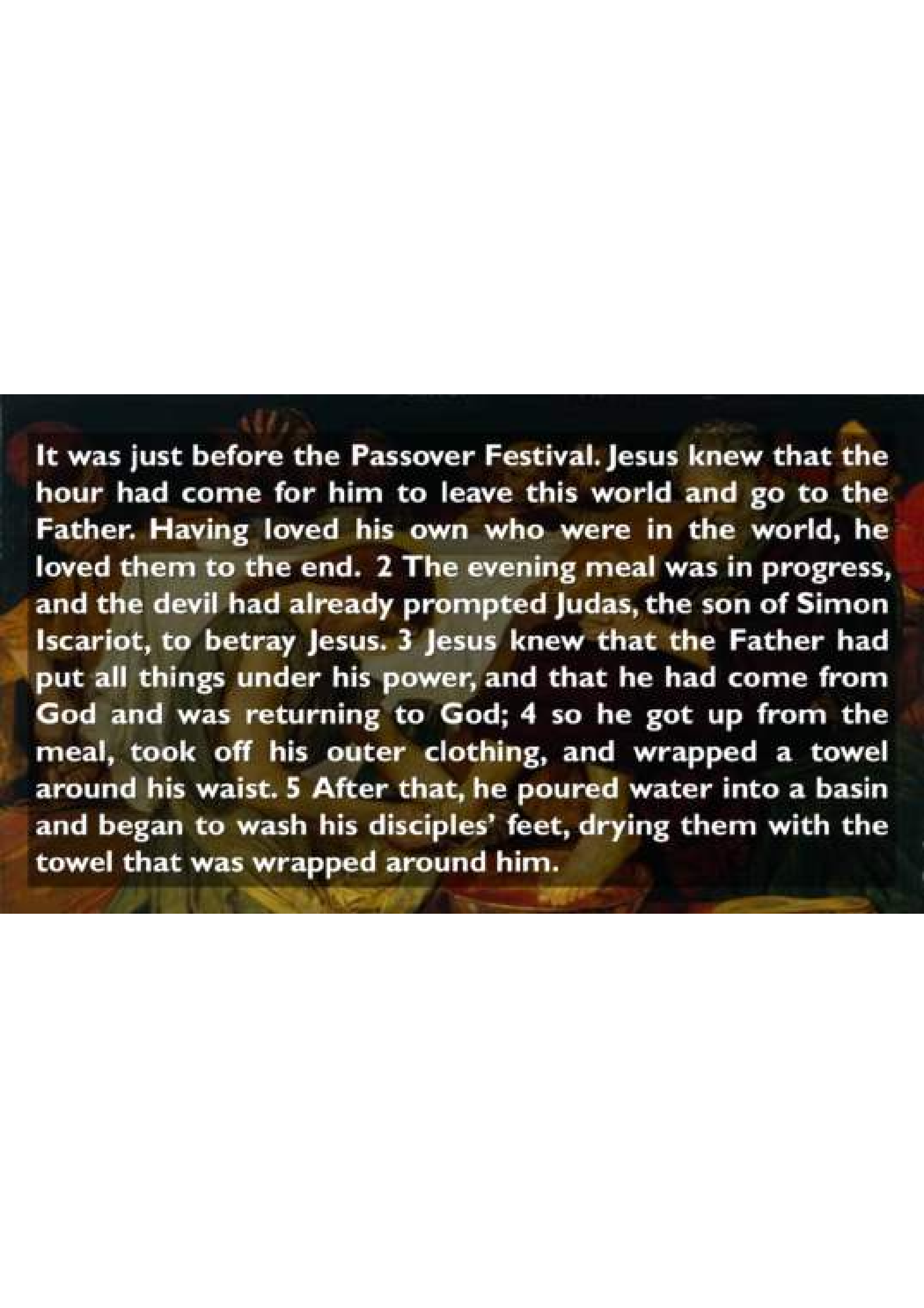
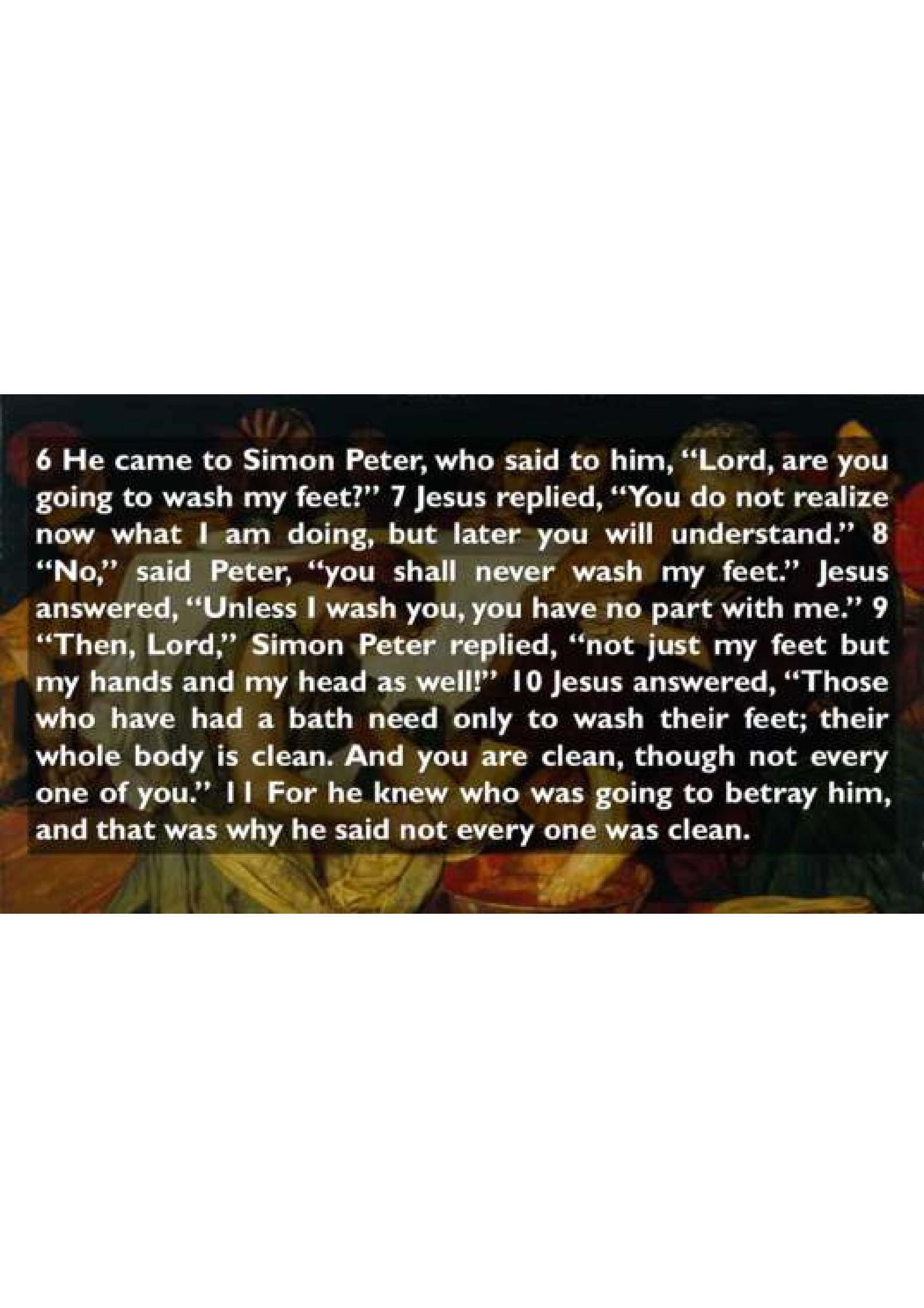




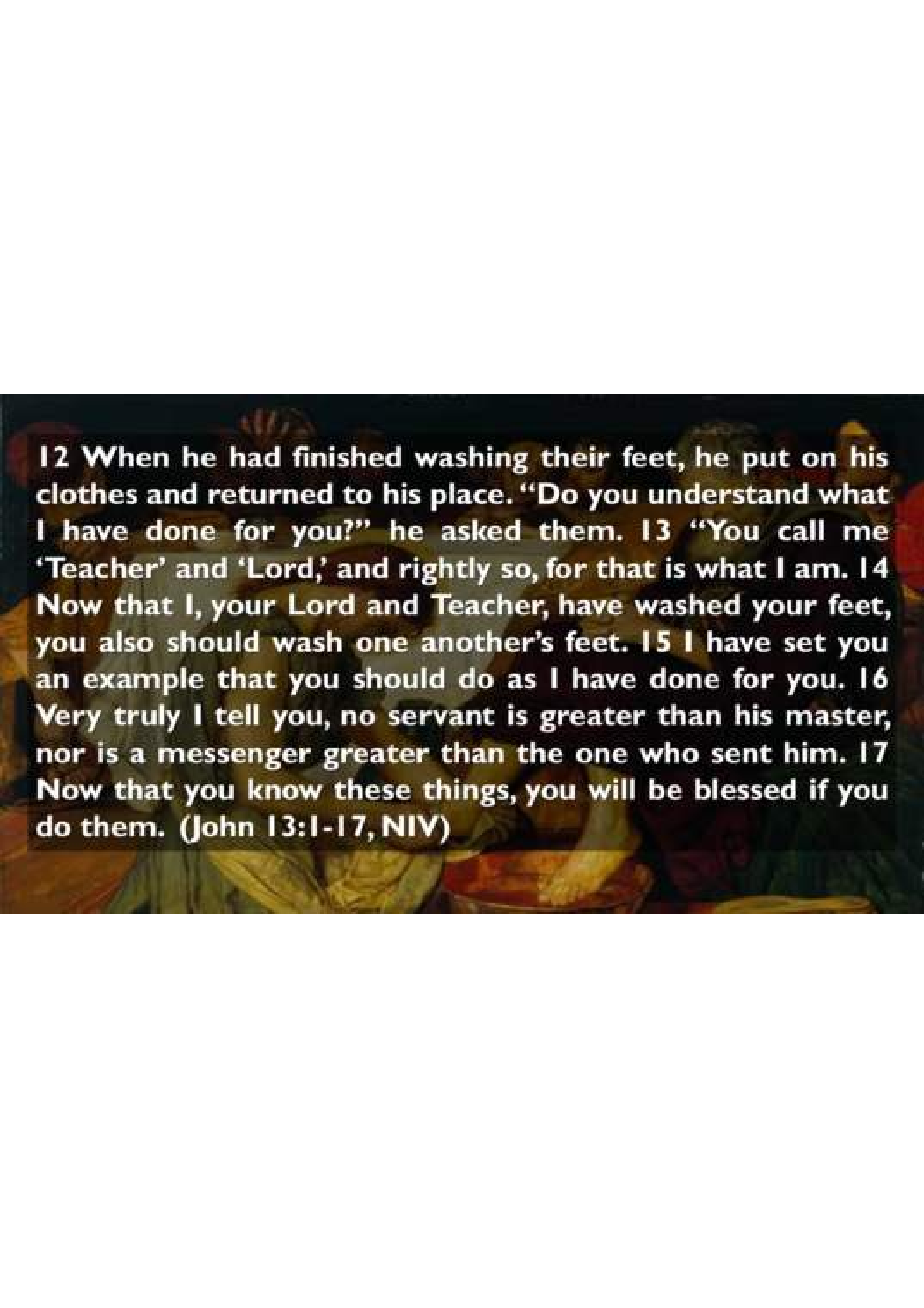
**The Sacrament of the Sweaty Towel:
Following in the Footsteps of our Servant King**

A painting depicting Jesus washing the feet of his disciples during the Last Supper. Jesus is seated in the center, wearing a white robe, and is washing the foot of a disciple. The other disciples are seated around the table, some looking at Jesus and others looking down. The scene is set in a room with a dark background and a table covered with a white cloth. The text is overlaid on the painting.

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. 2 The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. 3 Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; 4 so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. 5 After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

A religious painting depicting Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Jesus is shown in the center, wearing a white robe, kneeling and washing the foot of a disciple. Other disciples are visible around him, some looking on and others with their feet being washed. The scene is set in a room with a dark background and warm lighting. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

6 He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" 7 Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand." 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me." 9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!" 10 Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." 11 For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.



12 When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. “Do you understand what I have done for you?” he asked them. 13 “You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and rightly so, for that is what I am. 14 Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another’s feet. 15 I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. 16 Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. 17 Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them. (John 13:1-17, NIV)



Descending into Greatness

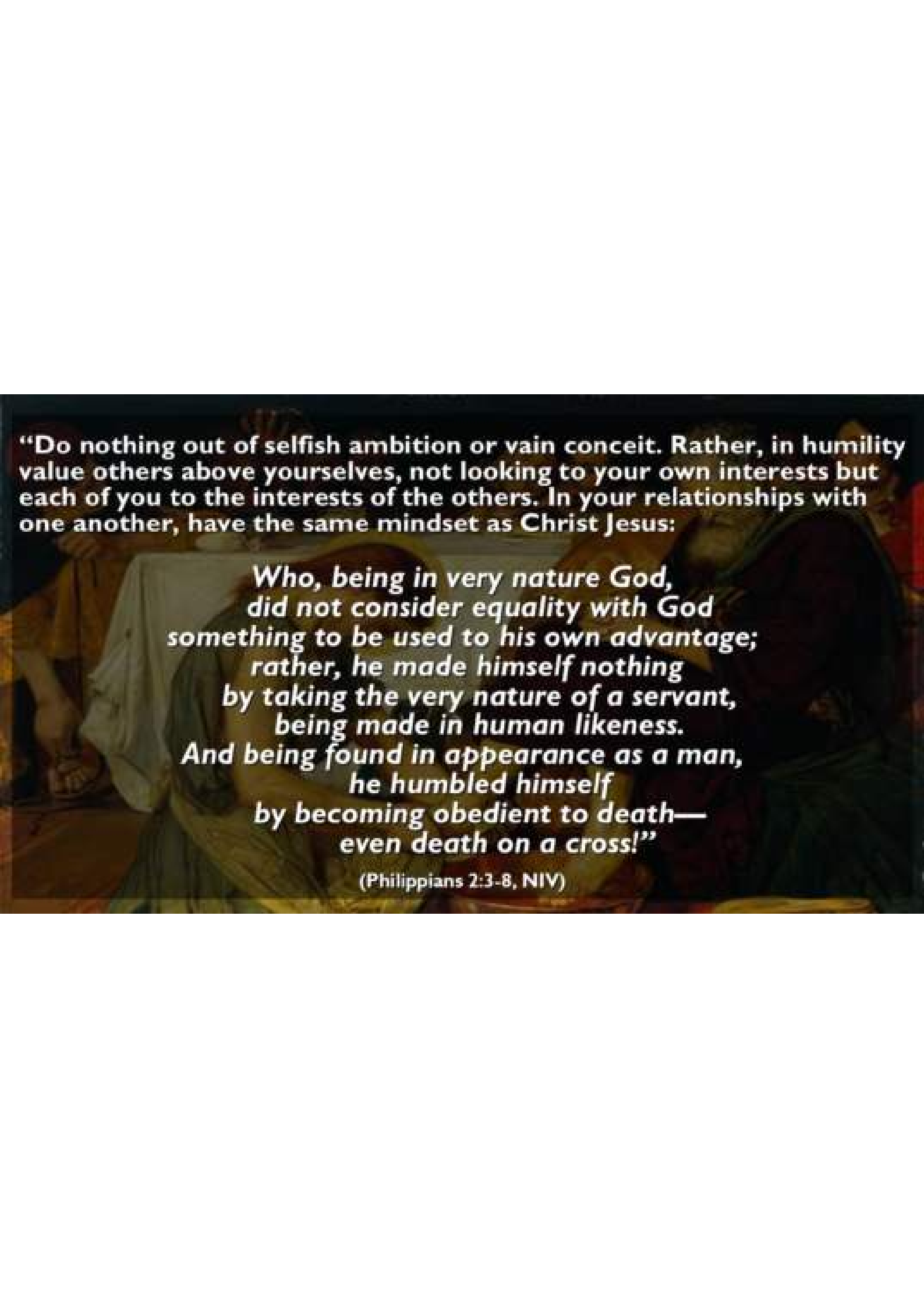
- The word “**lead**” or “**leader**” appears just **17** times in the four gospels, and nearly every time it is used by Jesus in an uncomplimentary fashion, most often to refer to his adversaries.
- The word “**follow**” or “**follower**” appears about **86** times in the four gospels, and is the standard invitation Jesus used to call others to enter into a life devoted to Christian discipleship.
- The word “**serve**” or “**servant**” appears at least **114** times in the four gospels, and represents the most common characteristic of those who have surrendered their lives to the lordship of Christ.

Descending into Greatness

Jesus *rarely* called his disciples to *lead*,
he *frequently* called them to *follow*,
but he *constantly* called them to *serve*.

Descending into Greatness

- “Whoever wants to become great among you must be your **servant**, and whoever wants to be first must be your **slave** – just as the Son of Man did not come to be **served**, but to **serve**, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mt 20:26-28, NIV)
- “I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. Very truly I tell you, no **servant** is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him.” (Jn 13:15-17, NIV)

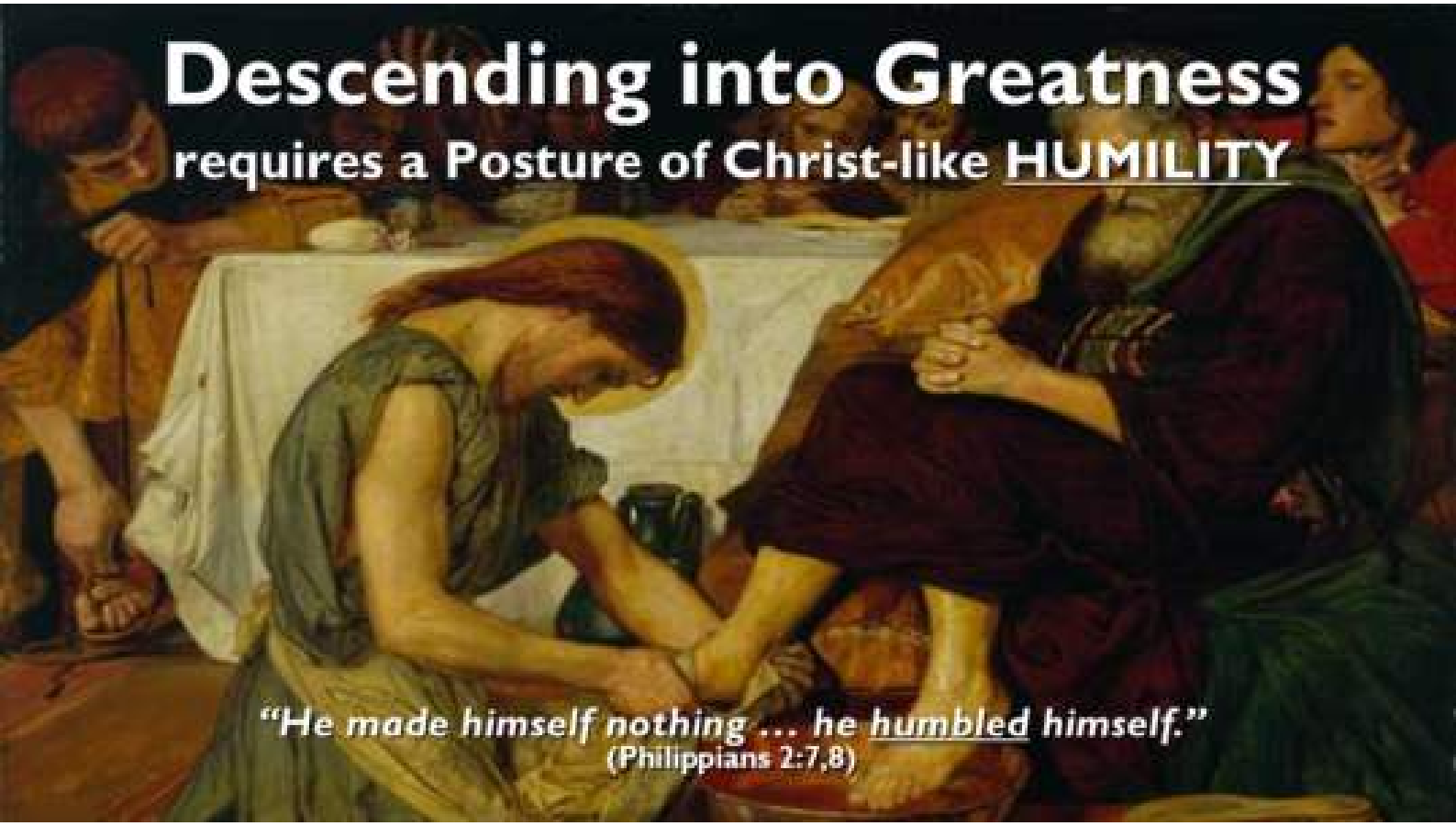


"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

***Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God
something to be used to his own advantage;
rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!"***

(Philippians 2:3-8, NIV)

Descending into Greatness requires a Posture of Christ-like HUMILITY

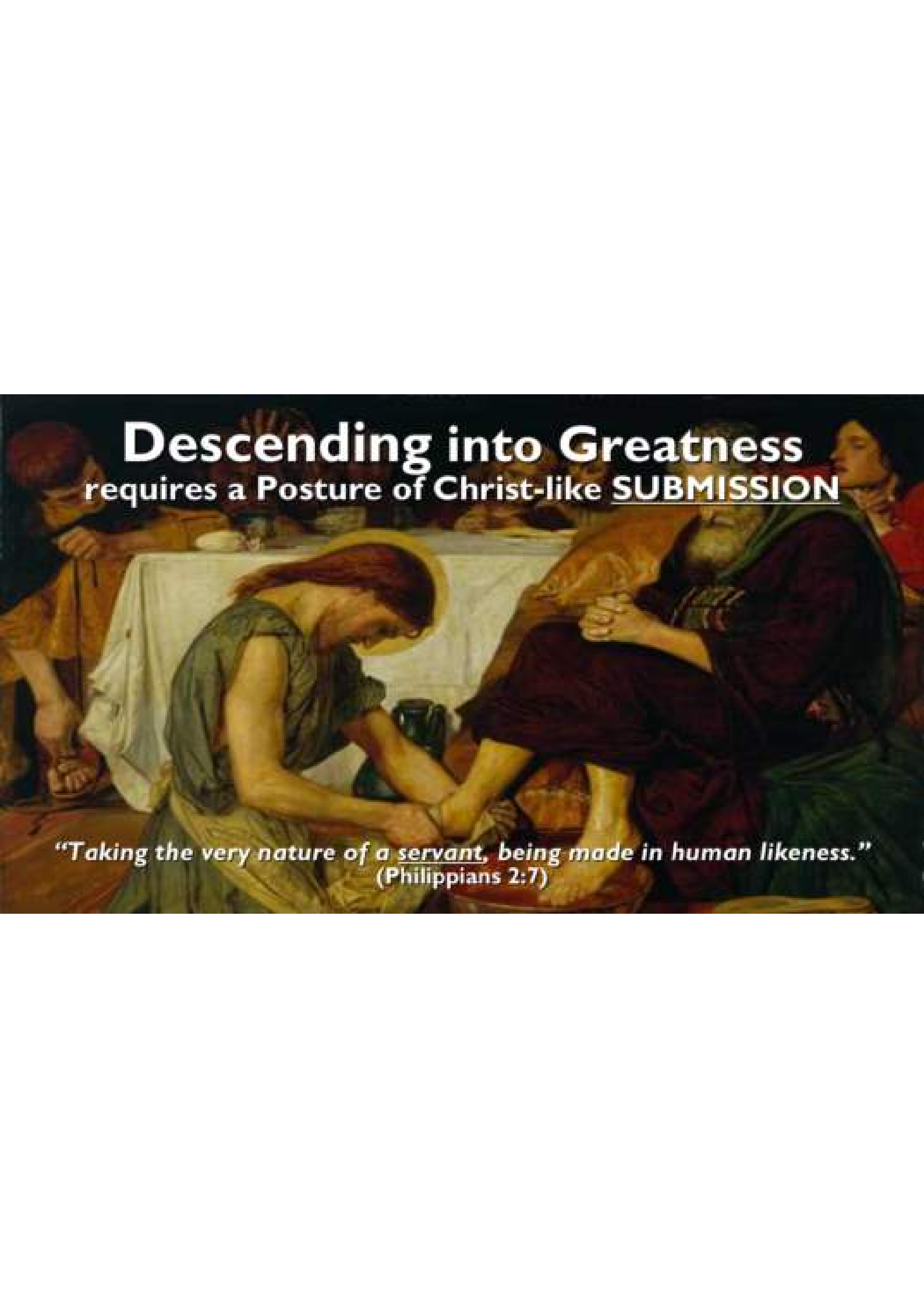


*"He made himself nothing ... he humbled himself."
(Philippians 2:7,8)*



"The truly great man is the one that makes others great."

- Domitien Sabongerwa



Descending into Greatness

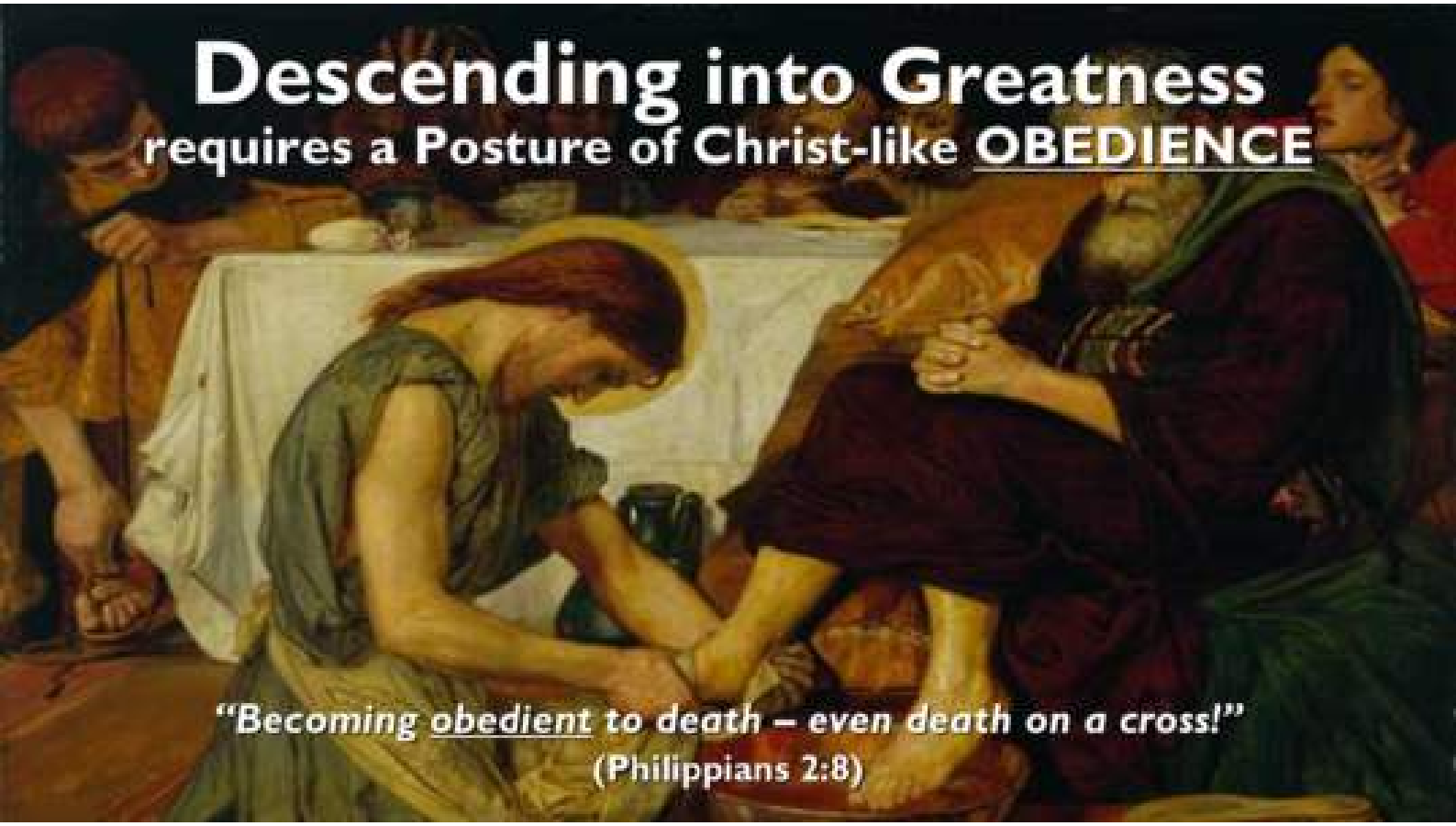
requires a Posture of Christ-like SUBMISSION

*"Taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness."
(Philippians 2:7)*



*"When we choose to be a servant,
we surrender the right to decide who and when we will serve."
- Richard Foster*

Descending into Greatness requires a Posture of Christ-like OBEDIENCE



*"Becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross!"
(Philippians 2:8)*

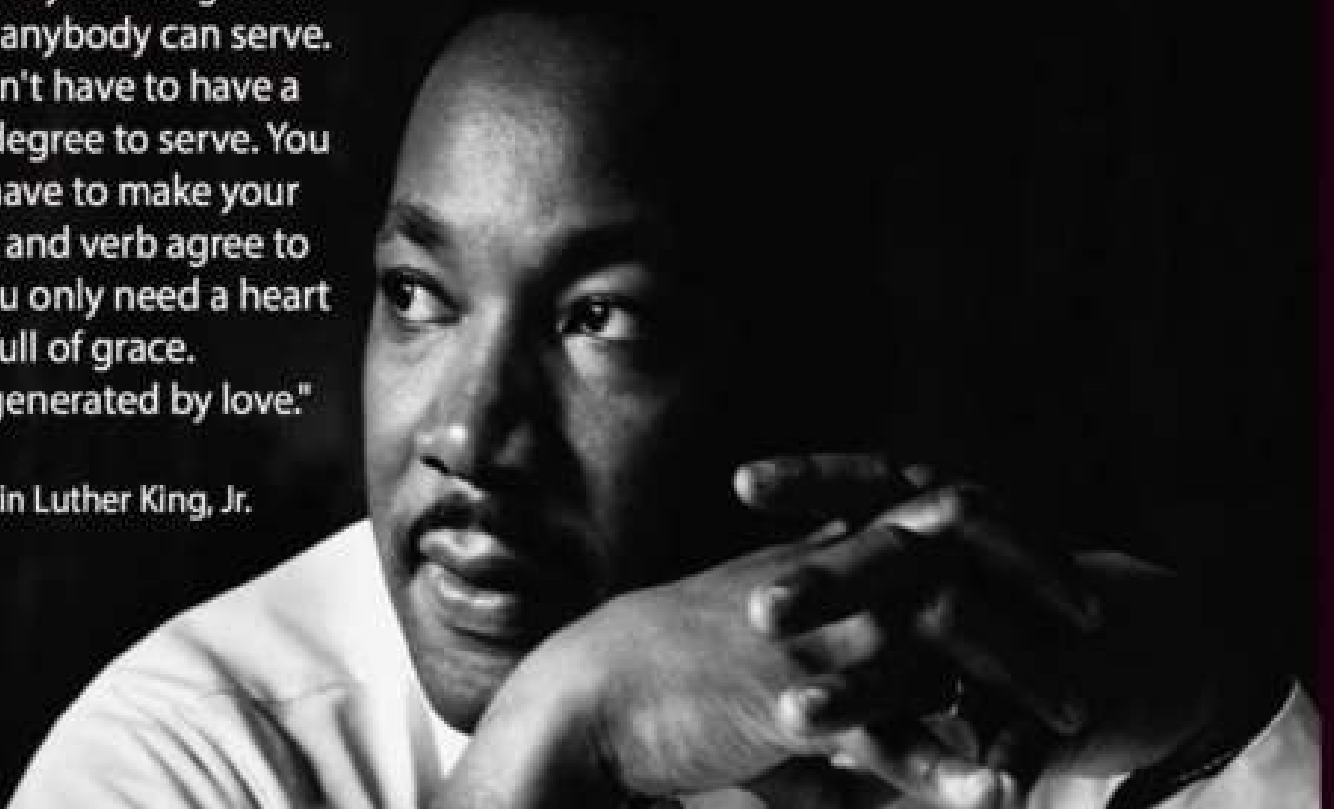


"Servant leaders ... are created not in commanding others but in obeying their Commander."

—Calvin Miller

"Everybody can be great...
because anybody can serve.
You don't have to have a
college degree to serve. You
don't have to make your
subject and verb agree to
serve. You only need a heart
full of grace.
A soul generated by love."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

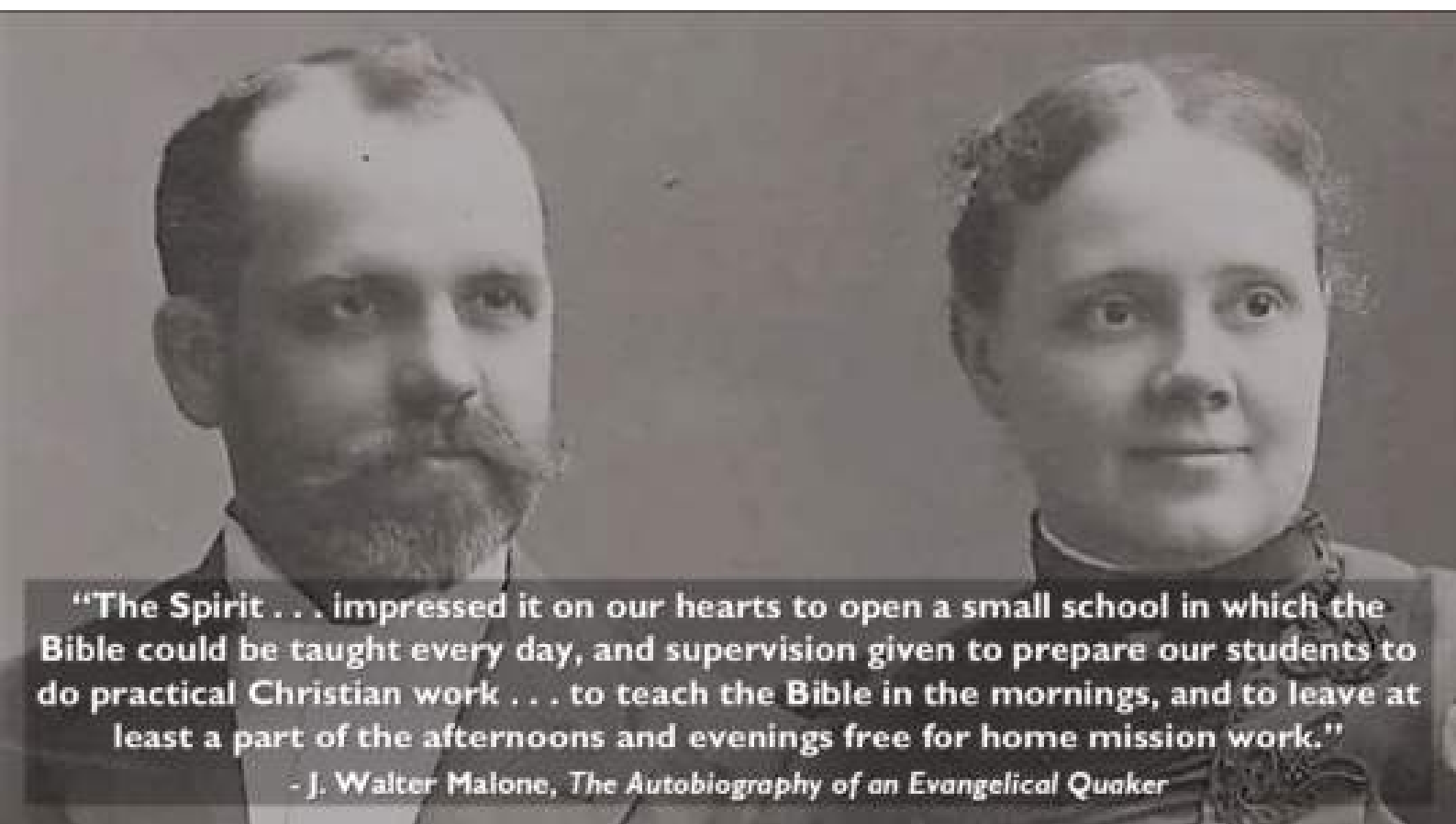


MOTHER TERESA

(1910-1997)

NOT ALL OF US CAN
DO GREAT THINGS.
BUT WE CAN DO
SMALL THINGS
WITH GREAT LOVE





"The Spirit . . . impressed it on our hearts to open a small school in which the Bible could be taught every day, and supervision given to prepare our students to do practical Christian work . . . to teach the Bible in the mornings, and to leave at least a part of the afternoons and evenings free for home mission work."

- J. Walter Malone, *The Autobiography of an Evangelical Quaker*

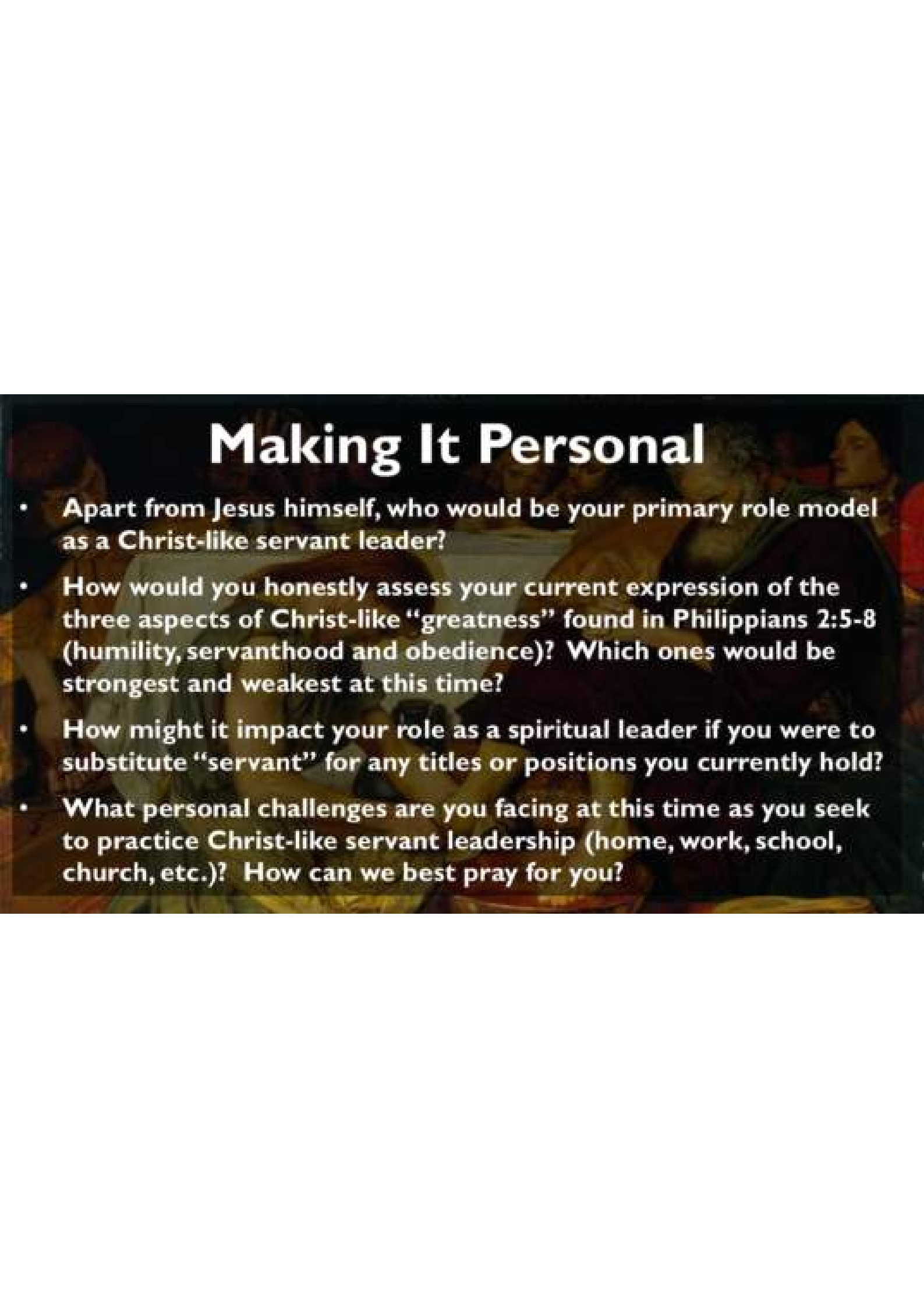


“Six students showed up for the first day of class on March 17, 1892. Fifty students enrolled in the first year ... by 1900 their students had founded or served in five orphanages, twenty Shelter Homes, and twenty-nine Rescue Missions ... students did rescue work in a half mile district around Public Square once known as ‘the devil’s throne.’ It held 400 saloons, forty houses of prostitution, and most of Cleveland’s gambling resorts, wholesale liquor stores, and opium dens ... each student was assigned a neighborhood in a poor part of town to evangelize and offer social services to the poor ... by 1907 the school had missionaries in Brazil, China, Cuba, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, South Africa, and Venezuela. The fact that most Friends now live outside the Western world is due, in part, to Emma as head of the mission that took Quakerism to Kenya.”

- John W. Oliver, *A Quaker Vision for Education*

J. WALTER MALONE
1857 † 1898

EMMA B. MALONE
1859 † 1924



Making It Personal

- **Apart from Jesus himself, who would be your primary role model as a Christ-like servant leader?**
- **How would you honestly assess your current expression of the three aspects of Christ-like “greatness” found in Philippians 2:5-8 (humility, servanthood and obedience)? Which ones would be strongest and weakest at this time?**
- **How might it impact your role as a spiritual leader if you were to substitute “servant” for any titles or positions you currently hold?**
- **What personal challenges are you facing at this time as you seek to practice Christ-like servant leadership (home, work, school, church, etc.)? How can we best pray for you?**