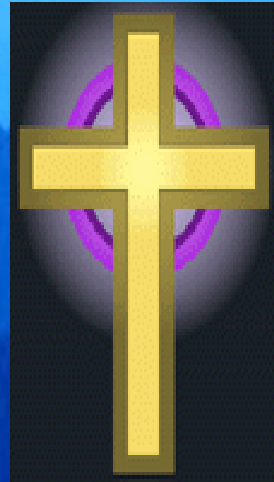


The Stations of the Cross



Woodley Baptist Church

**Please use your mouse to move down to the
next page each time you wish to move on**

Welcome to our Good Friday Service

This morning we are going to use the tradition of the Stations of the Cross, to take us on a journey through Holy week, to remind us of the events leading up to today and through to Easter Sunday, and to give us time to reflect on their significance to our lives today.

This is a tradition used in some branches of Christianity, which, though based in scripture, has like lots of traditions, become embellished and elaborated in certain parts. If you want to skip the non-biblical stations, then just move past those sections.



However, you may find they help to lead you along the journey as you open your heart and mind to the essence and meaning of the tradition, and allow this more structured approach to bless you today.



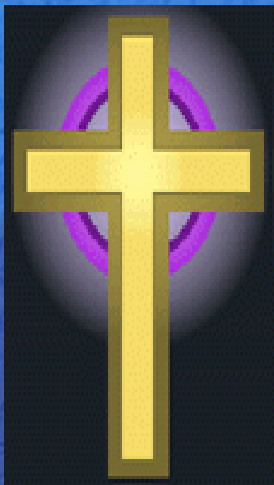
**Dear Lord,
as we approach Easter, help
us to really understand what
your death and resurrection
brought to the world and to us
today.**

**Help us to see your light
shining through the darkness
of this Good Friday with all its
pain and suffering, shining
into the glory that will be
Easter day, the glory of our
salvation and the hope of our
eternal life with You.**

AMEN

As you go through this slideshow, either by yourself or with others in your family, there will be moments to reflect, songs to join in with and prayers to read.

If you can sing, **sing loudly and praise God in your home. If you don't want to sing then either read the words of each song as a prayer, or cut and paste the YouTube link shown at the start of the song into your browser and listen to the song online.**



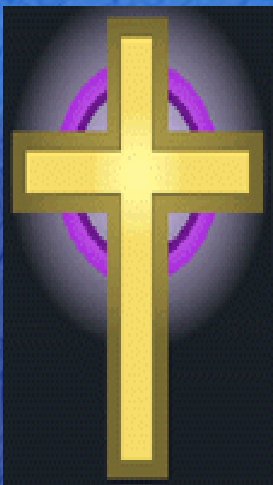
If you are reading in pdf format opened in a browser, you should be able to double click on the song link and it will automatically open the video.

We will walk with Christ on His journey from the halls of power with Pontius Pilate and his pronouncement of death, along the streets of Jerusalem and the crowds watching, to Golgotha and His crucifixion and then after the long wait, to celebrating His glorious Resurrection on Easter Day.

Stations are places where people wait while they are going from one place to another. We are all used to waiting, whether at train stations, bus stations or airports.

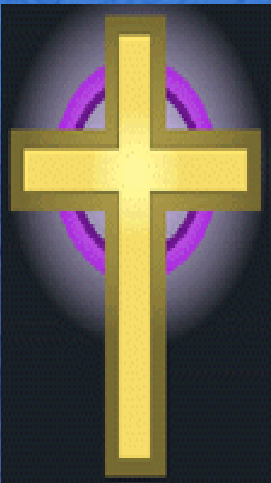
Stations can also be places where people take time to think about Jesus as He went towards the cross. We call these 'The Stations of the Cross.' They remind us how much Jesus loved us and how much He was willing to suffer to demonstrate that love to us.

Around the walls in many Churches and Chapels, you may notice fourteen pictures depicting the places and events of the Easter story. A person following the Stations will go to each picture to pray and meditate about the particular event which Jesus went through as He was led to the cross.



Station 14 ends with the body of Jesus being laid in a tomb, when it seemed as though death had won. Some churches therefore add Station 15, which rejoices in the Resurrection and completes the work of Christ for His church.

Make sure you have your Bible nearby to find and read the scriptures as they appear on the screen, and move through this presentation as slowly or quickly as you choose.



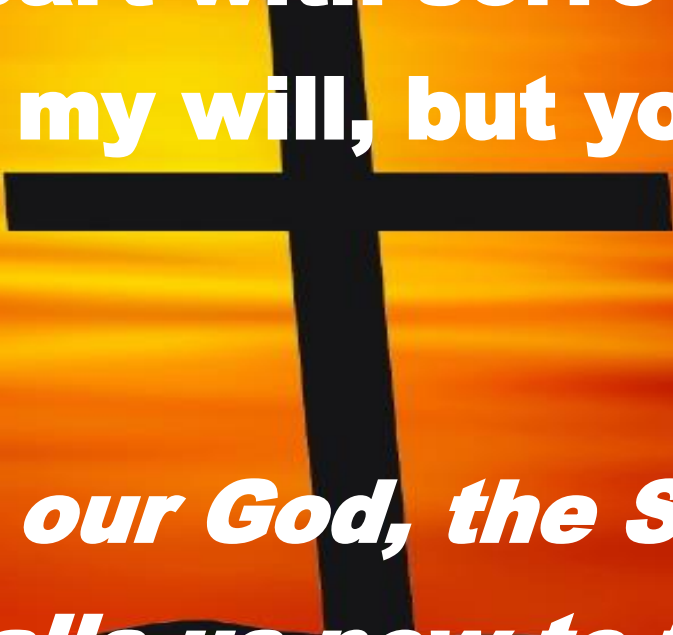
SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCAdWs-ZyEk>

**From Heaven You came, helpless babe,
Entered our world, Your glory veiled,
Not to be served but to serve,
And give Your life that we might live.**

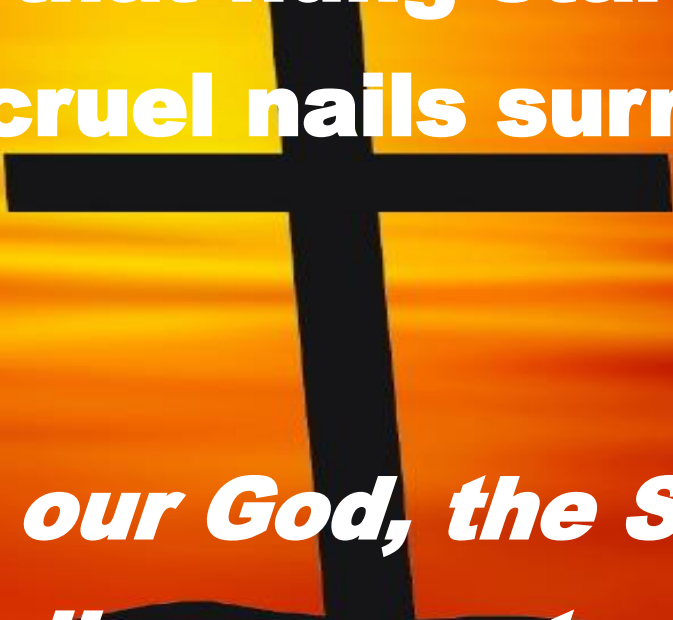
***This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him:
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.***

**There in the garden of tears,
My heavy load He chose to bear:
His heart with sorrow was torn,
‘Yet not my will, but yours’, He said.**

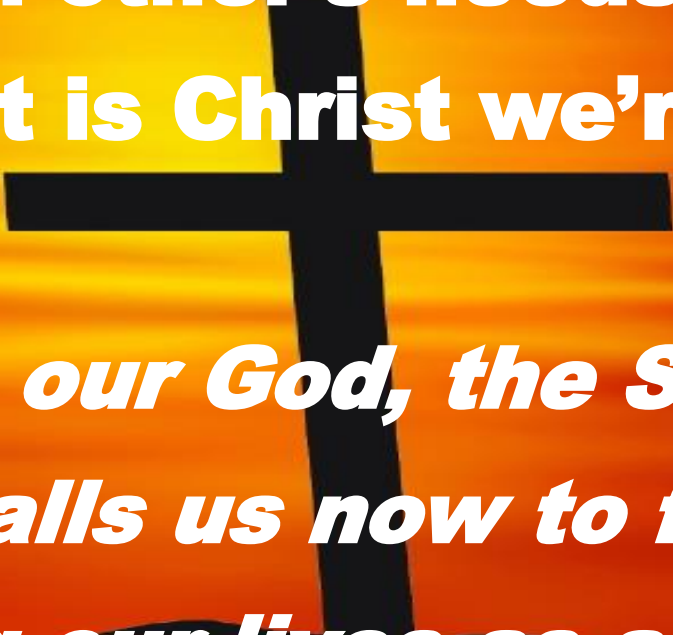


***This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him:
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.***

**Come see His hands and His feet,
The scars that speak of sacrifice.
Hands that flung stars into space
To cruel nails surrendered.**



***This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him:
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.***



**So let us learn how to serve,
And in our lives enthrone Him;
Each other's needs to prefer,
For it is Christ we're serving.**

***This is our God, the Servant King,
He calls us now to follow Him:
To bring our lives as a daily offering
Of worship to the Servant King.***

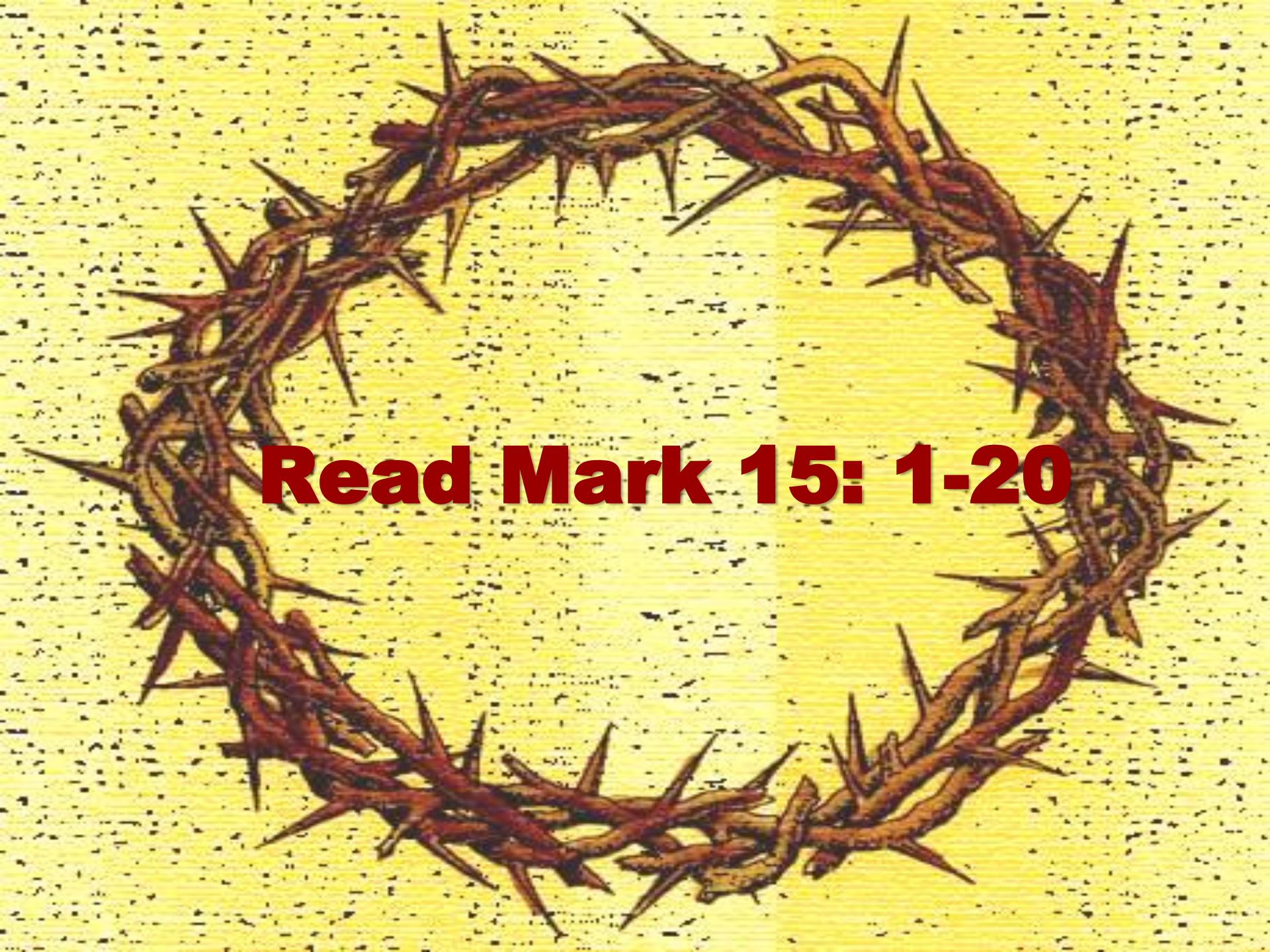


Let us pray

**Lord Jesus Christ,
take me along that holy way
You once took to Your death,
Take my mind, my thoughts,
above all my reluctant heart,
and let me see what once You did
for love of me and all the world.**

Amen

Station 1
Jesus is
condemned
to death

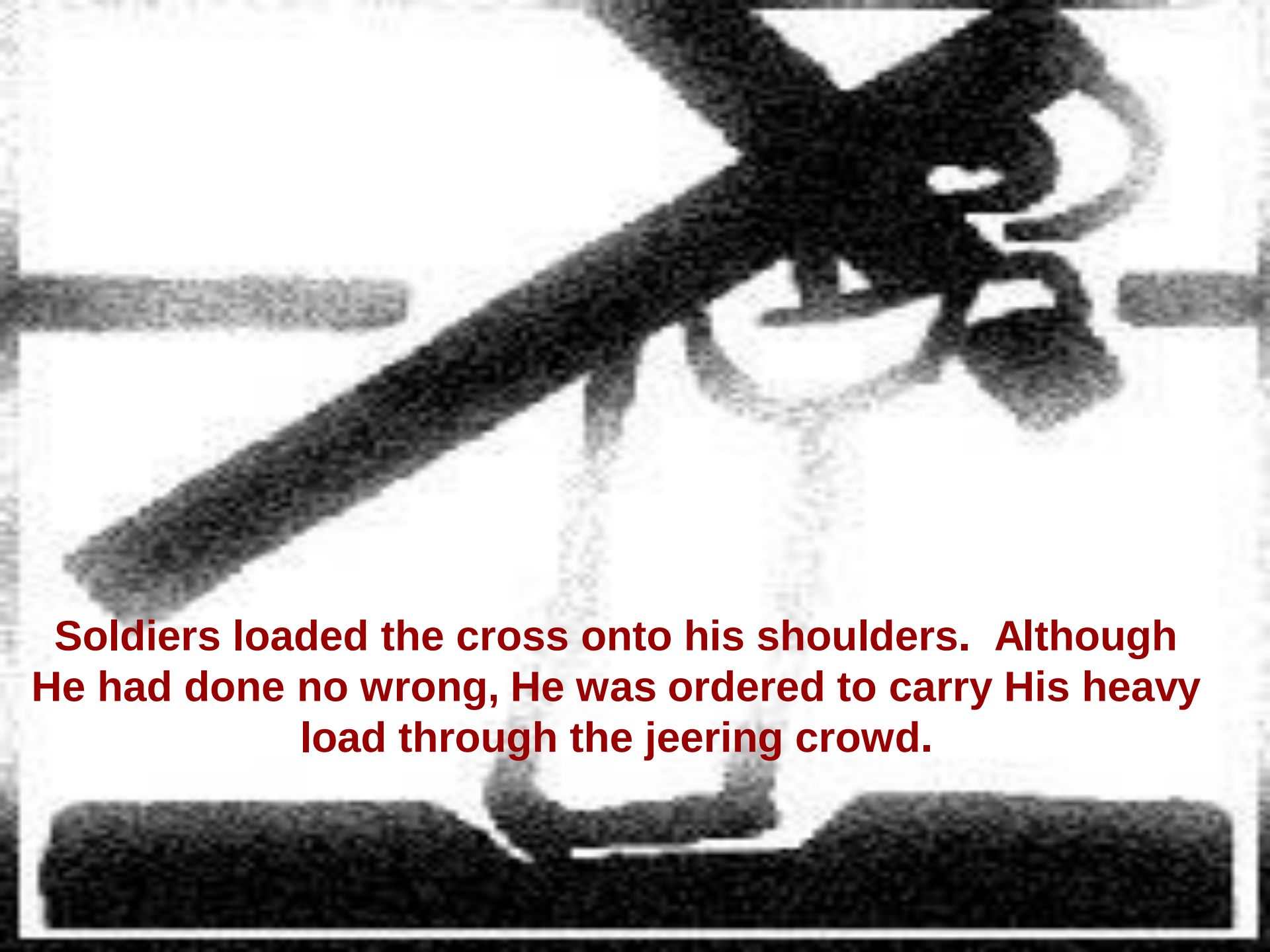
A circular crown of thorns, a symbol of suffering and sacrifice, is depicted against a yellow background with a black speckled pattern. The crown is made of brown, spiky branches.

Read Mark 15: 1-20



Station 2

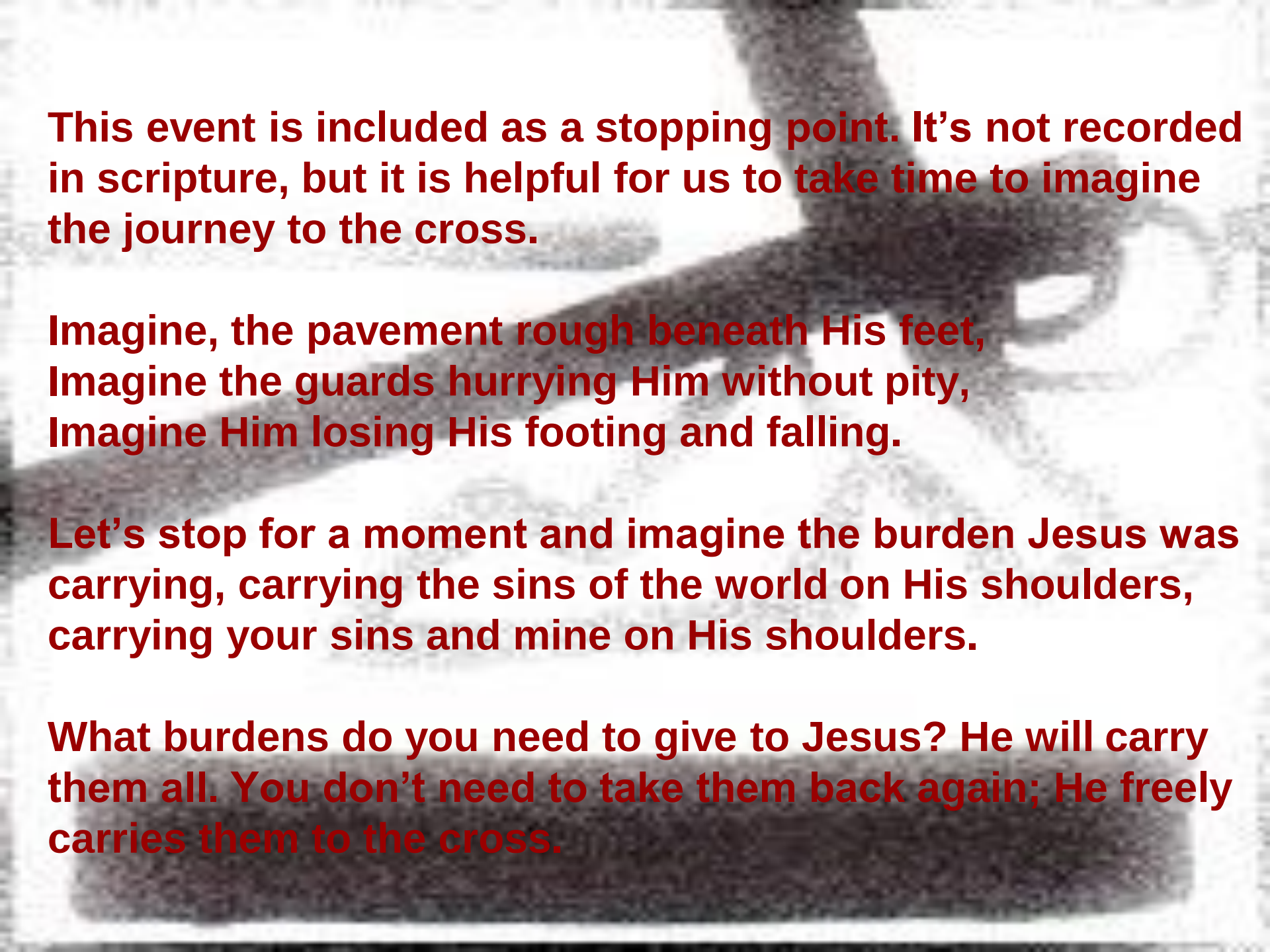
Jesus is made to carry the cross



Soldiers loaded the cross onto his shoulders. Although He had done no wrong, He was ordered to carry His heavy load through the jeering crowd.



Station 3
Jesus falls for the first time under
the cross



This event is included as a stopping point. It's not recorded in scripture, but it is helpful for us to take time to imagine the journey to the cross.

**Imagine, the pavement rough beneath His feet,
Imagine the guards hurrying Him without pity,
Imagine Him losing His footing and falling.**

Let's stop for a moment and imagine the burden Jesus was carrying, carrying the sins of the world on His shoulders, carrying your sins and mine on His shoulders.

What burdens do you need to give to Jesus? He will carry them all. You don't need to take them back again; He freely carries them to the cross.

SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vzMubghVEM0>

**You chose the cross with every
breath**

The perfect life, the perfect death

You chose the cross

A crown of thorns you wore for us

And crowned us with eternal life

You chose the cross

**And though your soul was
overwhelmed with pain**

Obedient to death You overcame



I'm lost in wonder

I'm lost in love

I'm lost in praise forevermore

Because of Jesus' unfailing love

I am forgiven

I am restored

**You loosed the chords of sinfulness
And broke the chains of my
disgrace**

**You chose the cross
Up from the grave victorious You
rose again so glorious**

**You chose the cross
The sorrow that surrounded you
was mine**

**"Yet not my will but yours be done"
You cried**

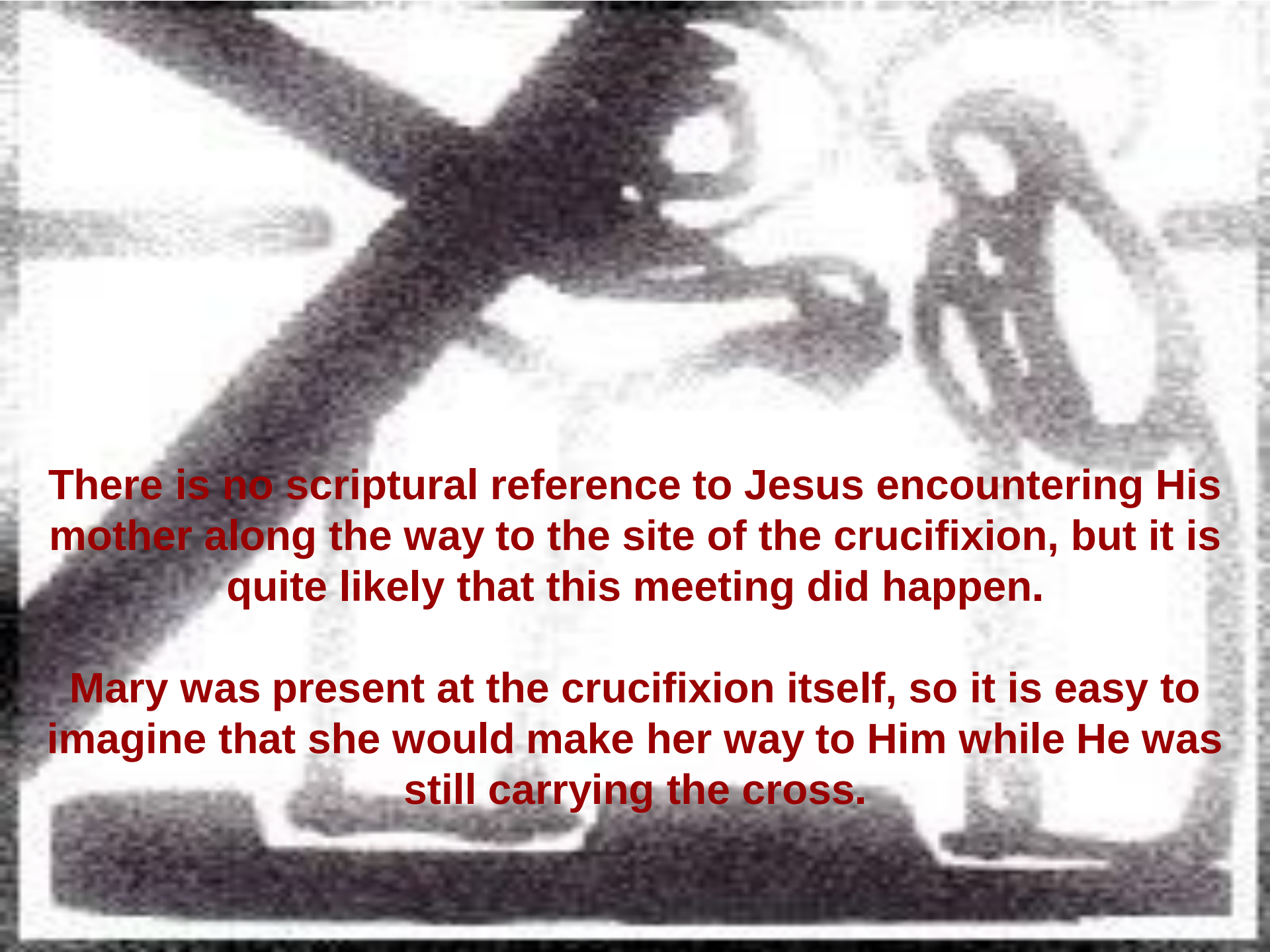


***I'm lost in wonder
I'm lost in love
I'm lost in praise forevermore
Because of Jesus' unfailing love
I am forgiven
I am restored***



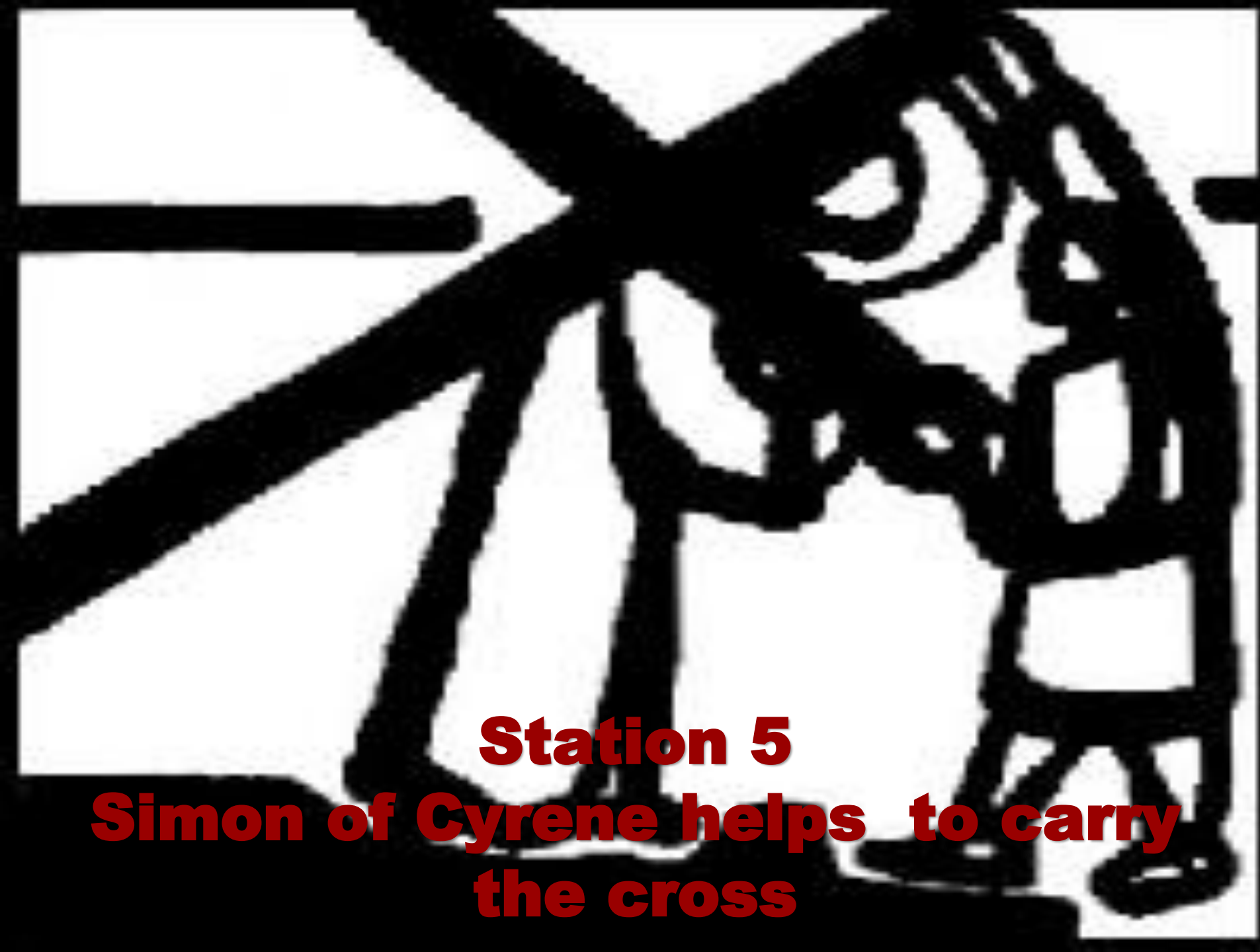
Station 4

Jesus is met by His mother



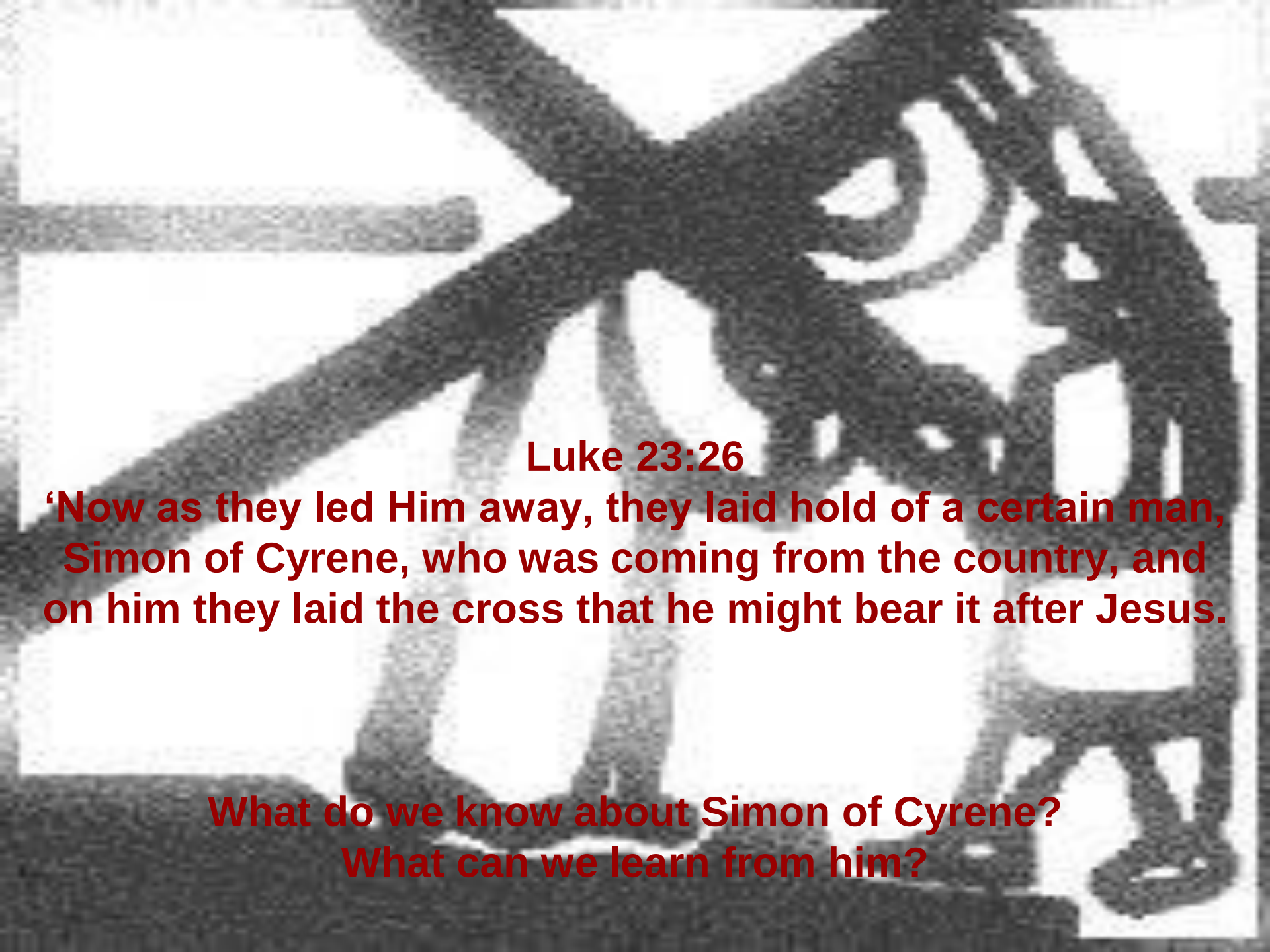
There is no scriptural reference to Jesus encountering His mother along the way to the site of the crucifixion, but it is quite likely that this meeting did happen.

Mary was present at the crucifixion itself, so it is easy to imagine that she would make her way to Him while He was still carrying the cross.



Station 5

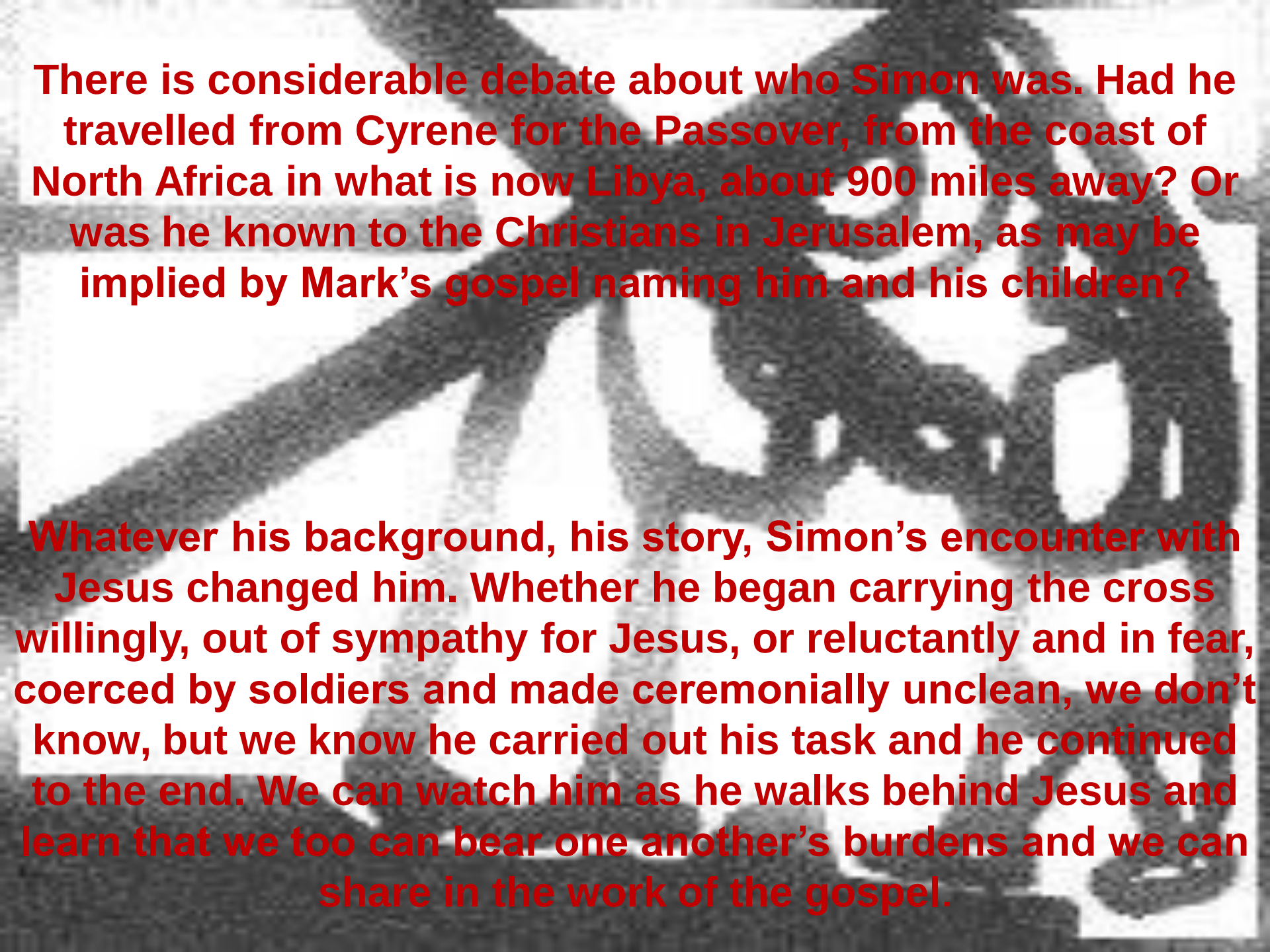
**Simon of Cyrene helps to carry
the cross**



Luke 23:26

‘Now as they led Him away, they laid hold of a certain man, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming from the country, and on him they laid the cross that he might bear it after Jesus.

**What do we know about Simon of Cyrene?
What can we learn from him?**



There is considerable debate about who Simon was. Had he travelled from Cyrene for the Passover, from the coast of North Africa in what is now Libya, about 900 miles away? Or was he known to the Christians in Jerusalem, as may be implied by Mark's gospel naming him and his children?

Whatever his background, his story, Simon's encounter with Jesus changed him. Whether he began carrying the cross willingly, out of sympathy for Jesus, or reluctantly and in fear, coerced by soldiers and made ceremonially unclean, we don't know, but we know he carried out his task and he continued to the end. We can watch him as he walks behind Jesus and learn that we too can bear one another's burdens and we can share in the work of the gospel.

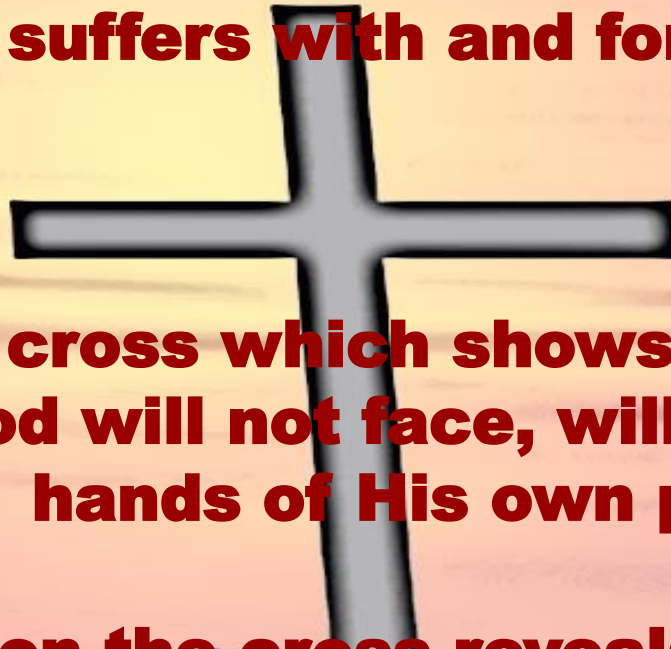
The safest response to the surprising God?

A Meditation



**The truth and the glory of Easter is to be found
only in the cross.**

**It is in the crucified Christ that we see the God
who suffers with and for His people.**



**It is the cross which shows us that there is
nothing God will not face, will not endure at the
hands of His own people.**

**But Jesus on the cross reveals not only God; we
also see ourselves for what we really are.**

**WHERE DO YOU FIT?
WHO DO YOU EMPATHISE WITH?**

Judas: for whom money is more important than any relationship; perhaps the zealot who hopes to force Jesus' hand and manipulate Him into supporting his own ideology.

Caiaphas: with his impeccable political and ecclesiastical logic that 'it is better for one man to die for the people'.

Pilate: the victim of circumstance – on the opposite side of the debate to Caiaphas but playing the same rules: someone's head must roll; if not that of Jesus, it will be his own.

The cynical witnesses: who remembered only the incriminating words and forgot the message.



Peter with his inappropriate self-confidence

The crowd in its mindless thirst for blood

The soldiers in their casual brutality

The centurion who admired from a distance

The disciples who ran away

***Lord Jesus,
we are all there, we are all part of this human drama; there
is a part in all of us which still says that the safest response
to the surprising God is to kill Him while we have a chance.***

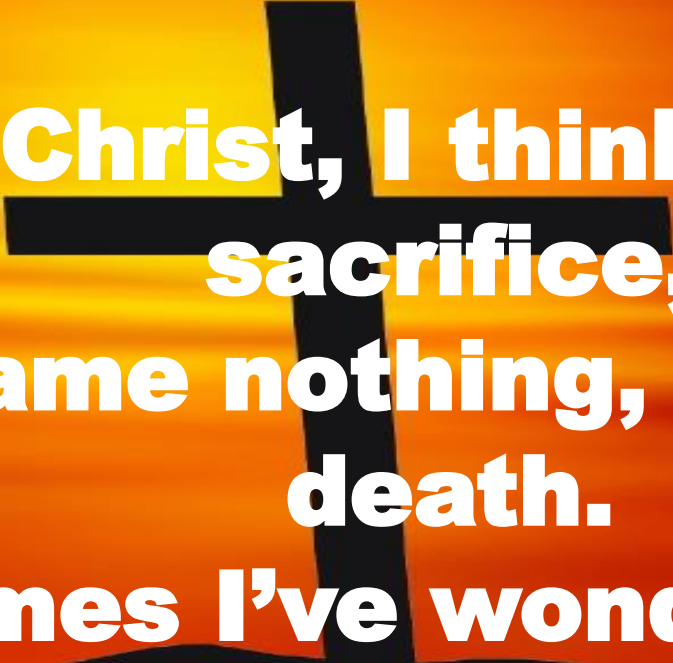
***To get Him out of our lives, to make Him leave us alone; to
be rid of Him so we can have the security of our preferred
politics, our cosy religion, our national interests.***

***Lord God, help us this Easter not to run away, but to face the
truth that our sin is more complicate, more insidious, more
devastating than we ever dreamed,
but that Your Grace reaches out to overcome it.***

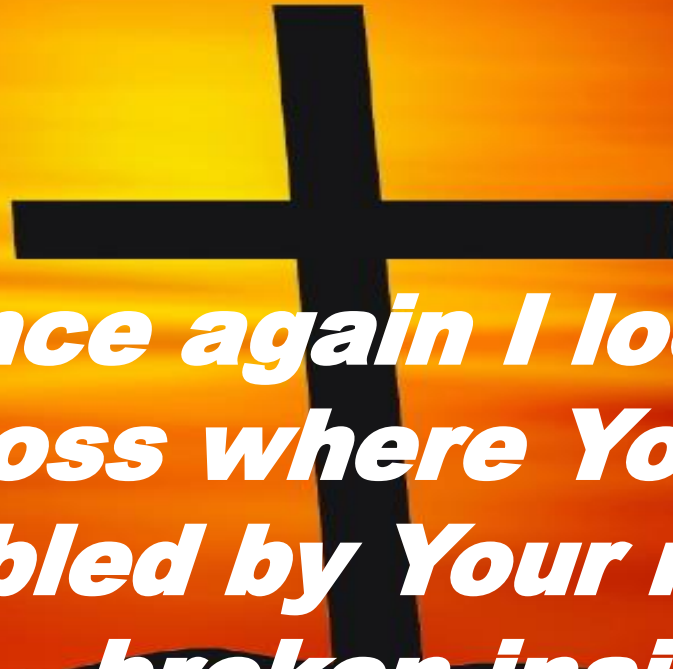
***That our human brokenness makes even our best aspirations
potentially disastrous,
but that You will take our every aspiration and transform it,
You will take us and make us co-workers with you, if we are
willing to come to the cross and learn the truth.***

SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkK4YHy-wNg>



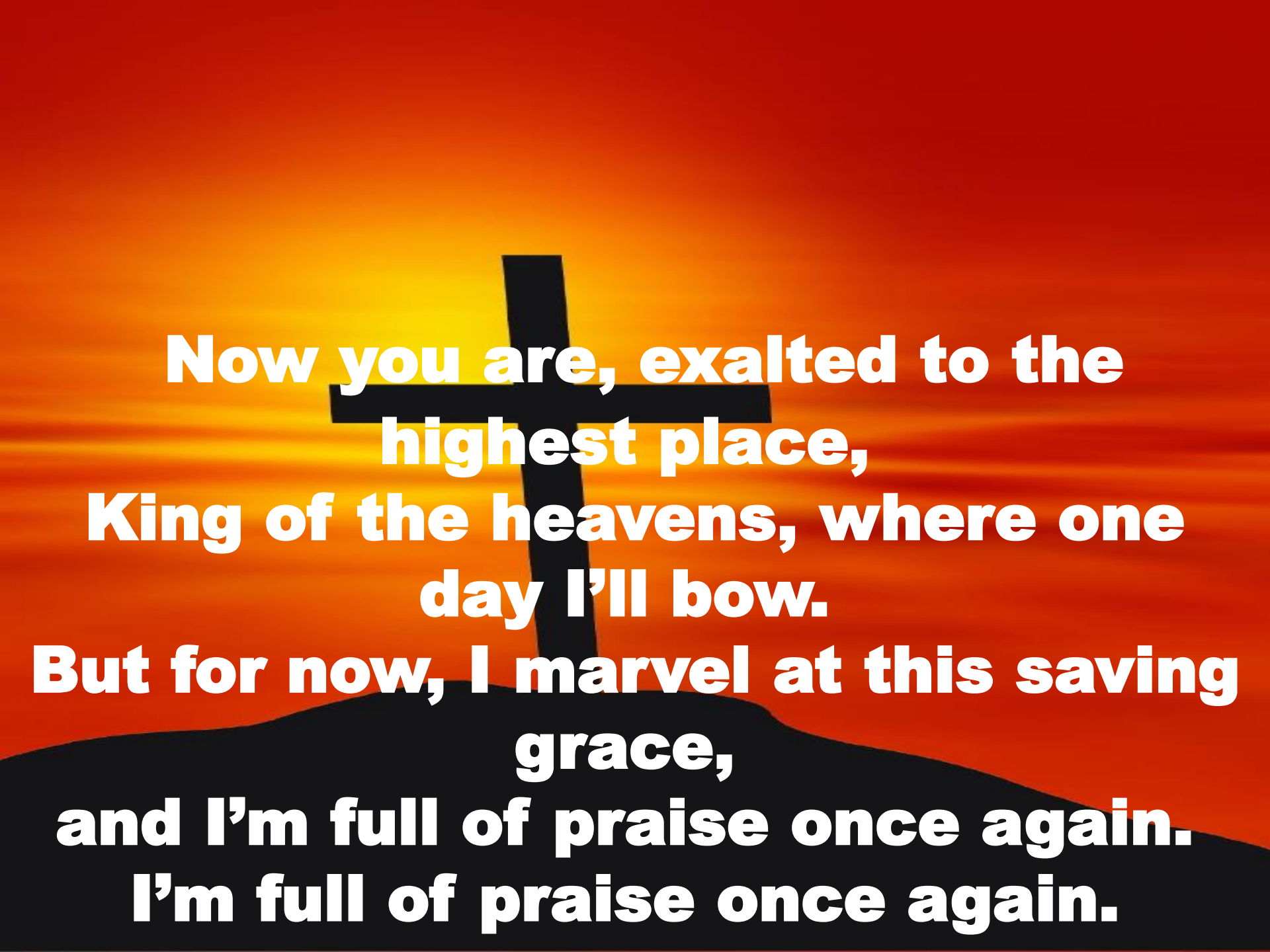
**Jesus Christ, I think upon Your
sacrifice,
You became nothing, poured out of
death.
Many times I've wondered at Your
gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.**



***And once again I look upon the
cross where You died.***

***I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm
broken inside.***

***Once again I thank You, once again
I pour out my life.***



**Now you are, exalted to the
highest place,**

**King of the heavens, where one
day I'll bow.**

**But for now, I marvel at this saving
grace,**

and I'm full of praise once again.

I'm full of praise once again.

***And once again I look upon the
cross where You died.***

***I'm humbled by Your mercy and I'm
broken inside.***

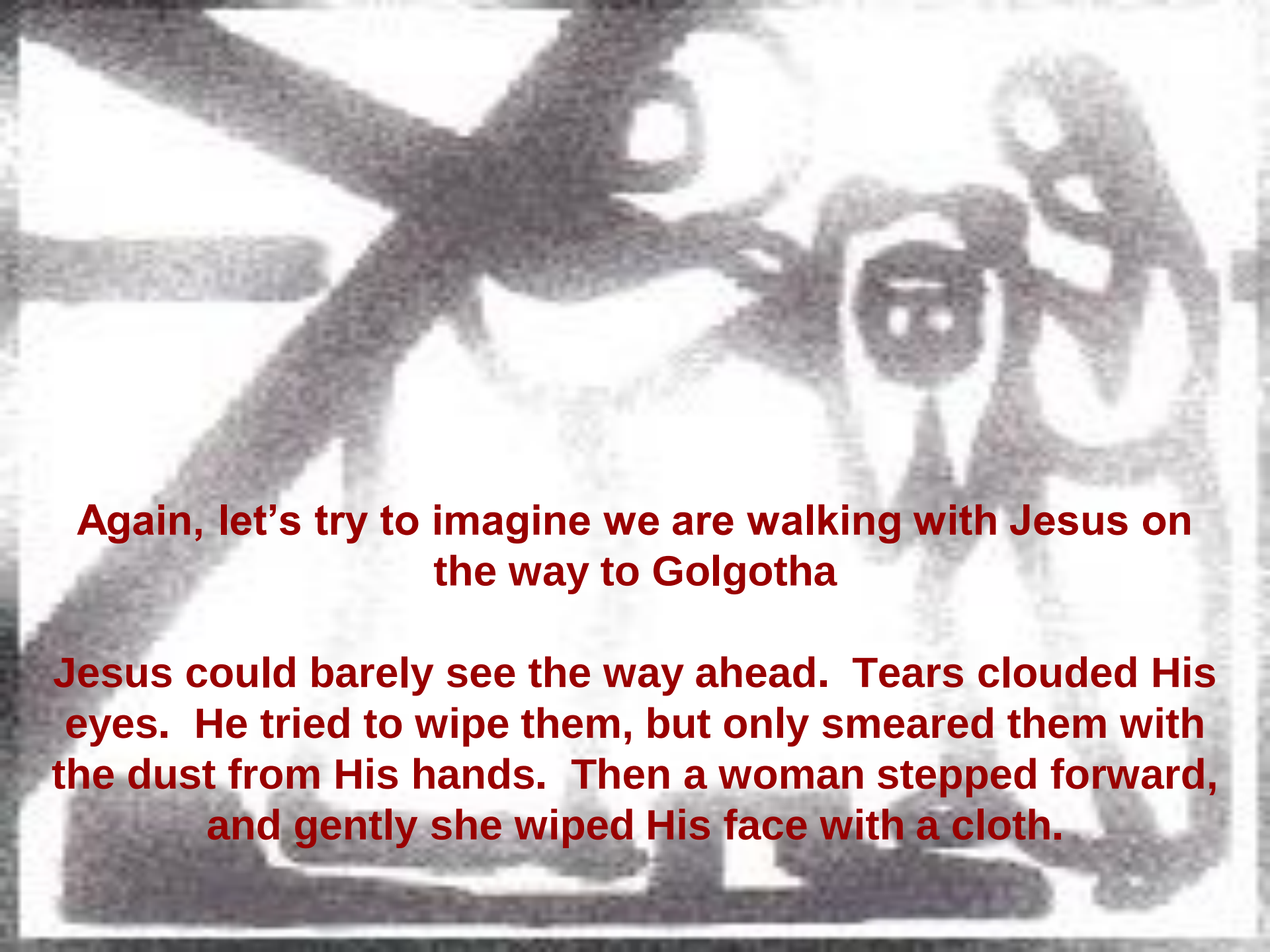
***Once again I thank You, once again
I pour out my life.***

**Thank you for the cross, thank you
for the cross,
thank you for the cross my friend.**



Station 6

A woman wipes the face of Jesus



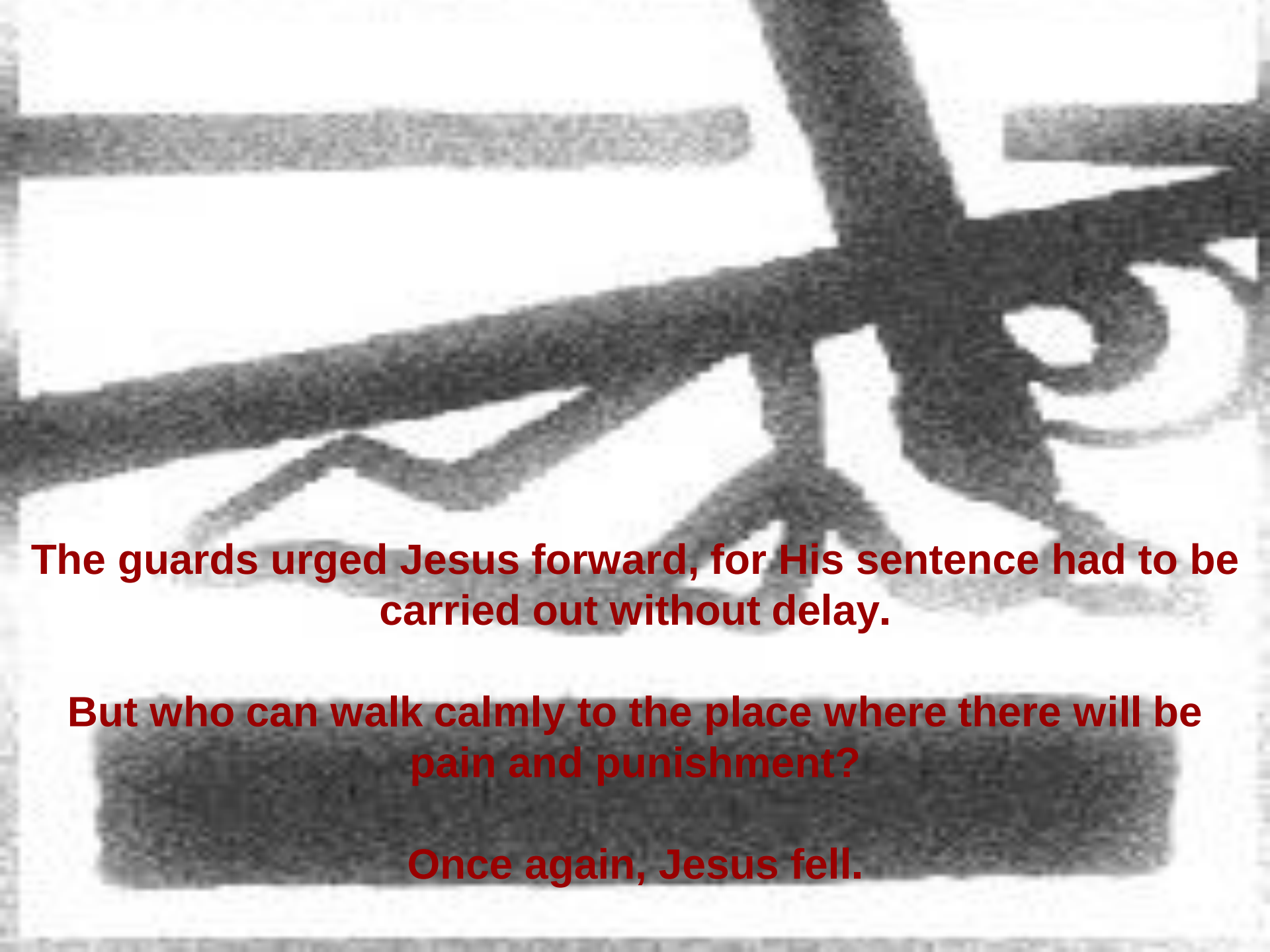
**Again, let's try to imagine we are walking with Jesus on
the way to Golgotha**

**Jesus could barely see the way ahead. Tears clouded His
eyes. He tried to wipe them, but only smeared them with
the dust from His hands. Then a woman stepped forward,
and gently she wiped His face with a cloth.**



Station 7

Jesus falls for the second time



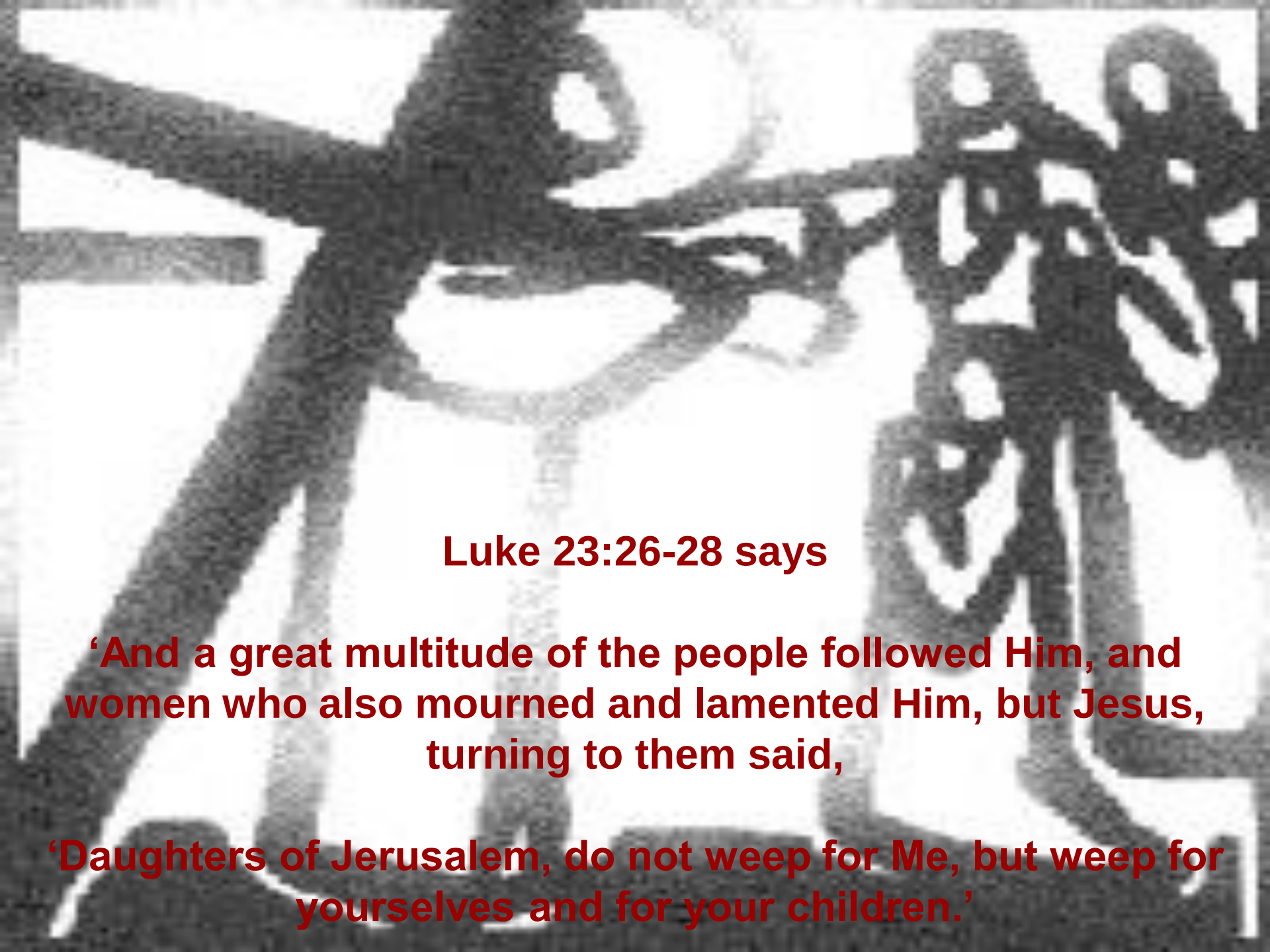
The guards urged Jesus forward, for His sentence had to be carried out without delay.

But who can walk calmly to the place where there will be pain and punishment?

Once again, Jesus fell.



Station 8
The women of Jerusalem mourn
for Jesus



Luke 23:26-28 says

‘And a great multitude of the people followed Him, and women who also mourned and lamented Him, but Jesus, turning to them said,

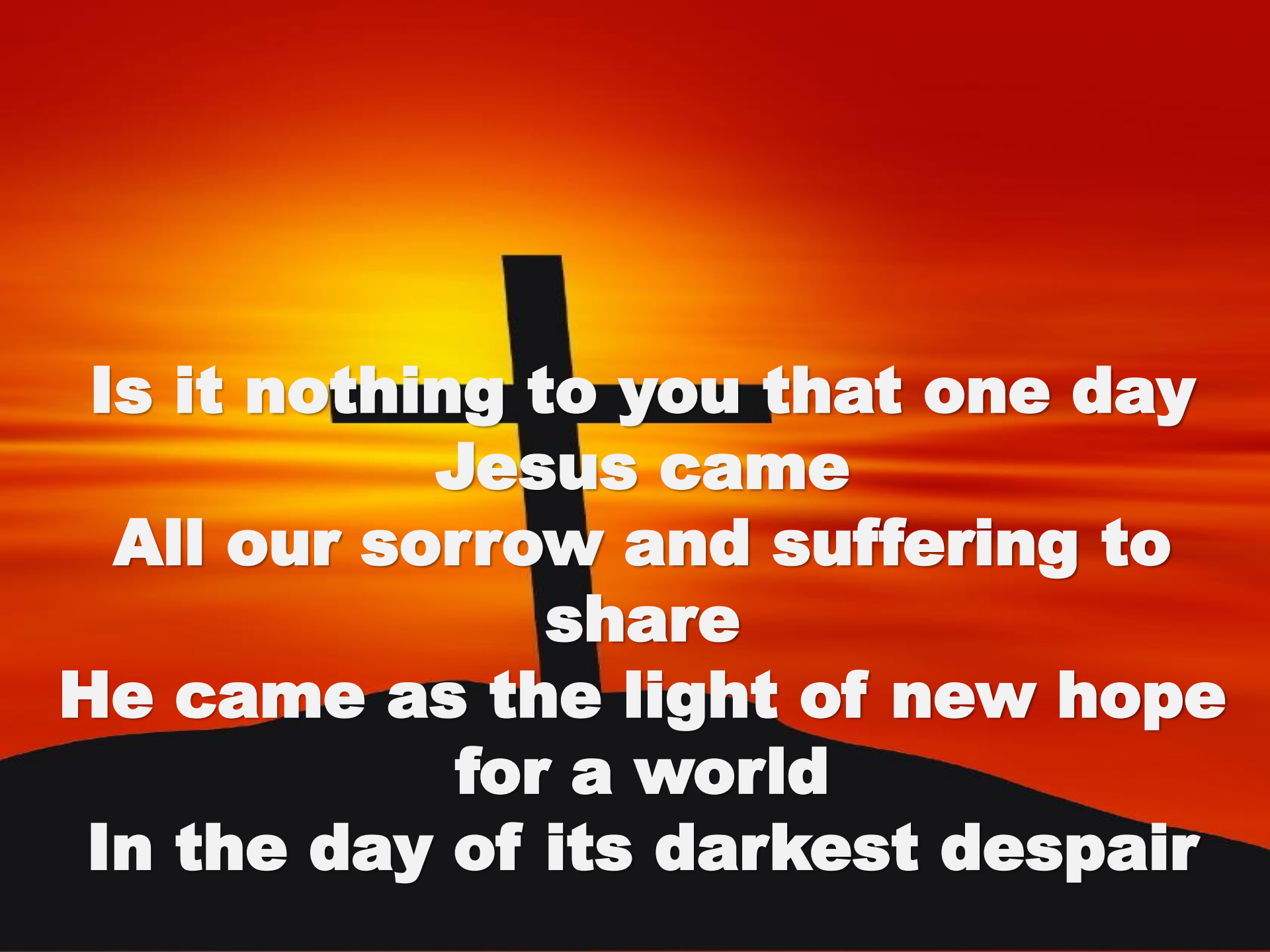
‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.’

Is it nothing to you?

by the King's Singers

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gbRepO2M91w>



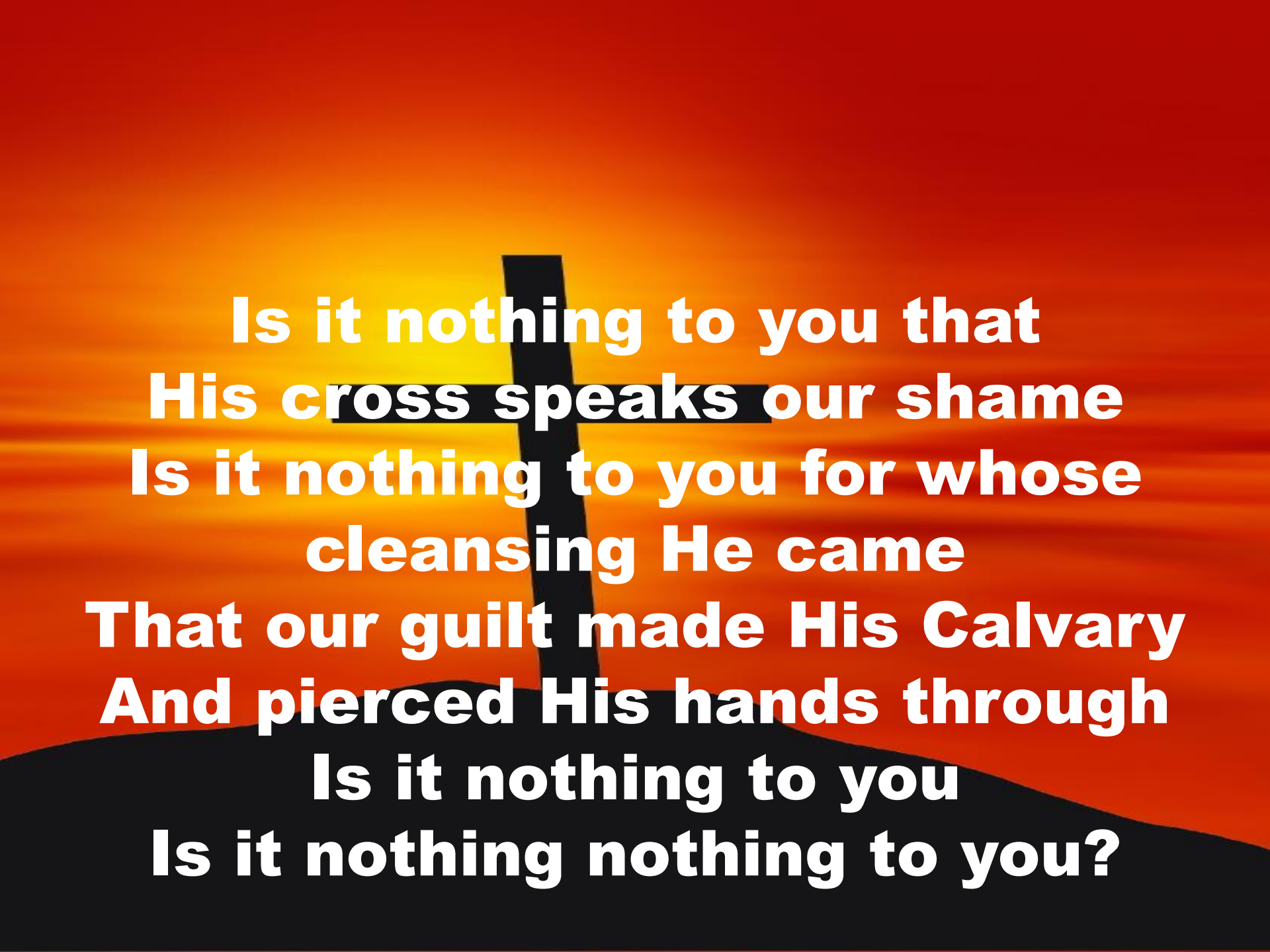


**Is it nothing to you that one day
Jesus came**

**All our sorrow and suffering to
share**

**He came as the light of new hope
for a world**

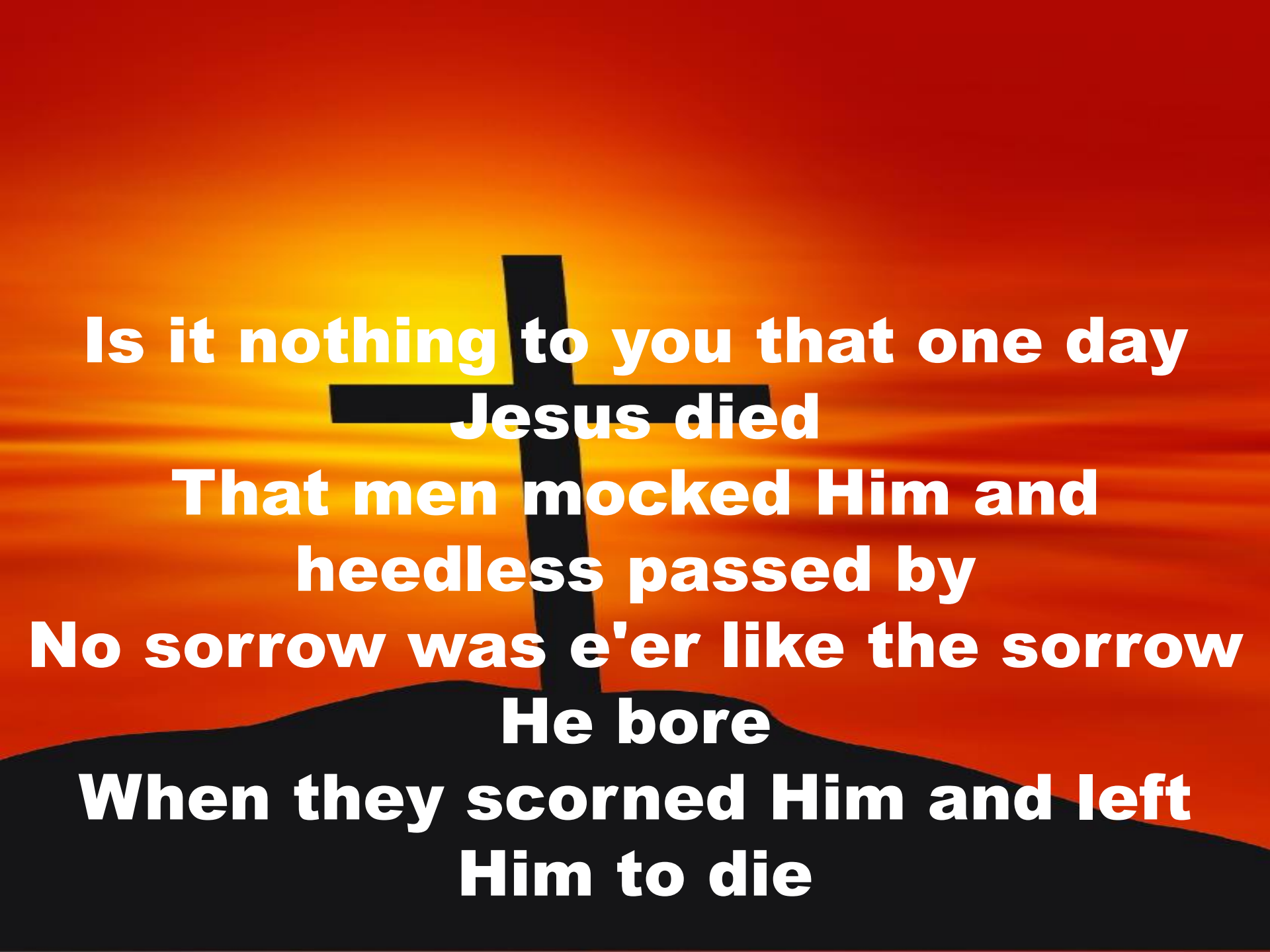
In the day of its darkest despair



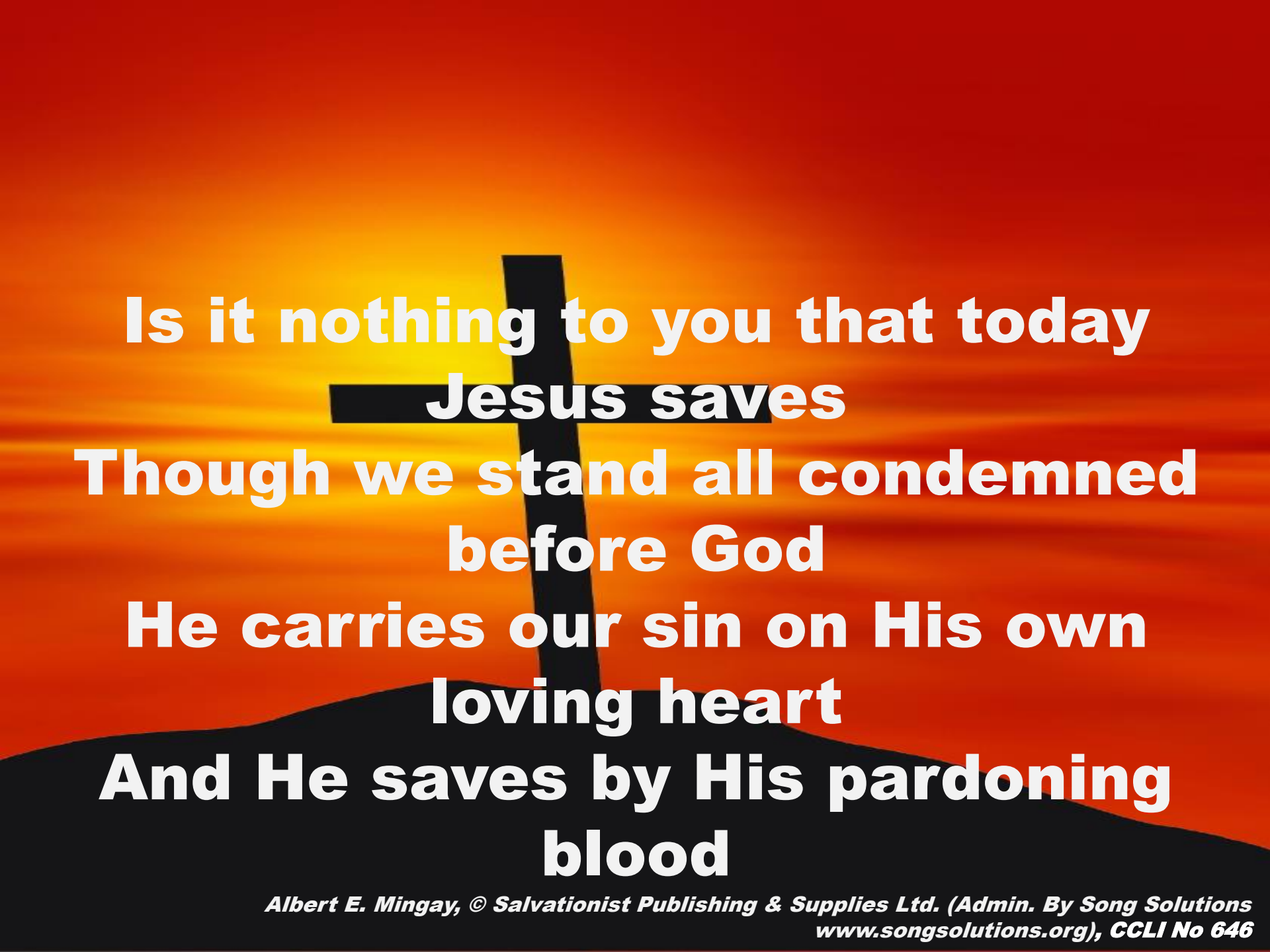
**Is it nothing to you that
His cross speaks our shame
Is it nothing to you for whose
cleansing He came
That our guilt made His Calvary
And pierced His hands through
Is it nothing to you
Is it nothing nothing to you?**



**Is it nothing to you that one day
Jesus gave
Gave in love of His measureless all
So richly He poured out His
limitless life
When He answered our pitiful call**



**Is it nothing to you that one day
Jesus died
That men mocked Him and
heedless passed by
No sorrow was e'er like the sorrow
He bore
When they scorned Him and left
Him to die**



**Is it nothing to you that today
Jesus saves
Though we stand all condemned
before God
He carries our sin on His own
loving heart
And He saves by His pardoning
blood**

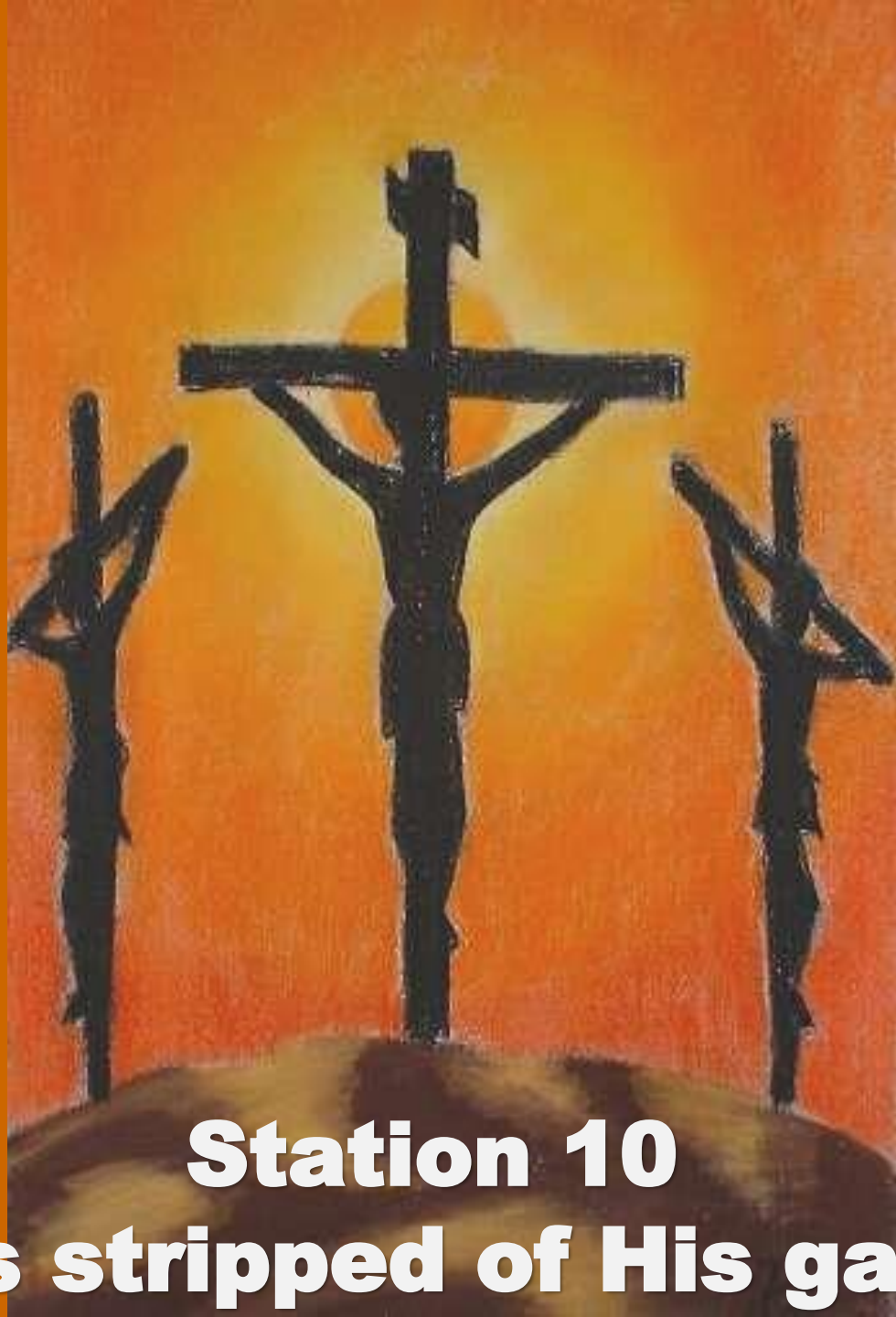


Station 9
Jesus falls the third time



**Jesus and the guards approached the hill that was to be
the end of the journey.**

Once more, Jesus fell again.



Station 10

Jesus is stripped of His garments



At the place of execution the guards took from Jesus even the clothes He was wearing. They gambled among themselves to decide who would have His tunic.

Jesus was left with nothing.



SONG

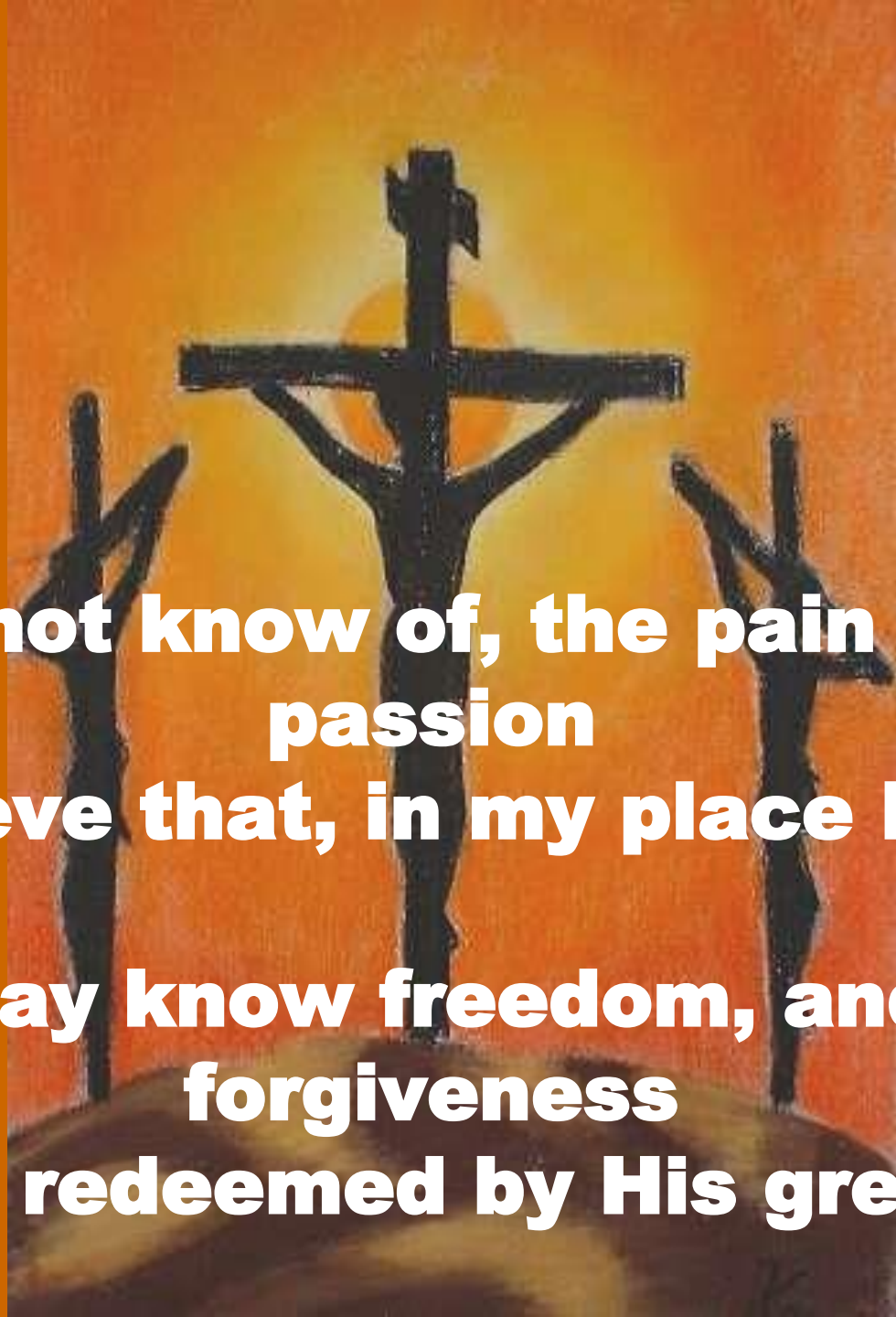
YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH7IS9n23TY>

**There is a green hill, in a far away
country**

**It stands near a city, outside a wall,
Where Jesus my Saviour, the King of all
glory**

Suffered and died to save us all.

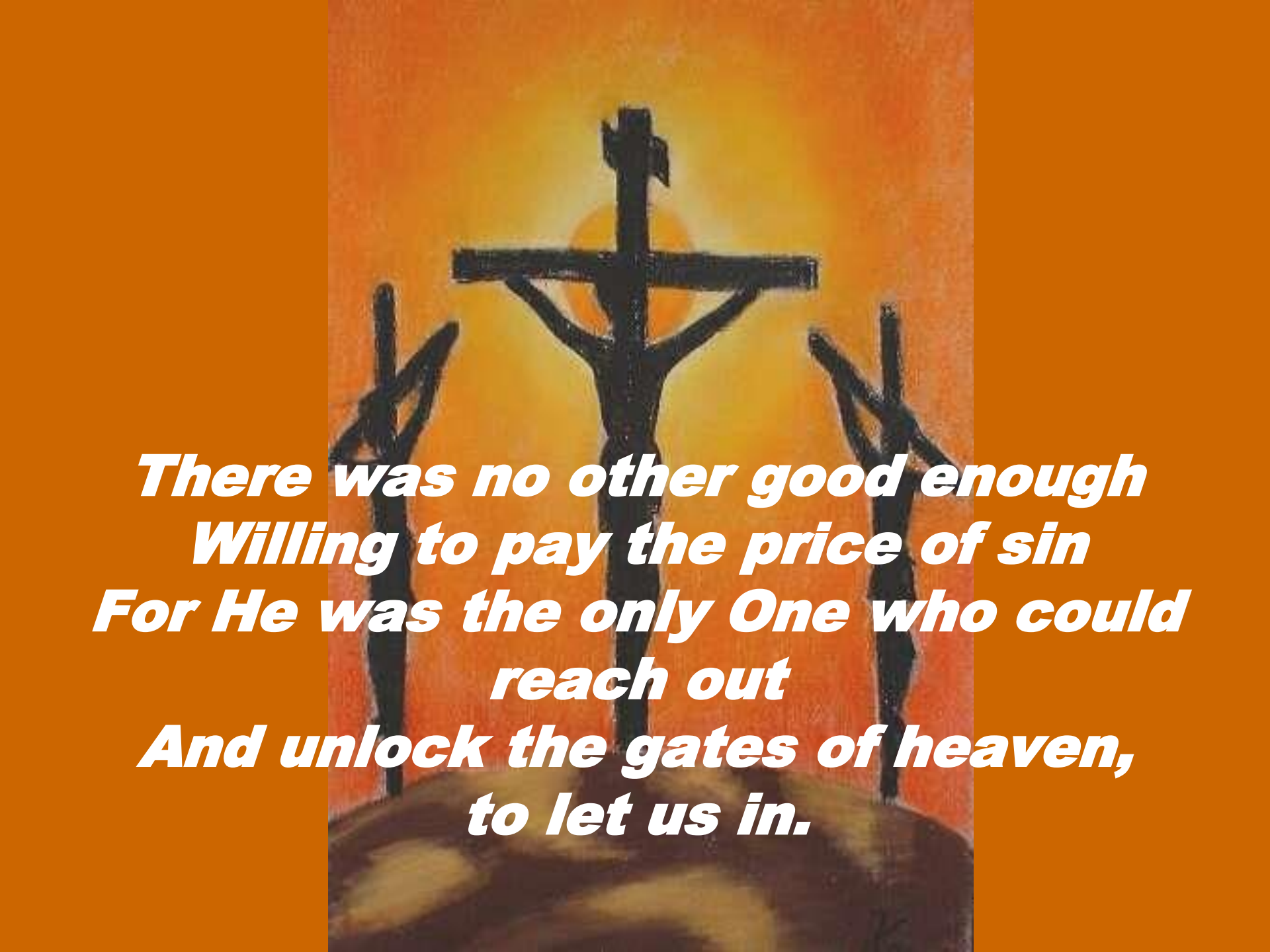


**I may not know of, the pain of His
passion**

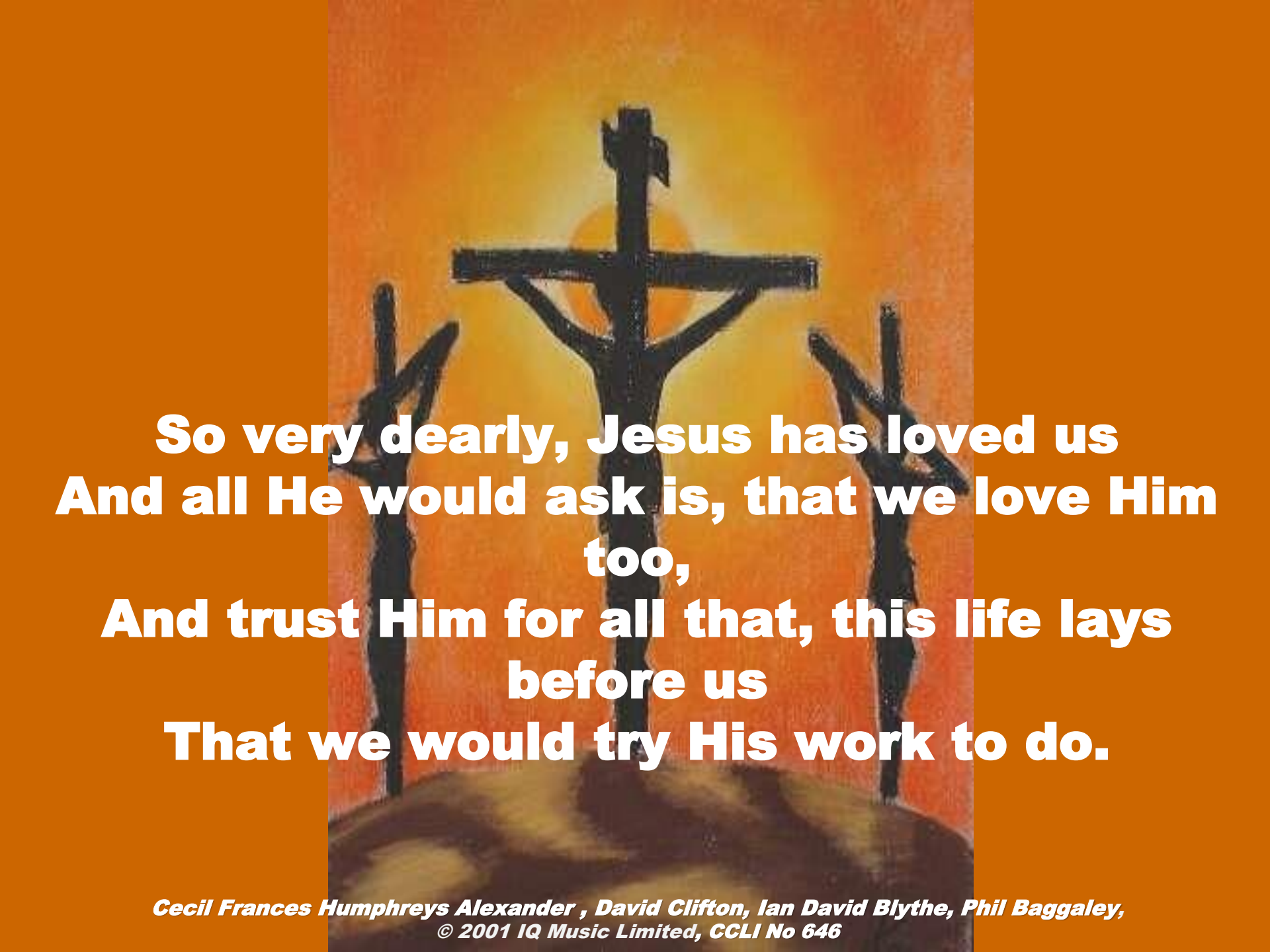
But I believe that, in my place He stood,

**That I may know freedom, and live in
forgiveness**

For I am redeemed by His great love.

A painting featuring three dark, silhouetted crosses against a warm, orange and yellow sunset sky. The central cross is the largest and most prominent, with a small figure visible on it. Two smaller crosses are positioned on either side, slightly behind the central one. The overall mood is solemn and spiritual.

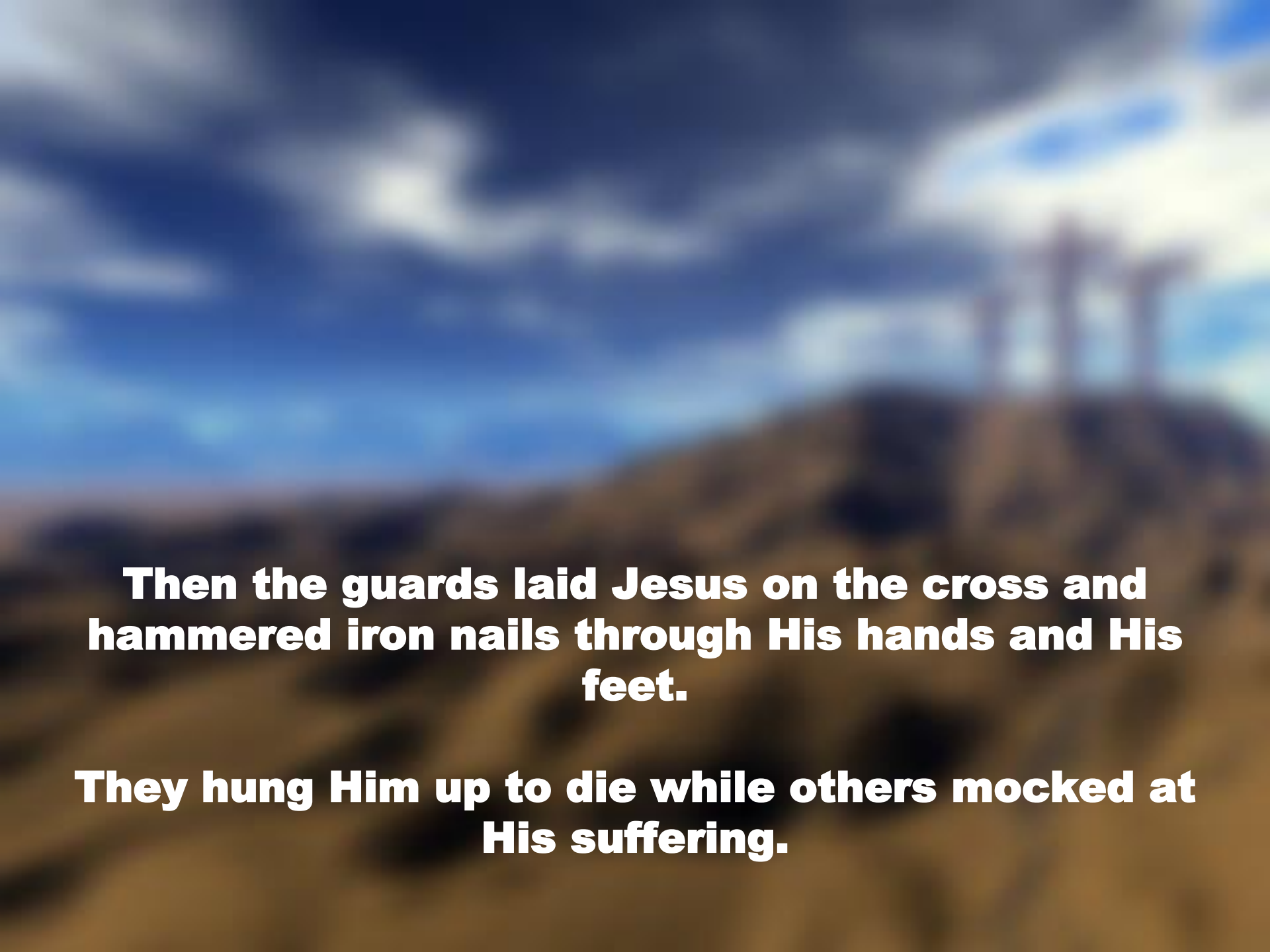
***There was no other good enough
Willing to pay the price of sin
For He was the only One who could
reach out
And unlock the gates of heaven,
to let us in.***

A painting of a crucifix with three figures against a warm orange and yellow background. The central figure is Jesus on the cross. Two other figures are on crosses to the left and right. The background is a warm, textured orange and yellow, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is expressive and somewhat abstract.

**So very dearly, Jesus has loved us
And all He would ask is, that we love Him
too,
And trust Him for all that, this life lays
before us
That we would try His work to do.**



Station 11
Jesus is nailed to the cross

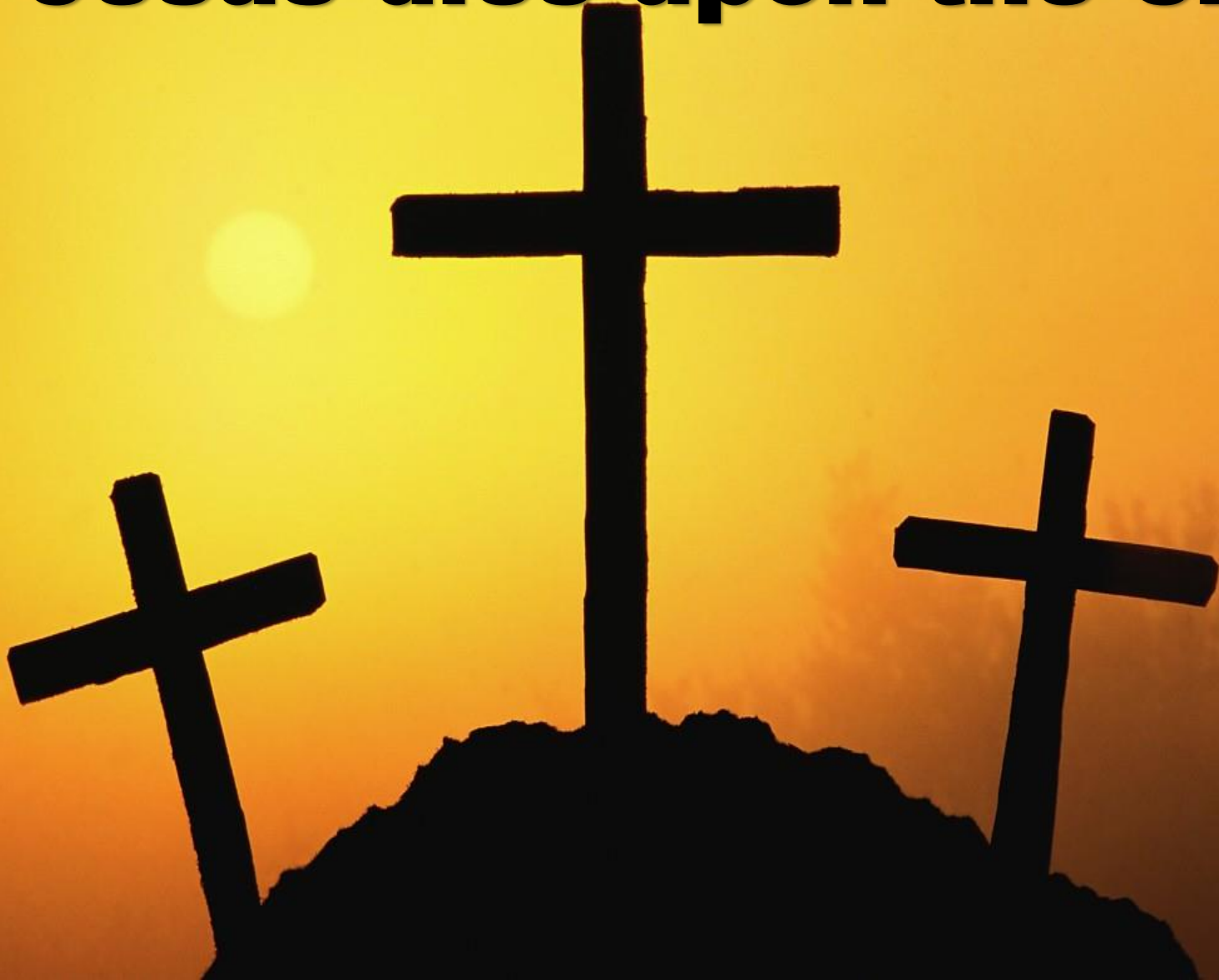


**Then the guards laid Jesus on the cross and
hammered iron nails through His hands and His
feet.**

**They hung Him up to die while others mocked at
His suffering.**

Station 12

Jesus dies upon the cross

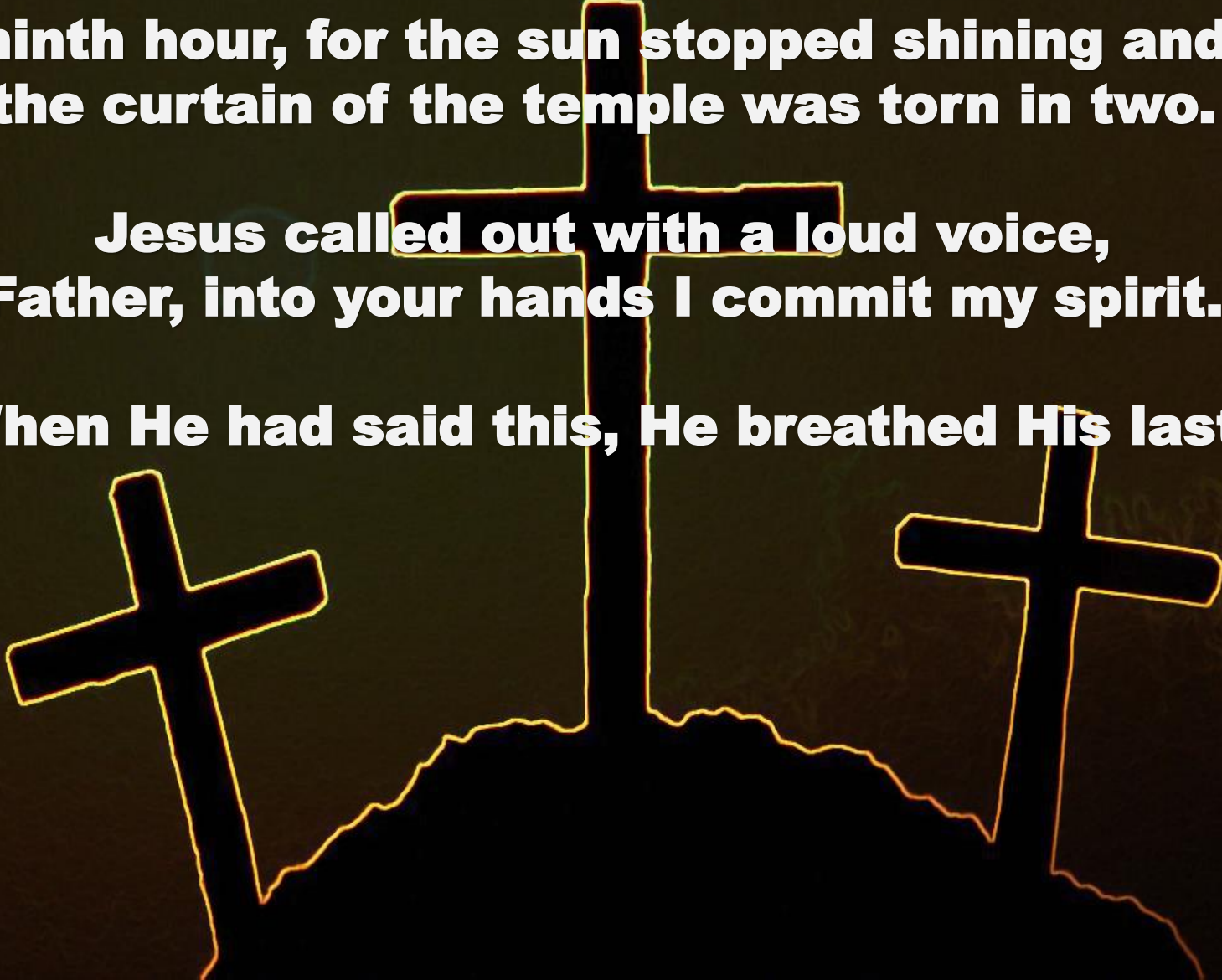


Luke 23: 44-46

‘ It was now about the sixth hour, and darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour, for the sun stopped shining and the curtain of the temple was torn in two.

**Jesus called out with a loud voice,
‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’**

When He had said this, He breathed His last.



What happened here? What did the centurion see as he stood there in front of Jesus, heard His cry and saw how He died?

What made him say, “Surely this man was the Son of God”?

For the centurions on execution detail, this was a commonplace experience. They had killed hundreds and hundreds of men before today. They had nailed them and stripped them and mocked them and thrown dice over their belongings. It was tedious work.

Nor was this a quiet time; it was frightening. Darkness had descended upon the place followed by a great earthquake at Jesus' death. People must have been running and screaming as anyone would during such a cataclysmic event.

But one centurion began to see this man in a new light. He listened to His words. He watched Him suffer and he watched Him die - and then he understood.

They had just crucified a holy man, the Son of God, a man, and yet not just a man.

And what was next for this centurion?

What did he think or do?

Did he believe it was too late?

Did he bow down before his new Lord right then?

Did he weep like Peter or despair like Judas?

Did he change?

What is next for us?

How will the death of Jesus affect us?

What difference will it make to our lives?

What will we do with the cross?

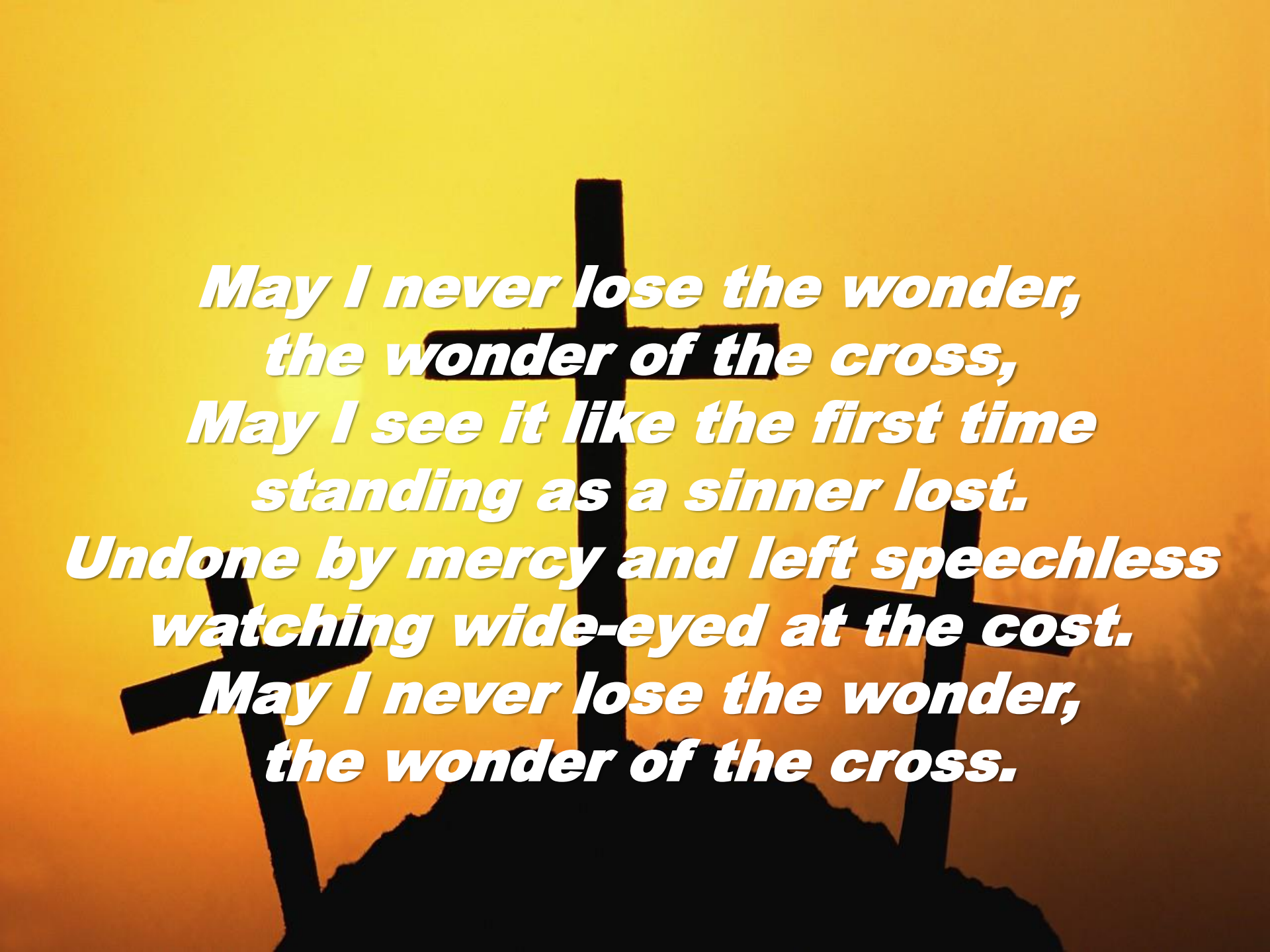
SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCstpSl5Ys4>

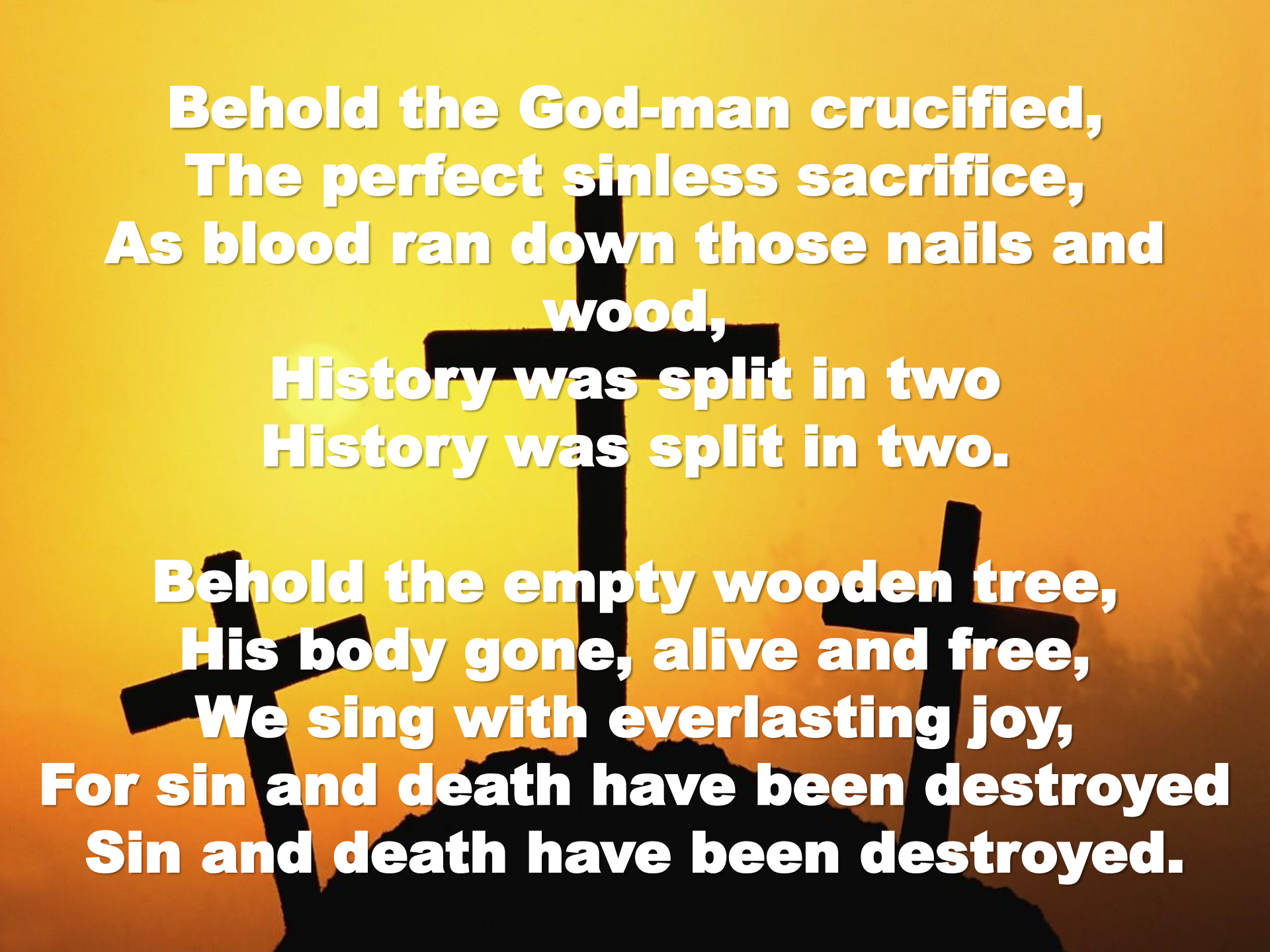
**O precious sight, my Saviour stands
Dying for me with outstretched hands**

**O precious sight, I love to gaze
Remembering salvation day,
Remembering salvation day.**

**Though my eyes linger on this scene
May passing time and years not steal
The power with which it impacts me,
The freshness of its mystery
The freshness of its mystery.**

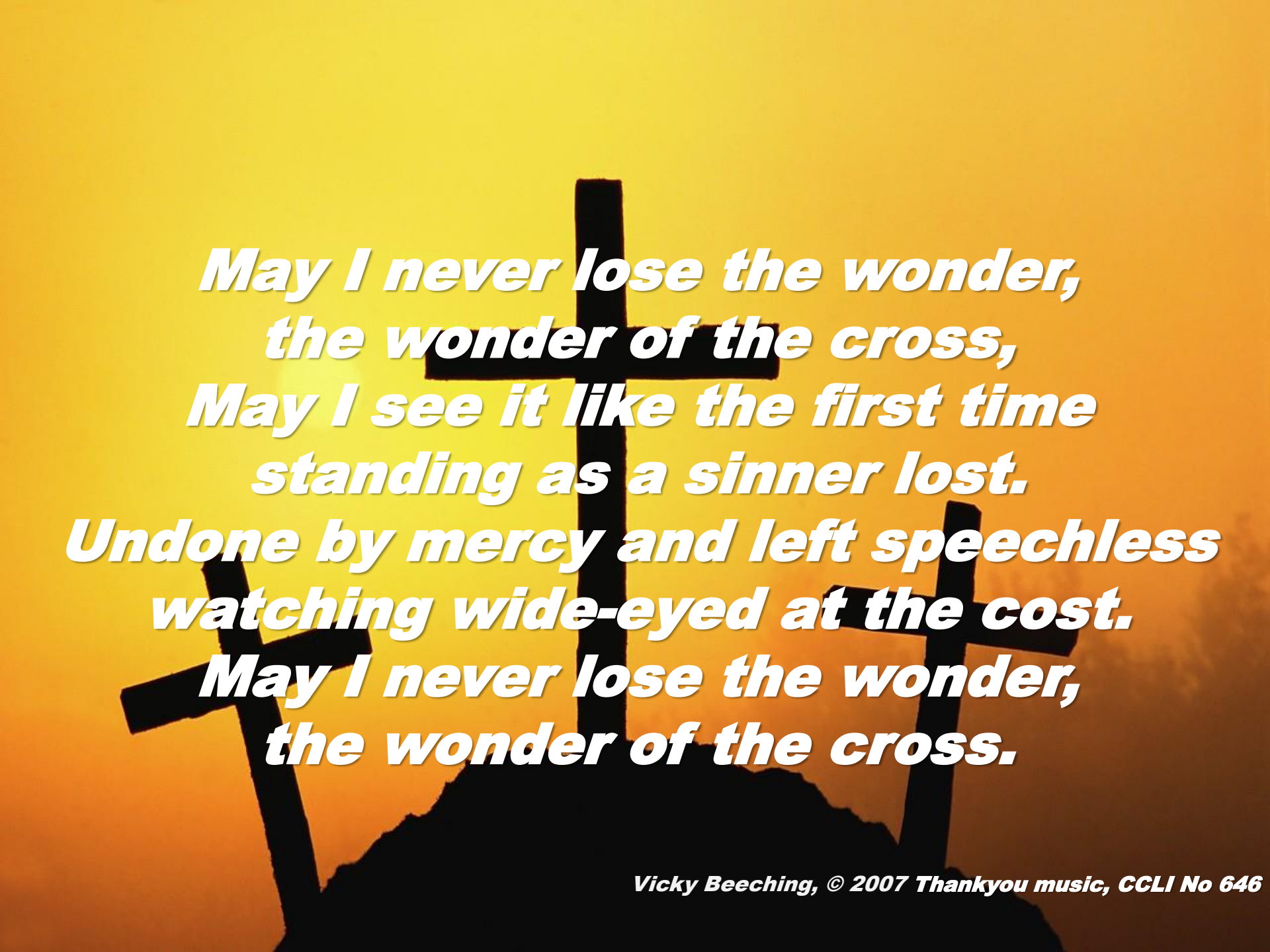
The background of the image is a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise sky. Silhouetted against this light are three crosses of varying heights. The tallest cross is in the center, with two shorter crosses on either side, slightly behind it. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, white, italicized font.

***May I never lose the wonder,
the wonder of the cross,
May I see it like the first time
standing as a sinner lost.
Undone by mercy and left speechless
watching wide-eyed at the cost.
May I never lose the wonder,
the wonder of the cross.***

The background of the image is a warm, orange-hued sunset or sunrise sky. Silhouetted against this light are three crosses. One large cross is centered in the background. In the foreground, two smaller crosses are positioned on the left and right sides, appearing to be on a dark, silhouetted hill or ground. The text is overlaid on this scene in a bold, white, sans-serif font with a slight drop shadow.

**Behold the God-man crucified,
The perfect sinless sacrifice,
As blood ran down those nails and
wood,
History was split in two
History was split in two.**

**Behold the empty wooden tree,
His body gone, alive and free,
We sing with everlasting joy,
For sin and death have been destroyed
Sin and death have been destroyed.**



***May I never lose the wonder,
the wonder of the cross,
May I see it like the first time
standing as a sinner lost.
Undone by mercy and left speechless
watching wide-eyed at the cost.
May I never lose the wonder,
the wonder of the cross.***



**Sometimes,
when I sit quietly,
considering what
Jesus did for me,
I get a little
overwhelmed.**



Take some time to pray and thank God for sending Jesus to die for us.

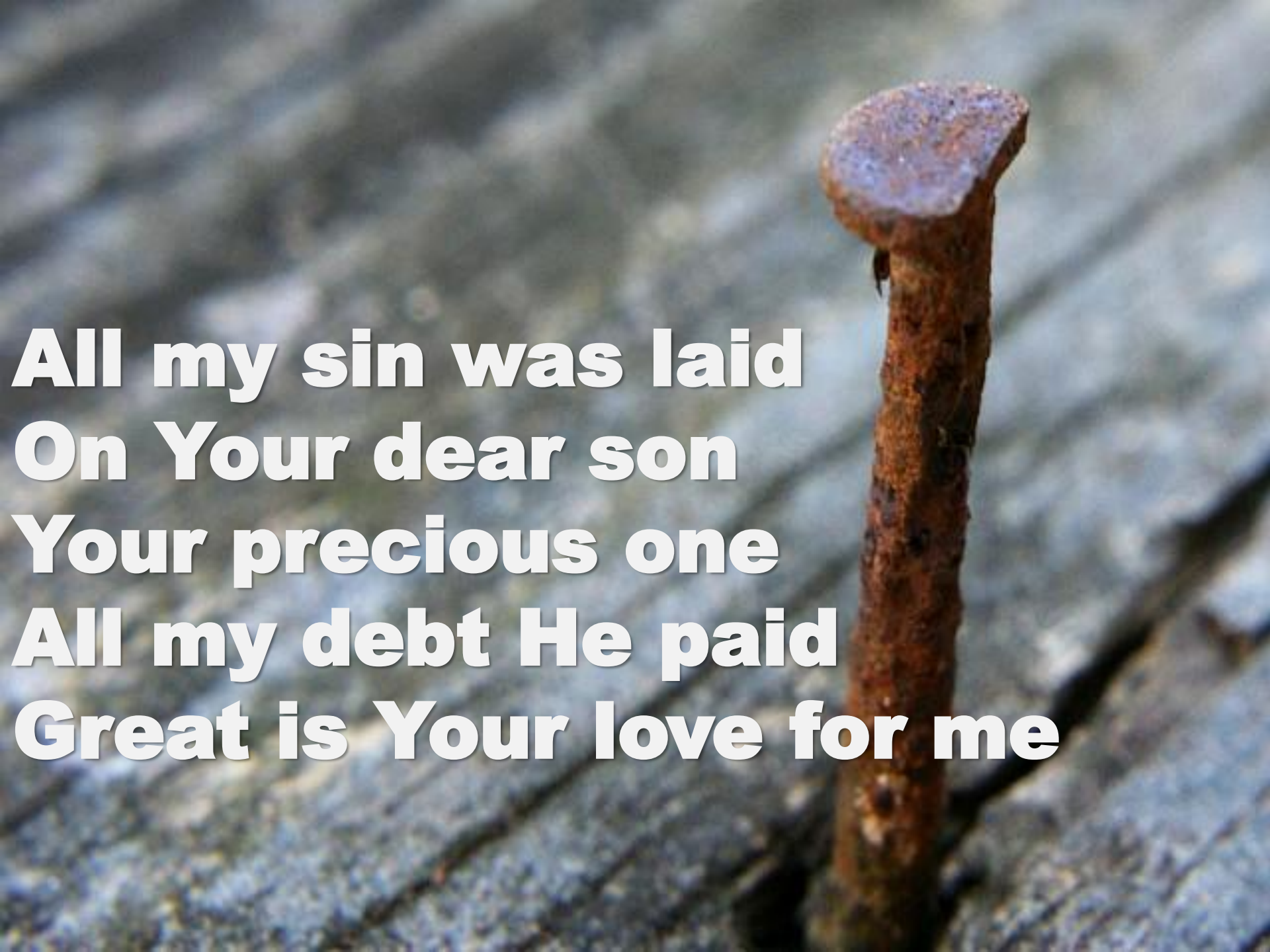
Thank Jesus for being willing to suffer at our cruel hands and praise Him that He did it willingly, because He loved us.

Why not share your prayers via WBC Facebook, Take Note or with your Homegroup?

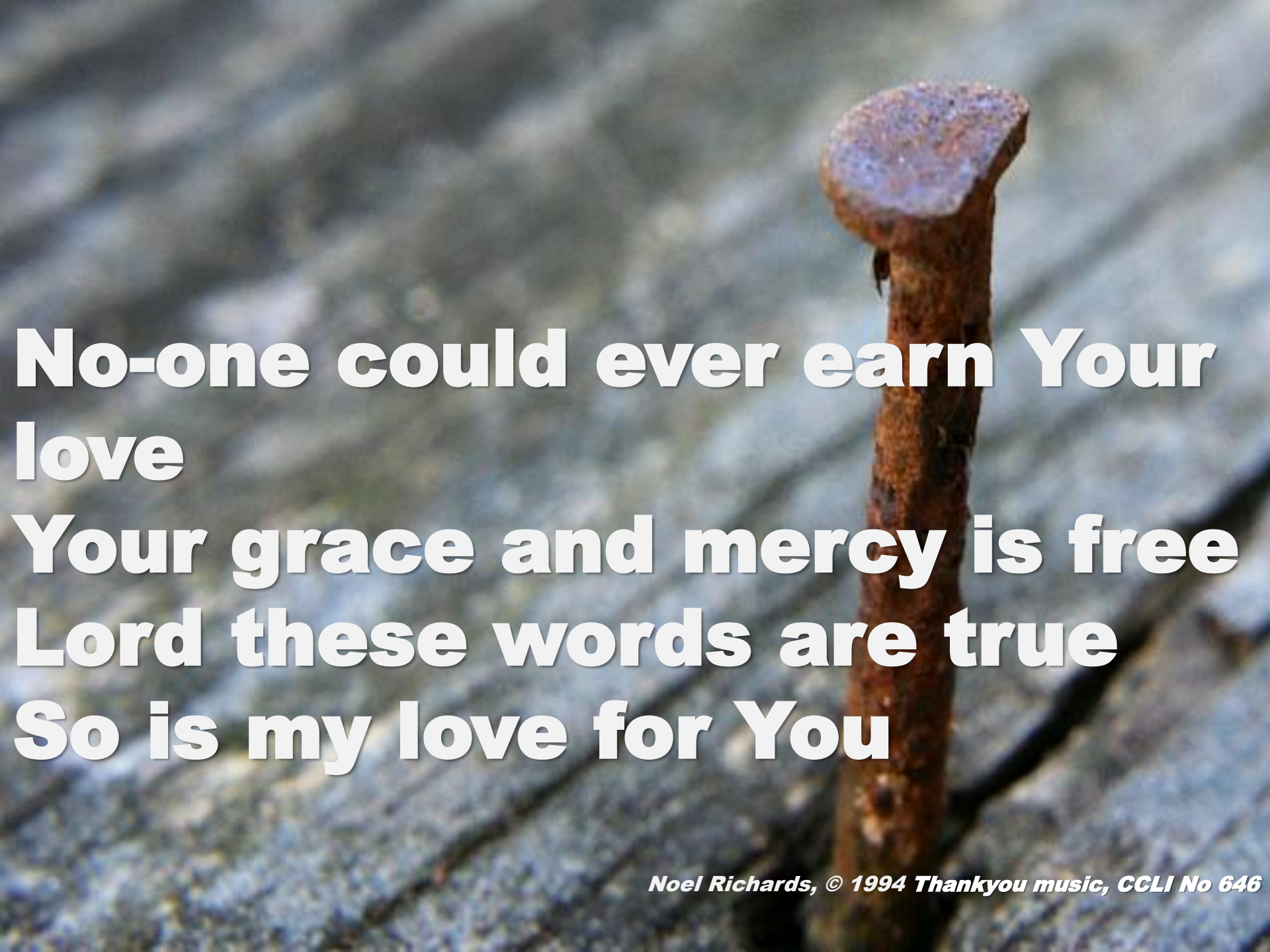
SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x94Lxjjhry8>

**Overwhelmed by love
Deeper than oceans
High as the heavens
Ever living God
Your love has rescued me**

A close-up photograph of a single, heavily rusted nail. The nail is positioned vertically on the right side of the frame, with its head at the top. The background is a blurred wooden surface, showing the grain of the wood. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

**All my sin was laid
On Your dear son
Your precious one
All my debt He paid
Great is Your love for me**

A close-up photograph of a rusty nail driven into a wooden surface. The nail is heavily corroded, with a thick layer of reddish-brown rust covering its head and shaft. The wood grain is visible in the background, which is slightly out of focus.

**No-one could ever earn Your
love
Your grace and mercy is free
Lord these words are true
So is my love for You**



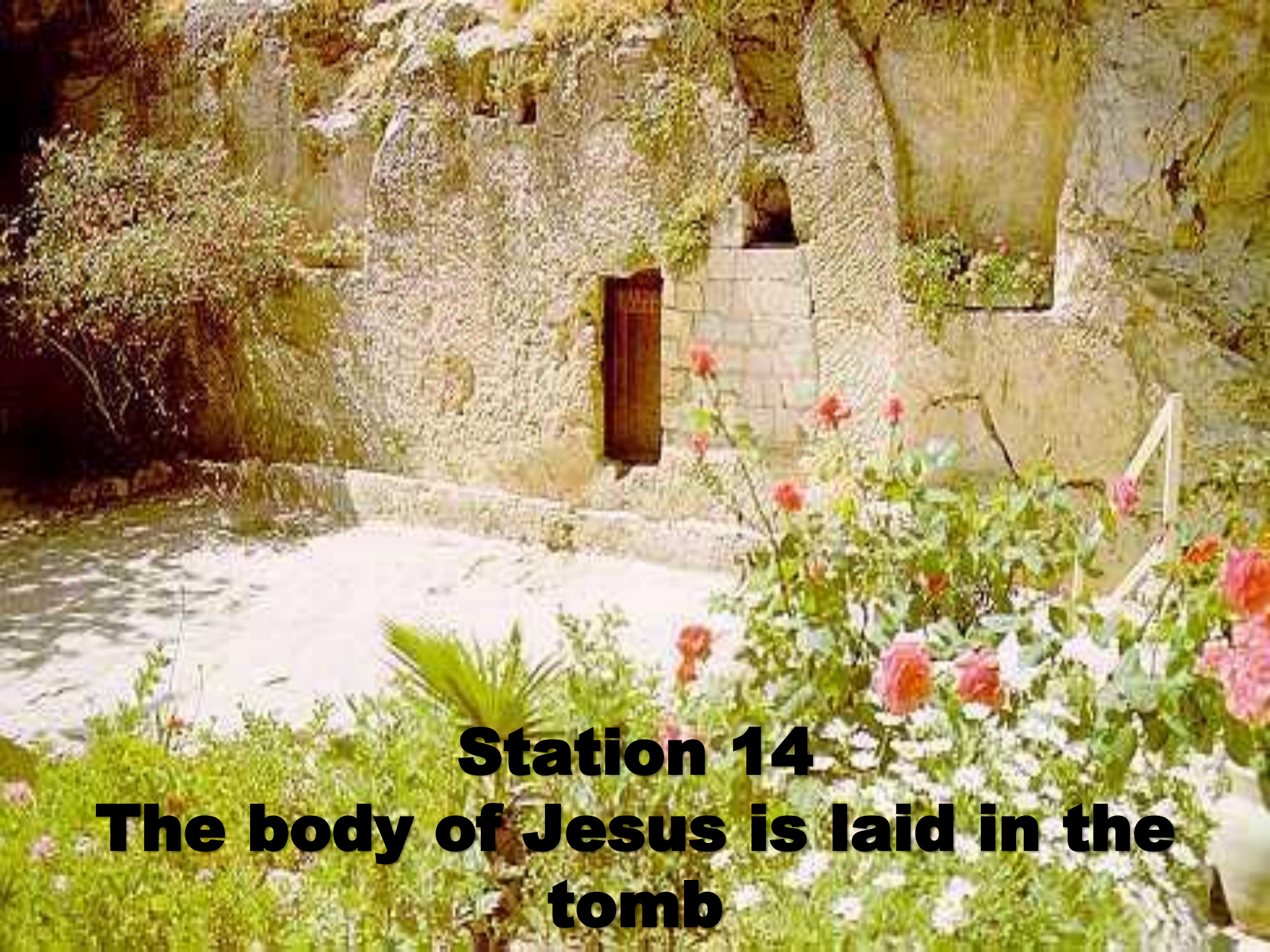
Station 13

**The body of Jesus is taken down
from the cross**



Luke 23: 50-52

Now there was a man named Joseph, a member of the Council, a good and upright man, who had not consented to their decision and action. He came from the Judean town of Arimathea and he was waiting for the kingdom of God. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body.



Station 14
The body of Jesus is laid in the tomb

Luke 23:53-56

Then he took down the body of Jesus, wrapped it in linen cloth and placed it in a tomb cut in the rock, one in which no-one had yet been laid. It was Preparation Day, and the Sabbath was about to begin. The women who had come with Jesus from Galilee followed Joseph and saw the tomb and how His body was laid in it. Then they went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment.

**You may wish to stop here
and keep the remaining
section to read on Easter
Sunday. If so, then close the
presentation after the next
prayer slide.**

**To continue, click again and
move on to Station 15.**

Closing prayer

**May God's love and power fill your heart today and in
the coming days**

**May His peace flood your mind and His grace fill your
life**

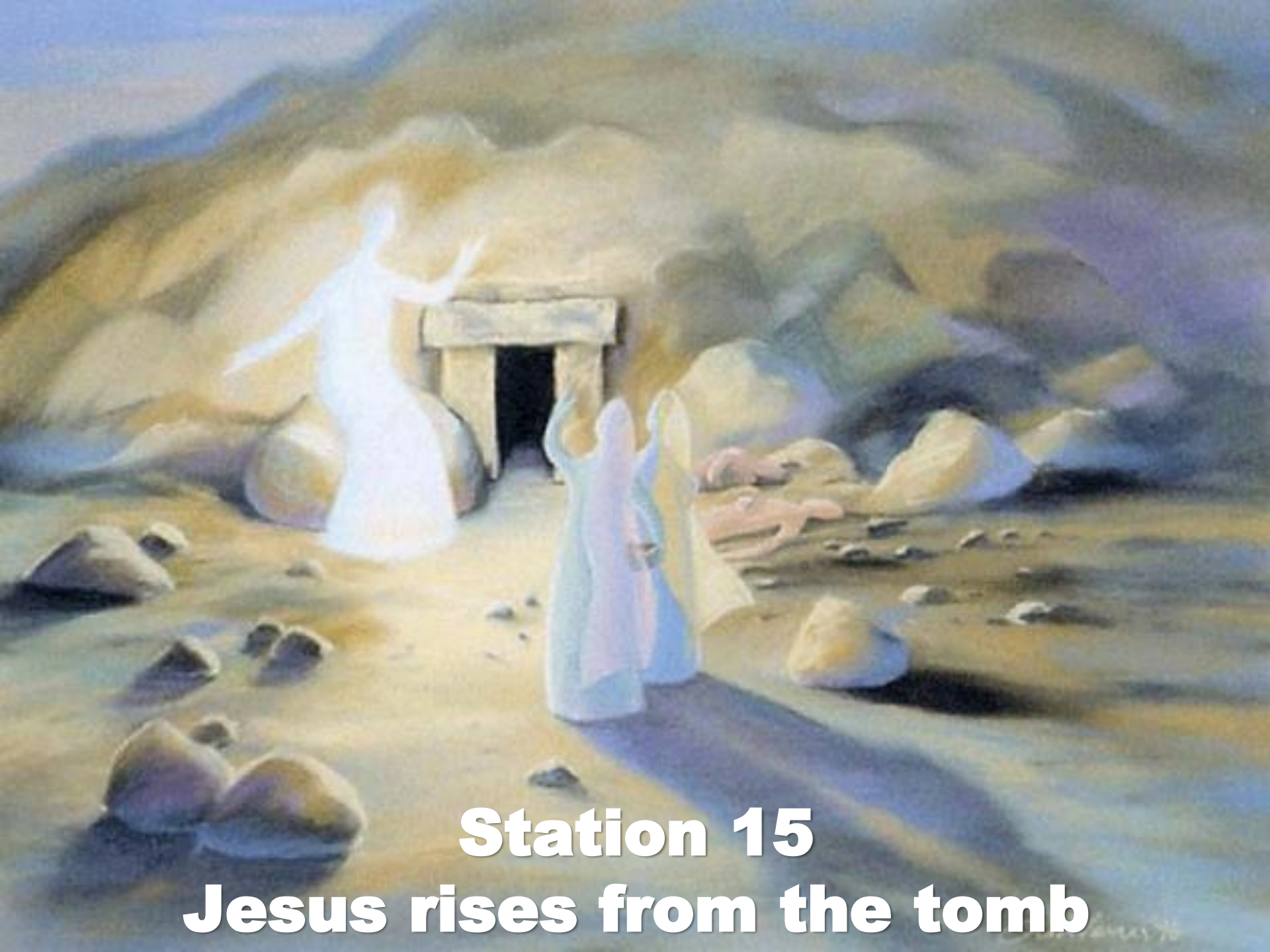
As we wait for Resurrection Day.

AMEN



It's Friday...but Sunday's a Coming!

YouTube link: https://youtu.be/8gx6_rGLz20



Station 15
Jesus rises from the tomb



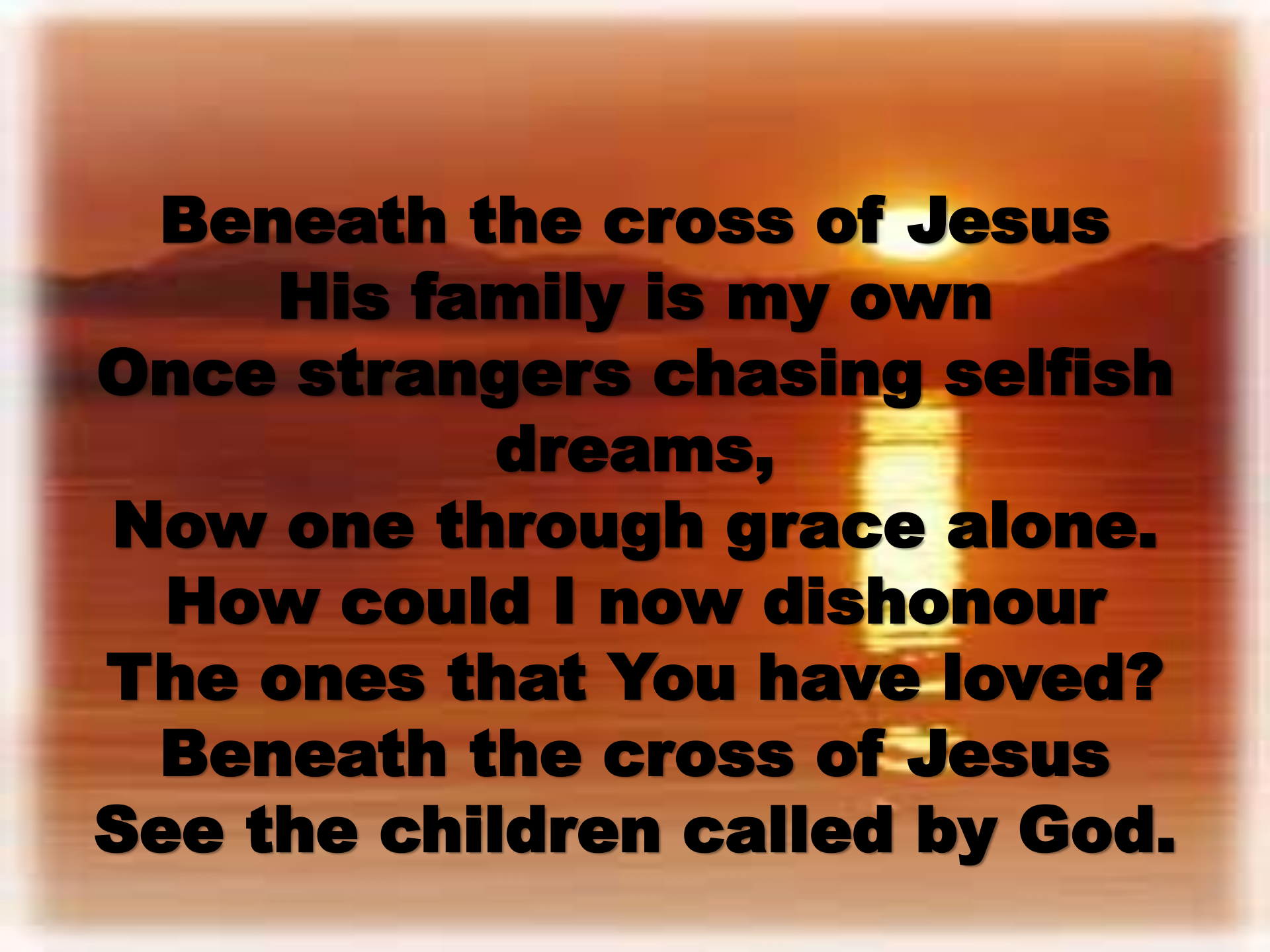
Read Luke 20:1-18

John Vane 76

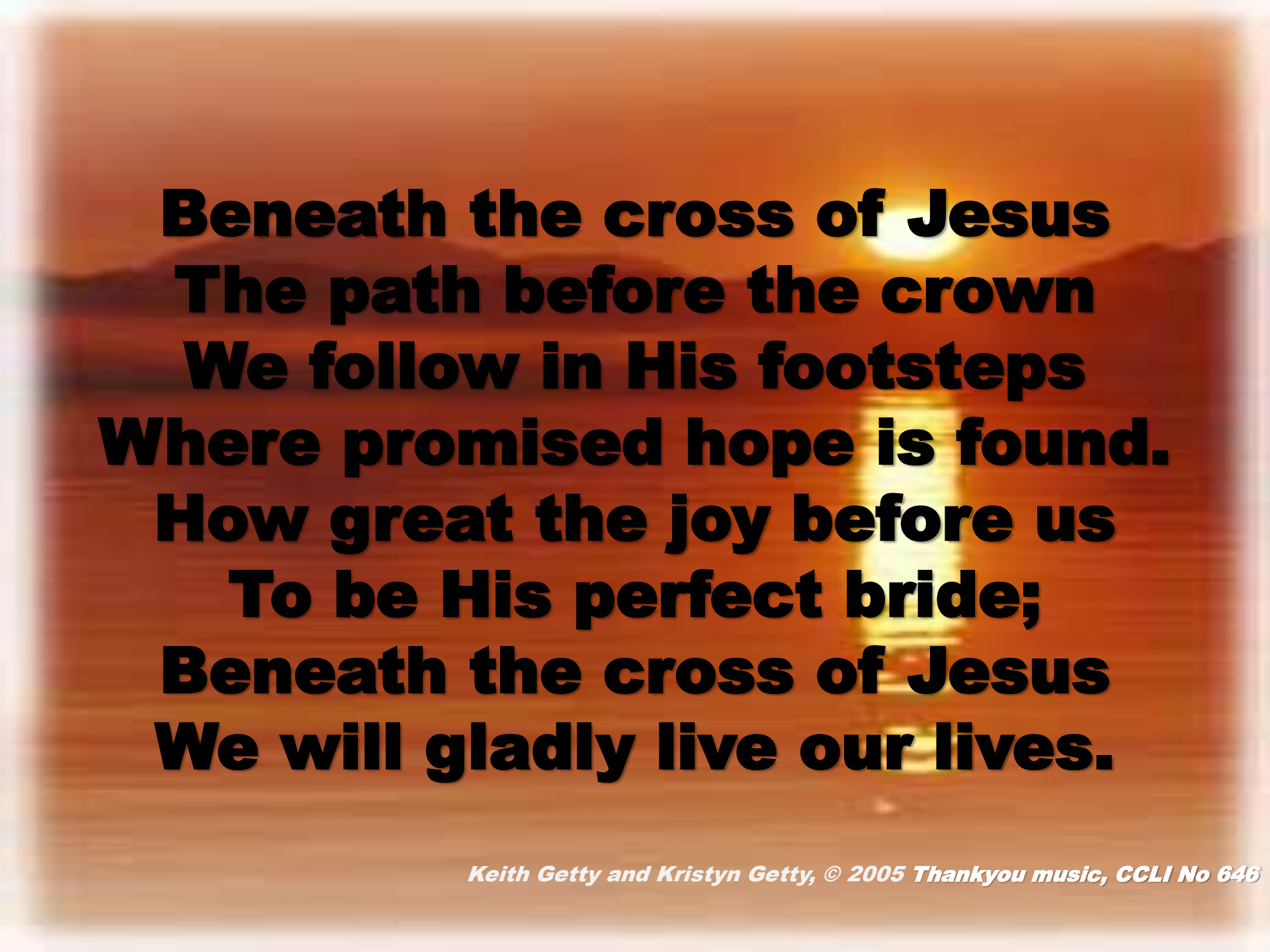
SONG

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drmyCBYjrE>

**Beneath the cross of Jesus
I find a place to stand,
And wonder at such mercy
That calls me as I am;
For hands that should discard me
Hold wounds which tell me, "Come."
Beneath the cross of Jesus
My unworthy soul is won.**



**Beneath the cross of Jesus
His family is my own
Once strangers chasing selfish
dreams,
Now one through grace alone.
How could I now dishonour
The ones that You have loved?
Beneath the cross of Jesus
See the children called by God.**



**Beneath the cross of Jesus
The path before the crown
We follow in His footsteps
Where promised hope is found.
How great the joy before us
To be His perfect bride;
Beneath the cross of Jesus
We will gladly live our lives.**

Closing prayer

**May God's love and power fill your heart today and in
the coming days**

**May His peace flood your mind and His grace fill your
life**

**May the joy of Christ's resurrection remain in your
heart now and always**

**And may you live beneath the empty cross, standing
firm on His promises and willing to share His love
with those you are in contact with this week.**

AMEN

The Stations of the Cross

