

Next Week Sermon

Part 2: Saul's Self Deception

1 Samuel 15

PREACHER

Arnold Lim

23 November 2025

The Lord's Beloved

2 Samuel 12:13-25

PREACHER

Dr Peter Ng

30 November 2025

David and Bathsheba

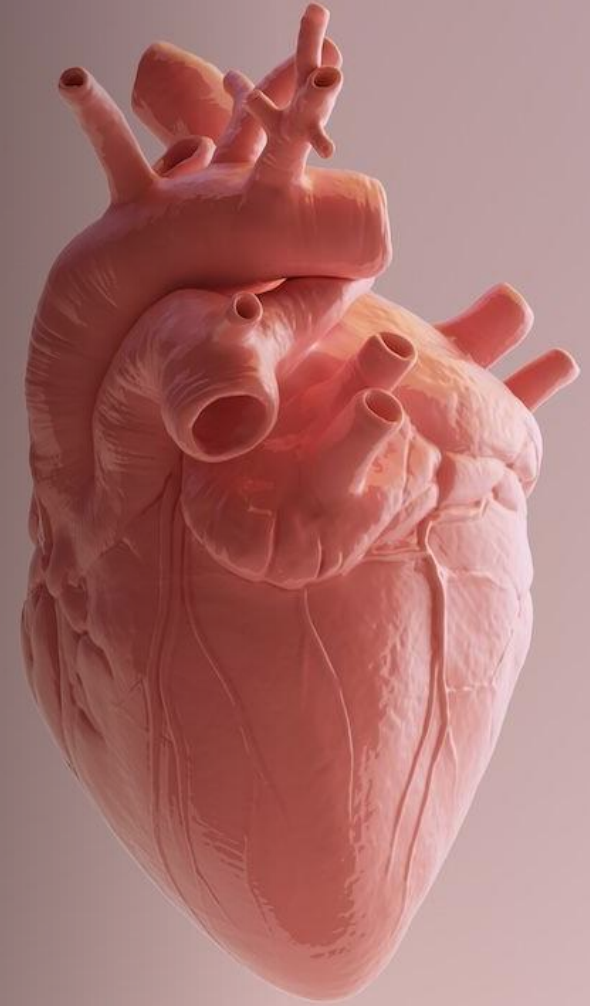
2 Samuel 11:1-5, 14-17; 12:1-7

PREACHER

Alex Tan

A Man After God's Own Heart

1 Samuel 16:1-13



1 Samuel 9

1 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, son of Zeror, son of Becorath, son of Aphiah, a Benjaminite, a man of wealth.

2 And he had a son whose name was Saul, a handsome young man. There was not a man among the people of Israel more handsome than he. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.



Saul Rejected by God for Disobedience

- He looked like a warrior and was the obvious choice for king, as the people wanted a king based on outward appearance rather than God.
- Saul was soon disqualified due to a series of character failures, leading God to reject him.
- 1 Samuel 15:7 – Better to obey than sacrifice



 POPULAR

 POPULAR

POPULAR
OPENING
PROMOTION
17 Jan - 5 Feb 2023

POPULAR
OPENING
PROMOTION
17 Jan - 5 Feb 2023

BESTSELLERS

Promosi

Books Of The Month

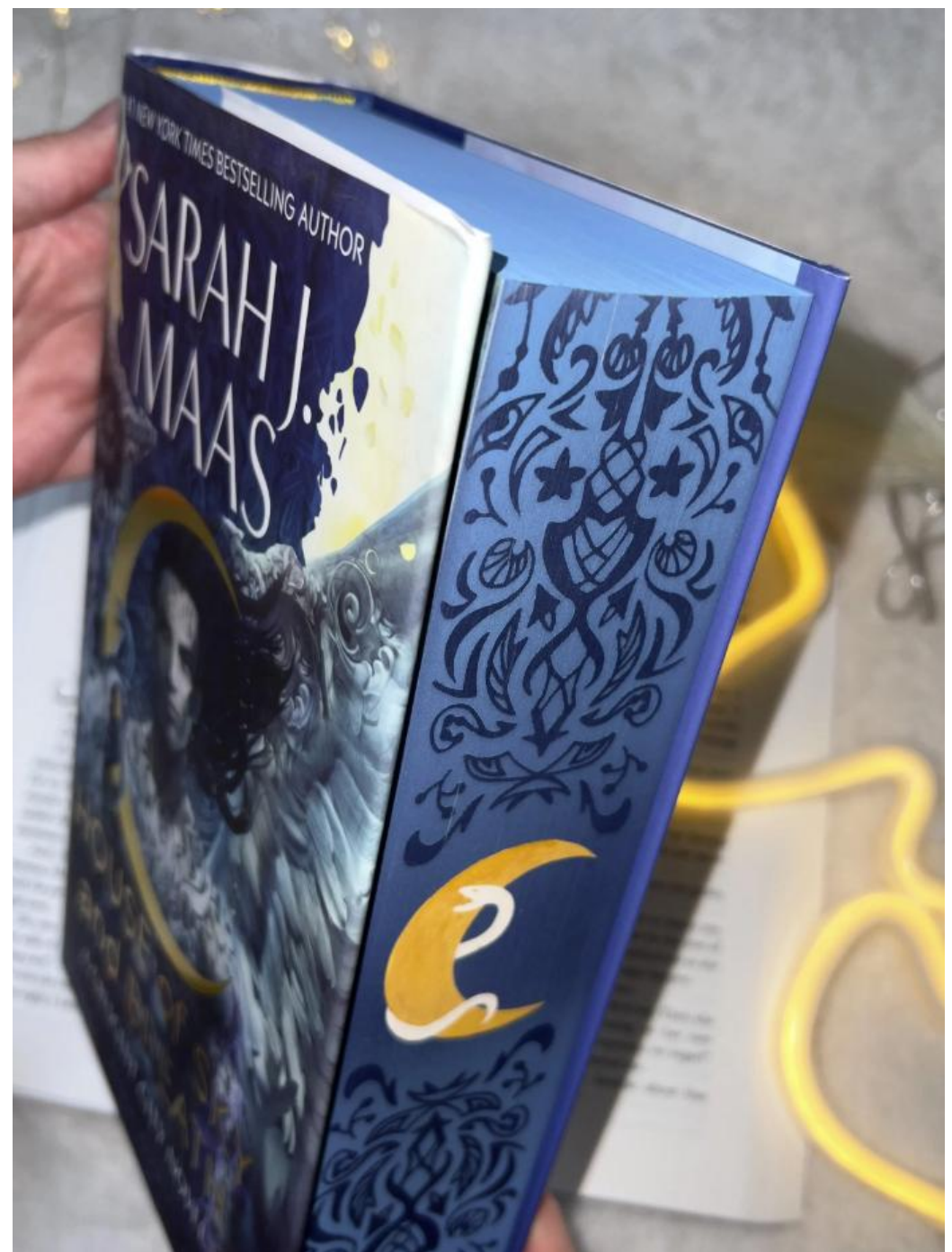
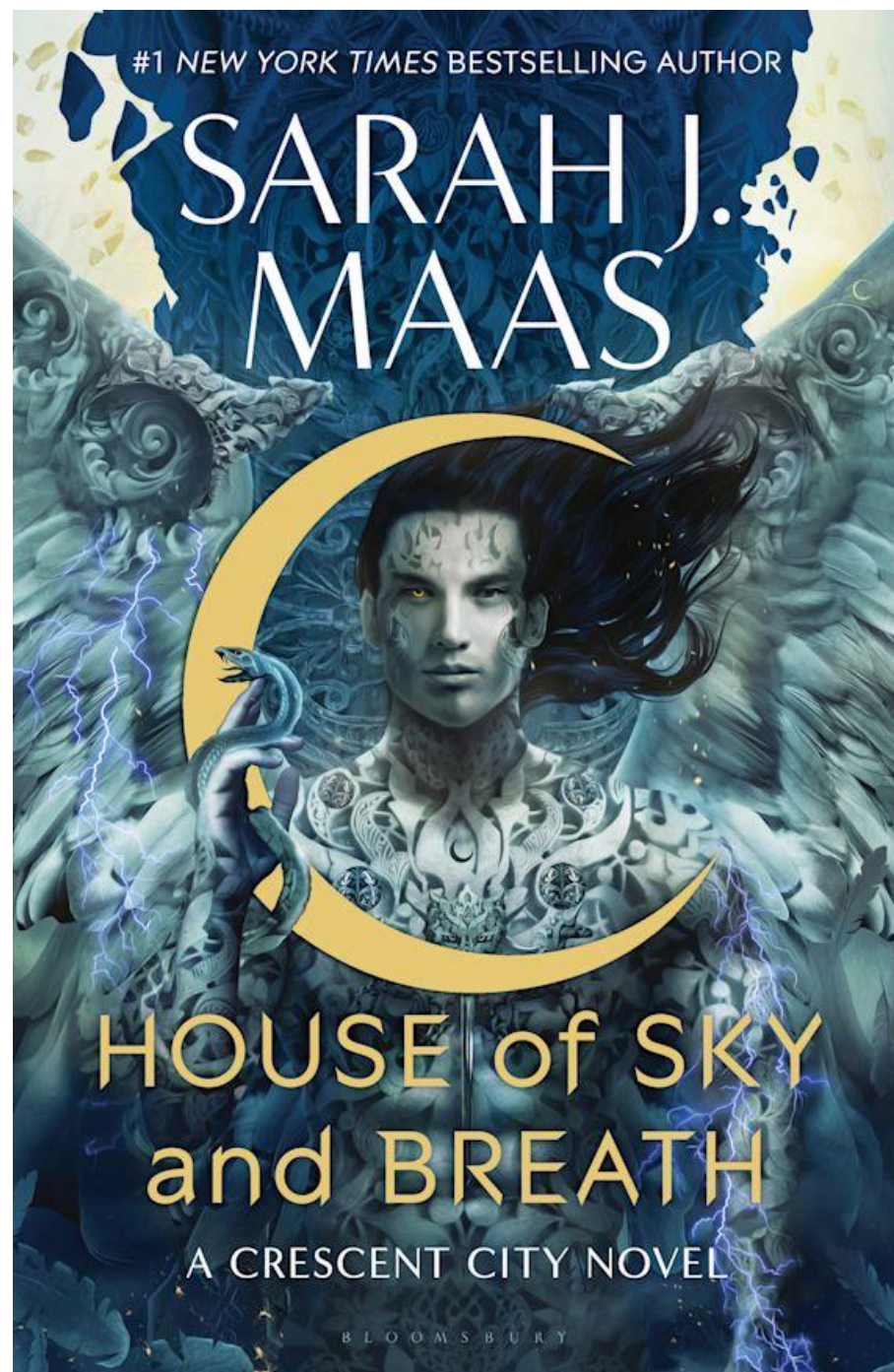
#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

SARAH J.
MAAS

HOUSE of SKY
and BREATH

A CRESCENT CITY NOVEL

BLOOMSBURY







Judging a book by its

COVER

JUDGING A BOOK BY ITS COVER





€ 88 million





MISDIRECTION



MISRDTICEION





**Our Attention is Easily
Misdirected**

1 Samuel 16:1, 3

- 1 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”
- 3 And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.”

1 Samuel 16:6-7

- 6 When they came, he looked on **Eliab** and thought, “Surely the Lord's anointed is before him.”
- 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

1 Samuel 16:8-10

- 8 Then Jesse called **Abinadab** and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”
- 9 Then Jesse made **Shammah** pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.”
- 10 And Jesse made **seven of his sons** pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen these.”

1 Samuel 16:11-13a

- 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”
- 12 And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.”
- 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward...

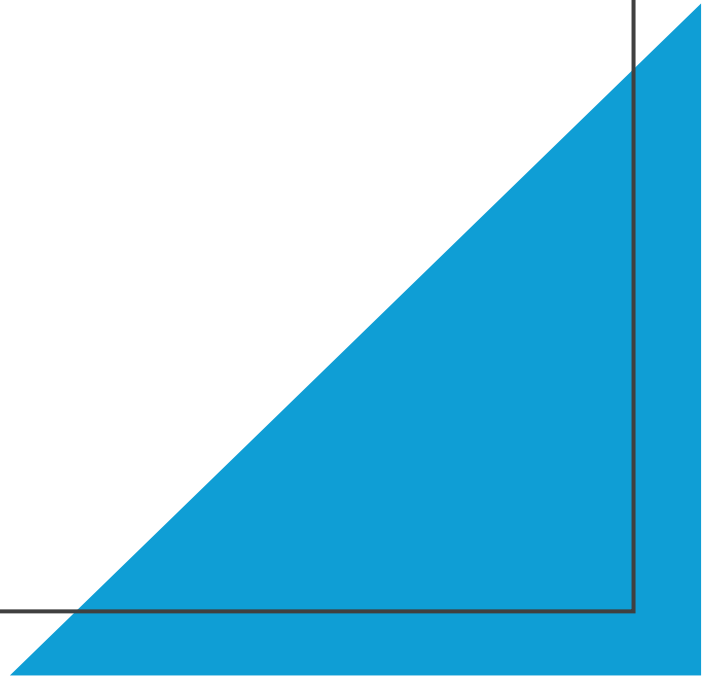


Samuel Repeats His Mistake

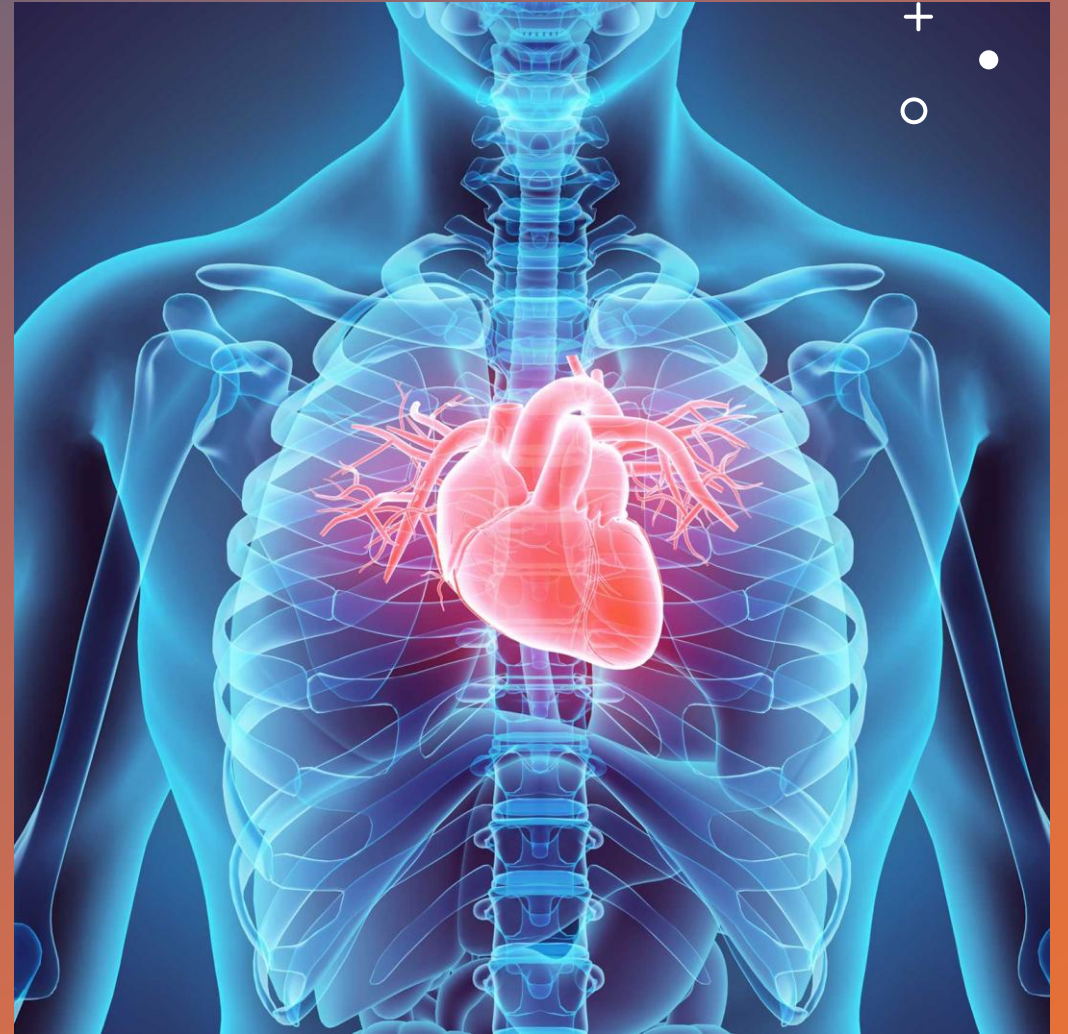
- Looking at Jesse's sons, Samuel's eyes immediately go to Eliab, who was big, strong, and resembled Saul
- God responded by warning Samuel not to judge by appearance or height

A Man After God's Own Heart

- God **Looks** on the Heart



God Looks on the Heart



Saul

- Saul was a man who had no character
- He was a king who was not kingly
- He had size, he had strength, he had money, he had a pedigree
- He had a great education
- He had connections
- But his heart was not fit to serve as a king



Saul was a Narcissist

- His chief concern was not to protect people and to defend the weak
- His chief concern was to use his power and resources at his disposal as king to ensure that he was admired



**In God's
Eyes, Beauty
is on the
Inside, not
Outside**



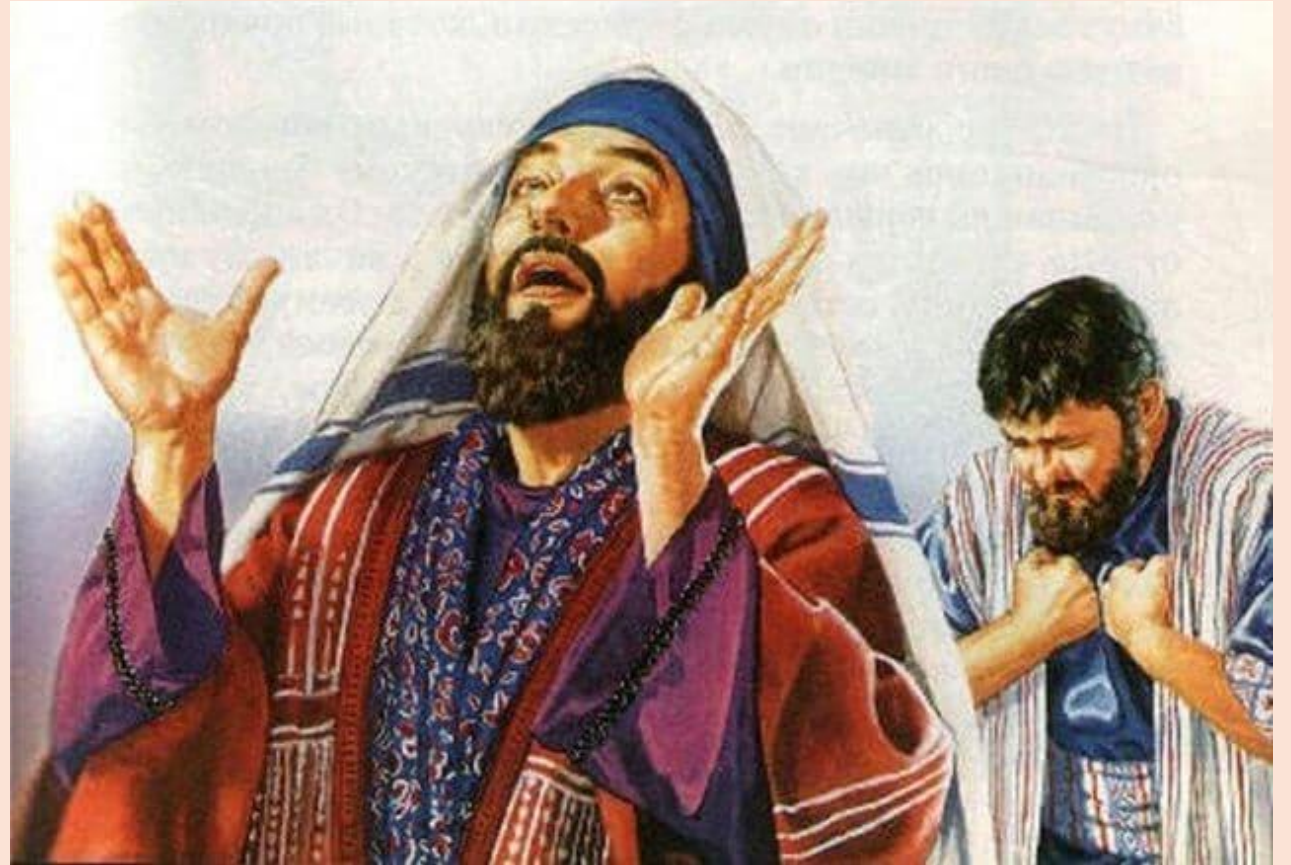
Biblical Examples



The Widow's Two Mites (Luke 21:1-4)



The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14)



What Kind of Inner Beauty?



- Are you less prone to selfishness?
- Are you less prone to self-pity?
- Are you less prone to envy?
- Are you less prone to vanity?
- Are you less sensitive to criticism than you were two or three years ago?
- Are you wiser?
- Are you happier?
- Are you less anxious?
- Are you less concerned about how life goes with circumstances?
- Do you know how to love?

Why Not Look at Externals?

- God sees that beauty is internal, not external
- Don't look at the appearances
- Why not?



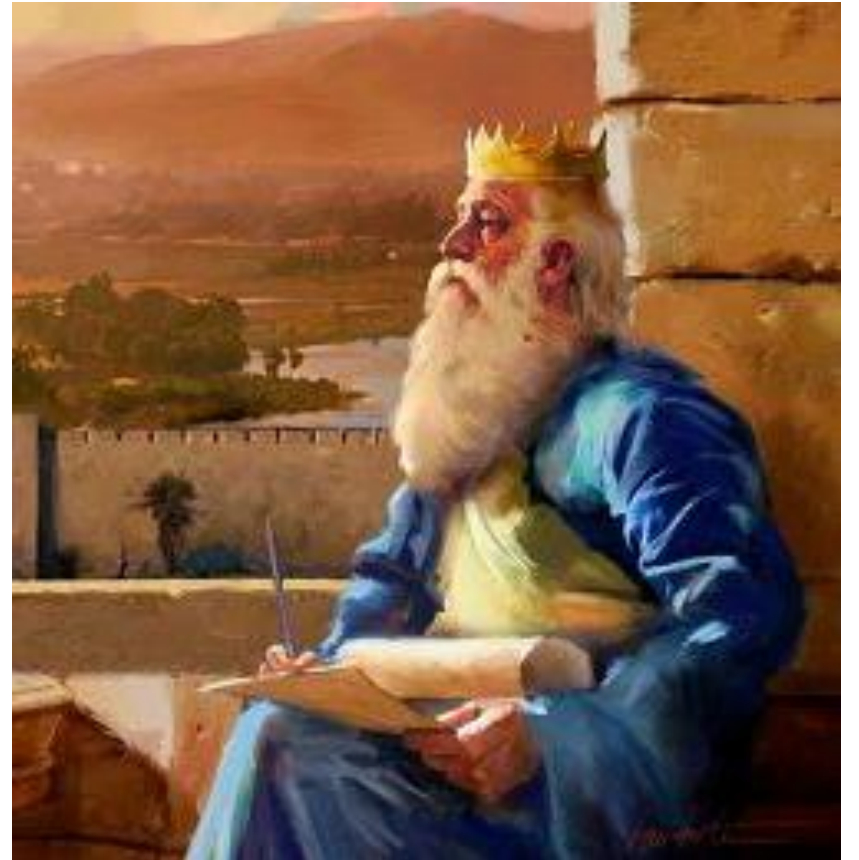
Internal Beauty - Growth and Permanence

- External beauty/attractiveness is temporary
- Internal beauty has the capacity to get stronger and stronger
- Not only endures throughout one's life, but also throughout eternity
- It is the **only beauty** that can last and grow forever

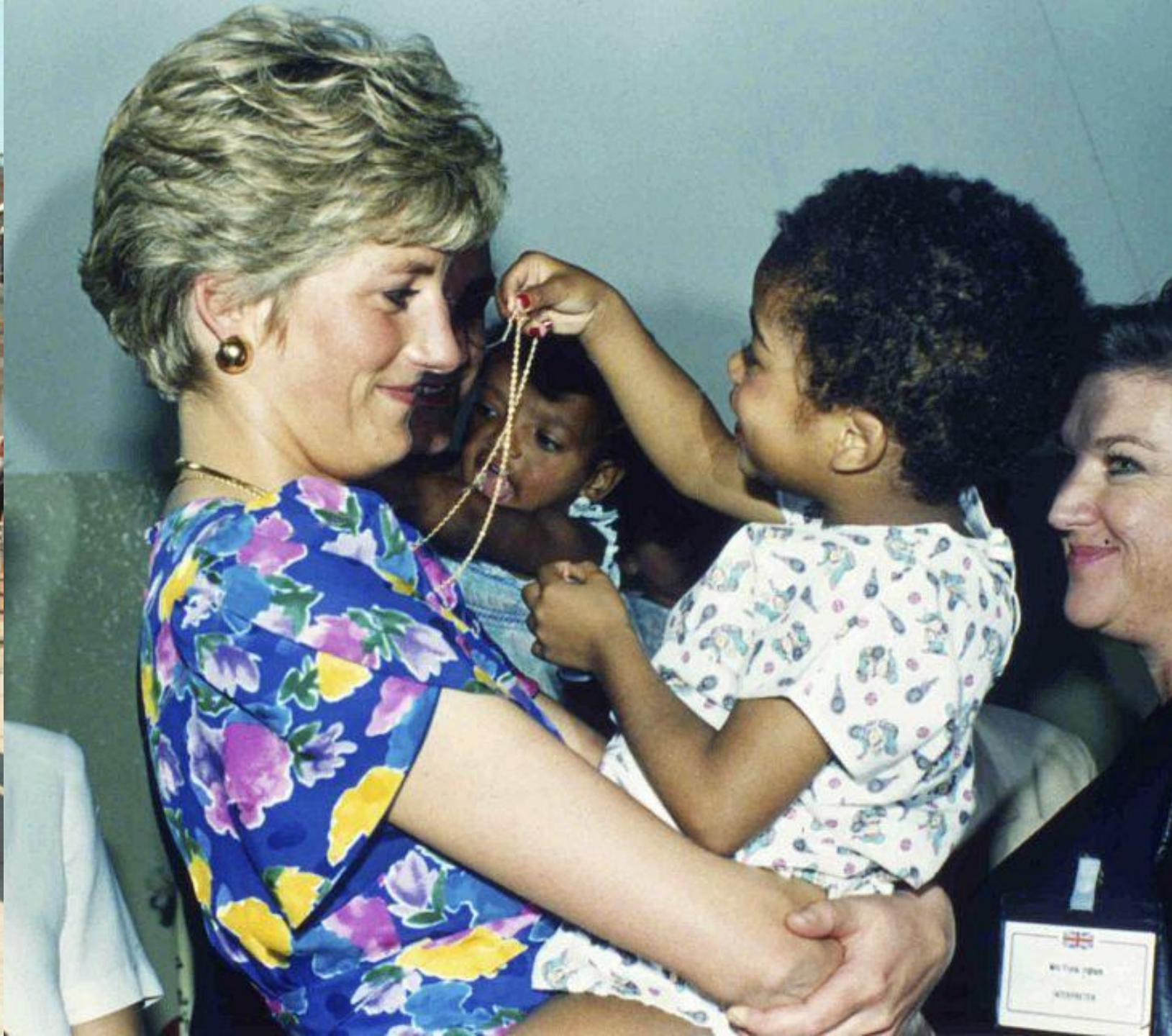


Internal Beauty - What Truly Matters

- What makes a kingdom go well?
- Not if the king is a great warrior or a brilliant tactician
- Not about external beauty/intelligence/talent
- But it's the king's heart
- Whether the king is wise
- Whether the king is loving
- That's what's going to make the kingdom go well



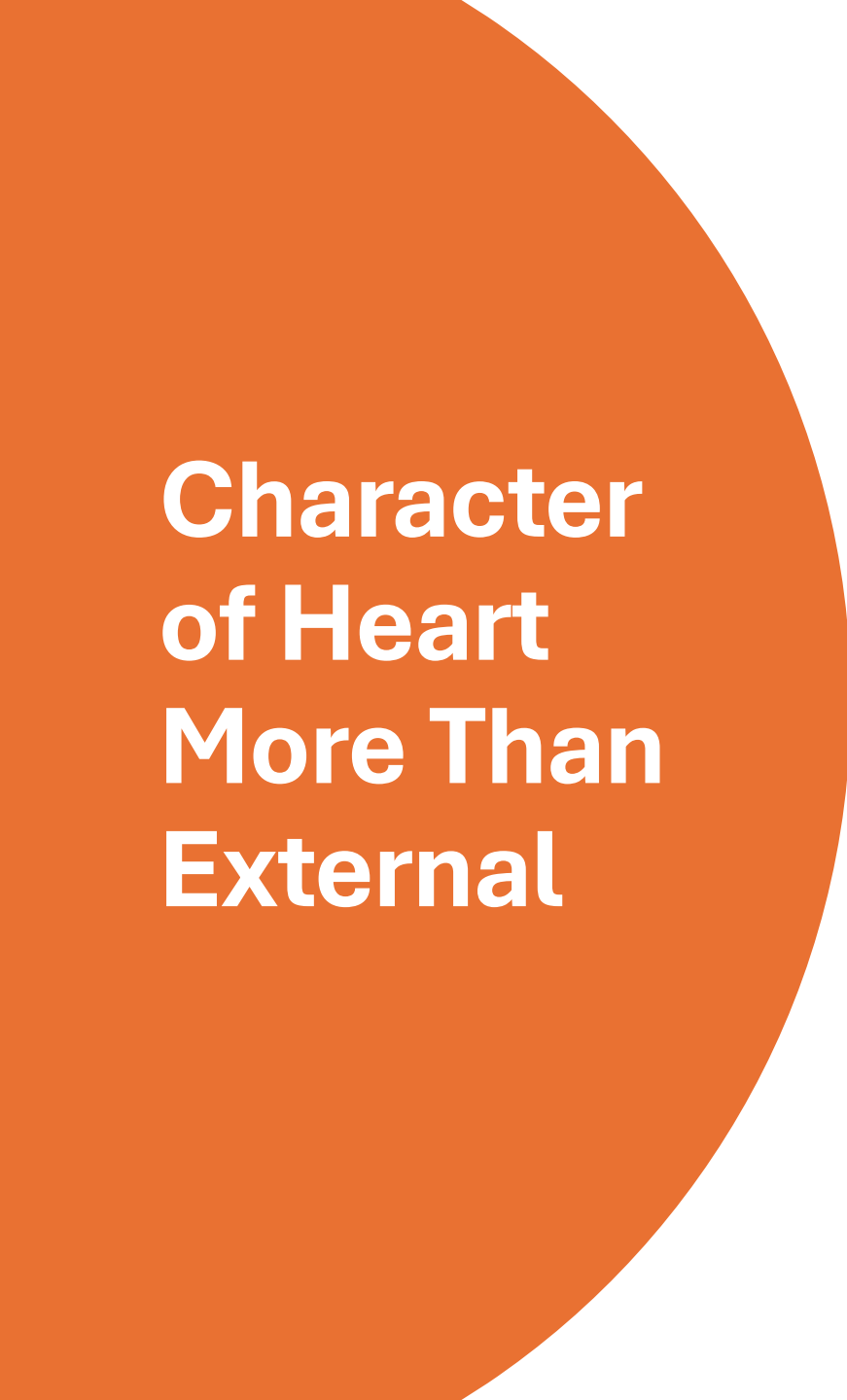




Internal Beauty - What Truly Matters

- God is saying: Don't let your pocket get picked
- You're distracted
- You're looking at the wrong thing
- That's how your pocket gets picked
- Don't be distracted by beauty, by polish, by sleekness, by talent, by success
- None of those things really matter
- What matters is what's in the heart

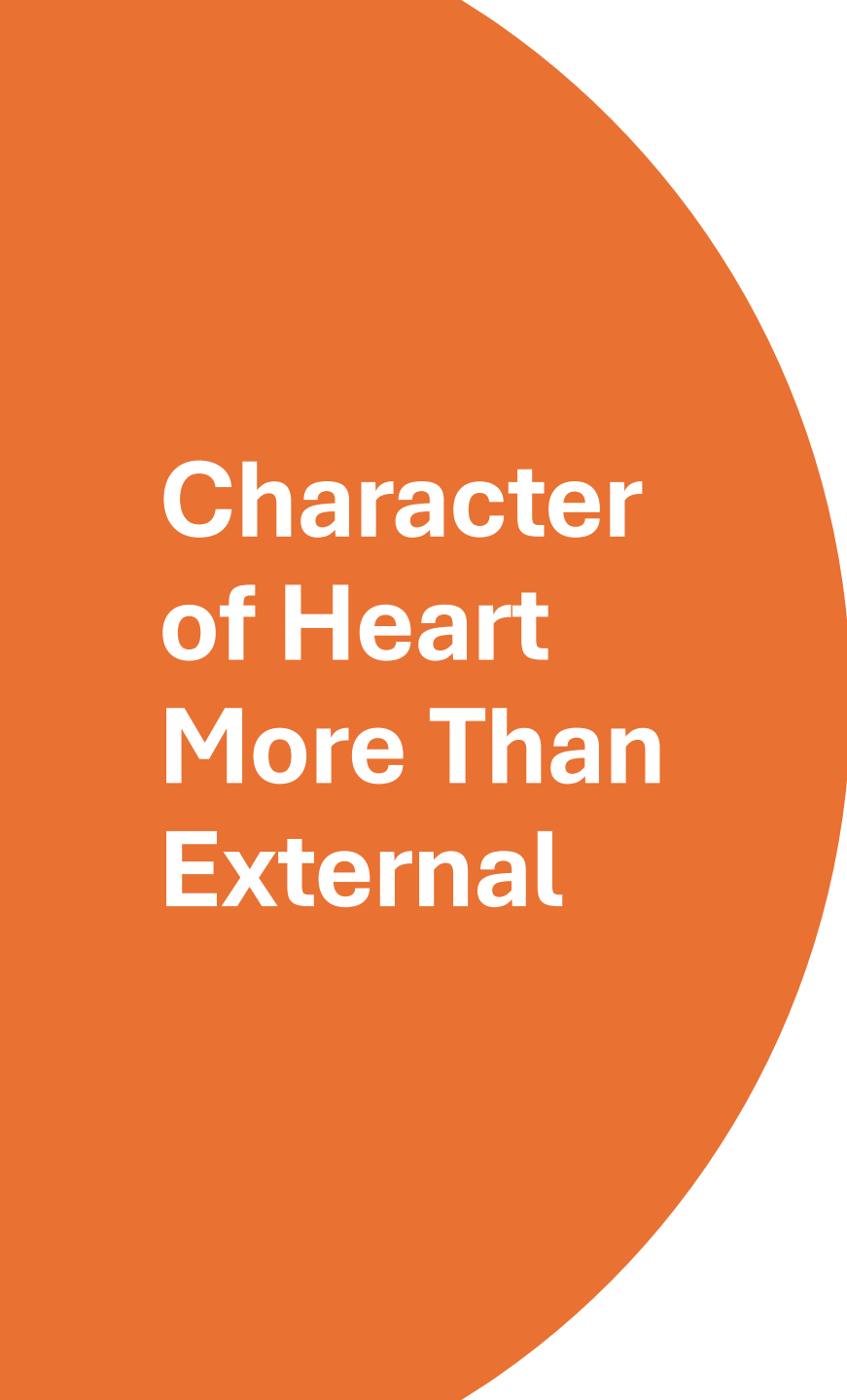





Character of Heart More Than External

- A physical appearance, beauty, polish, sleekness, brilliance, talent, success, money
- These things are inconsequential compared to character



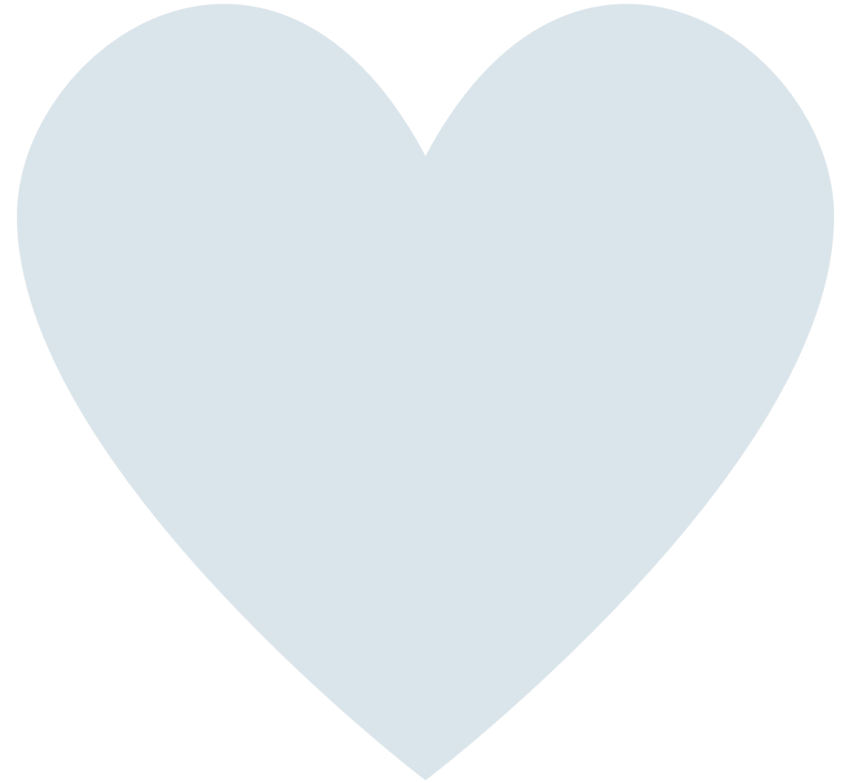


Character of Heart More Than External

- A physical appearance, beauty, polish, sleekness, brilliance, talent, success, money
 - These things are inconsequential compared to character
 - If we look at them and are obsessed with them, or even if we are just more concerned about them than heart character
 - We are having your pocket picked
 - We are blinded
- 



**Heart character is
more important than
physical appearance**





FROM MICHAEL

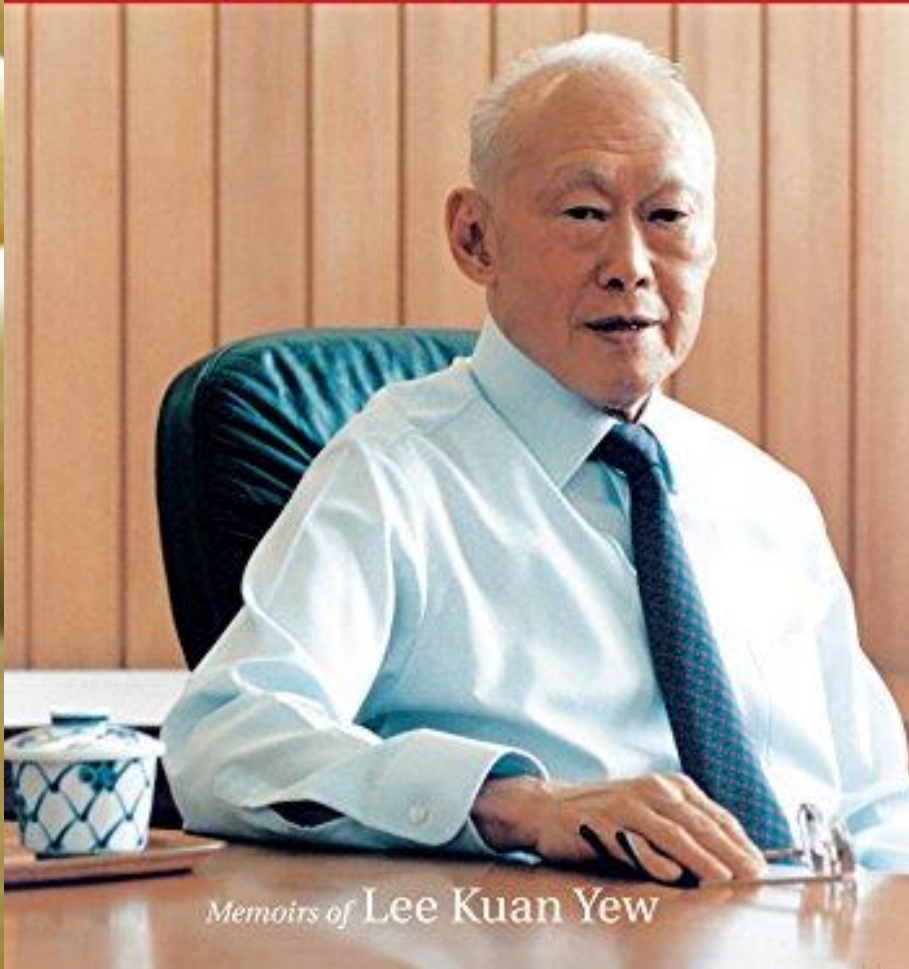


FROM MICHAEL





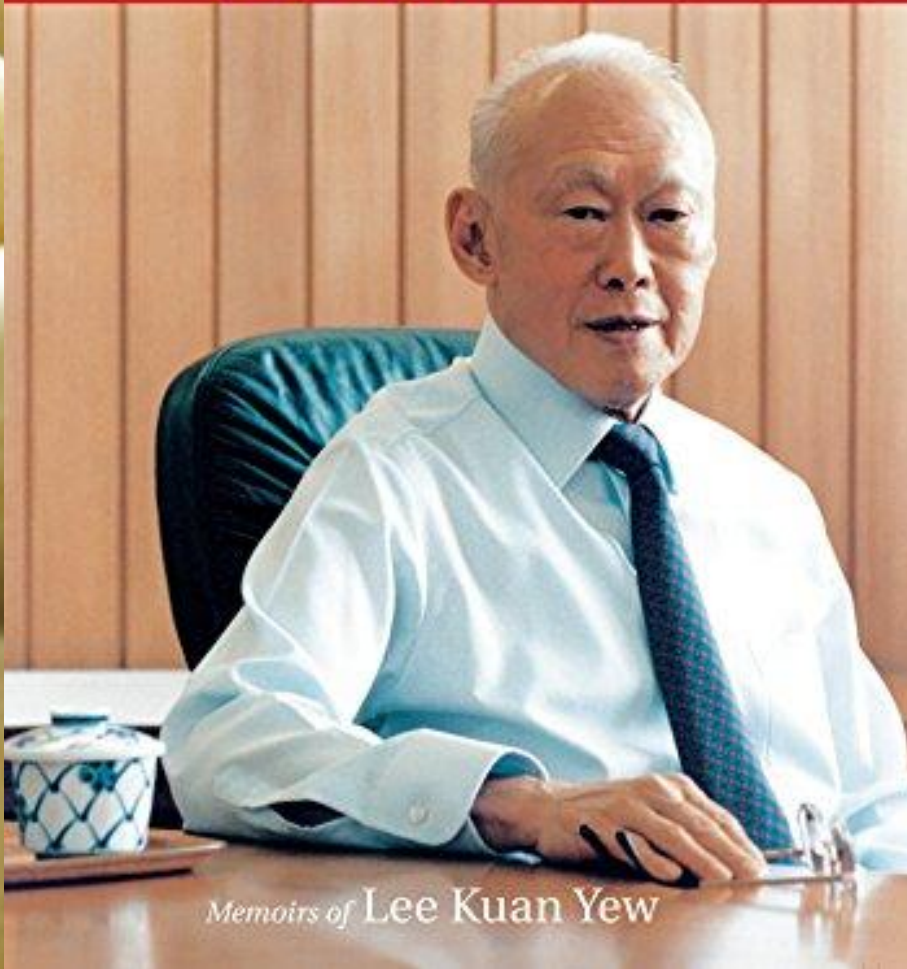
THE SINGAPORE STORY



Memoirs of Lee Kuan Yew



THE SINGAPORE STORY



The Miseries of the World

- From war and oppression down to broken relationships
- What is the source of all that misery?
- A lack of talent?
- A lack of creativity?
- A lack of brilliance?



The Miseries of the World

- From war and oppression down to broken relationships
- What is the source of all that misery?
- A lack of talent?
- A lack of creativity?
- A lack of brilliance?
- No, it's a lack of it's a lack of love, a lack of character – pride / selfishness / hate



A Categorical Statement – Every Person

- "The Lord sees not as man sees"
- The Lord does not look at things the way people look at them
- An abiding problem in all cultures in all times
- To be distracted, to be have your pocket picked, to be looking at the wrong thing, to be looking at the externals



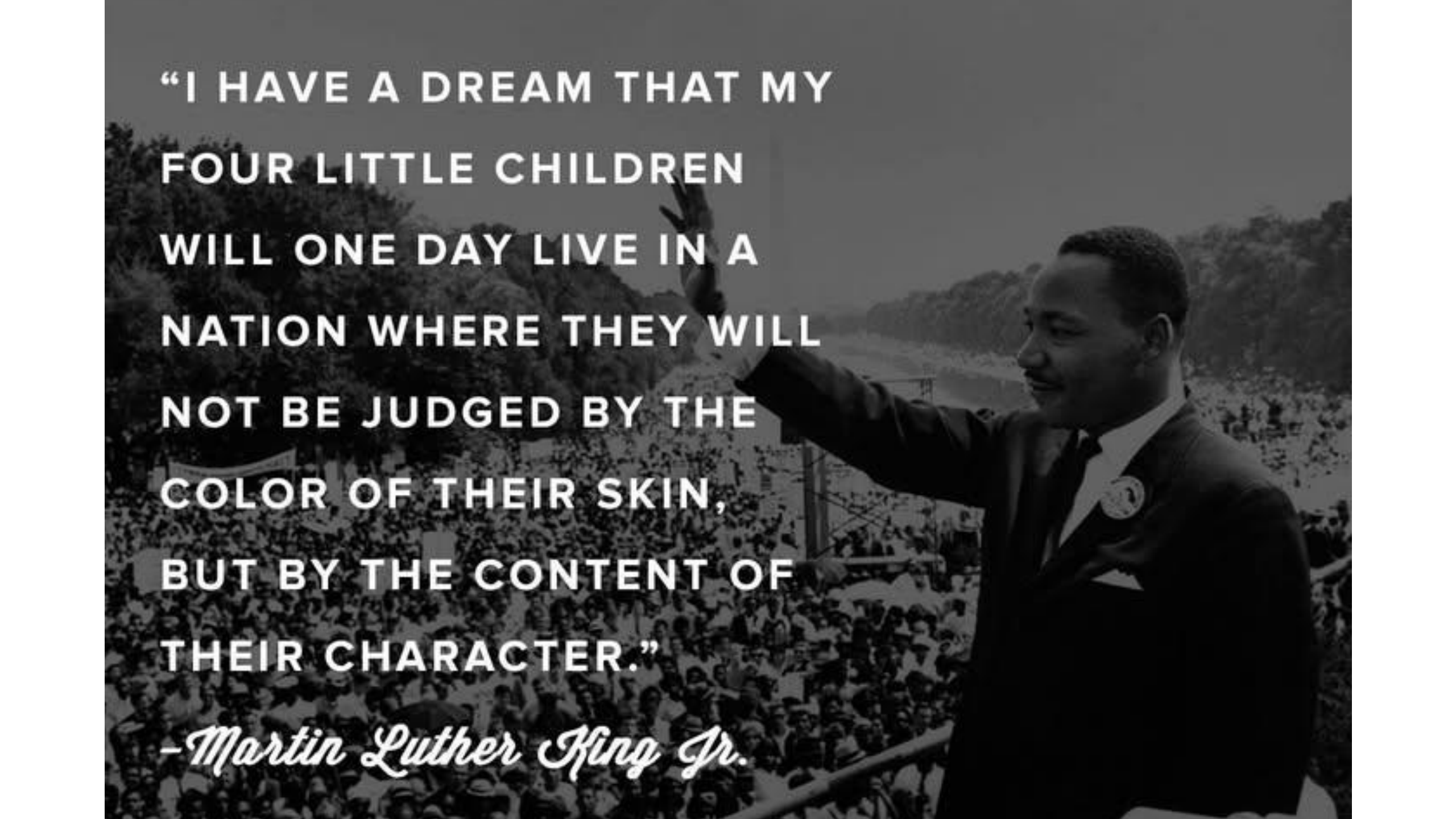
A large, solid orange circle occupies the left side of the frame, partially cut off by the edge.

**We think more about our
physical appearance than any
group of people in the history of
the world in any other century in
any other culture**

A series of four blue curved line segments in the bottom right corner, arranged to suggest a larger circular shape.



Martin Luther King Jr.

A black and white photograph of Martin Luther King Jr. He is standing at a podium, gesturing with his right hand raised. He is wearing a dark suit, a white shirt, and a dark tie. A small circular pin is visible on his lapel. The background is filled with a large, dense crowd of people, and some trees are visible in the distance. The overall tone is historical and inspiring.

“I HAVE A DREAM THAT MY
FOUR LITTLE CHILDREN
WILL ONE DAY LIVE IN A
NATION WHERE THEY WILL
NOT BE JUDGED BY THE
COLOR OF THEIR SKIN,
BUT BY THE CONTENT OF
THEIR CHARACTER.”

-Martin Luther King Jr.



Sin Deeply Habituates Us to Look at Things Differently than God Does

- When we walk down the street, we find our heads turning to look at what God says is the spiritually inconsequential and unreal



Cultural Obsession with Appearance in Media

- We live in a culture obsessed with image, success, and status
- Images/photos are more powerful
- That is why Instagram is taking over from Facebook
- We are dominated by images, not ideas



**We Live in a
Culture
where
Visuals Reign**







The decline of reading

% of US teenagers who read in their leisure time...



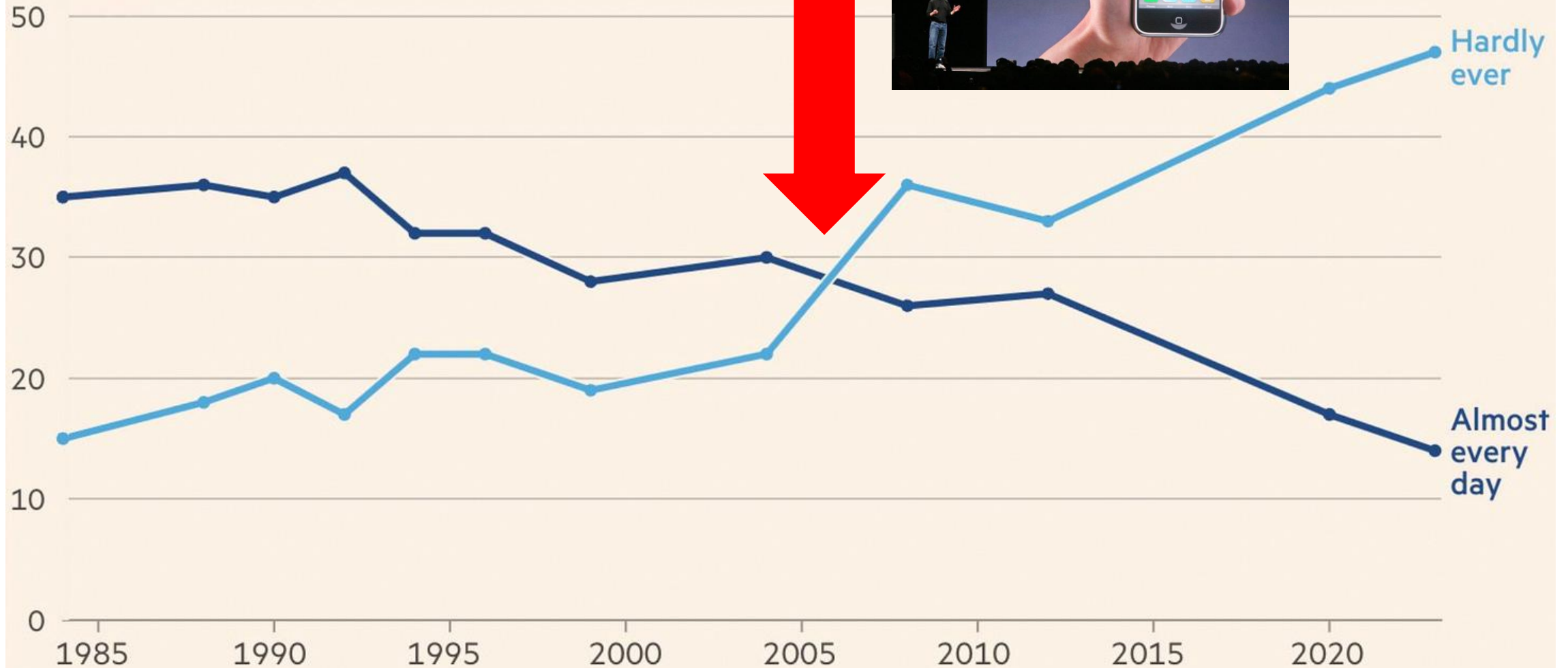
Source: US National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend Reading Assessments

FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch

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The decline of reading

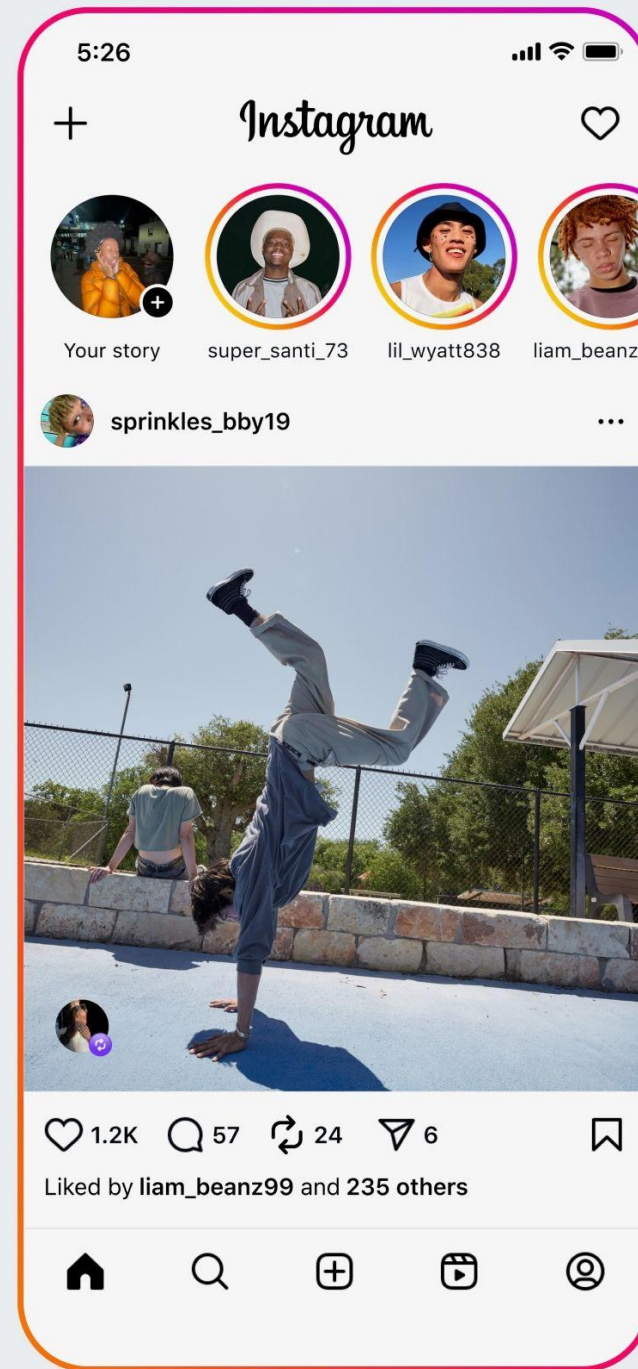
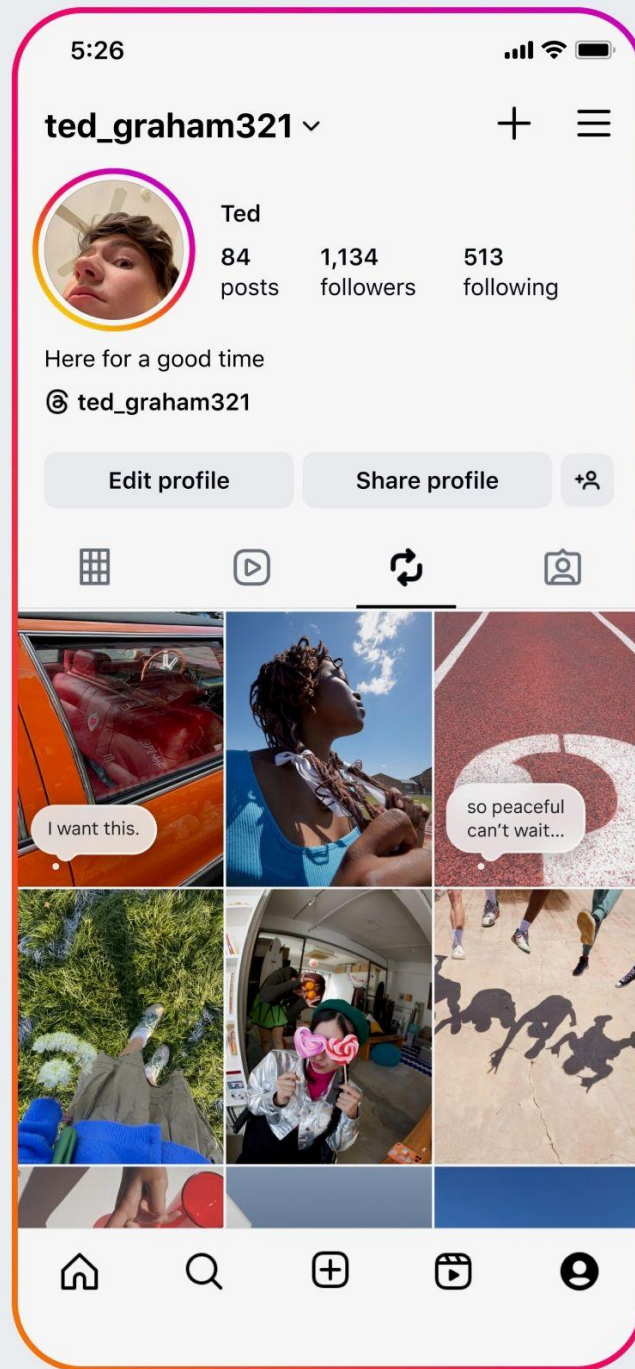
% of US teenagers who read in their leisure time...



Source: US National Assessment of Educational Progress Long-Term Trend Reading Assessments

FT graphic: John Burn-Murdoch / @jburnmurdoch

©FT



**The smartphone is
not the problem**

**It's only the window
that shows what
already captivates
our hearts**





Visuals Captivate our Attention

- We pay attention to things we can see, rather than what we cannot see
- We cannot see moral goodness
- We have nothing left but externals
- We judge people based on what we can see, rather than what we cannot see
- Therefore, all we have got left is money and looks - externals

We are trained to judge and assess all the time

Easier to "measure" what can be seen

Would you choose a King based on his height or his character?



Would you choose a King based on his height or his character?



Would you choose a Prime Minister based on his charisma or his integrity?



Would you choose a pilot based on his height or his skills?



Would you choose a pilot based on his height or his skills?



**Would you choose a husband based on his
height or his capacity to love?**



Would you choose a husband based on his height or his capacity to love?





It is Easier to Measure Wealth than Character... So we use Wealth as a Proxy

Would you choose a husband based on his income or his capacity to love?



Would you choose a husband based on his income or his capacity to love?



**Would you choose based
on Externals or Internals?**

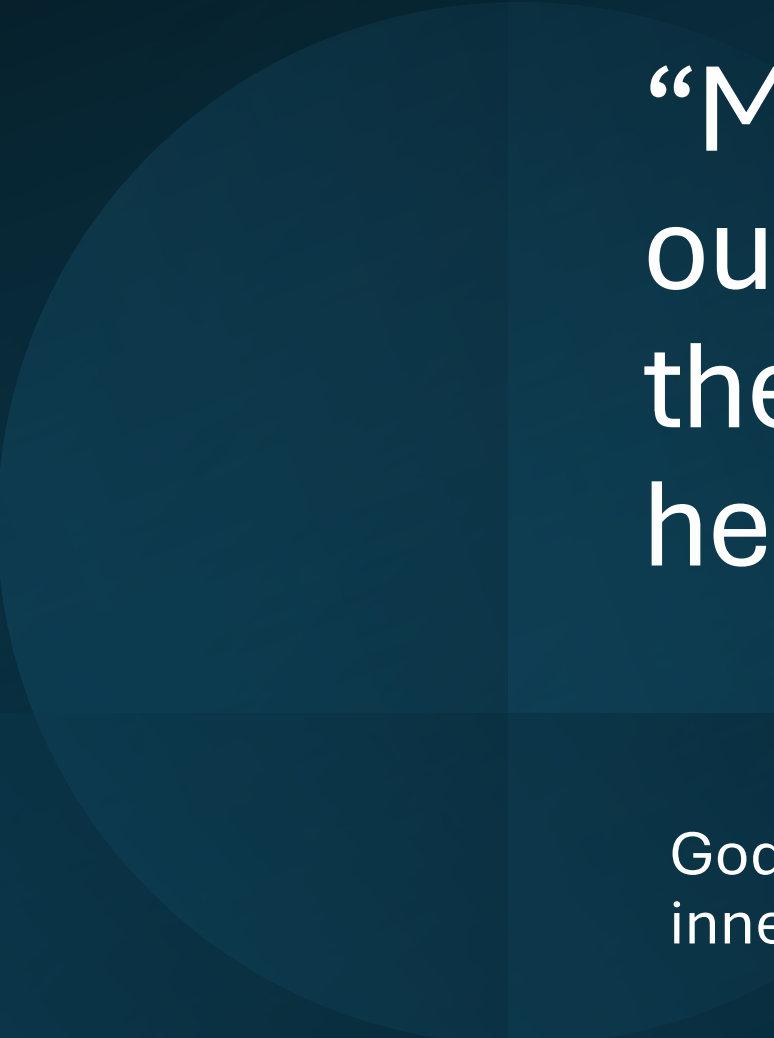


**Would you look at the Outward Appearance
or the Inward Heart?**



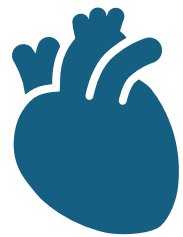
Should we focus on our Outward Appearance or our Inward Heart?



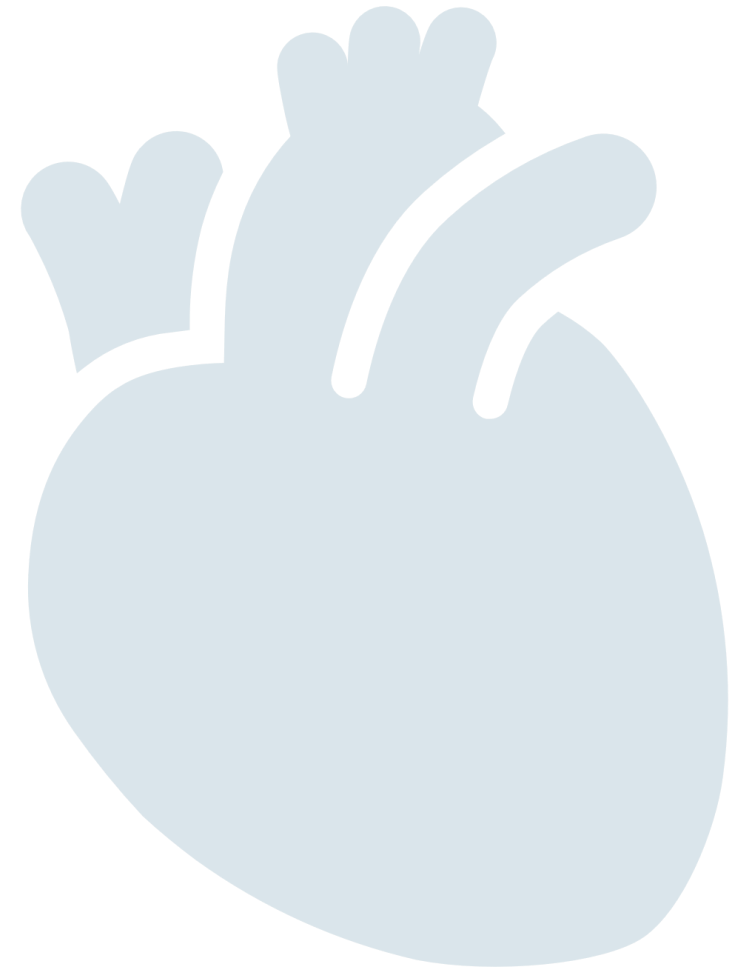


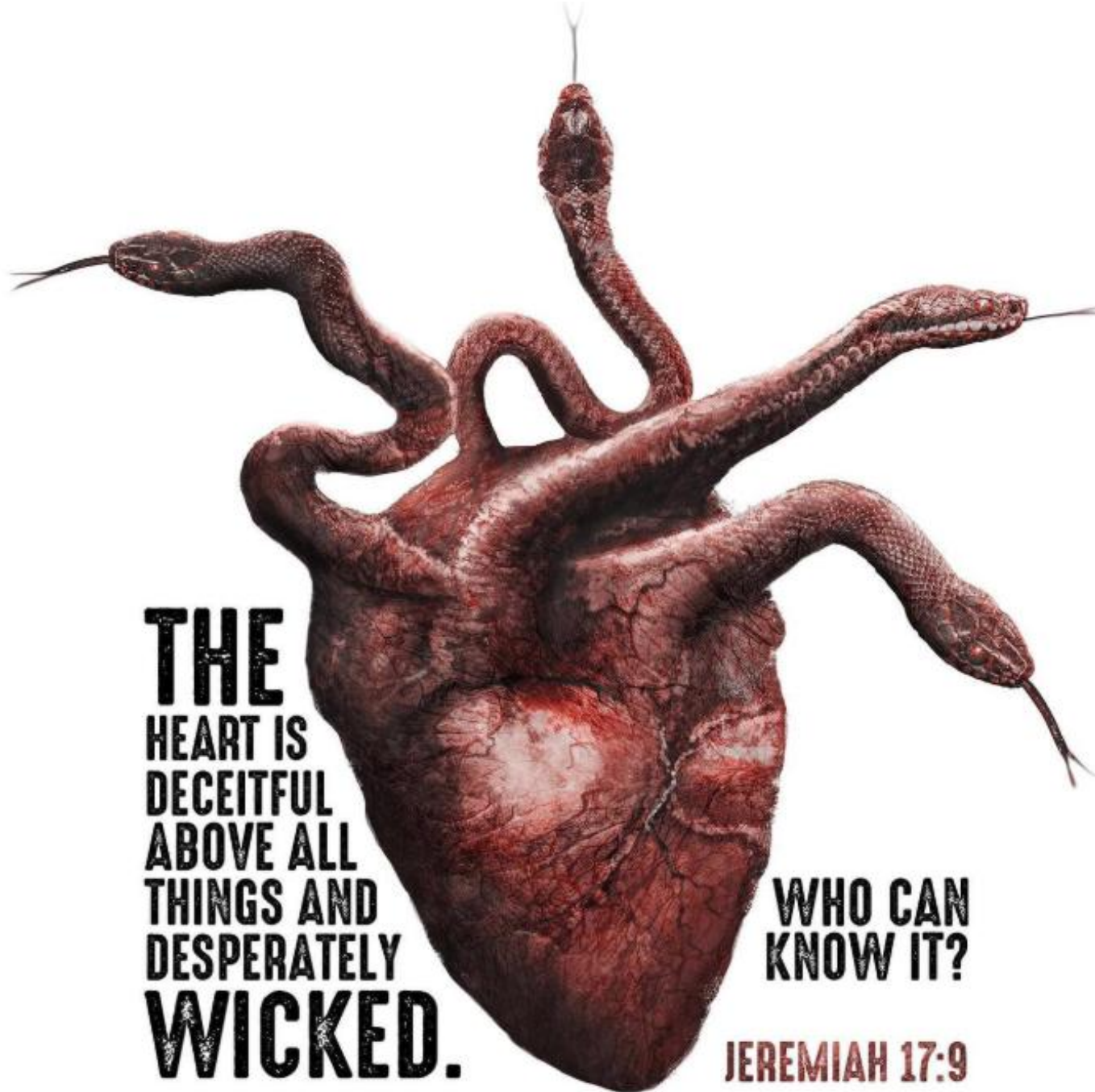
“Man looks on the
outward appearance, but
the LORD looks on the
heart.”

God’s priorities are different from ours — He values
inner character over external appearance.



**What does God
see when He
looks at my
heart?**





**THE
HEART IS
DECEITFUL
ABOVE ALL
THINGS AND
DESPERATELY
WICKED.**

**WHO CAN
KNOW IT?**

JEREMIAH 17:9

Sin Has Spiritually Blinded Us



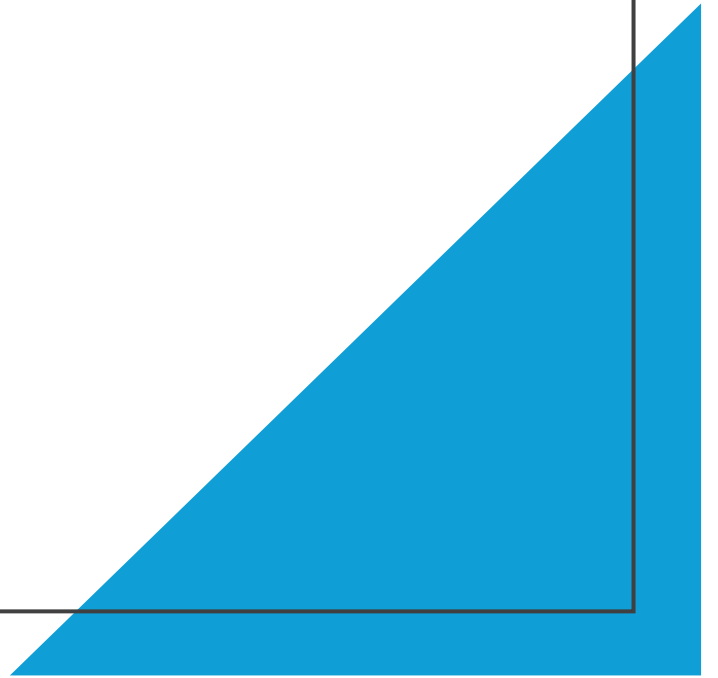


**If God looks on the heart,
then what kind of heart
does He seek?**



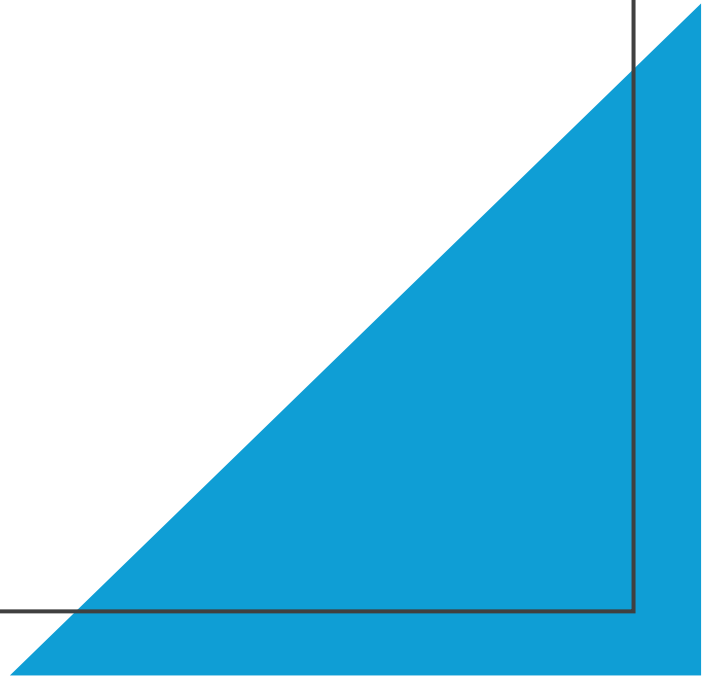
A Man After God's Own Heart

- God **Looks** on the Heart



A Man After God's Own Heart

- God **Looks** on the Heart
- God **Seeks** Those After His Own Heart



God Seeks Those After His Own Heart



The Lord has sought
out a man after his
own heart.

∞ 1 Samuel 13:14





**After God's
Own Heart?**



David Ignored



- In David, we see that inner beauty is superior to external beauty and strength and polish as far as God is concerned
- Jesse had 8 sons
- But only 7 of them were brought to Samuel
- David was left behind – not even an afterthought to Jesse
- Sequentially one after another, these 7 sons that Jesse has put in front of the prophet of God, these candidate for kings, one after one, they're rejected

Not this one...
Not that one...
Not that one either...



**Do you have any
other sons?**



Oh yes... I forgot



David Written Off

- 1 Samuel 16:11 - And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.”
- English - "youngest"



David Written Off

- 1 Samuel 16:11 - And he said, “There remains yet the **youngest**, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.”
- English - "youngest"
- Hebrew - "runt of the litter"



Runt of the Litter



Runt of the Litter

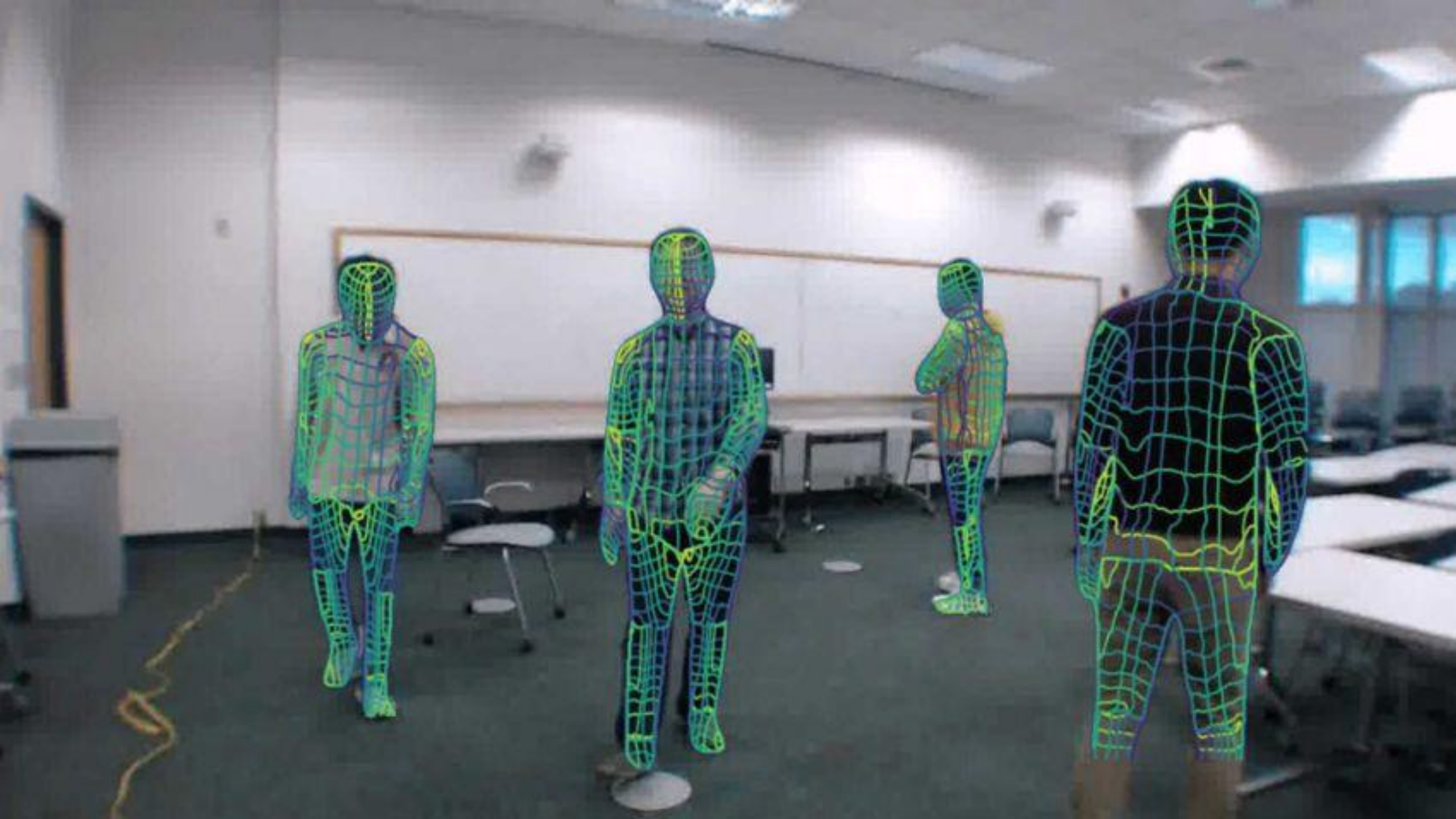


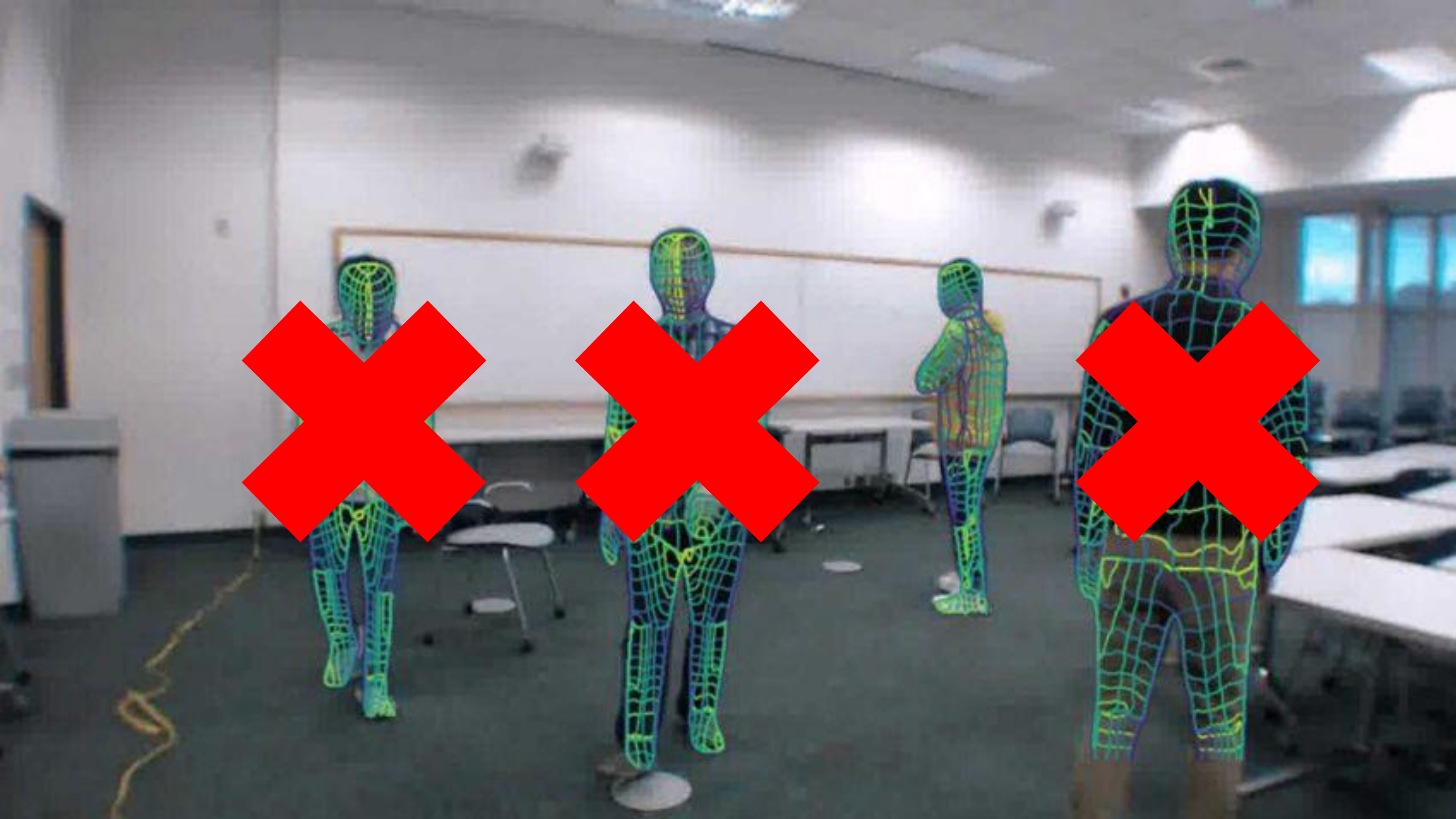
Aside: Who do we Write Off?

- Be very careful about who we write off because could be writing off a prince or a princess of God
- Think about the criteria that we establish for the opposite gender when we consider marriage









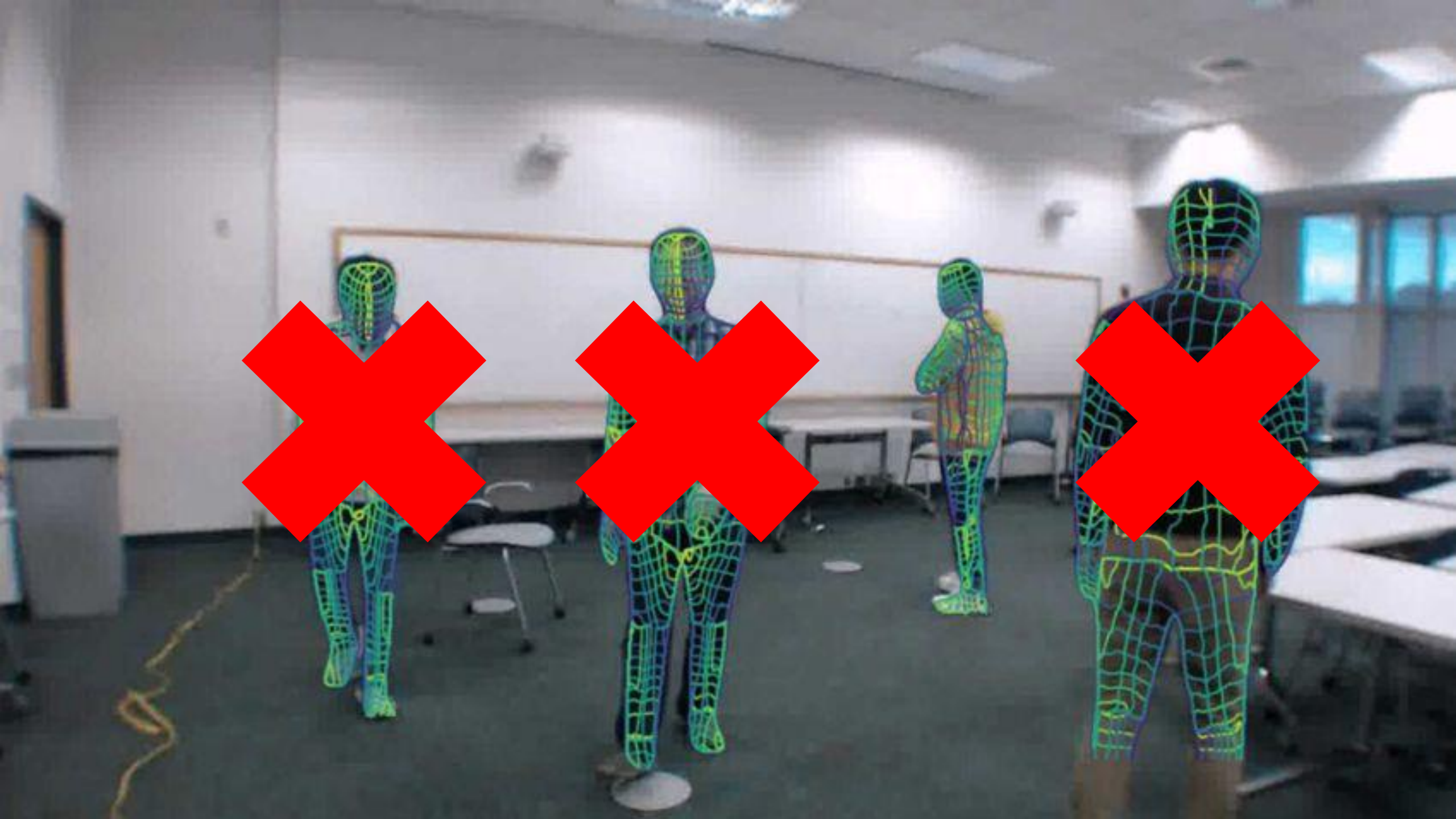
**We will not sit down
until he arrives**

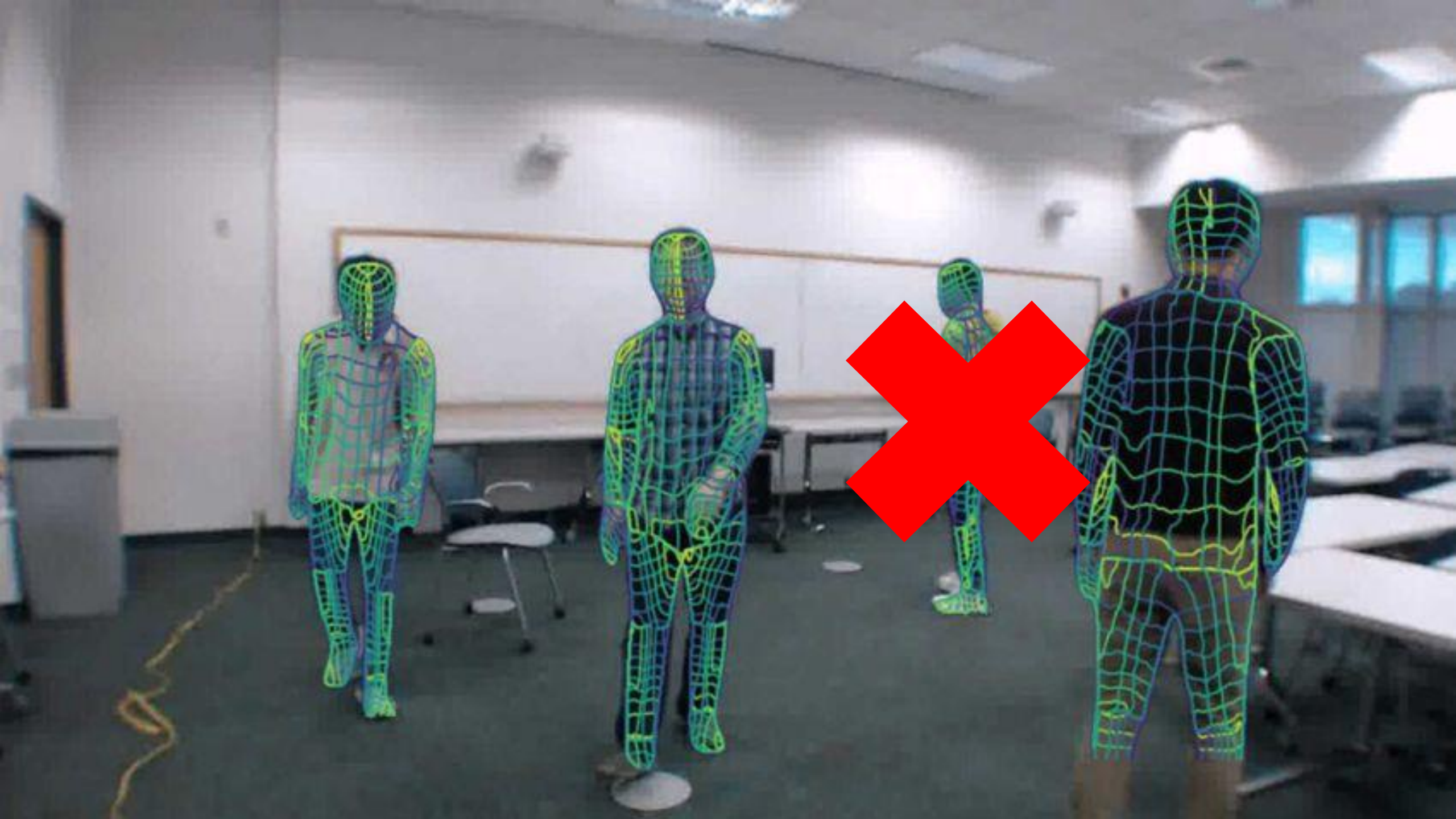


God does not reject Physical Beauty

- 1 Samuel 16:12 - And he sent and brought him in. Now he was **ruddy** and had **beautiful eyes** and was **handsome**. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he."
- God is very much into beauty
- His very nature is beautiful
- Psalm 27:4 - "One thing have I asked of the Lord... to gaze upon the **beauty** of the Lord"







Priority

- Don't turn second things into first things
- And don't turn first things into second things or we do so at our own peril
- Weigh rightly



**Was David's Heart
intrinsically better
than Saul's Heart?**



David and Bathsheba

David and Uriah



A thick blue vertical bar on the left side of the slide, with a horizontal extension at the top and a small square at the bottom.

Sounds much worse than Saul?



David vs Saul

- Saul's heart sought his own glory — he obeyed partially, justified his sin, and built monuments to himself (1 Sam. 15:12)
 - David's heart, though imperfect, was surrendered to God — responsive, humble, and repentant
 - God says, “I have found David, son of Jesse, a man after My own heart” (Acts 13:22).
-

Saul

1 Samuel 15:30

"Then he said, "I have sinned; yet **honor me now** before the elders of my people and before Israel, and return with me, that I may bow before **the Lord your God.**""



David

2 Samuel 12:13a

"And David said
unto Nathan, I
have sinned
against the Lord."



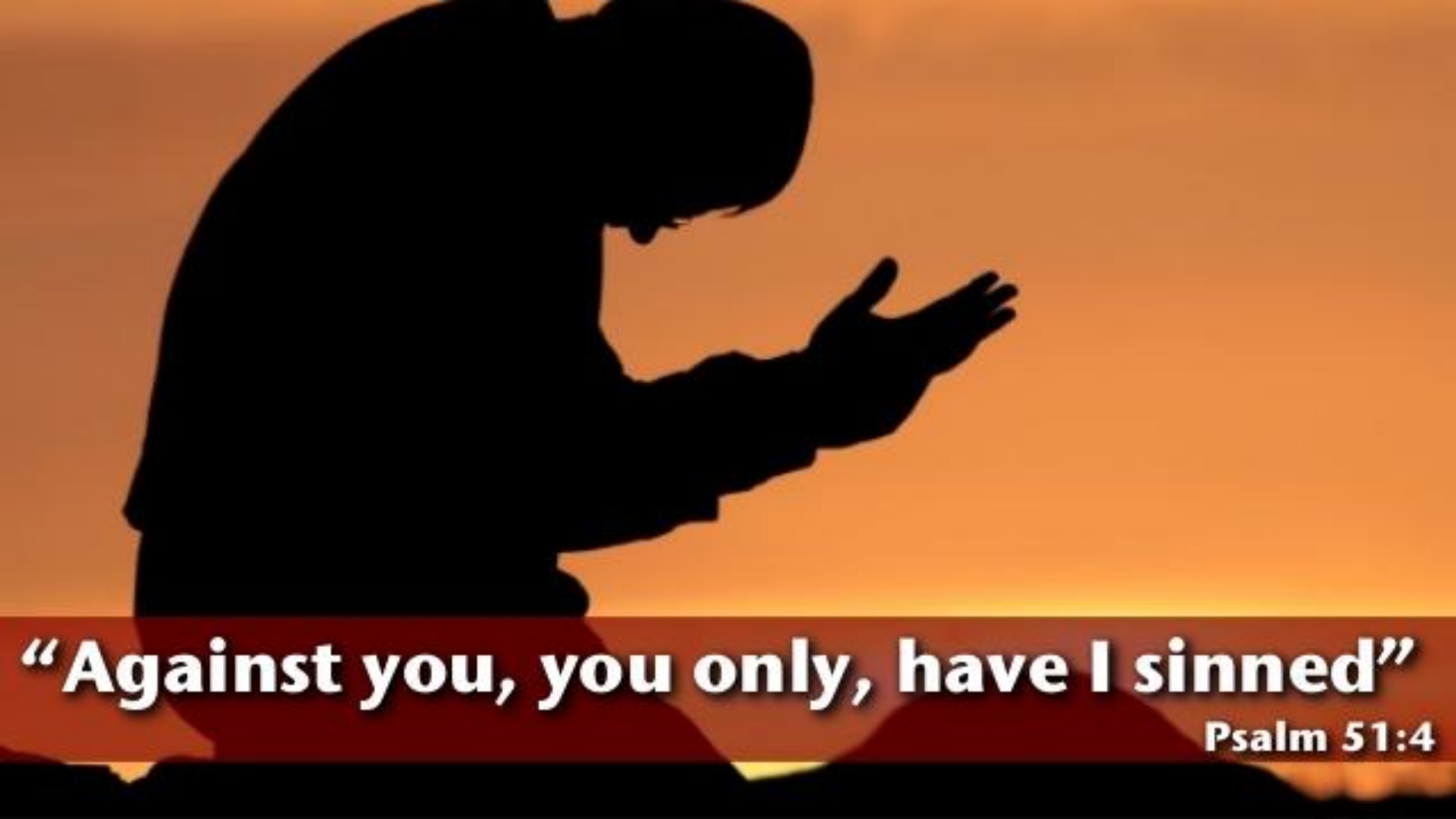
Psalm 51 - Repentance



Have mercy on me,
O God,
according to your
steadfast love;
according to your
abundant mercy

blot
out
my
transgressions.

Psalm 51:1



“Against you, you only, have I sinned”

Psalm 51:4

Create in me a

Clean
heart,
O God,

and renew a
right spirit within me.
Psalm 51:10

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark t-shirt and dark pants, is kneeling on a grassy hill. He is facing away from the camera, with his head bowed and hands clasped in prayer. The background is a vast, open landscape with a bright blue sky filled with soft, white and pinkish clouds. The lighting suggests a sunrise or sunset, with a warm glow on the horizon.

"DO NOT *cast me away* FROM YOUR
PRESENCE, AND DO NOT TAKE YOUR
Holy Spirit
FROM ME."

PSALM 51:11

It's about Response

- David listened, repented, and obeyed
- Saul resisted, excused, and justified

It's about Response

Repentance

- David listened, repented, and obeyed
- Saul resisted, excused, and justified

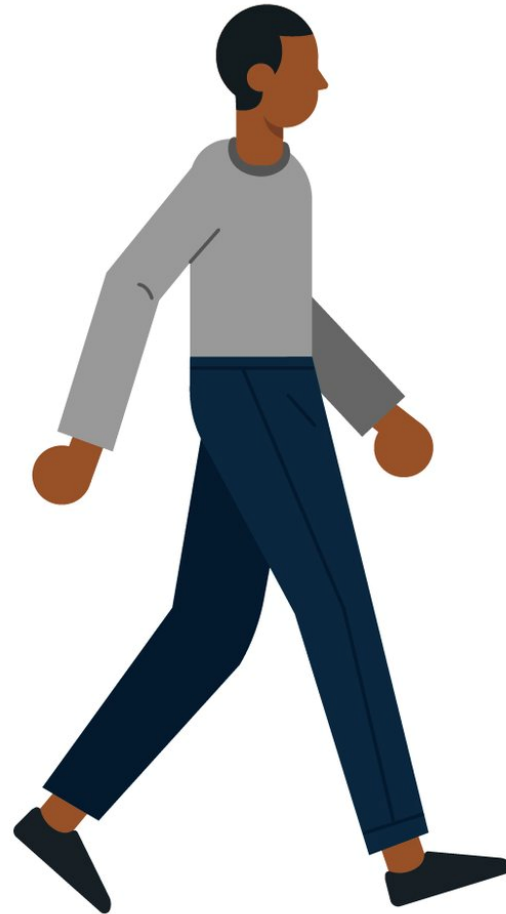
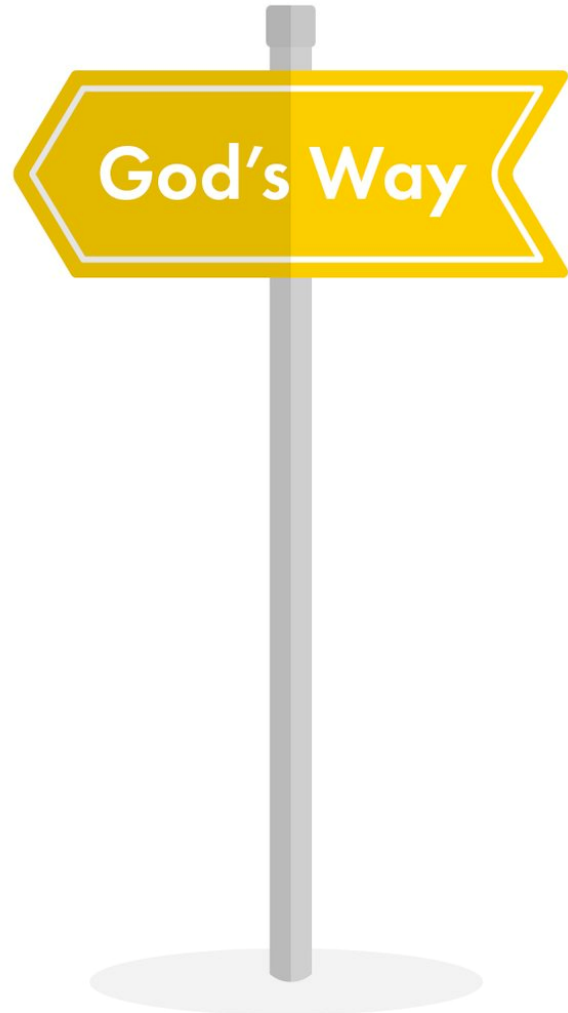
**WHAT
DOES IT
MEAN TO
REPENT?**



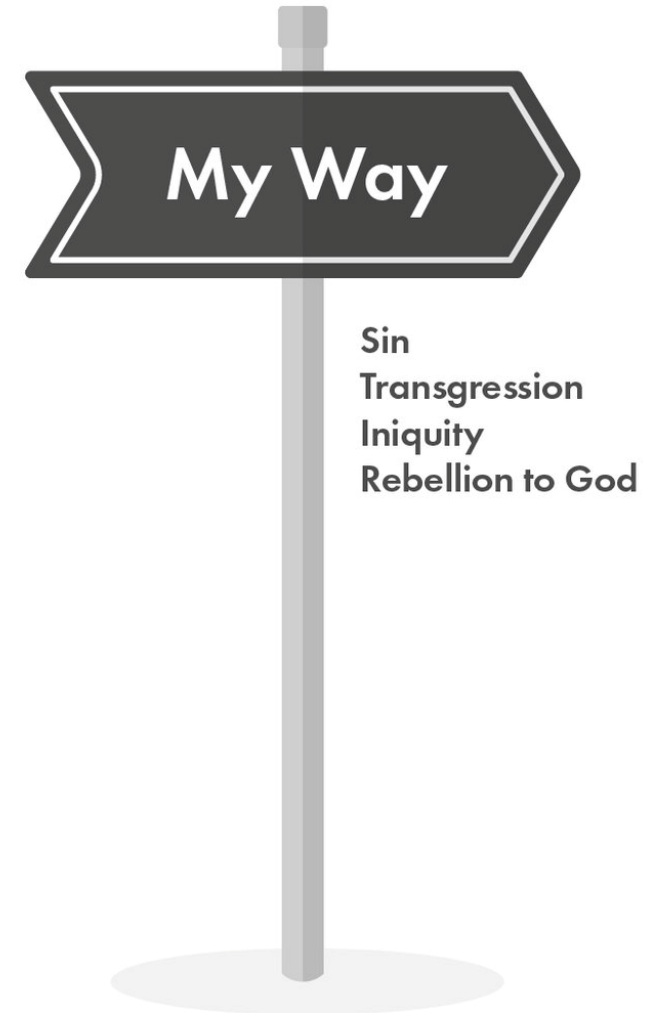


ROAD TRIP

REPENTANCE

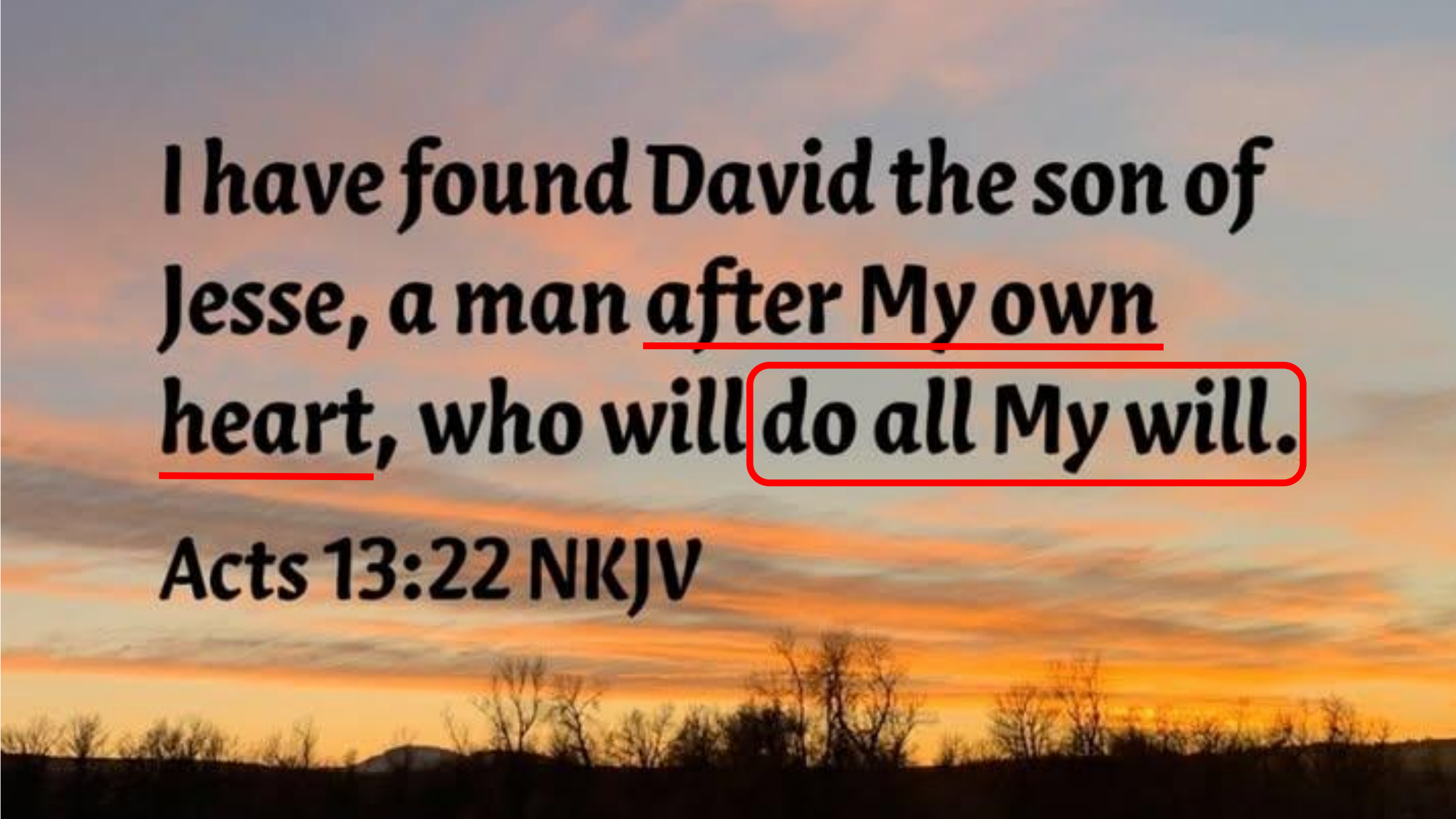


LIVING LIFE GOD'S WAY: ACCORDING TO GOD'S STANDARDS OF GOOD/EVIL



**I have found David the son of
Jesse, a man after My own
heart, who will do all My will.**

Acts 13:22 NKJV



**I have found David the son of
Jesse, a man after My own
heart, who will do all My will.**

Acts 13:22 NKJV

**After God's Own Heart
= Do His Will**

**God desires
people who
align their
hearts with
His will, not
their own**



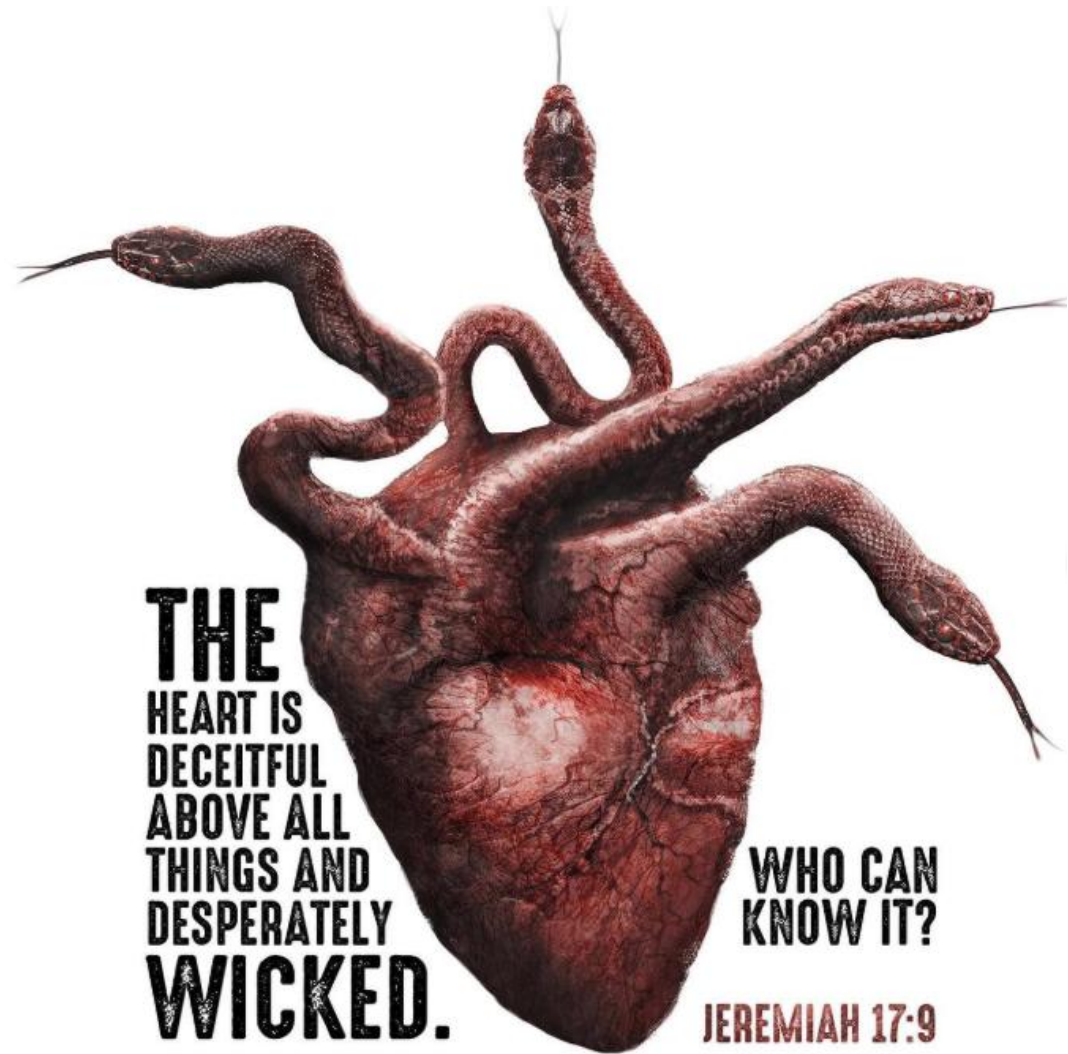
**To be after God's heart is not to
be perfect, but to choose to
pursue God's will above your
own**





**But... Is choosing God
enough?**


**But even David,
“a man after
God’s own
heart,” still had a
sinful heart**



**THE
HEART IS
DECEITFUL
ABOVE ALL
THINGS AND
DESPERATELY
WICKED.**


**WHO CAN
KNOW IT?**

JEREMIAH 17:9

A dark, moody photograph of a person with their head buried in their hands, suggesting a state of despair, regret, or deep thought. The person is wearing a light-colored t-shirt, and the background is dark and out of focus.

**Repentance does not
Change our Heart**

It remains just as sinful

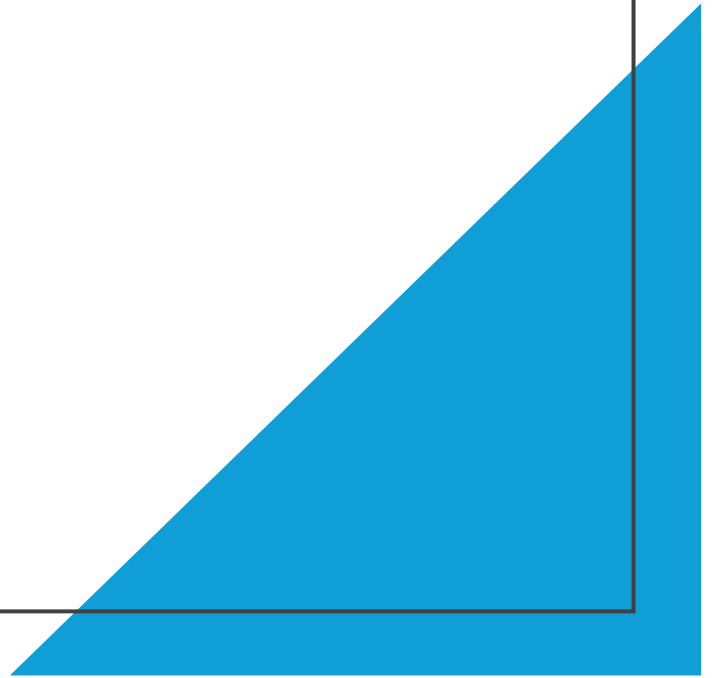
The background of the image is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of various shades of pink, purple, and magenta. Scattered throughout this background are numerous heart shapes of different sizes, some appearing as bright, glowing points of light and others as softer, more diffused shapes. The overall effect is romantic and gentle.

**But Repentance allows God to
change the Heart**

**How does God change
our Heart?**

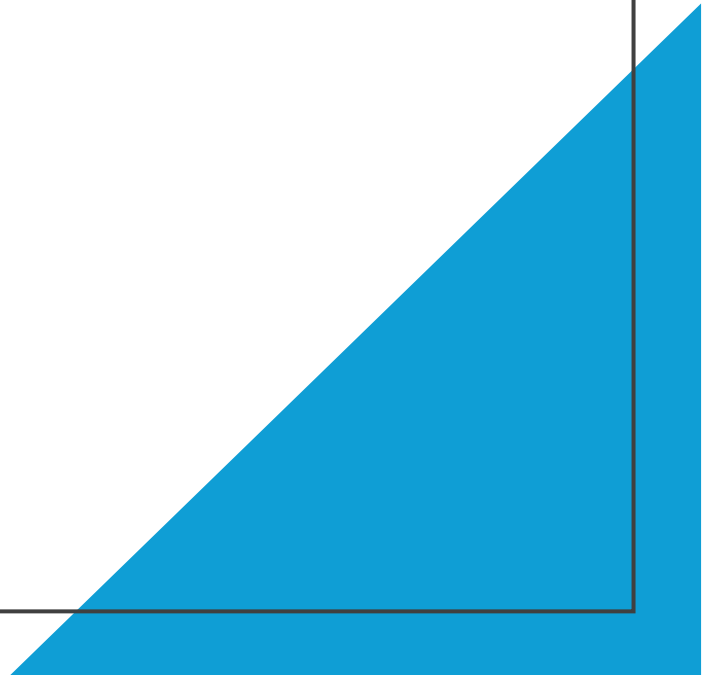
A Man After God's Own Heart

- God **Looks** on the Heart
- God **Seeks** Those After His Own Heart



A Man After God's Own Heart

- God **Looks** on the Heart
- God **Seeks** Those After His Own Heart
- God **Transforms** our Hearts in Christ



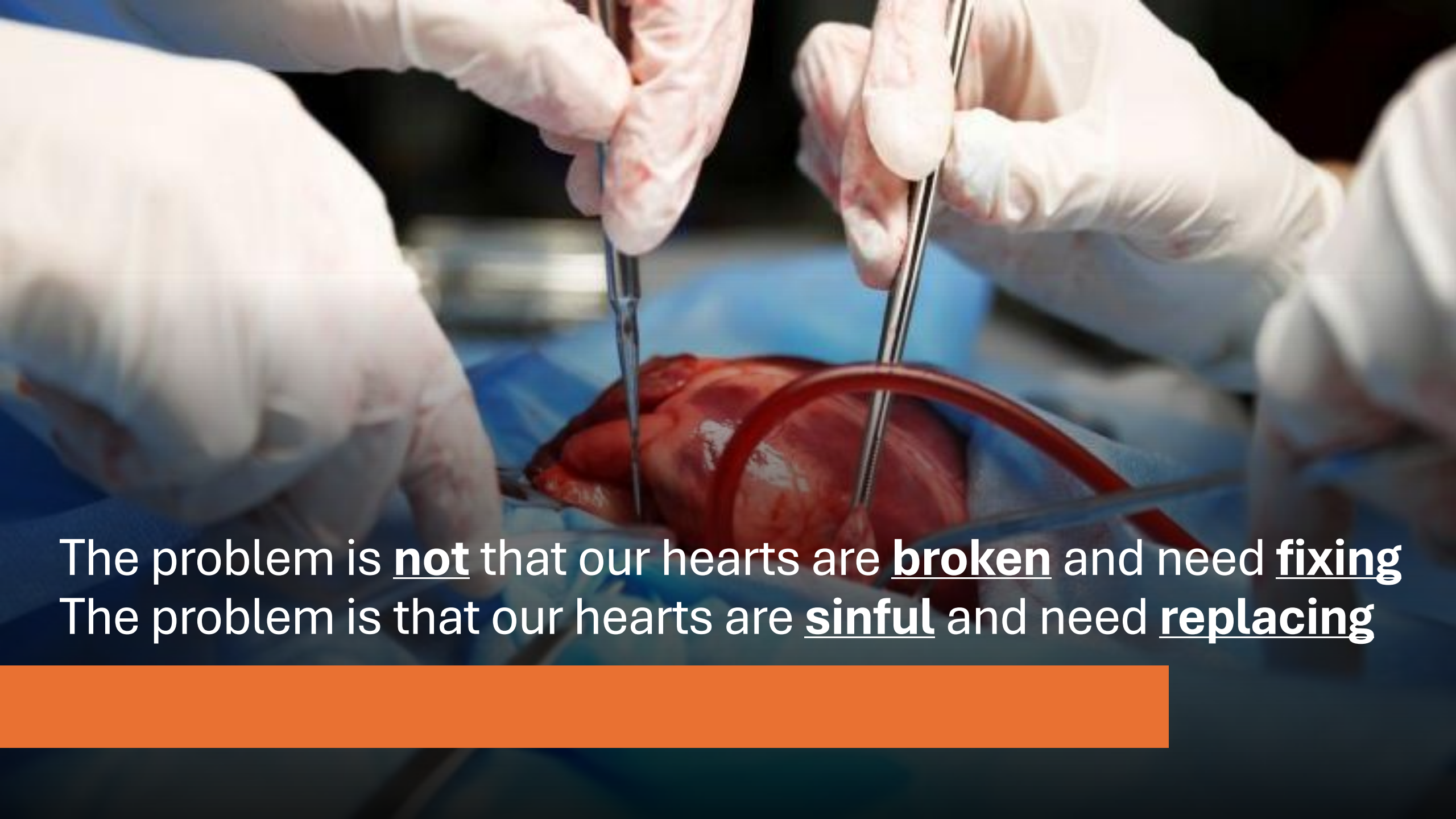
God Transforms our Hearts in Christ



The Need for Substitution: Our Hearts Are Corrupt

- If David, the best of men, couldn't sustain a pure heart, what hope do we have?
- We need a substitute





The problem is not that our hearts are broken and need fixing
The problem is that our hearts are sinful and need replacing



**Ultimately, David points us to the greater King -
Jesus, the true Man after God's own heart**

Jesus - the true Man after God's own Heart

- Perfect and ultimate fulfillment of “a man after God's own heart”
- David reflected it imperfectly
- Jesus embodied it completely



The Provision of Substitution: Christ's Perfect Heart for Our Corrupt Heart

- Jesus took our sin upon Himself
- every impure motive,
rebellious desire, every failure
of the heart
- In exchange, He gives us His
righteousness - His perfect
heart that always pleased the
Father



Jesus, fully God
and fully man, has
the perfect heart -
fully aligned with
the Father



"Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done."





FOR OUR SAKE
HE MADE HIM TO BE

SIN

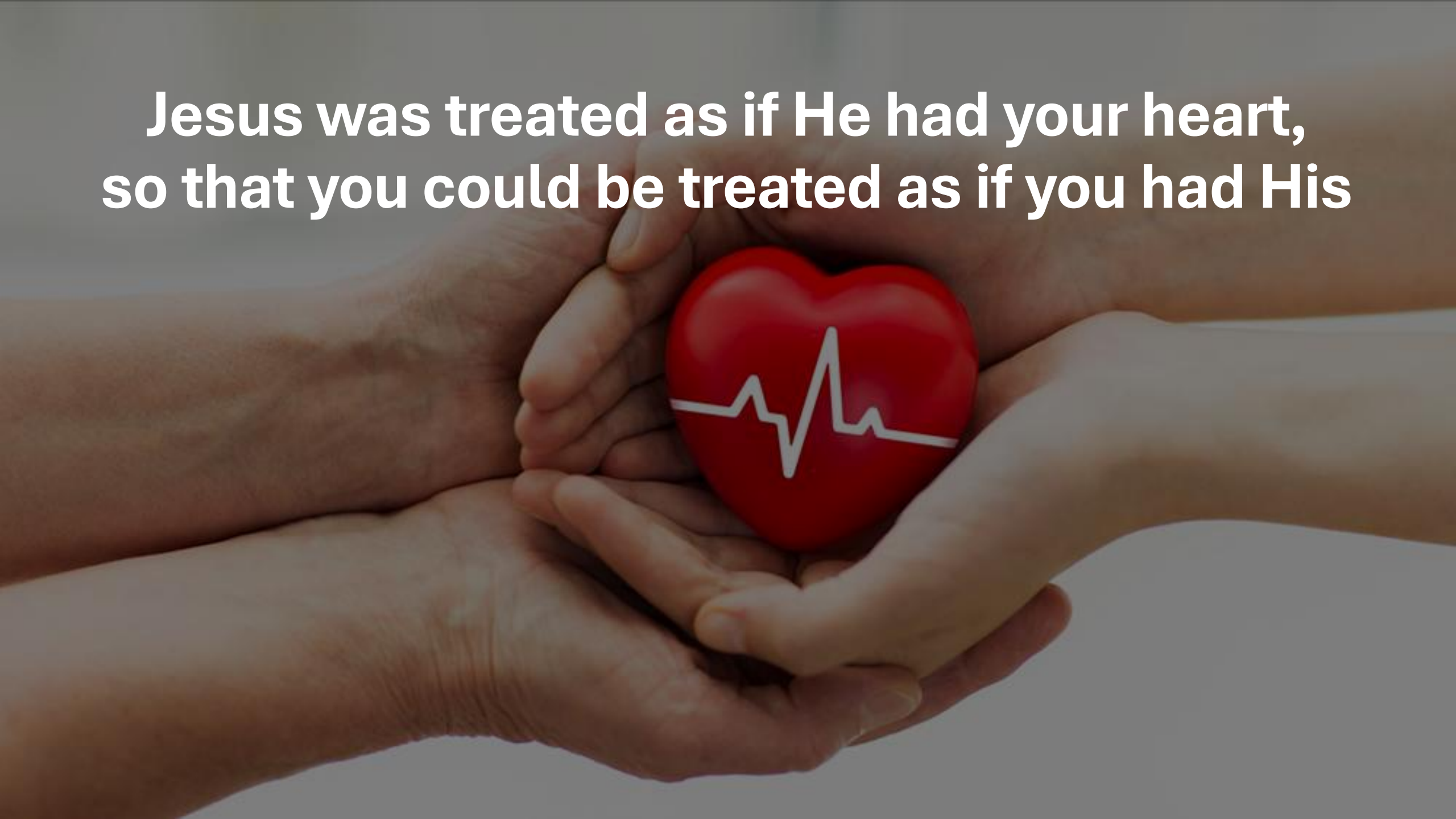
WHO KNEW

NO SIN

so that in him we might become
the righteousness of God.

2 Corinthians 5:21

**Jesus was treated as if He had your heart,
so that you could be treated as if you had His**



The Means:

Union Through Faith and the Spirit


- How does that substitution become ours personally?
- When we place our faith in Jesus, **the Holy Spirit unites us to Him** so that what is true of Christ becomes true of us
- Romans 6:5-6
- "If we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."



Repentance and Faith

Signing the Form for God's Heart Transplant



A close-up photograph of a human heart being held by a surgeon's gloved hand. The heart is a vibrant red color, indicating it is still alive. It is being held in a way that shows its complex structure, including the coronary arteries and veins. The surgeon's hand is wearing a blue surgical glove. In the background, other surgical instruments and a blue drape are visible, suggesting an operating room environment. The lighting is focused on the heart, making it the central point of interest.

When you come to Jesus, your dying heart is taken out, and His living heart is given in its place

The Result:

We Begin to Live from His Heart

- When you know the King, His Spirit forms His heart in you
- Galatians 2:20
- “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.”



**Only through the
Holy Spirit - given
through Christ -
can our hearts
truly reflect
God's Heart**

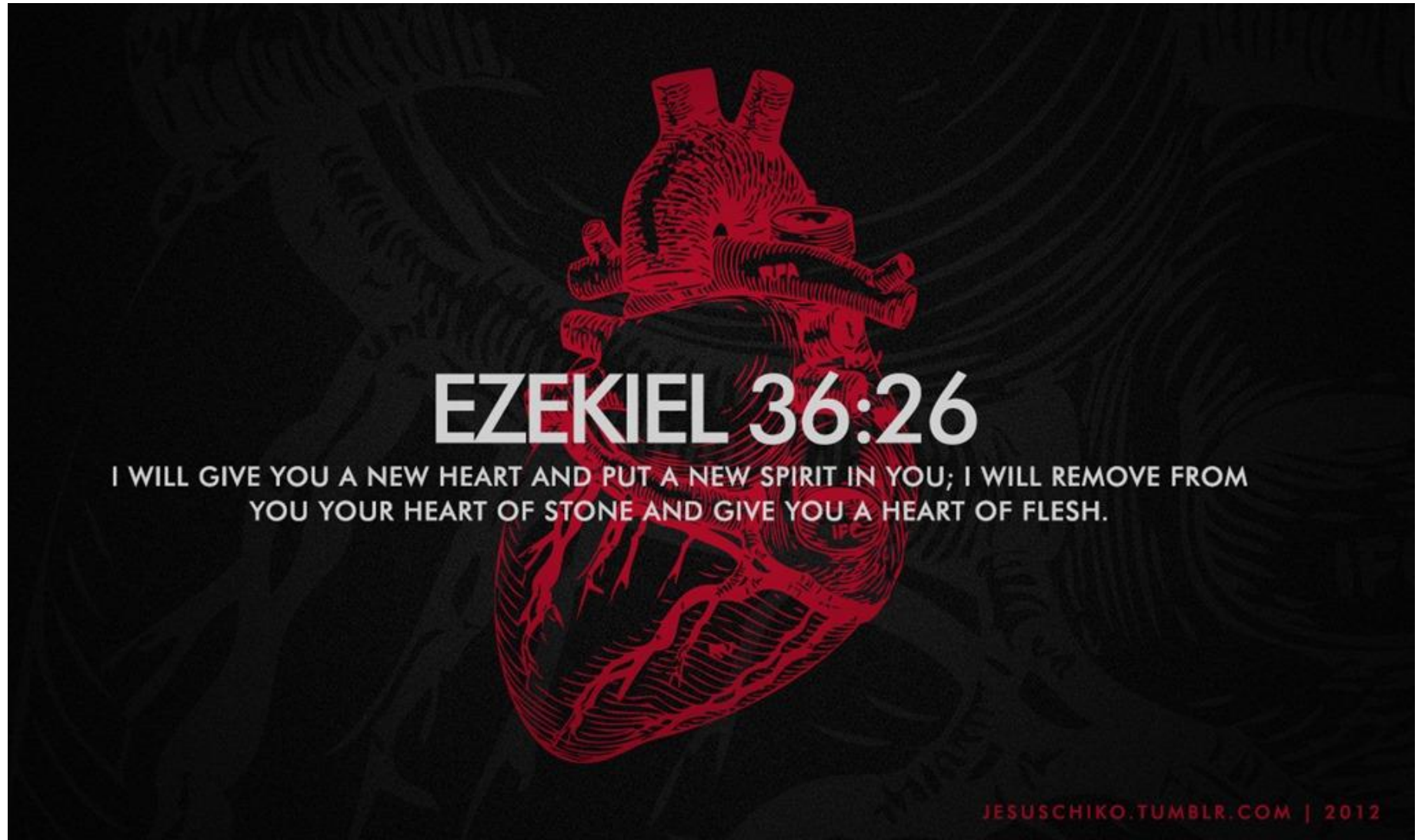


God Desires Hearts Aligned to His Will

- John 6:40
- "For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and **believes in him should have eternal life**, and I will raise him up on the last day."



**We need a
heart
transplant,
not heart
adjustment**



We need transformation, not behavior modification



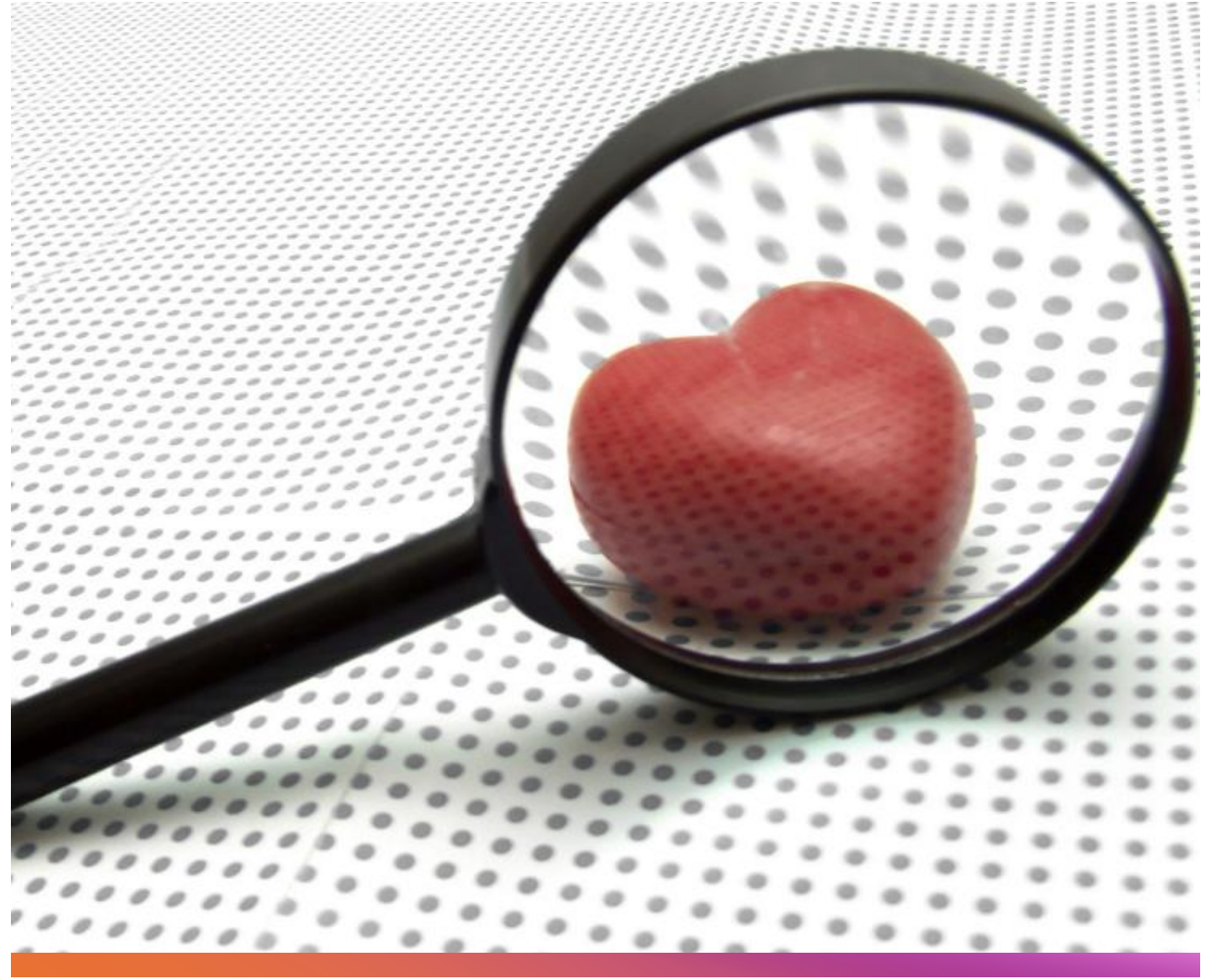
Ask God to search your heart (Psalm 139:23–24)

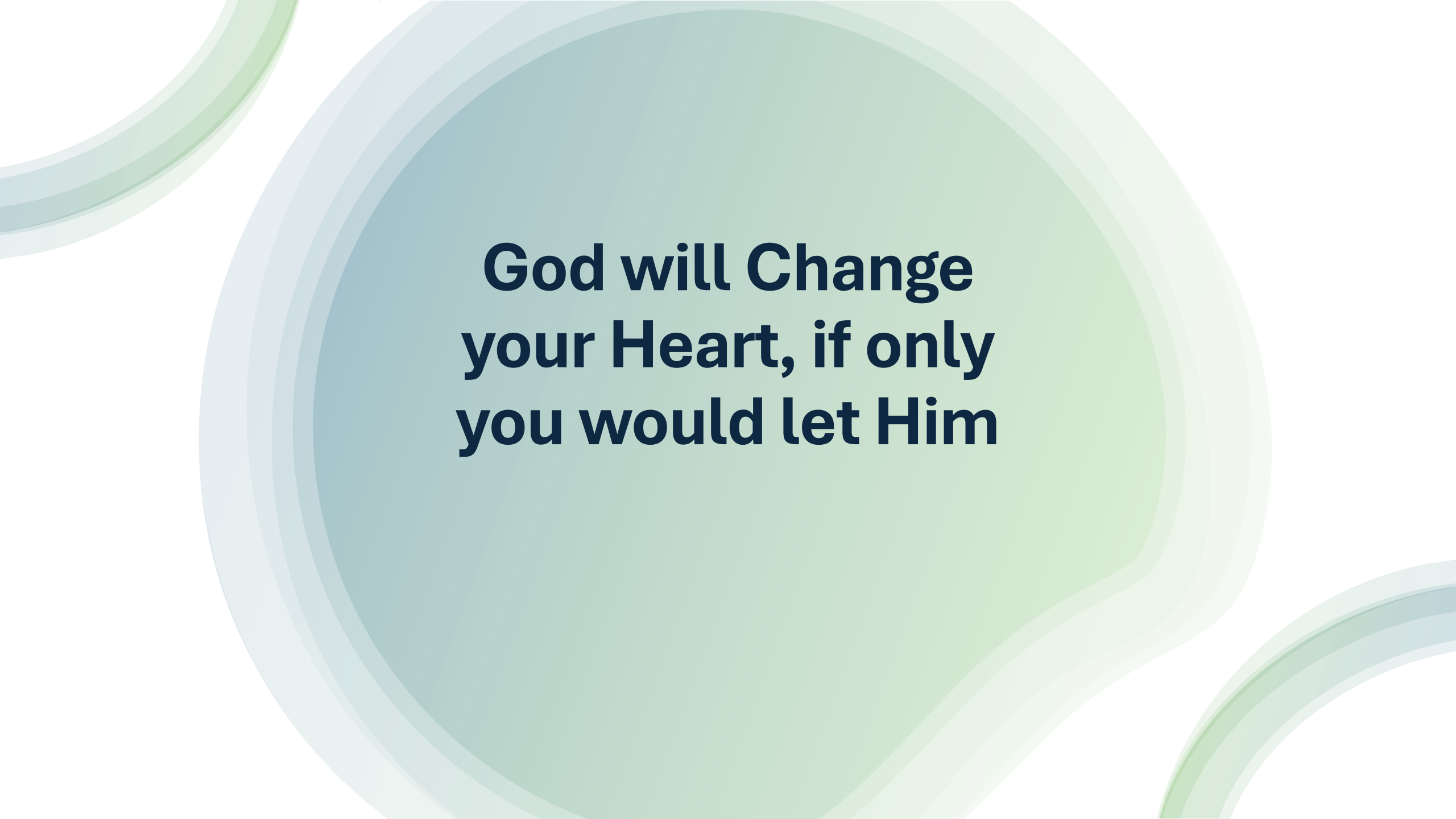
23 Search me, O God, and
know my heart!

Try me and know my
thoughts!

24 And see if there be any
grievous way in me,

and lead me in the way
everlasting!

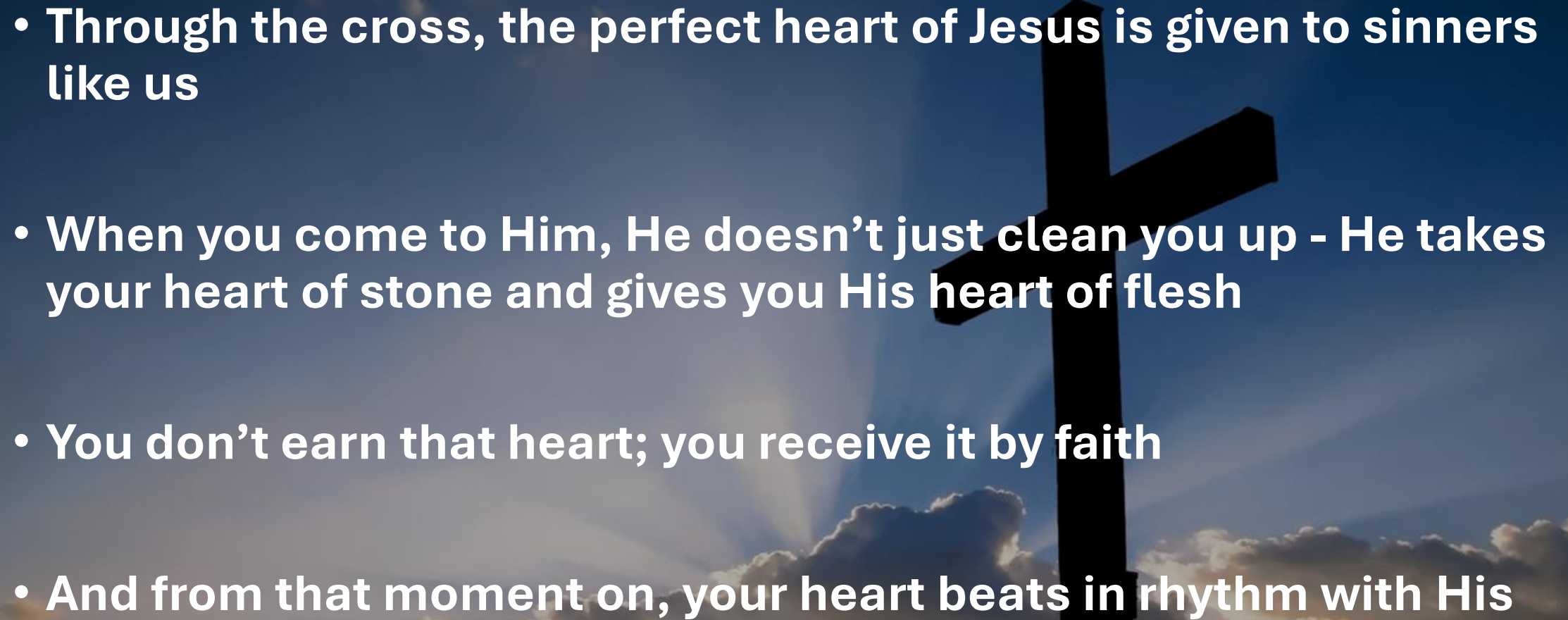




**God will Change
your Heart, if only
you would let Him**

- **David's heart shows us what God desires**
- **Our hearts show us why we need help**
- **Jesus' heart shows us what God provides**



- 
- **Through the cross, the perfect heart of Jesus is given to sinners like us**
 - **When you come to Him, He doesn't just clean you up - He takes your heart of stone and gives you His heart of flesh**
 - **You don't earn that heart; you receive it by faith**
 - **And from that moment on, your heart beats in rhythm with His**

**Clean Heart,
Right Spirit**



New Heart, New Spirit

I WILL GIVE YOU
A NEW HEART AND
A NEW SPIRIT

EZEKIEL 36:26



A Man After God's Own Heart

1 Samuel 16:1-13

