

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
SUBANG JAYA

GAMMA24

GAMMA
SERIES

ACTS

*THE GOSPEL
ON THE MOVE*



Study 6

Acts 4:32-5:42

SATANIC OPPOSITION

ACTS 4:1-6:7

External
persecution

Acts 4:1-31

Arrest by authorities

Internal
Corruption
External
Persecution

Ananias and Saphira

Distraction

Overwhelming
social issues

ACTS 4:32-5:42

**Generosity of the Early
Church..church growth**

Acts 4:32-37

**Internal Corruption
Ananias and Saphira
Signs and Wonder**

Acts 5:1-16

**External Persecution
Bold –persevering witness**

Acts 5:17-42

EFFECT OF THE SPIRIT: ZEAL AND BOLDNESS FOR THE GOSPEL

- Acts 4:31 (ESV) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

ACTS 4:33 EFFECT OF THE SPIRIT: GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION

Work of the Spirit –boldness not dependant on money

Acts 4:32-37 ESV Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. **34 There was not a needy person among them**, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. 36 Thus Joseph, who was also called by the apostles Barnabas (which means son of encouragement), a Levite, a native of Cyprus, 37 sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet

RADICAL GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT FILLED EARLY CHURCH

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common

(Acts 4:32 ESV)

And all who believed were together and had all things in common.⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need

(Acts 2:44-45 ESV)

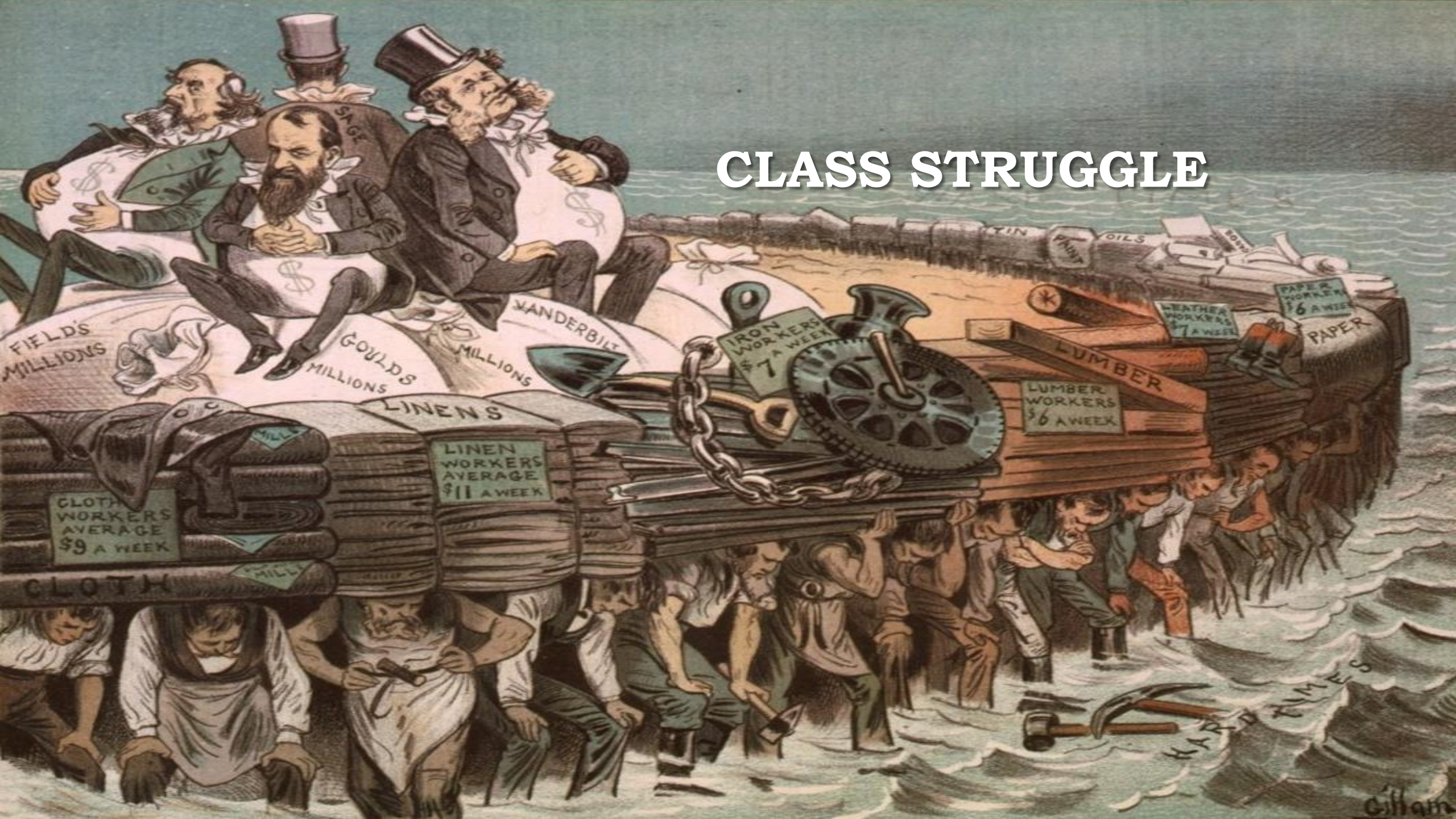
POVERTY

- dangerous work conditions
- unsafe housing
- lack of nutritious food
- unequal access to justice
- lack of political power
- limited access to health care

A young child with dark skin and short, curly hair is looking directly at the camera. The child is wearing a light-colored, possibly pink or beige, t-shirt. They are holding a large, bright blue tarp or cloth over their shoulder. The background is a dry, sandy, and dusty landscape with sparse, low-lying vegetation under a clear sky. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

24% OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION, WHICH
EQUATES TO 1.9 BILLION
PEOPLE, LIVE IN FRAGILE
CONTEXTS,
CHARACTERIZED BY
IMPOVERISHED
CONDITIONS AND DIRE
CIRCUMSTANCES.

CLASS STRUGGLE



ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Capitalism

**Free market
forces**

Socialism

**State
ownership of
means of
production**

Communism

**Abolition of
private
property**



Communism

major means of industrial production—such as mines, mills, factories, and railroads—would be publicly owned and operated for the benefit of all.
Authoritarian state, .loss of liberties

Socialism

Public ownership of infrastructure, production
High taxes for rich
Nationalise health

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS

Capitalism

**Free market
forces**

Socialism

**State
ownership of
means of
production**

Communism

**Abolition of
private
property**

Grace

**Radical
generosity to
eradicate
poverty**

ECONOMY OF GRACE

FOUNDATION: WORD

Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great **Eradication of poverty within the church** of a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds **Voluntary** and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need. **Leaders distributed**

Criteria : Need not wants

STILL HAD HOMES

Acts 2:46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes

Acts 12:12-13 When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John whose other name was Mark, where many were gathered together and were praying.

Acts 16: 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.”

PRINCIPLE

Fairness is not equal to egalitarian communism

2 Corinthians 8:13-14 For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness 14 your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness

OT BACKGROUND

- Deuteronomy 15:4-5 But there will be no poor among you; for the Lord will bless you in the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance to possess— 5 if only you will strictly obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all this commandment that I command you today
- Deuteronomy 15:7 “If among you, one of your brothers should become poor, in any of your towns within your land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart or shut your hand against your poor brother, 8 but you shall open your hand to him and lend him sufficient for his need, whatever it may be

THE AIM OF THE CHURCH IS NOT TOTAL ERADICATION OF POVERTY BUT GENEROSITY

Deuteronomy 15:11 For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land

OT MOTIVATING FORCE

As the Lord your God has blessed you, you shall give to him. 15 You shall remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the Lord your God redeemed you; therefore I command you this today
(Deuteronomy 15:14-15 ESV)

MOTIVATING FORCE -GOSPEL

2 Corinthians 8:8-9 (ESV) I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

ECONOMY OF GRACE FOUNDATION: WORD

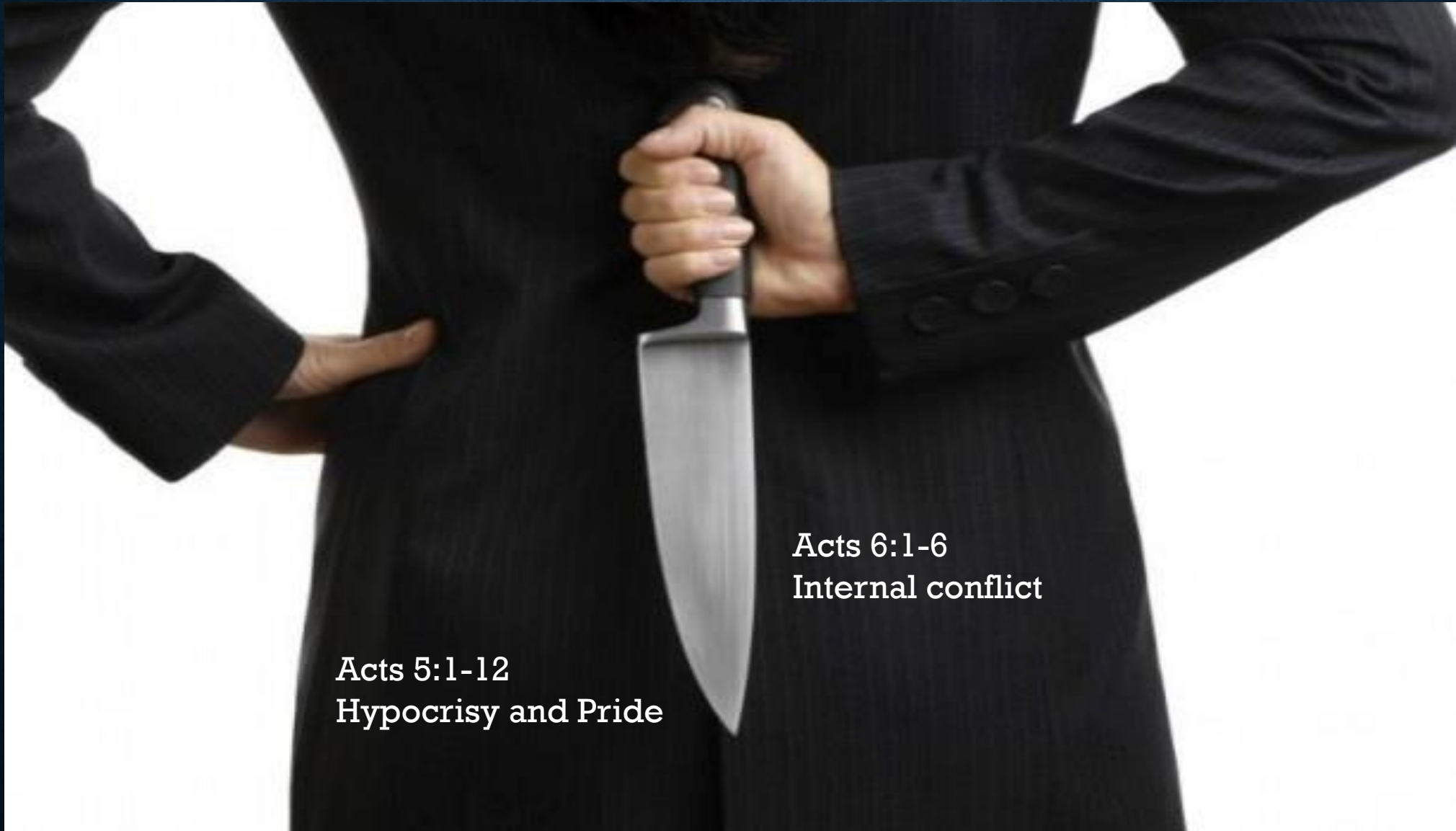
Acts 4:33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them,

Mammon loses all reason for existence all power over us the moment grace enters our hearts



JACQUE ELLUL
THEOLOGIAN AND PHILOSOPHER

THREATS TO THE EARLY CHURCH



Acts 5:1-12
Hypocrisy and Pride

Acts 6:1-6
Internal conflict

FOIL

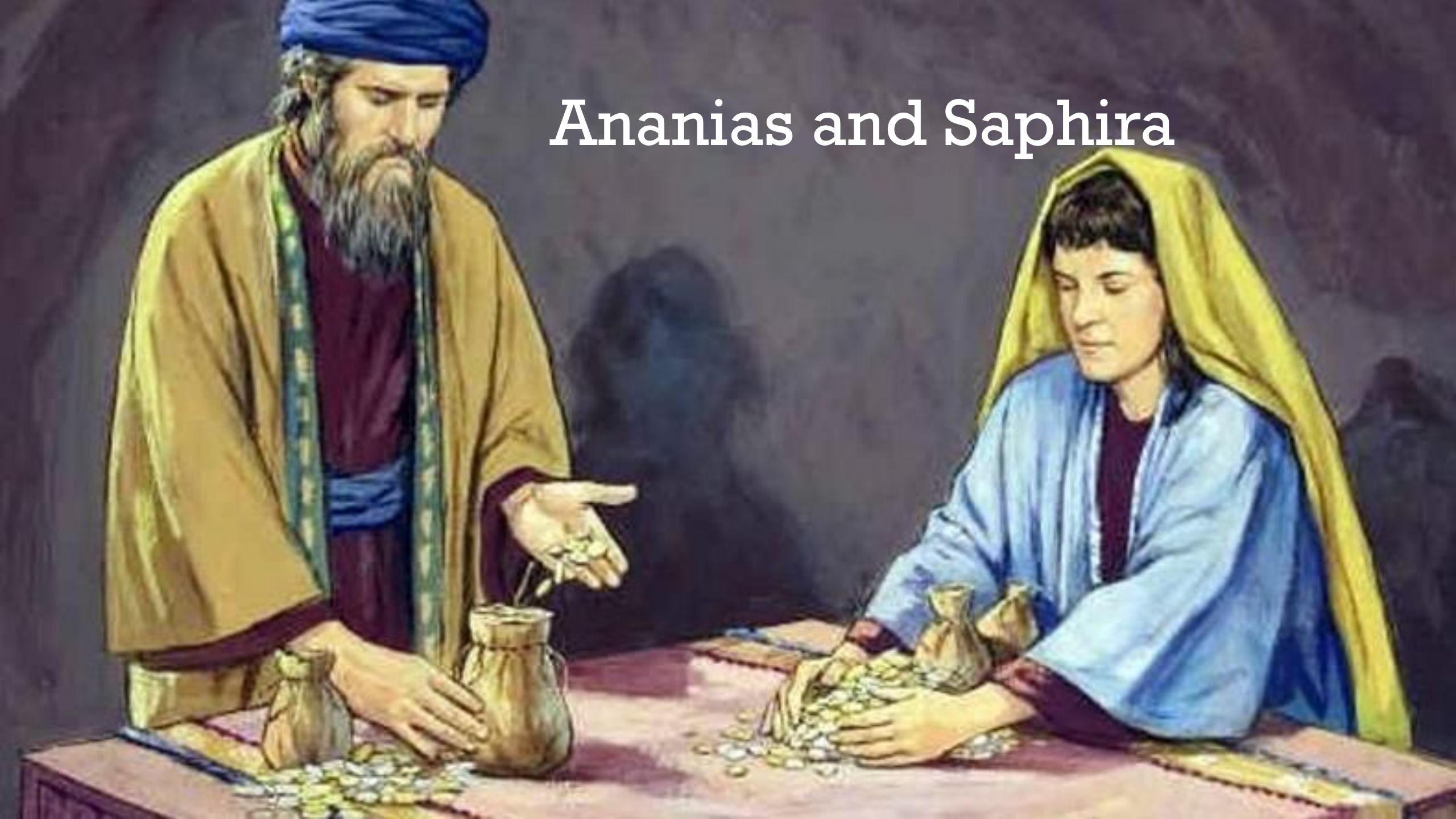
Acts 4:36-37 (ESV) a
Levite, a native of
Cyprus, sold a field
that belonged to him
and brought the money
and laid it at the
apostles' feet.



Ananias and Sapphira

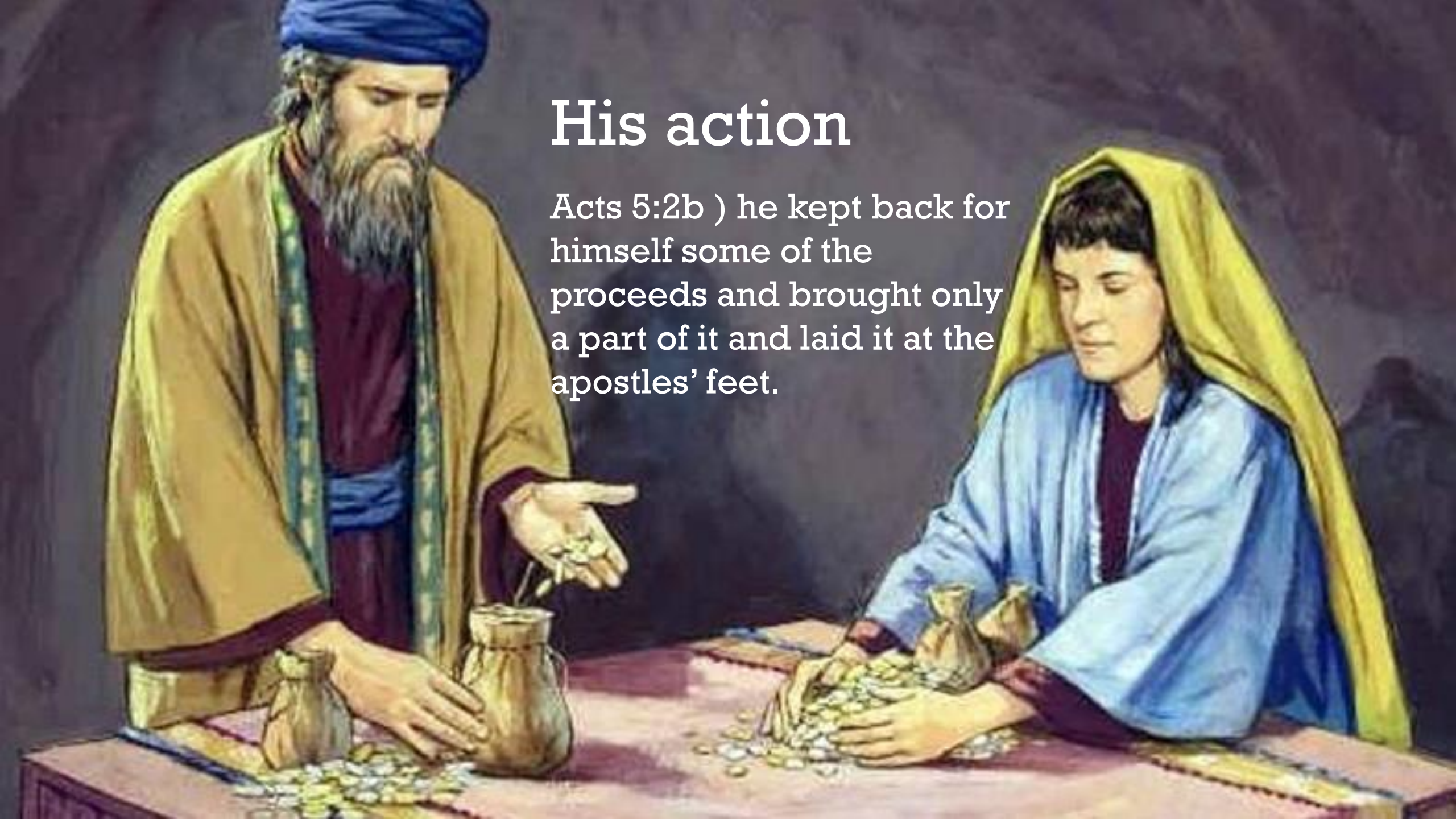


Ananias and Sapphira

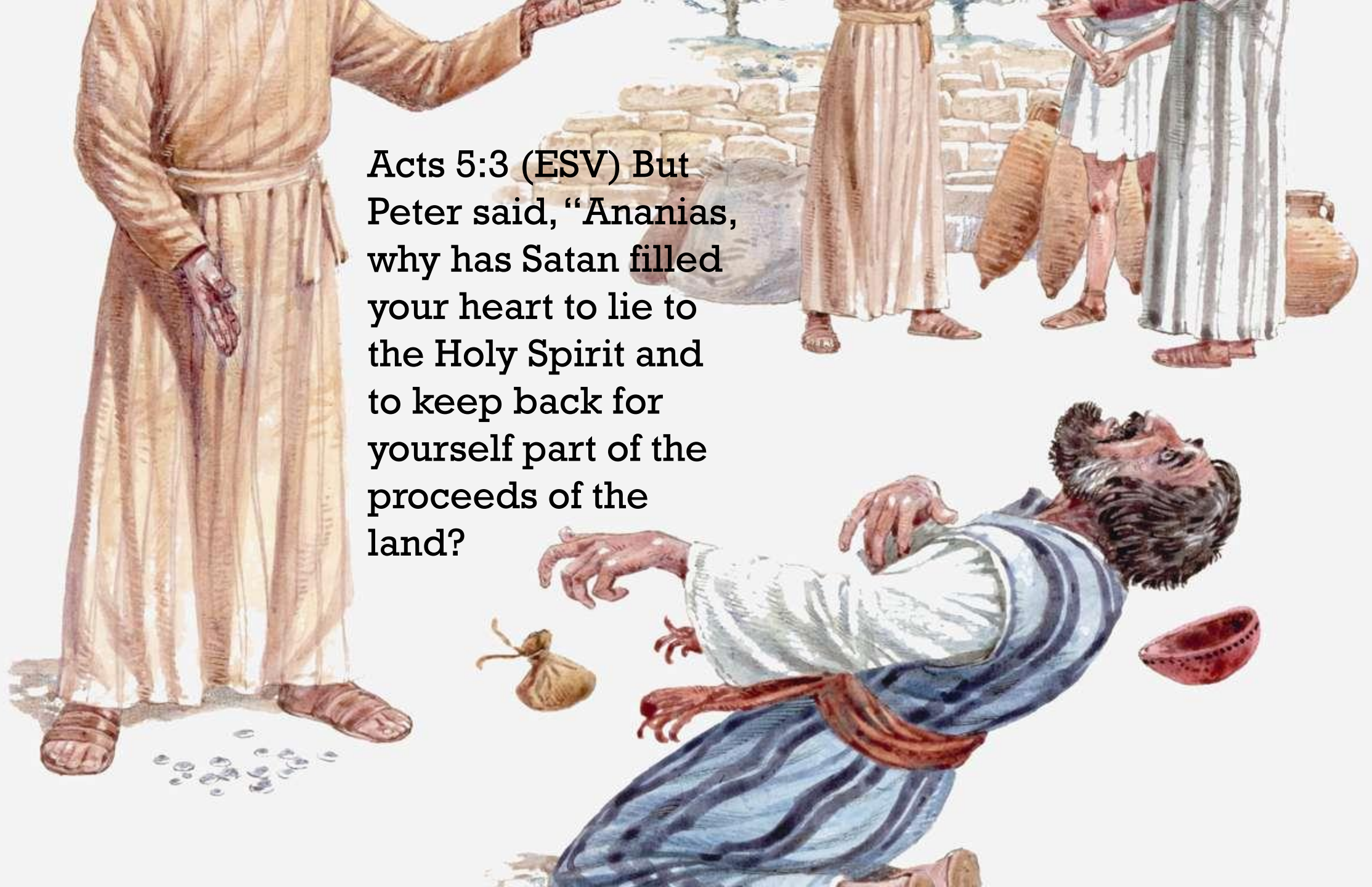


His action

Acts 5:2b) he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

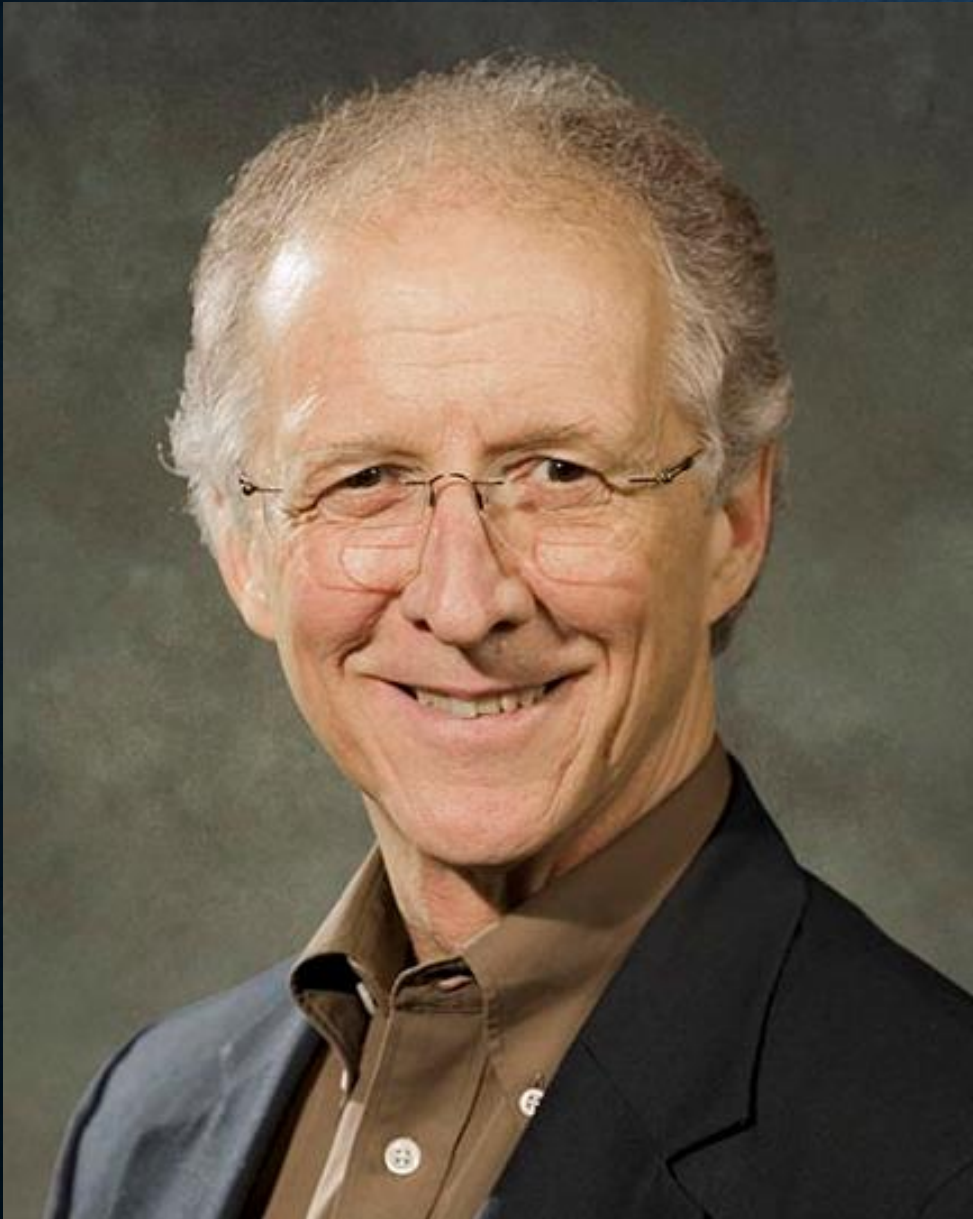


Acts 5:3 (ESV) But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land?”



Acts 5:8 (ESV) And Peter said to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for so much." And she said, "Yes, for so much."





JOHN PIPER

Two of the effects of believing in Jesus are that the heart is loosened in relationship to things and tightened in its relationship to people.

WHY DID THEY DO THIS

Grace

Acts 4:36-37 (ESV) a Levite, a native of Cyprus, sold a field that belonged to him and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet.

So thankful for undeserved mercy
Transformed their hearts
Gospel frees us from money



Works



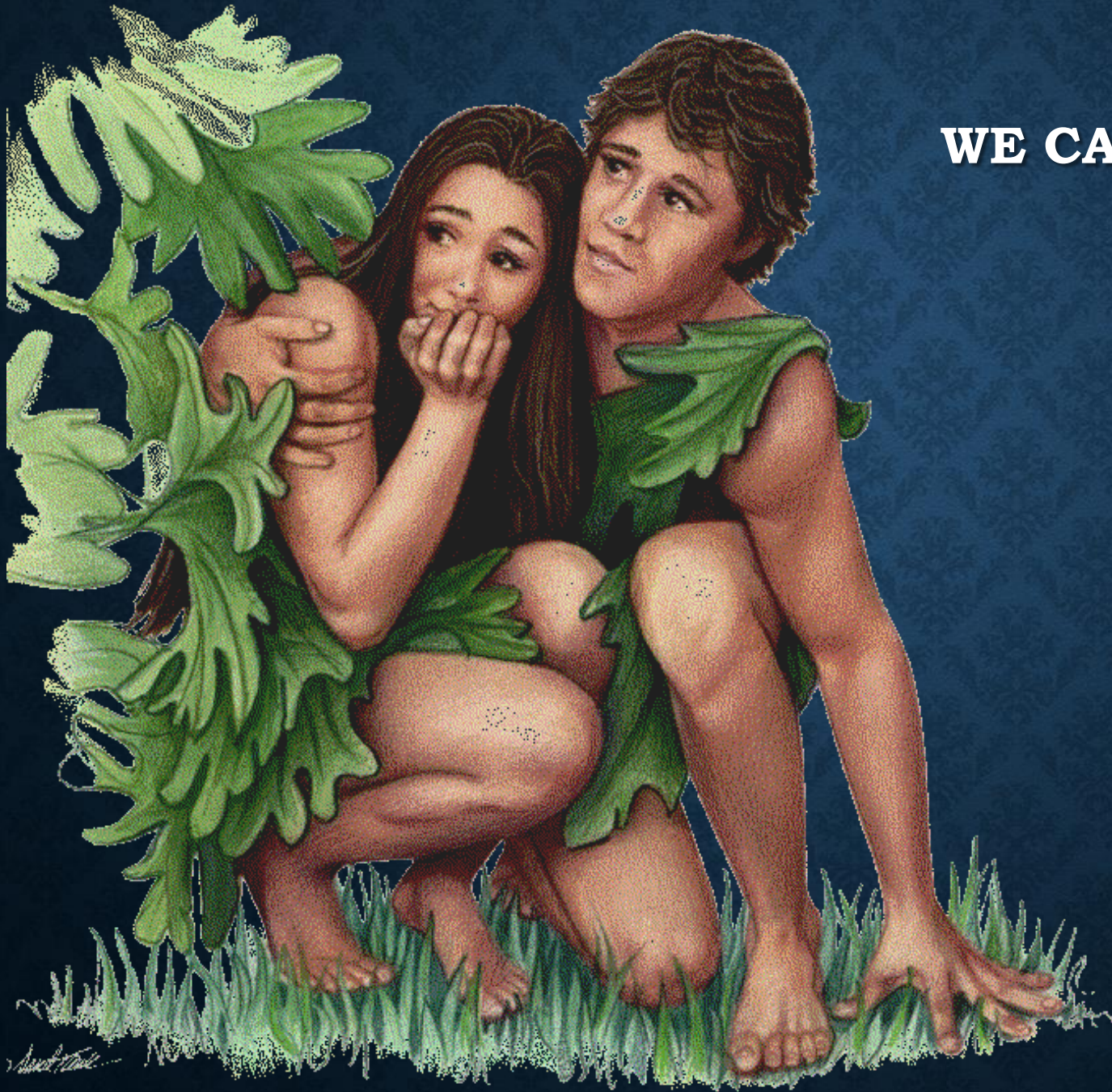
Ananias and Sapphira

Need to prove to others of their own worth.
Still trapped by money



WHICH WILL DO MORE DAMAGE TO THE CHURCH?





WE CANNOT HIDE FROM GOD

SIGNS OF THE KINGDOM

Grace



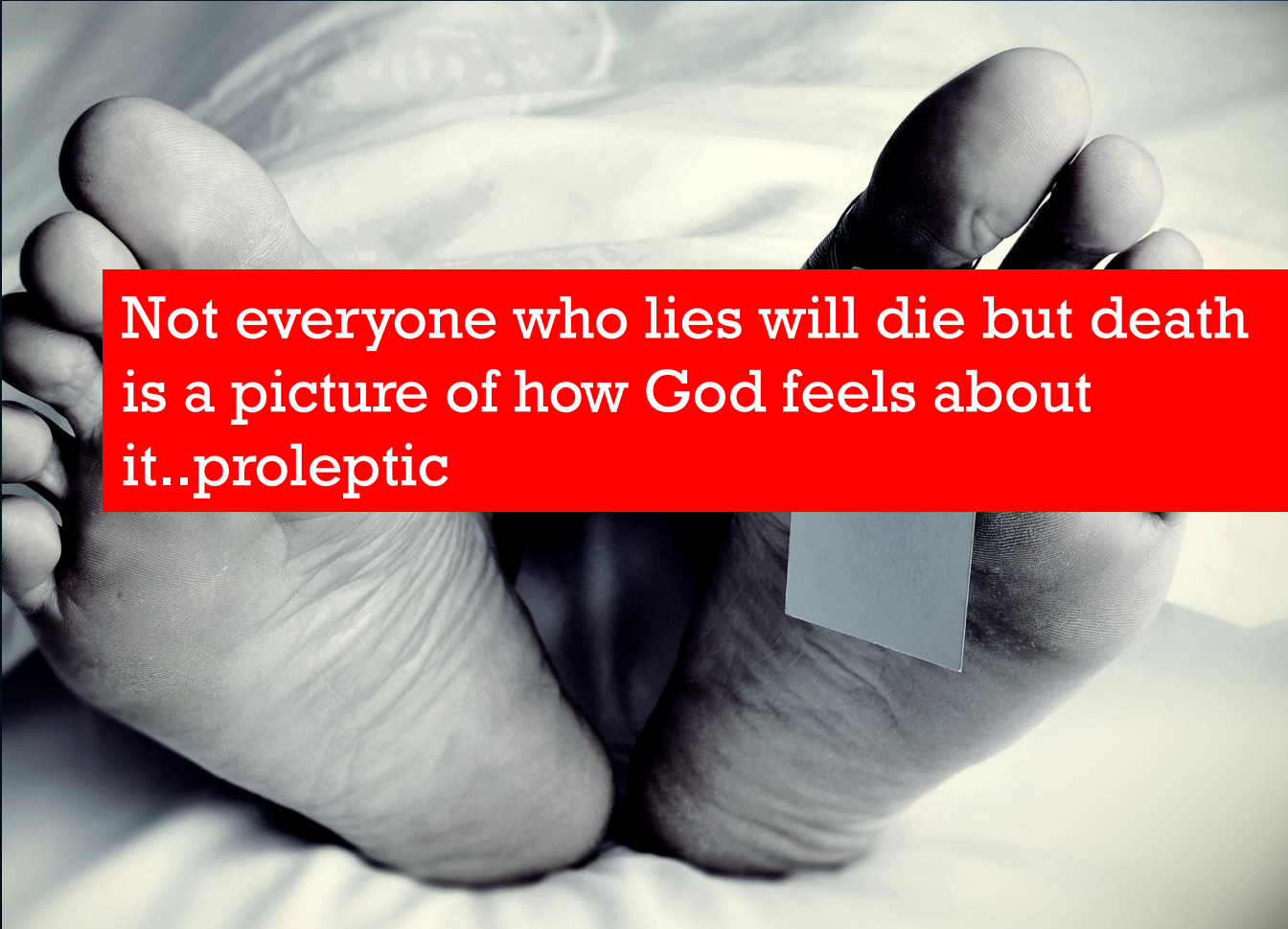
Judgement



GOD TAKES SOMETHING THAT IS TRUE IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND PUTS IT ON PHYSICAL DISPLAY

Judgement --Death

Grace --Healing



Not everyone who lies will die but death is a picture of how God feels about it..proleptic



**THE CLOSER WE ARE TO GRACE, THE
GREATER THE OFFENSE OF SIN.**

**Seriousness of the sin is increased as
they have seen the work of the Spirit all
around them**



FEAR IS PART OF WORSHIP

Acts 5:11 And great fear came upon the whole church and upon all who heard of these things.

12 Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. **13** None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. **14** And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women



JOHN PIPER ON OUR PROBLEM

“We are shocked
by justice and
presume upon
grace”

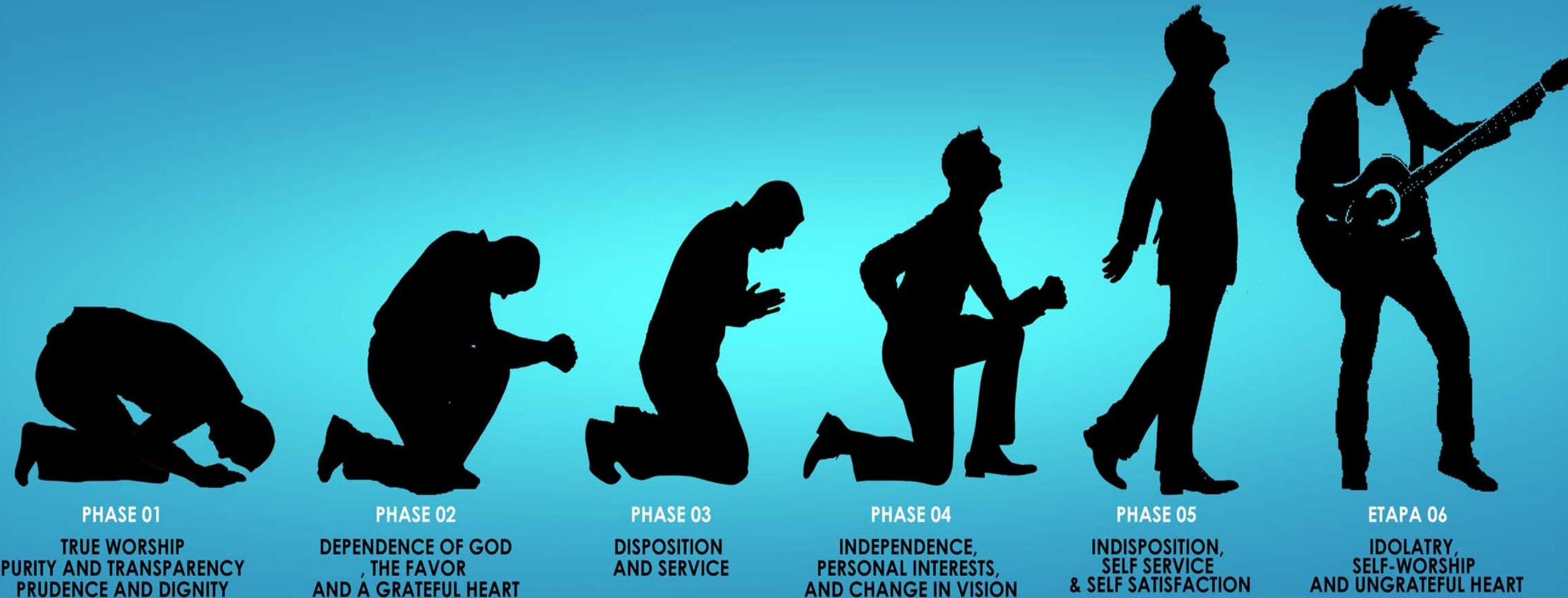
Luke 13:1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish

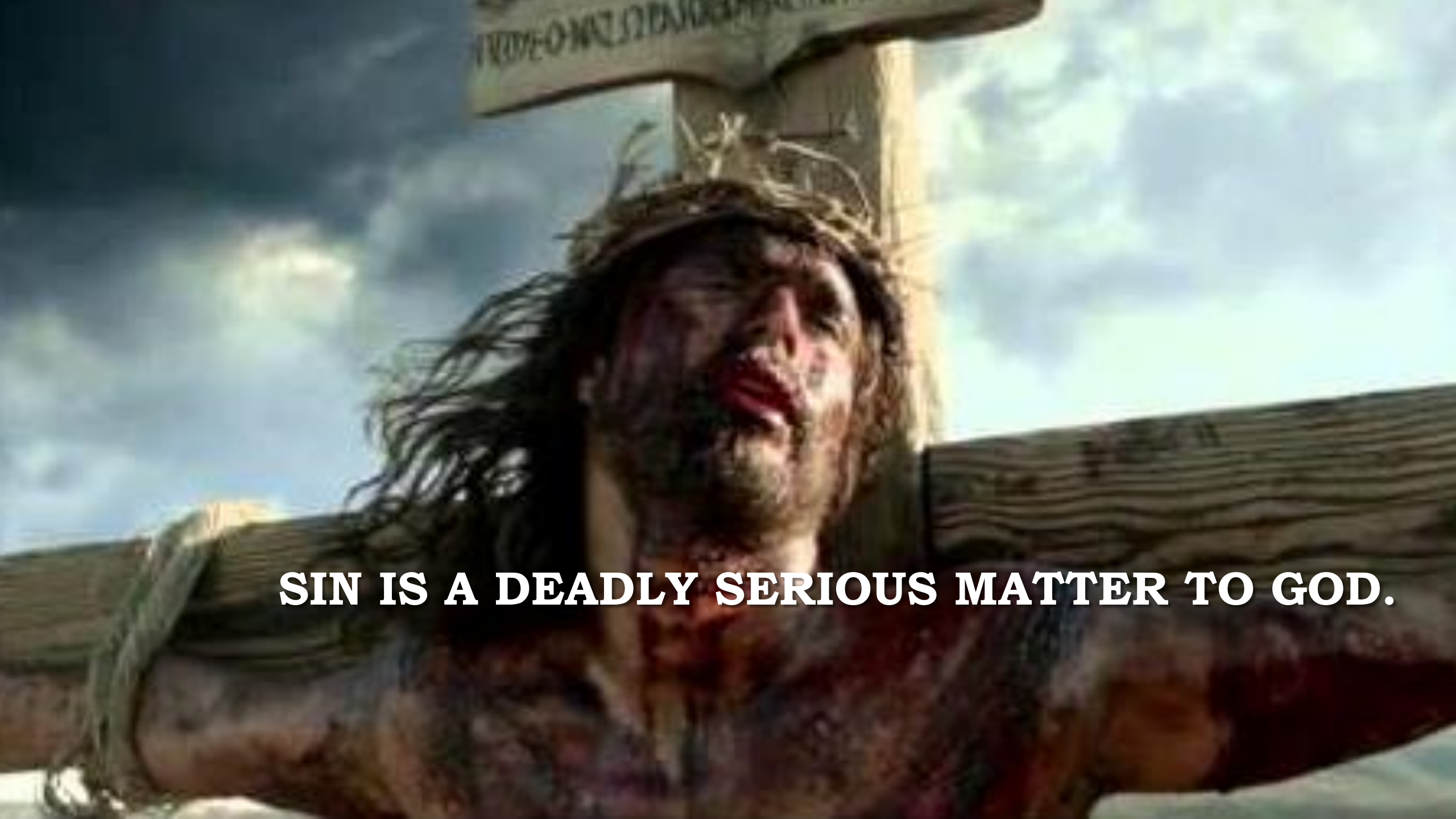
WHO WERE MORE SINFUL?



“THE WORSHIP EVOLUTION”

BY: EDGAR WINTER





SIN IS A DEADLY SERIOUS MATTER TO GOD.

EXTERNAL PERSECUTION

First
Imprisonment
Acts 4

Threats and Warning

2nd
Imprisonment
Acts 5

Freed by Angel—continued to preach
Brought before Council—testified
Gamaliel intervention
Beaten

SUFFERING IS THE PRICE OF THE GOSPEL

Acts 5:39-40 (ESV) So they took his advice, 40 and when they had called in the apostles, they beat them and charged them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

BOLDNESS IS THE THE RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

Acts 5:41-42 (ESV) Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus.

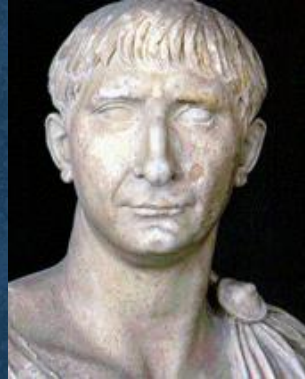
10 PERIODS OF PERSECUTIONS 129 YEARS



Nero 64-68



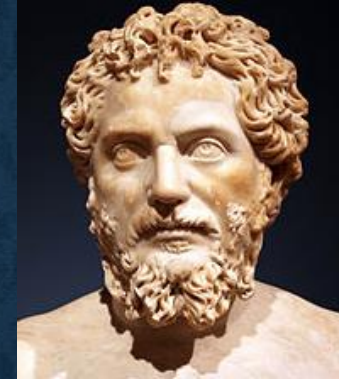
Domitian 81-96



Trajan 112-117



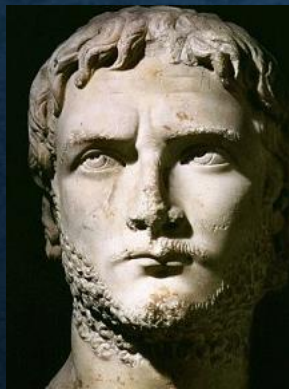
Marcus Aurelius
116-180



Septimus
Severus
202-210



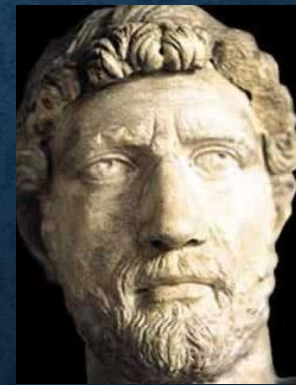
Decius 250-251



Valerian
257-259



Maximinus
235-238



Aurelian
270-275



Diocletian
303-324



MARTYRS = WITNESSES



WALTER TRUETT ANDERSEN

POLITICAL SCIENTIST SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGIST

“Today our leaders are stars not heroes. Stars are surrounded by crowds, heroes walk alone. Stars consult focus groups. Heroes consult their conscience.”



FREED



BEATEN

THE REASON

Then they left the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer dishonor for the name. 42 And every day, in the temple and from house to house, they did not cease teaching and preaching that the Christ is Jesus (Acts 5:41-42 ESV)