

# Scripture Reading

## Colossians 1:15-20 KJV

<sup>15</sup> Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: <sup>16</sup> For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. <sup>19</sup> For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; <sup>20</sup> And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.



# The Christian Kingdom



Afraid of What is Going to Happen!



Accused Election Fraud



Storming the Capital Building



Demonize &  
Blame  
President  
Trump



CORONAVIRUS [COVID-19]

Fear of Sickness, Death and Loss!



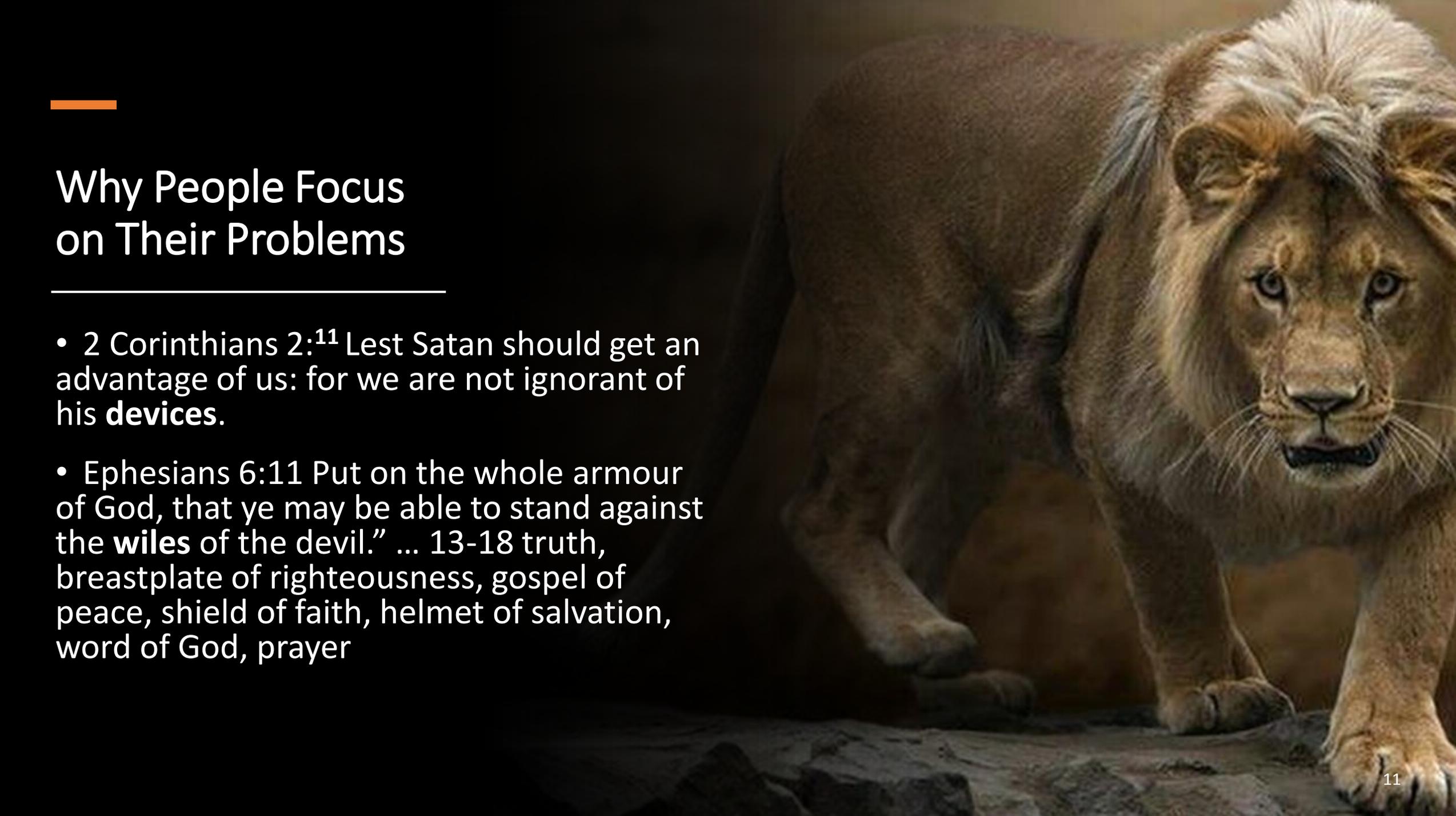
Social Isolation



People are Angry, Frustrated, Depressed!

# How do we keep from Falling Prey?

- Negativity
- Isolation
- Economy & Loss of Job
- Depression
- Election Chaos
- Progressive Moral Agenda
  - Abortion
  - LGBTQIA – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and/or Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual and/or Ally

A close-up photograph of a lion lying down on a dark, rocky surface. The lion is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression. Its mane is light brown and slightly messy. The background is dark and out of focus.

## Why People Focus on Their Problems

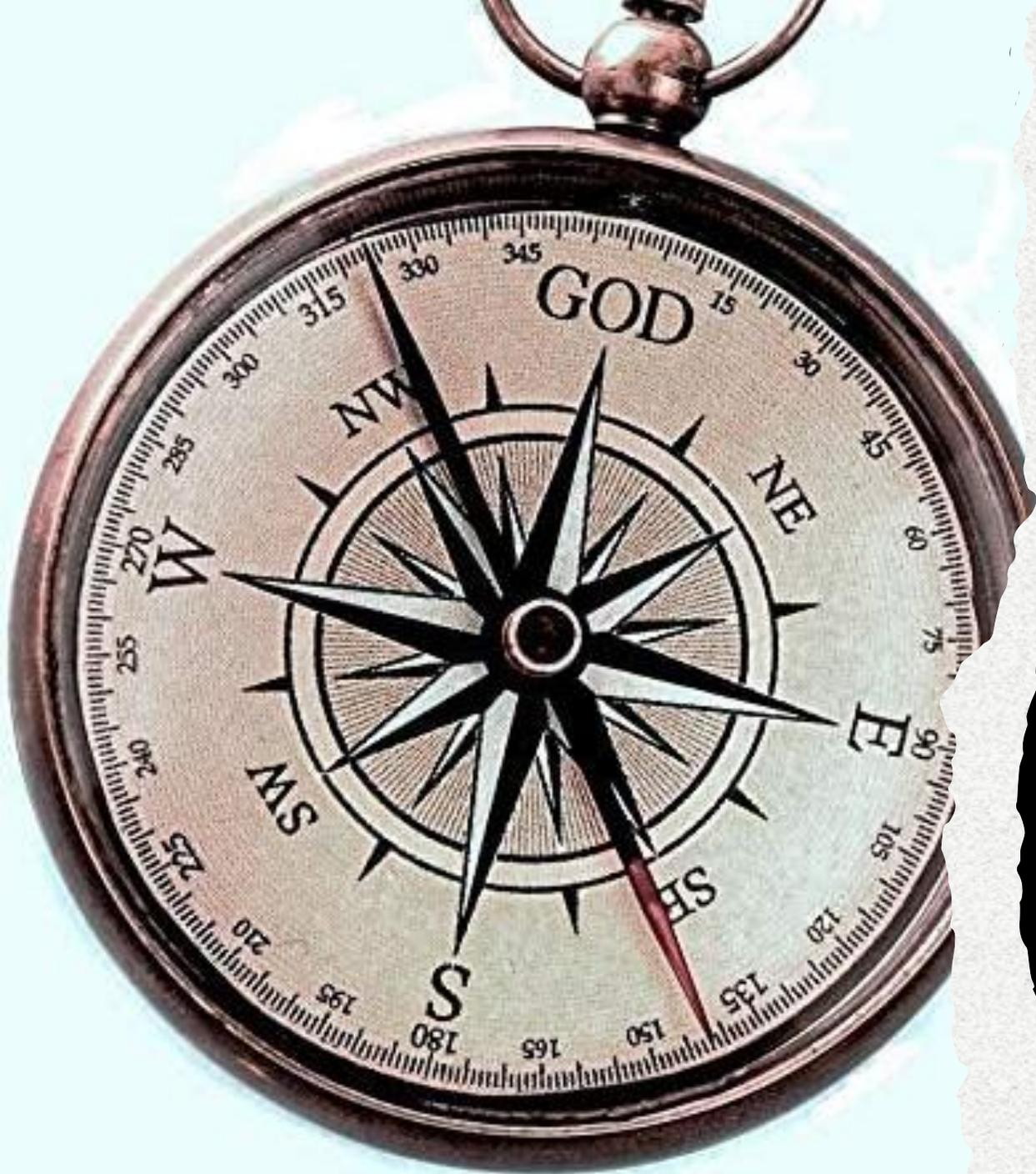
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- 2 Corinthians 2:<sup>11</sup> Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his **devices**.
- Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the **wiles** of the devil.” ... 13-18 truth, breastplate of righteousness, gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, word of God, prayer

# Why Do People Focus on Problems?

2 Corinthians 4:4 In whom the god of this world hath **blinded the minds** of them which believe not, lest the **light of the glorious gospel of Christ**, who is the image of God, **should shine unto them.**





# Christian Compass

Jesus Christ

John 14:<sup>6</sup> Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



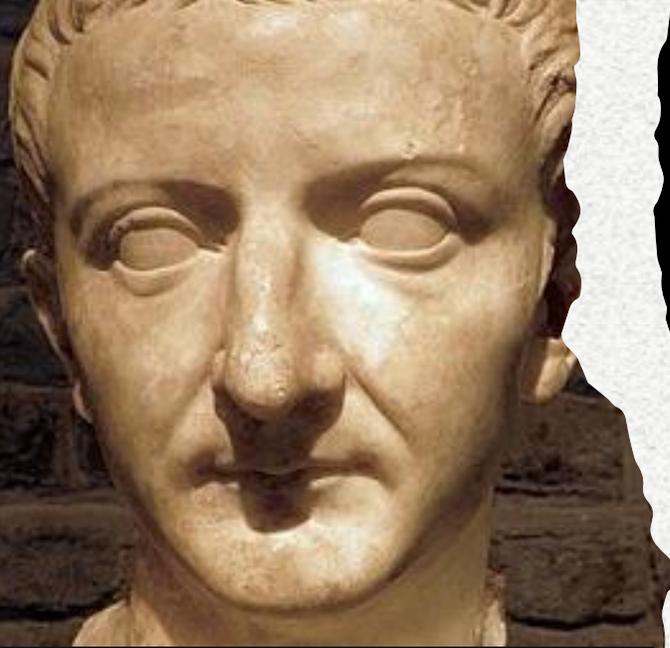
Looking to Jesus!

# Life during the time of Christ

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- Mortality. life expectancy at birth of about 25 years. However, when infant mortality is factored out, life expectancy is doubled to the late-50s.
  - The most common produce in Jesus' day included lettuces, cucumbers, garlic and leeks; common fruits were apricots, figs, melons, and, of course, olives, which were important for their oil, as well. Unless a family was wealthy, large cuts of meat tended to be reserved for important meals.
  - Limited transportation
  - No telephone, internet, social media
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**Tiberius Caesar Augustus** reigning  
from AD 14 to 37



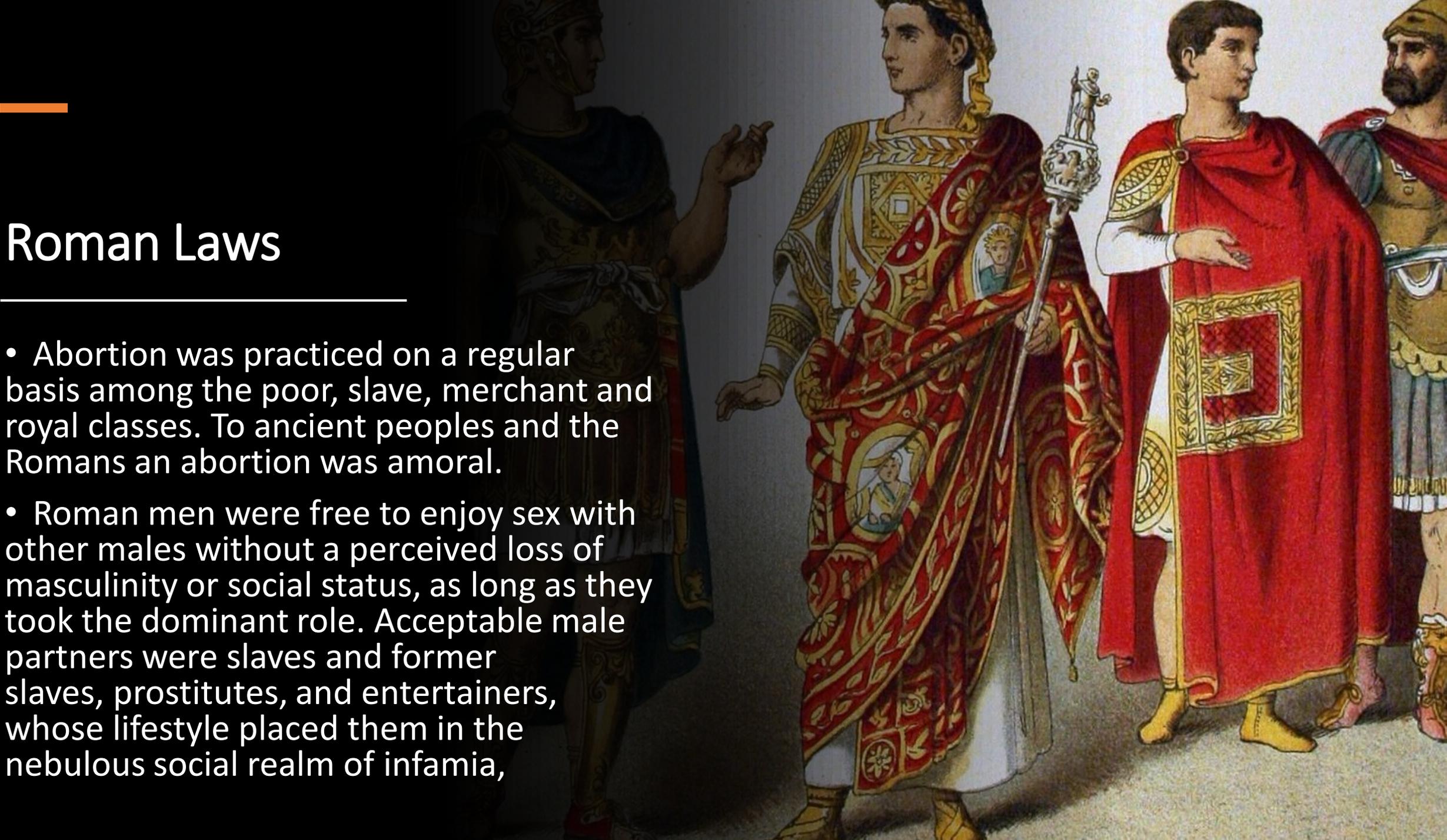
# Roman Government Caesar and Senate

- After the fall of the Roman Republic, the constitutional balance of power shifted from the Roman Senate to the Roman Emperor. Beginning with the first emperor, Augustus, the Emperor and the Senate were technically two co-equal branches of government. In practice, however, the actual authority of the imperial Senate was negligible, as the Emperor held the true power of the state.

# Roman Laws

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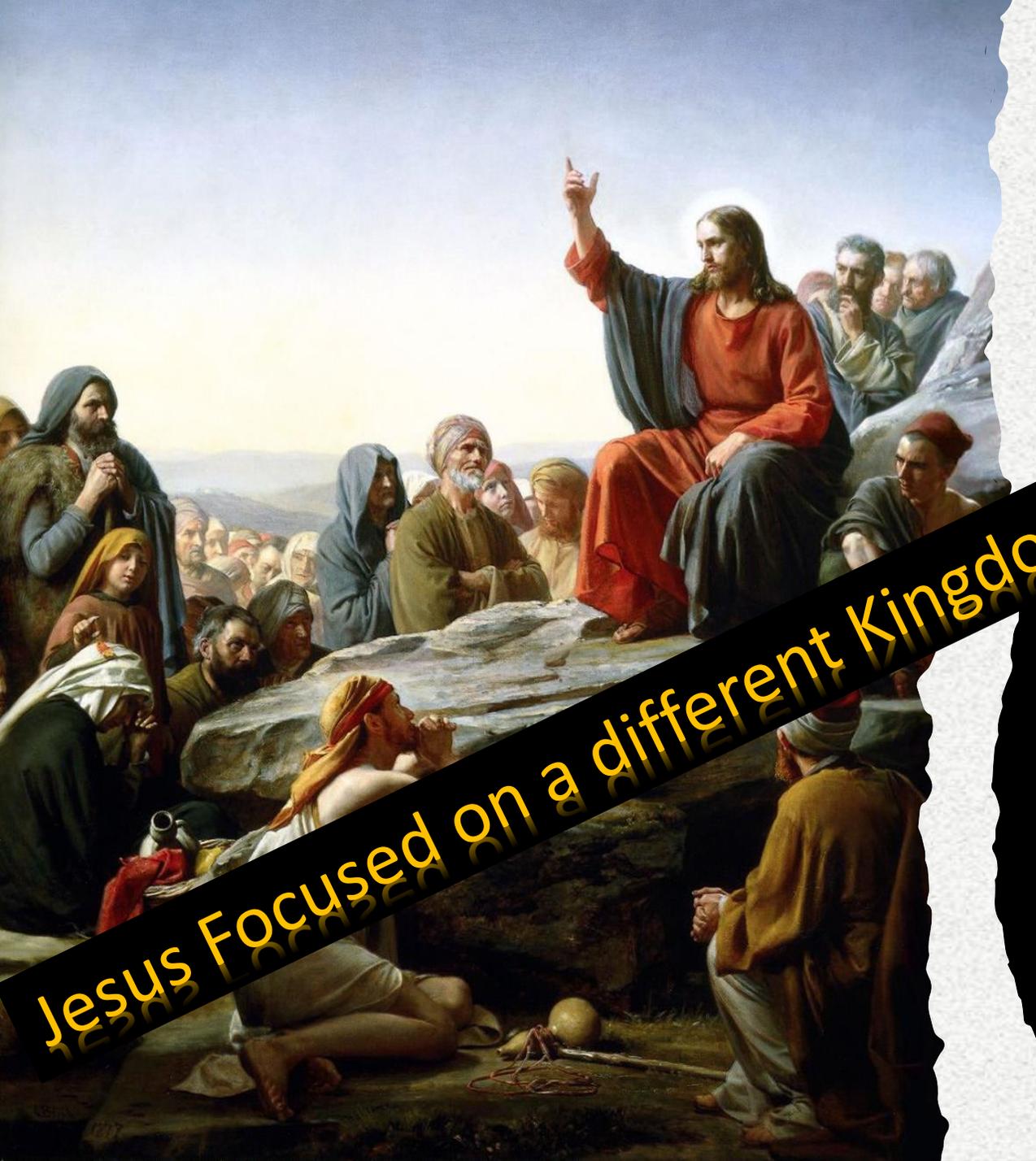
- Abortion was practiced on a regular basis among the poor, slave, merchant and royal classes. To ancient peoples and the Romans an abortion was amoral.
- Roman men were free to enjoy sex with other males without a perceived loss of masculinity or social status, as long as they took the dominant role. Acceptable male partners were slaves and former slaves, prostitutes, and entertainers, whose lifestyle placed them in the nebulous social realm of infamia,





# Roman Laws

- Wearing Purple was Illegal.
- Crying During Funerals Was Illegal for Women.
- Fathers Were Allowed to Murder their Daughter's Love in Cold Blood.
- Fathers Had the Right to Murder the Entire Family
- A Roman father could sell their children into slavery based on an agreement with a buyer
- Women Became the Legal Property of Their Husbands



# What Did Jesus Do About it?

Luke 4:<sup>18</sup> “THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,

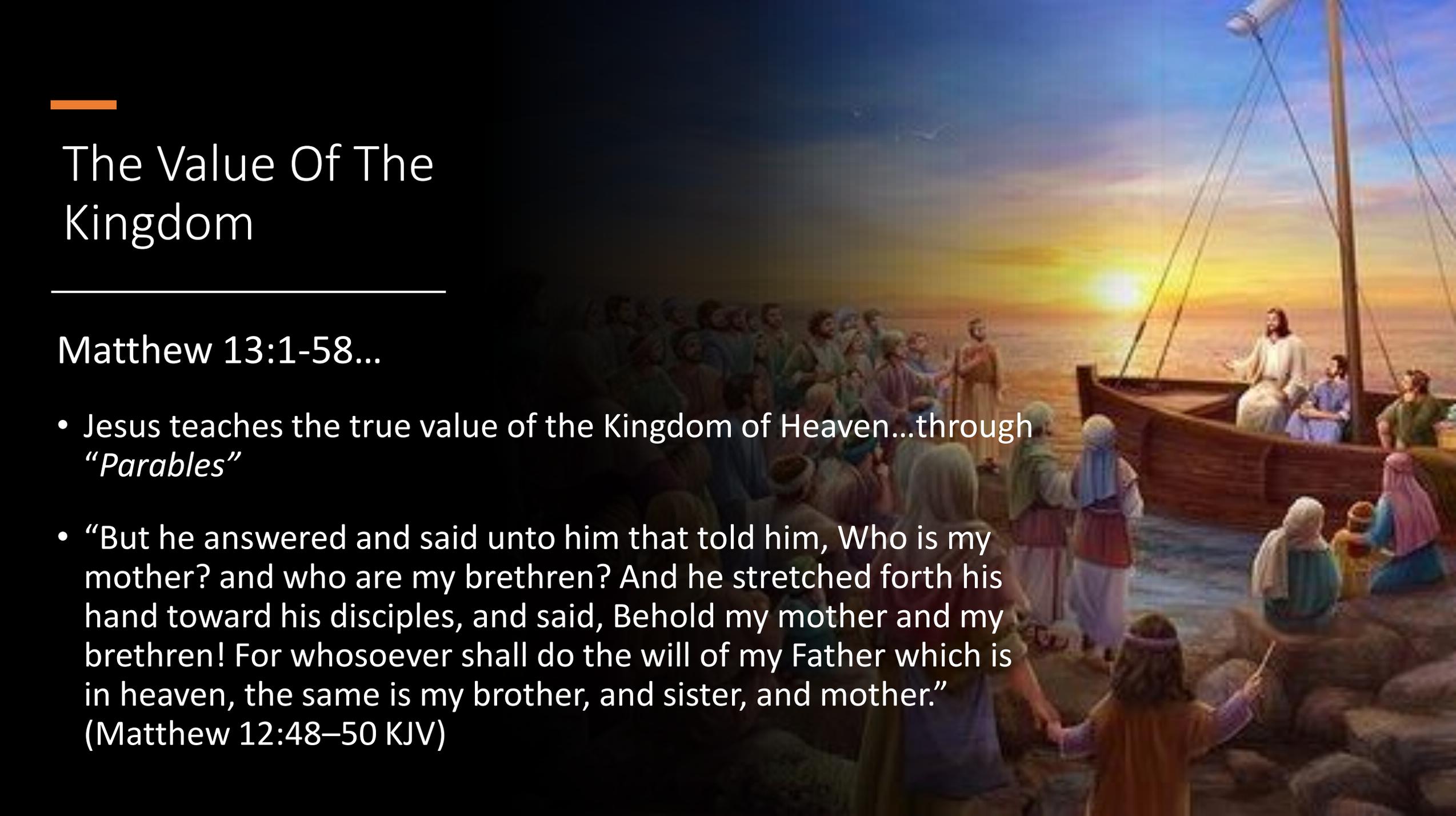
MATTHEW 20: JUST AS THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED, BUT TO SERVE, AND TO GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.”

JOHN 9:4 WE MUST CARRY OUT THE WORKS OF HIM WHO SENT ME AS LONG AS IT IS DAY; NIGHT IS COMING, WHEN NO ONE CAN WORK.

JOHN 18:36 JESUS ANSWERED, “**MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS WORLD.** IF MY KINGDOM WERE OF THIS WORLD, MY SERVANTS WOULD BE FIGHTING SO THAT I WOULD NOT BE HANDED OVER TO THE JEWS; BUT AS IT IS, MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF THIS REALM.”

LUKE 9:60 JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD: BUT **GO THOU AND PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD.**

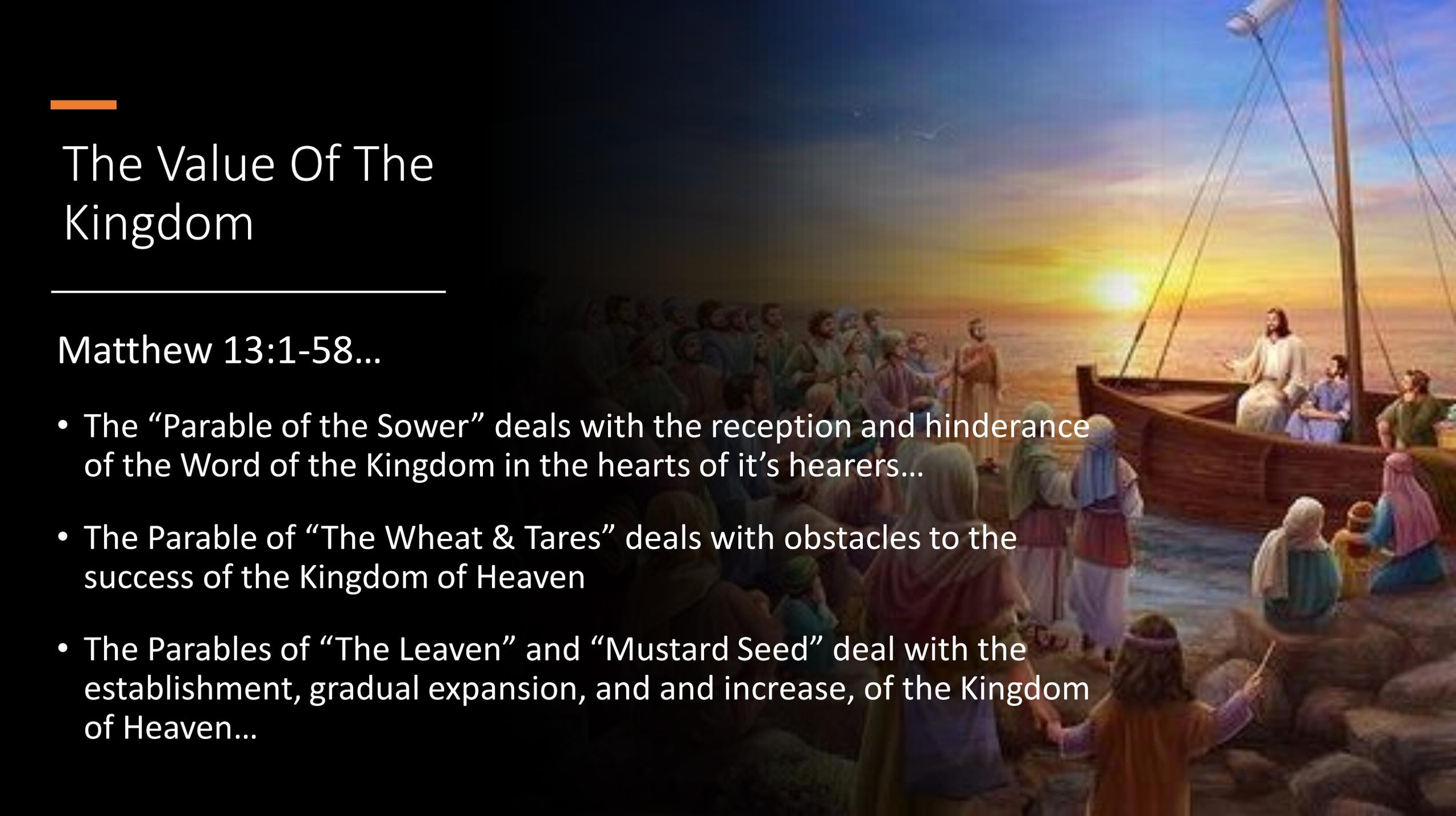
Jesus Focused on a different Kingdom!

The background of the slide is a painting depicting Jesus sitting in a wooden boat on the sea at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the water and sky. Jesus is wearing a white robe and is gesturing with his right hand towards a large crowd of people gathered on the rocky shore. The crowd consists of men, women, and children, many wearing traditional Middle Eastern clothing like head coverings and long robes. The scene is peaceful and evocative, representing the parables of Jesus.

# The Value Of The Kingdom

## Matthew 13:1-58...

- Jesus teaches the true value of the Kingdom of Heaven...through *“Parables”*
- “But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.”  
(Matthew 12:48–50 KJV)

A painting depicting Jesus sitting in a wooden boat on the water at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. Jesus is wearing a white robe and has his hands raised in a gesture of teaching or blessing. Several other people are in the boat with him. On the rocky shore in the foreground, a large crowd of people, including men, women, and children, are gathered. Some are looking towards the boat, while others are engaged in conversation. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and spiritual.

# The Value Of The Kingdom

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## Matthew 13:1-58...

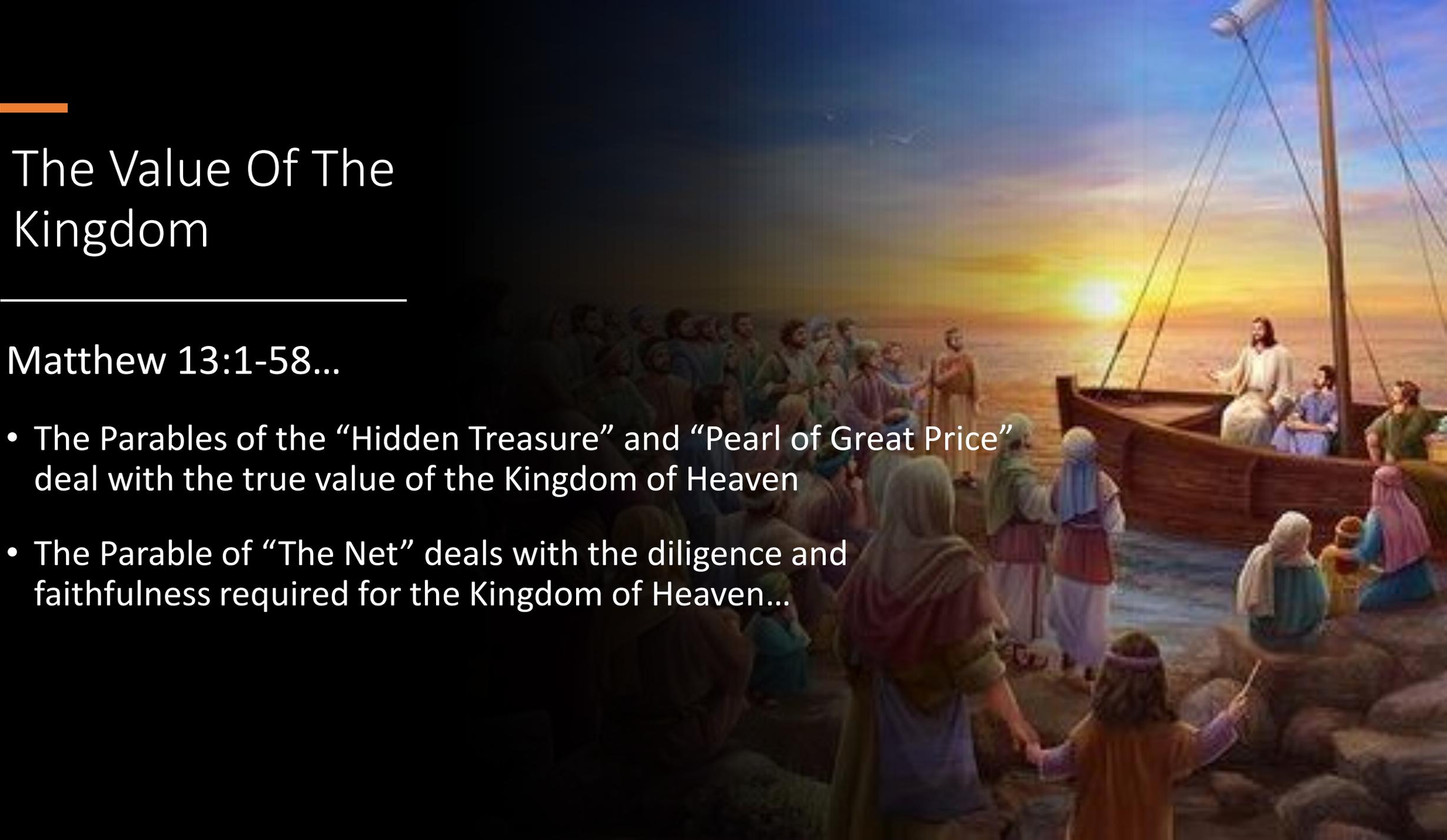
- The “Parable of the Sower” deals with the reception and hinderance of the Word of the Kingdom in the hearts of it’s hearers...
- The Parable of “The Wheat & Tares” deals with obstacles to the success of the Kingdom of Heaven
- The Parables of “The Leaven” and “Mustard Seed” deal with the establishment, gradual expansion, and and increase, of the Kingdom of Heaven...

# The Value Of The Kingdom

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Matthew 13:1-58...

- The Parables of the “Hidden Treasure” and “Pearl of Great Price” deal with the true value of the Kingdom of Heaven
- The Parable of “The Net” deals with the diligence and faithfulness required for the Kingdom of Heaven...



(Matthew 13:18–23)



# The Value Of The Kingdom

He explains the “Parable of the Sower” to them to give them understanding

- **“Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”**

A man with a grey beard and a headband, wearing a green robe, is kneeling in a field of dry earth. He is using a white tool to dig or work the soil. The background shows green foliage and trees, suggesting an outdoor setting. The scene is brightly lit, likely by sunlight.

## The Value Of The Kingdom

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**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.”**

- **(Matthew 13:44 KJV)**



## The Value Of The Kingdom

**Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.” (Matthew 13:45–46)**

# The Value Of The Kingdom

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**“Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.” (Matthew 13:24–30 KJV)**





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## The Value Of The Kingdom

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**“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:47–50 KJV)**