



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE AND TO DO

Week 7

A Christian's Righteousness: Interpreting the law in its truth.

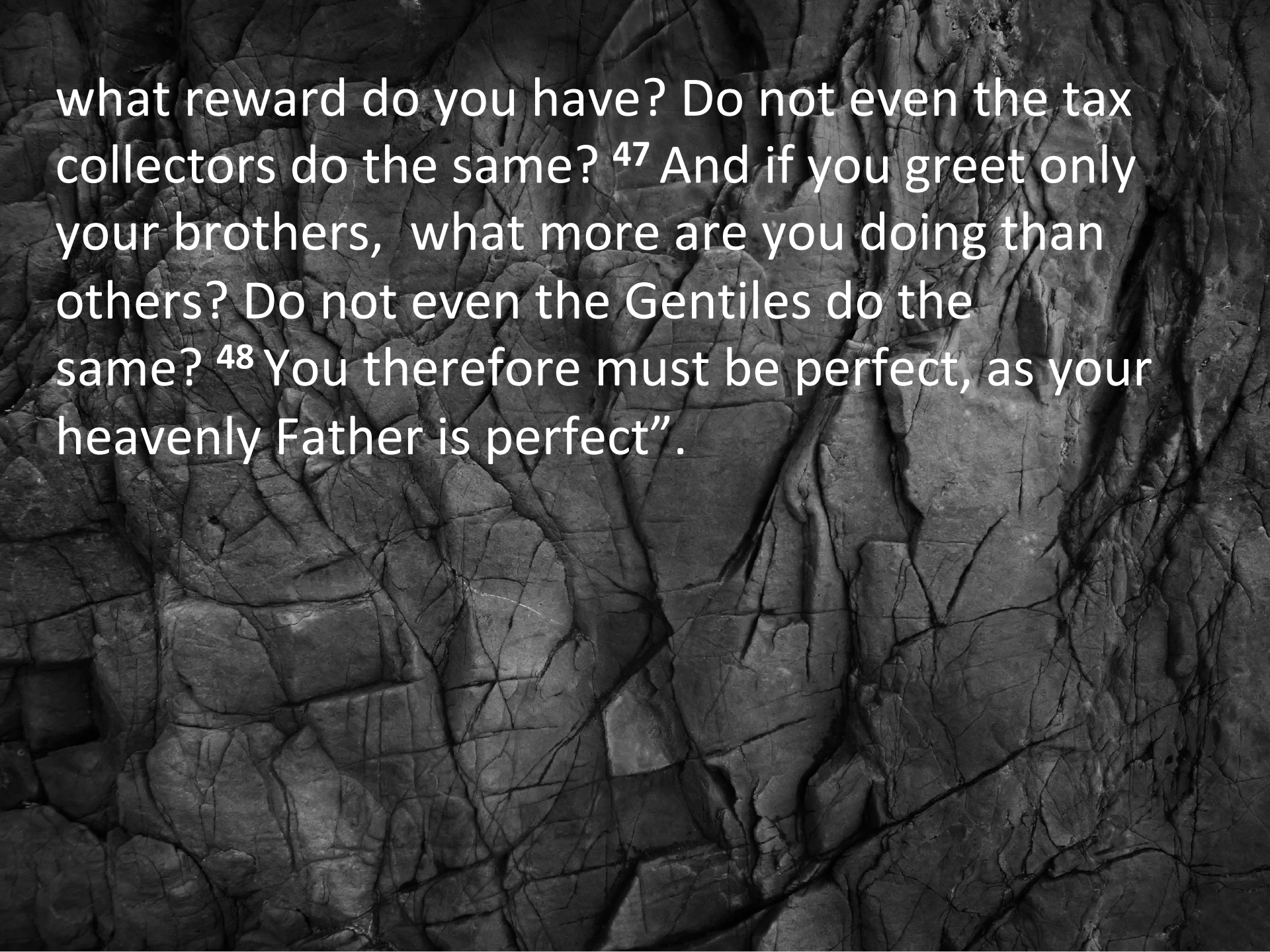
The background of the image is a dark, monochromatic texture that resembles crumpled paper or leather. The surface is covered in intricate, irregular folds and creases, creating a complex pattern of light and shadow. The overall tone is a deep charcoal or black, with subtle variations in brightness that emphasize the three-dimensional quality of the texture.

A Christian's Righteousness: Interpreting the
law in its truth.

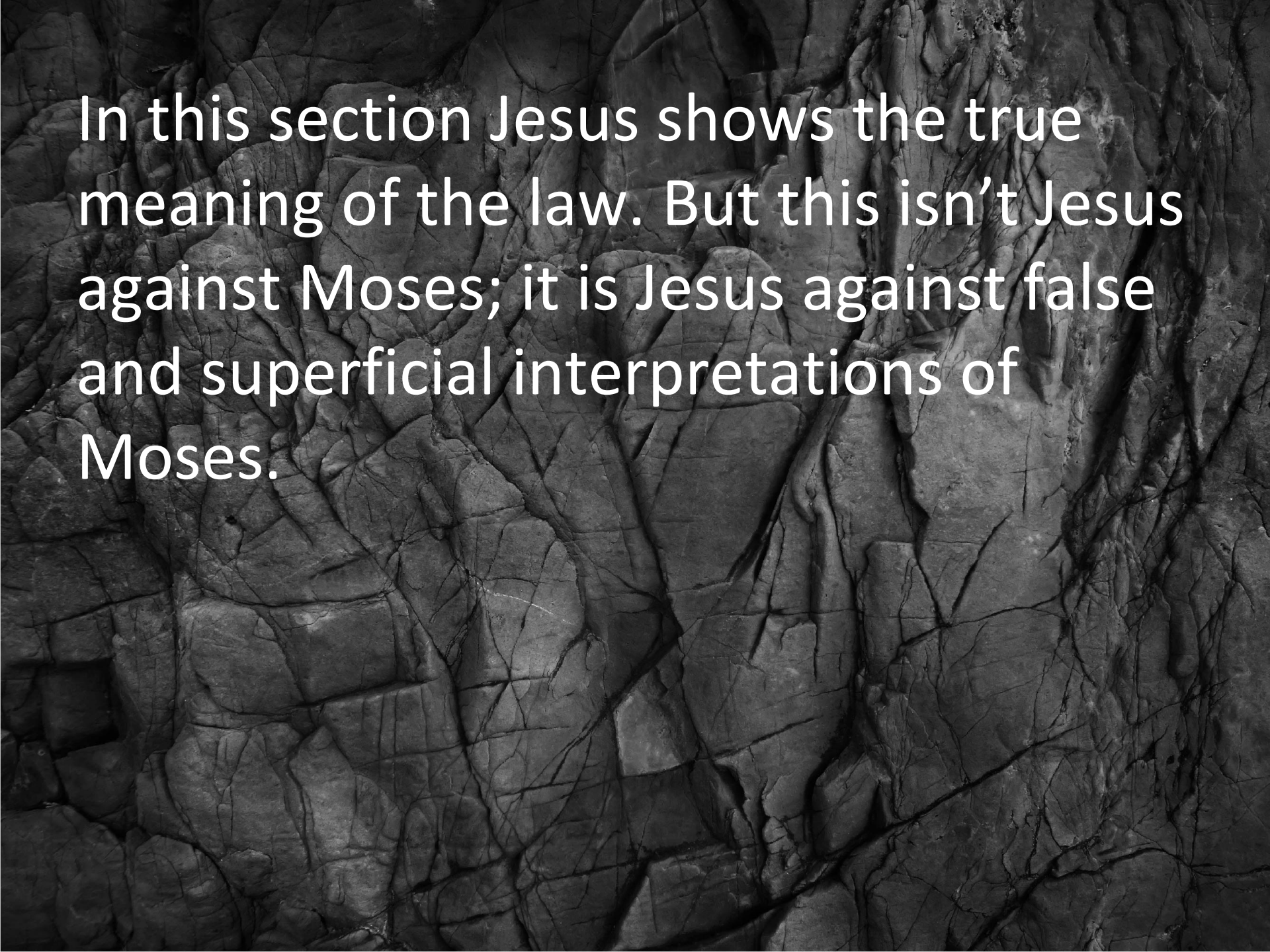
Matthew 5:38-48 ESV

³⁸ “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’³⁹ But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. ⁴⁰ And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you”.

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you,



what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect”.

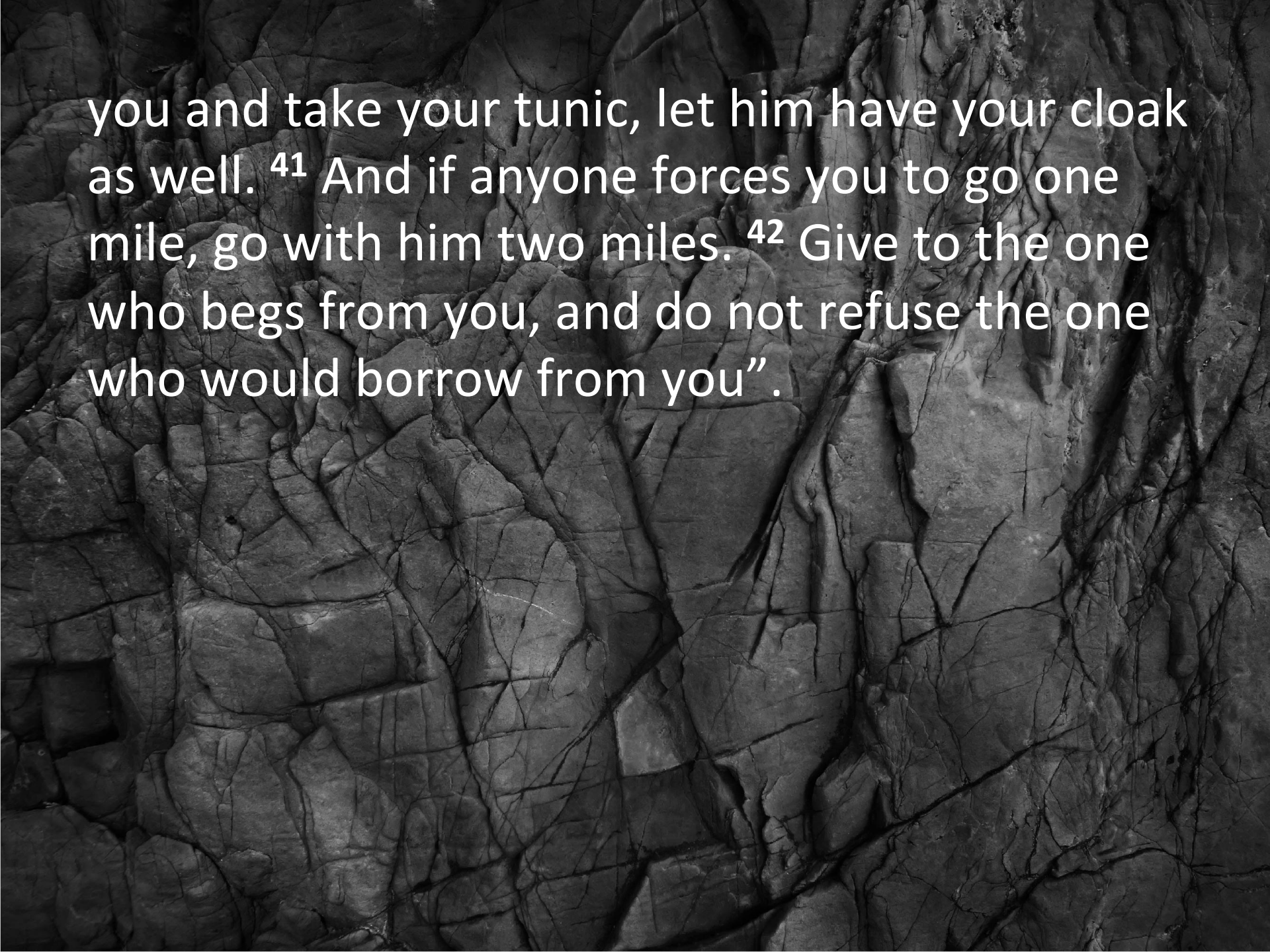


In this section Jesus shows the true meaning of the law. But this isn't Jesus against Moses; it is Jesus against false and superficial interpretations of Moses.

I. Jesus interprets the law concerning retaliation.

Matthew 5:38-42 ESV

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you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. ⁴¹ And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. ⁴² Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you”.

The Mosaic law did teach an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth (Exodus 21:24). But over time religious teachers moved this command out of its proper sphere (a principle limiting retribution for the civil government) and put it in the wrong sphere (as an obligation in personal relationships).



Jesus gives us four mini-illustrations to show us this principle of non-retaliation:

- Anyone who insults you. Matt. 5:39b

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- Anyone who insults you. Matt. 5:39b
- Anyone who takes from you. Matthew 5:40
- Anyone who forces you to do something. Matthew 5:41

Jesus gives us four mini-illustrations to show us this principle of non-retaliation:

- Anyone who insults you. Matt. 5:39b
- Anyone who takes from you. Matthew 5:40
- Anyone who forces you to do something.
Matthew 5:41
- Anyone who asks you to sacrifice.
Matthew 5:42



Romans 12:21 NLT

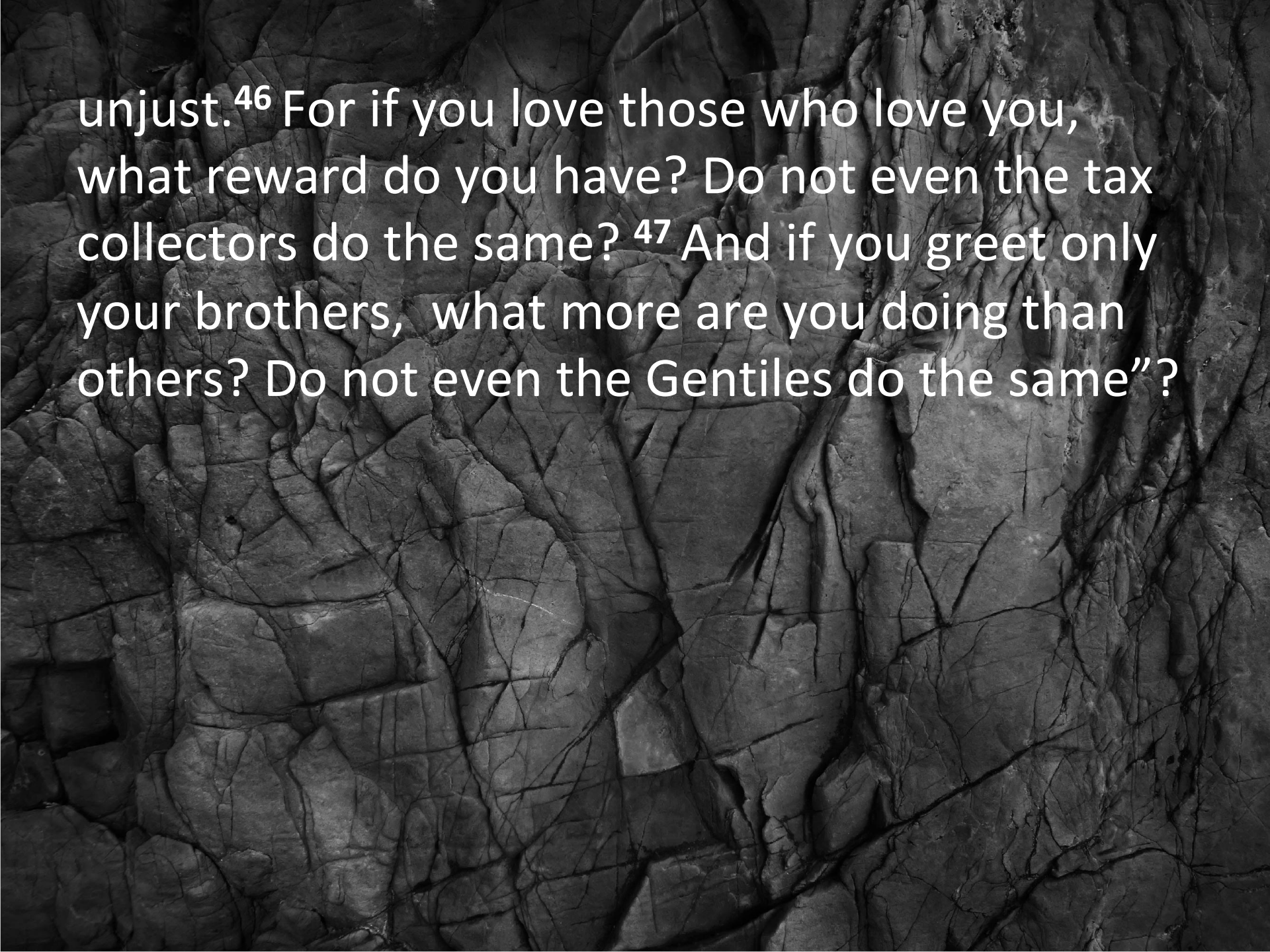
²¹ Don't let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

II. Jesus interprets the law concerning active
love.



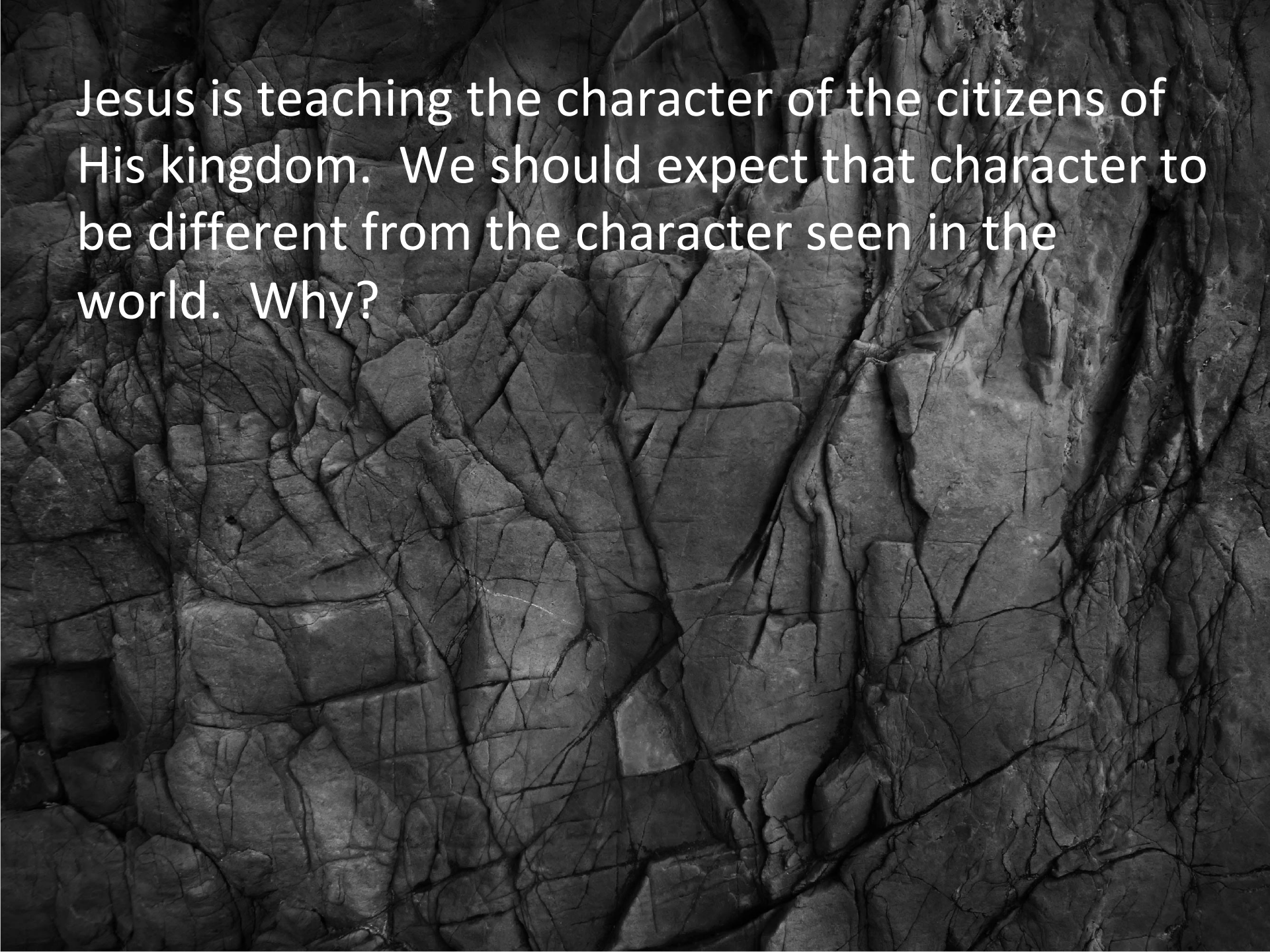
Matthew 5:43-47 ESV

⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵ so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the



unjust.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you,
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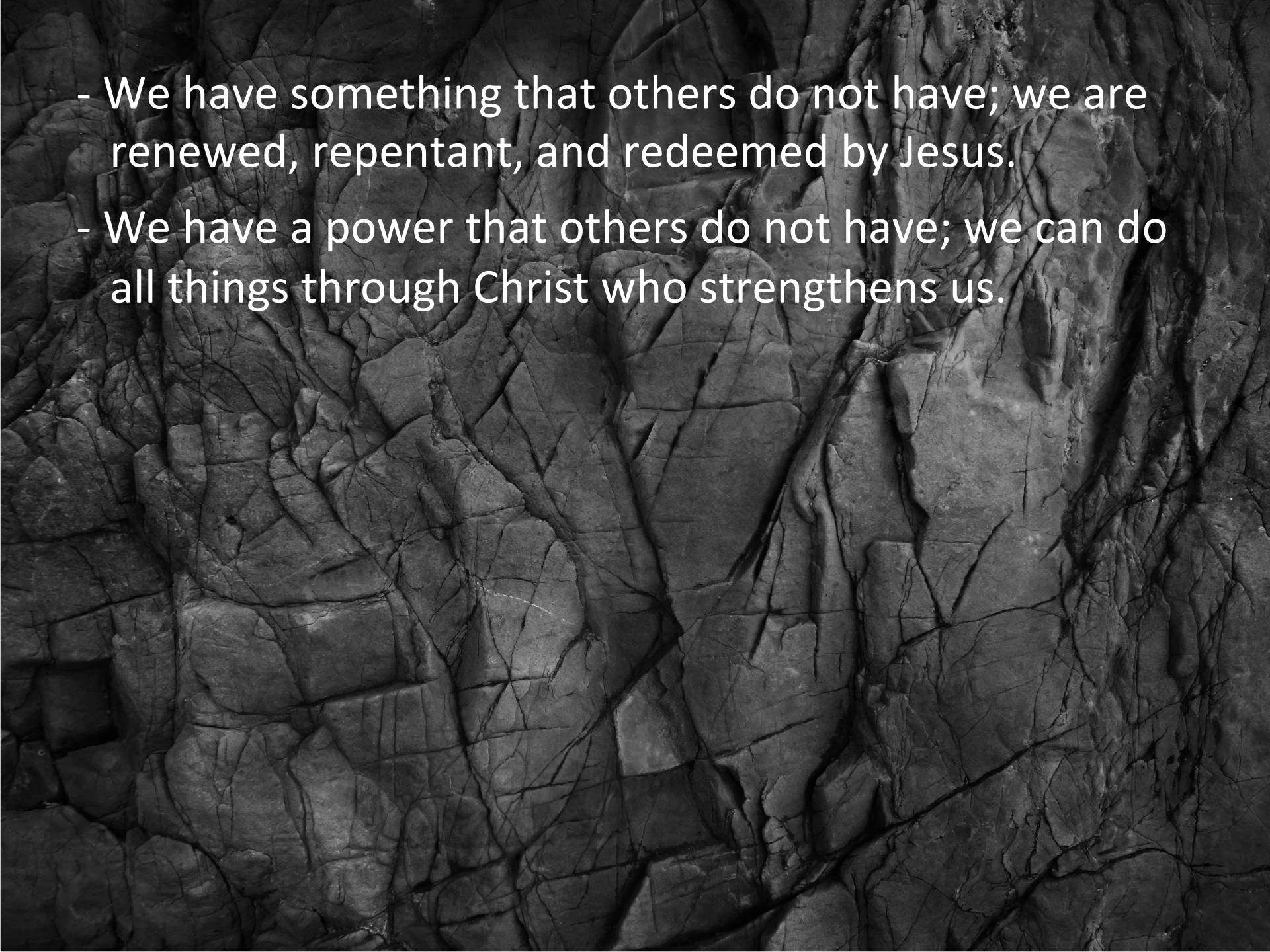
The Mosaic Law commanded you shall love your neighbor (Leviticus 19:18). Yet some teachers in the days of Jesus added an opposite – and evil – misapplication: an equal obligation to hate your enemy.

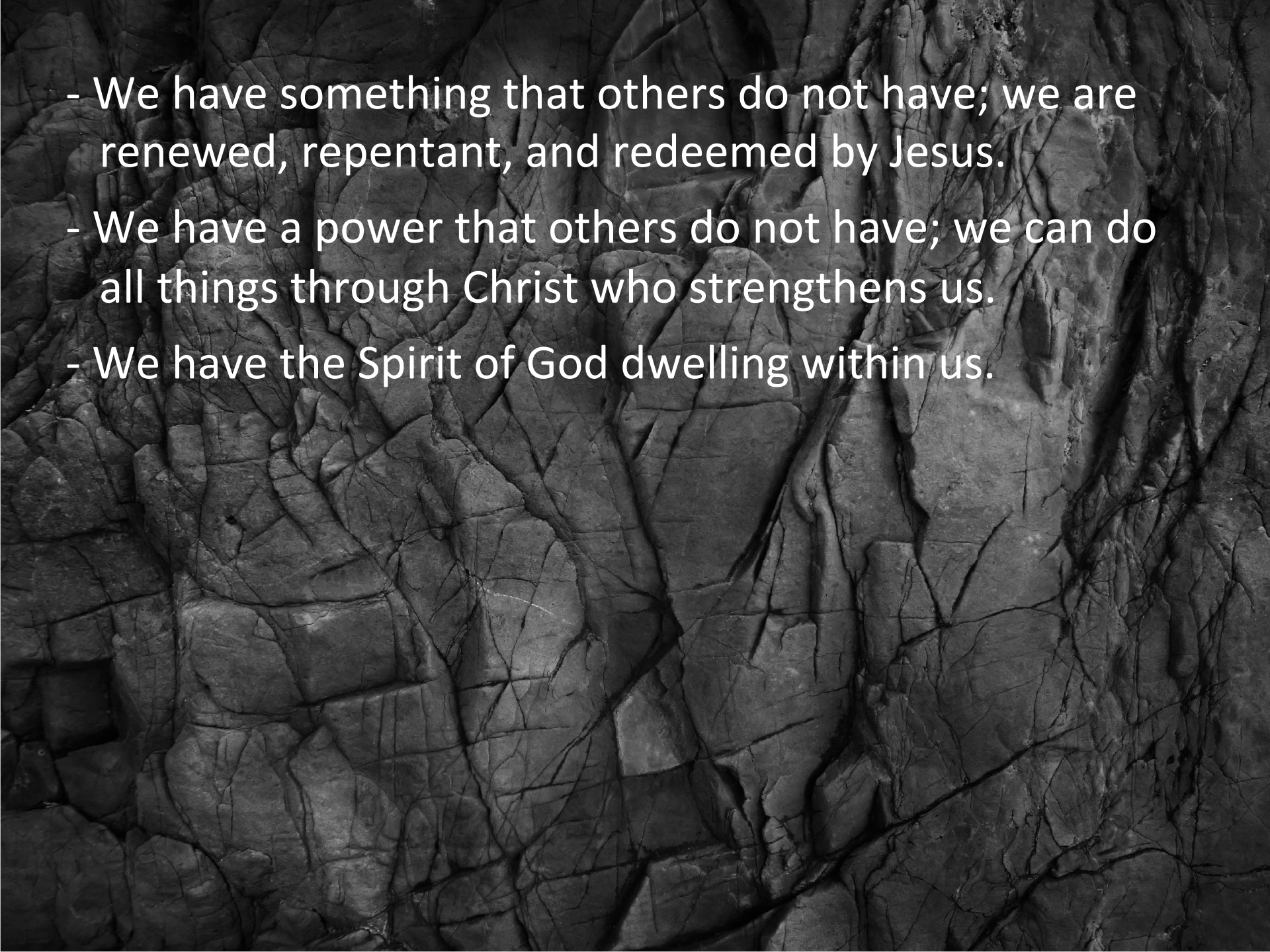


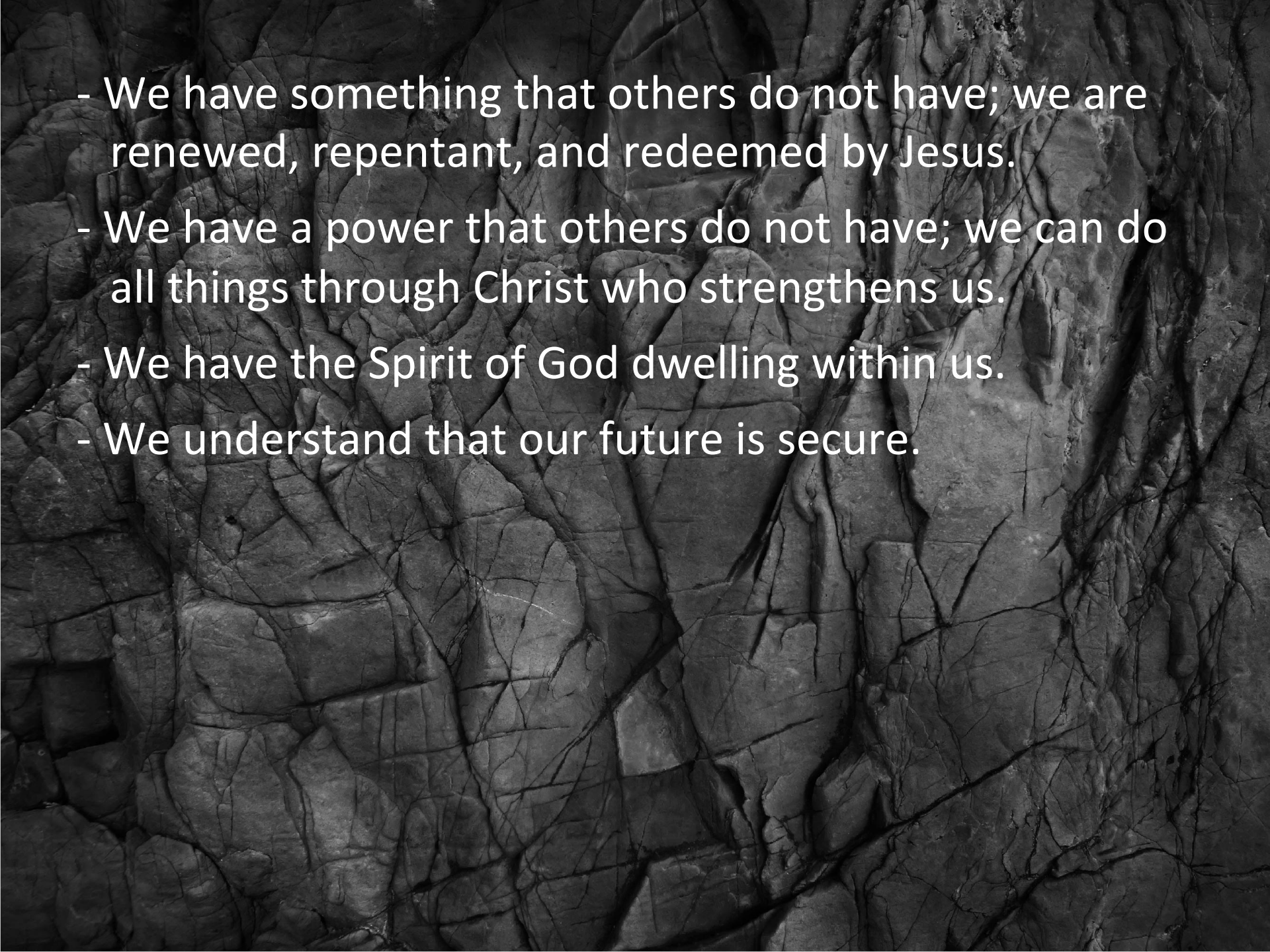
Jesus is teaching the character of the citizens of His kingdom. We should expect that character to be different from the character seen in the world. Why?



- We have something that others do not have; we are renewed, repentant, and redeemed by Jesus.

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- We have something that others do not have; we are renewed, repentant, and redeemed by Jesus.
 - We have a power that others do not have; we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

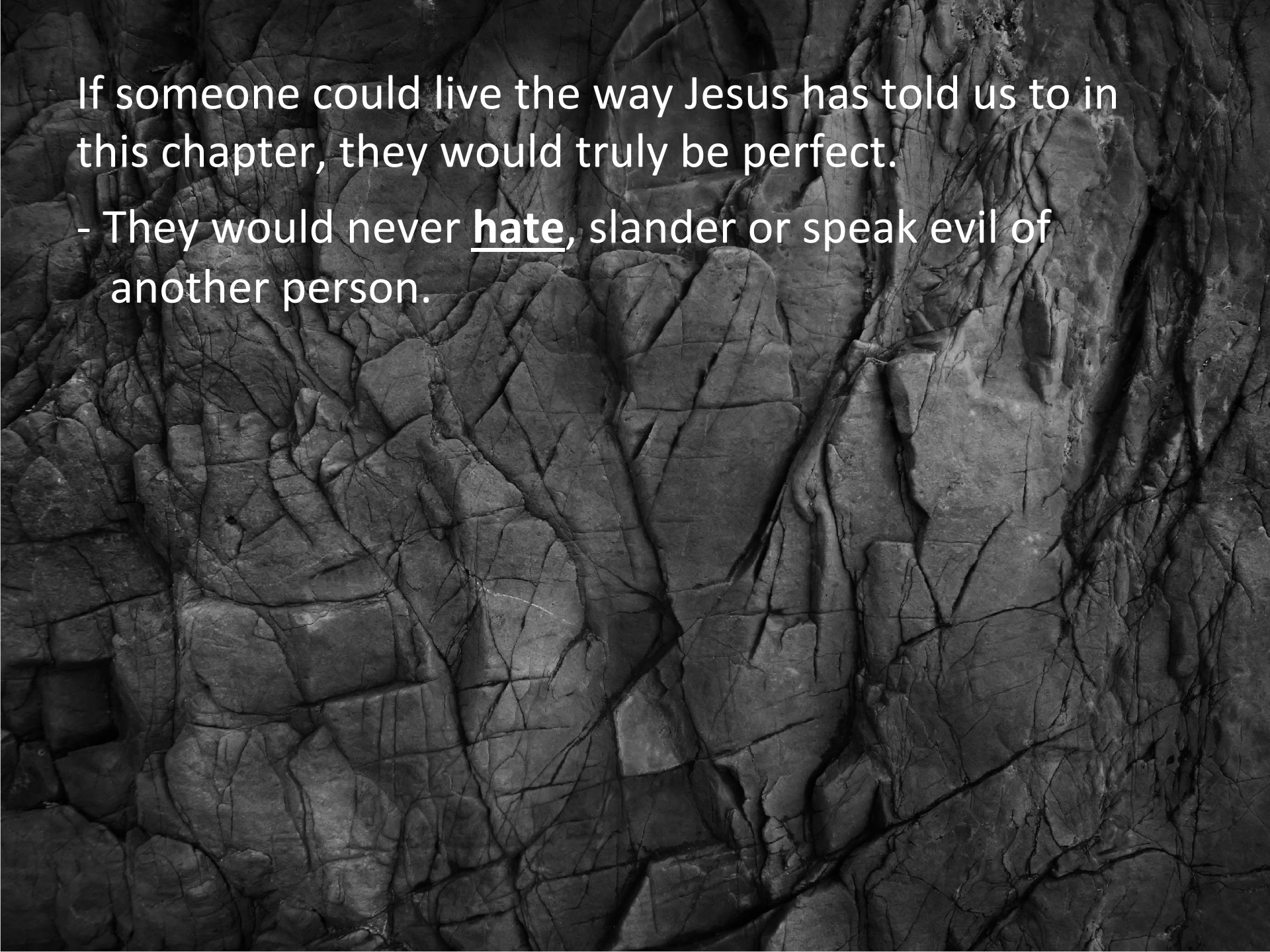
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- We have something that others do not have; we are renewed, repentant, and redeemed by Jesus.
 - We have a power that others do not have; we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.
 - We have the Spirit of God dwelling within us.

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- We have something that others do not have; we are renewed, repentant, and redeemed by Jesus.
 - We have a power that others do not have; we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.
 - We have the Spirit of God dwelling within us.
 - We understand that our future is secure.

III. The conclusion to the true interpretation of the law: be perfect.

Matthew 5:48 ESV

⁴⁸ You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.



If someone could live the way Jesus has told us to in this chapter, they would truly be perfect.

- They would never hate, slander or speak evil of another person.

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Romans 8:1-4 ESV

- They would never hate, slander or speak evil of another person.
- They would never lust in his heart or mind, and not covet anything.

If someone could live the way Jesus has told us to in this chapter, they would truly be perfect.

- They would never hate, slander or speak evil of another person.
- They would never lust in his heart or mind, and not covet anything.
- They would never make a false oath, and always be completely truthful.

If someone could live the way Jesus has told us to in this chapter, they would truly be perfect.

- They would never hate, slander or speak evil of another person.
- They would never lust in his heart or mind, and not covet anything.
- They would never make a false oath, and always be completely truthful.
- They would let God defend his personal rights, and not take it upon himself to defend those rights.

If someone could live the way Jesus has told us to in this chapter, they would truly be perfect.

- They would never hate, slander or speak evil of another person.
- They would never lust in his heart or mind, and not covet anything.
- They would never make a false oath, and always be completely truthful.
- They would let God defend his personal rights, and not take it upon himself to defend those rights.
- They would always love his neighbors, and even his enemies.

