



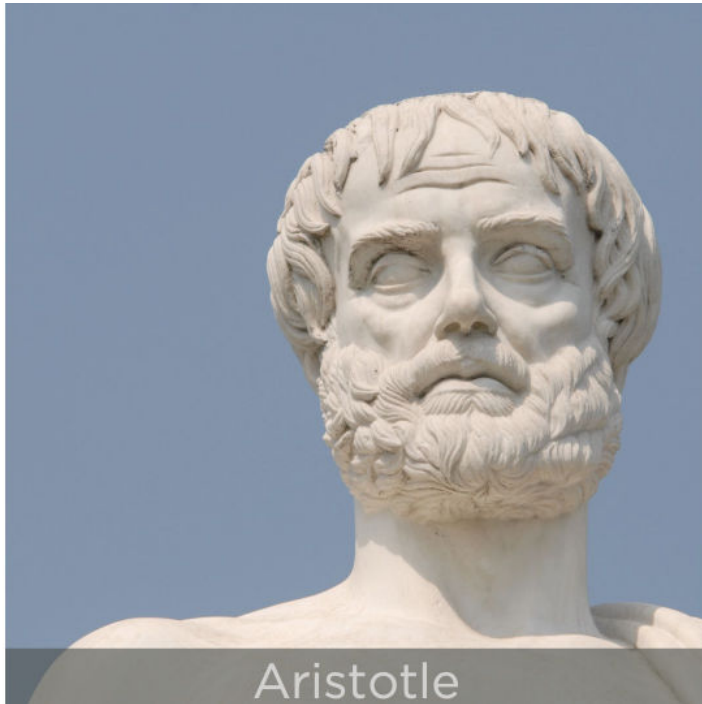


ruthies@northhillschurch.com



**Sunday Evenings
starting Oct 10**

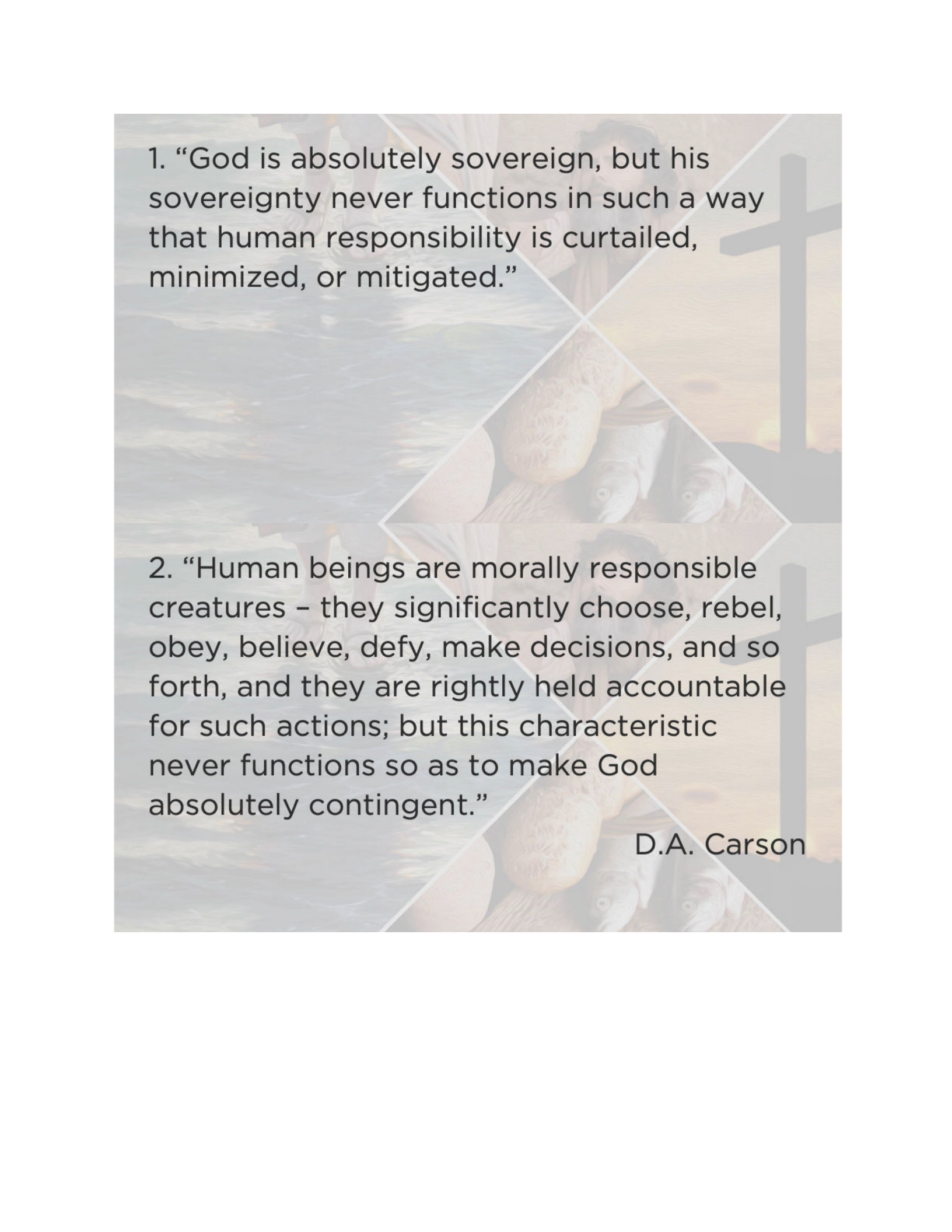
Cost is \$50 per couple



Aristotle



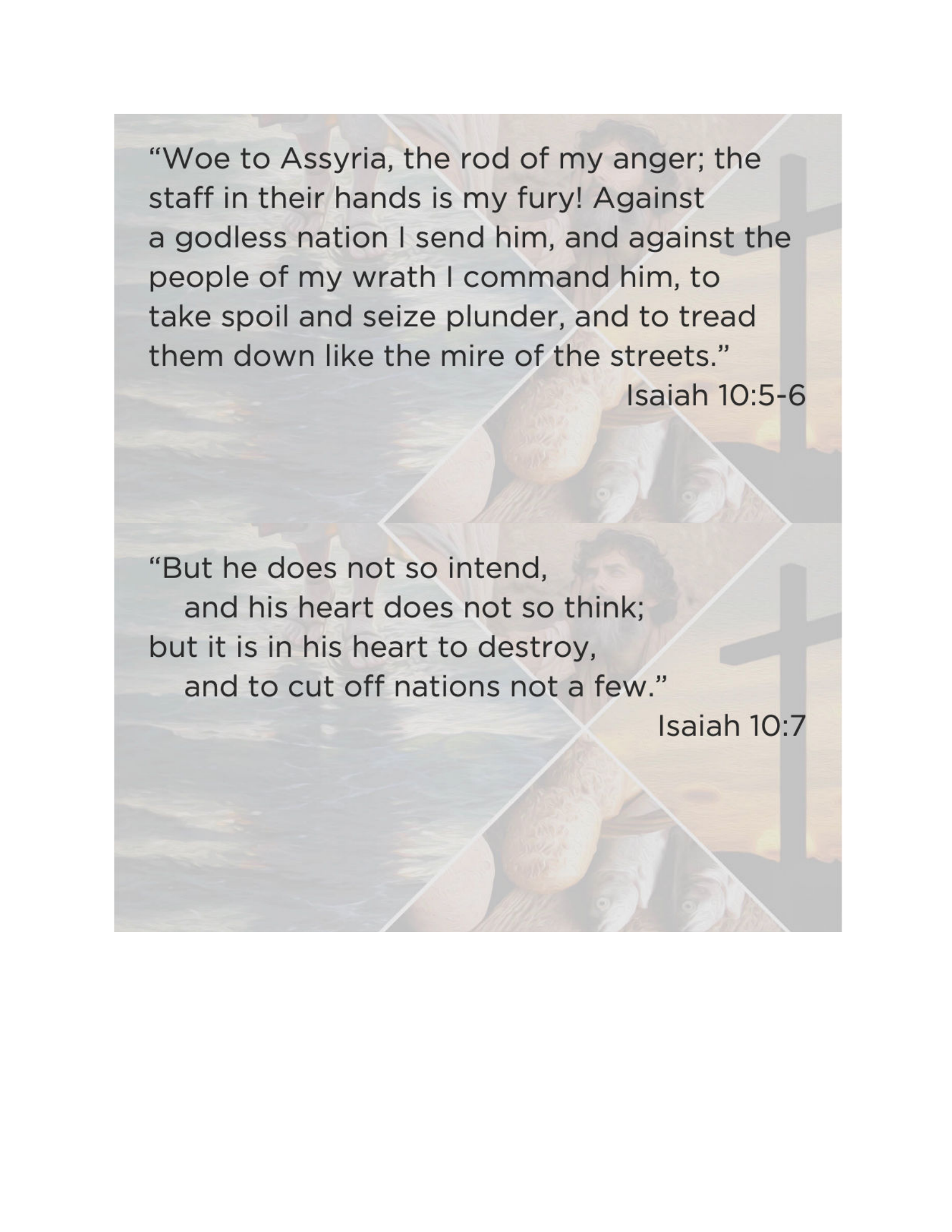
Augustine and Pelagius

The background of the slide is a composite image. On the right side, there is a large, faint cross. The left side shows a landscape with mountains and a body of water. In the center, there is a group of people, possibly a religious community, with some individuals wearing head coverings. The overall tone is soft and spiritual.

1. “God is absolutely sovereign, but his sovereignty never functions in such a way that human responsibility is curtailed, minimized, or mitigated.”

2. “Human beings are morally responsible creatures – they significantly choose, rebel, obey, believe, defy, make decisions, and so forth, and they are rightly held accountable for such actions; but this characteristic never functions so as to make God absolutely contingent.”

D.A. Carson

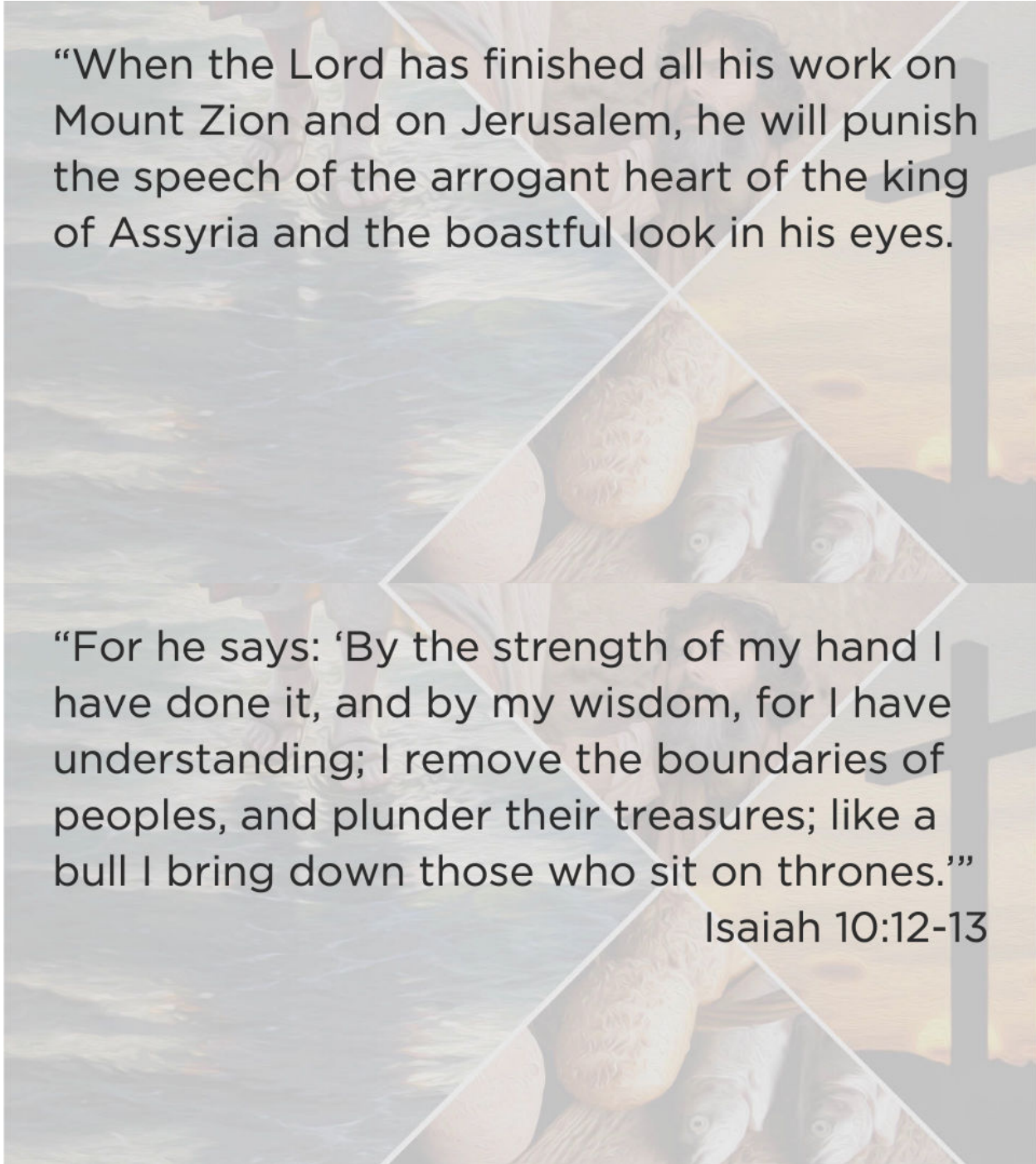


“Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.”

Isaiah 10:5-6

“But he does not so intend,
and his heart does not so think;
but it is in his heart to destroy,
and to cut off nations not a few.”

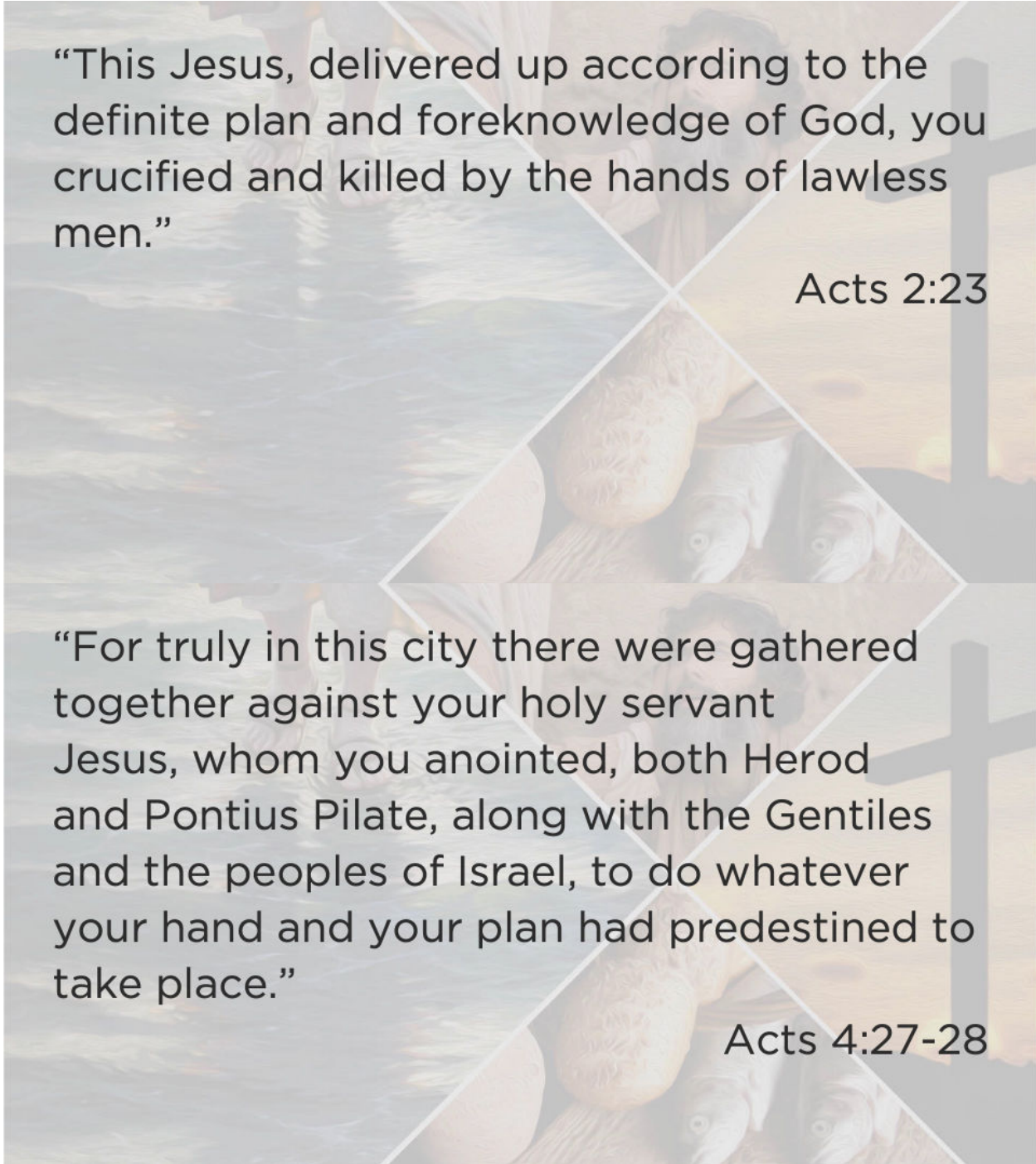
Isaiah 10:7



“When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.

“For he says: ‘By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones.’”

Isaiah 10:12-13



“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

Acts 2:23

“For truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.”

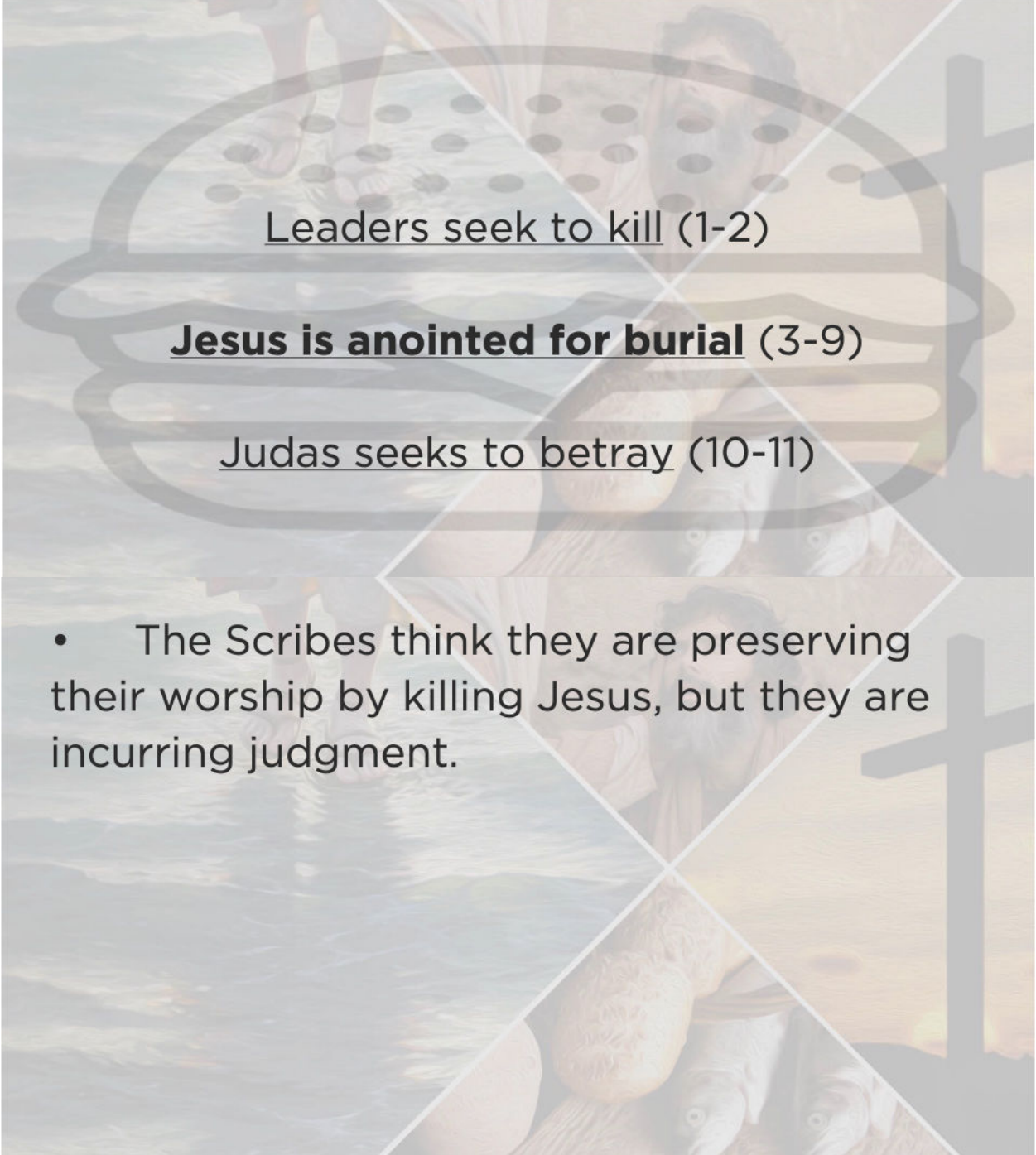
Acts 4:27-28



Leaders seek to kill (1-2)

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Judas seeks to betray (10-11)

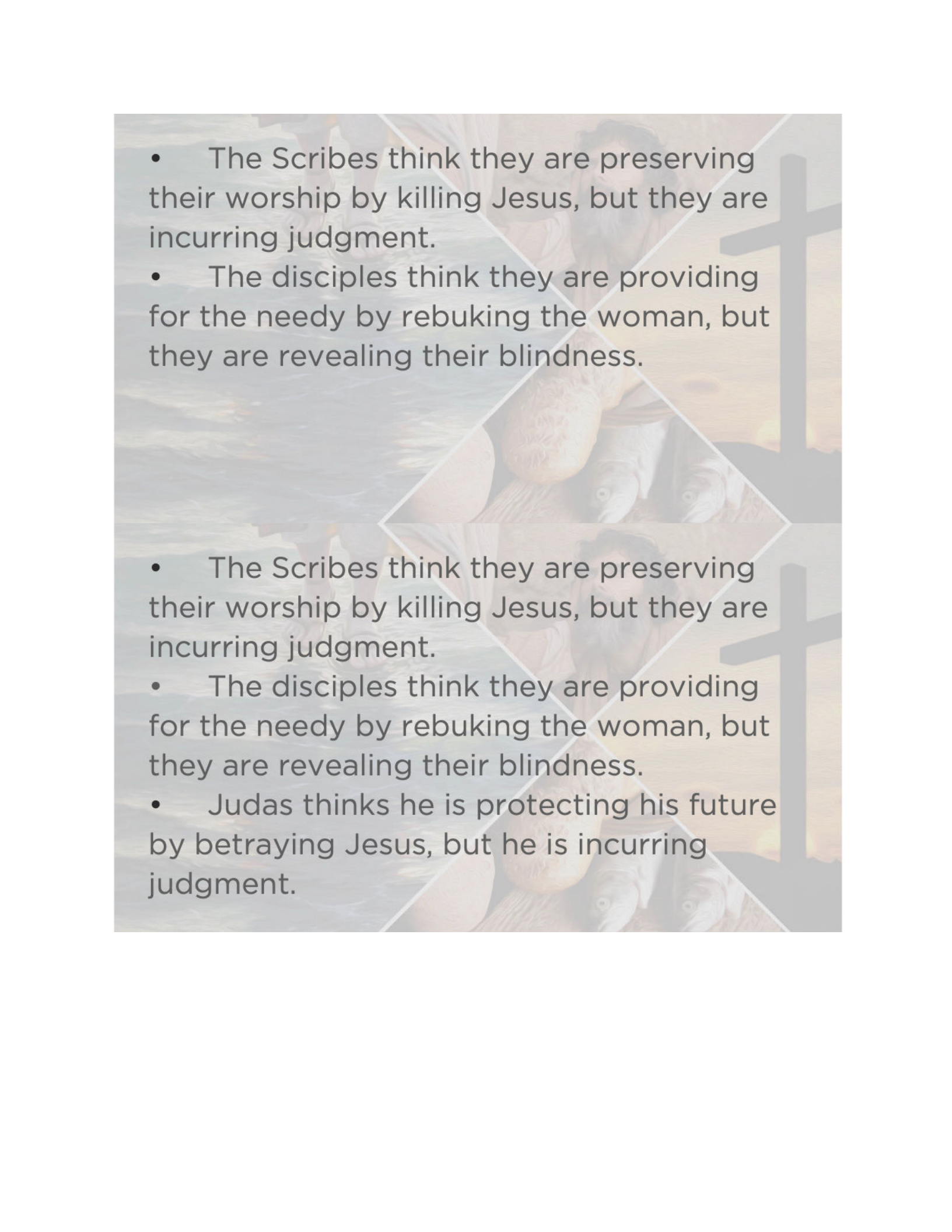


Leaders seek to kill (1-2)

Jesus is anointed for burial (3-9)

Judas seeks to betray (10-11)

- The Scribes think they are preserving their worship by killing Jesus, but they are incurring judgment.



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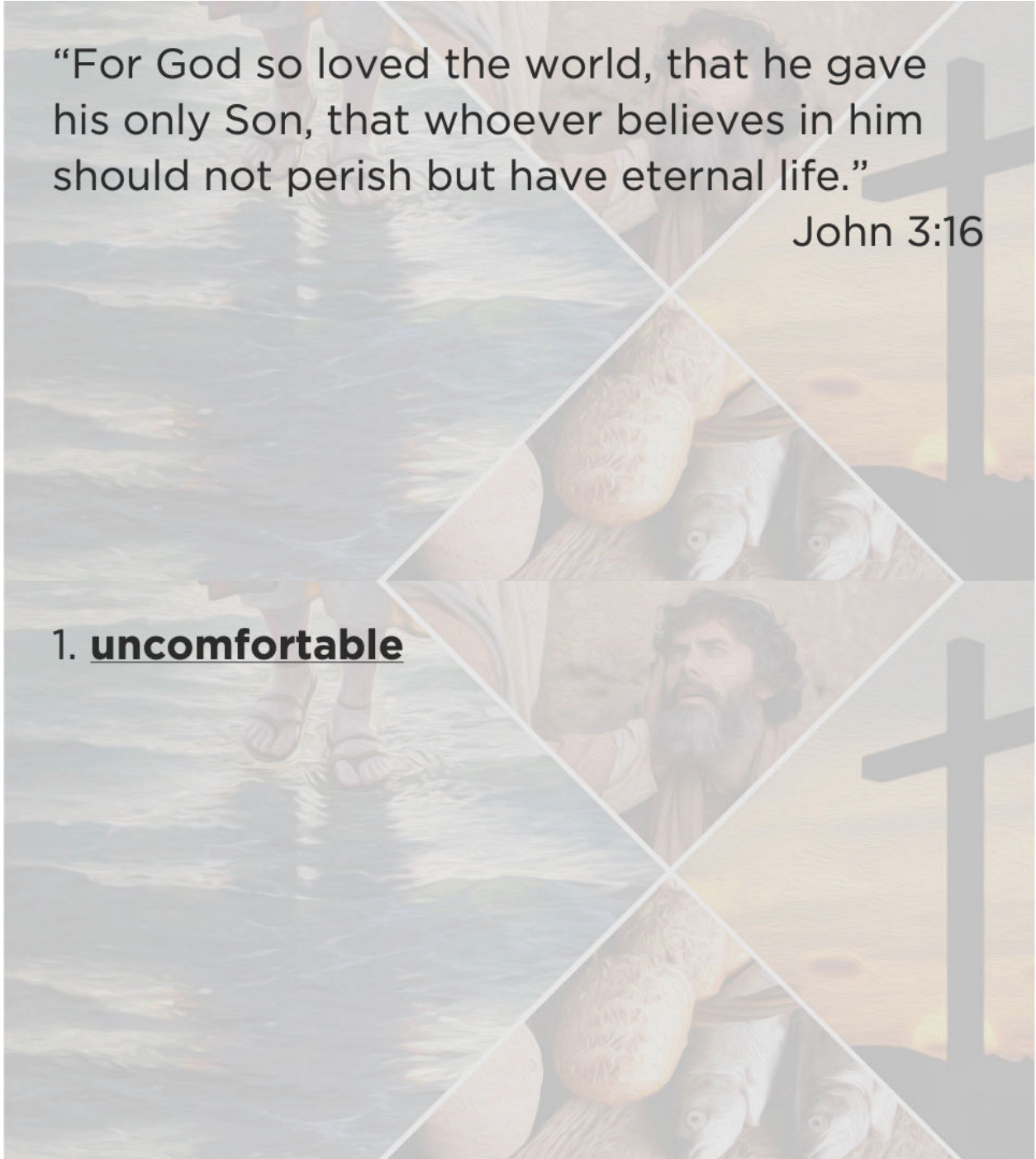
- The disciples think they are providing for the needy by rebuking the woman, but they are revealing their blindness.

- Judas thinks he is protecting his future by betraying Jesus, but he is incurring judgment.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16

1. **uncomfortable**





1. **uncomfortable**

“And while he was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at table, a woman came ...” (3a)

2. **valuable**



2. valuable

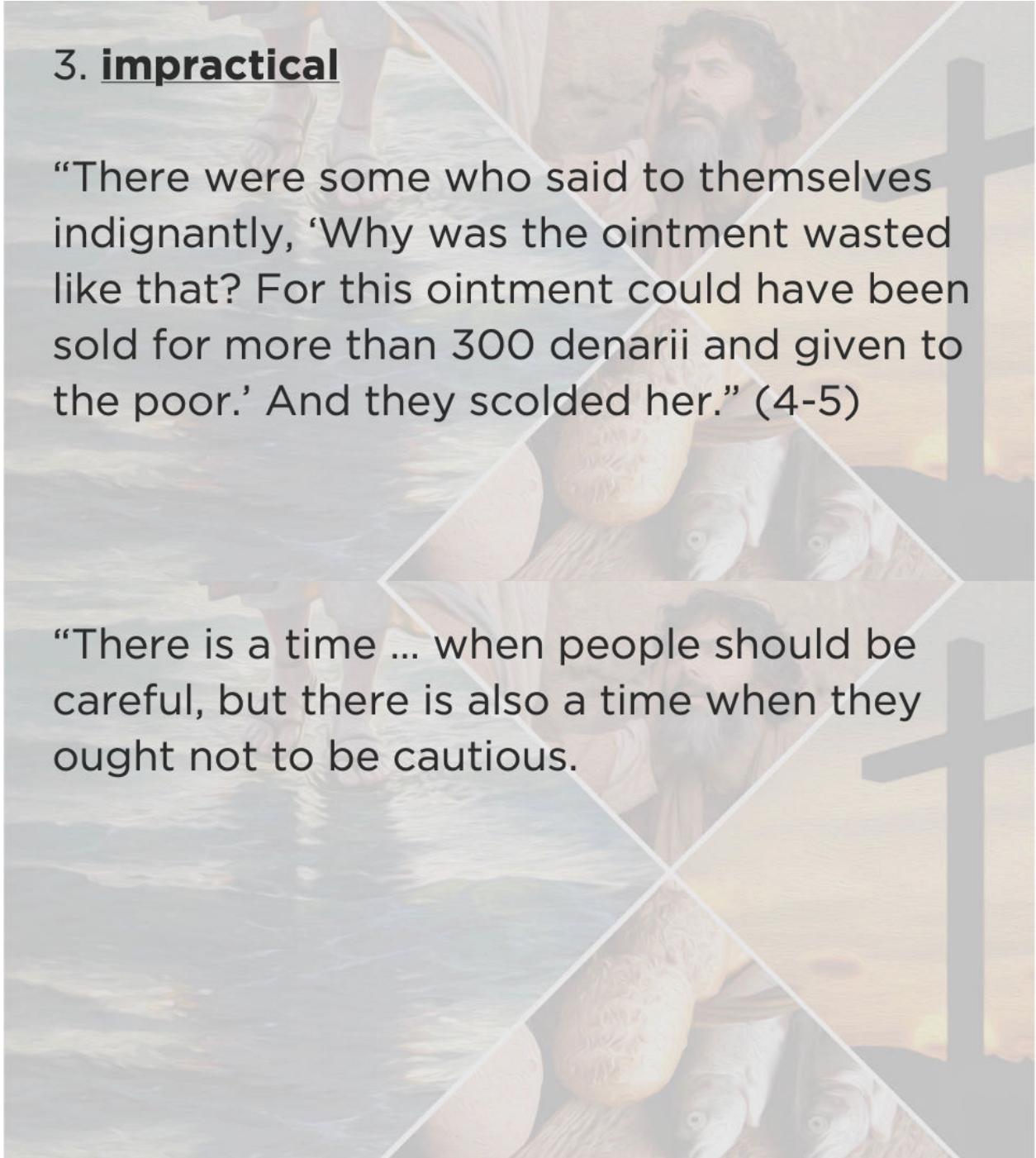
“... with an alabaster flask of ointment of pure nard, very costly, and she broke the flask and poured it over his head.” (3b)


3. impractical

3. impractical

“There were some who said to themselves indignantly, ‘Why was the ointment wasted like that? For this ointment could have been sold for more than 300 denarii and given to the poor.’ And they scolded her.” (4-5)

“There is a time ... when people should be careful, but there is also a time when they ought not to be cautious.





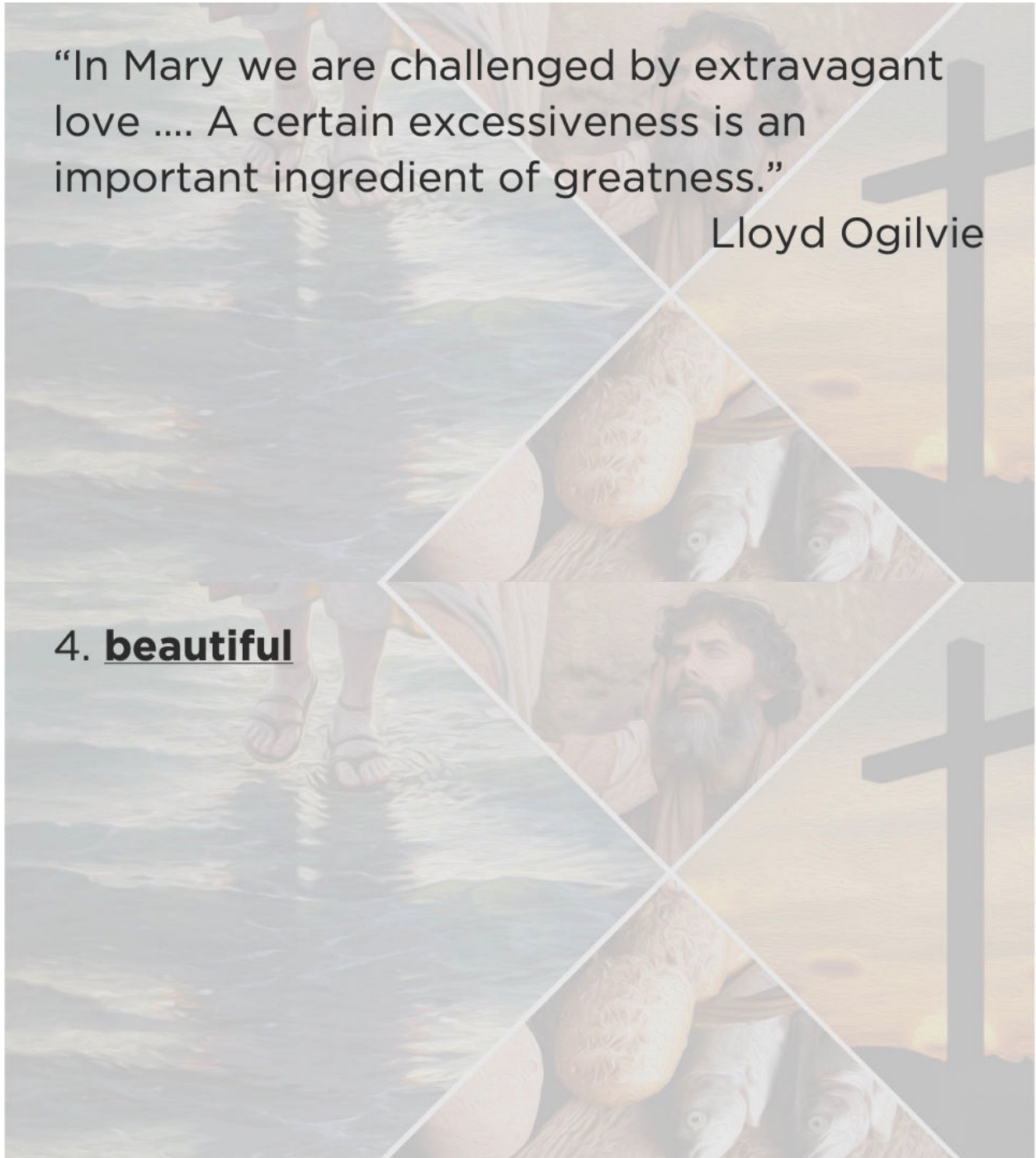
“There is something to be said for careful saving of our resources in order to make possible a great moment of unrestrained thanksgiving

“The Christian is not a tight-fisted, clenched-teeth, grim-faced person. Rather, he is one who loves and laughs and gives himself to Christ lavishly.

“In Mary we are challenged by extravagant love A certain excessiveness is an important ingredient of greatness.”

Lloyd Ogilvie

4. **beautiful**

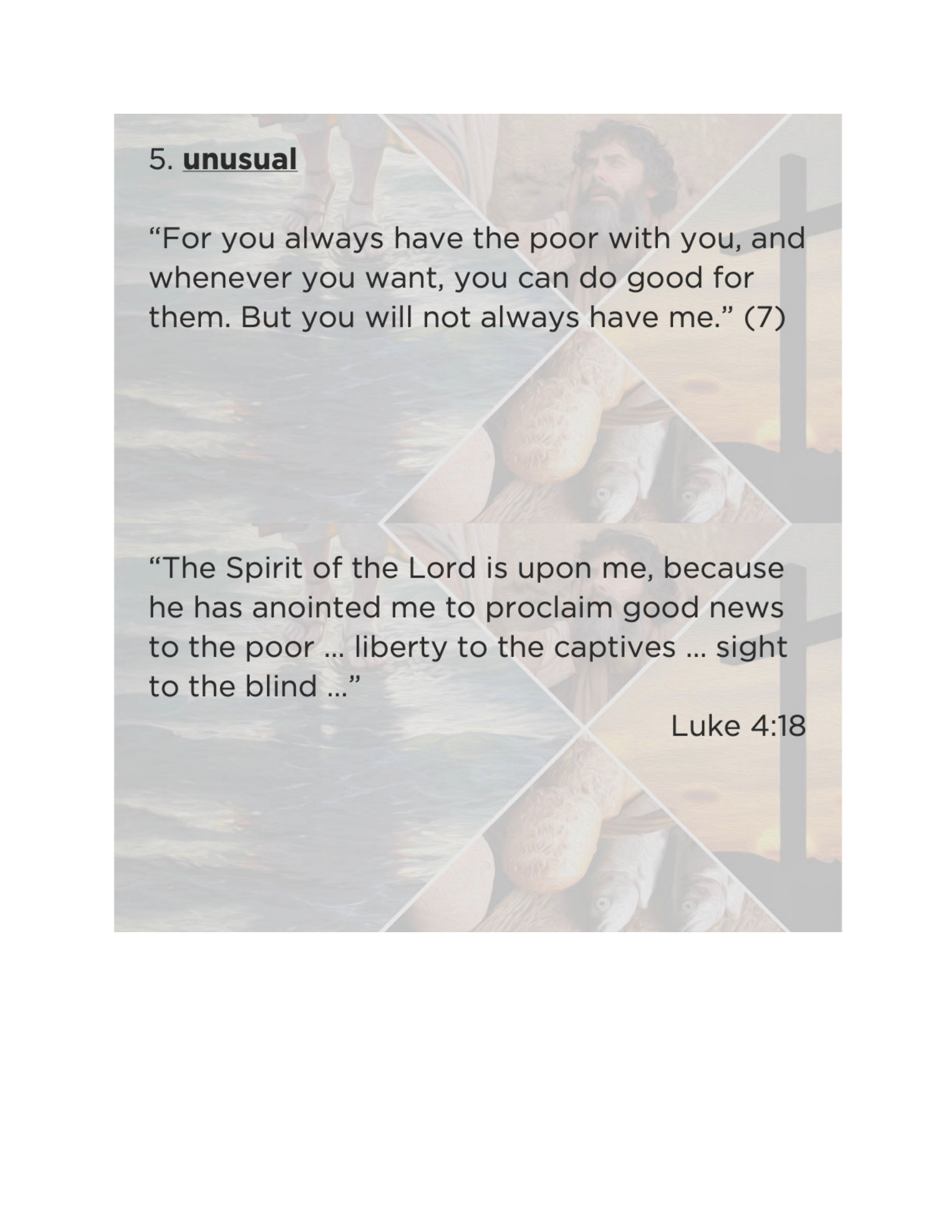


4. **beautiful**

“But Jesus said, ‘Leave her alone. Why do you trouble her? She has done a beautiful thing to me.’” (6)

5. **unusual**



The background of the slide features a composite image. On the left, there is a depiction of Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown robe, looking upwards with his hands clasped in prayer. To the right, a large, dark wooden cross is visible against a light, hazy sky. In the foreground, several fish are shown, some appearing to be on a wooden surface or boat. The entire background is overlaid with a large, white, diamond-shaped graphic that divides the space into four quadrants.

5. **unusual**

“For you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you will not always have me.” (7)

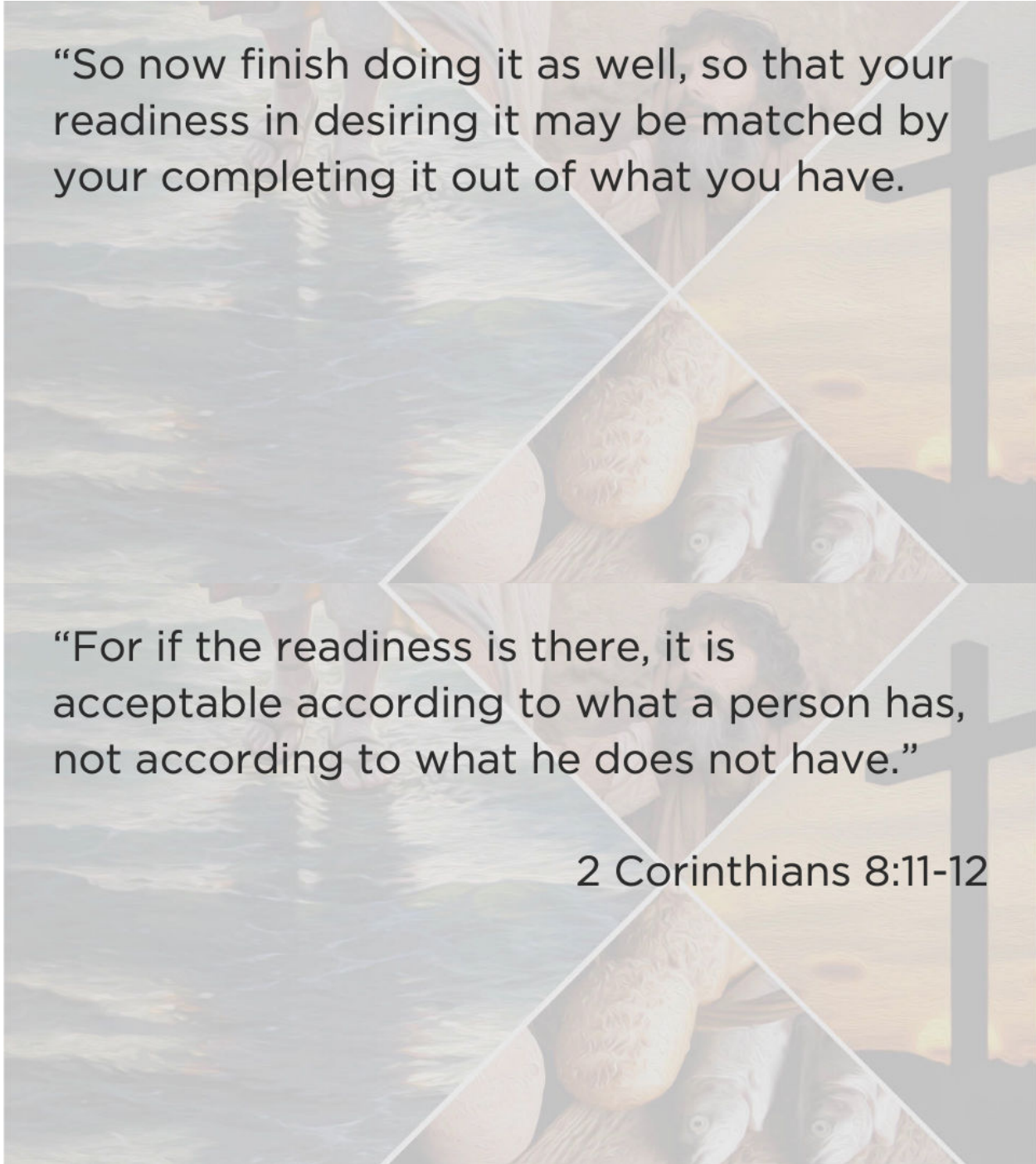
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor ... liberty to the captives ... sight to the blind ...”

Luke 4:18

6. **personal**

6. **personal**

“She has done what she could; she has anointed my body beforehand for burial.” (8)

The background is a composite image. On the left, there's a depiction of a man in a boat on a body of water. On the right, there's a large, detailed fish, possibly a cod, and a cross. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white diamond shape.

“So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have.

“For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have.”

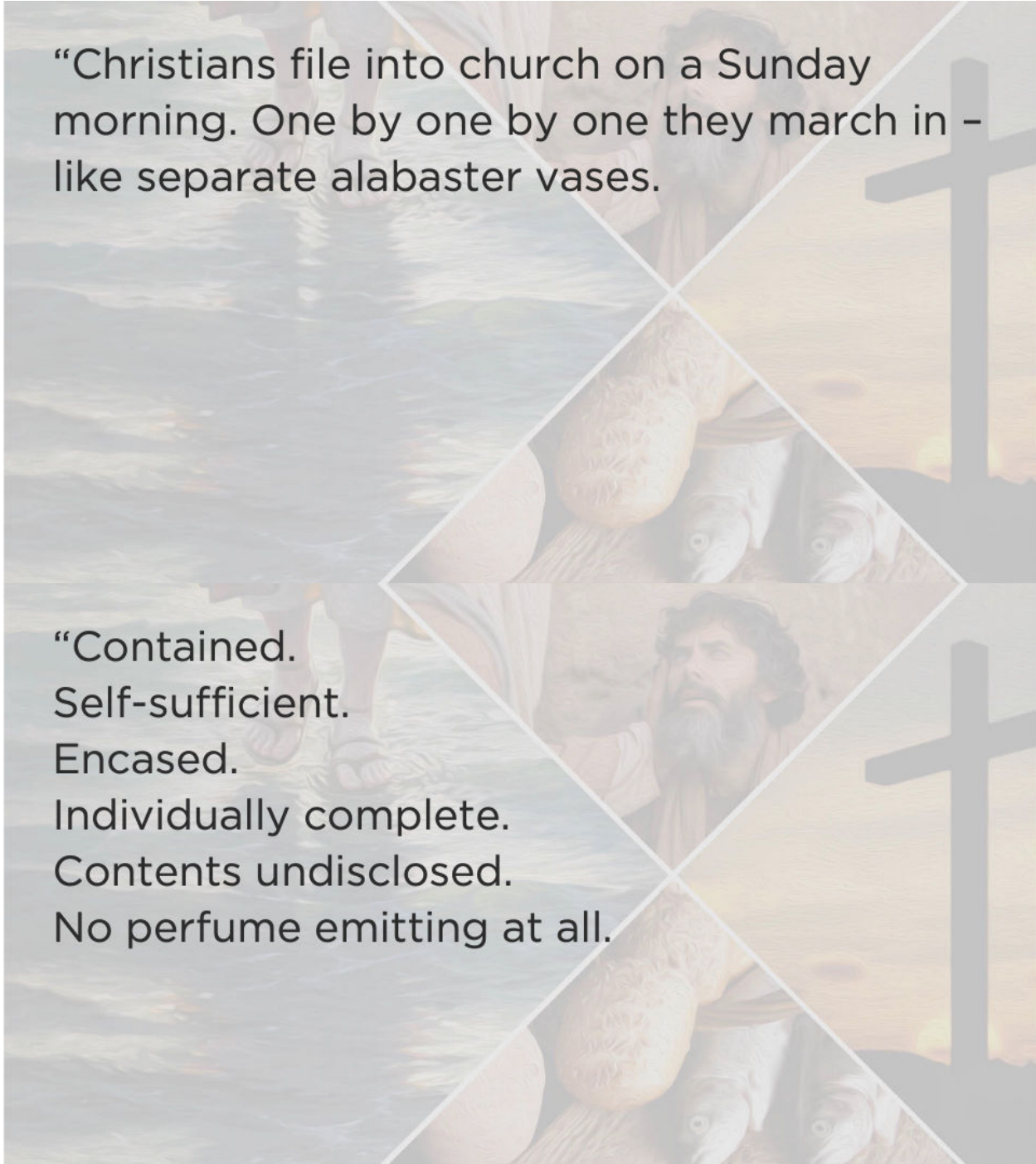
2 Corinthians 8:11-12



7. **memorable**

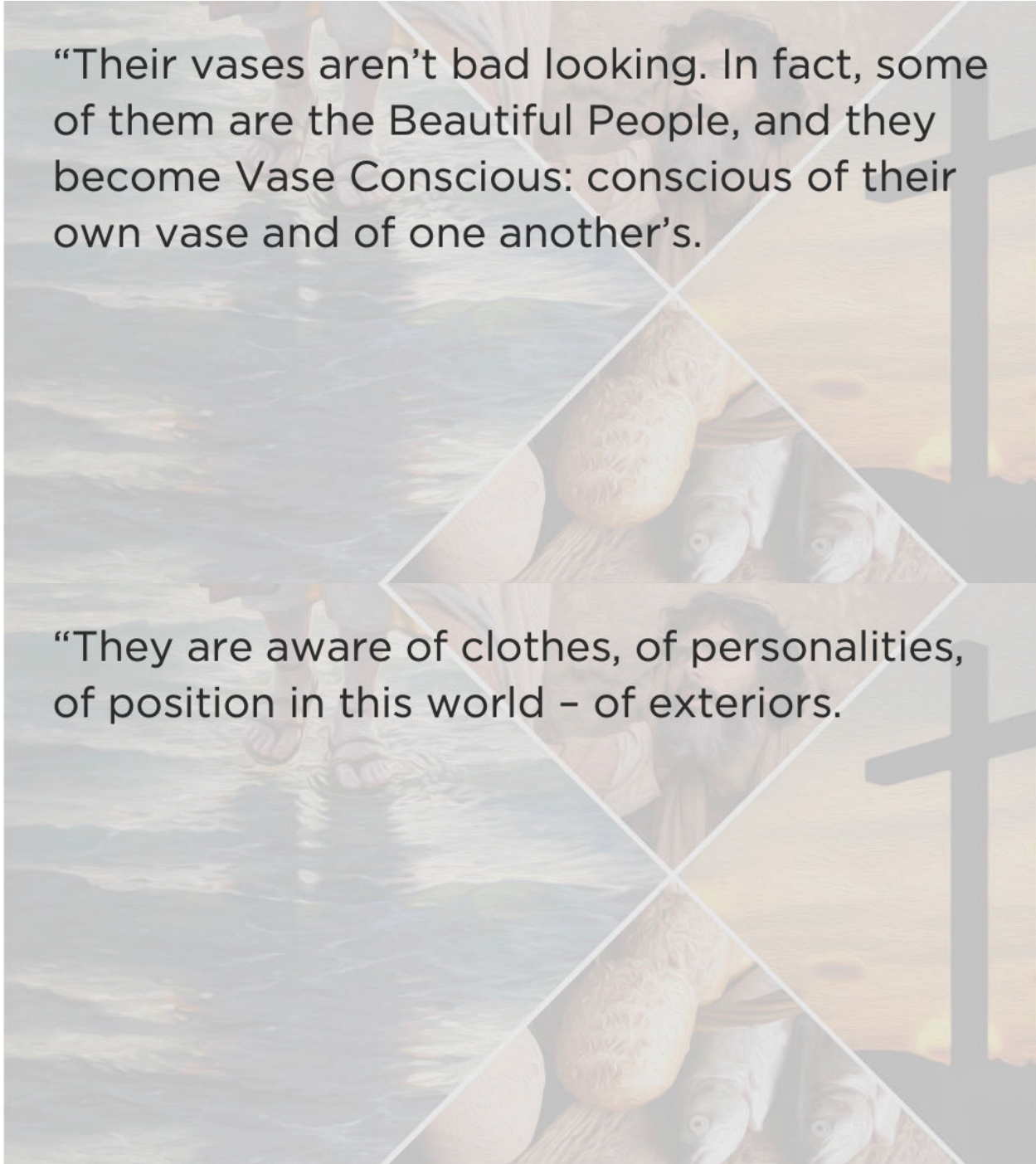
7. **memorable**

“And truly, I say to you, wherever the gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her.” (9)



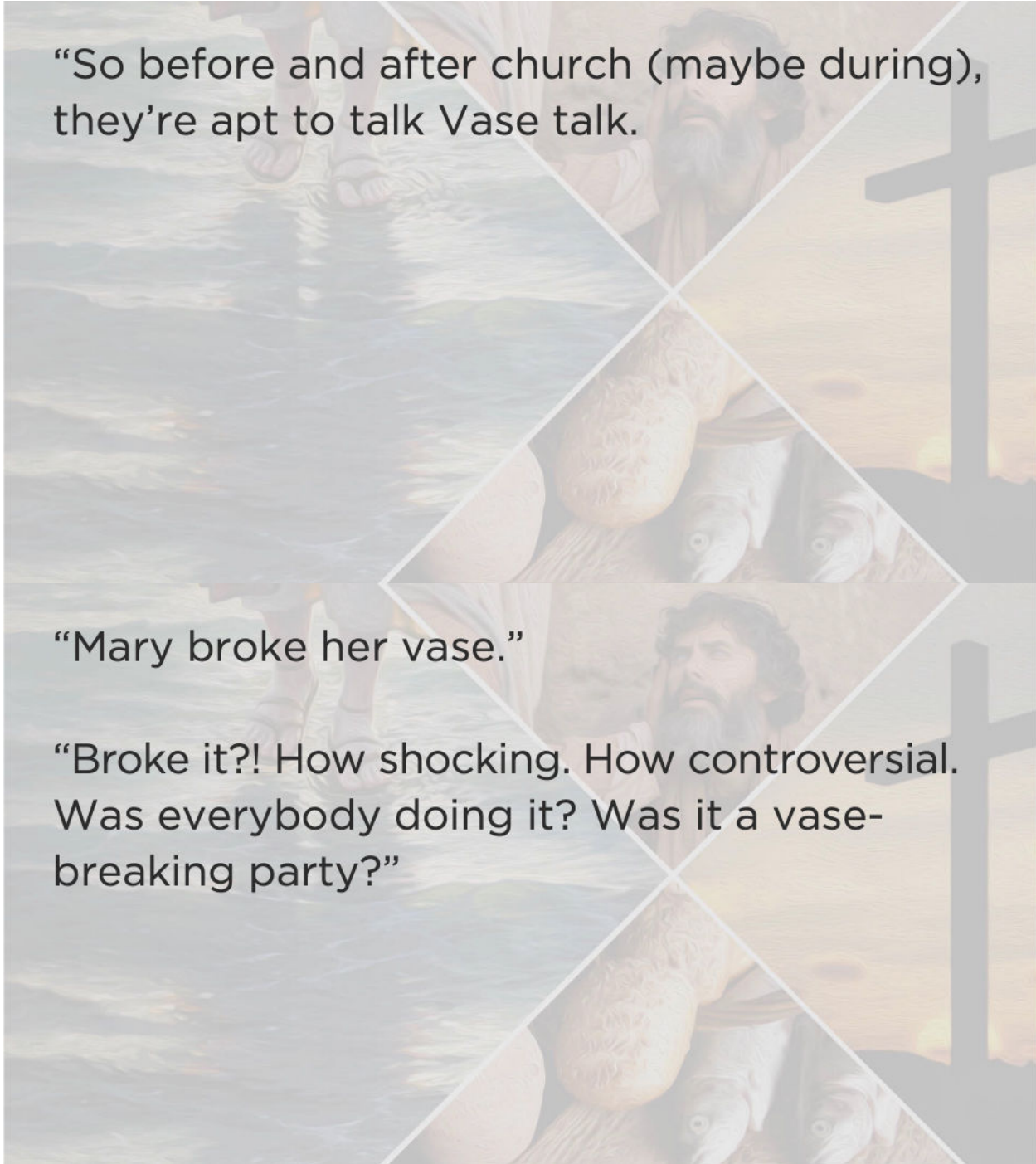
“Christians file into church on a Sunday morning. One by one by one they march in – like separate alabaster vases.

“Contained.
Self-sufficient.
Encased.
Individually complete.
Contents undisclosed.
No perfume emitting at all.



“Their vases aren’t bad looking. In fact, some of them are the Beautiful People, and they become Vase Conscious: conscious of their own vase and of one another’s.

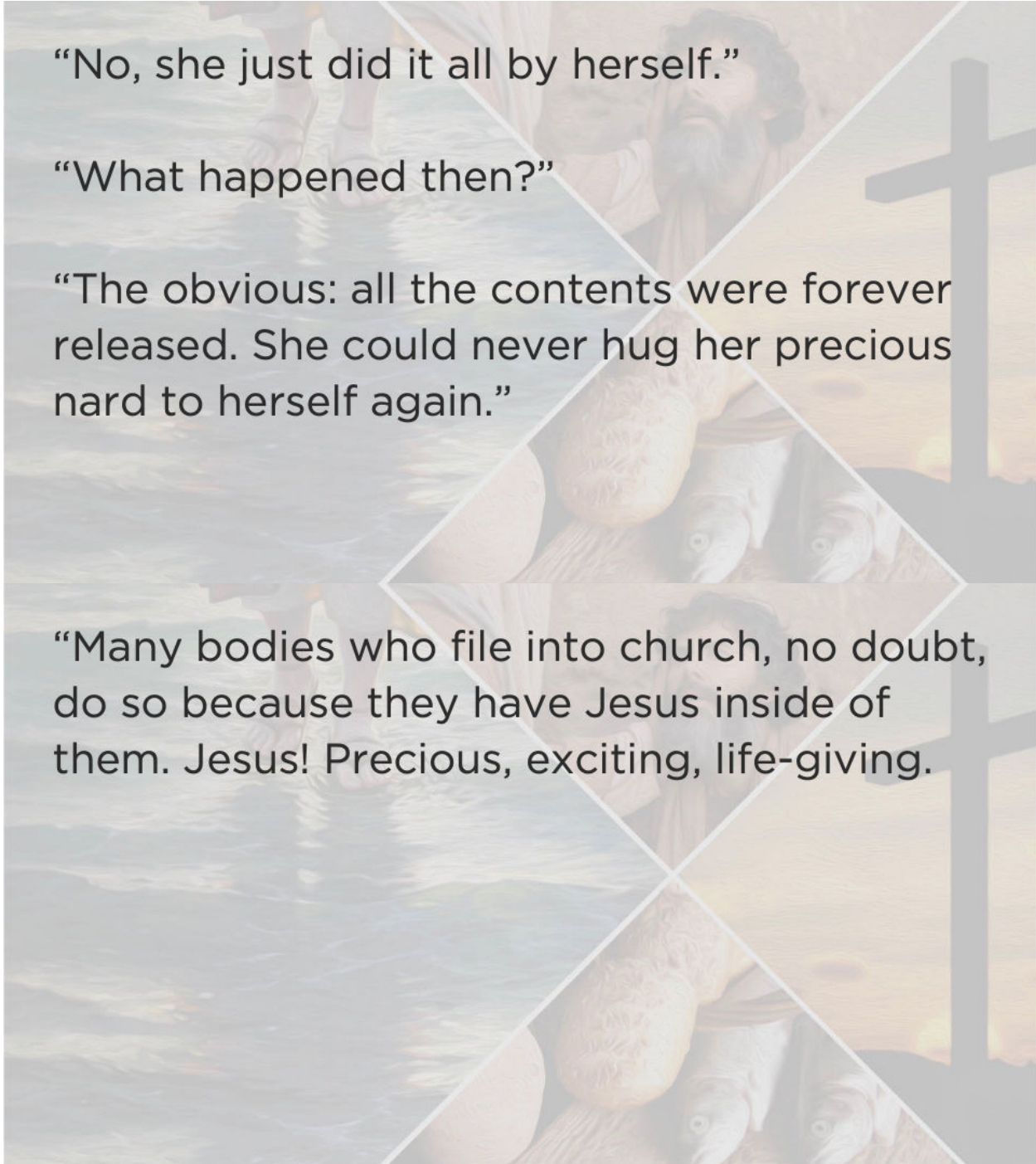
“They are aware of clothes, of personalities, of position in this world - of exteriors.



“So before and after church (maybe during), they’re apt to talk Vase talk.

“Mary broke her vase.”

“Broke it?! How shocking. How controversial. Was everybody doing it? Was it a vase-breaking party?”

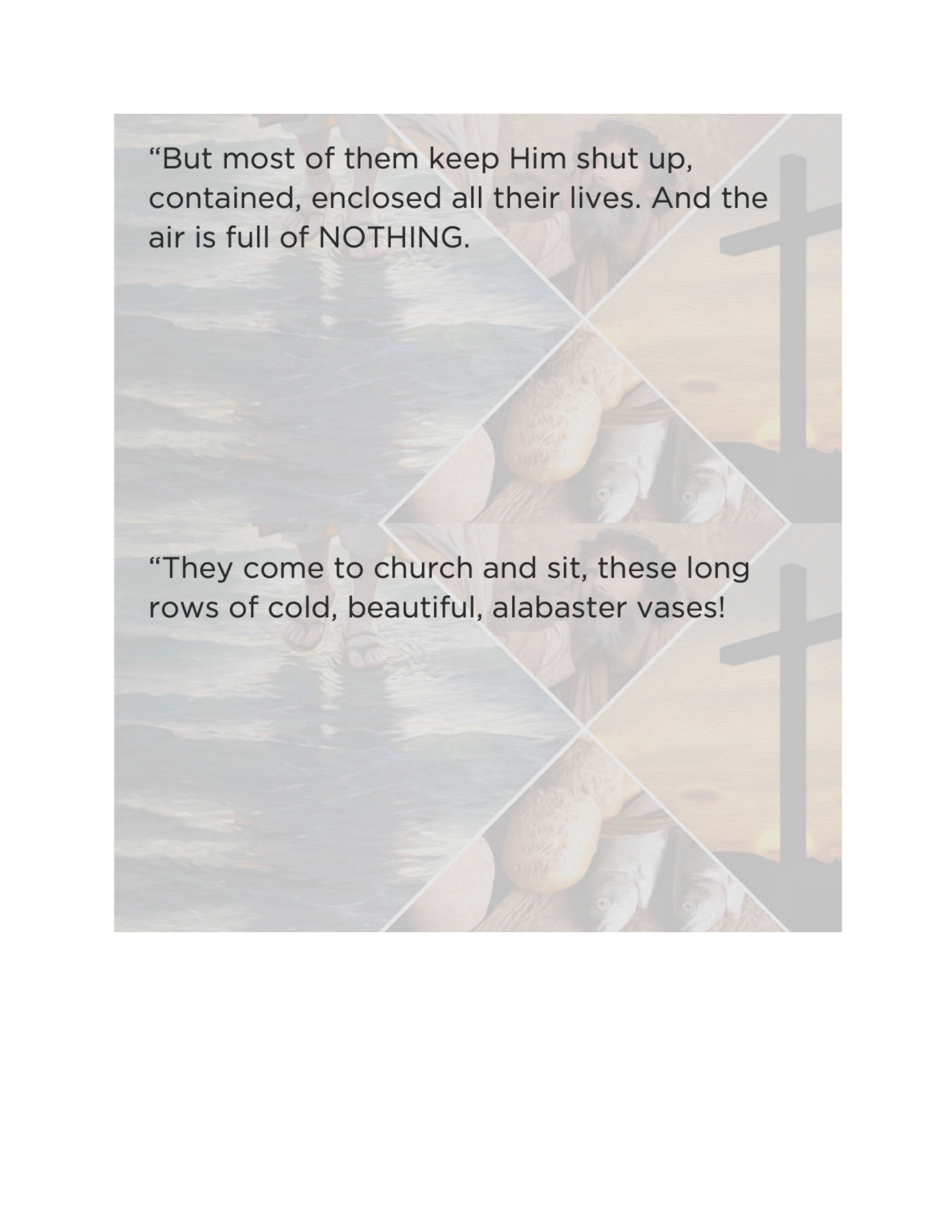


“No, she just did it all by herself.”

“What happened then?”

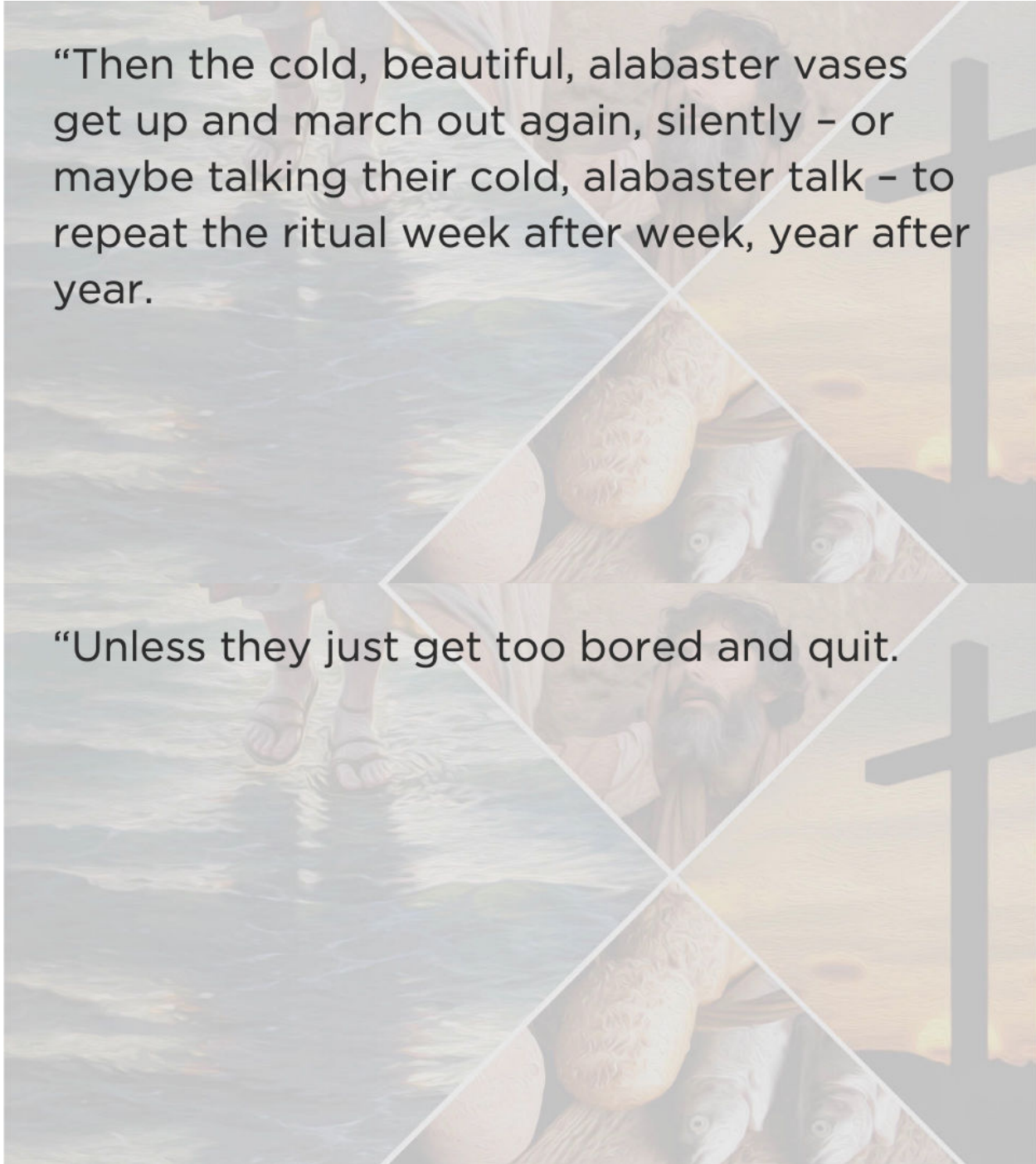
“The obvious: all the contents were forever released. She could never hug her precious nard to herself again.”

“Many bodies who file into church, no doubt, do so because they have Jesus inside of them. Jesus! Precious, exciting, life-giving.”



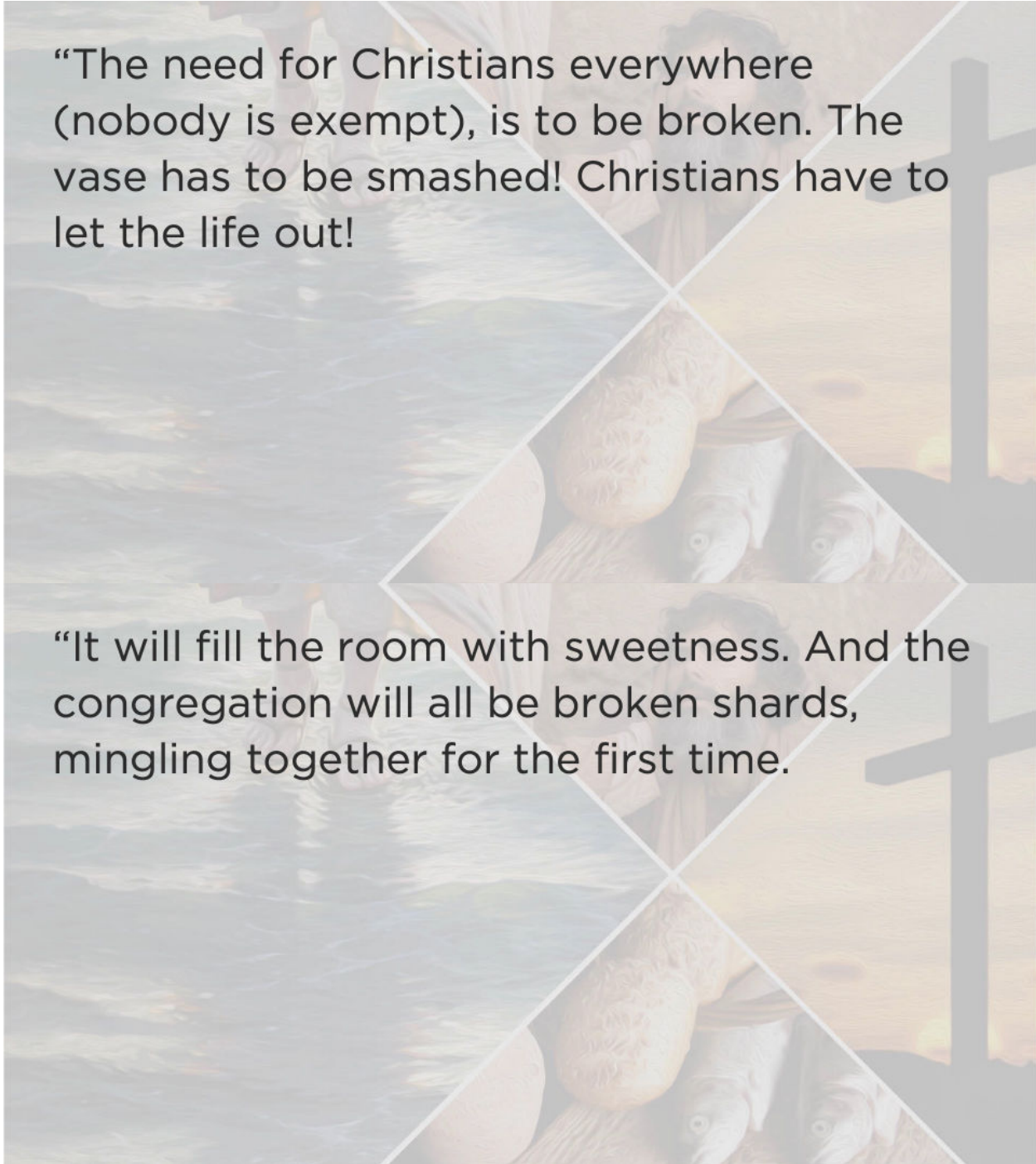
“But most of them keep Him shut up,
contained, enclosed all their lives. And the
air is full of NOTHING.

“They come to church and sit, these long
rows of cold, beautiful, alabaster vases!



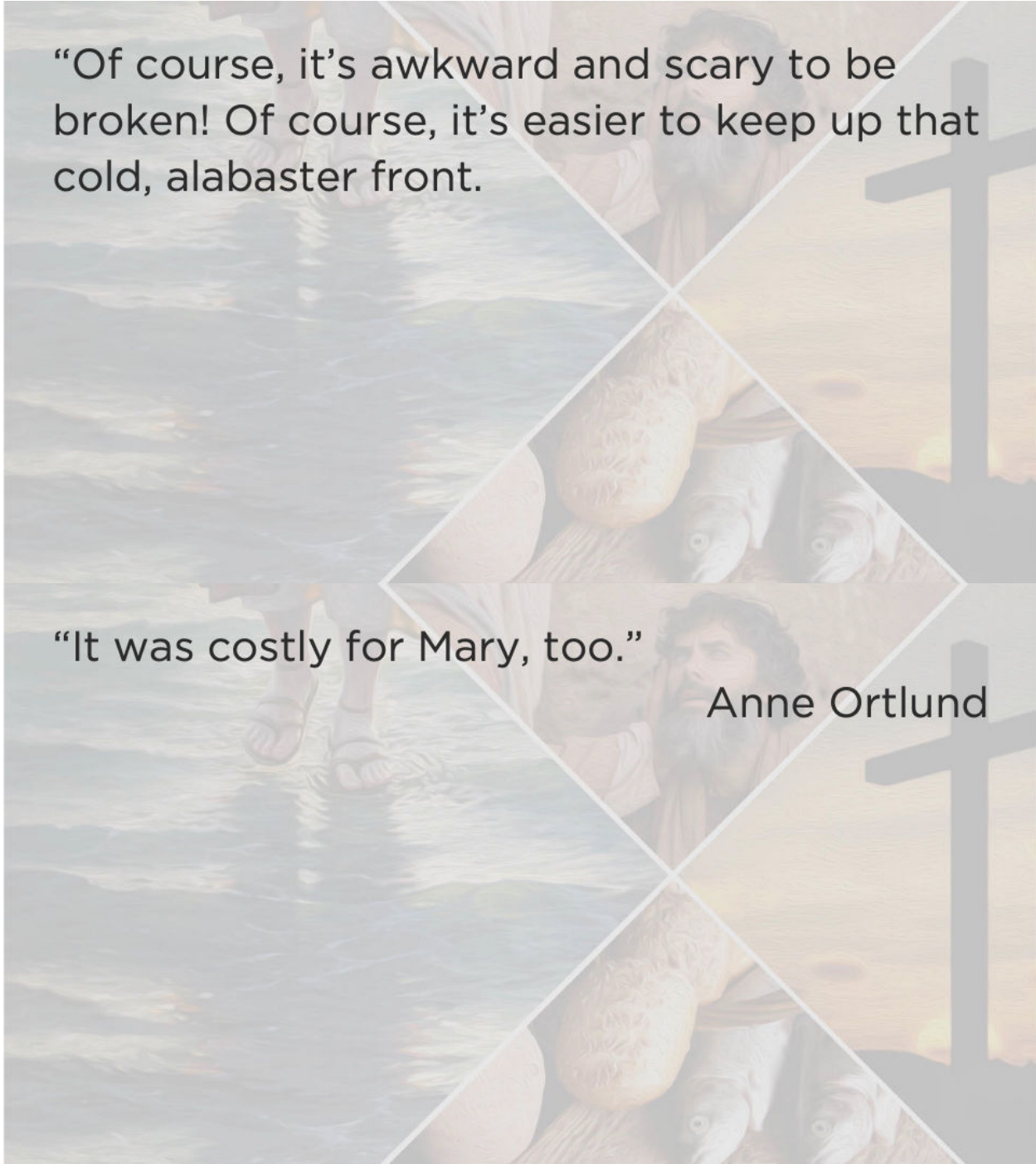
“Then the cold, beautiful, alabaster vases get up and march out again, silently – or maybe talking their cold, alabaster talk – to repeat the ritual week after week, year after year.

“Unless they just get too bored and quit.

The background is a composite image. On the left, there's a depiction of a body of water with a reflection. On the right, there's a large, dark cross against a light, hazy sky. In the center, there's a man with a beard and long hair, wearing a brown robe, looking down. Below him, there's a large, light-colored fish, possibly a cod, and another smaller fish. The entire image is overlaid with a white diamond-shaped pattern.

“The need for Christians everywhere (nobody is exempt), is to be broken. The vase has to be smashed! Christians have to let the life out!

“It will fill the room with sweetness. And the congregation will all be broken shards, mingling together for the first time.



“Of course, it’s awkward and scary to be broken! Of course, it’s easier to keep up that cold, alabaster front.

“It was costly for Mary, too.”

Anne Ortlund