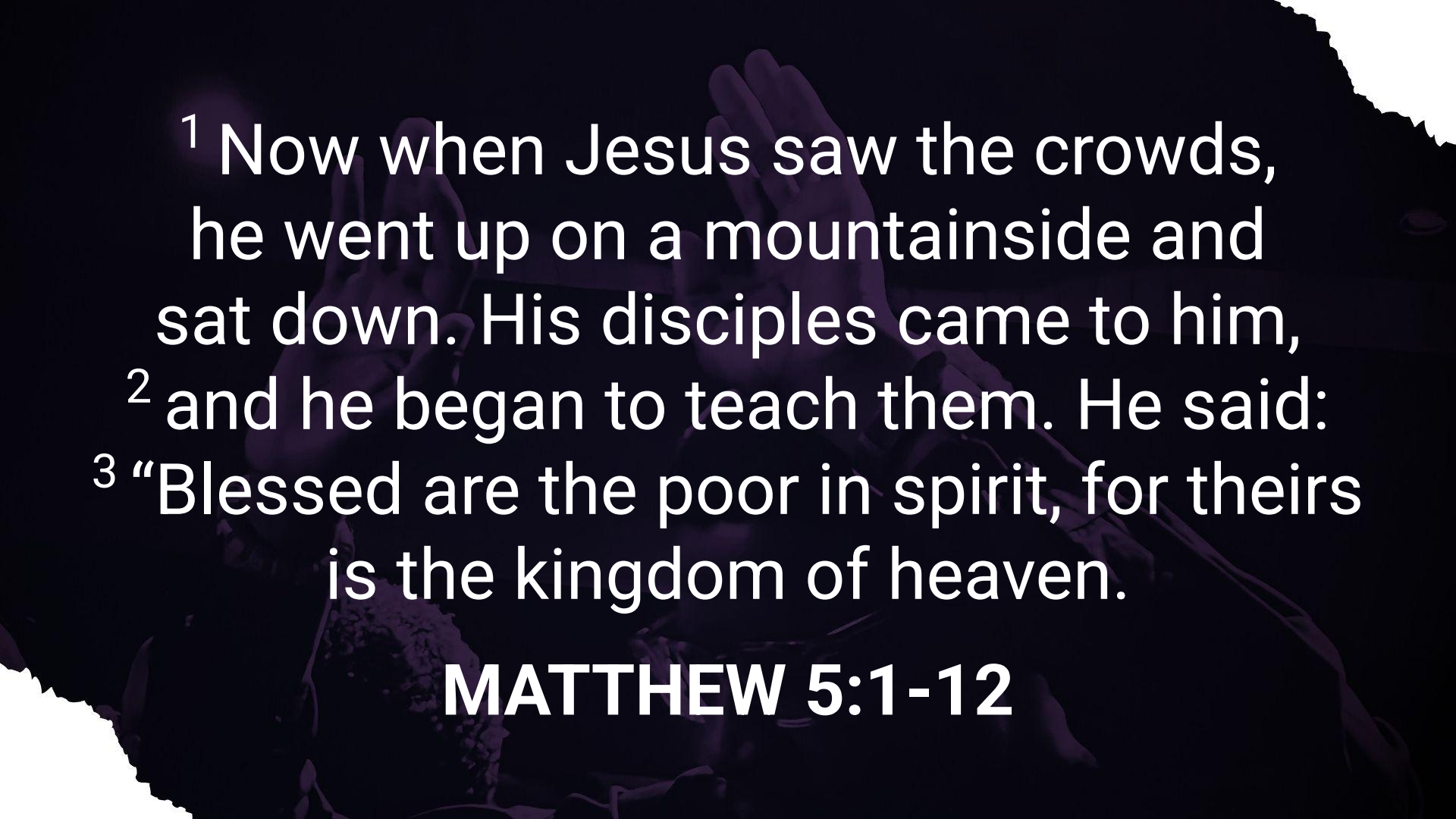




THE PURSUIT

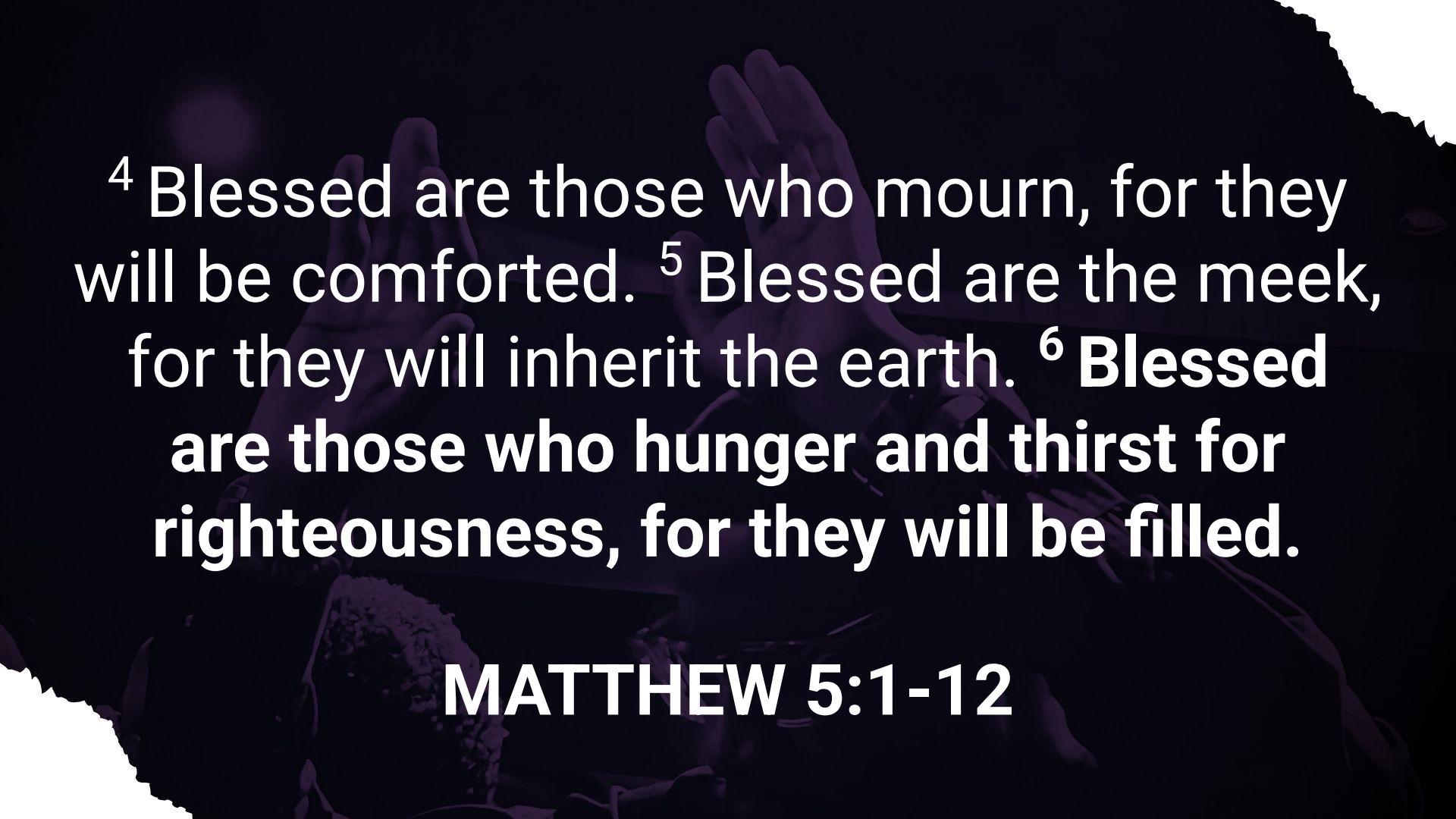


RIGHTEOUSNESS



¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds,
he went up on a mountainside and
sat down. His disciples came to him,
² and he began to teach them. He said:
³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs
is the kingdom of heaven.

MATTHEW 5:1-12

The background of the slide features a dark, atmospheric image. In the center, two hands are raised in a gesture of prayer or supplication, palms facing forward. Below the hands, a portion of a globe is visible, showing the Americas. The overall color palette is dark, with shades of blue, purple, and black, creating a solemn and spiritual mood.

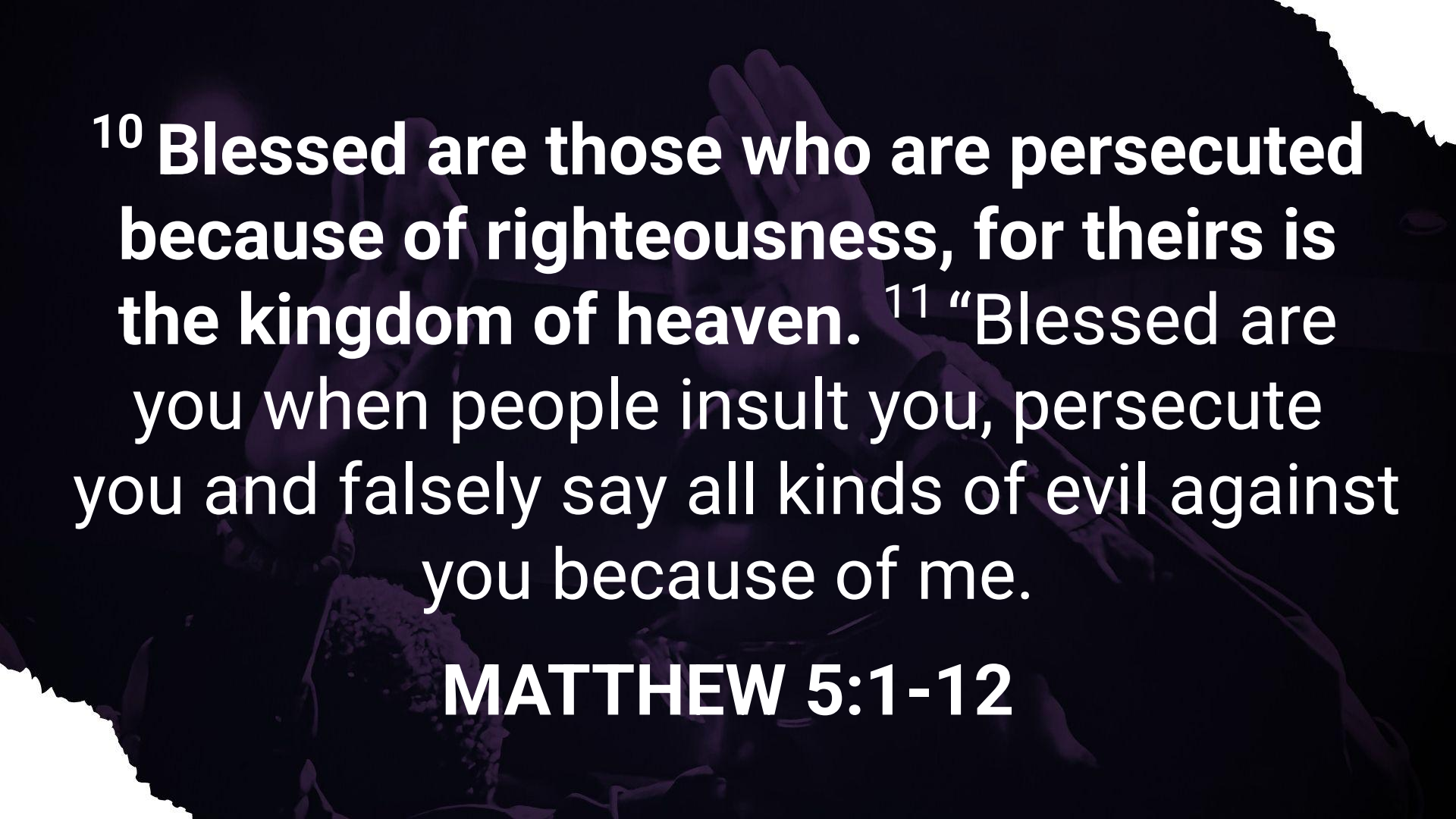
⁴ Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. ⁵ Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. ⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

MATTHEW 5:1-12



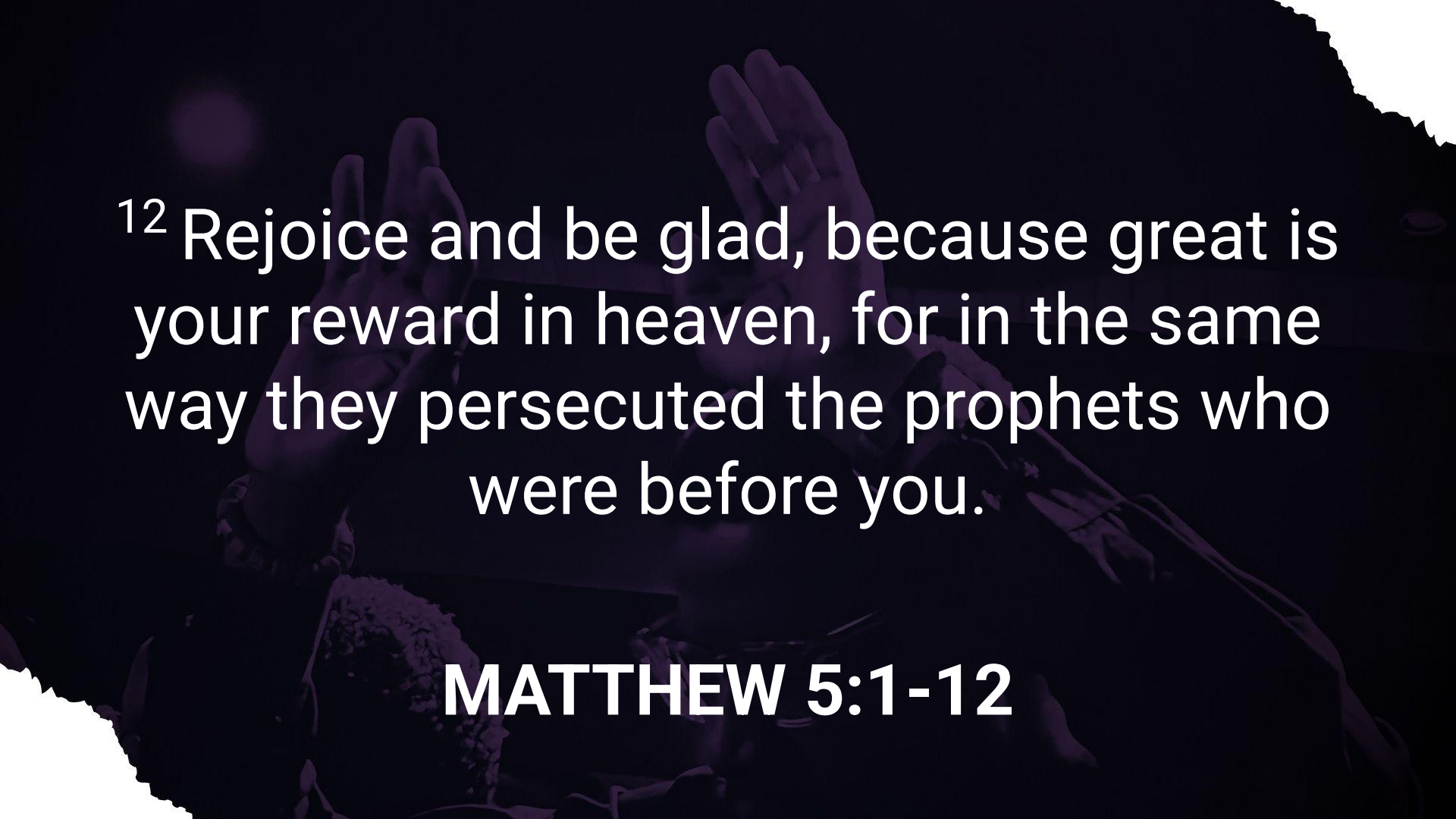
⁷ Blessed are the merciful, for they will
be shown mercy. ⁸ Blessed are the
pure in heart, for they will see God.
⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
will be called children of God.

MATTHEW 5:1-12

A person wearing a blue robe is shown from the waist up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a warm, golden sunset sky with soft clouds. The person's face is partially visible, looking upwards. The overall mood is one of devotion and hope.

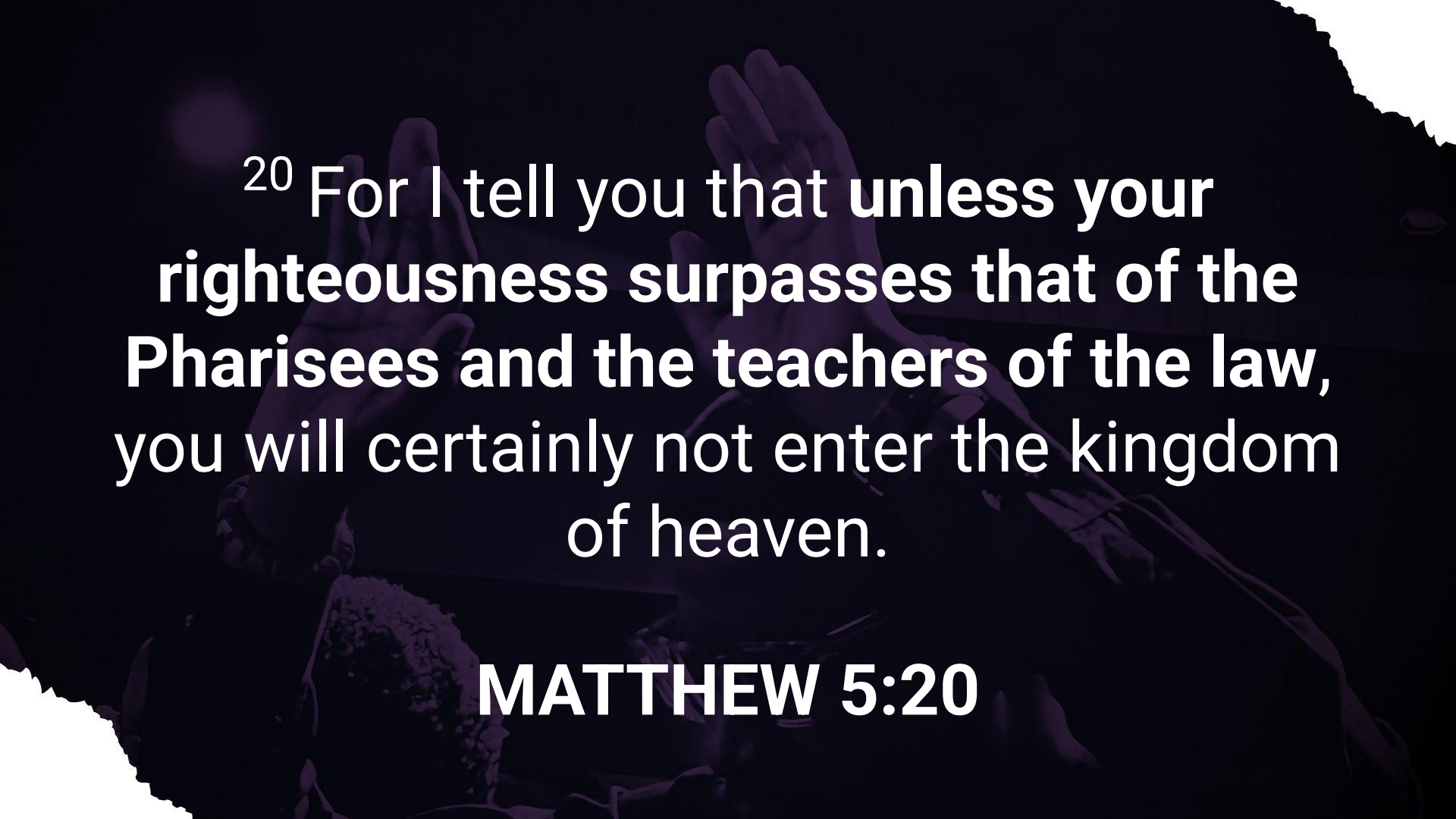
**¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness, for theirs is
the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ “Blessed are
you when people insult you, persecute
you and falsely say all kinds of evil against
you because of me.**

MATTHEW 5:1-12



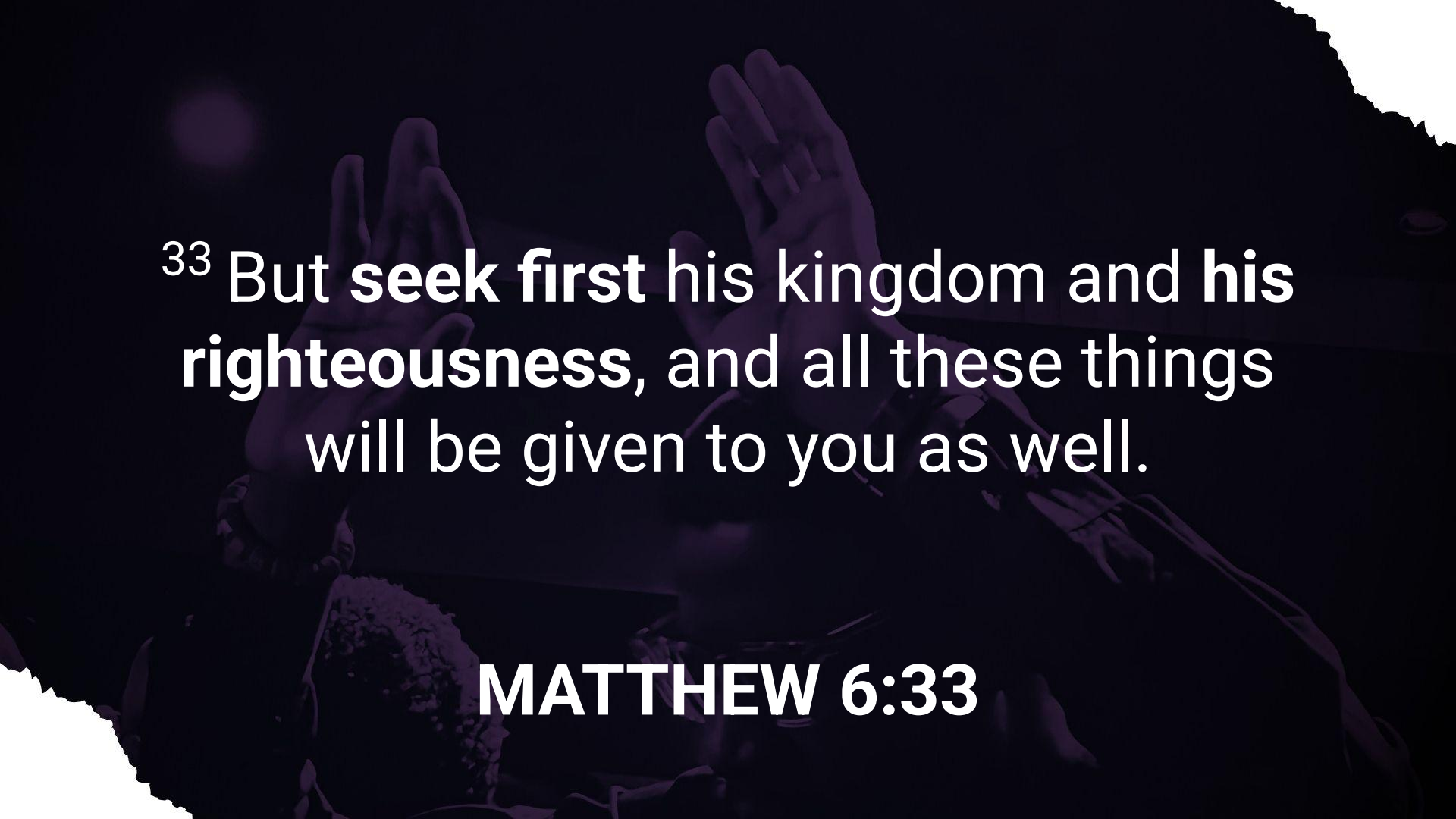
¹² Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

MATTHEW 5:1-12

A person wearing a blue robe is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

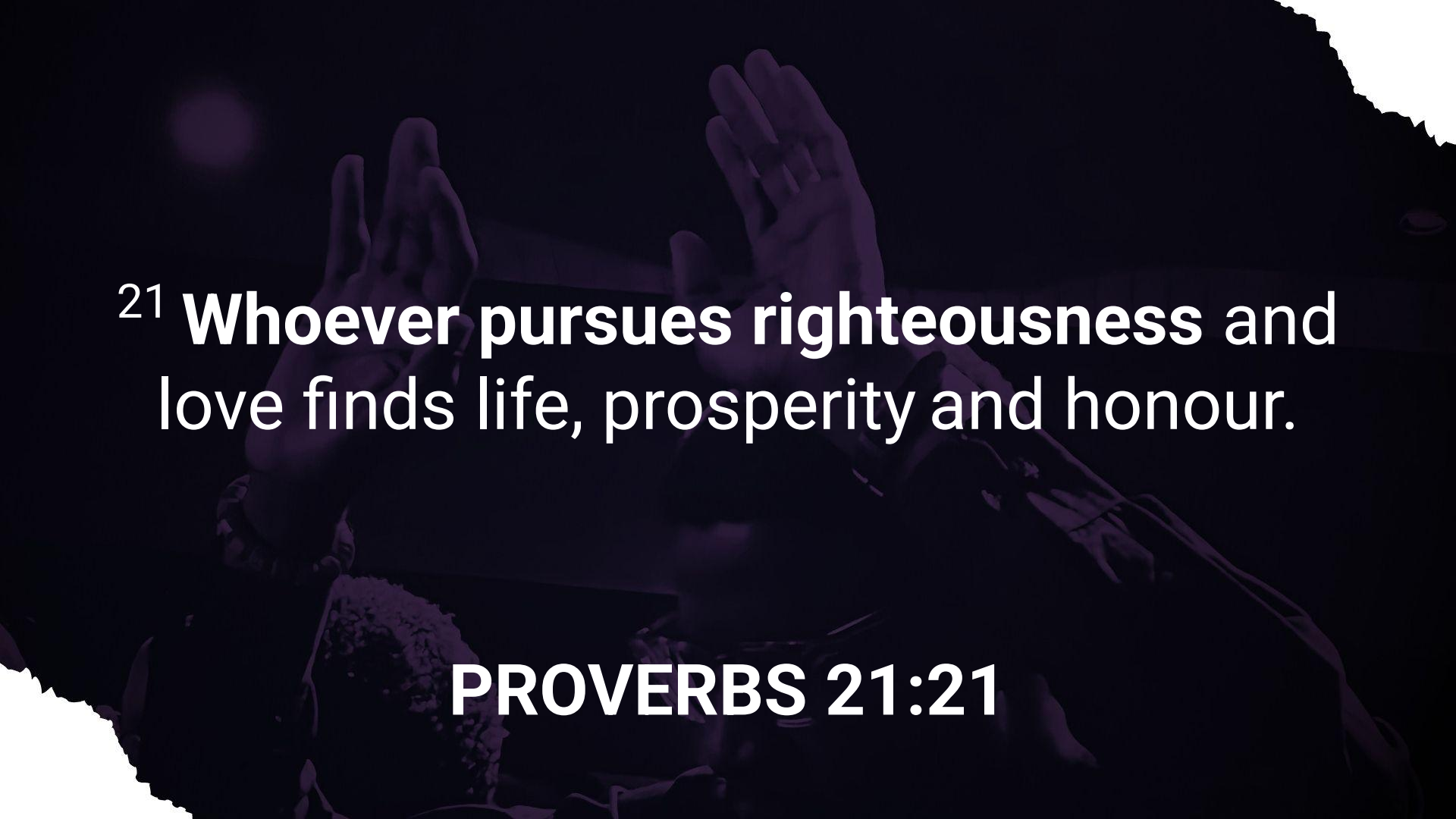
²⁰ For I tell you that **unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.**

MATTHEW 5:20



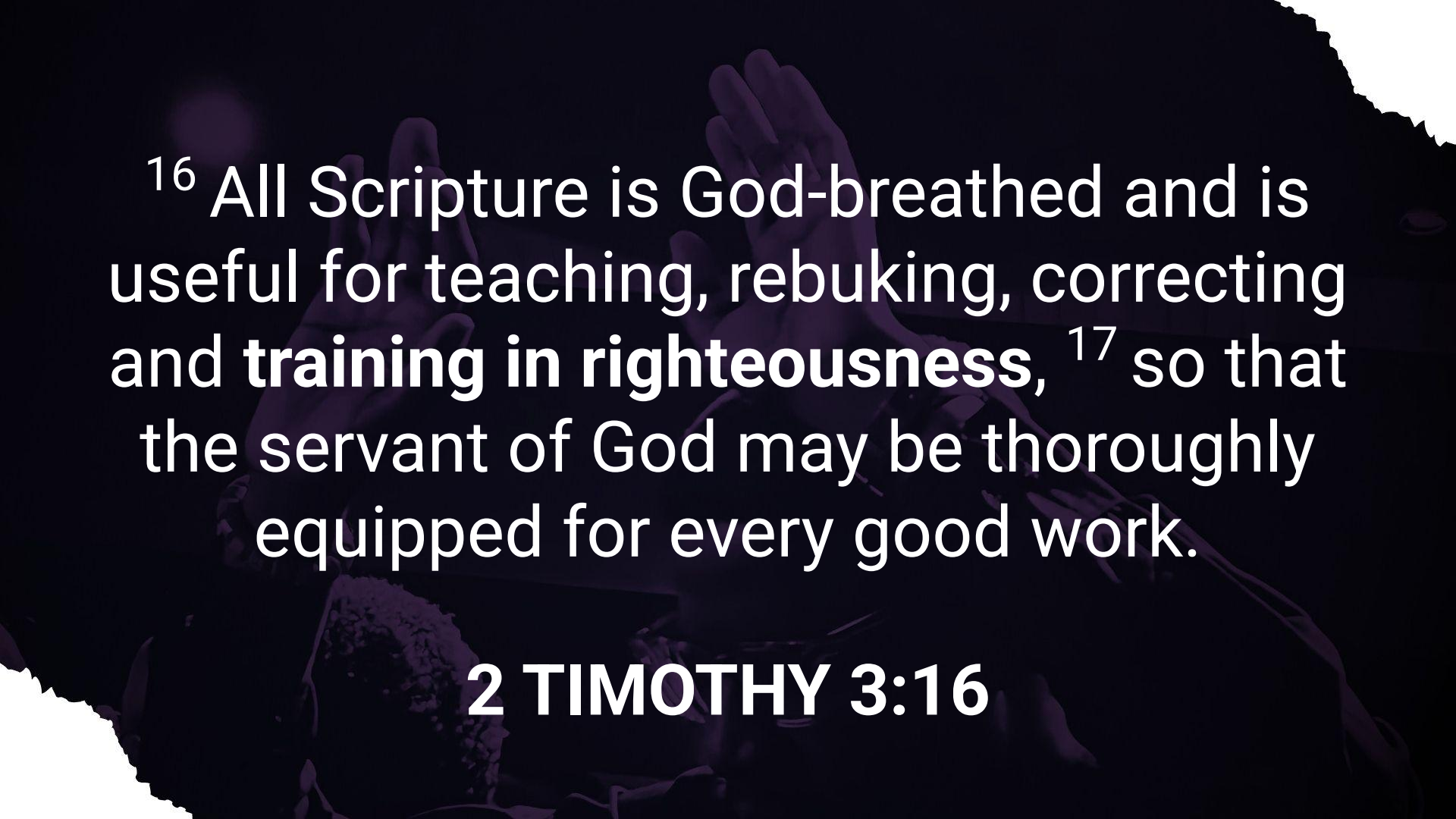
³³ But **seek first** his kingdom and **his righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.

MATTHEW 6:33

A person is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. They are wearing a dark, long-sleeved garment. The background is a soft, out-of-focus landscape with trees and a bright sky. The overall tone is spiritual and uplifting.

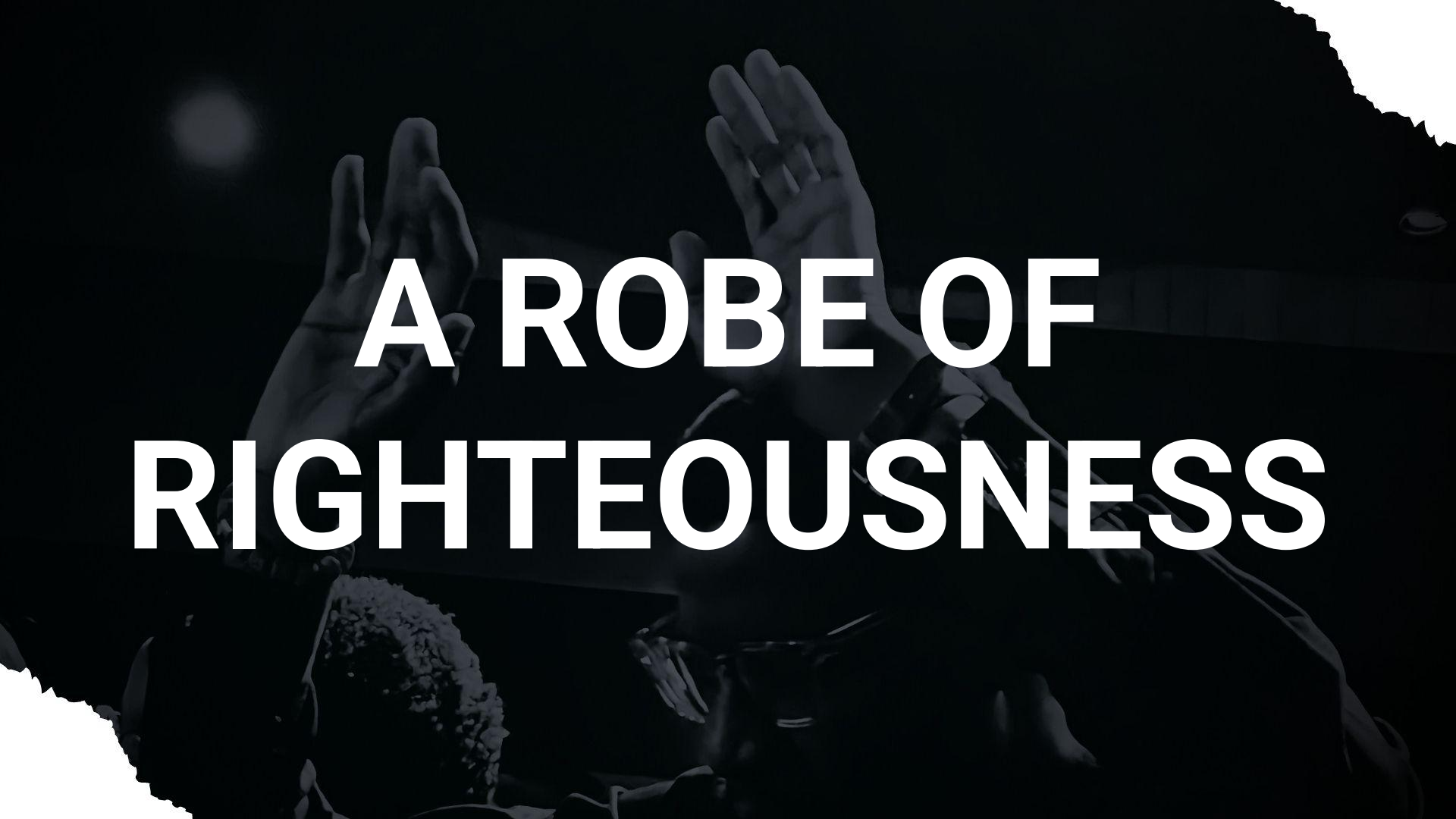
²¹ **Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honour.**

PROVERBS 21:21

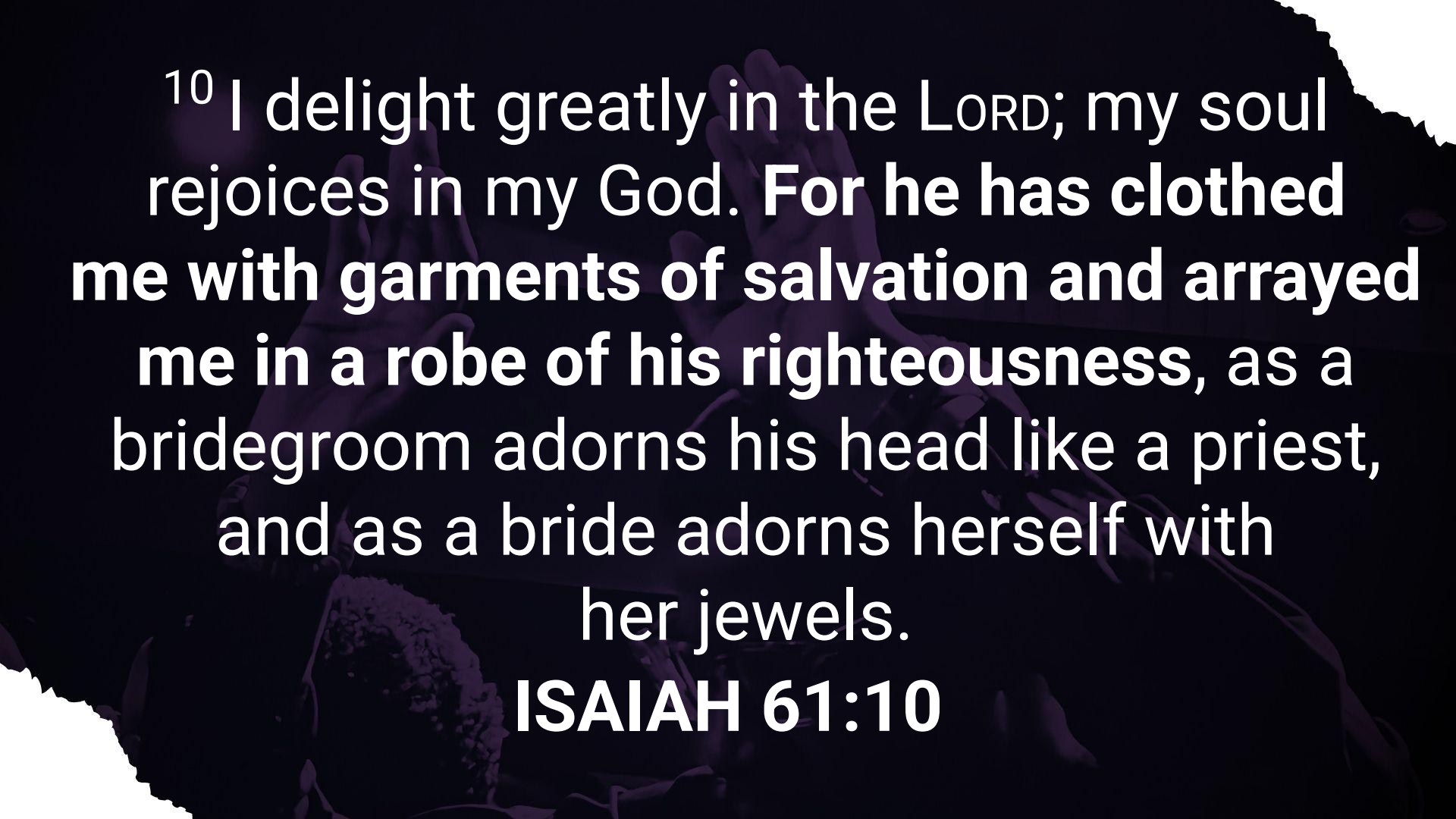
The background of the slide features a dark, moody photograph. In the center, a pair of hands is raised in a gesture of prayer or praise, palms facing forward. Below the hands, a Bible is visible, resting on a surface. The overall lighting is low, with a soft glow emanating from behind the hands, creating a spiritual and contemplative atmosphere. The text is overlaid on this image in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and **training in righteousness**, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 TIMOTHY 3:16



A ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A person wearing a white robe is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is dark and textured, possibly a wall or a large piece of fabric. The person's face is partially visible, and they appear to be looking upwards.

¹⁰ I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul
rejoices in my God. **For he has clothed
me with garments of salvation and arrayed
me in a robe of his righteousness, as a
bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with
her jewels.**

ISAIAH 61:10



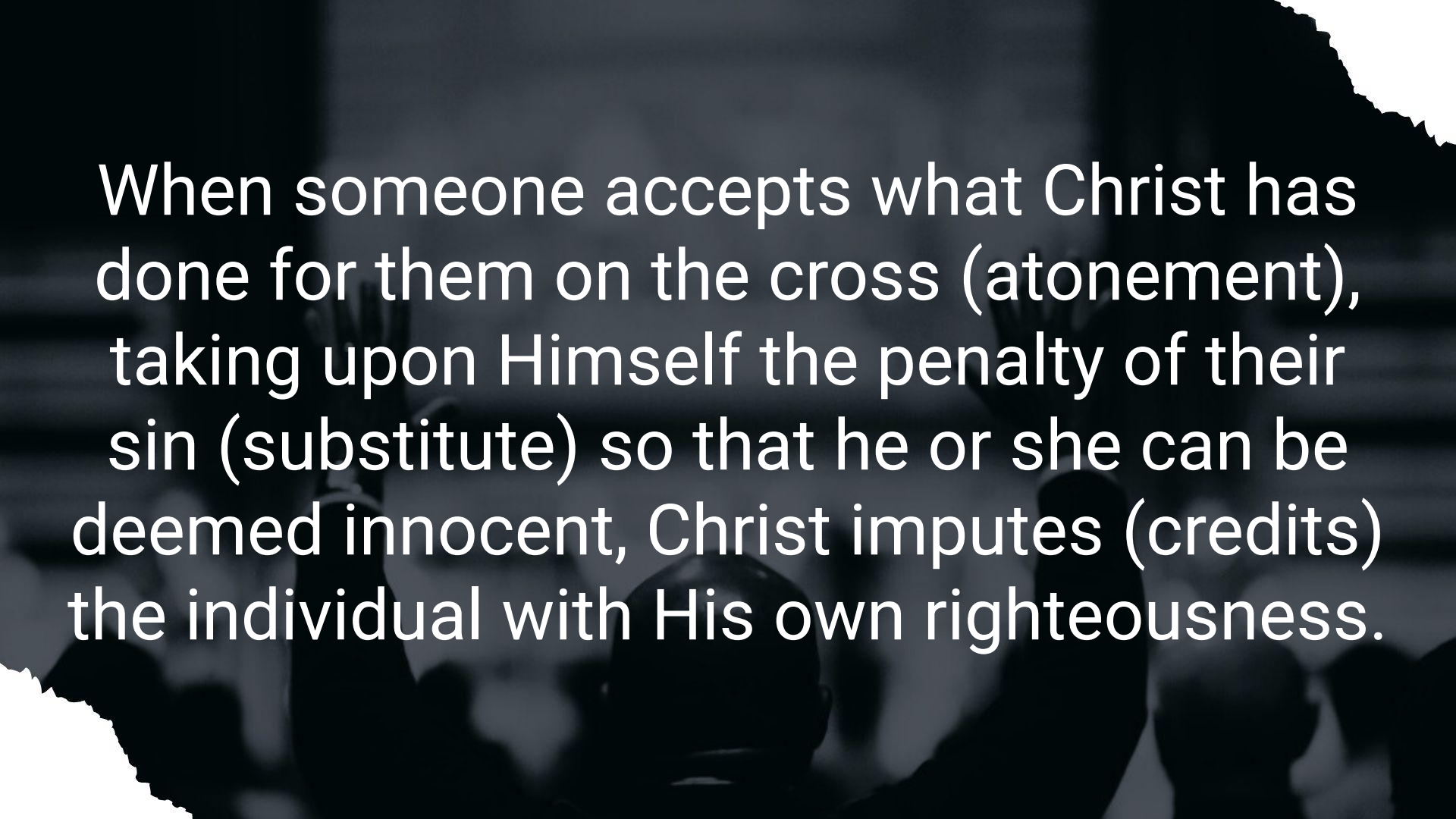
There is no difference between Jew
and Gentile, ²³ for all have sinned and
fall short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:22-23

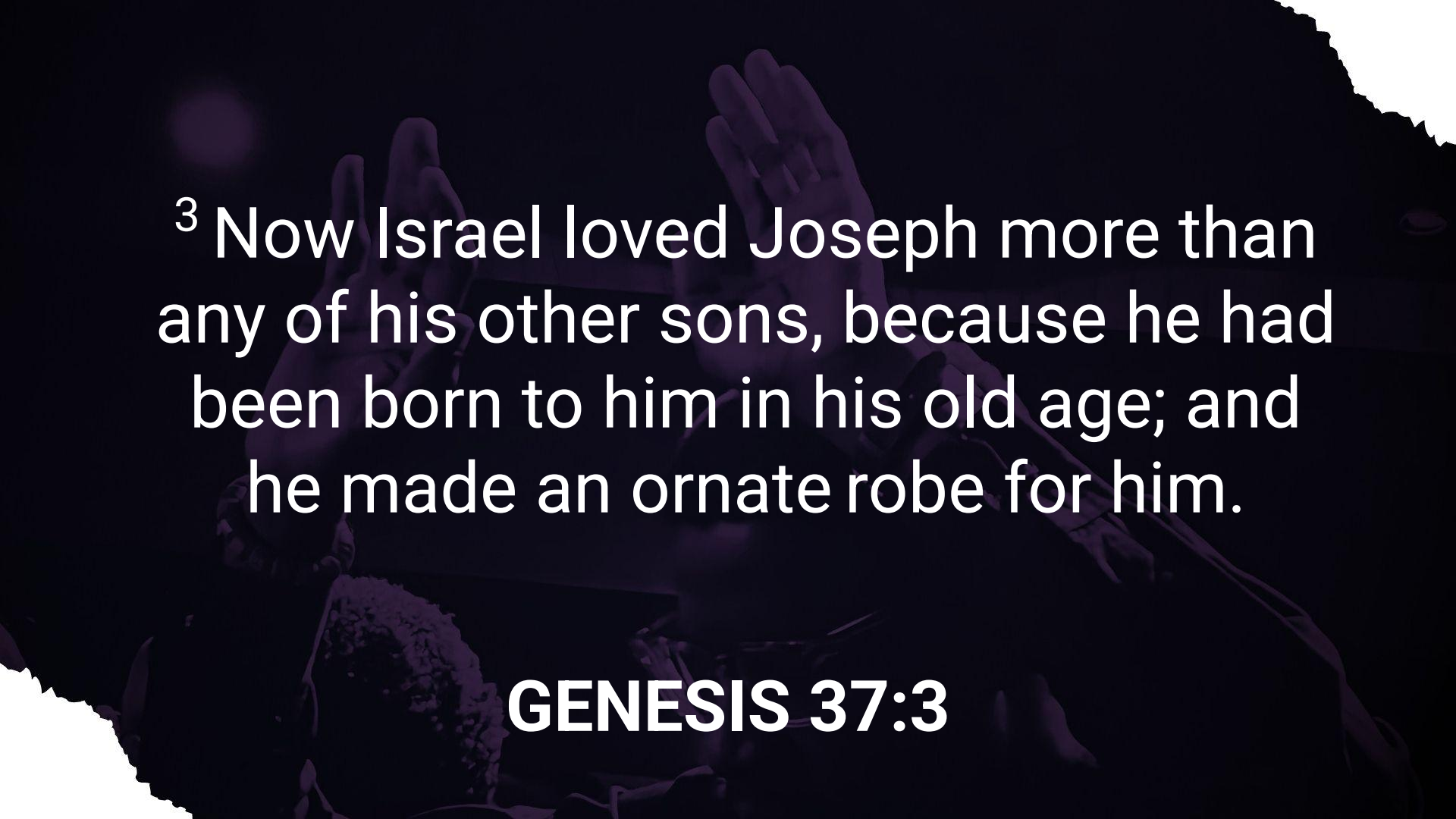


⁶ All of us have become like one who is
unclean, and all our righteous acts are
like filthy rags.

ISAIAH 64:6

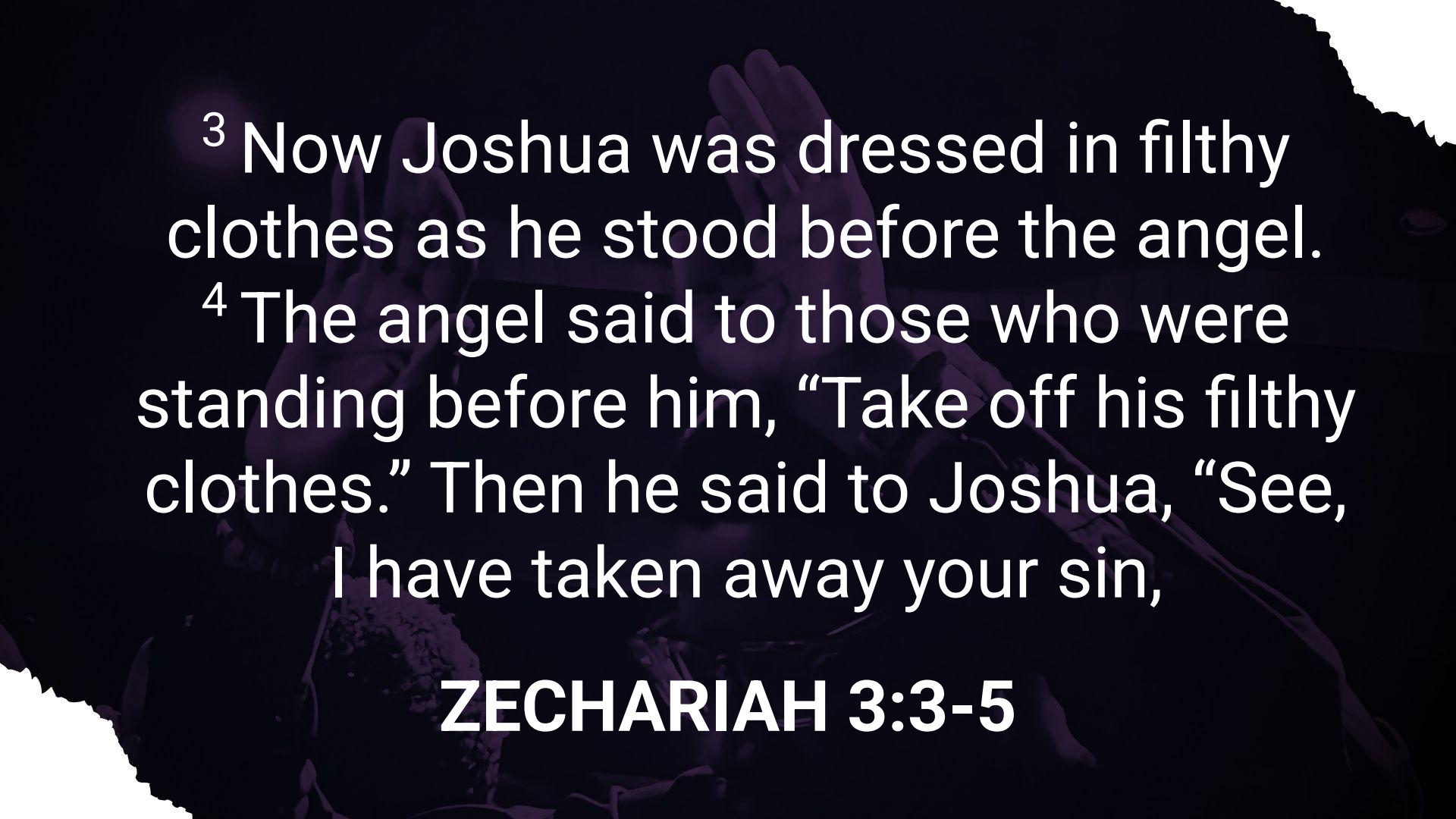


When someone accepts what Christ has done for them on the cross (atonement), taking upon Himself the penalty of their sin (substitute) so that he or she can be deemed innocent, Christ imputes (credits) the individual with His own righteousness.

A person wearing a blue robe is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light-colored, textured elements visible in the lower left corner.

³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him.

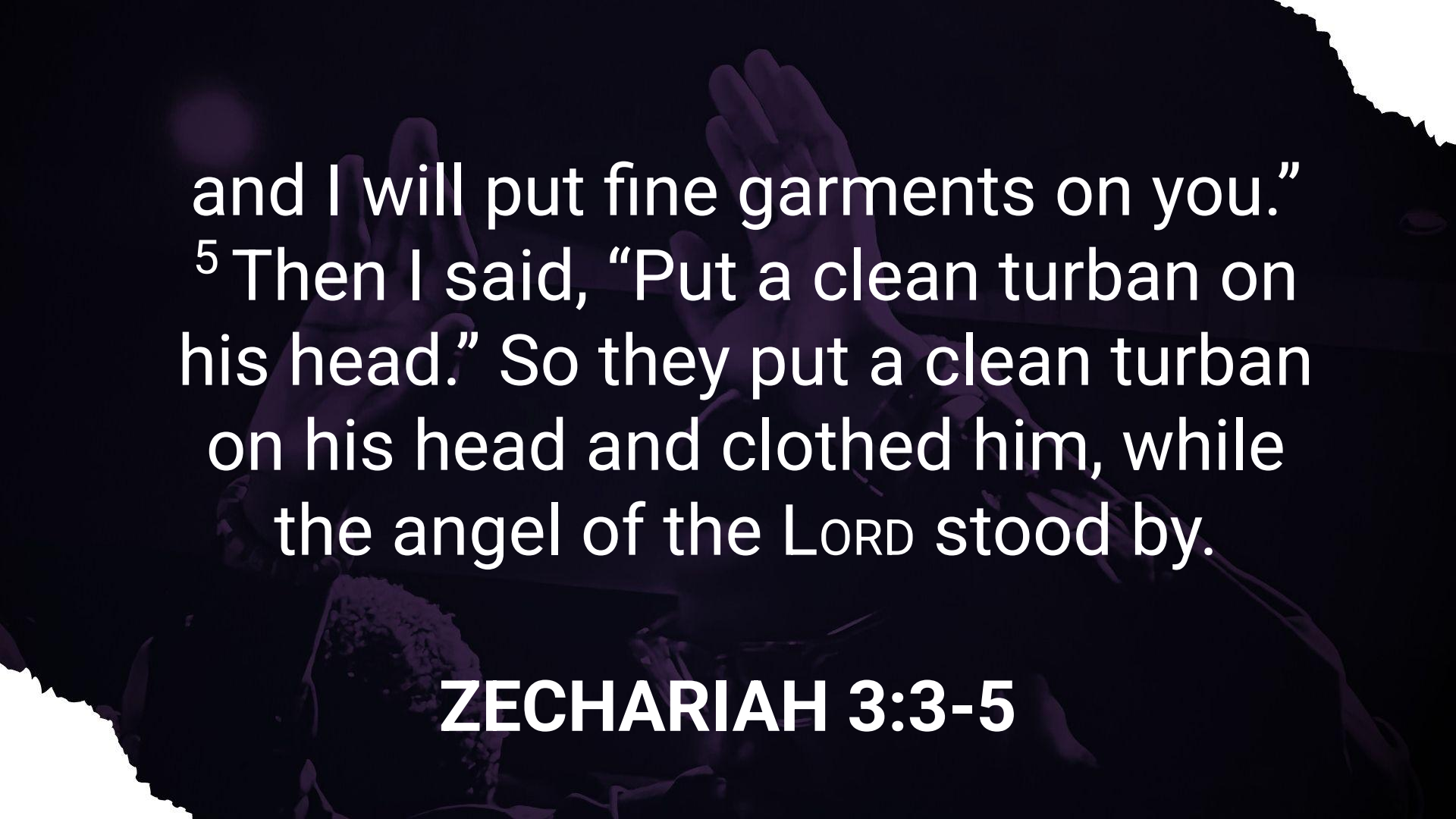
GENESIS 37:3



³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel.

⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin,

ZECHARIAH 3:3-5



and I will put fine garments on you.”
⁵ Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

ZECHARIAH 3:3-5

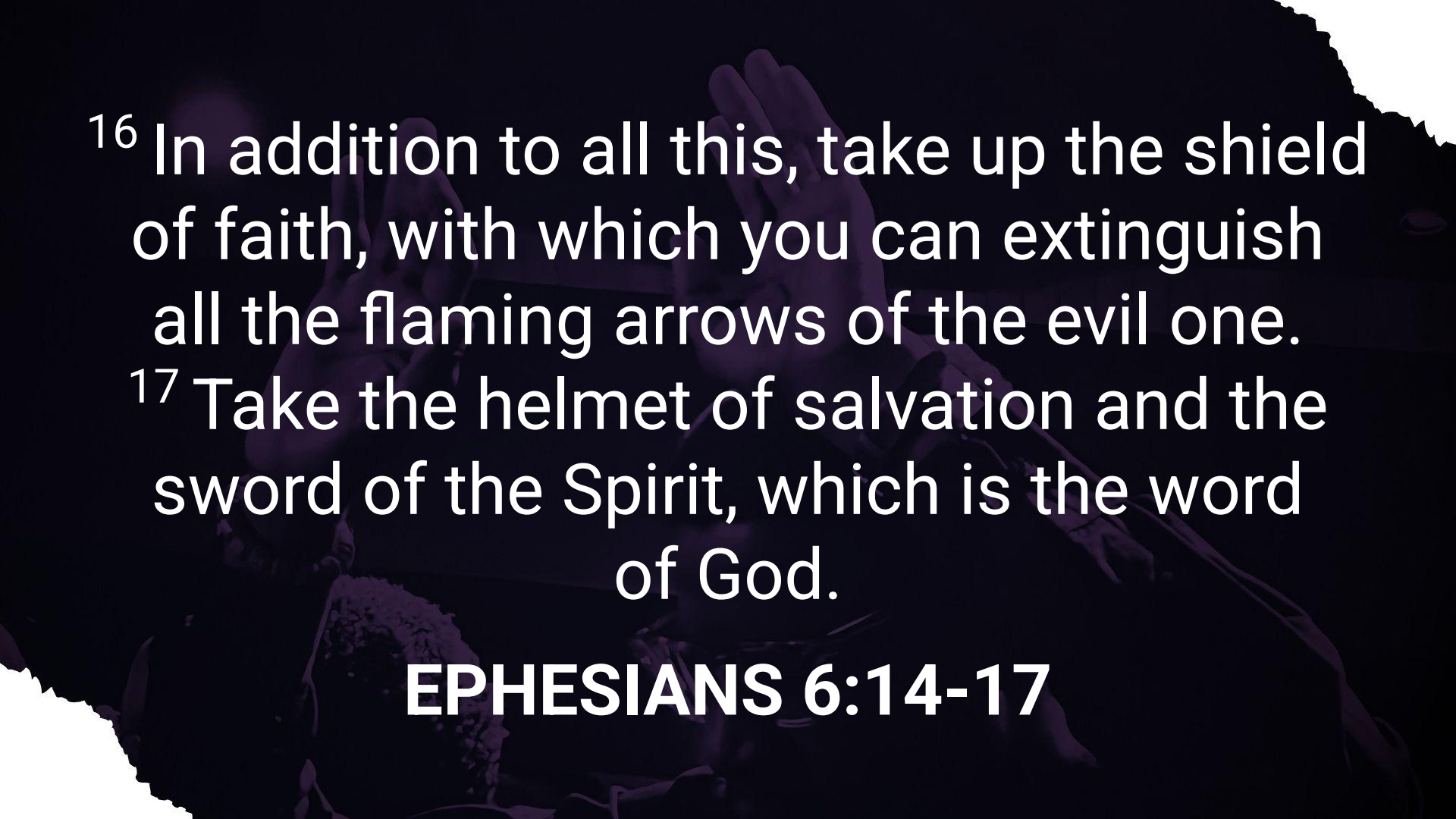


A BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

A background image showing a pair of hands clasped in prayer, with fingers spread and palms facing each other. The hands are positioned centrally, with the left hand slightly higher than the right. The image is dark and moody, with a focus on the hands and the text overlaid on them.

¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, **with the breastplate of righteousness in place,**
¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

EPHESIANS 6:14-17



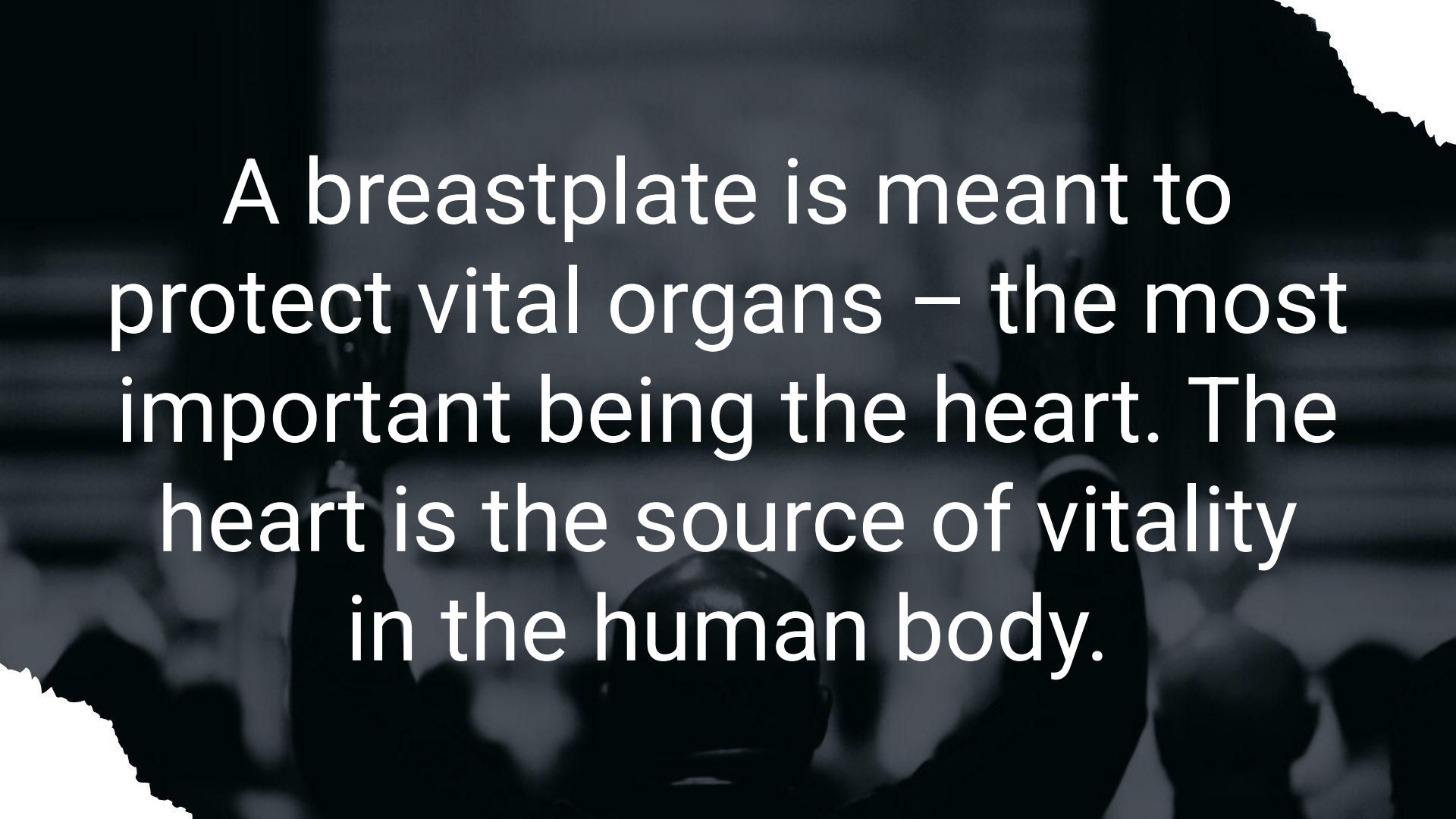
¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

EPHESIANS 6:14-17



This was a defensive approach
and implied that attacks will
certainly come.

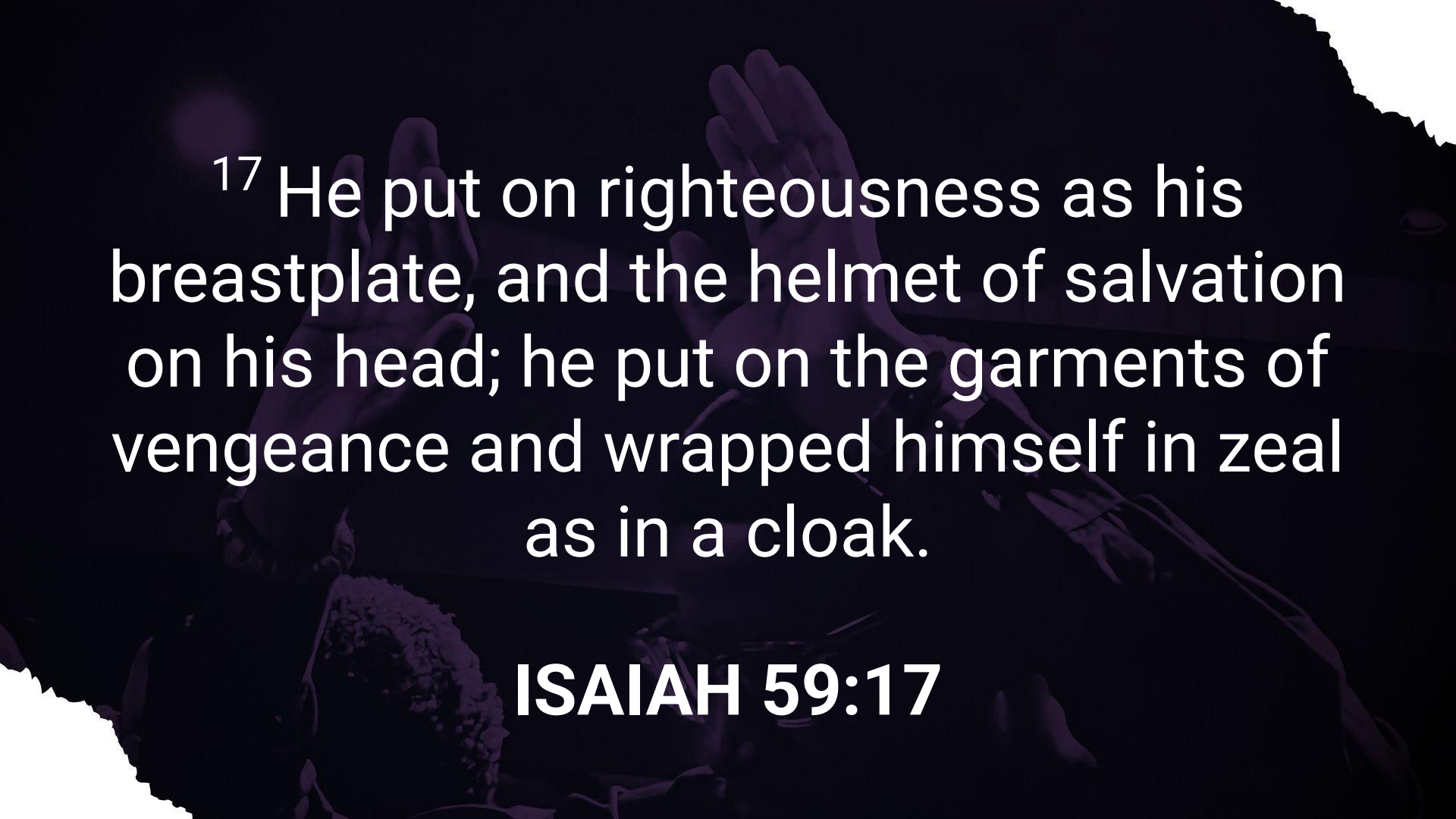


A breastplate is meant to protect vital organs – the most important being the heart. The heart is the source of vitality in the human body.



**Put on the new self, created to be
like God in true righteousness
and holiness.**

EPHESIANS 4:24

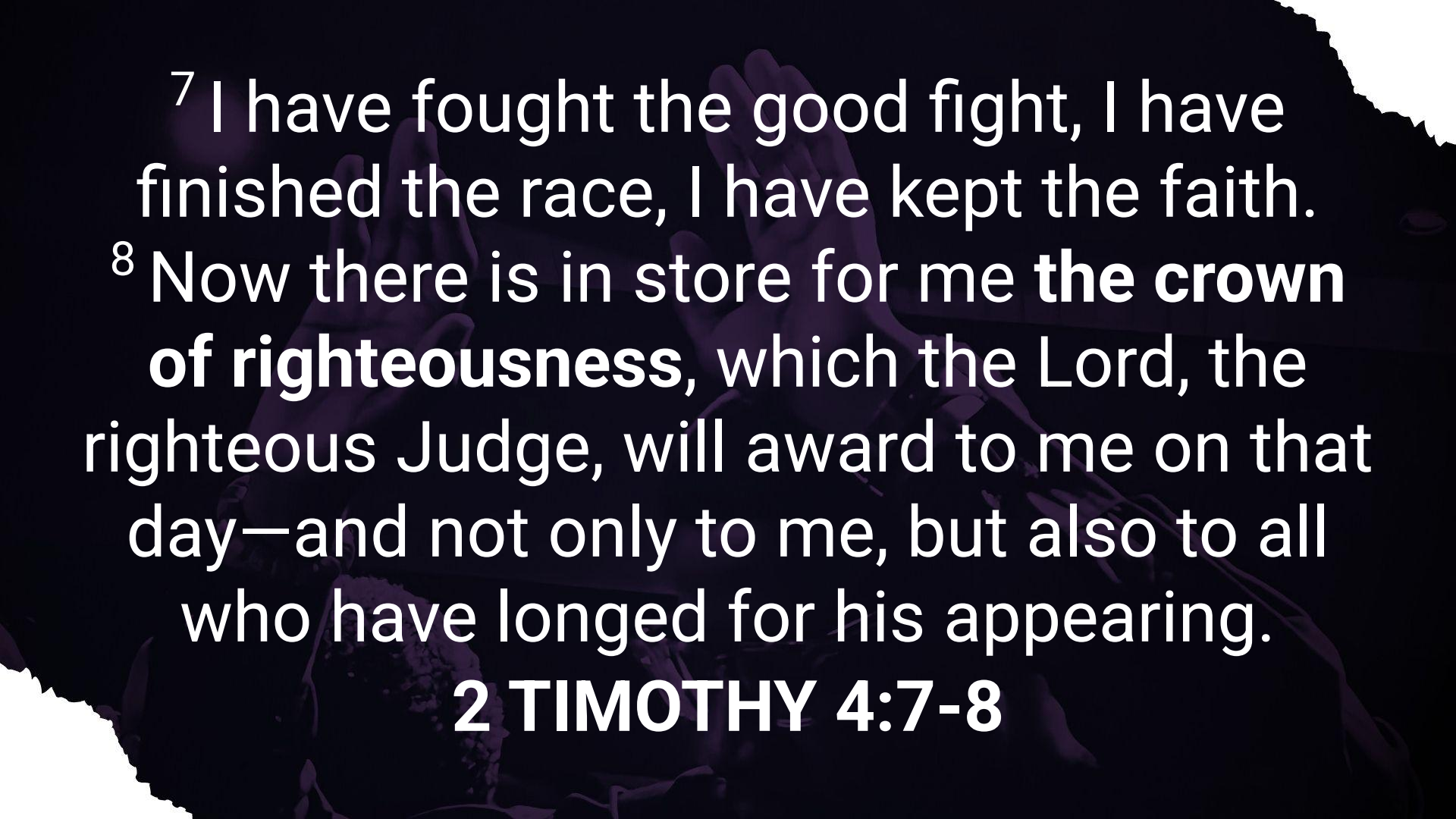


¹⁷ He put on righteousness as his breastplate, and the helmet of salvation on his head; he put on the garments of vengeance and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.

ISAIAH 59:17



A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

The background of the image shows a pair of hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise, with fingers spread and palms facing forward. The hands are set against a dark, textured background that resembles a close-up of a person's skin or a similar material. The lighting is soft, highlighting the contours of the hands.

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.
⁸ Now there is in store for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 TIMOTHY 4:7-8



³¹ Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is
attained in the way of righteousness.

PROVERBS 16:31

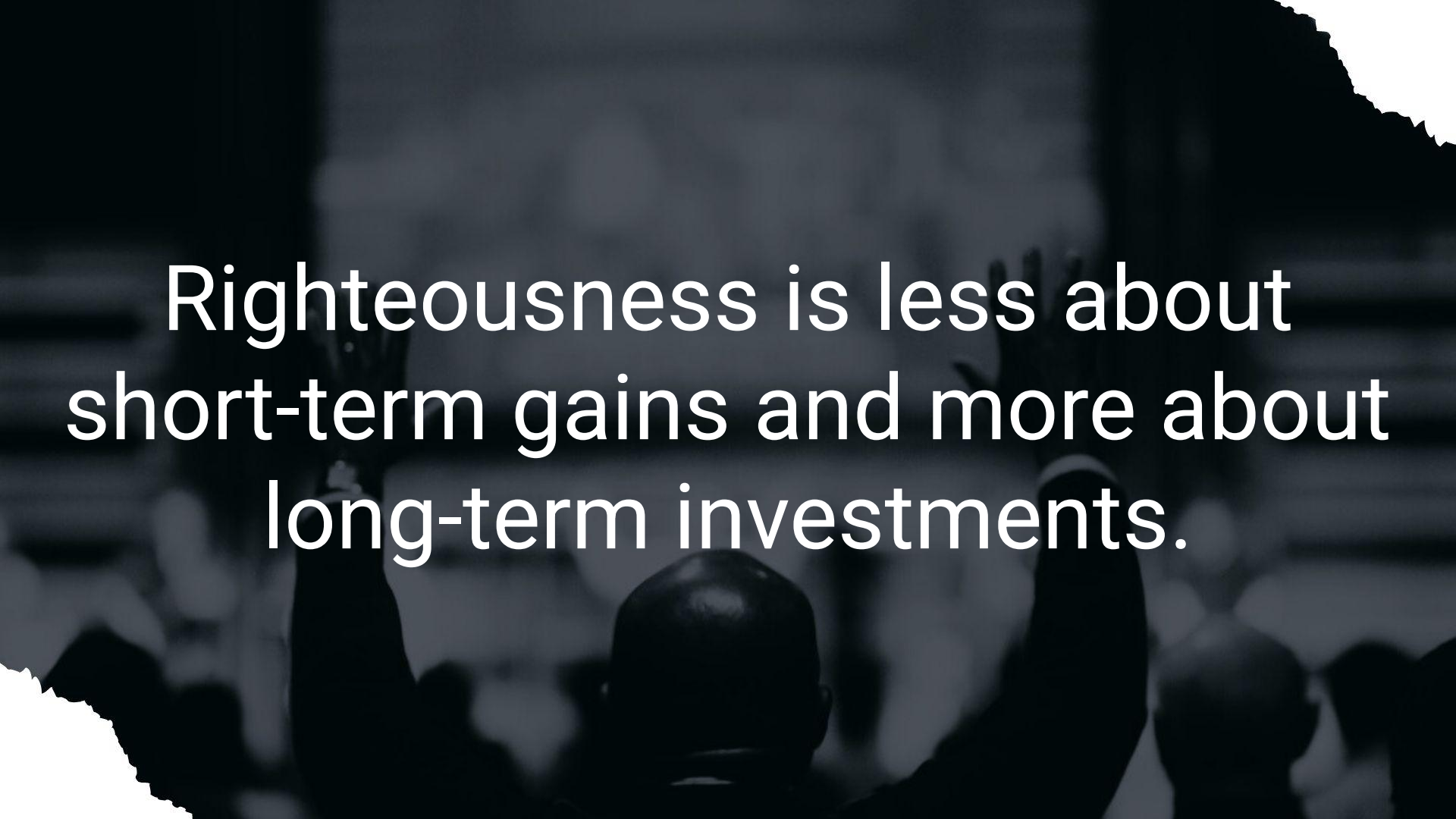


⁶ Children's children are a crown to
the aged, and parents are the pride
of their children.

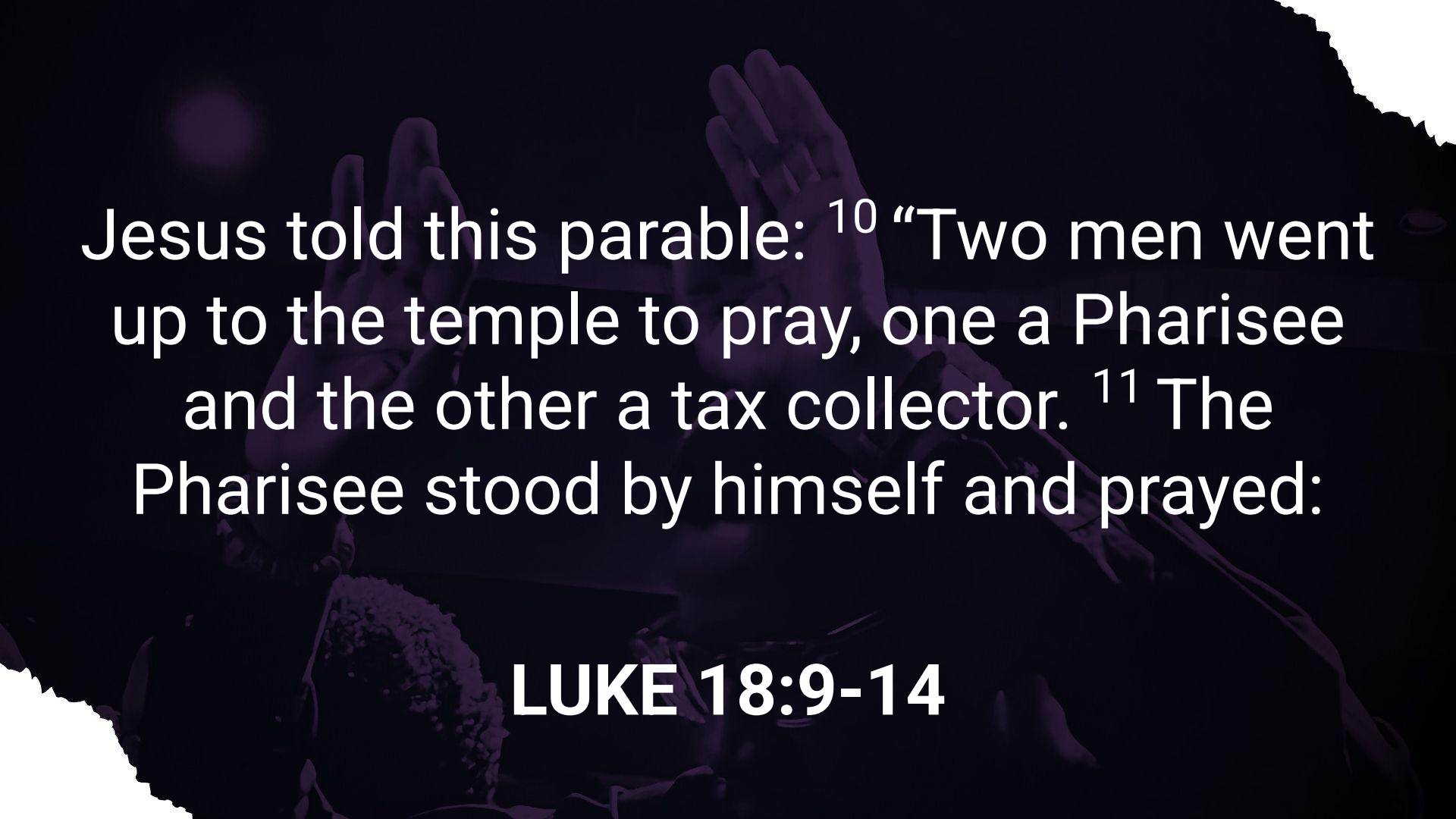
PROVERBS 17:6



Being crowned in righteousness
is part of our glorification.

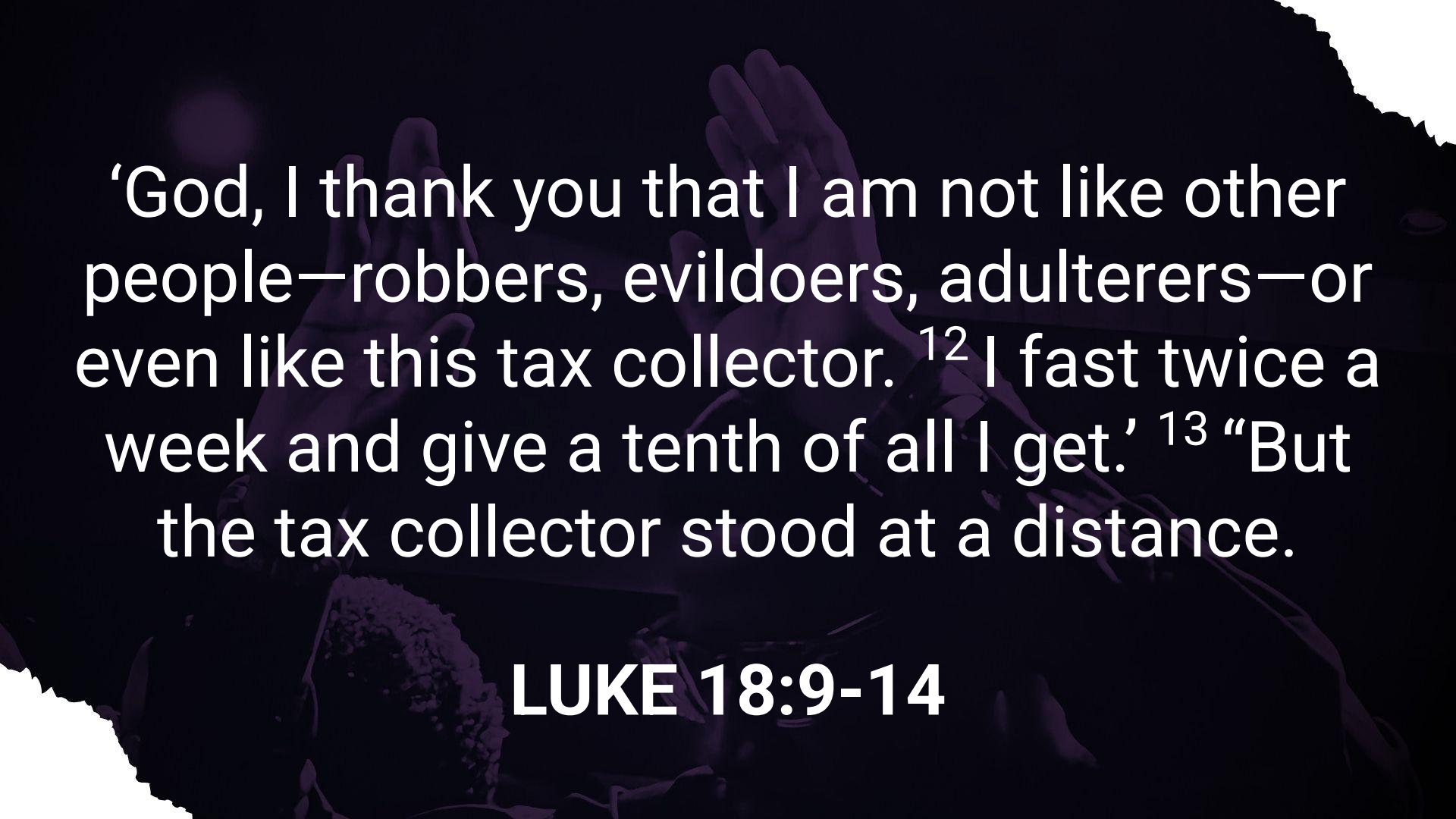


Righteousness is less about
short-term gains and more about
long-term investments.



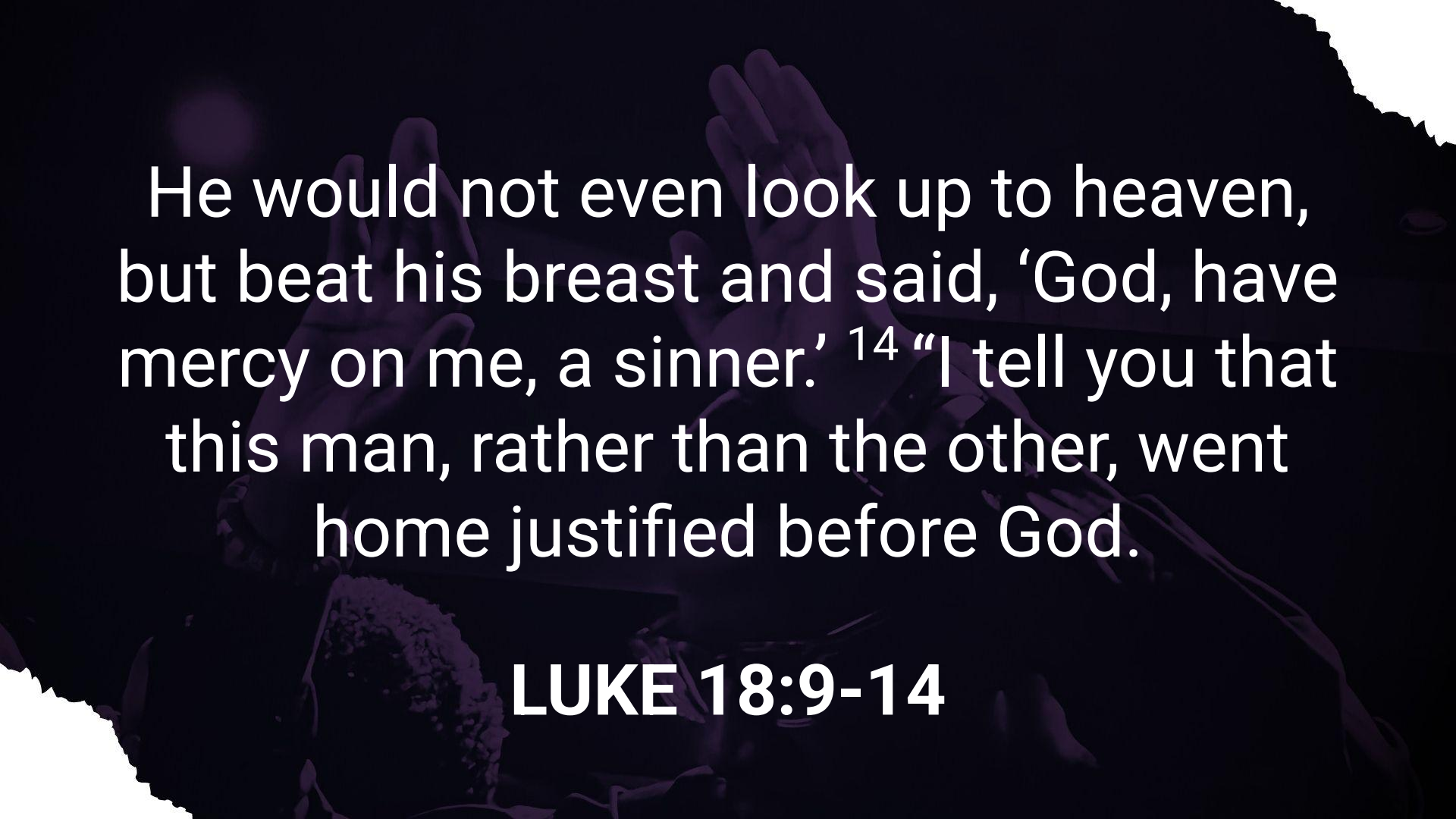
Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed:

LUKE 18:9-14



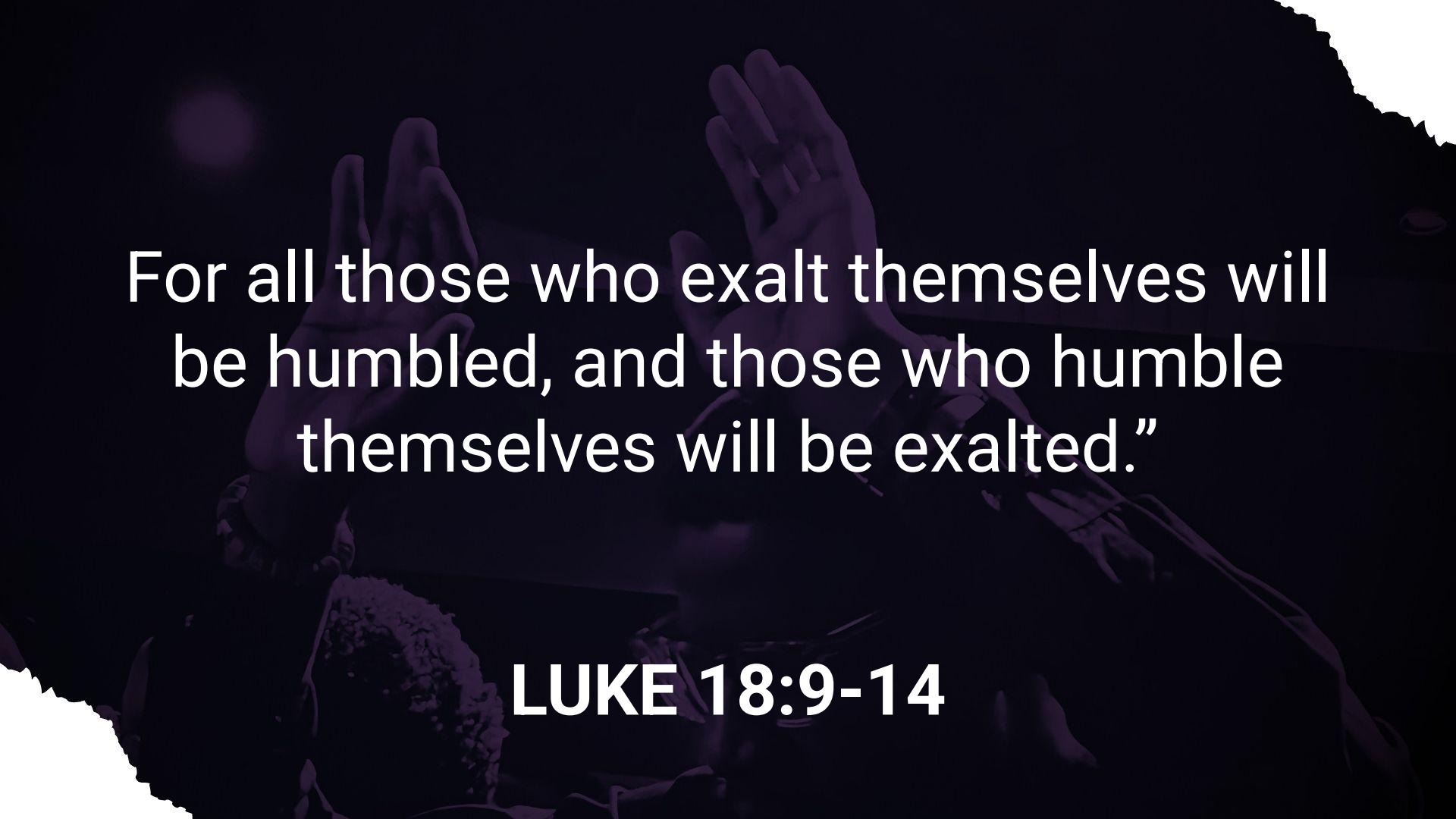
‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’ ¹³“But the tax collector stood at a distance.

LUKE 18:9-14



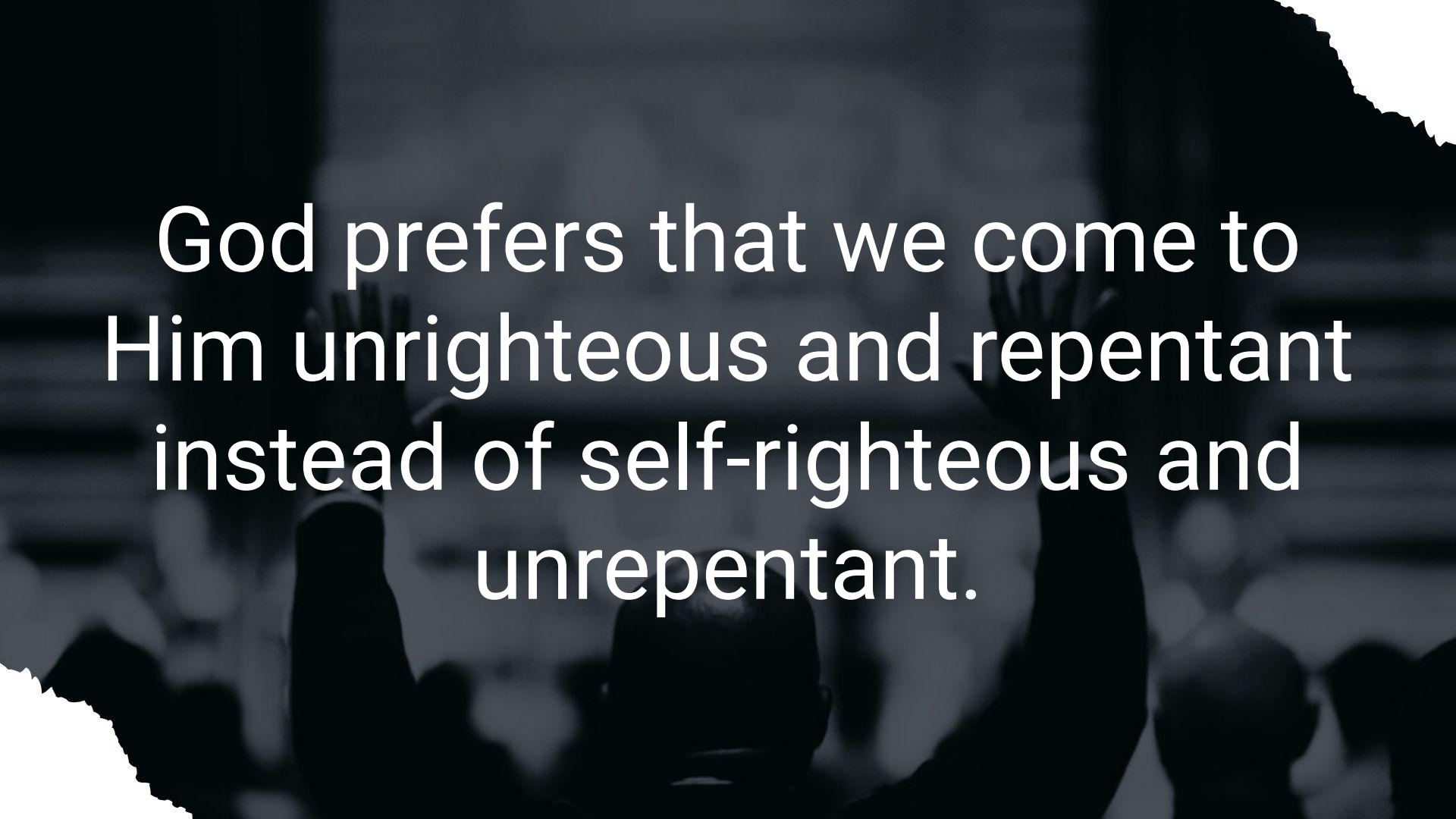
He would not even look up to heaven,
but beat his breast and said, 'God, have
mercy on me, a sinner.' ¹⁴ "I tell you that
this man, rather than the other, went
home justified before God.

LUKE 18:9-14

A person is shown from the chest up, with their hands raised in a gesture of prayer or praise. The image is heavily overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The person's face is partially visible, looking upwards. The background is dark and indistinct.

For all those who exalt themselves will
be humbled, and those who humble
themselves will be exalted.”

LUKE 18:9-14



God prefers that we come to
Him unrighteous and repentant
instead of self-righteous and
unrepentant.



SERMON REVIEW:

- 1) A ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 2) A BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
- 3) A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



THE PURSUIT