

GOD'S RESPONSE TO SUFFERING
ISAIAH 50

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1. Why is there suffering?

BUCKY BAILEY

- Born with half a nose, one nostril
- 30 surgeries before 7 years old
- Sits in baby chair to sleep due to deformity



BBC

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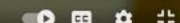


"I pray our child isn't born with my deformities" - BBC Stories

BBC



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WHY IS THERE SUFFERING?

- Isaiah 50:1-3
- “Where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away? Or to which of my creditors did I sell you?
- **Because of your sins you were sold; because of your transgressions your mother was sent away.**
- When I came, why was there no one? When I called, why was there no one to answer?
- Was my arm too short to deliver you? Do I lack the strength to rescue you?
- By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert;

WE ARE ALL CULPABLE



BEYOND REDEMPTION



HOW THE WORLD WORKS



HOW GOD DESCRIBES HIMSELF

Isaiah 50:2 ... By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea, I turn rivers into a desert;



REMEMBERING GOD'S CHARACTER



Exodus 34:6 The LORD,
the LORD, the
compassionate and
gracious God, slow to
anger, **abounding in**
love and **faithfulness**

WHY WOULD HE SAVE US?



Matthew 6:

9 “Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come,
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

GOD THE FATHER

Genesis 3:8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as **he was walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “**Where are you?**”



GOD'S RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

ISAIAH 50

1. Why is there suffering?
2. God's response to our suffering

GOD SENDS HIS SERVANT

Isaiah 50:4 The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.

5 The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious, I have not turned away.

6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced.

Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame.

GOD TOOK ON OUR SUFFERING

Isaiah 53:4 Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted.

5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are
healed.

6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has
turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.



OBEDIENCE MAY CAUSE SUFFERING

GOD'S RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

ISAIAH 50

1. Why is there suffering?
2. God's response to our suffering
3. Our response to suffering

OUR RESPONSE TO SUFFERING

Isaiah 50:10 Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant?

Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on their God.

11 But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

LIGHTING OUR OWN FIRES



WE TRY TO SAVE OURSELVES



“ I WILL NOT BE OUTWORKED, PERIOD. YOU MIGHT HAVE MORE TALENT THAN ME. YOU MIGHT BE SMARTER THAN ME. YOU MIGHT BE SEXIER THAN ME. YOU MIGHT BE ALL OF THOSE THINGS. BUT IF WE GET ON THE TREADMILL TOGETHER, THERE'S TWO THINGS. YOU'RE GETTING OFF FIRST OR I'M GOING TO DIE. IT'S REALLY THAT SIMPLE. ”

WILL SMITH





HOW DO WE LIVE WELL?



GRIT YOUR TEETH?



Malaysian PM Mahathir admits Pakatan Harapan made promises without expecting to win election



<https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysian-pm-mahathir-admits-pakatan-harapan-made-promises-without-expecting-to-win>



BY CHOOSING FAITH OVER COMFORT

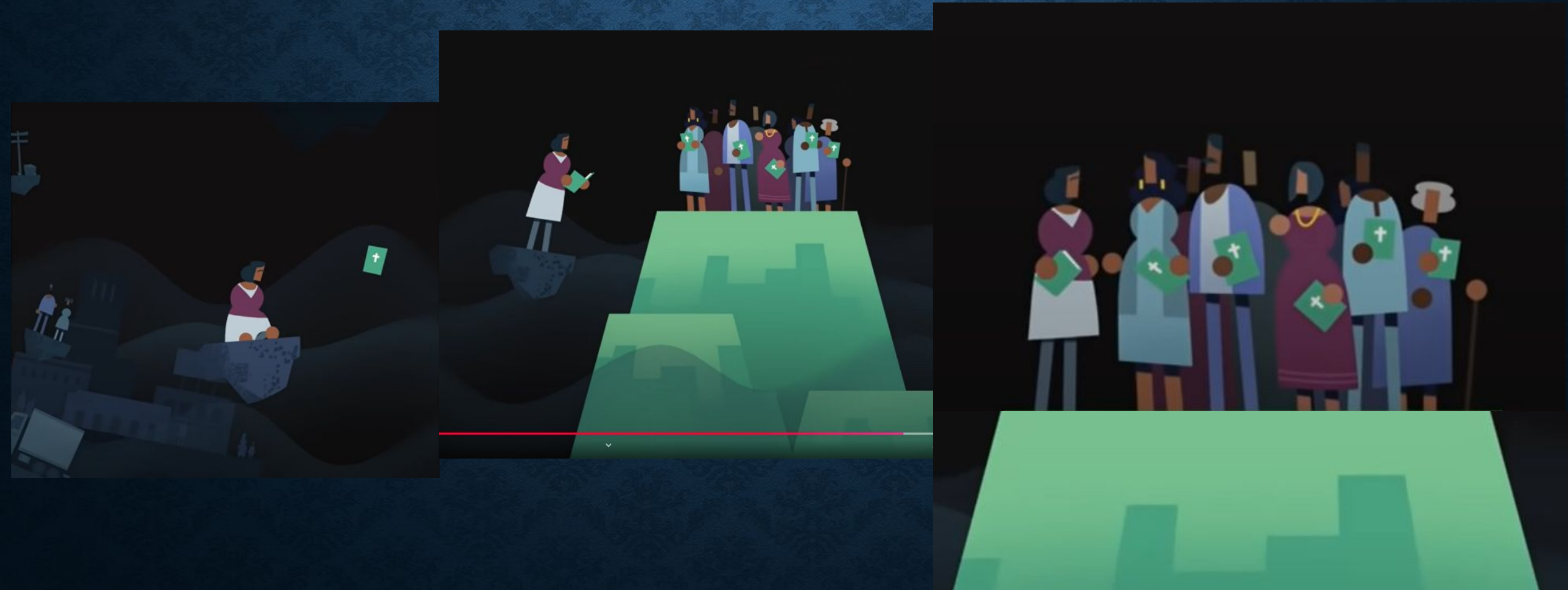
Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

24 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.

GOD'S TRACK RECORD IS TRUSTWORTHY

Exodus 34:6 The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and **faithfulness**



GOD'S TRACK RECORD IS TRUSTWORTHY

Isaiah 50:6 I offered **my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.**

7 Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I **set my face like flint**, and I know I will not be put to shame.



LIFE IS HARD TO MEASURE



LIFE IS HARD TO MEASURE



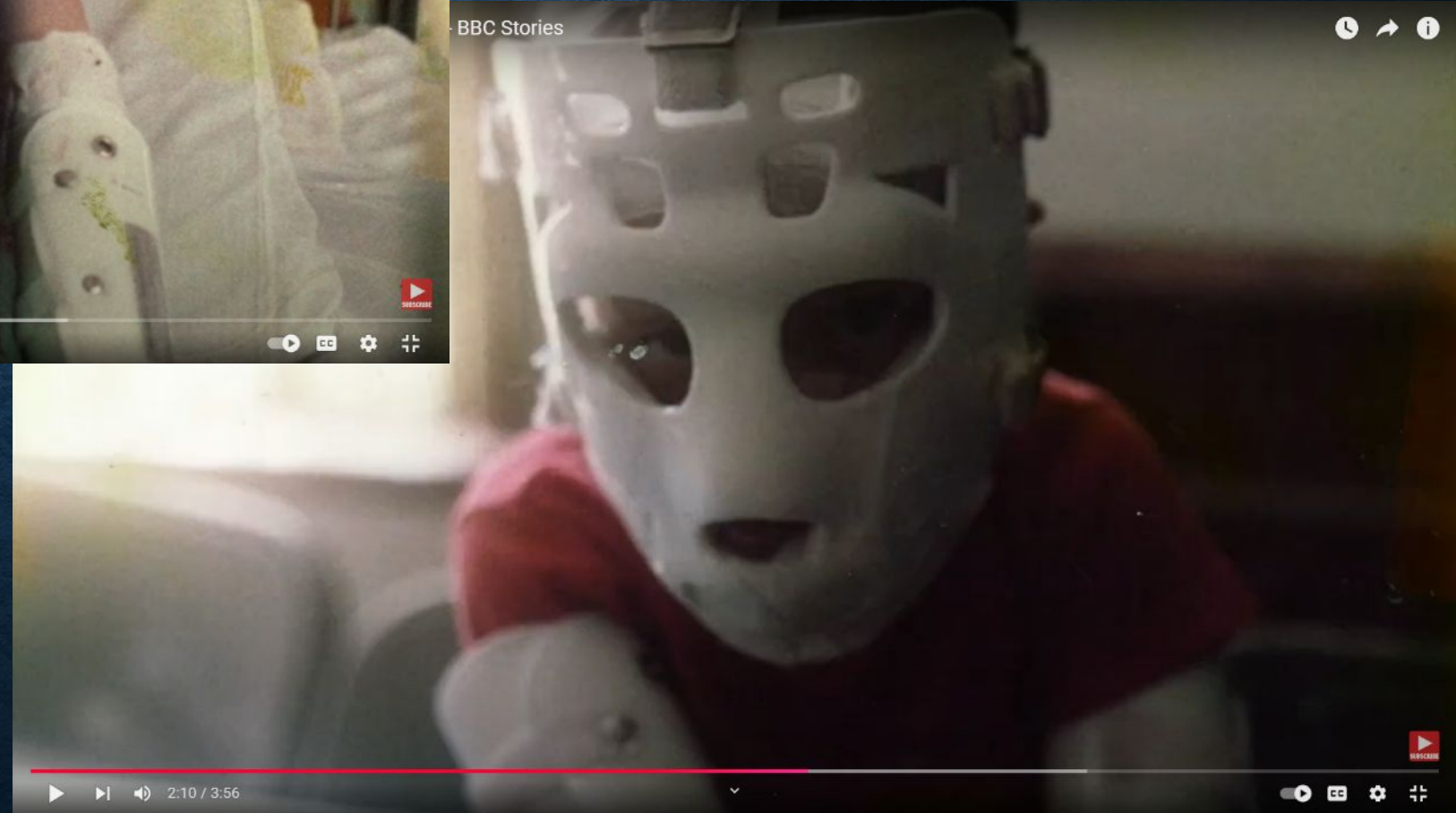
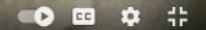
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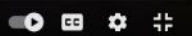


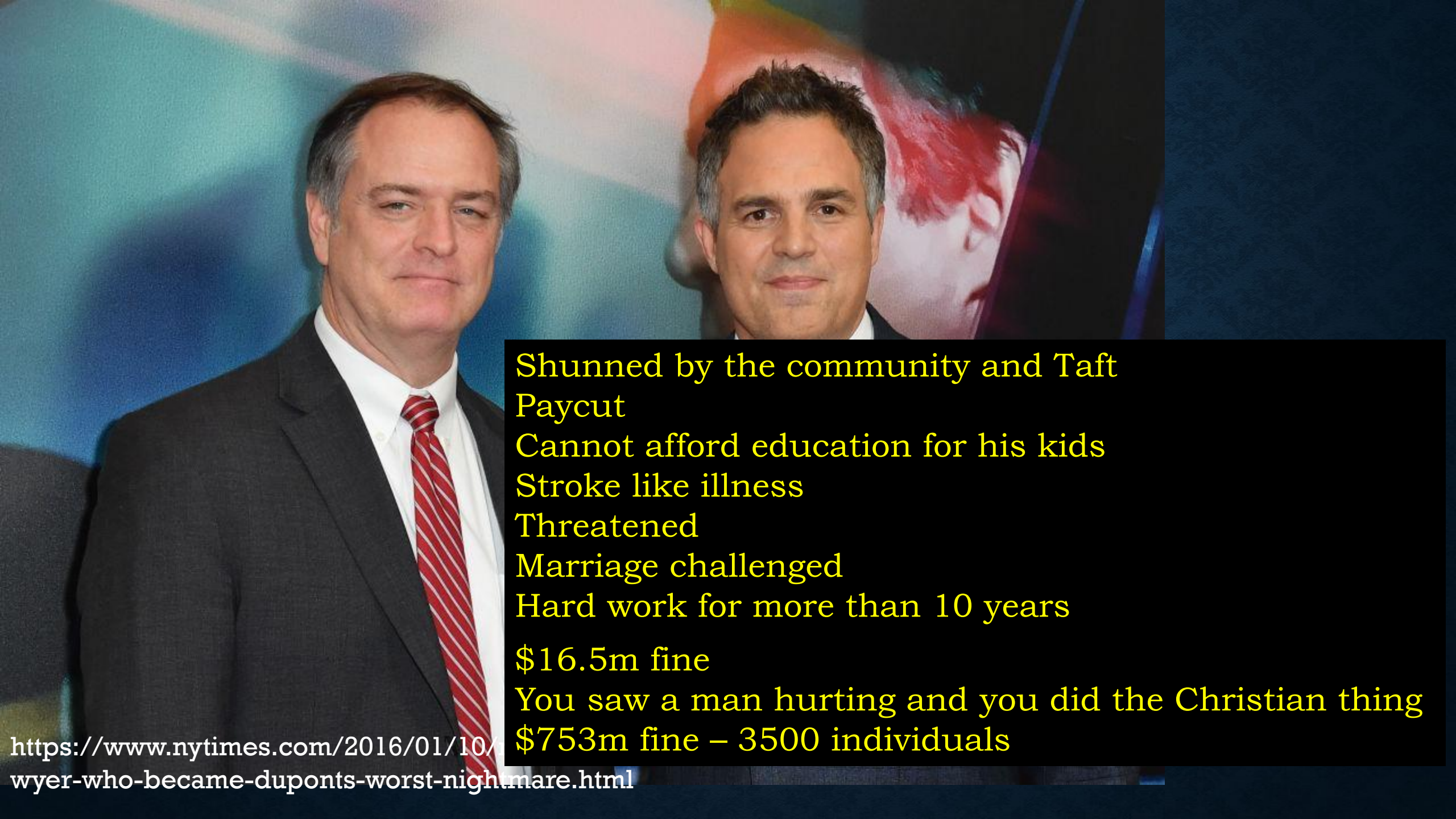


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Shunned by the community and Taft
Payout

Cannot afford education for his kids

Stroke like illness

Threatened

Marriage challenged

Hard work for more than 10 years

\$16.5m fine

You saw a man hurting and you did the Christian thing

\$753m fine – 3500 individuals

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/10/wyer-who-became-duponts-worst-nightmare.html>



OBEDIENCE EVEN IN SUFFERING OF A LIFETIME

Hebrews 11:13 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth... 16 But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore **God is not ashamed to be called their God**, for He has prepared a city for them.

Hall of Faith – Noah, Abraham, Joseph, Moses

Robert Bilott – 17 years

William Wilburforce – 46 years

JESUS AS OUR GREAT EXAMPLE?



GET OUR ACT TOGETHER?

JESUS AS OUR GREAT DELIVERER

Exodus 34:6 The Lord, the Lord, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and **faithfulness**

Isaiah 50:6 I offered **my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.**

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Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.