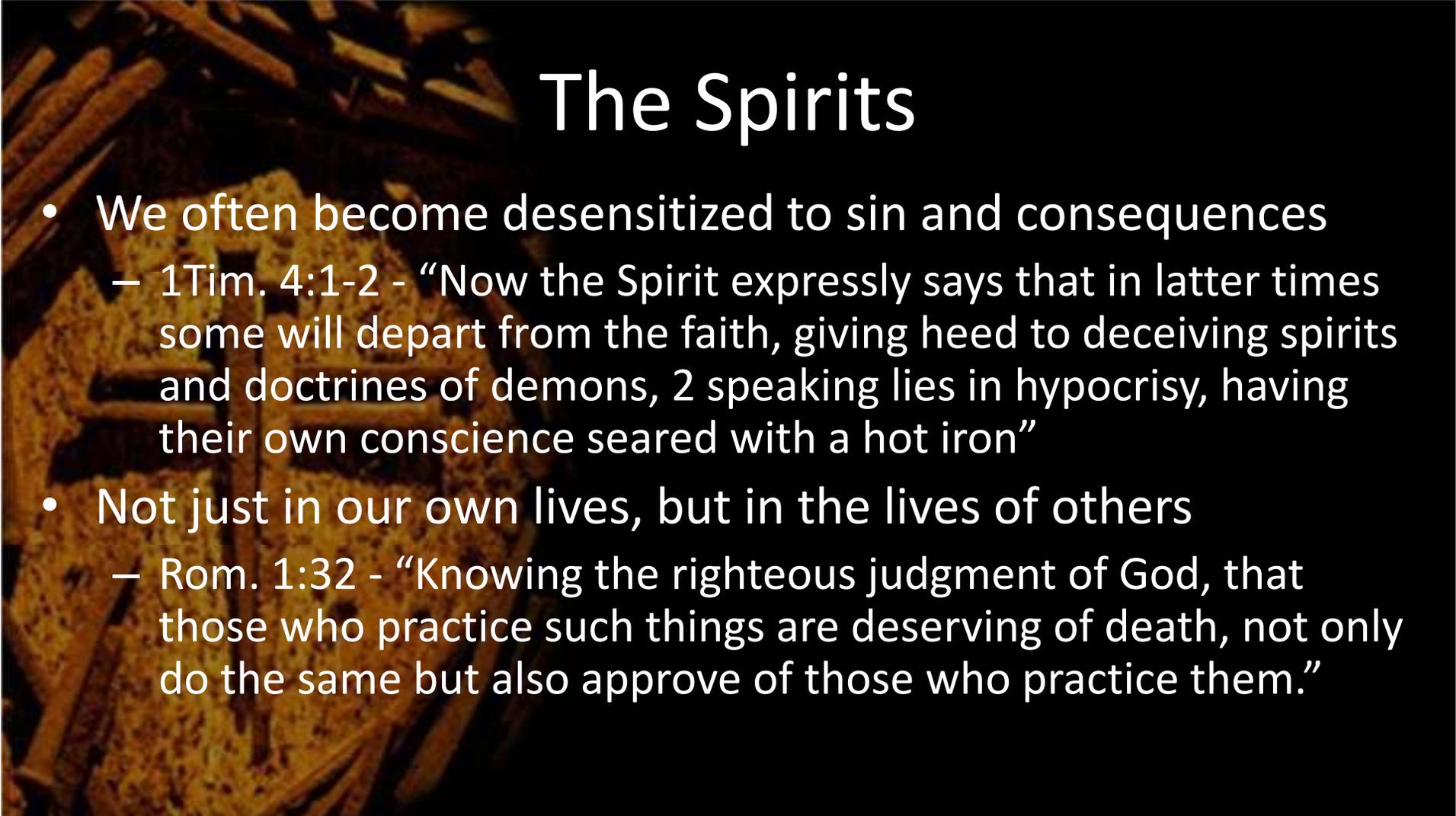
The Spirits

- They mock because the Gospel reminds them of their own sin and pain - Tim. 4:3-4
- They mock Jesus with alternative doctrines - Matt. 7:21-23
- They mock the cross by self-righteousness - Rom. 10:1-4
- They mock because Jesus hasn't returned - 2Peter 3:3-4



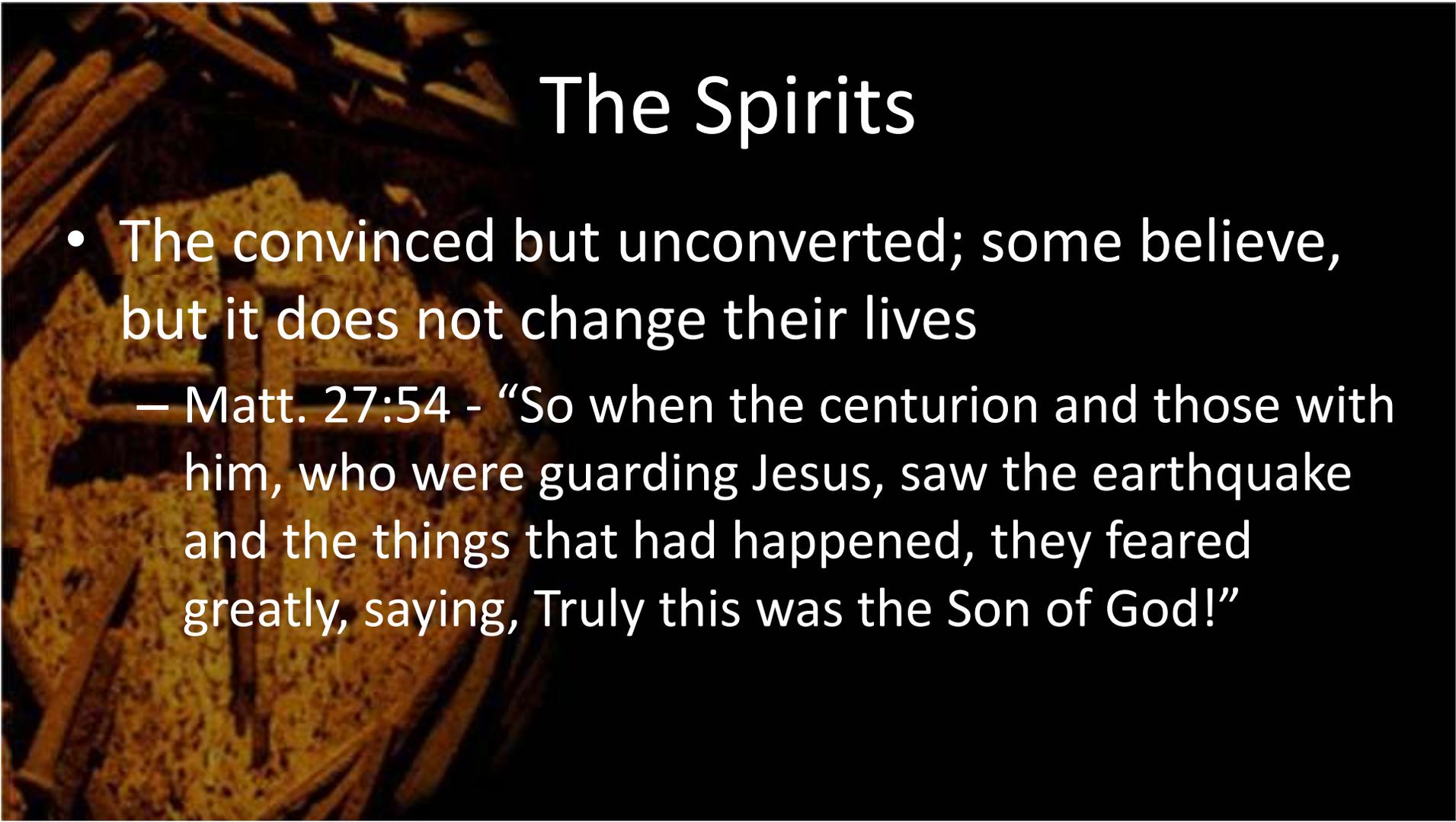
The Spirits

- The unconcerned and indifferent
 - Matt. 27:35-36 - “Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots. 36 Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.”



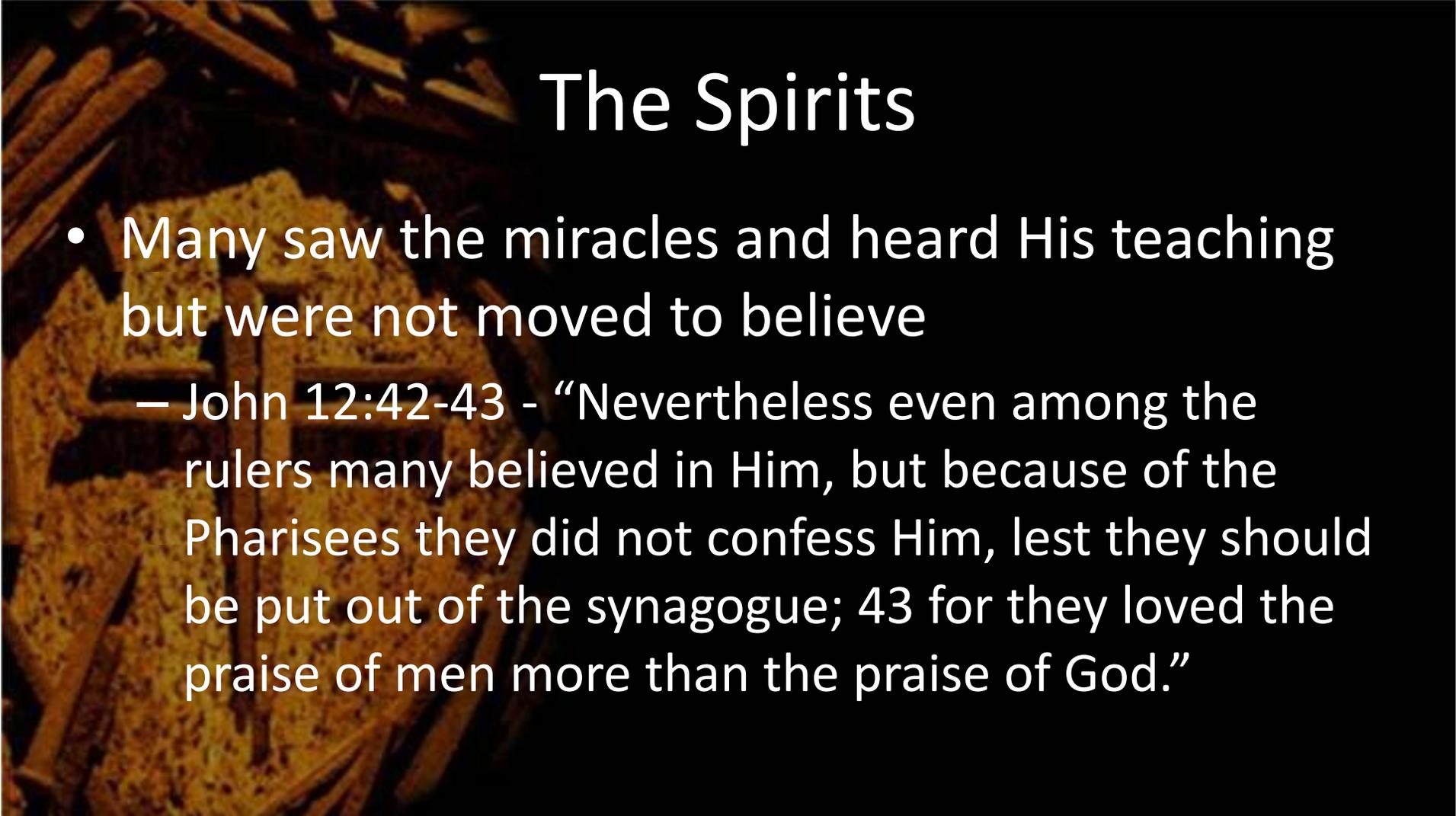
The Spirits

- We often become desensitized to sin and consequences
 - 1Tim. 4:1-2 - “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, 2 speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron”
- Not just in our own lives, but in the lives of others
 - Rom. 1:32 - “Knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.”



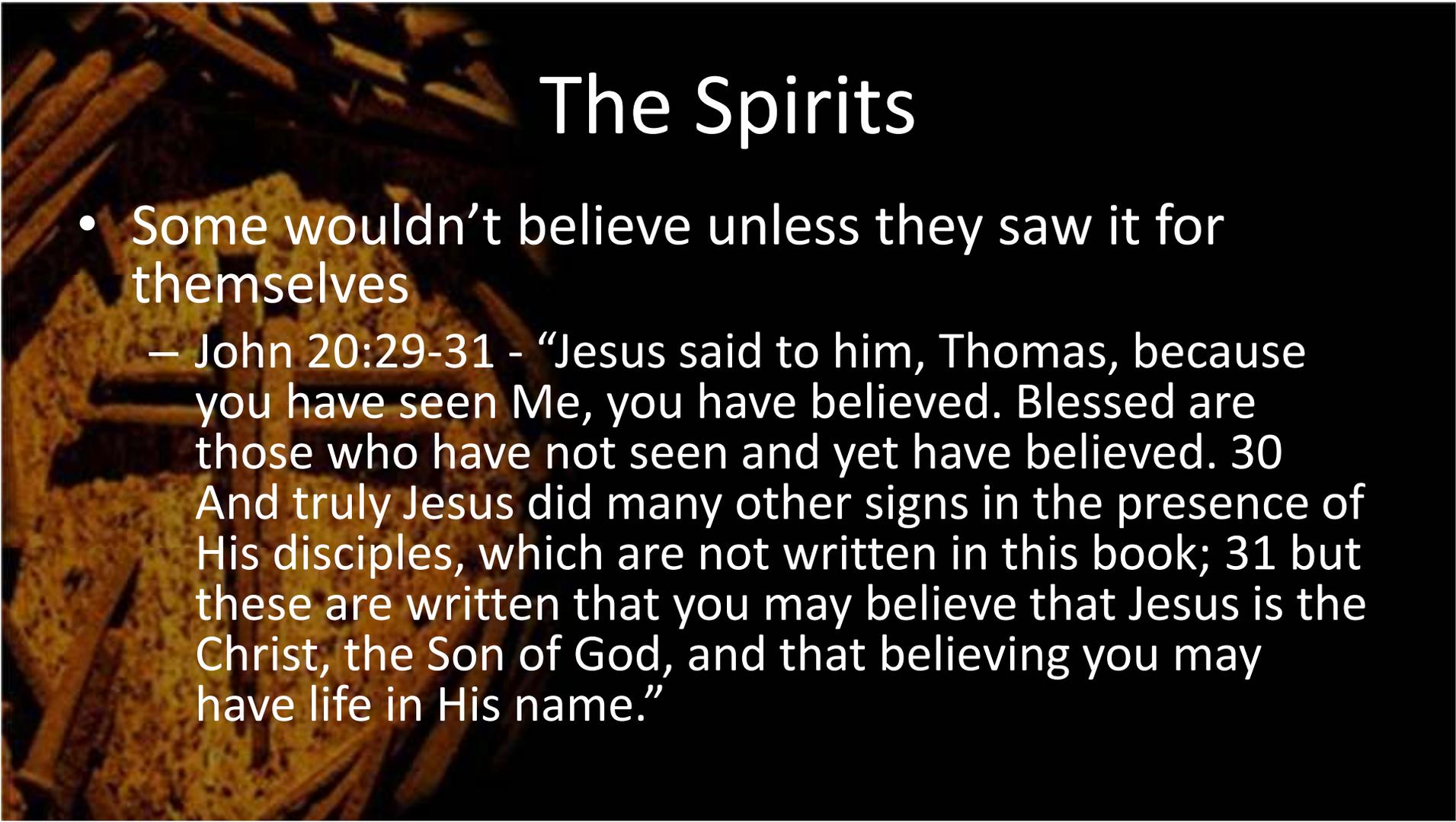
The Spirits

- The convinced but unconverted; some believe, but it does not change their lives
 - Matt. 27:54 - “So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God!”



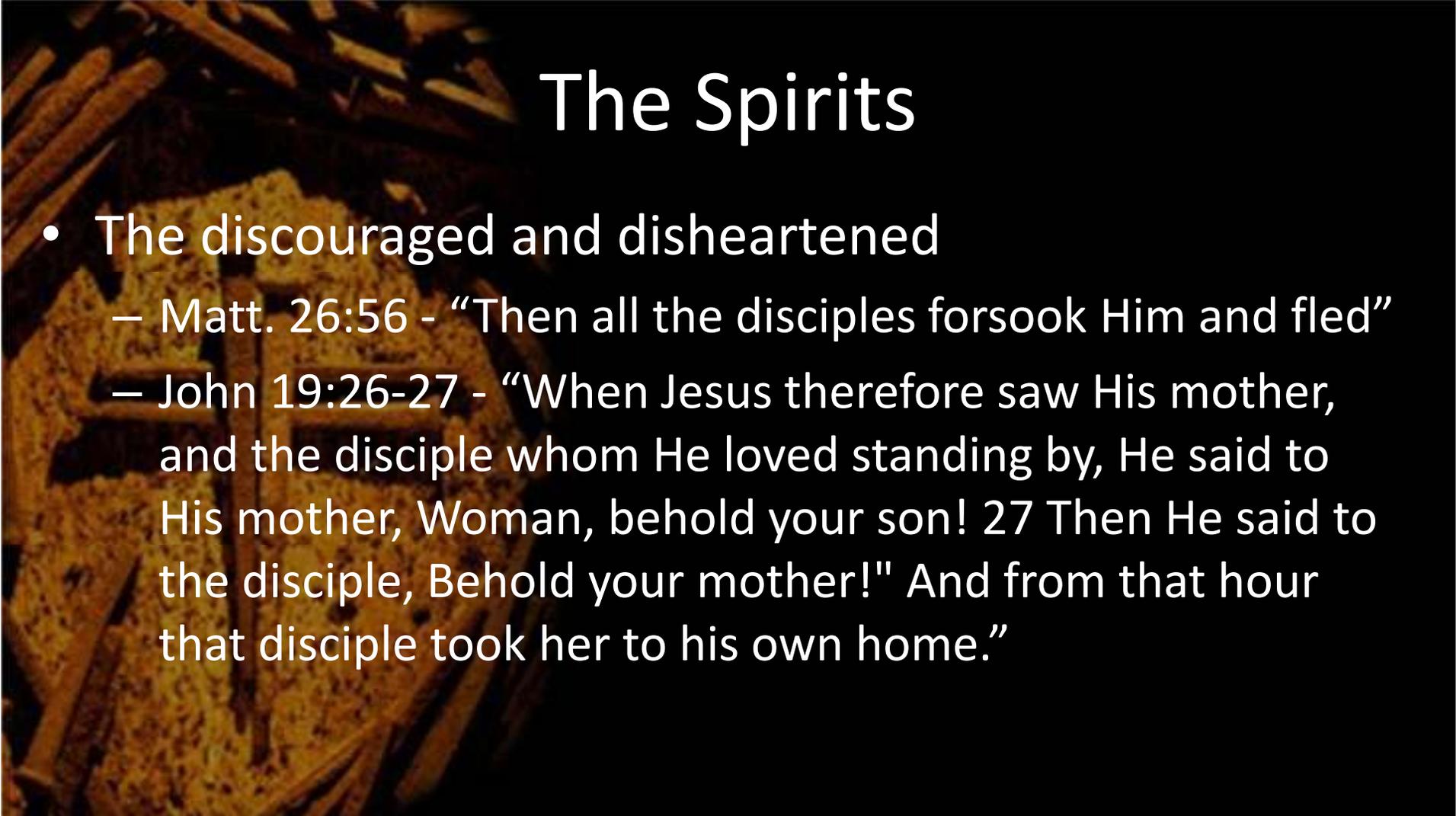
The Spirits

- Many saw the miracles and heard His teaching but were not moved to believe
 - John 12:42-43 - “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; 43 for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”



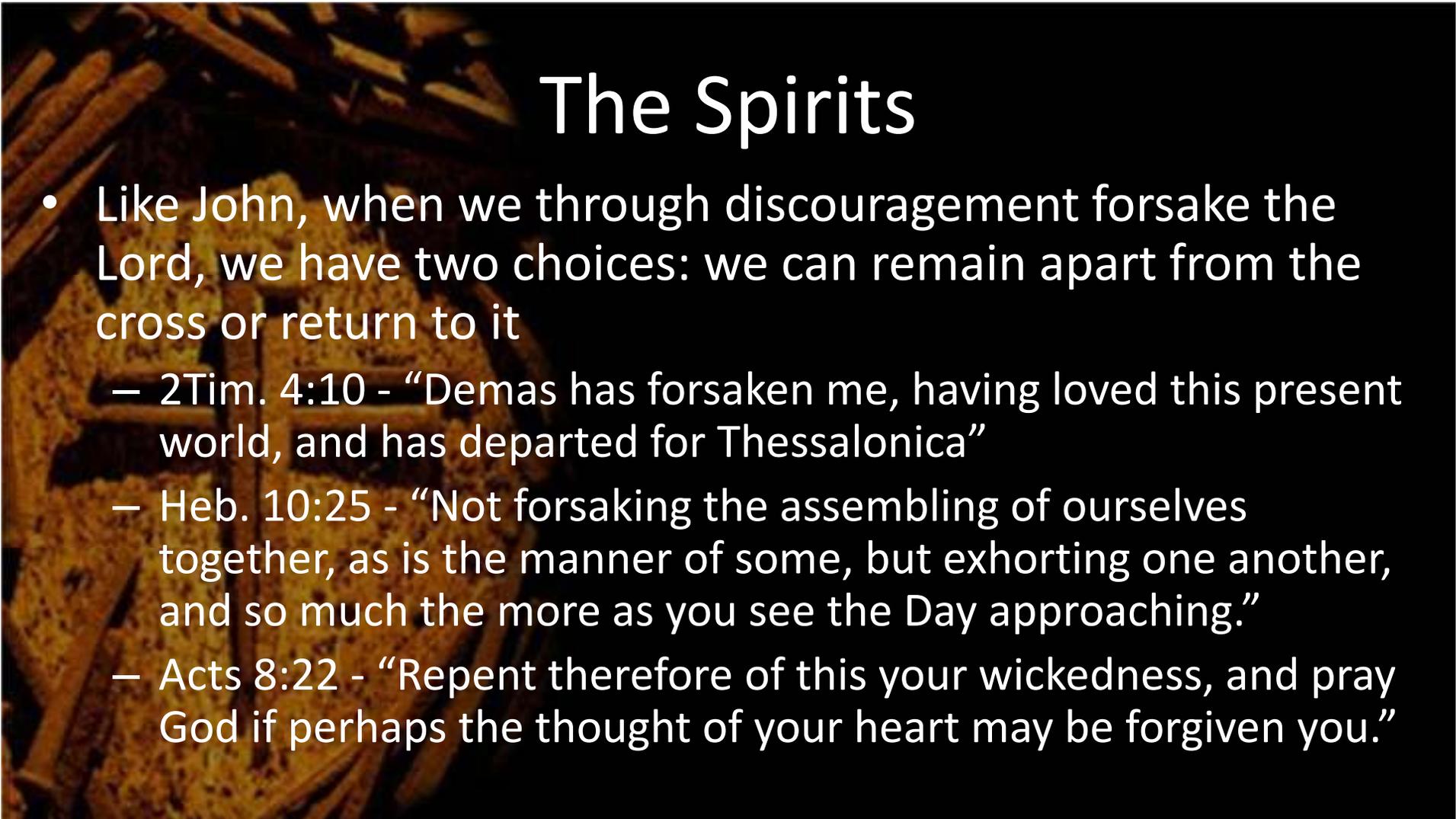
The Spirits

- Some wouldn't believe unless they saw it for themselves
 - John 20:29-31 - “Jesus said to him, Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. 30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 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.”



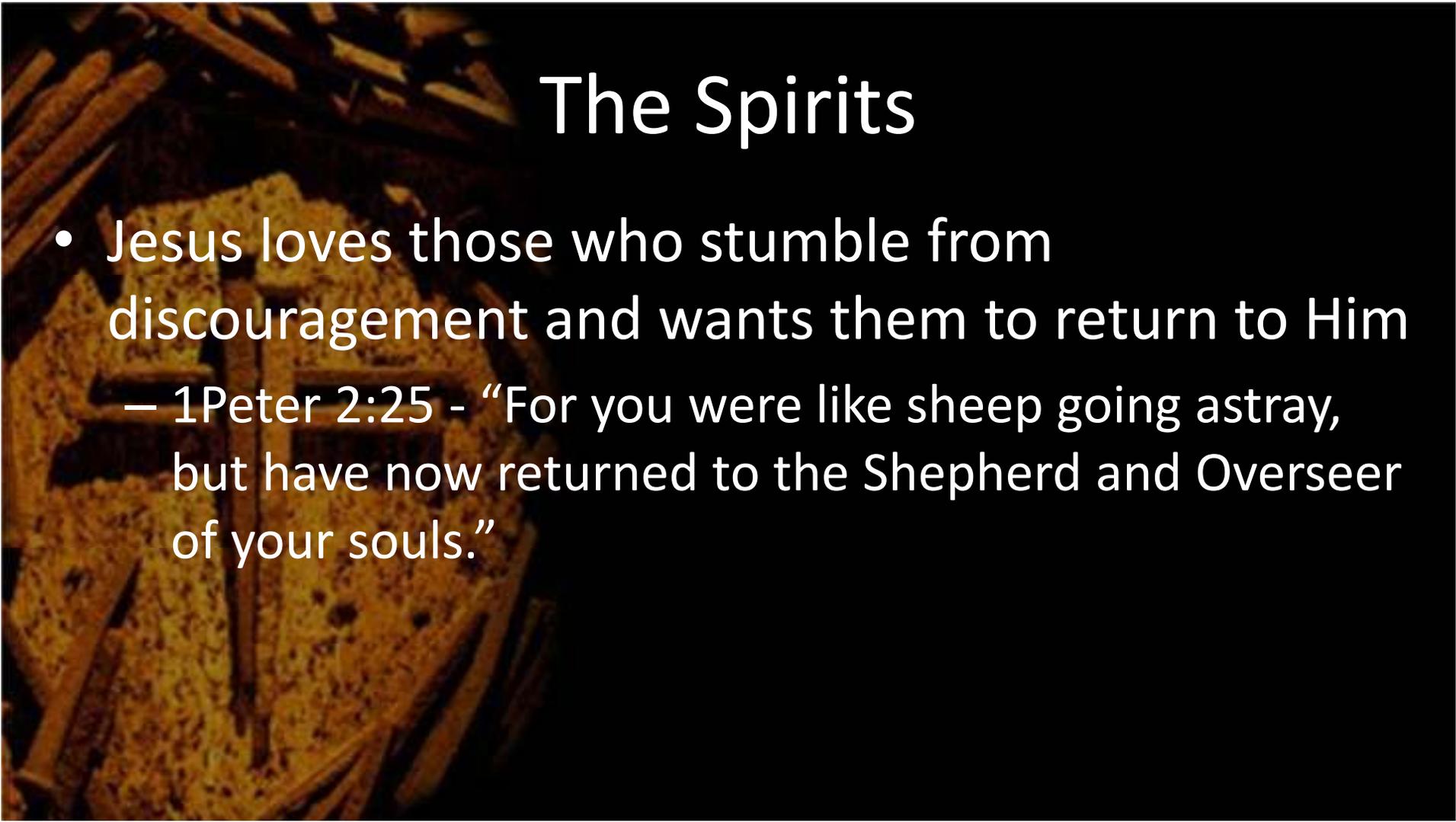
The Spirits

- The discouraged and disheartened
 - Matt. 26:56 - “Then all the disciples forsook Him and fled”
 - John 19:26-27 - “When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, Woman, behold your son! 27 Then He said to the disciple, Behold your mother!” And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.”



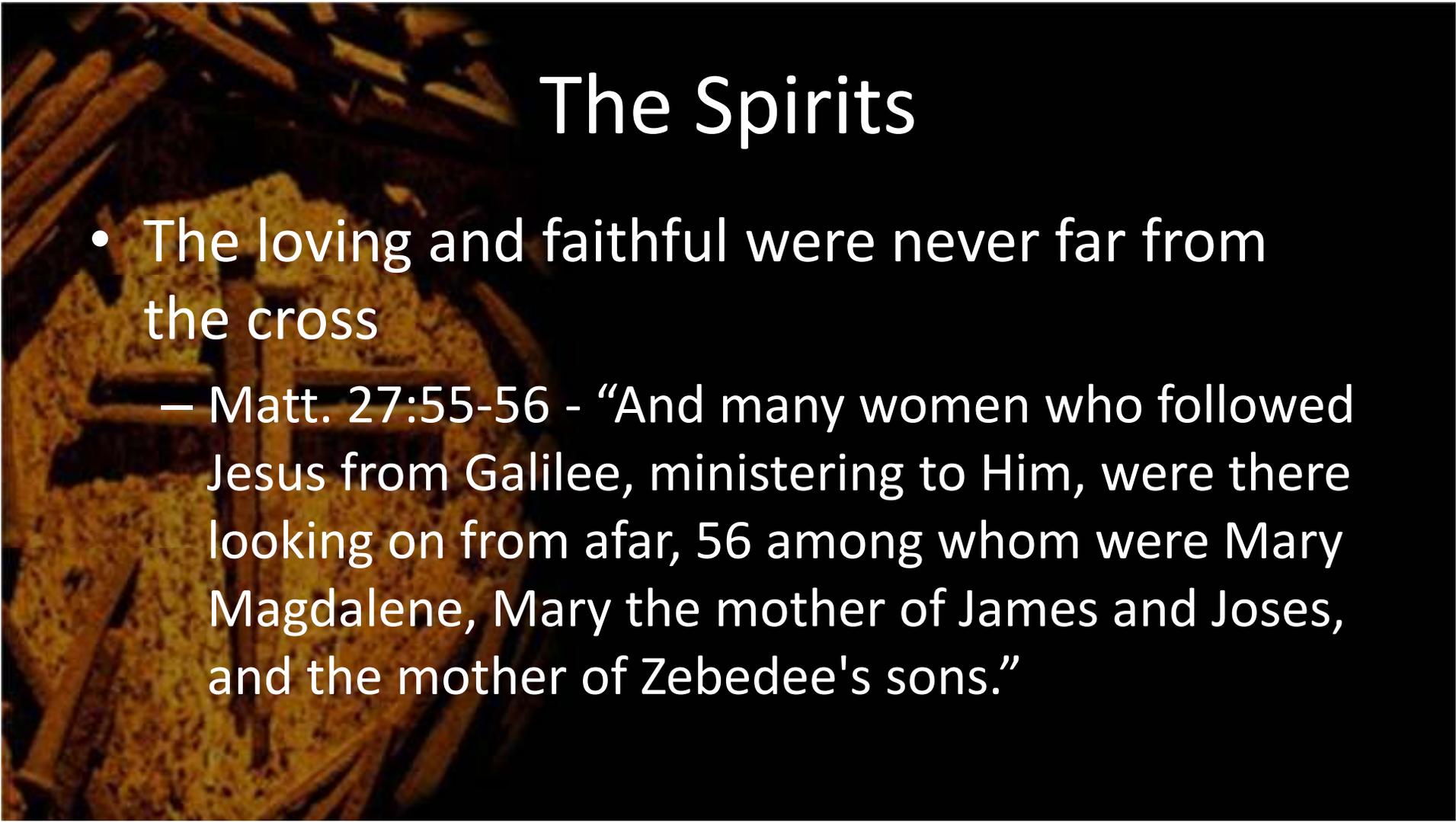
The Spirits

- Like John, when we through discouragement forsake the Lord, we have two choices: we can remain apart from the cross or return to it
 - 2Tim. 4:10 - “Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica”
 - Heb. 10:25 - “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
 - Acts 8:22 - “Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.”



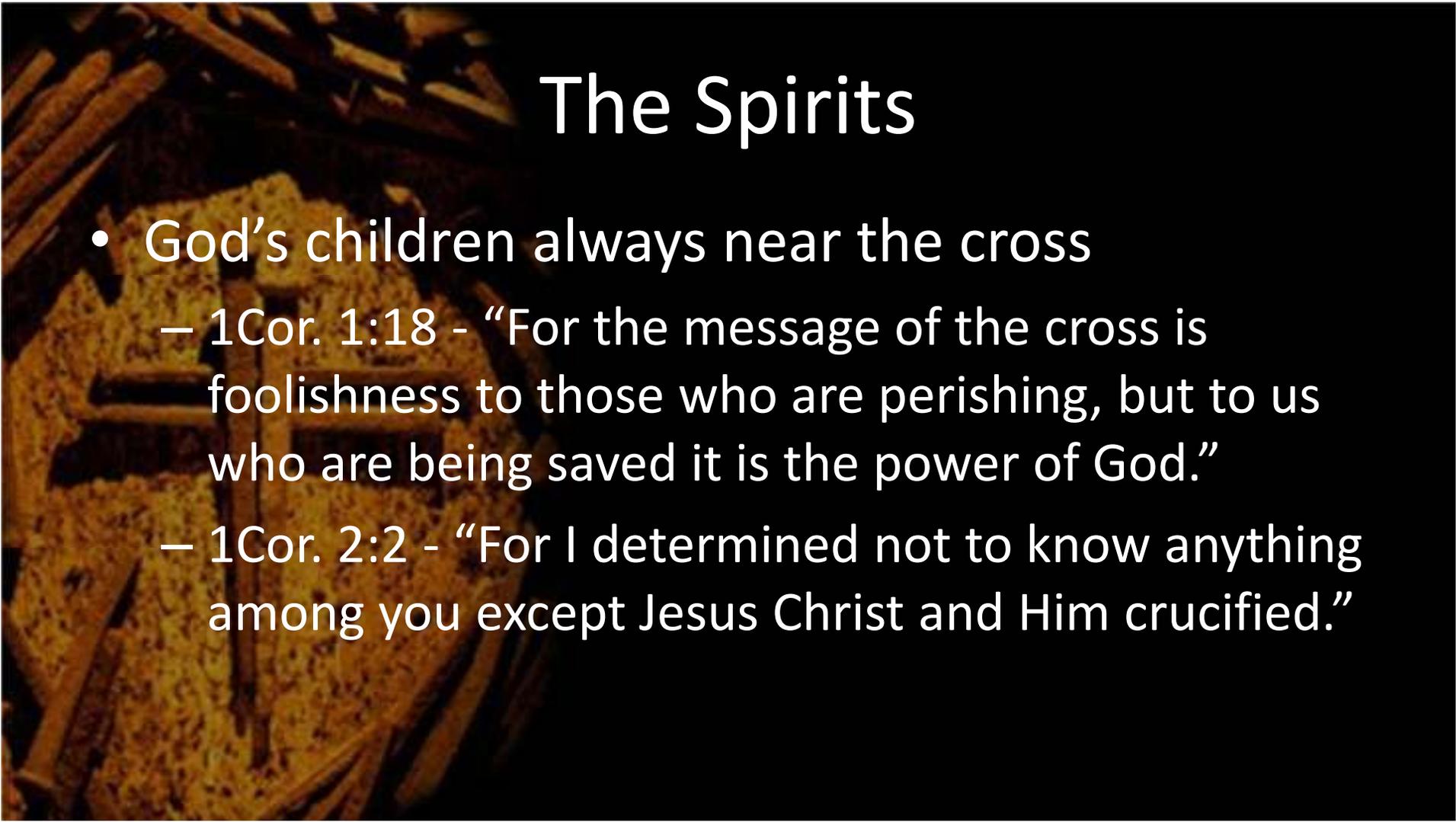
The Spirits

- Jesus loves those who stumble from discouragement and wants them to return to Him
 - 1Peter 2:25 - “For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”

The background of the slide is a photograph of a woven basket. Inside the basket, there are several cinnamon sticks and a piece of cinnamon bread. The lighting is warm, highlighting the textures of the wood and the bread.

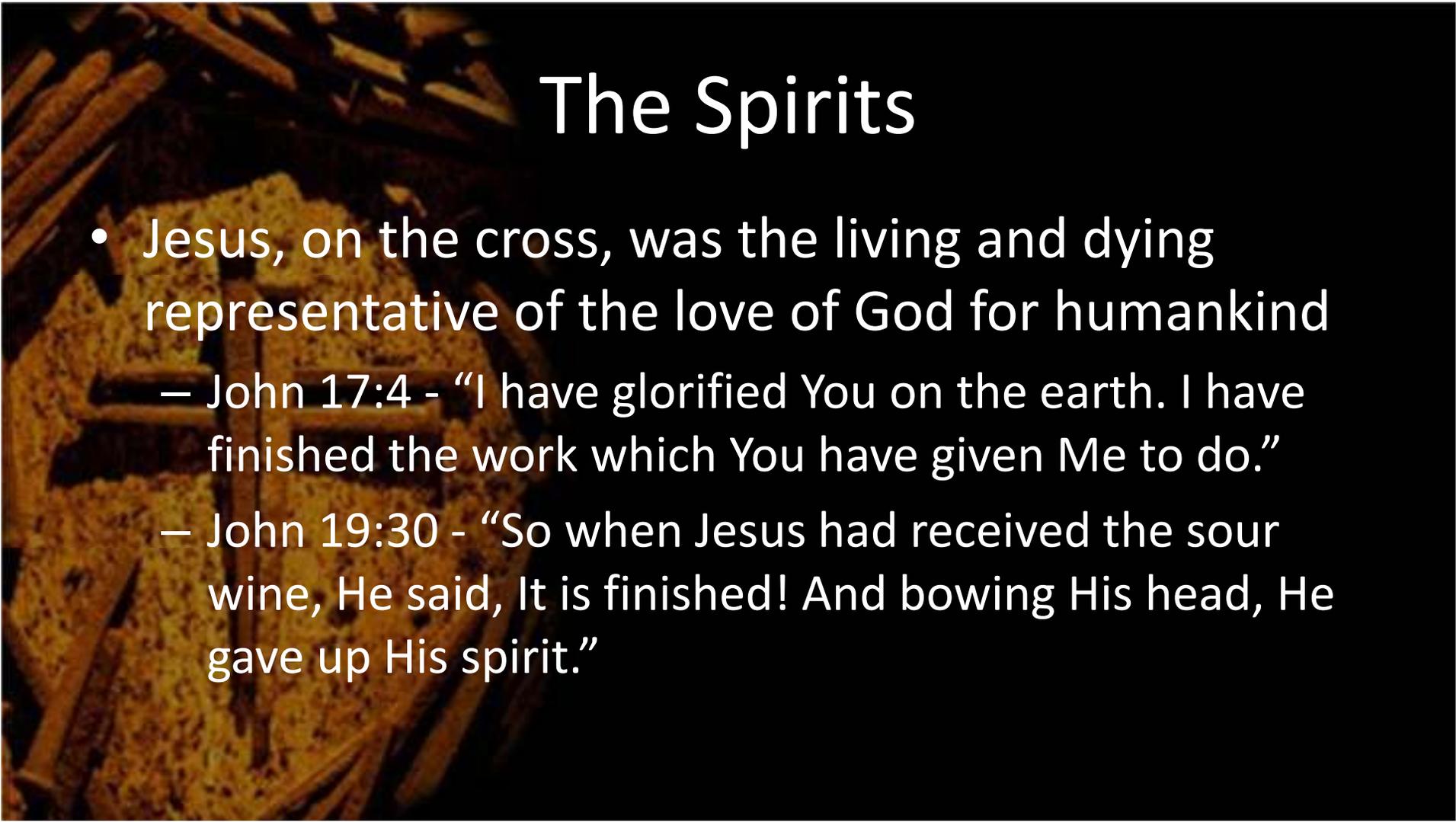
The Spirits

- The loving and faithful were never far from the cross
 - Matt. 27:55-56 - “And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.”



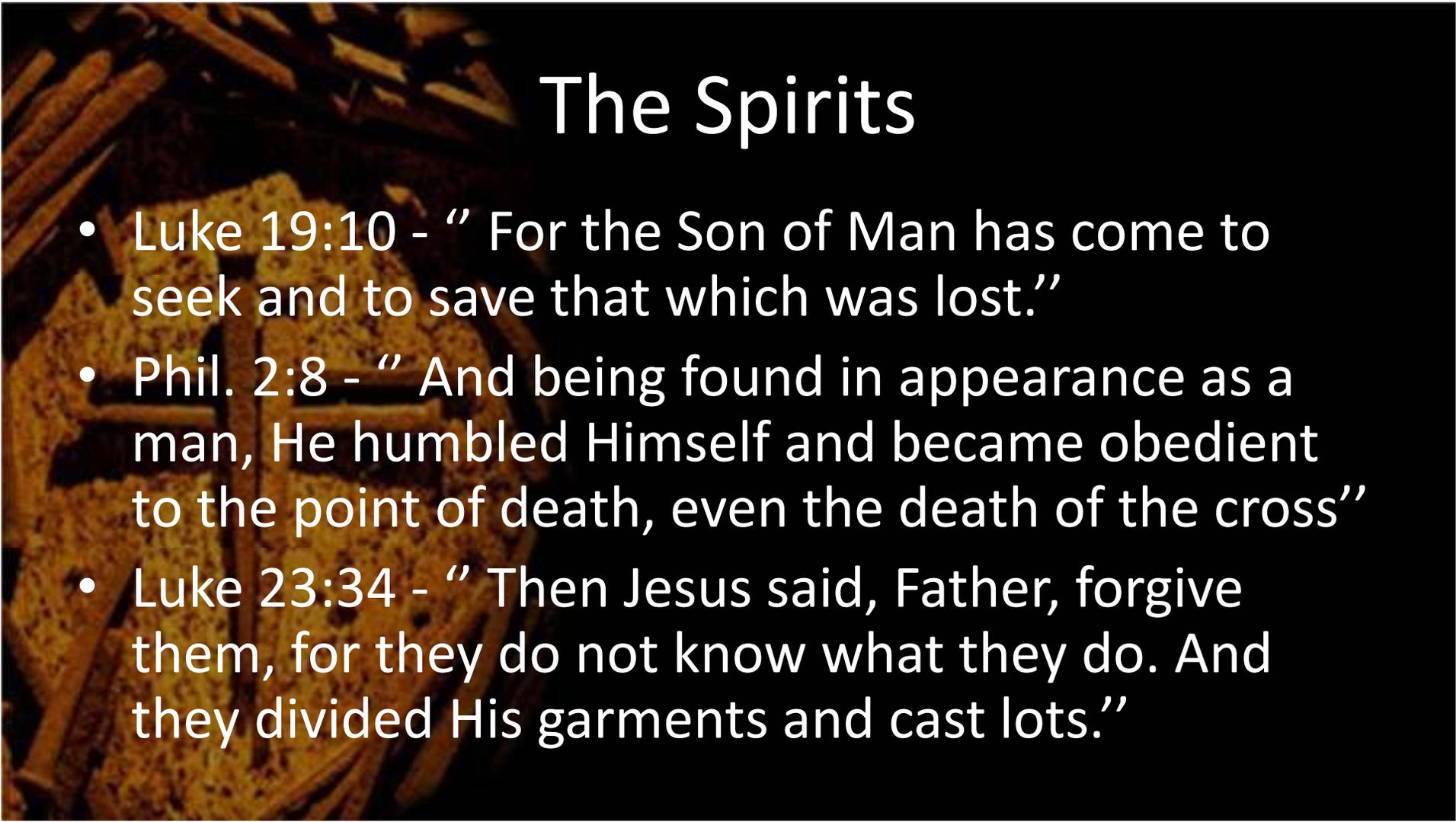
The Spirits

- God's children always near the cross
 - 1Cor. 1:18 - "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."
 - 1Cor. 2:2 - "For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified."



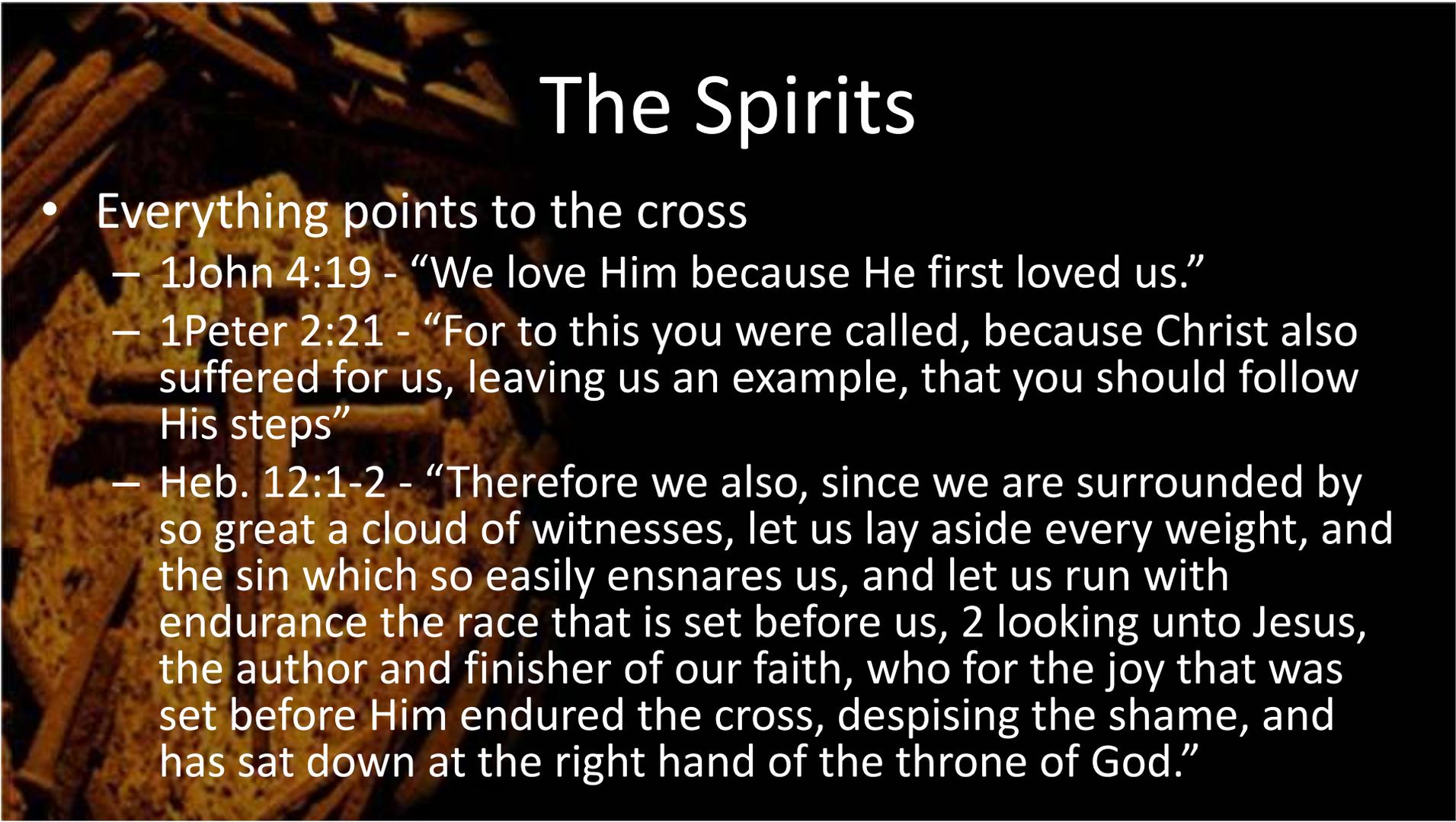
The Spirits

- Jesus, on the cross, was the living and dying representative of the love of God for humankind
 - John 17:4 - “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”
 - John 19:30 - “So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, It is finished! And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.”



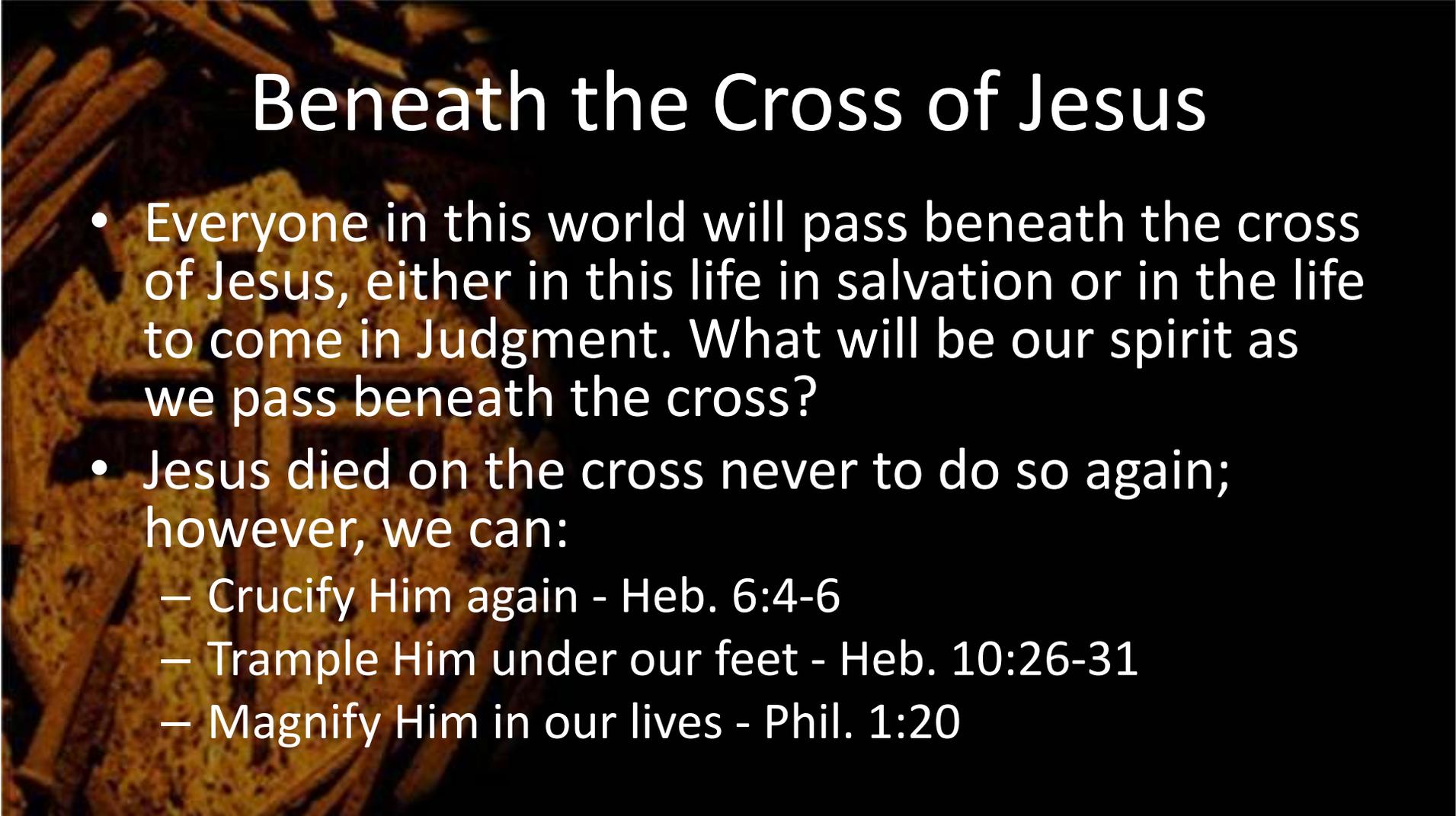
The Spirits

- Luke 19:10 - “ For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”
- Phil. 2:8 - “ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross”
- Luke 23:34 - “ Then Jesus said, Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do. And they divided His garments and cast lots.”



The Spirits

- Everything points to the cross
 - 1John 4:19 - “We love Him because He first loved us.”
 - 1Peter 2:21 - “For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps”
 - Heb. 12:1-2 - “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”



Beneath the Cross of Jesus

- Everyone in this world will pass beneath the cross of Jesus, either in this life in salvation or in the life to come in Judgment. What will be our spirit as we pass beneath the cross?
- Jesus died on the cross never to do so again; however, we can:
 - Crucify Him again - Heb. 6:4-6
 - Trample Him under our feet - Heb. 10:26-31
 - Magnify Him in our lives - Phil. 1:20