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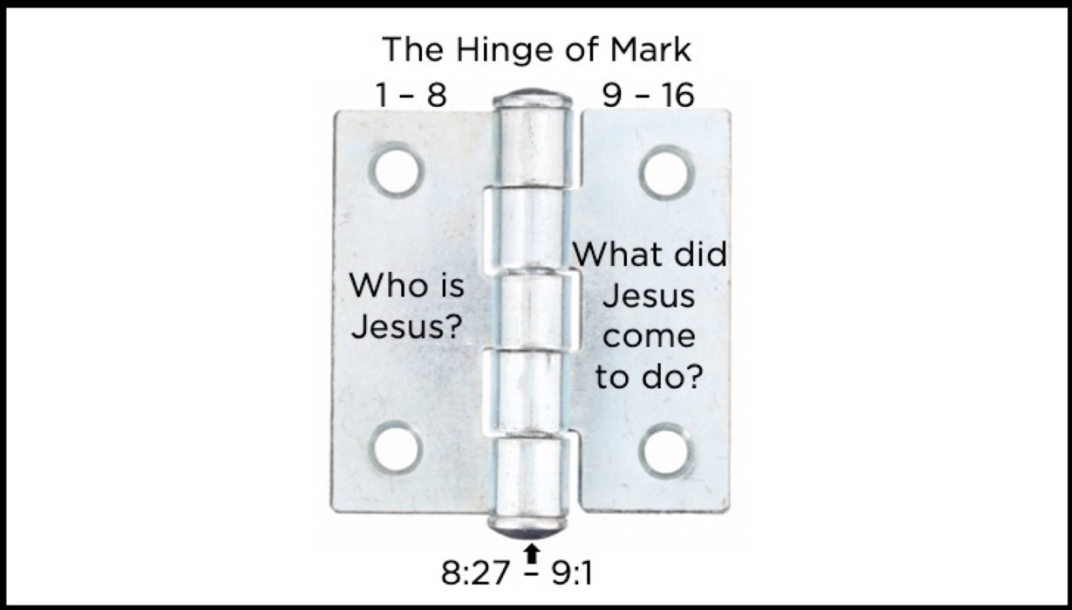
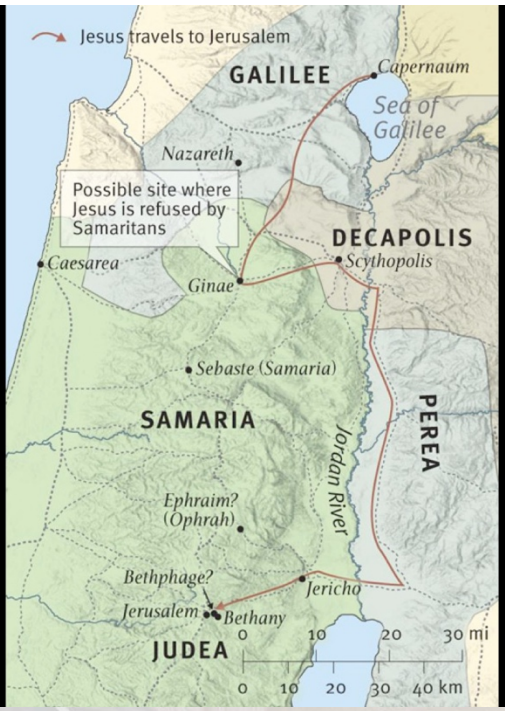
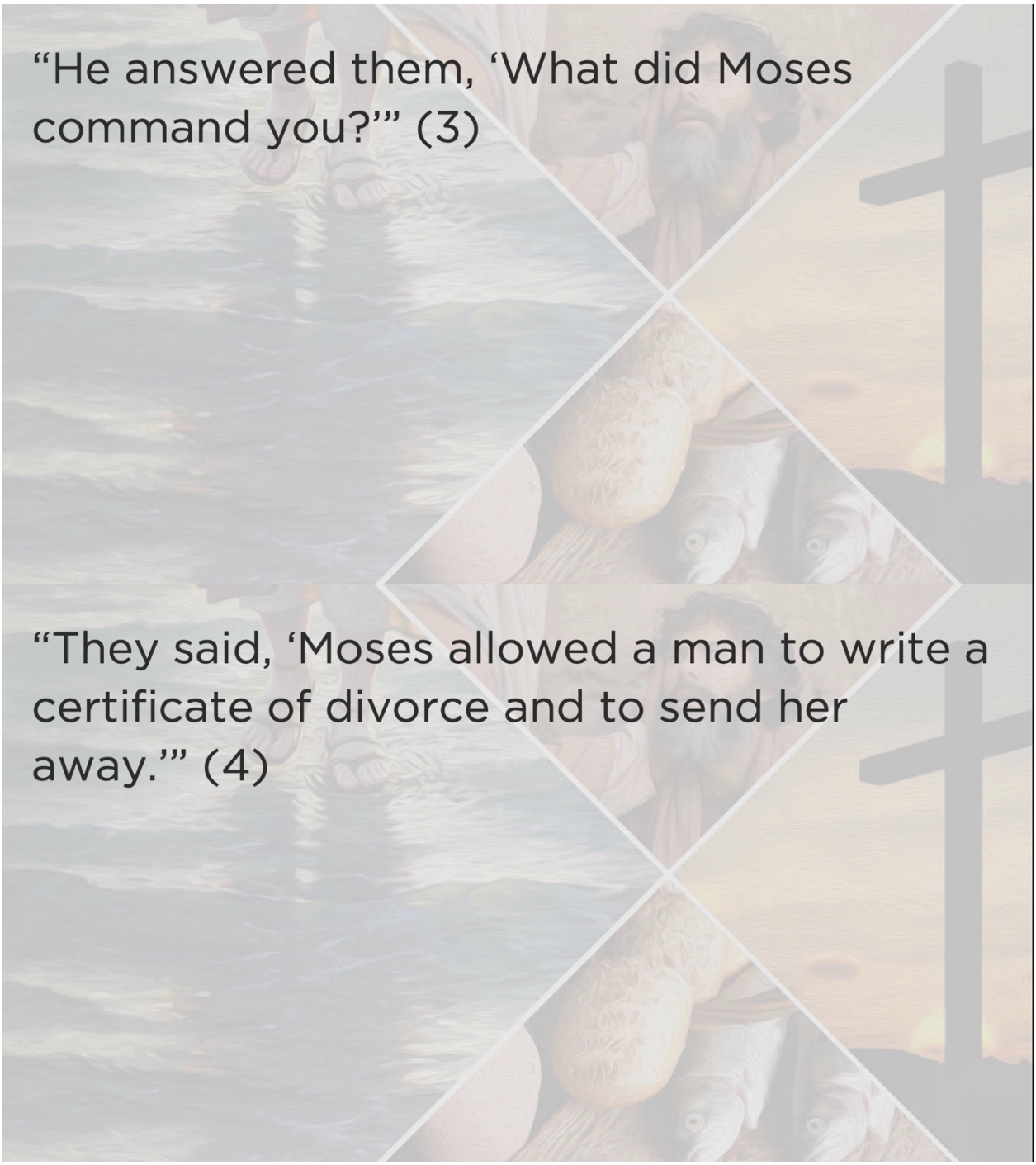


Three Explicit Death/Resurrection Predictions

- Mark 8:31-33
- Mark 9:30-32
- Mark 10:32-34

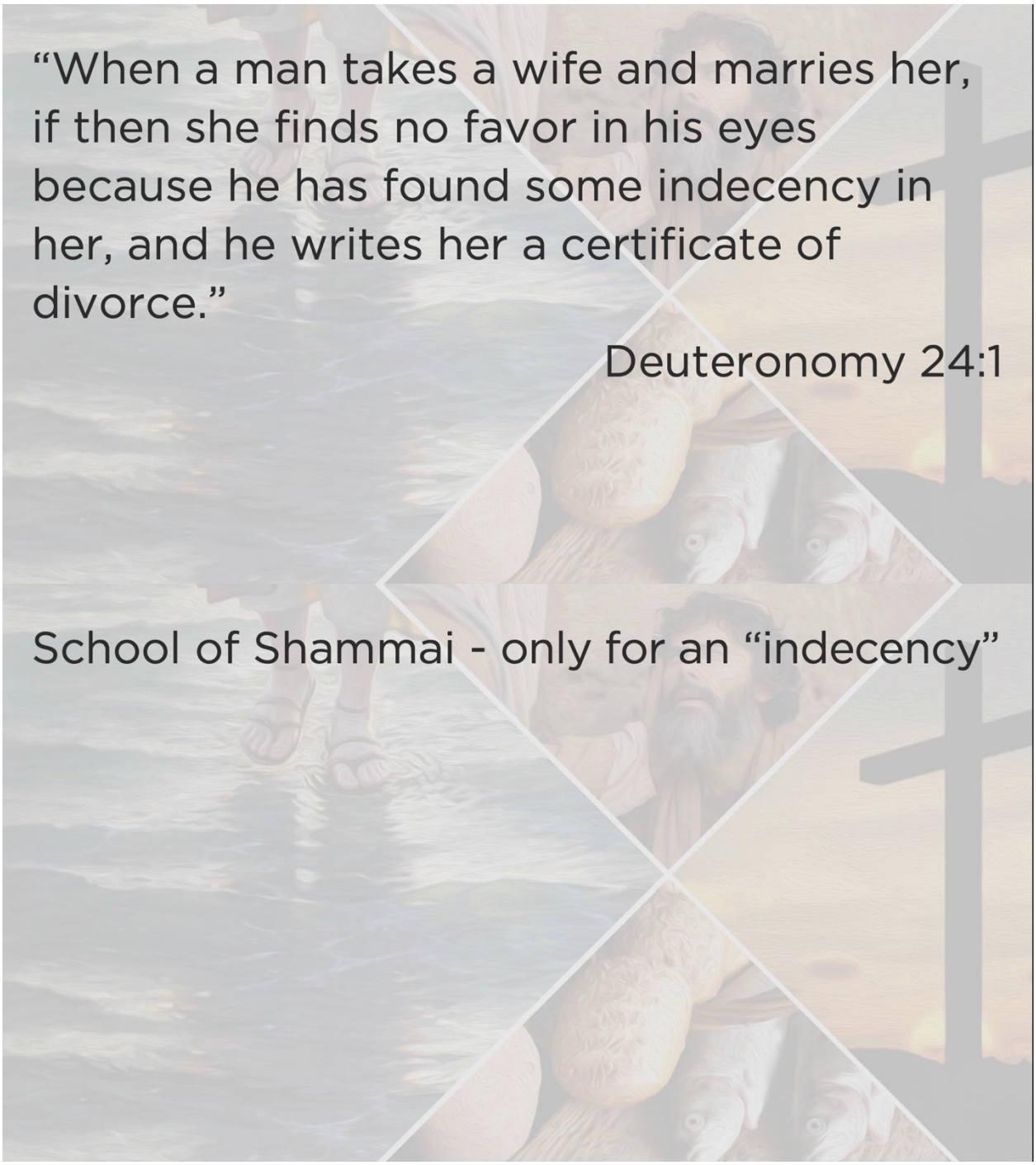


“Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” (2)



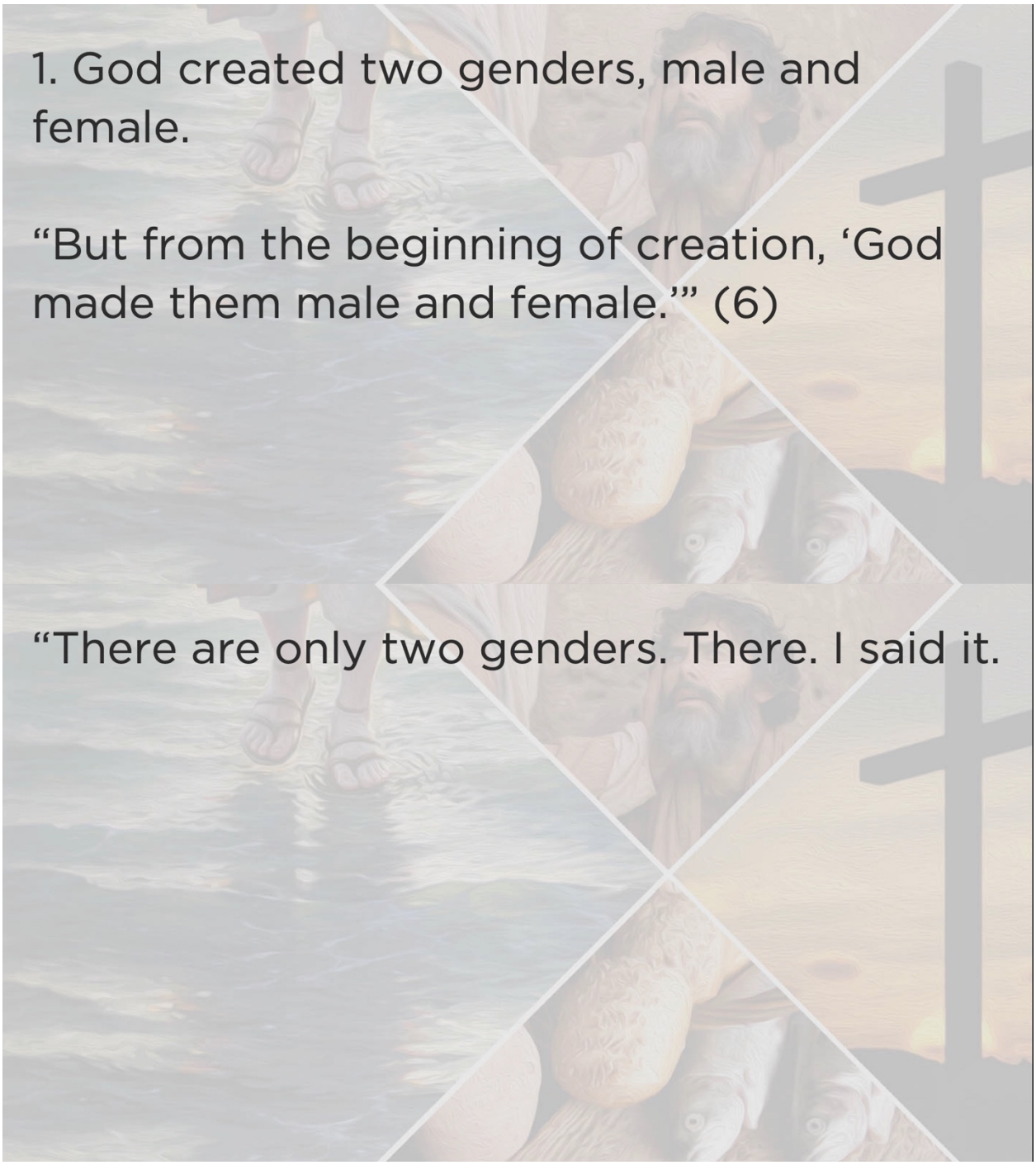
“He answered them, ‘What did Moses command you?’” (3)

“They said, ‘Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of divorce and to send her away.’” (4)


“When a man takes a wife and marries her, if then she finds no favor in his eyes because he has found some indecency in her, and he writes her a certificate of divorce.”
Deuteronomy 24:1
School of Shammai - only for an “indecency”

School of Shammai - only for an “indecency”
School of Hillel - any kind of “indecency”

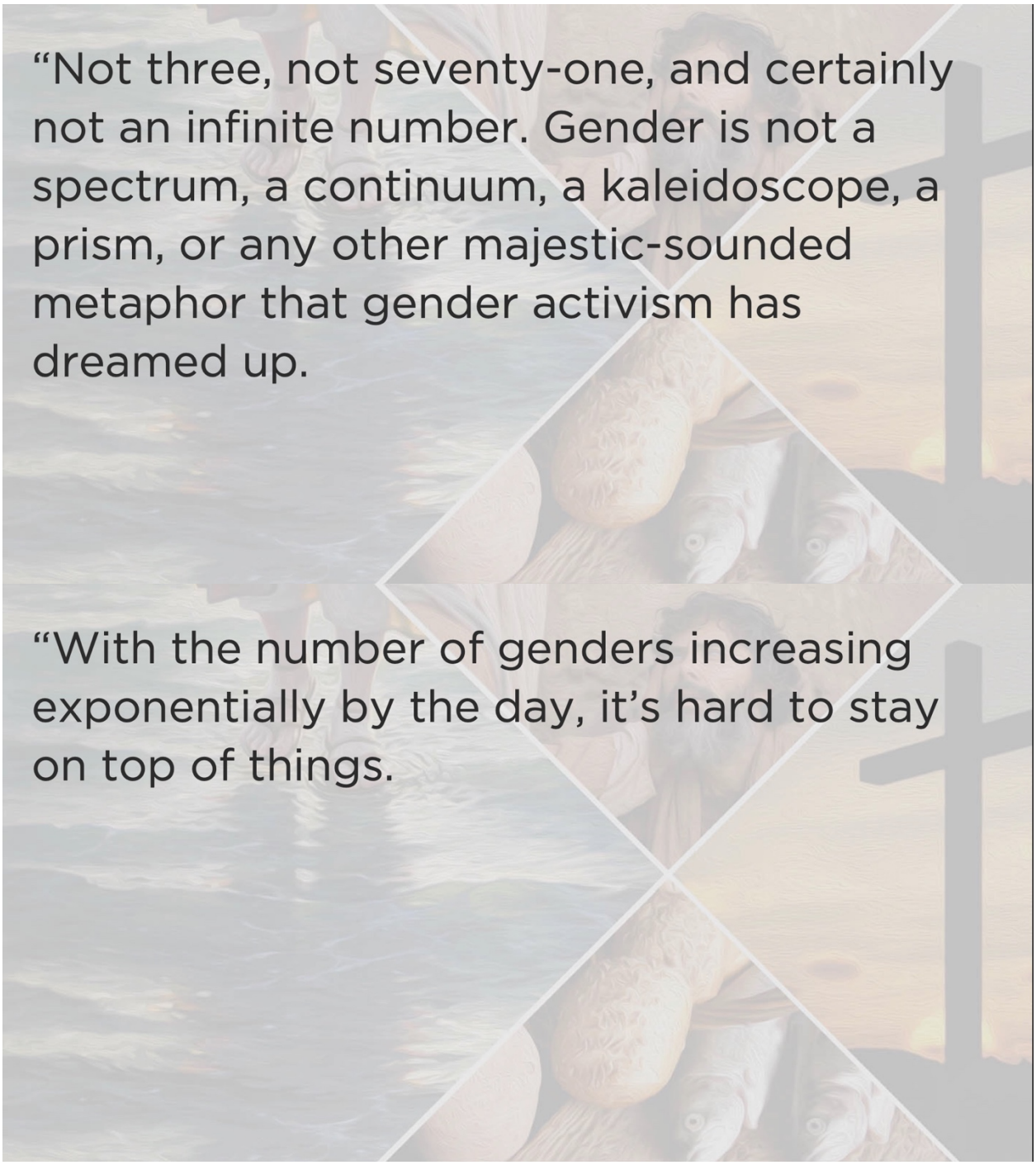
“And Jesus said to them, ‘Because of your hardness of heart, he wrote you this commandment.’” (5)

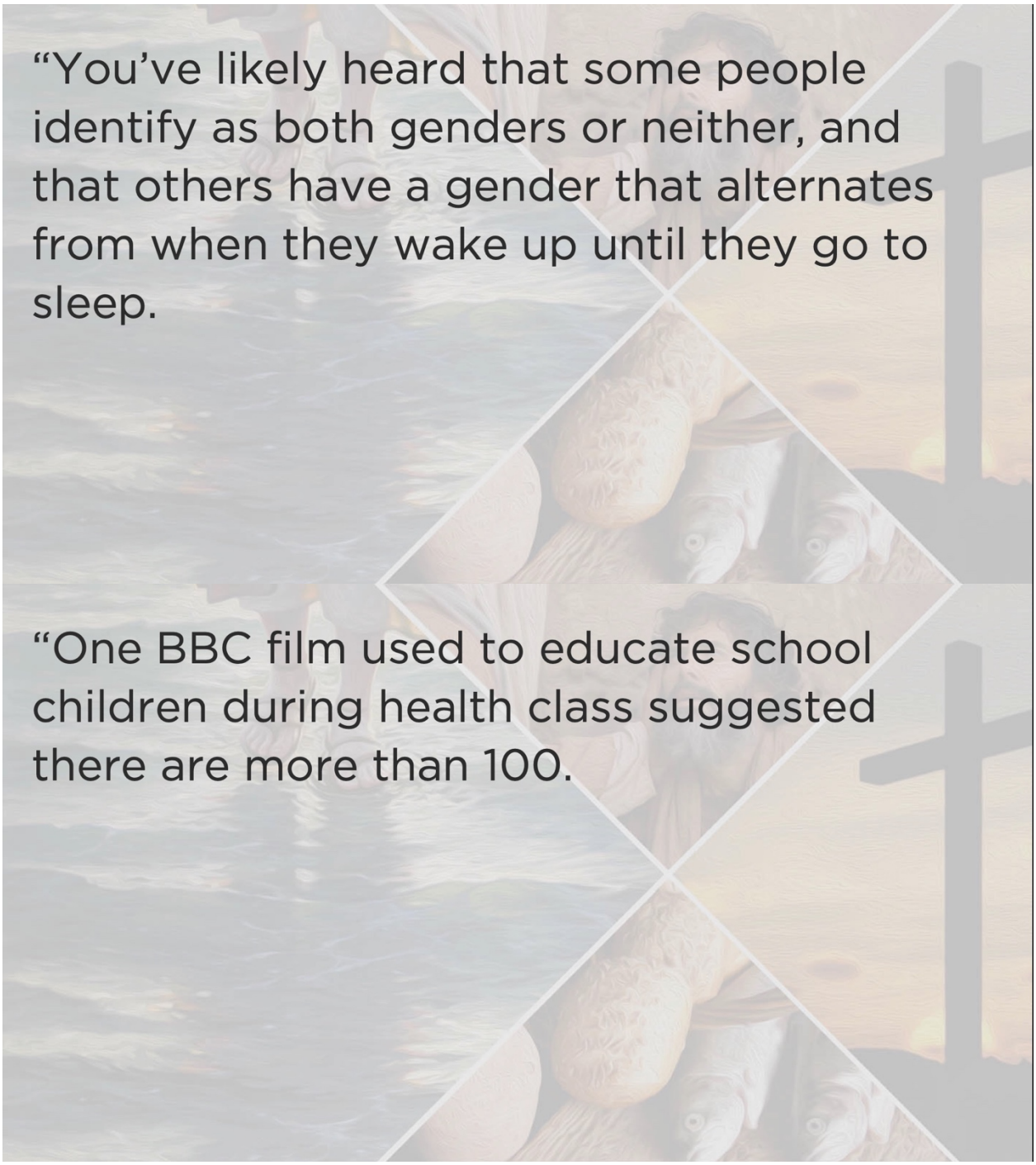


1. God created two genders, male and female.

“But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’” (6)

“There are only two genders. There. I said it.


“Not three, not seventy-one, and certainly not an infinite number. Gender is not a spectrum, a continuum, a kaleidoscope, a prism, or any other majestic-sounded metaphor that gender activism has dreamed up.
“With the number of genders increasing exponentially by the day, it’s hard to stay on top of things.



“You’ve likely heard that some people identify as both genders or neither, and that others have a gender that alternates from when they wake up until they go to sleep.

“One BBC film used to educate school children during health class suggested there are more than 100.

“No. There are two: female and male. There is zero scientific evidence to suggest that any other genders exist.”

Debra Soh

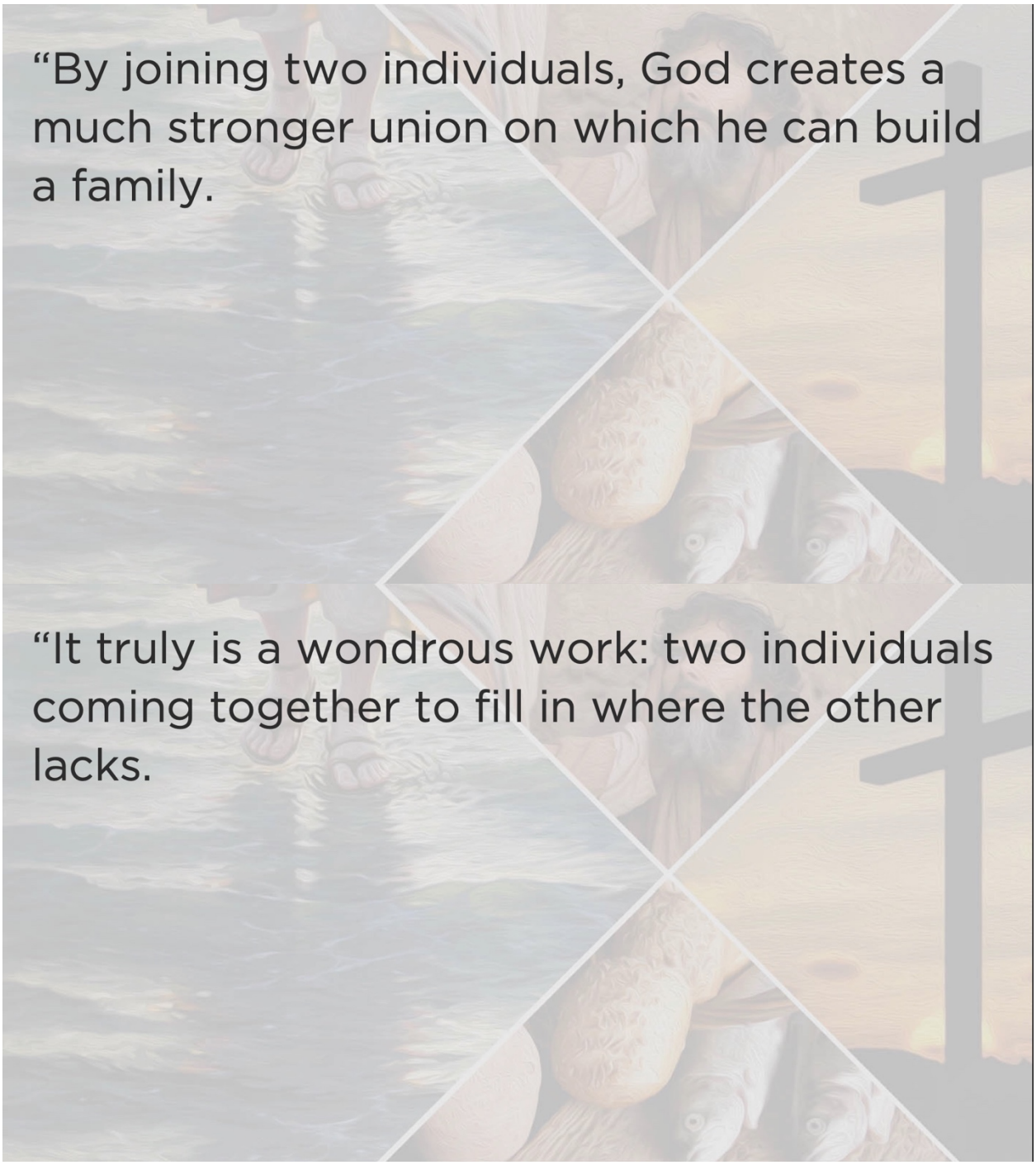
2. God designed marriage to be an exclusive union between a man and a woman.

“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife.” (7)

3. God calls two to die in order to create one new reality in marriage.

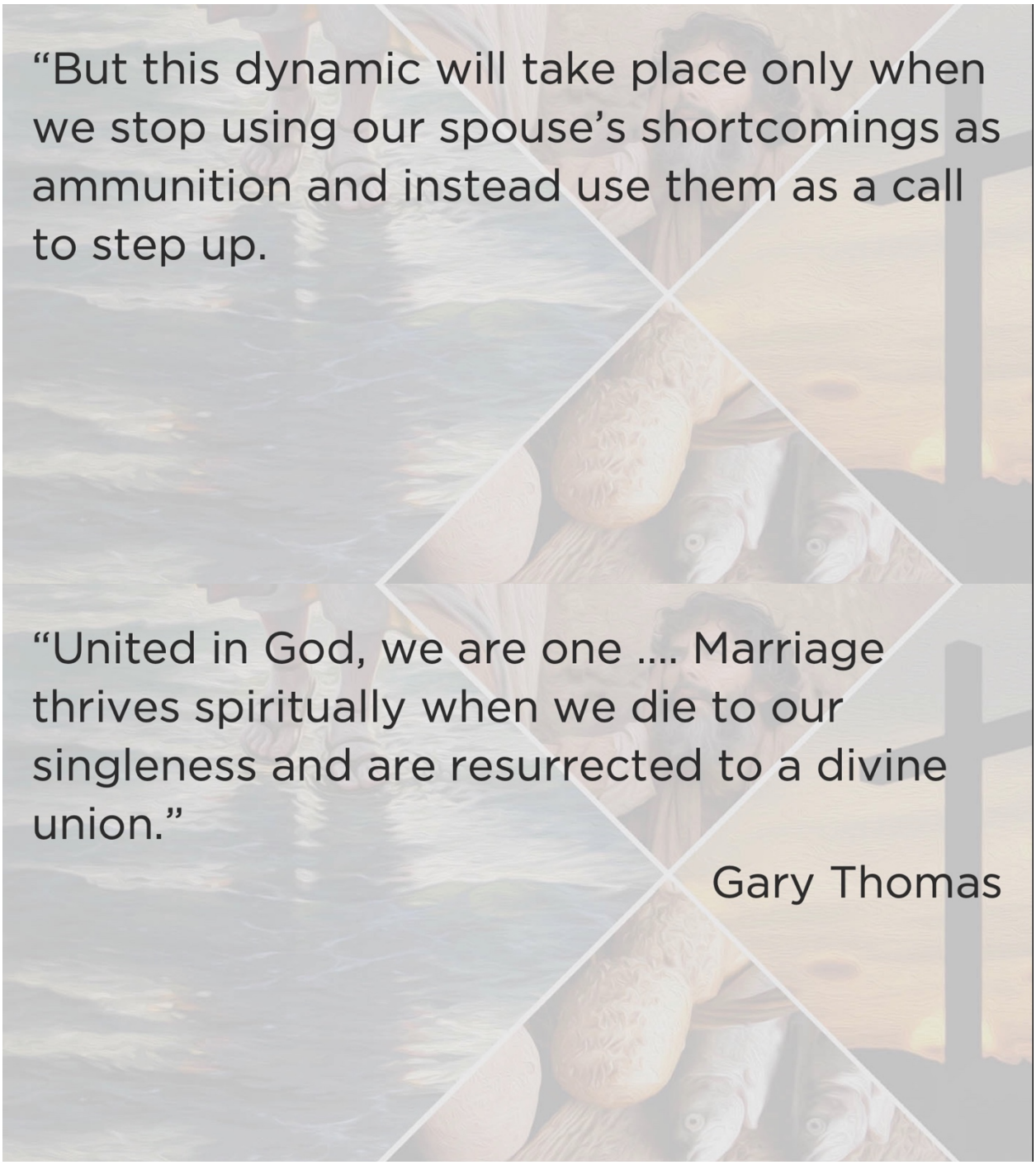
"'And the two shall become one flesh.' So they are no longer two but one flesh." (8)

Marriage as an institution is a stroke of genius on God's part. As sinful humans, all of us lack certain skills, and all of us enter this relationship with myriad limitations and faults.



“By joining two individuals, God creates a much stronger union on which he can build a family.

“It truly is a wondrous work: two individuals coming together to fill in where the other lacks.


“But this dynamic will take place only when we stop using our spouse’s shortcomings as ammunition and instead use them as a call to step up.
“United in God, we are one .... Marriage thrives spiritually when we die to our singleness and are resurrected to a divine union.”
Gary Thomas

4. God forbids anyone from separating what he has joined together.

“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (9)

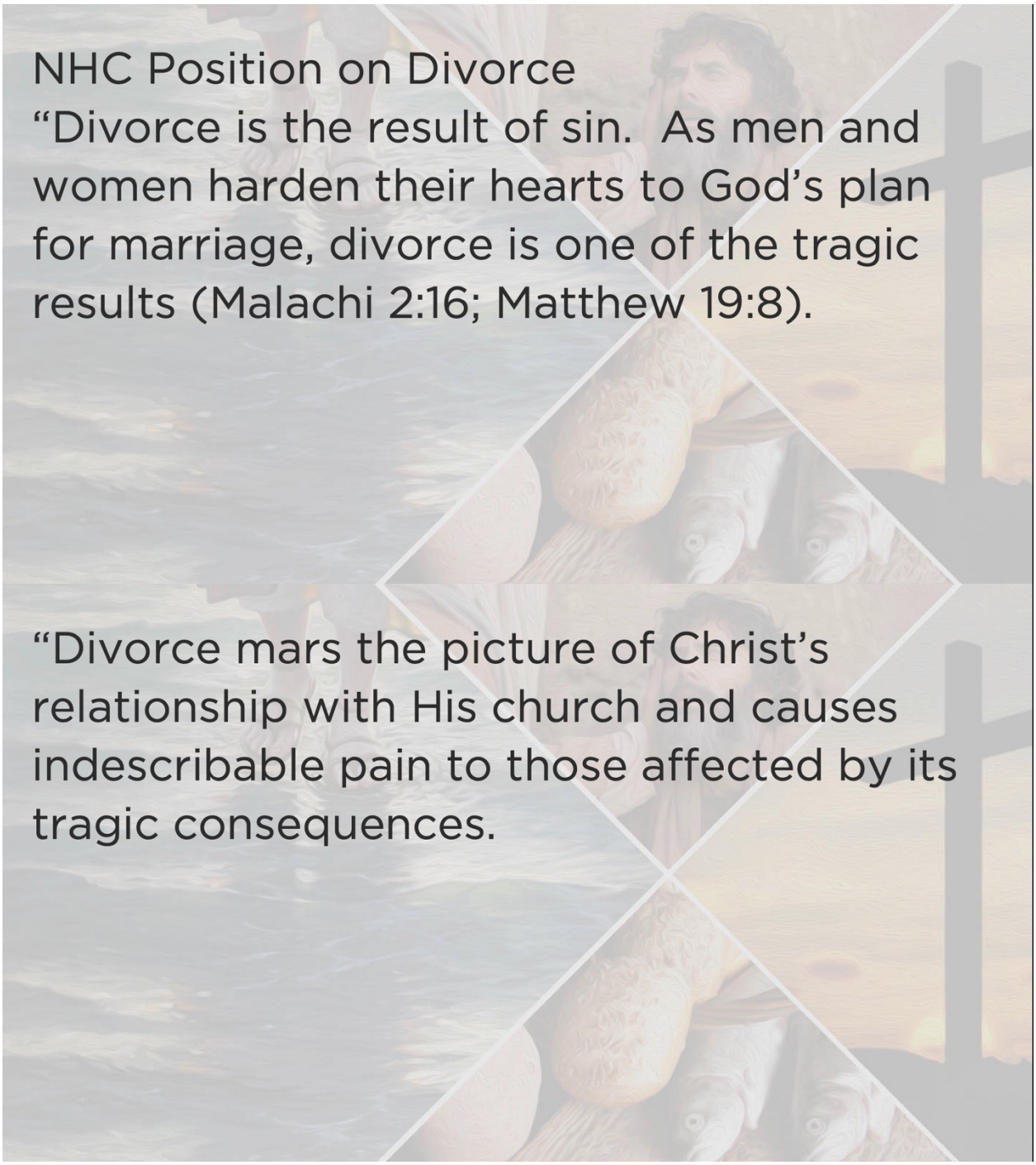
“What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate.” (9)

5. God warns those who pursue another relationship after divorcing unbiblically that they are living in adultery.

“And in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter.” (10)

“And he said to them, ‘Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her, and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.’”

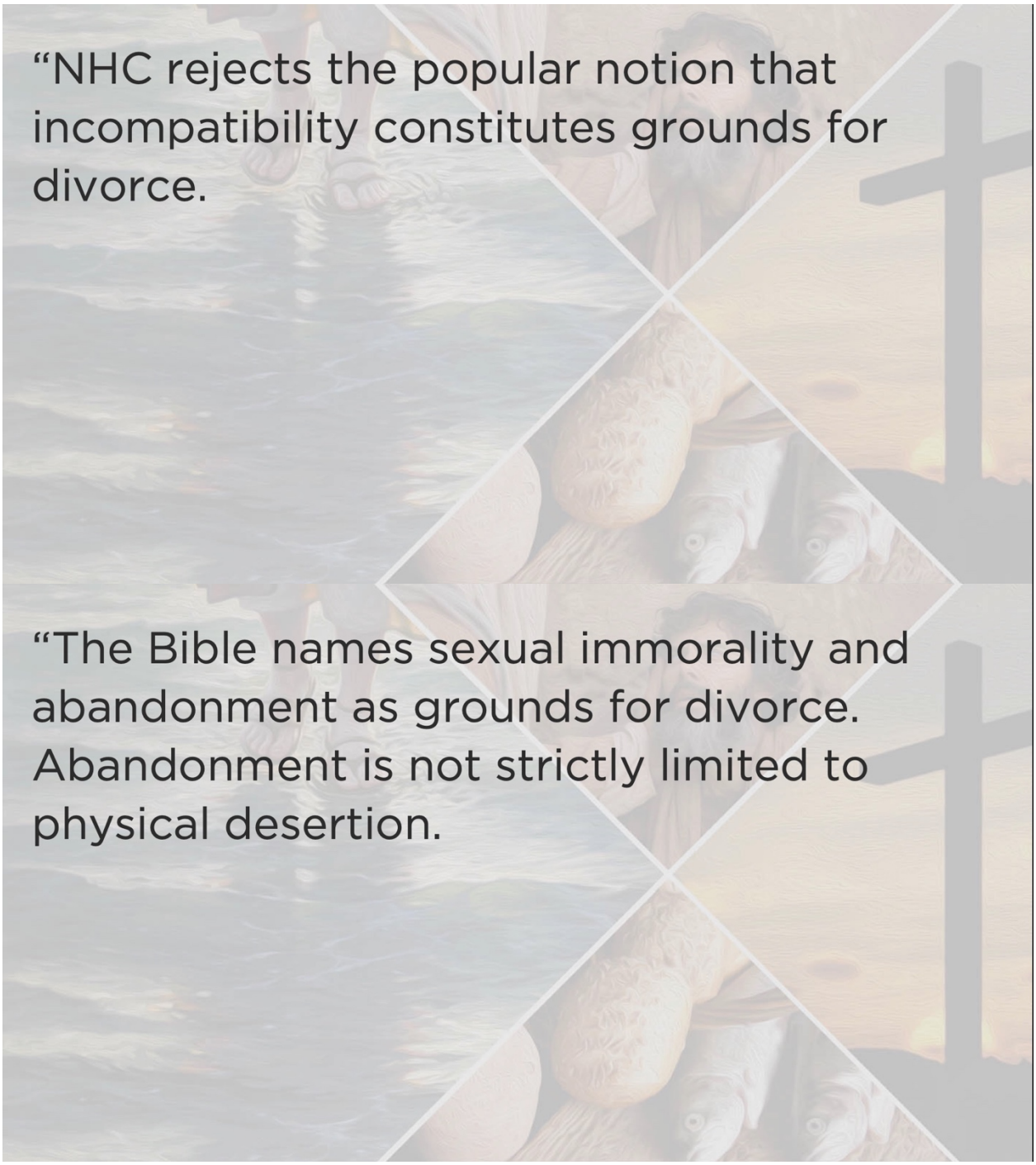
Mark 10:11-12

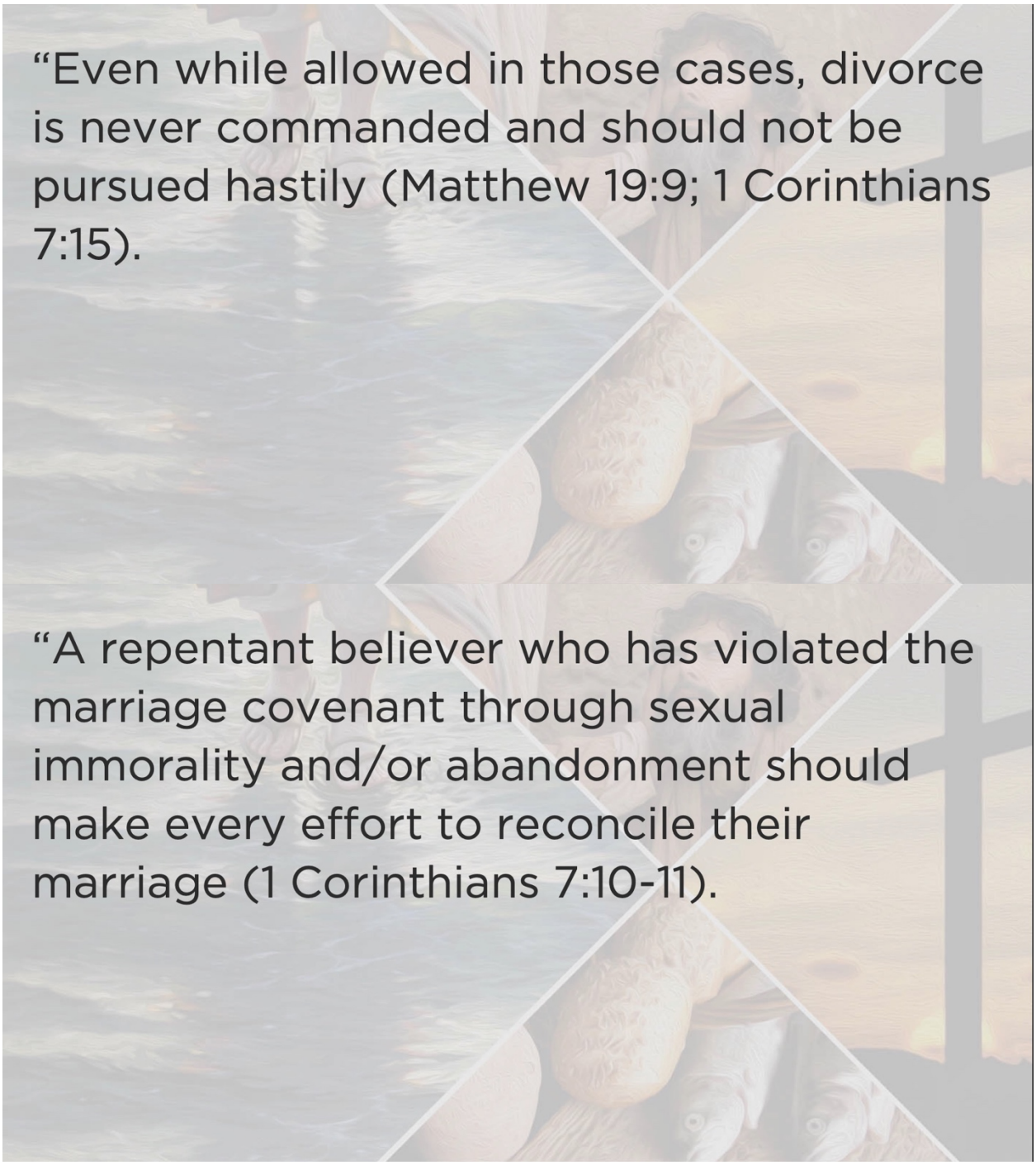


NHC Position on Divorce

"Divorce is the result of sin. As men and women harden their hearts to God's plan for marriage, divorce is one of the tragic results (Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:8).

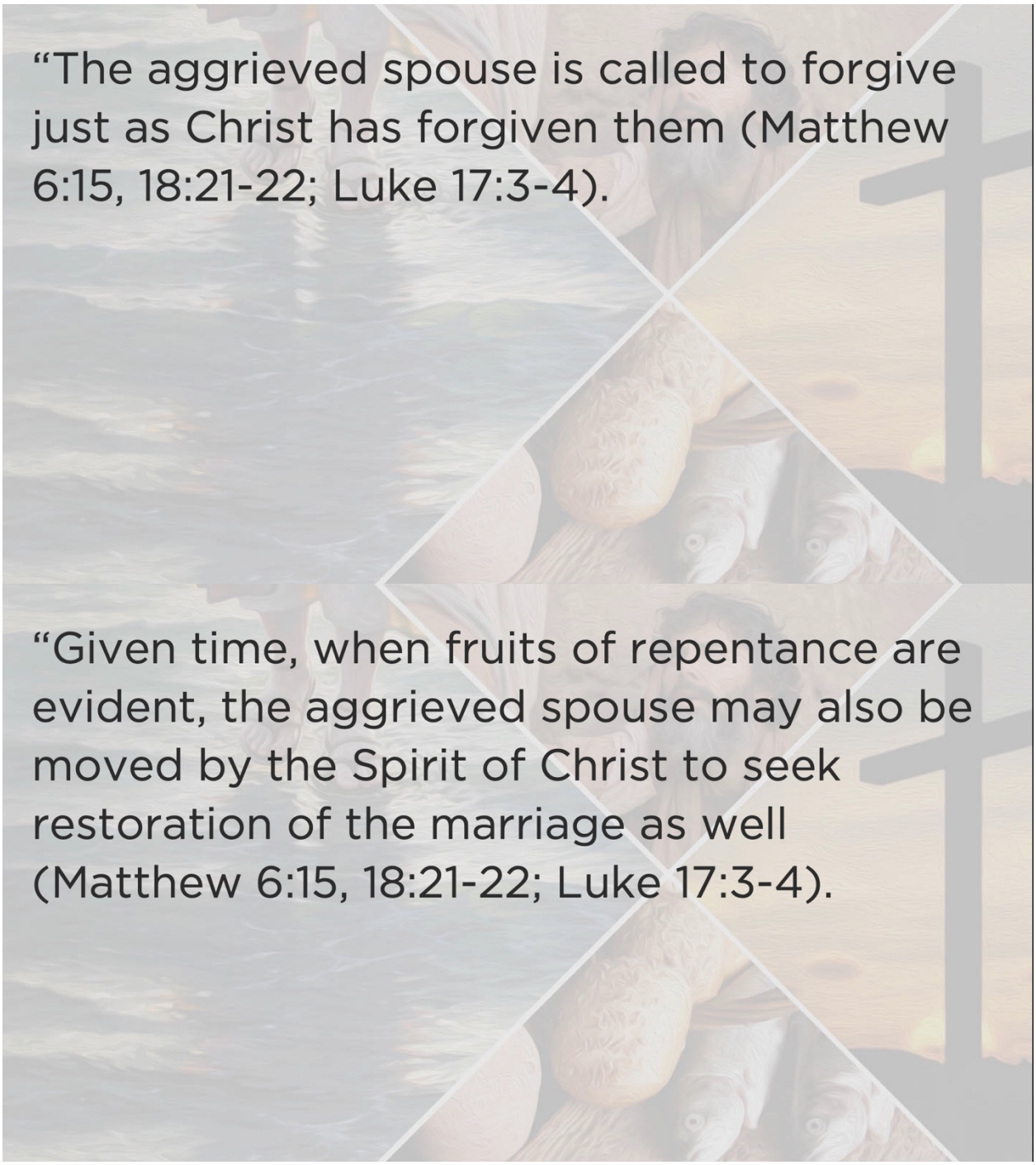
"Divorce mars the picture of Christ's relationship with His church and causes indescribable pain to those affected by its tragic consequences.


“NHC rejects the popular notion that incompatibility constitutes grounds for divorce.
“The Bible names sexual immorality and abandonment as grounds for divorce. Abandonment is not strictly limited to physical desertion.



“Even while allowed in those cases, divorce is never commanded and should not be pursued hastily (Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:15).

“A repentant believer who has violated the marriage covenant through sexual immorality and/or abandonment should make every effort to reconcile their marriage (1 Corinthians 7:10-11).



“The aggrieved spouse is called to forgive just as Christ has forgiven them (Matthew 6:15, 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4).

“Given time, when fruits of repentance are evident, the aggrieved spouse may also be moved by the Spirit of Christ to seek restoration of the marriage as well (Matthew 6:15, 18:21-22; Luke 17:3-4).

“If a member of NHC pursues an unbiblical divorce, church discipline will be administered with the desire to see genuine repentance, restoration and peace in the family and in the church (I Corinthians 5; Matthew 18:15-20).

“As strongly as NHC opposes divorce, we also long to provide the love, acceptance and stability that individuals and families need, by the grace of God, to rebuild their lives (Galatians 6:1-5).

Why are these statements so offensive?

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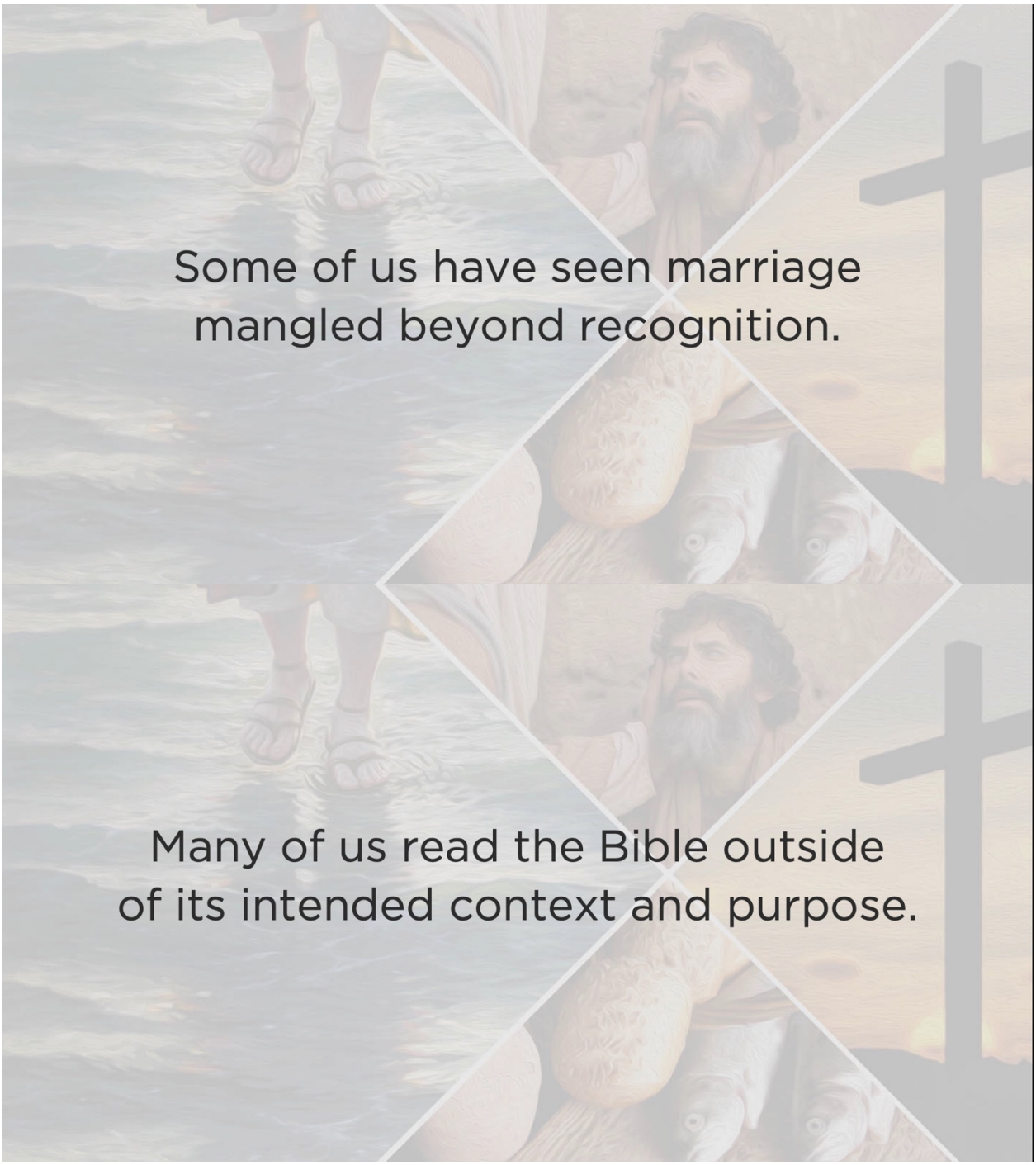
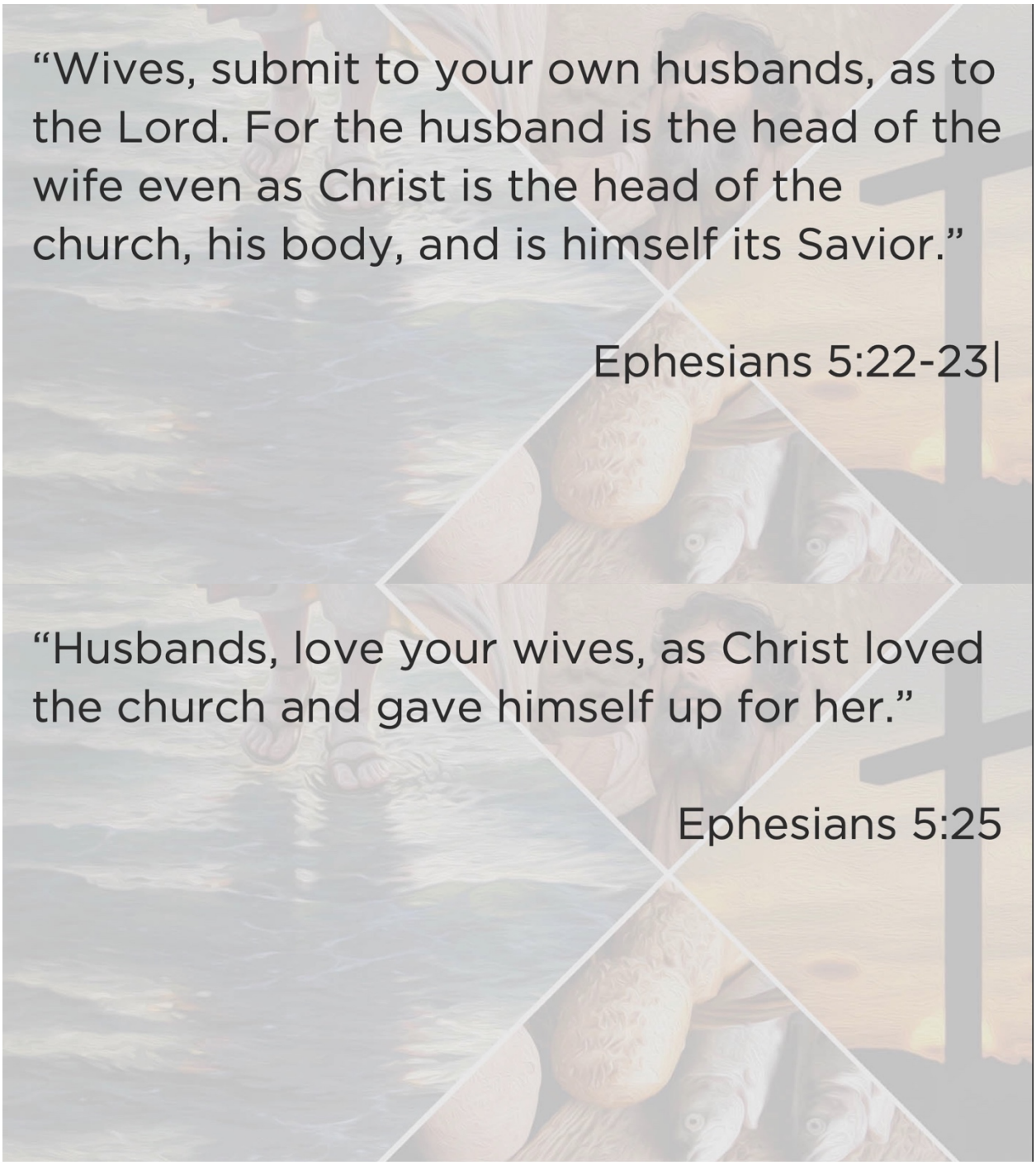
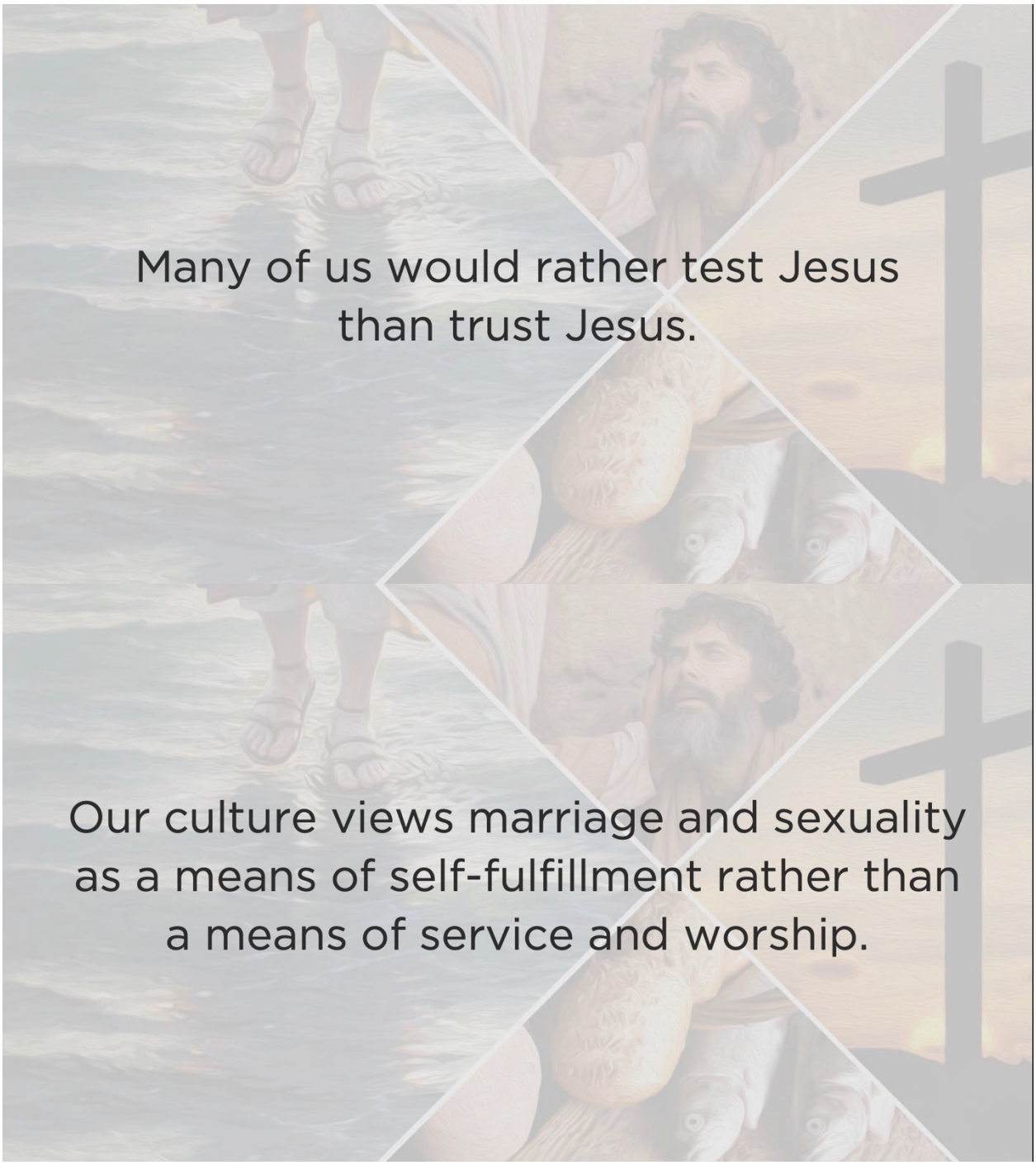
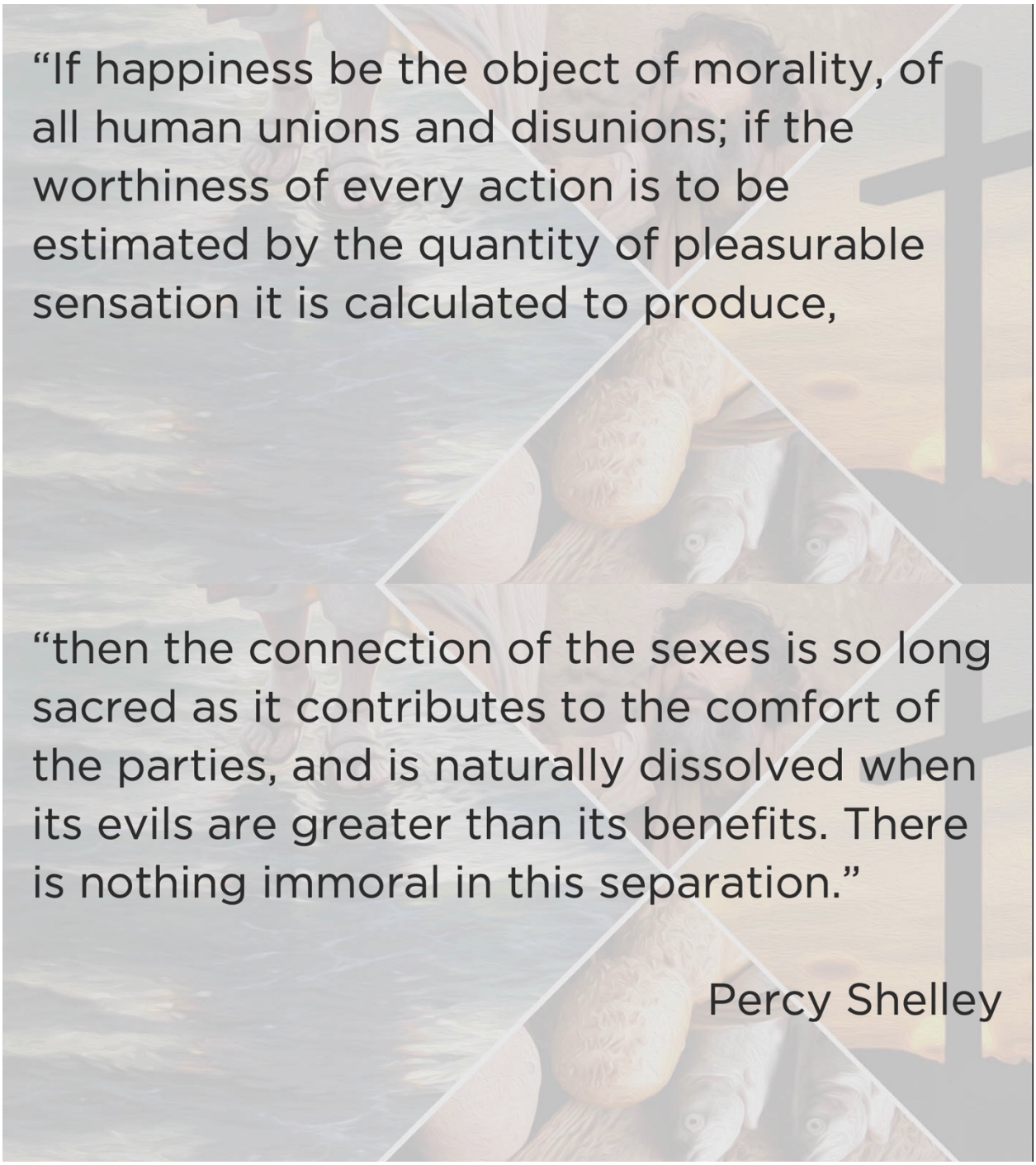
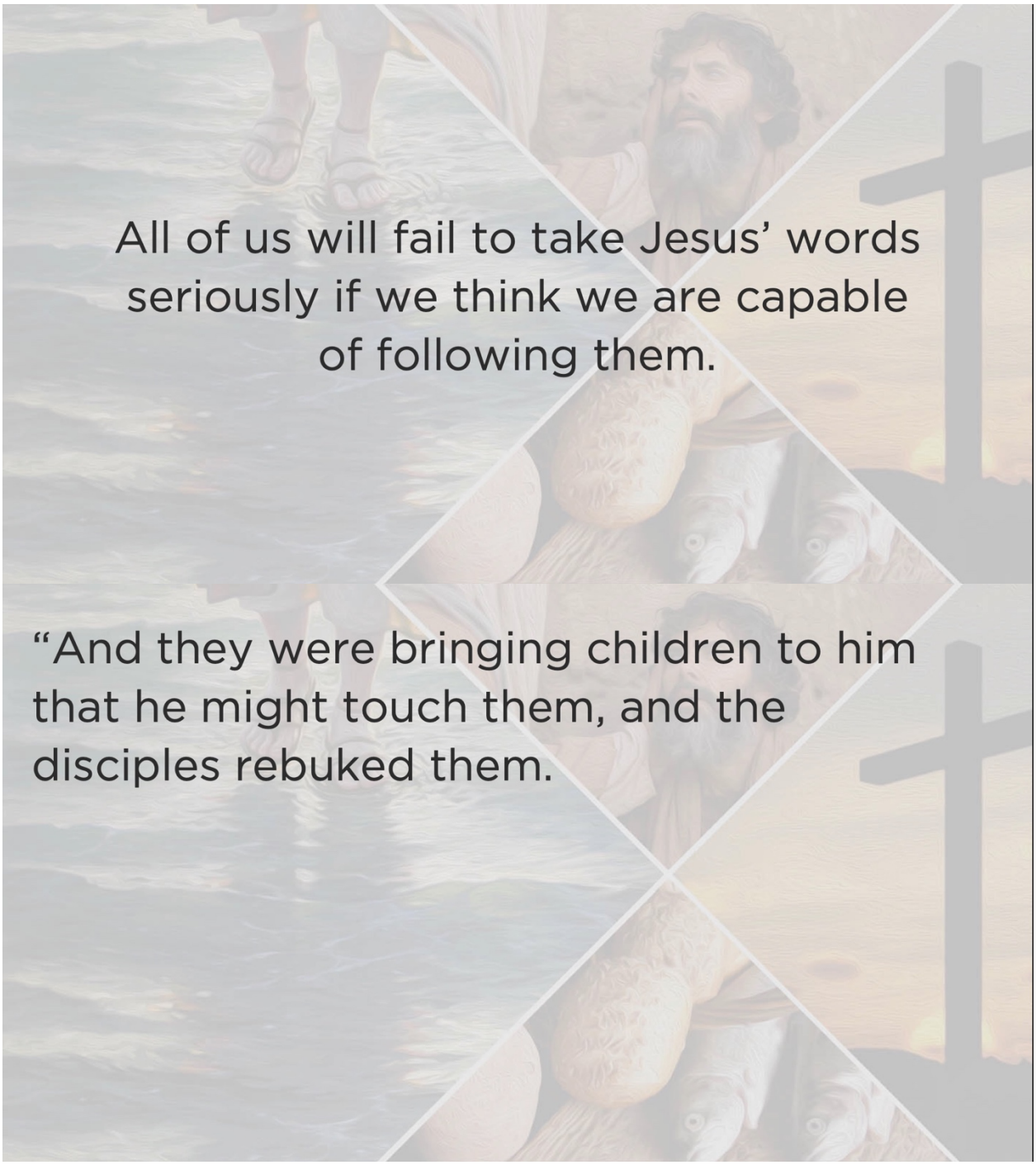
Some of us would love to be married, and it is painful to watch married couples take for granted what God has given them.

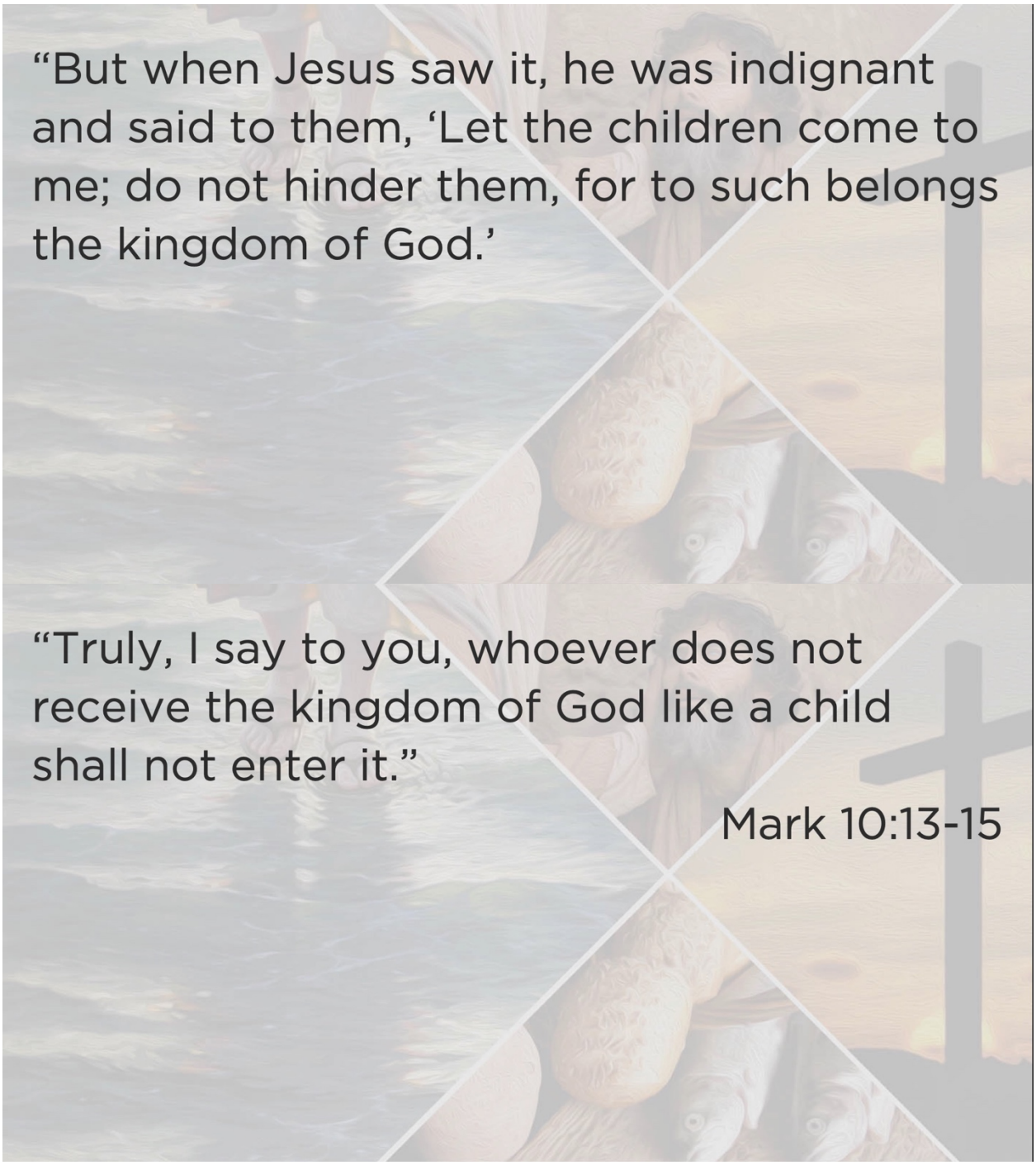

Some of us have seen marriage
mangled beyond recognition.
Many of us read the Bible outside
of its intended context and purpose.

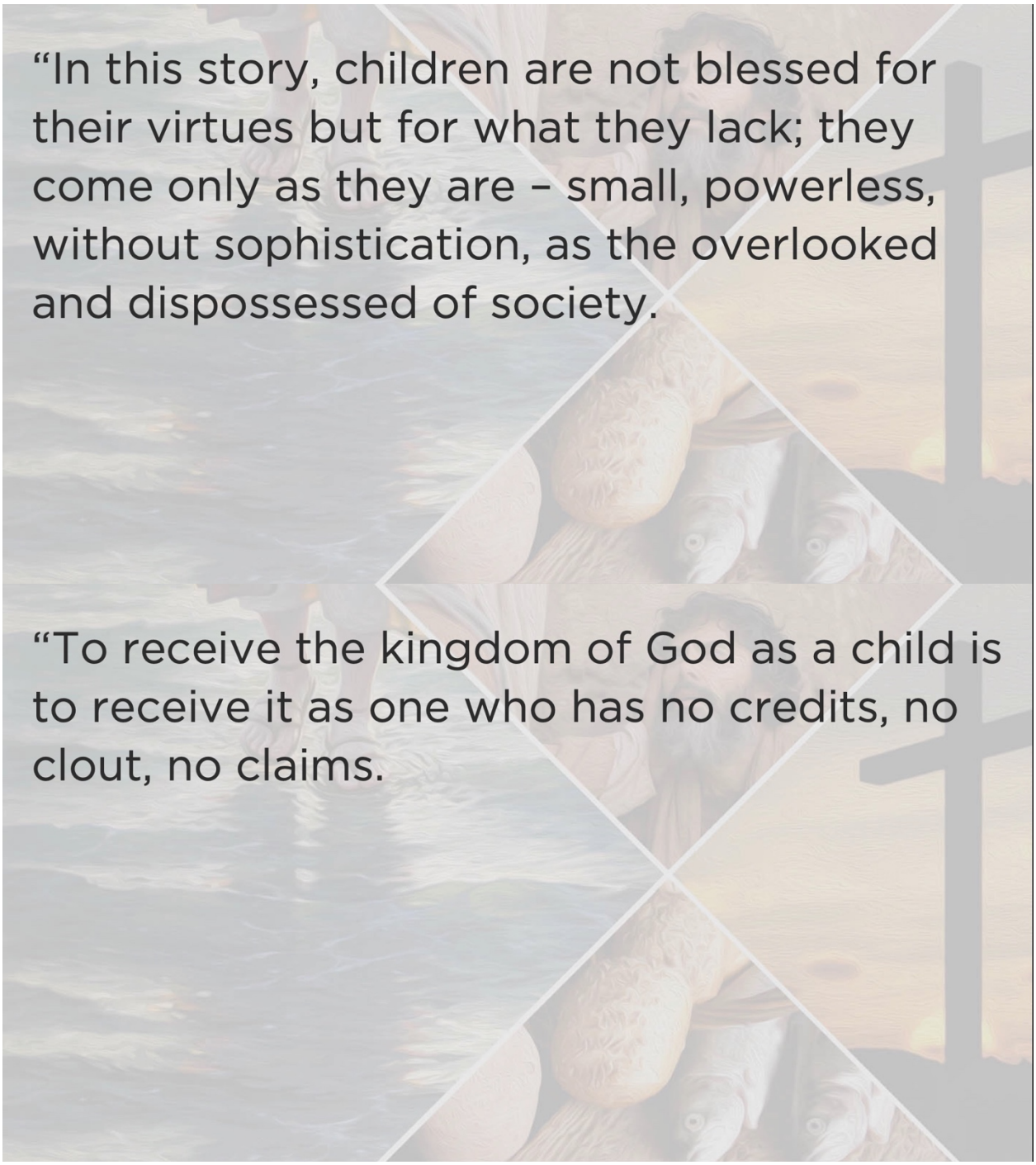

“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.”
Ephesians 5:22-23|
“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”
Ephesians 5:25


Many of us would rather test Jesus
than trust Jesus.
Our culture views marriage and sexuality
as a means of self-fulfillment rather than
a means of service and worship.


“If happiness be the object of morality, of all human unions and disunions; if the worthiness of every action is to be estimated by the quantity of pleasurable sensation it is calculated to produce,
“then the connection of the sexes is so long sacred as it contributes to the comfort of the parties, and is naturally dissolved when its evils are greater than its benefits. There is nothing immoral in this separation.”
Percy Shelley

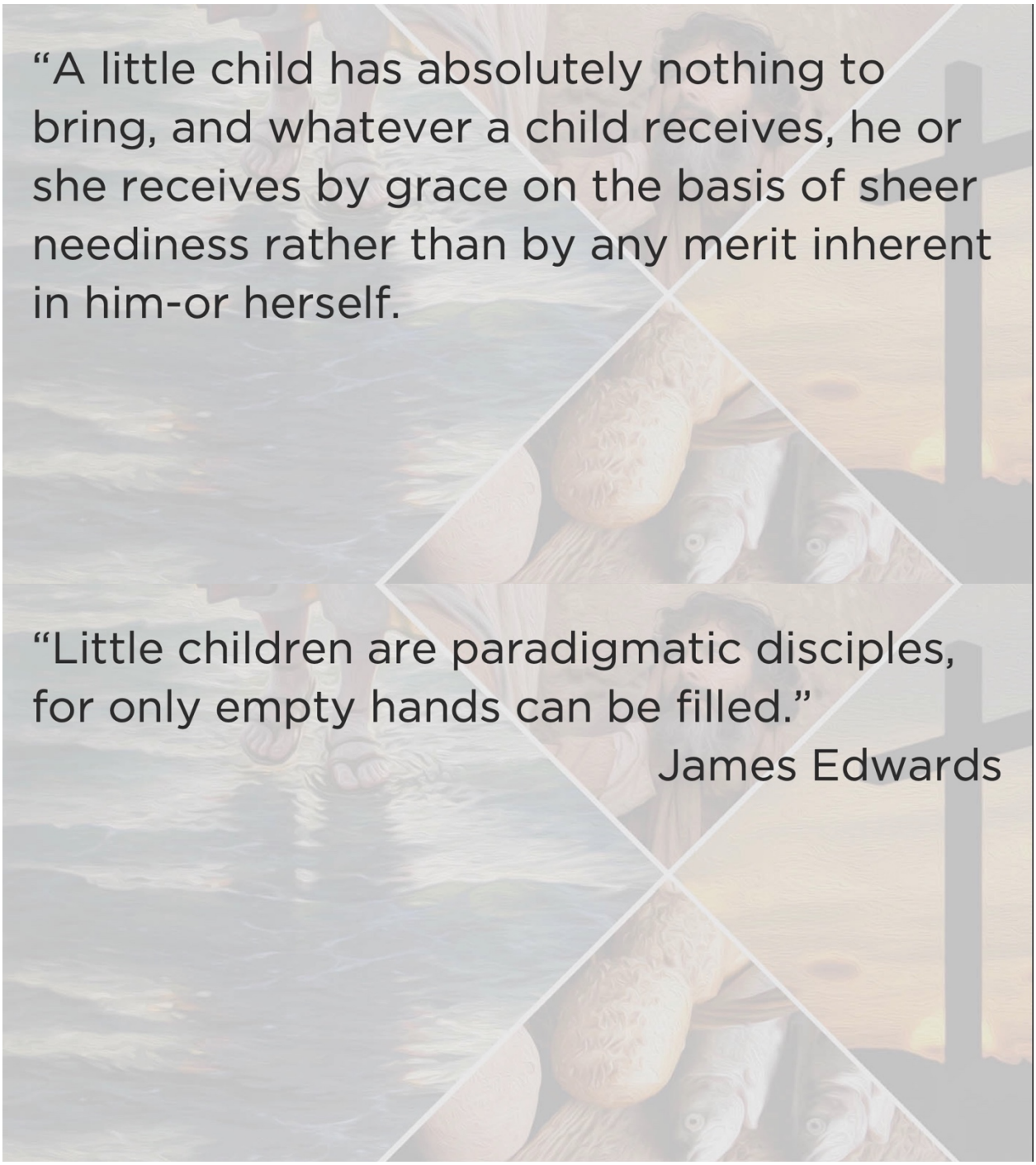

All of us will fail to take Jesus' words seriously if we think we are capable of following them.
"And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them.

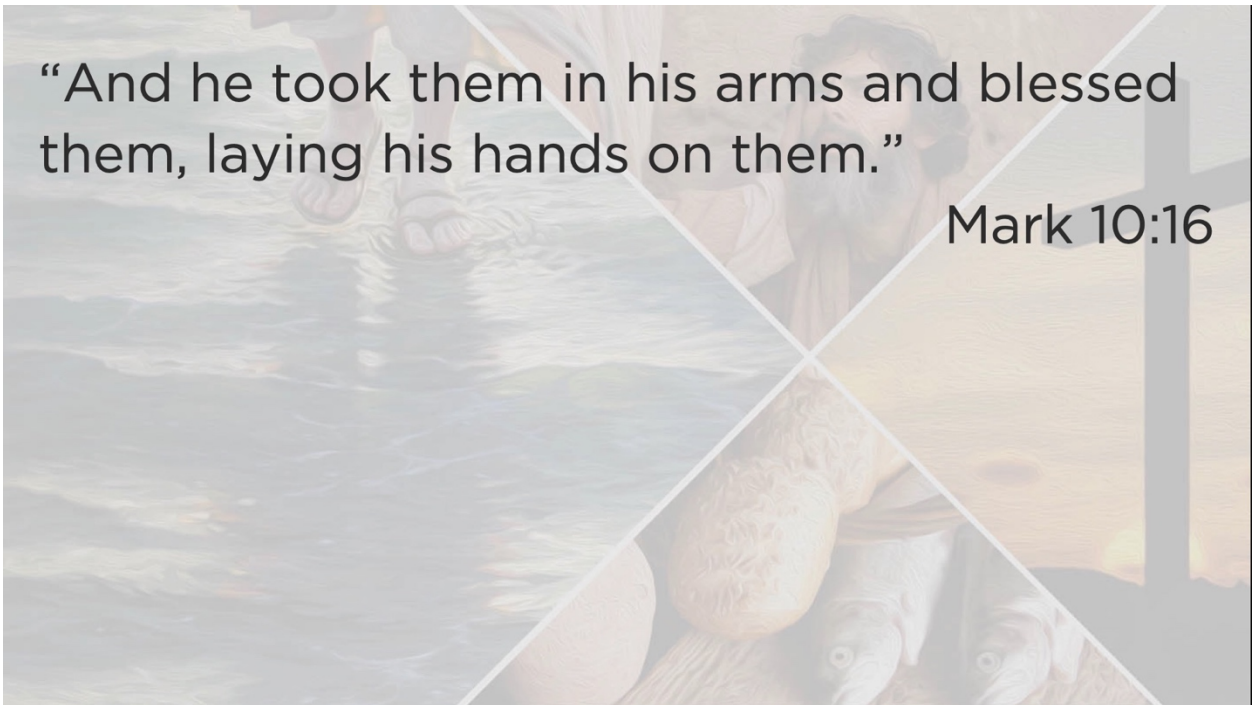

“But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.’
“Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.”
Mark 10:13-15



“In this story, children are not blessed for their virtues but for what they lack; they come only as they are – small, powerless, without sophistication, as the overlooked and dispossessed of society.

“To receive the kingdom of God as a child is to receive it as one who has no credits, no clout, no claims.


“A little child has absolutely nothing to bring, and whatever a child receives, he or she receives by grace on the basis of sheer neediness rather than by any merit inherent in him-or herself.
“Little children are paradigmatic disciples, for only empty hands can be filled.”
James Edwards


“And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.”
Mark 10:16