



# ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP



# Cain

Master of the Heart



**1**

What made their worship  
acceptable/unacceptable?

**2**

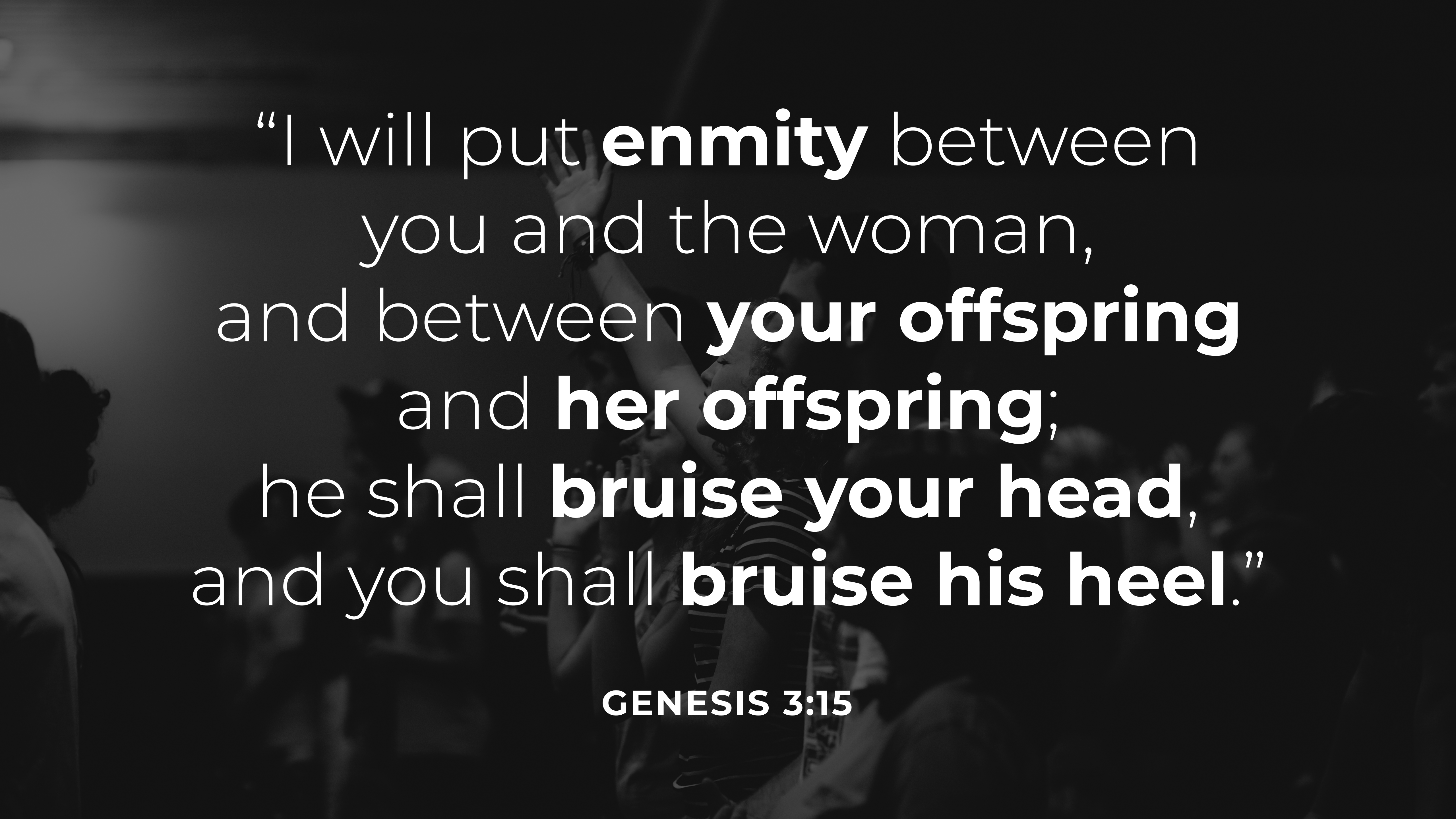
What can we take away from these  
examples as worshippers ourselves?



What **world** was  
Cain born into?



**Genesis 1–3**  
The Post-Fall World  
of Adam & Eve



“I will put **enmity** between  
you and the woman,  
and between **your offspring**  
and **her offspring**;  
he shall **bruise your head**,  
and you shall **bruise his heel.**”

**GENESIS 3:15**



“And the Lord God made for  
Adam and for his wife  
**garments of skins** and  
**clothed them.”**”

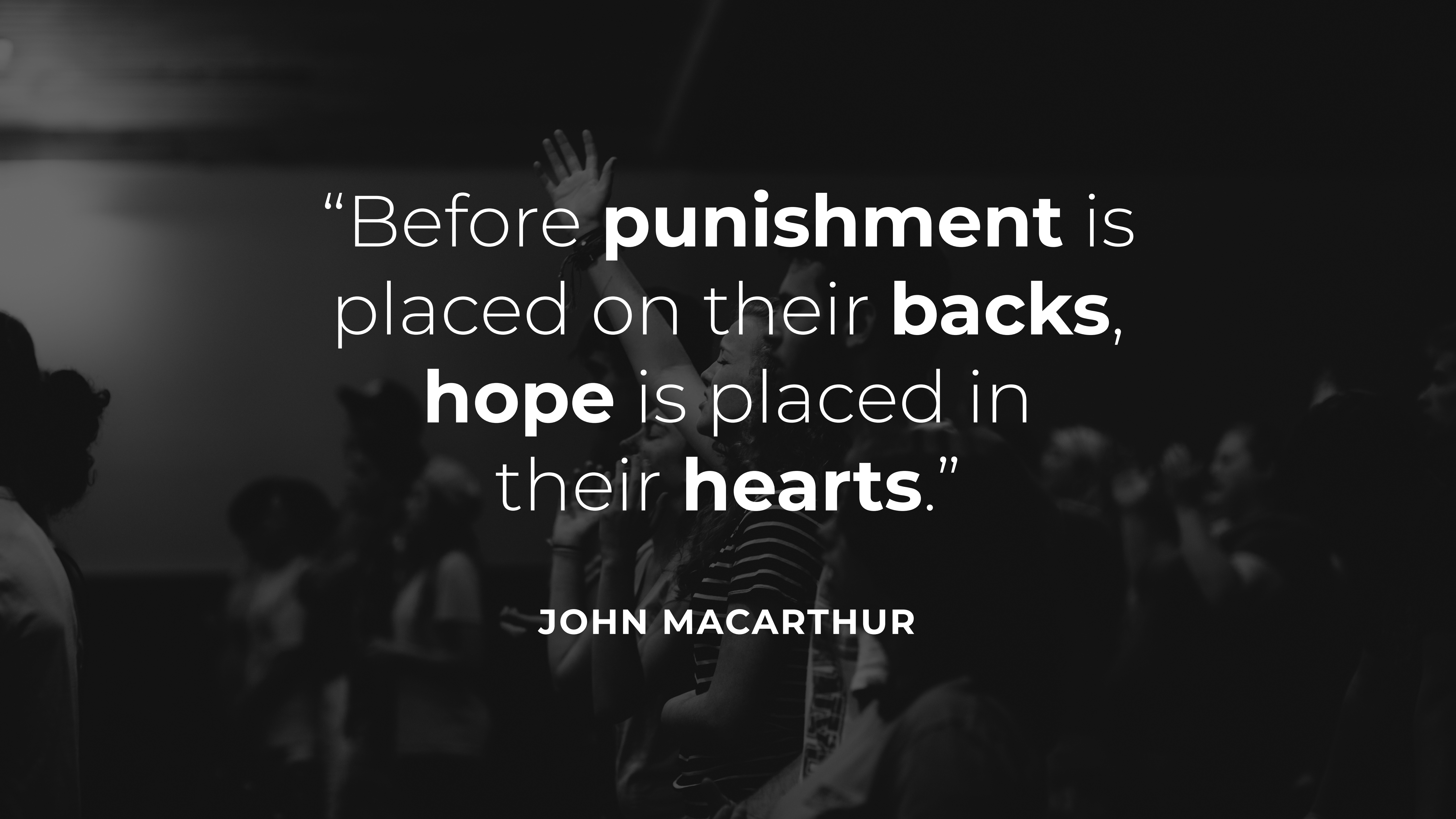
**GENESIS 3:21**



# Protoevangelium

FIRST GOSPEL





“Before **punishment** is placed on their **backs**, **hope** is placed in their **hearts.**”

**JOHN MACARTHUR**



This is the **gospel**  
Adam & Eve knew.

This is the **world**  
Cain was born into.



# Genesis 4:1-7



Why was Cain's  
offering **unacceptable**?



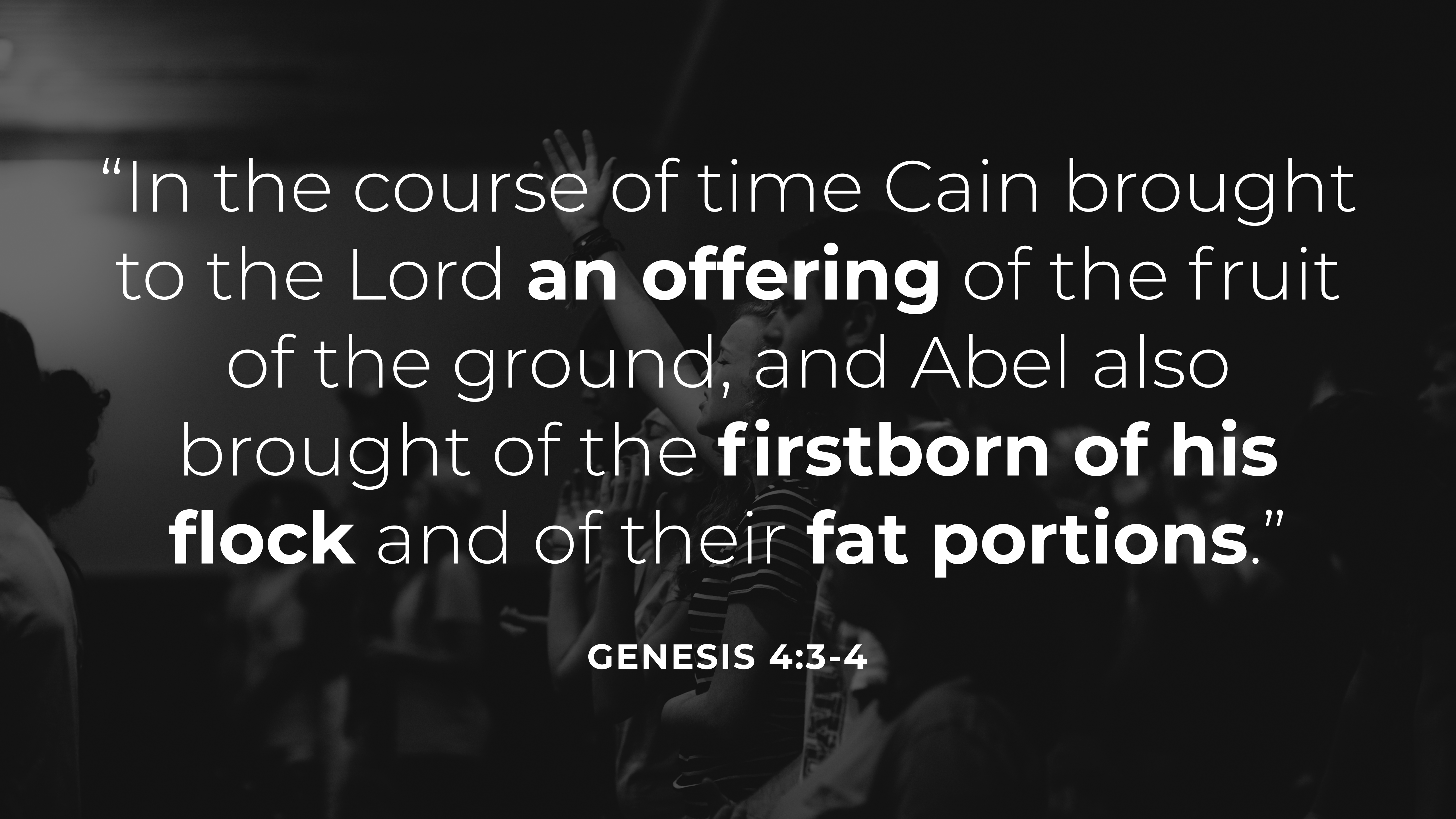
THEORY #1

Was it a **technical** offense?



THEORY #2

Was it the **quality**  
of the offering?



“In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord **an offering** of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the **firstborn of his flock** and of their **fat portions.**”

**GENESIS 4:3-4**



THEORY #3

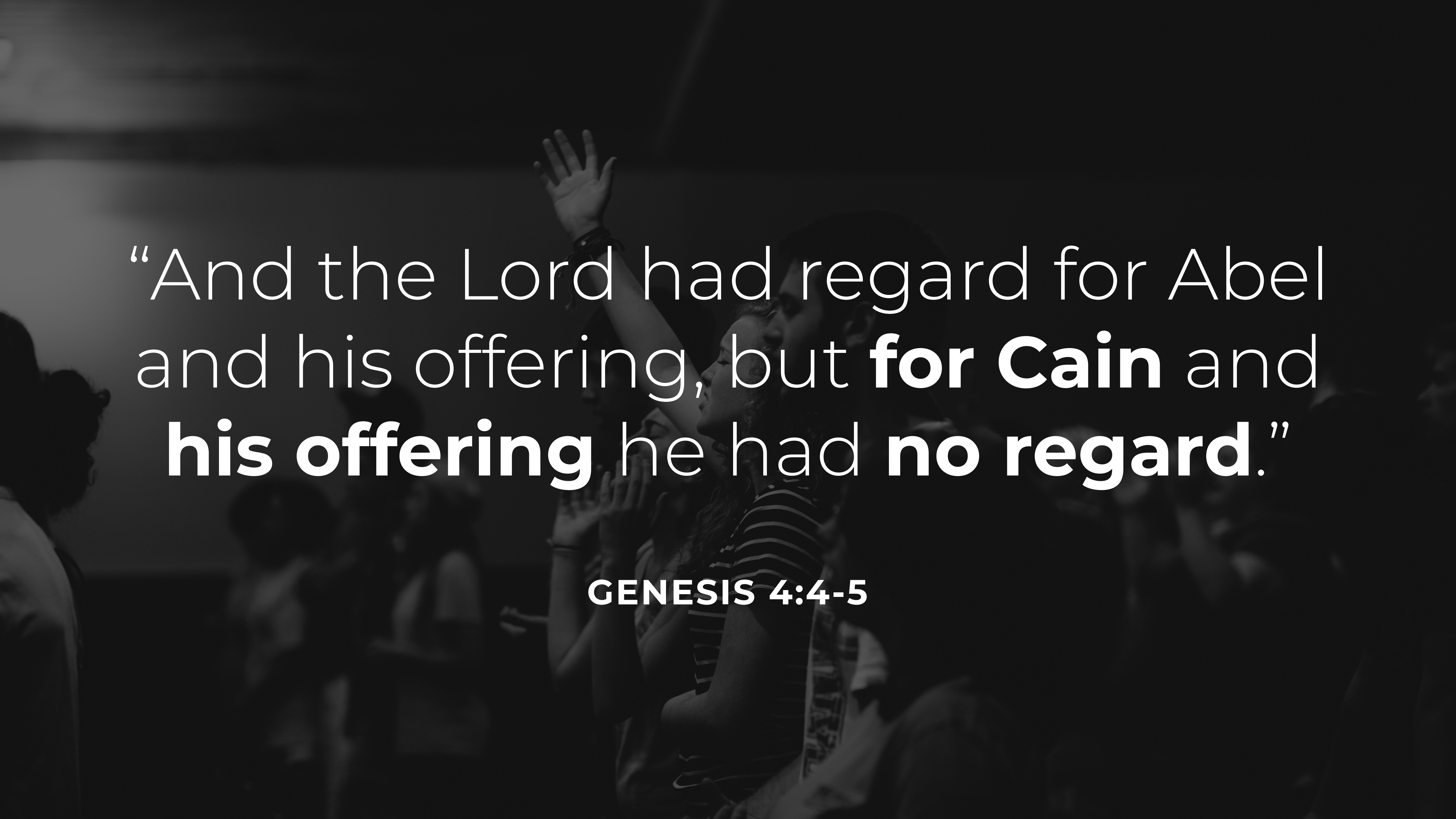
Was it just the  
**sovereign choice of God?**





THEORY #4

Was it the **man** that made  
the offering unacceptable?



“And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but **for Cain** and **his offering** he had **no regard.**”

**GENESIS 4:4-5**



“So Cain was very **angry**,  
and his face fell.”

**GENESIS 4:5**



The Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?

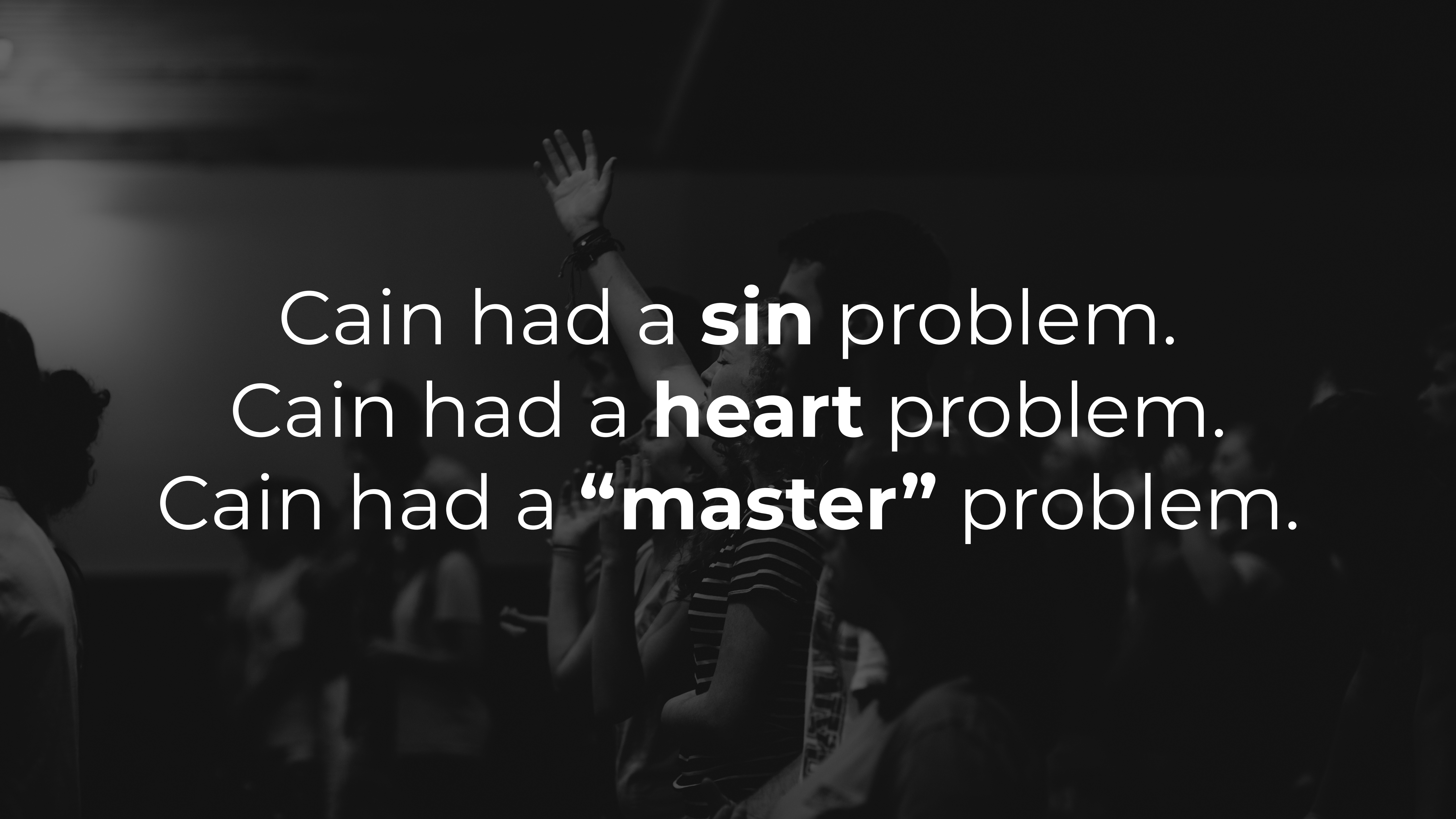
**If you do well, will you not be accepted?”**

**GENESIS 4:6-7**

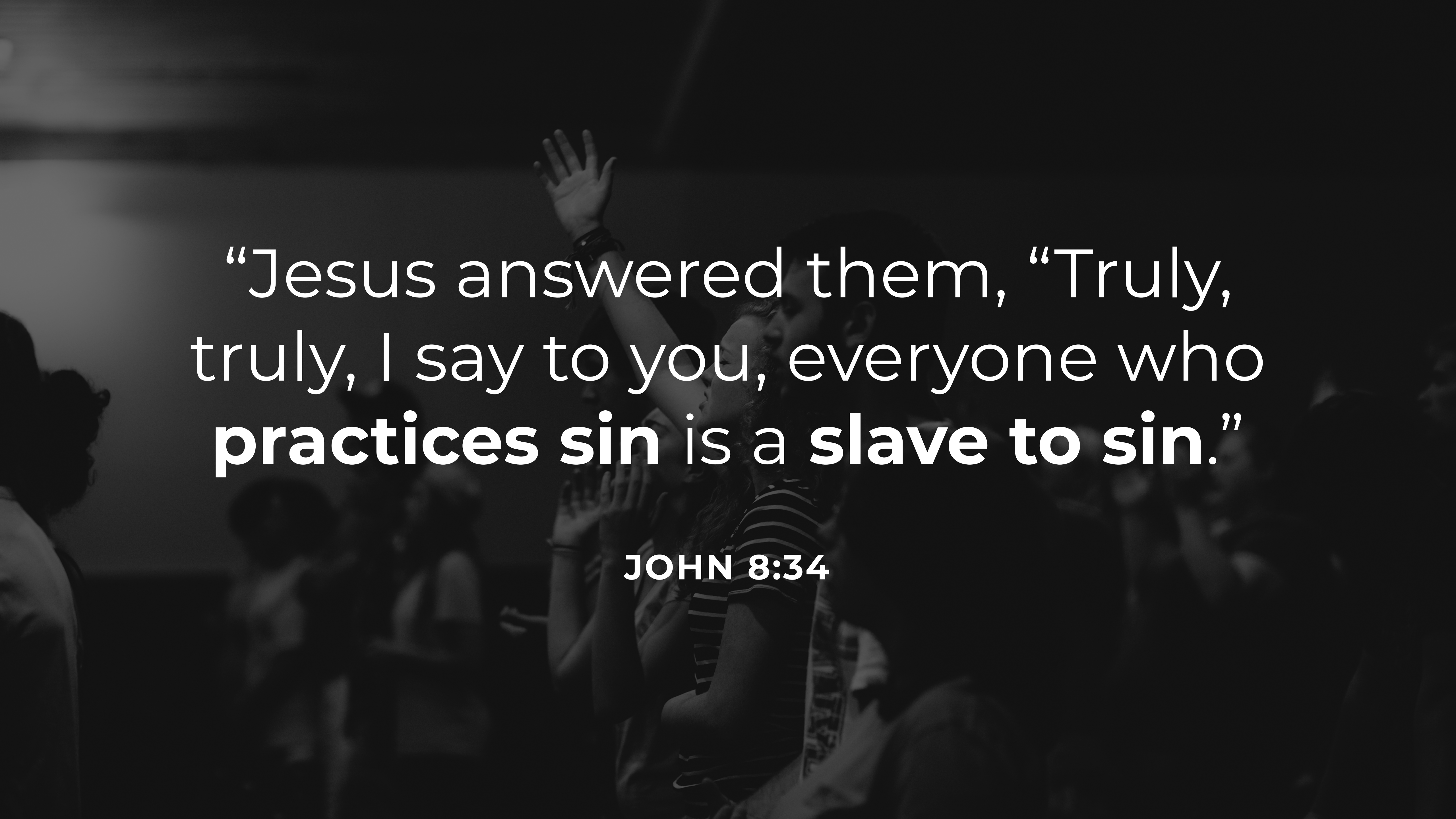


“And if you do not do well,  
**sin** is crouching at the door.  
Its desire is contrary to you,  
but **you must rule over it.**”

**GENESIS 4:7**



Cain had a **sin** problem.  
Cain had a **heart** problem.  
Cain had a “**master**” problem.



“Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who **practices sin** is a **slave to sin.**”

**JOHN 8:34**



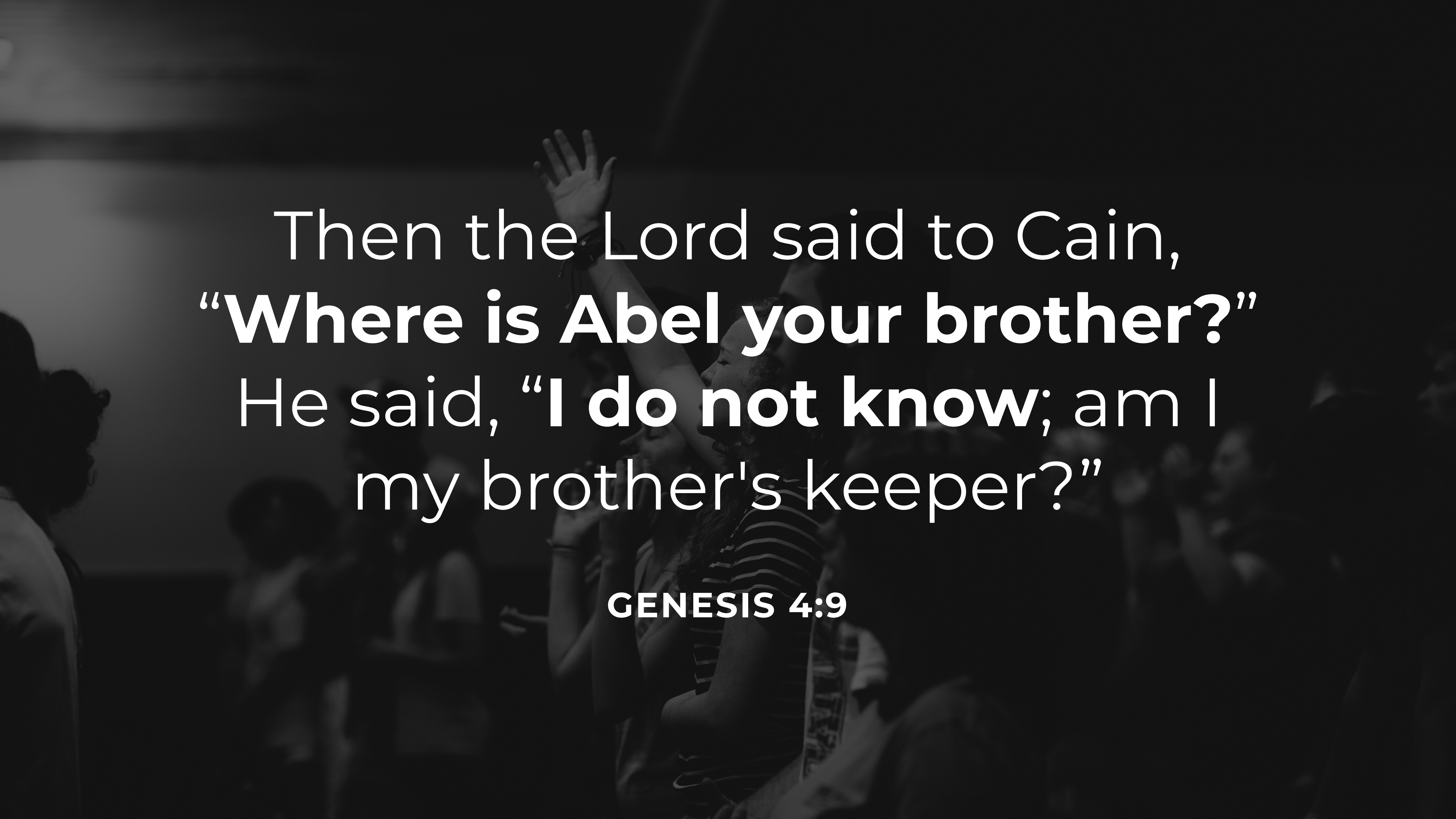
And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and **people loved the darkness** rather than the light **because their works were evil.**”

JOHN 3:19



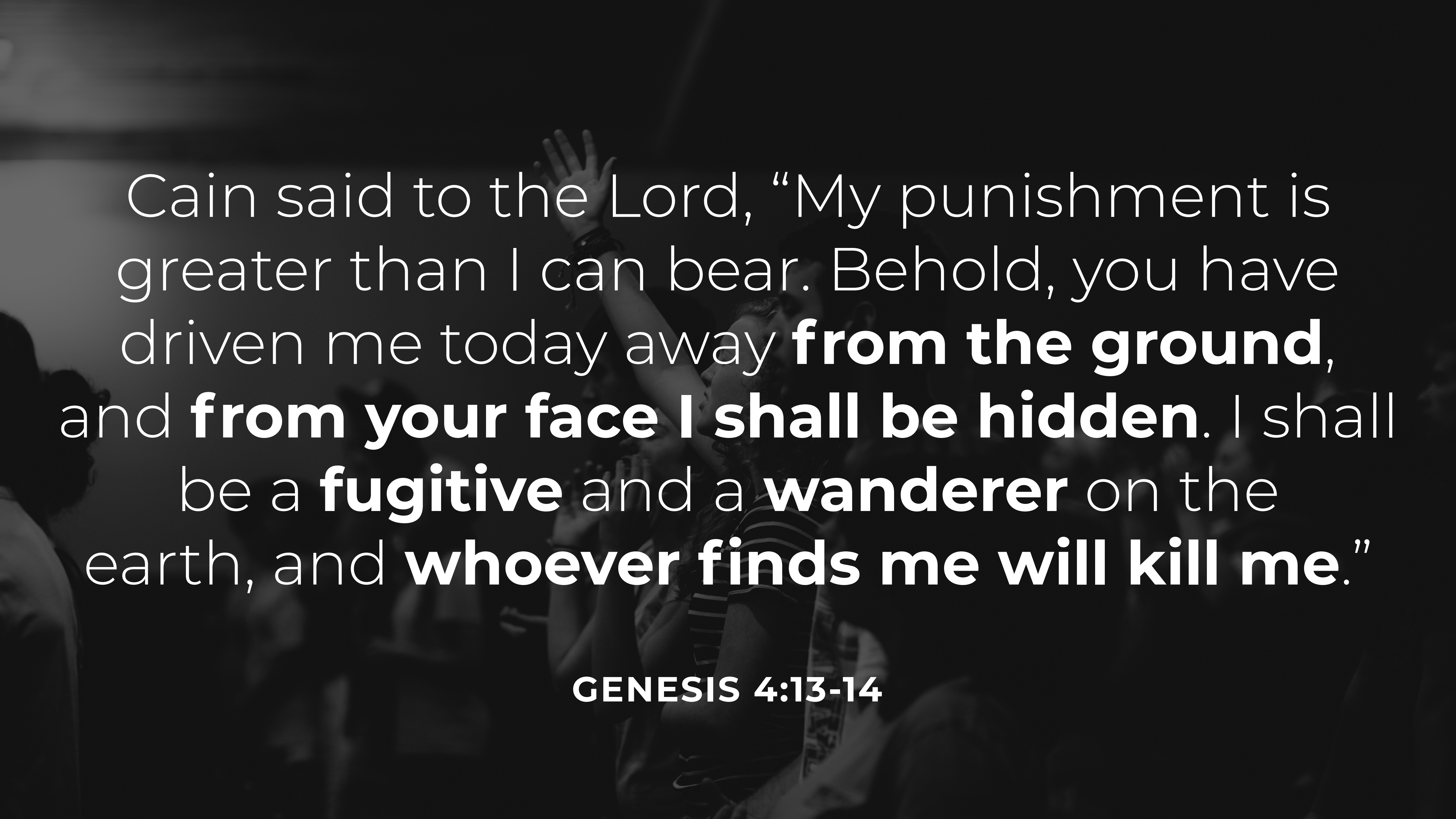


# Genesis 4:8–16



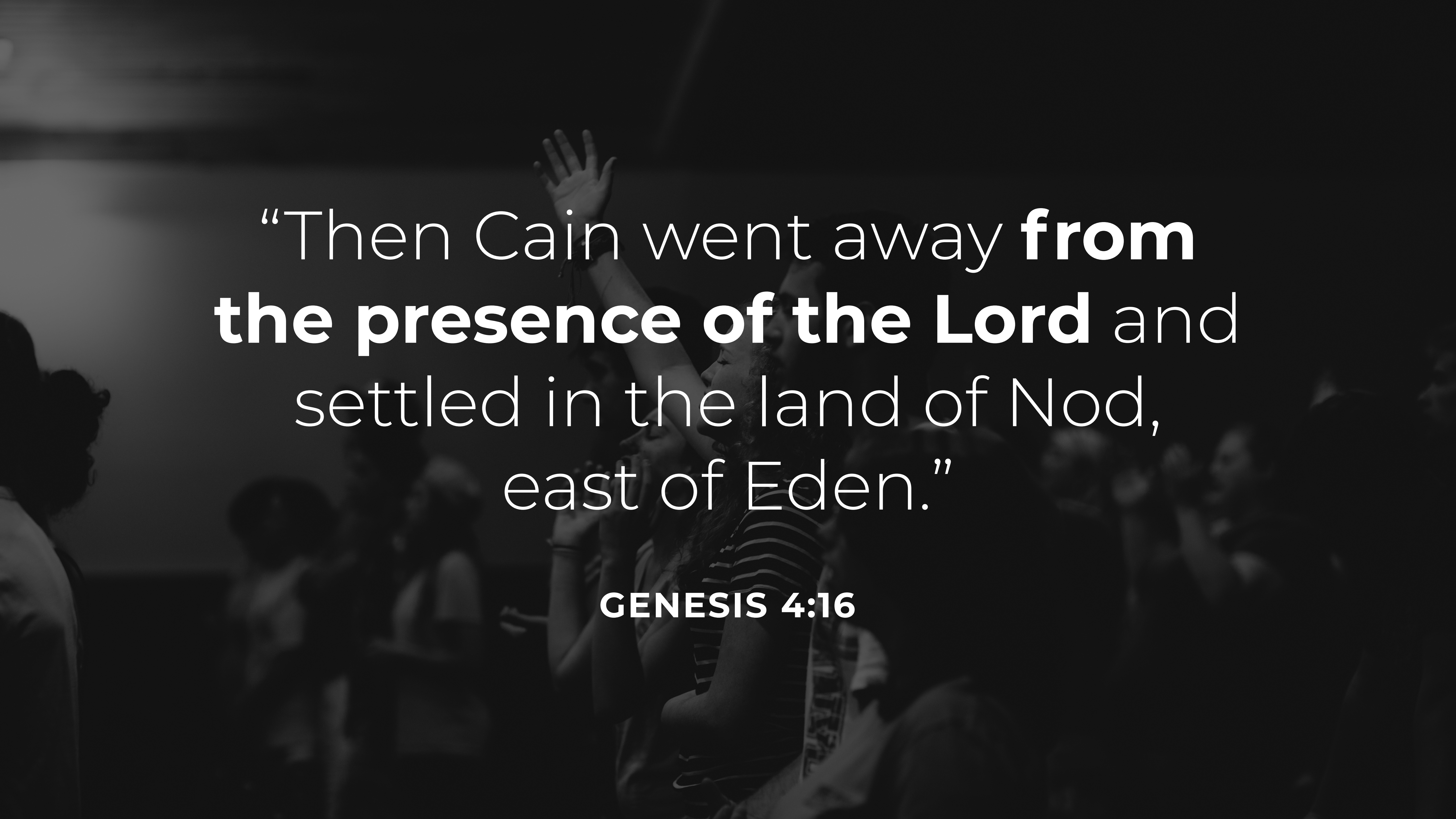
Then the Lord said to Cain,  
**“Where is Abel your brother?”**  
He said, **“I do not know; am I  
my brother's keeper?”**

**GENESIS 4:9**



Cain said to the Lord, “My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away **from the ground,** and **from your face I shall be hidden.** I shall be a **fugitive** and a **wanderer** on the earth, and **whoever finds me will kill me.**”

**GENESIS 4:13-14**



“Then Cain went away **from  
the presence of the Lord** and  
settled in the land of Nod,  
east of Eden.”

**GENESIS 4:16**



# The Verdict

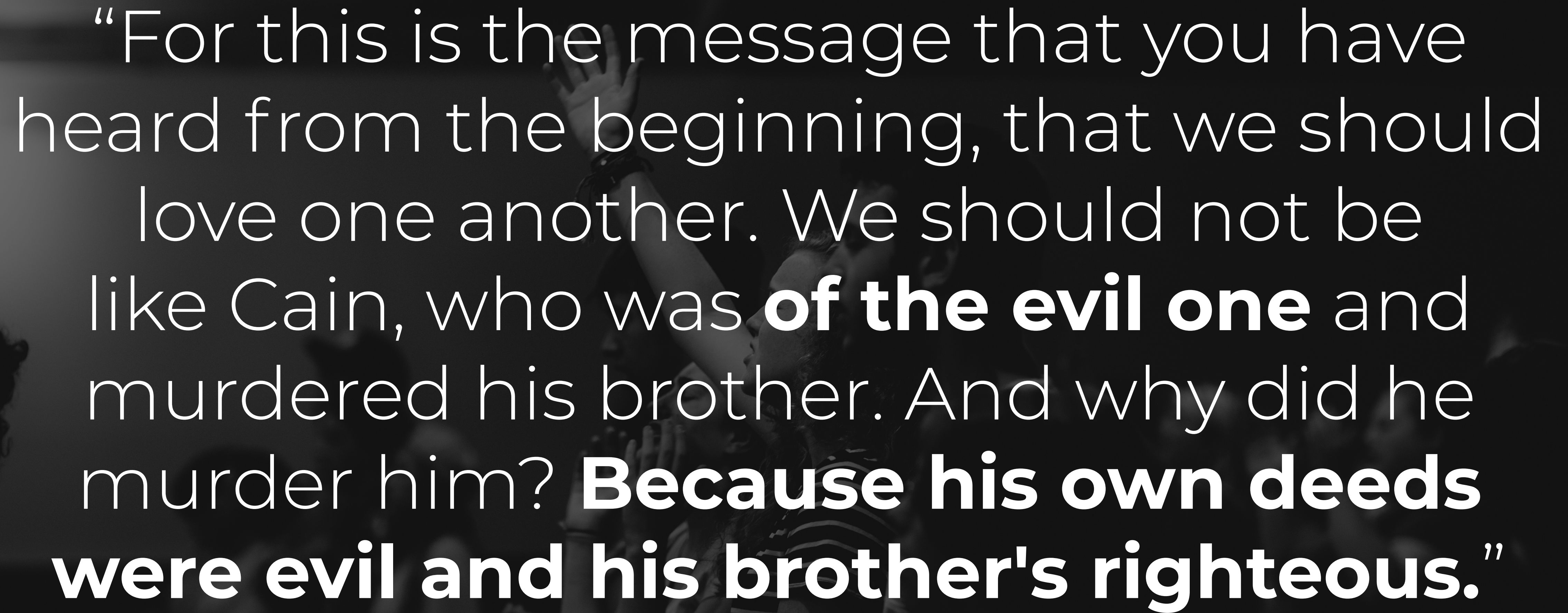


Cain rejected the **Gospel**.

Cain rejected the **Word**.

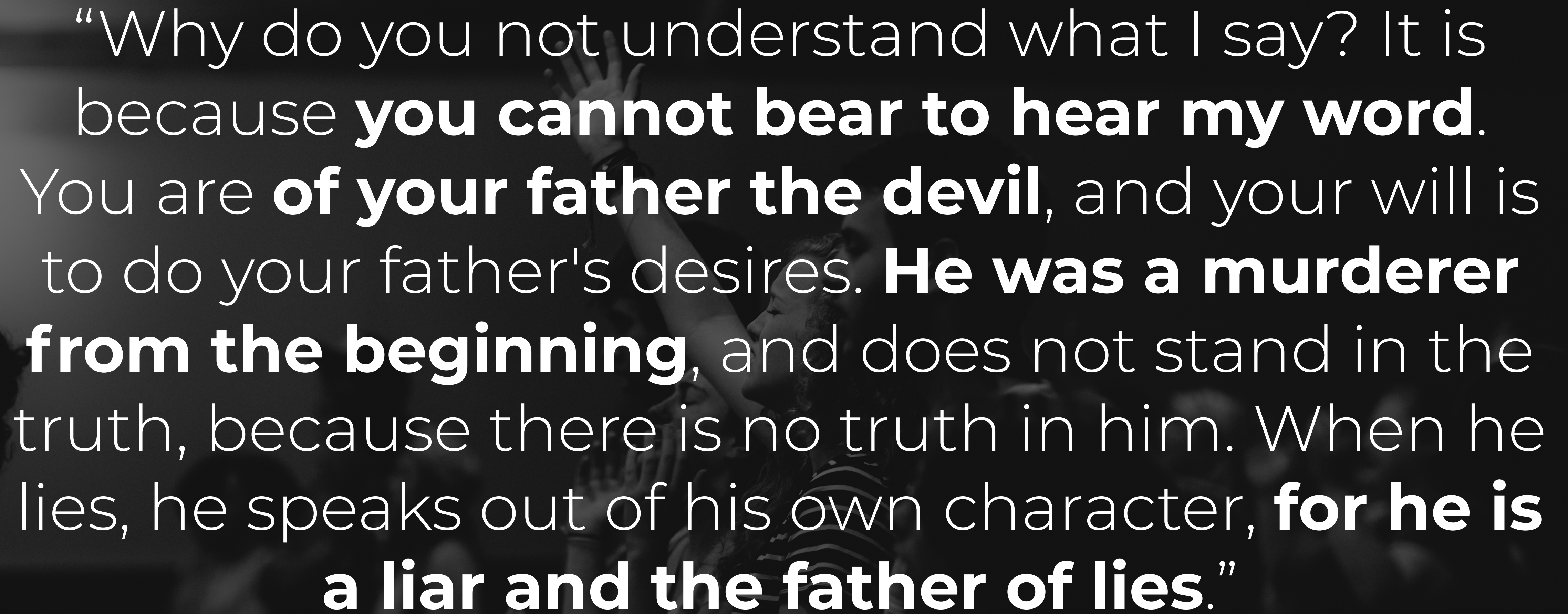
Cain rejected **God**.

God rejected **Cain**.



“For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was **of the evil one** and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? **Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous.**”

**1 JOHN 3:11-12**



“Why do you not understand what I say? It is because **you cannot bear to hear my word.** You are **of your father the devil**, and your will is to do your father's desires. **He was a murderer from the beginning**, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, **for he is a liar and the father of lies.**”

**JOHN 8:43-44**

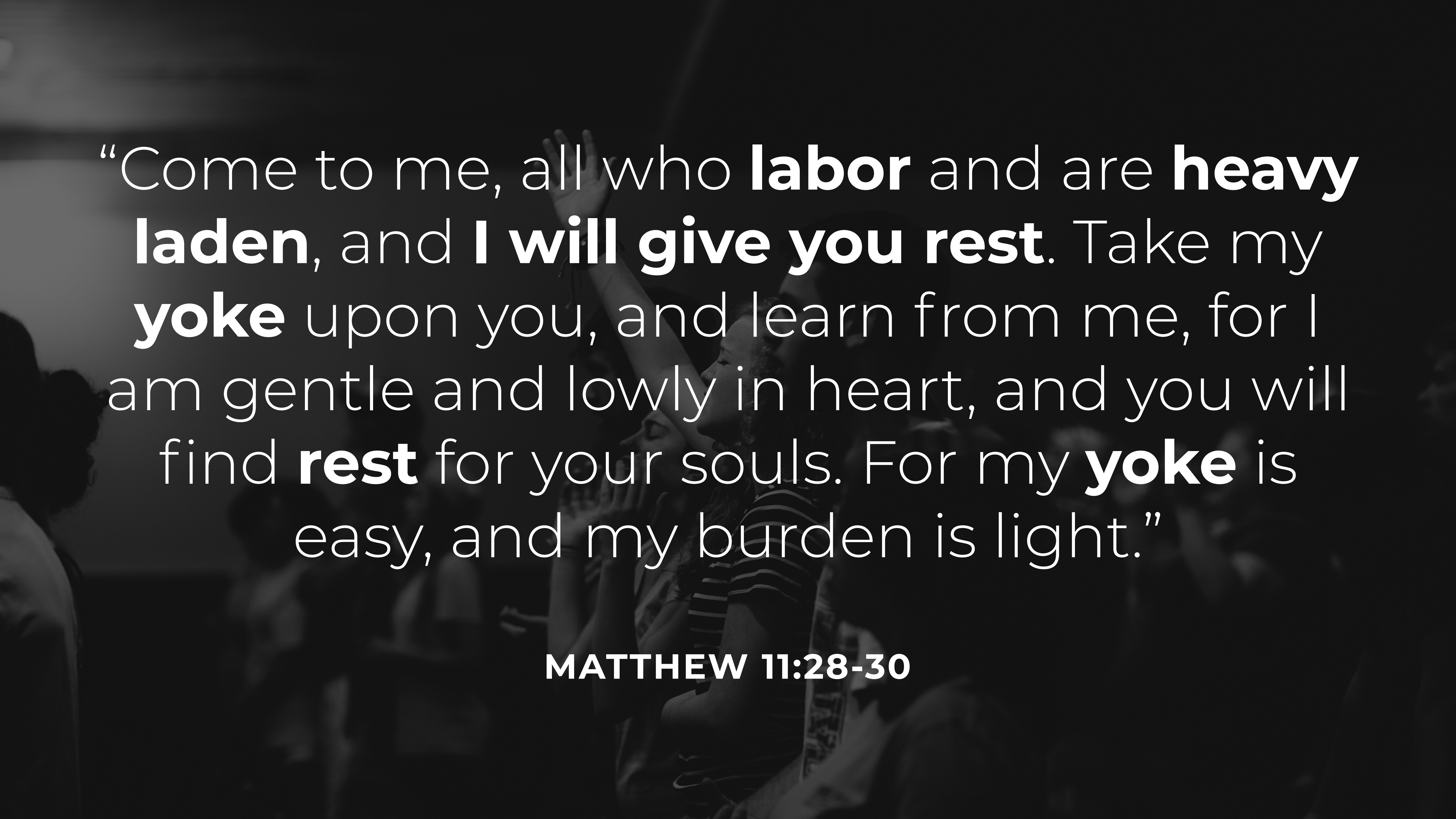




What can **we** take away from this  
as worshippers ourselves?

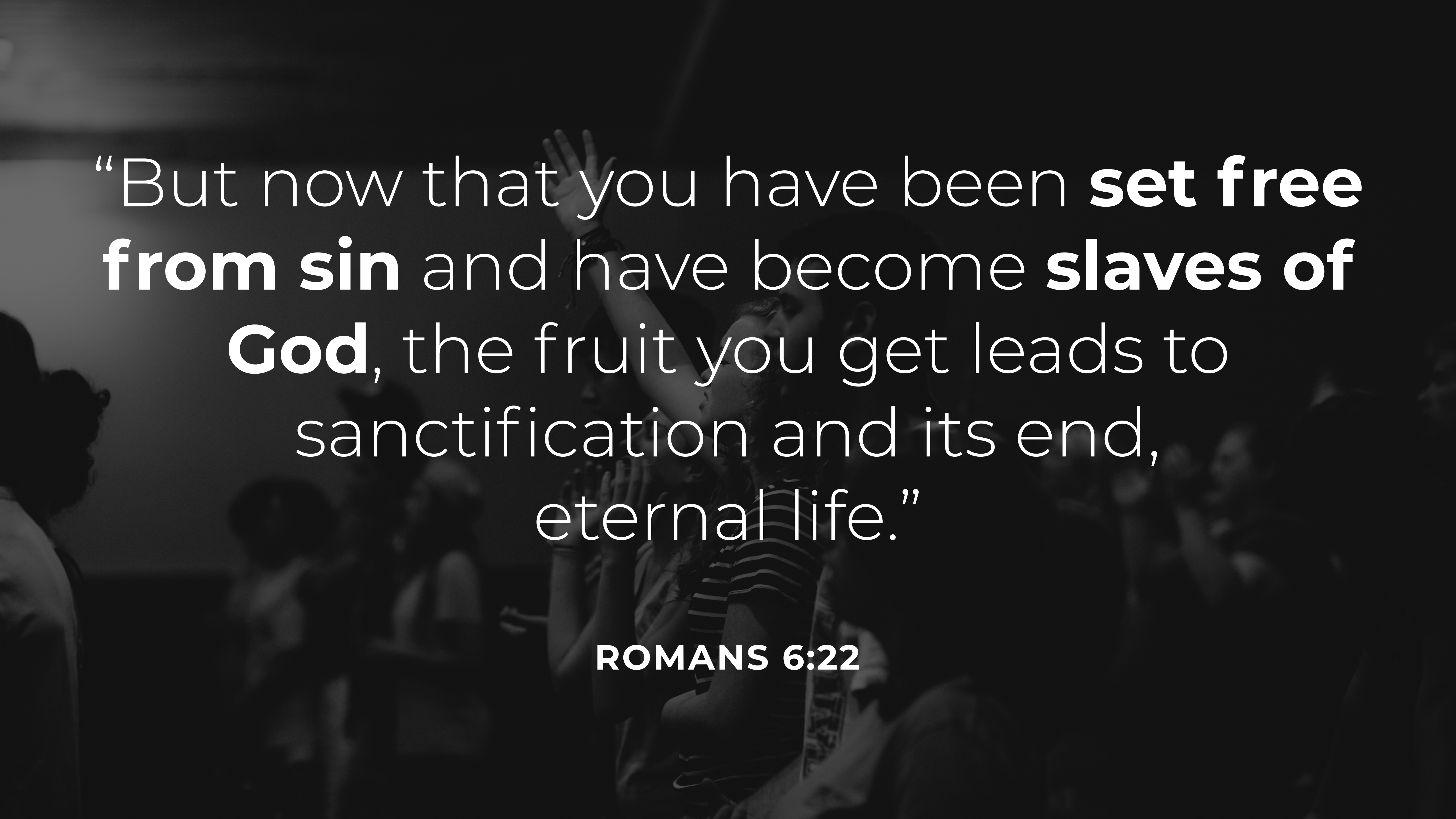


Serve the right **Master.**



“Come to me, all who **labor** and are **heavy laden**, and **I will give you rest**. Take my **yoke** upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find **rest** for your souls. For my **yoke** is easy, and my burden is light.”

**MATTHEW 11:28-30**



“But now that you have been **set free from sin** and have become **slaves of God**, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.”

**ROMANS 6:22**



“The God of peace will soon **crush Satan** under your **feet**. The **grace** of our **Lord Jesus Christ** be with you.”

**ROMANS 16:20**



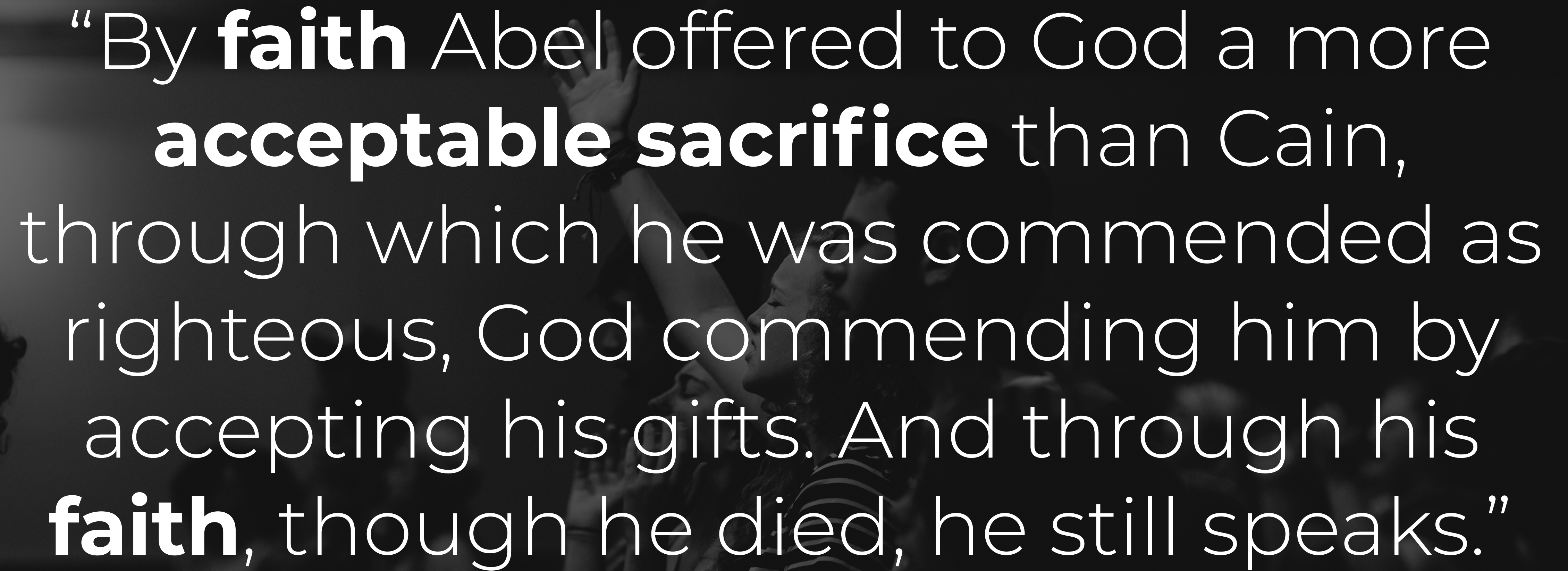
Don't drift from  
the **Word**, cling to it.

Don't drift from  
the **Gospel**, cling to it.



What about **Abel**?

In Abel we find exactly  
what was **lacking** in Cain.



“By **faith** Abel offered to God a more **acceptable sacrifice** than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his **faith**, though he died, he still speaks.”

**HEBREWS 11:4**





Who is your **Master**?



# ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP