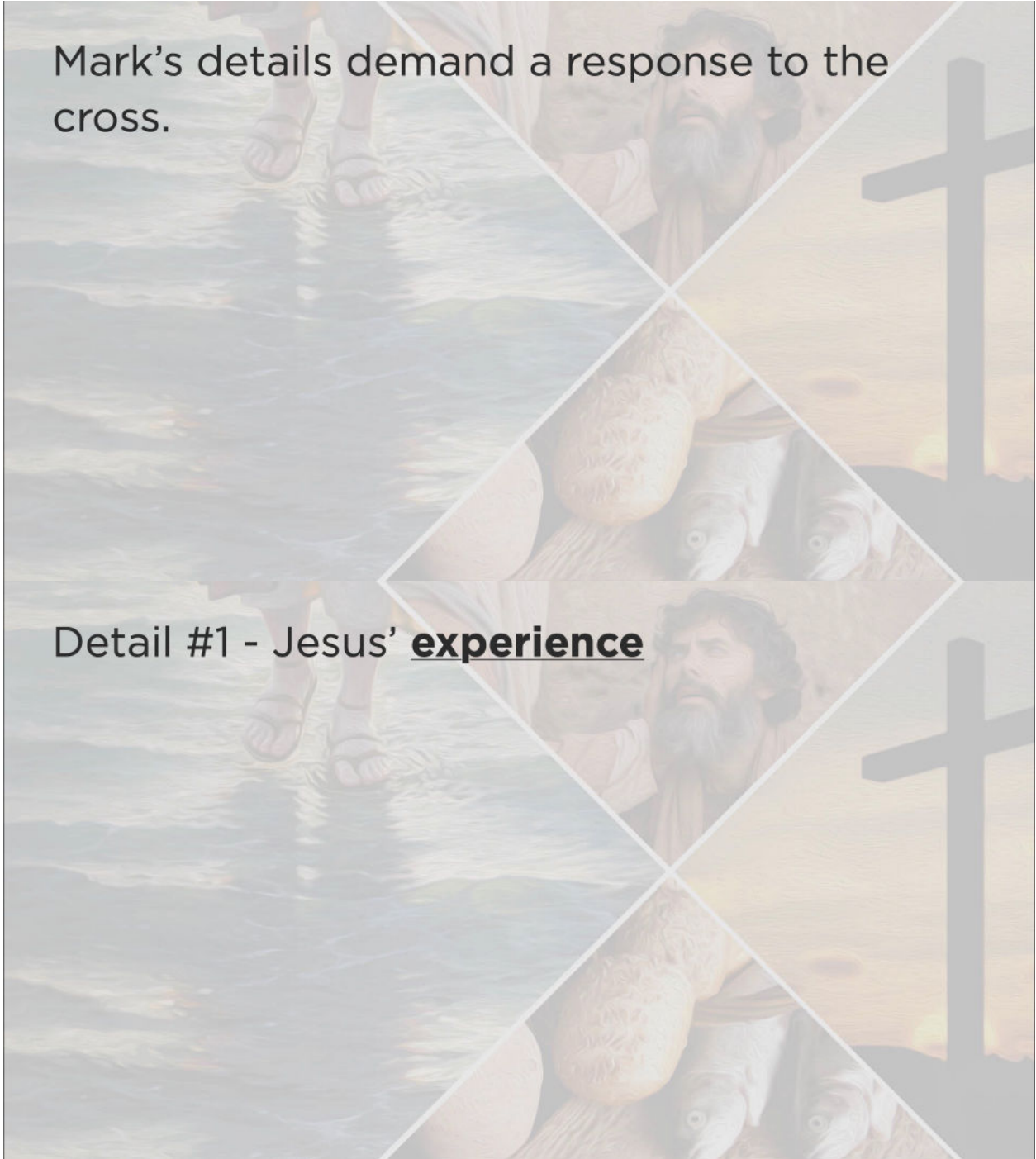
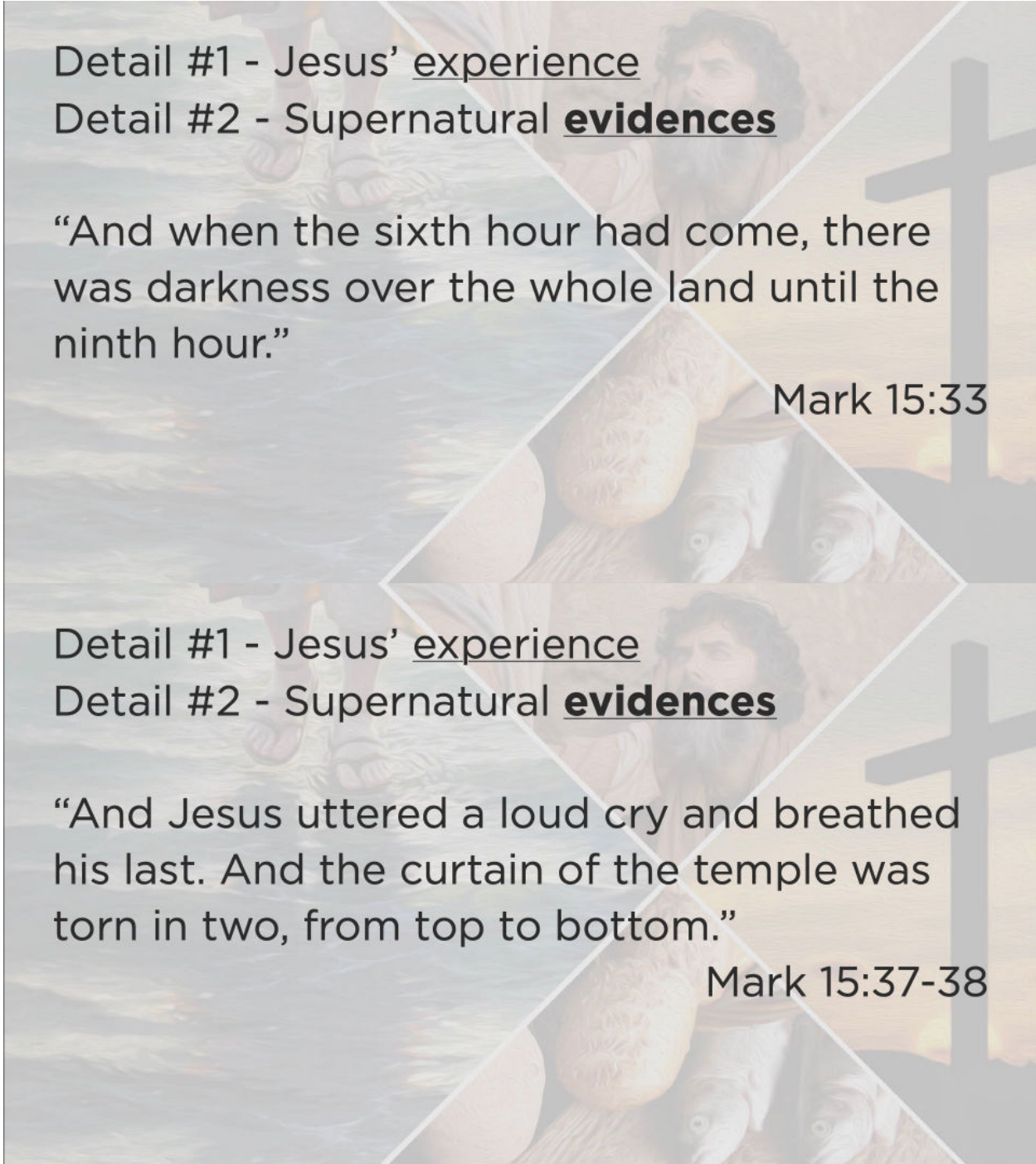


Mark's details demand a response to the cross.

Detail #1 - Jesus' **experience**





Detail #1 - Jesus' experience

Detail #2 - Supernatural **evidences**

“And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour.”

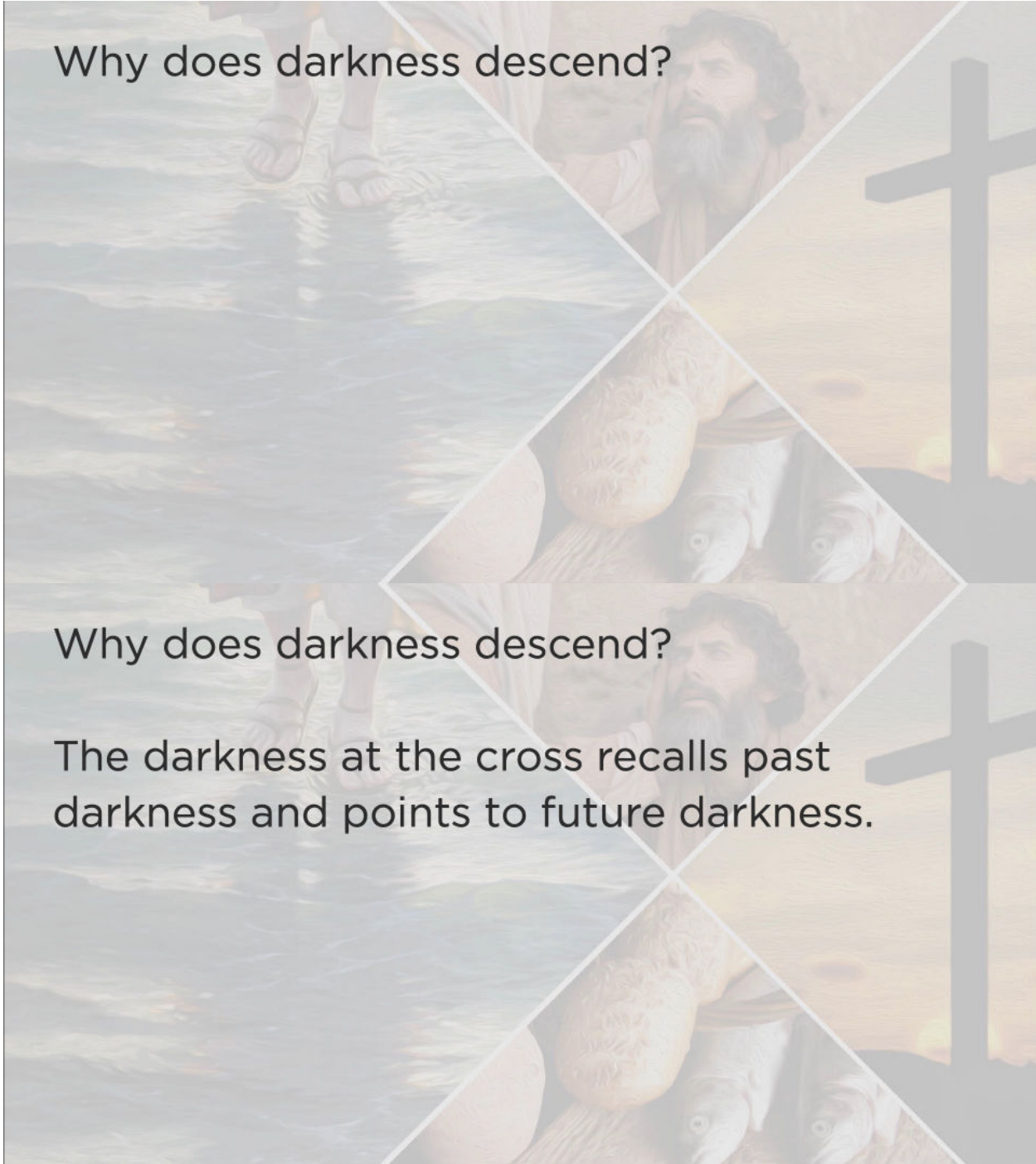
Mark 15:33

Detail #1 - Jesus' experience

Detail #2 - Supernatural **evidences**

“And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.”

Mark 15:37-38



Why does darkness descend?

Why does darkness descend?

The darkness at the cross recalls past darkness and points to future darkness.

- Darkness displays God's power.

- Darkness displays God's power.
- Darkness emphasizes God's **presence and protection**.

- Darkness emphasizes God's **presence and protection.**

“Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.”

Exodus 20:21

- Darkness emphasizes God's **presence and protection.**

“The Lord has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.”

1 Kings 8:12

- Darkness emphasizes God's **presence and protection.**

“He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet ... He made darkness his covering, his canopy around him, thick clouds dark with water.”

Psalm 18:9, 11

- Darkness emphasizes God's **presence and protection.**

“Clouds and thick darkness are all around him; righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.”

- Darkness is the context of the **old covenant**.

- Darkness is the context of the **old covenant**.

“As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, a dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram...”

Genesis 15:12

- 
- Darkness is **the place of death.**

- Darkness is **the place of death.**

“Have you entered into the springs of the sea, or walked in the recesses of the deep? Have the gates of death been revealed to you, or have you seen the gates of deep darkness?”

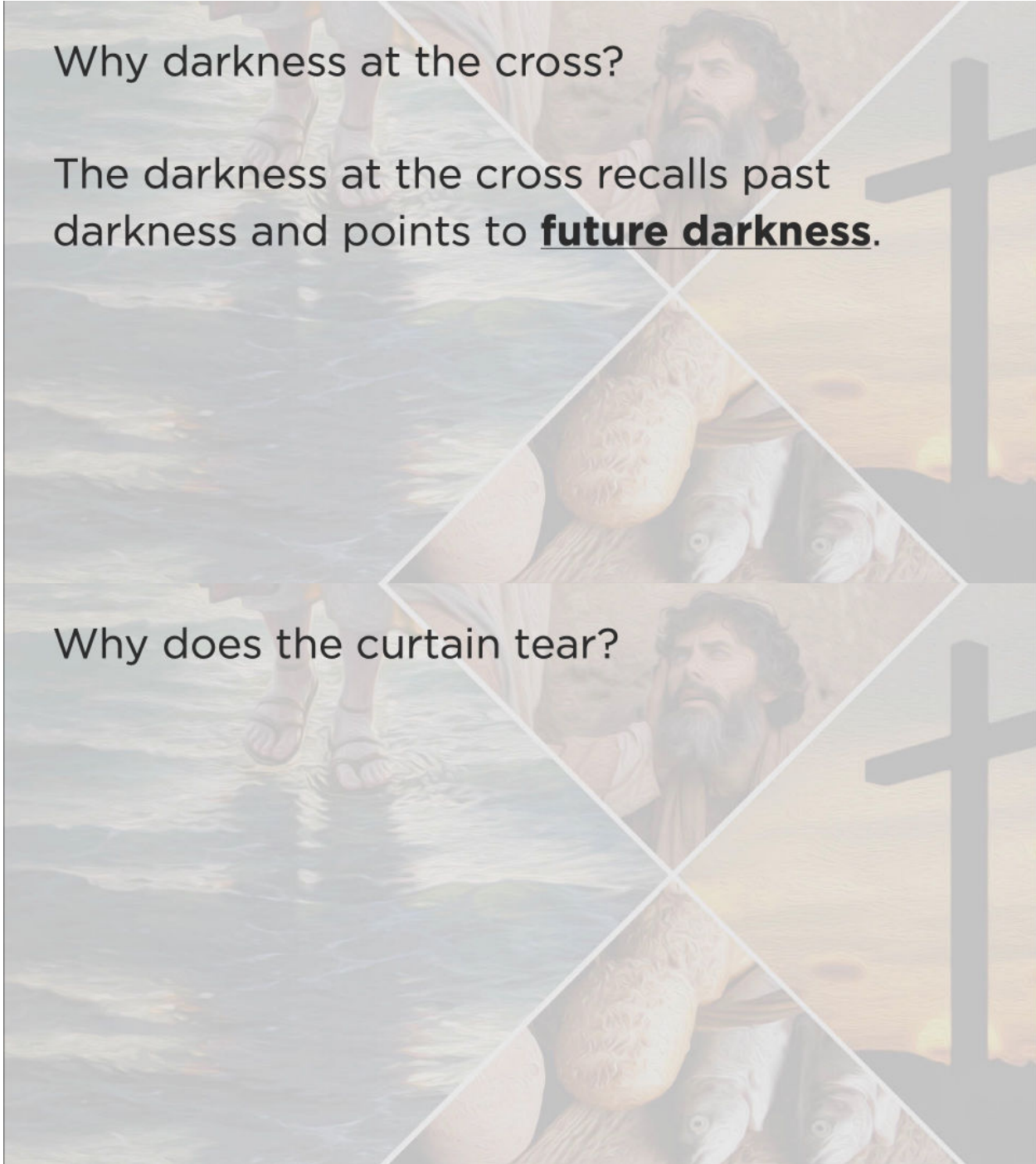
Job 38:16-17

- Darkness describes the **Day of the Lord**.

“For the day of the Lord is coming; it is near, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness.”

Joel 2:1-2a

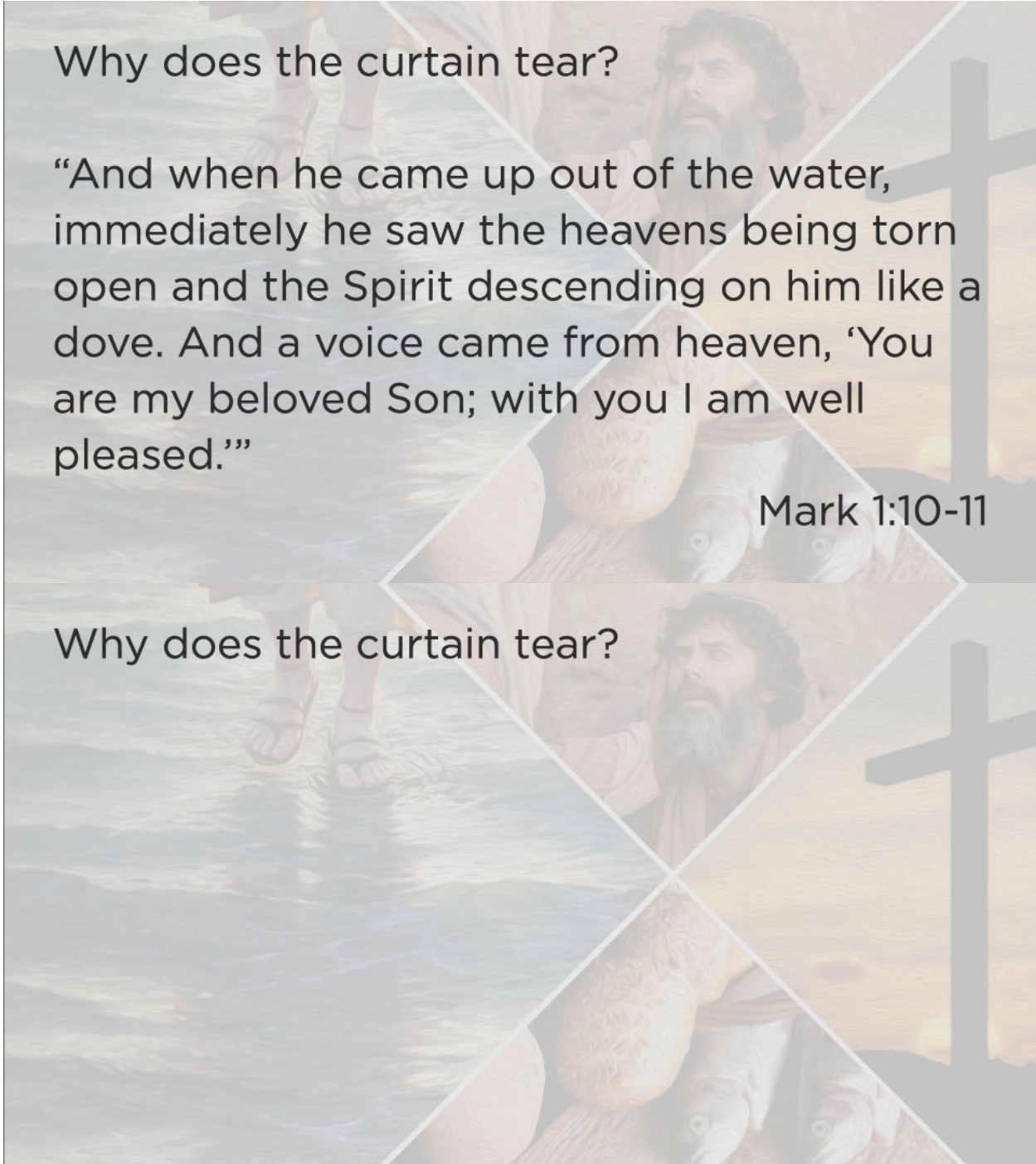
Why darkness at the cross?



Why darkness at the cross?

The darkness at the cross recalls past darkness and points to **future darkness**.

Why does the curtain tear?

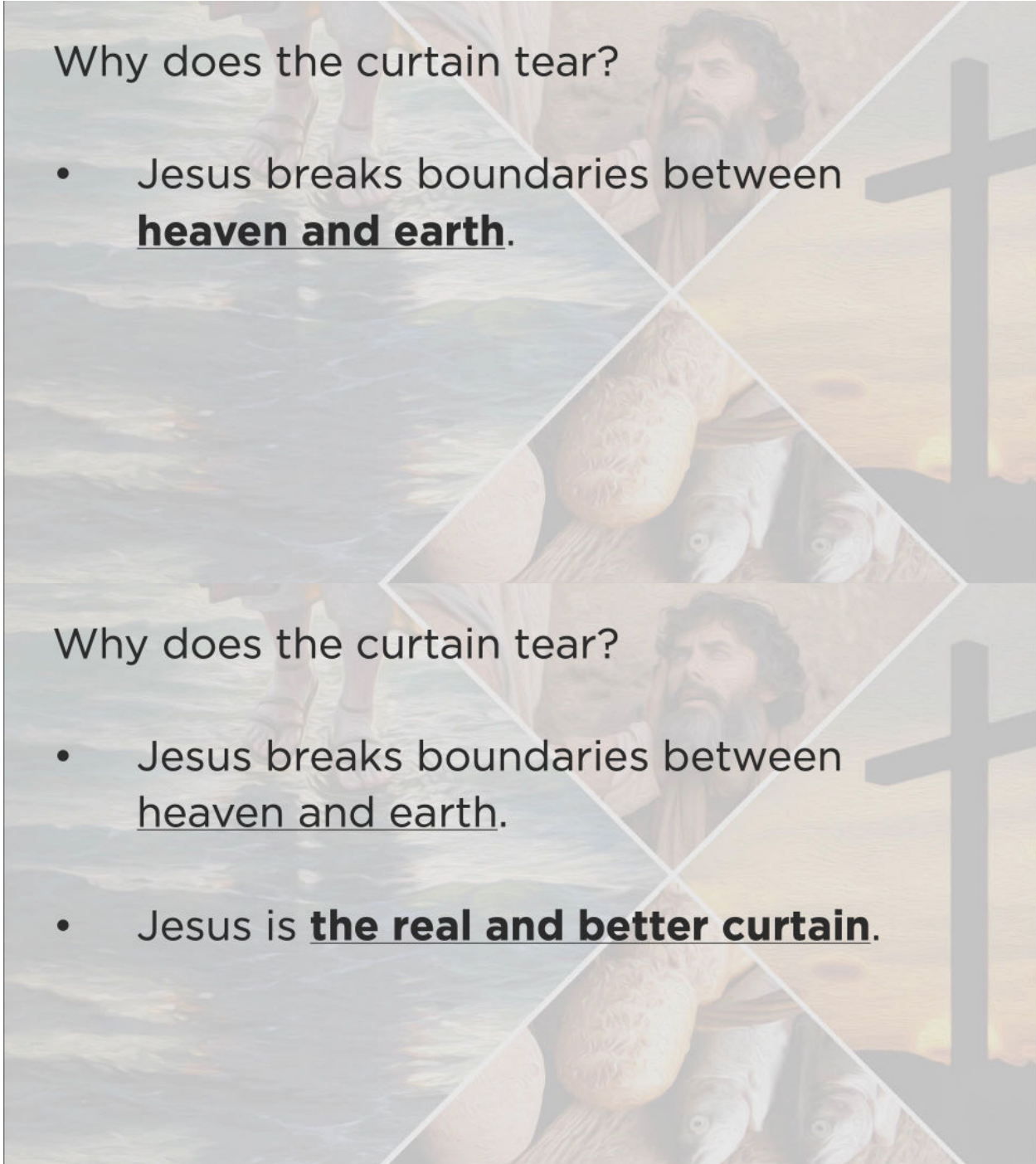
The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there is a depiction of a baptism in water, with a person's feet visible. In the center, a white dove is shown, symbolizing the Holy Spirit. On the right, a large, dark cross is visible against a light, hazy background. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent white diamond shape.

Why does the curtain tear?

“And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”

Mark 1:10-11

Why does the curtain tear?

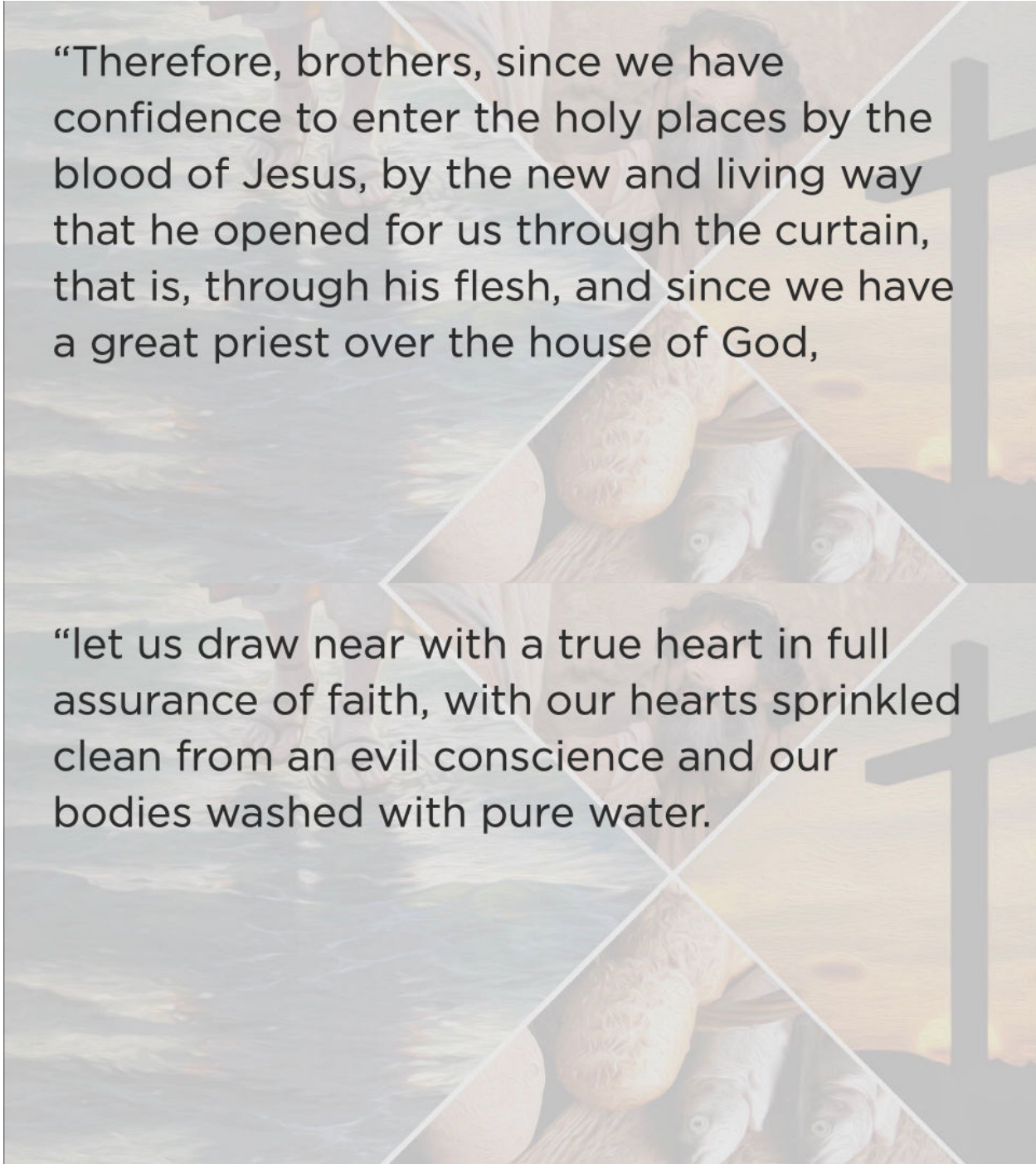
The background of the slide is a composite image. On the left, there's a depiction of a man with a beard, likely Jesus, in a prayerful pose with his hands clasped. To the right, a large, dark cross is visible against a light, hazy sky. Below these elements, there's a scene of a fisherman in a boat, holding a large fish. The entire background is overlaid with a large, faint 'X' shape.

Why does the curtain tear?

- Jesus breaks boundaries between **heaven and earth.**

Why does the curtain tear?

- Jesus breaks boundaries between **heaven and earth.**
- Jesus is **the real and better curtain.**



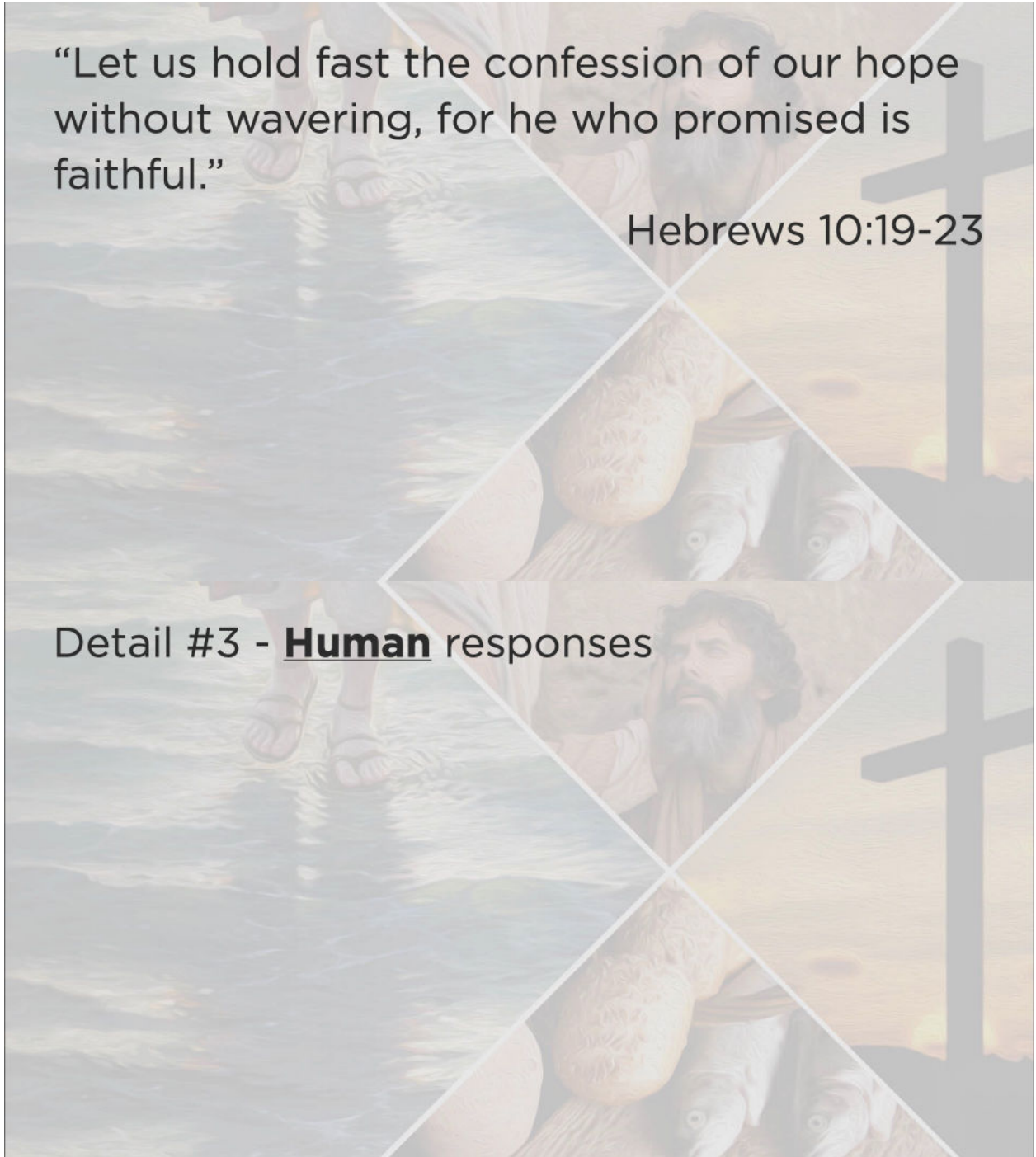
“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God,

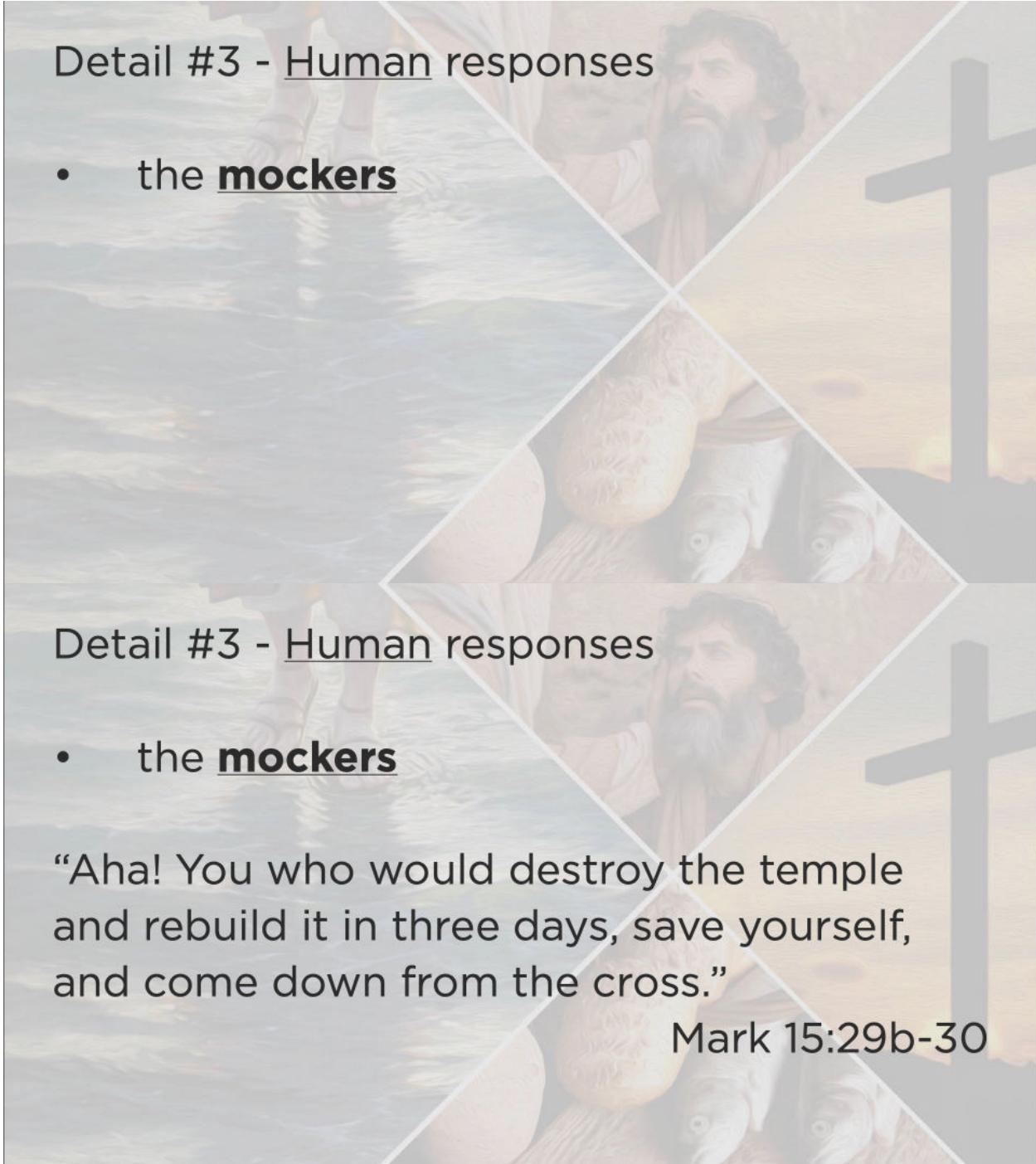
“let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”

Hebrews 10:19-23

Detail #3 - **Human** responses





Detail #3 - Human responses

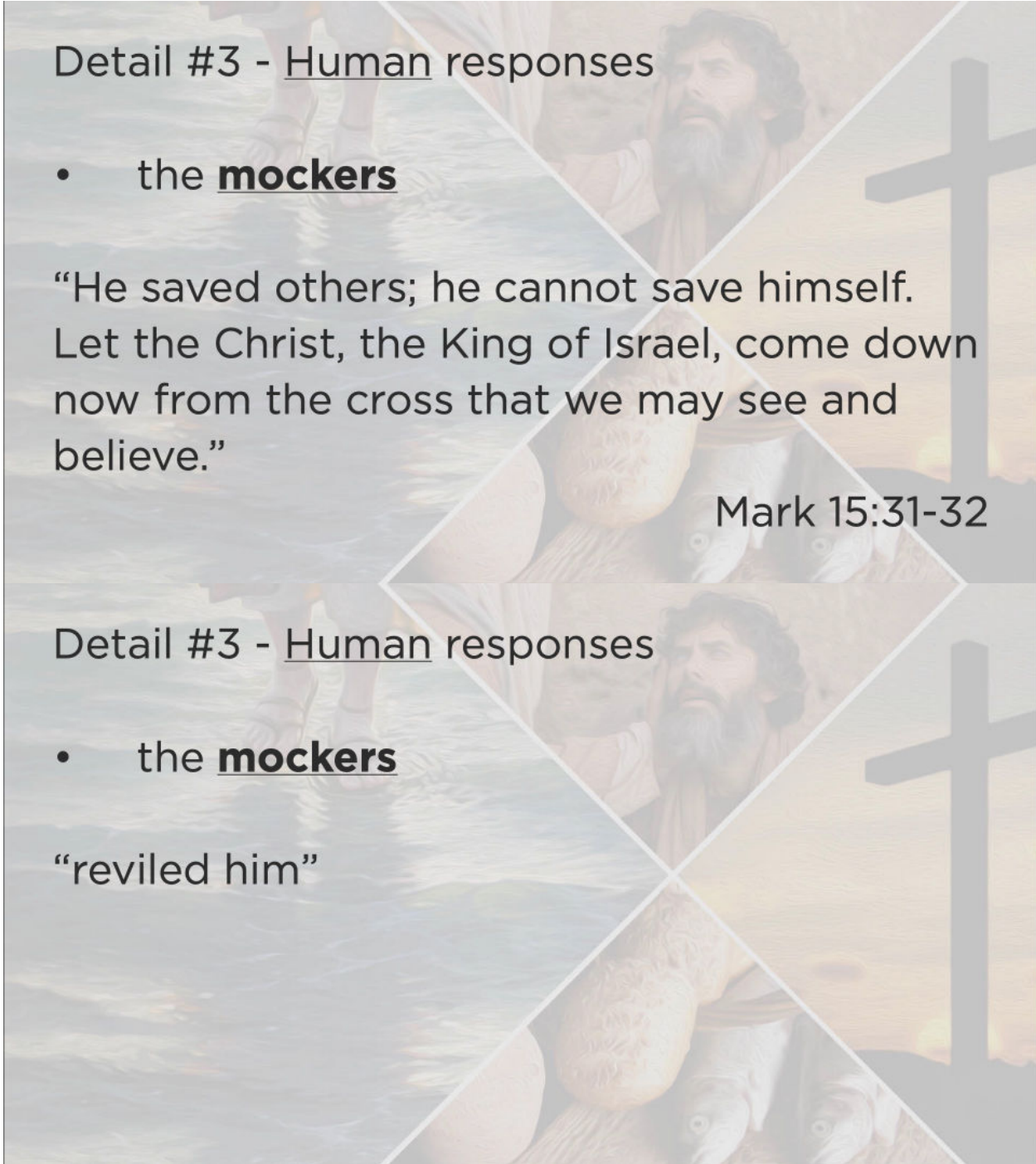
- the **mockers**

Detail #3 - Human responses

- the **mockers**

“Aha! You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself, and come down from the cross.”

Mark 15:29b-30

The background of the slide features a faint, artistic illustration of a man with a long, grey beard and dark hair, wearing a light-colored robe. He is looking upwards and to the right with a contemplative or distressed expression. To his right, a large, dark cross is visible against a light, hazy sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent, light-colored diamond-shaped graphic that divides the image into four quadrants.

Detail #3 - Human responses

- the **mockers**

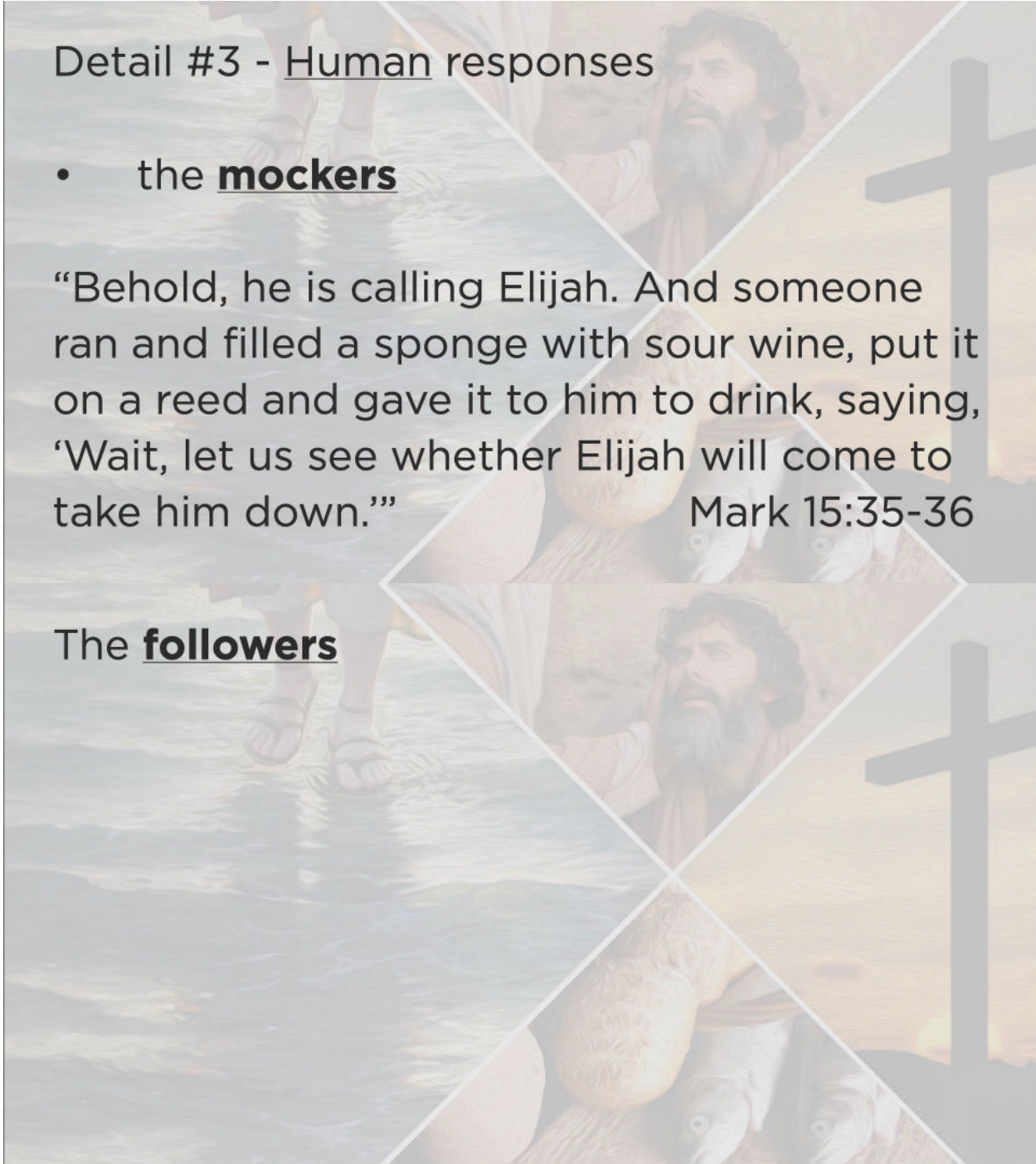
“He saved others; he cannot save himself.
Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down
now from the cross that we may see and
believe.”

Mark 15:31-32

Detail #3 - Human responses

- the **mockers**

“reviled him”

The background of the slide features a religious painting. On the right side, a large, dark cross is visible against a light, hazy sky. In the center and left, a figure with a long beard and hair, likely Jesus, is depicted in a state of distress, possibly being lowered into or raised from the water. The water is rendered with soft, wavy lines. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

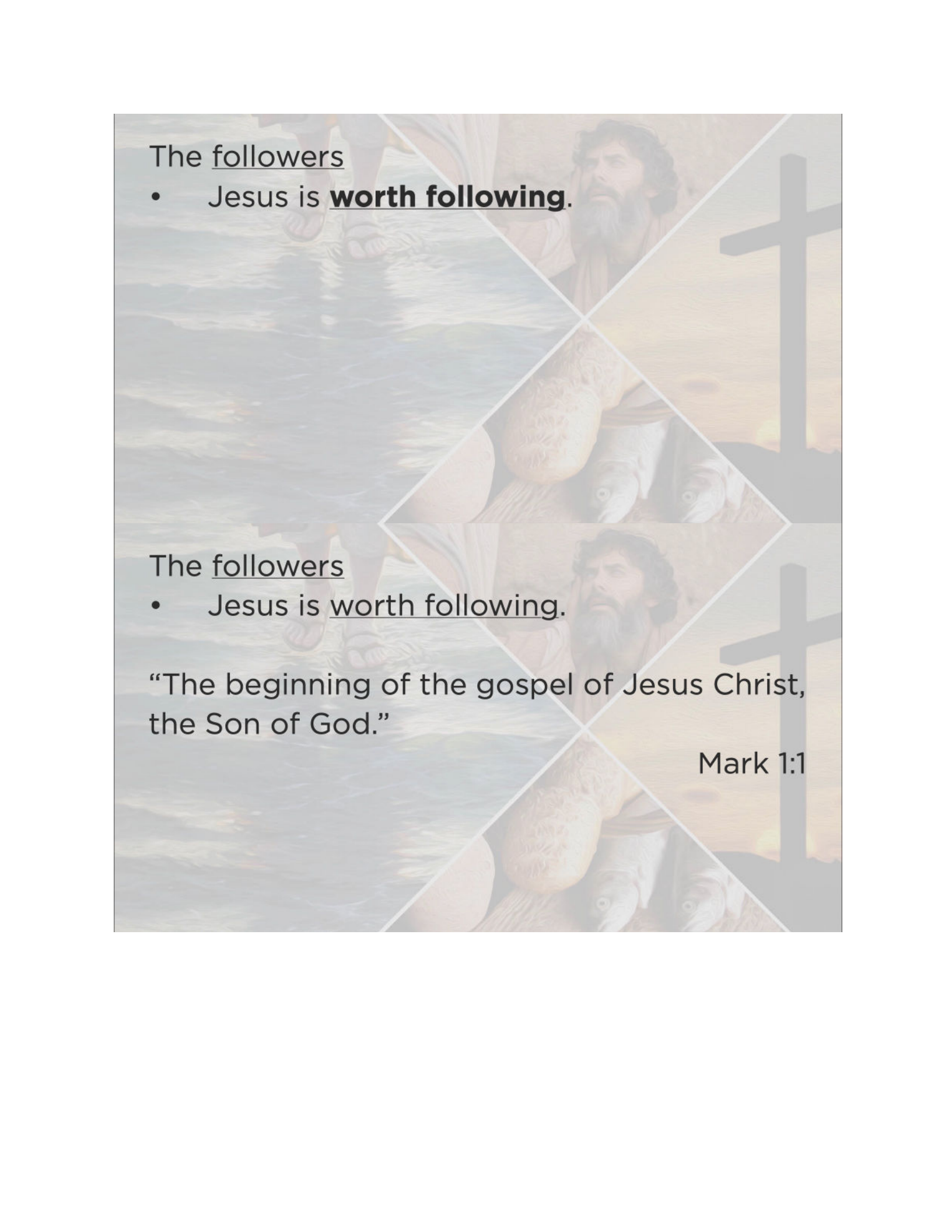
Detail #3 - Human responses

- the **mockers**

“Behold, he is calling Elijah. And someone ran and filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink, saying, ‘Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to take him down.’”

Mark 15:35-36

The **followers**



The followers


- Jesus is **worth following.**

The followers

- Jesus is worth following.

“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ,
the Son of God.”

Mark 1:1

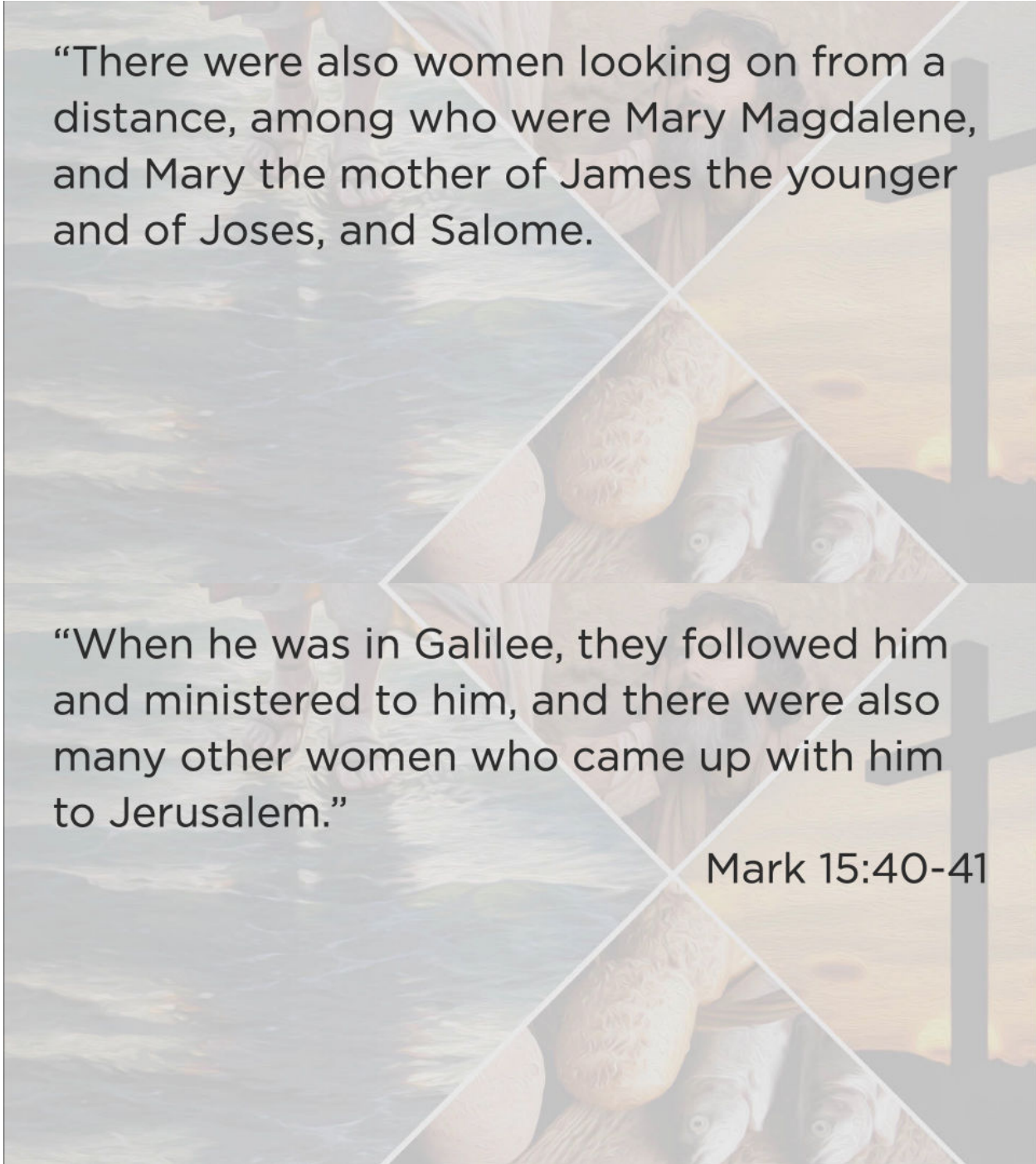
The background of the slide is a collage of three images. On the left is a painting of a man with a long, grey beard and dark hair, wearing a brown robe, looking upwards with a contemplative expression. On the right is a simple wooden cross against a light, hazy sky. At the bottom is a painting of several fish, likely carp or similar species, swimming in water.

The followers

- Jesus is worth following.
- Jesus is **divine**.

The followers

- Jesus is worth following.
- Jesus is divine.
- Jesus is **worth the risk**.



“There were also women looking on from a distance, among who were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome.

“When he was in Galilee, they followed him and ministered to him, and there were also many other women who came up with him to Jerusalem.”


Mark 15:40-41

“Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of
Joseph saw where he was laid.”

Mark 15:47

Followers who followed

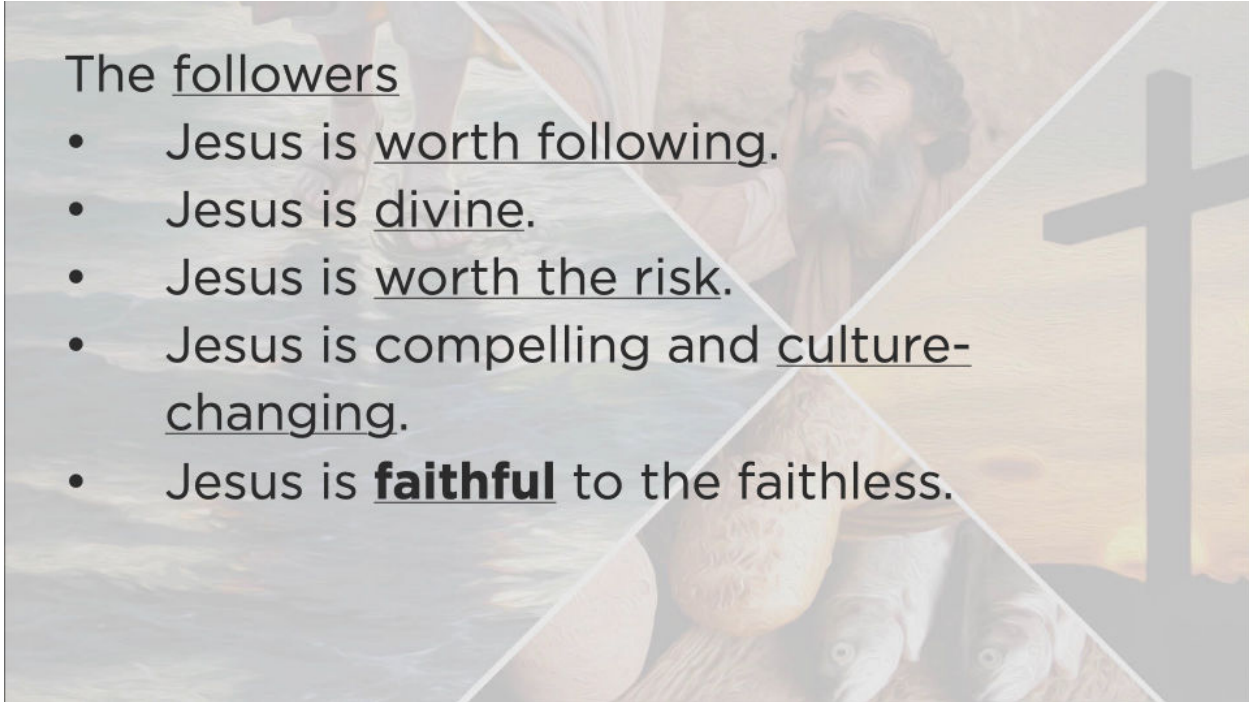




Followers who followed
Witnesses who witnessed

The followers

- Jesus is worth following.
- Jesus is divine.
- Jesus is worth the risk.
- Jesus is compelling and **culture-changing**.



The followers

- Jesus is worth following.
- Jesus is divine.
- Jesus is worth the risk.
- Jesus is compelling and culture-changing.
- Jesus is **faithful** to the faithless.