



THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

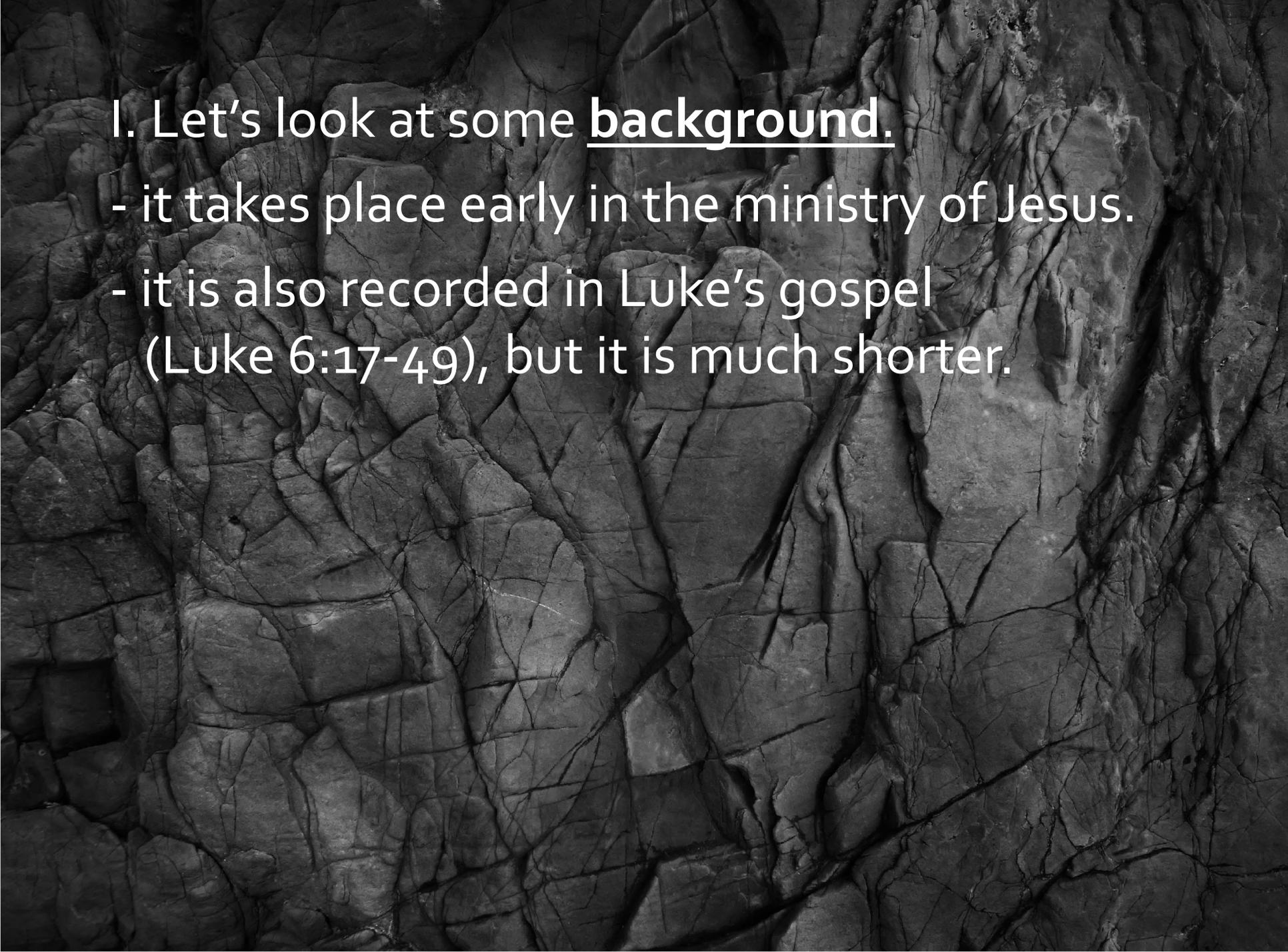
UNDERSTANDING WHAT JESUS WANTS HIS FOLLOWERS TO BE AND TO DO

Week 1



I. Let's look at some background.

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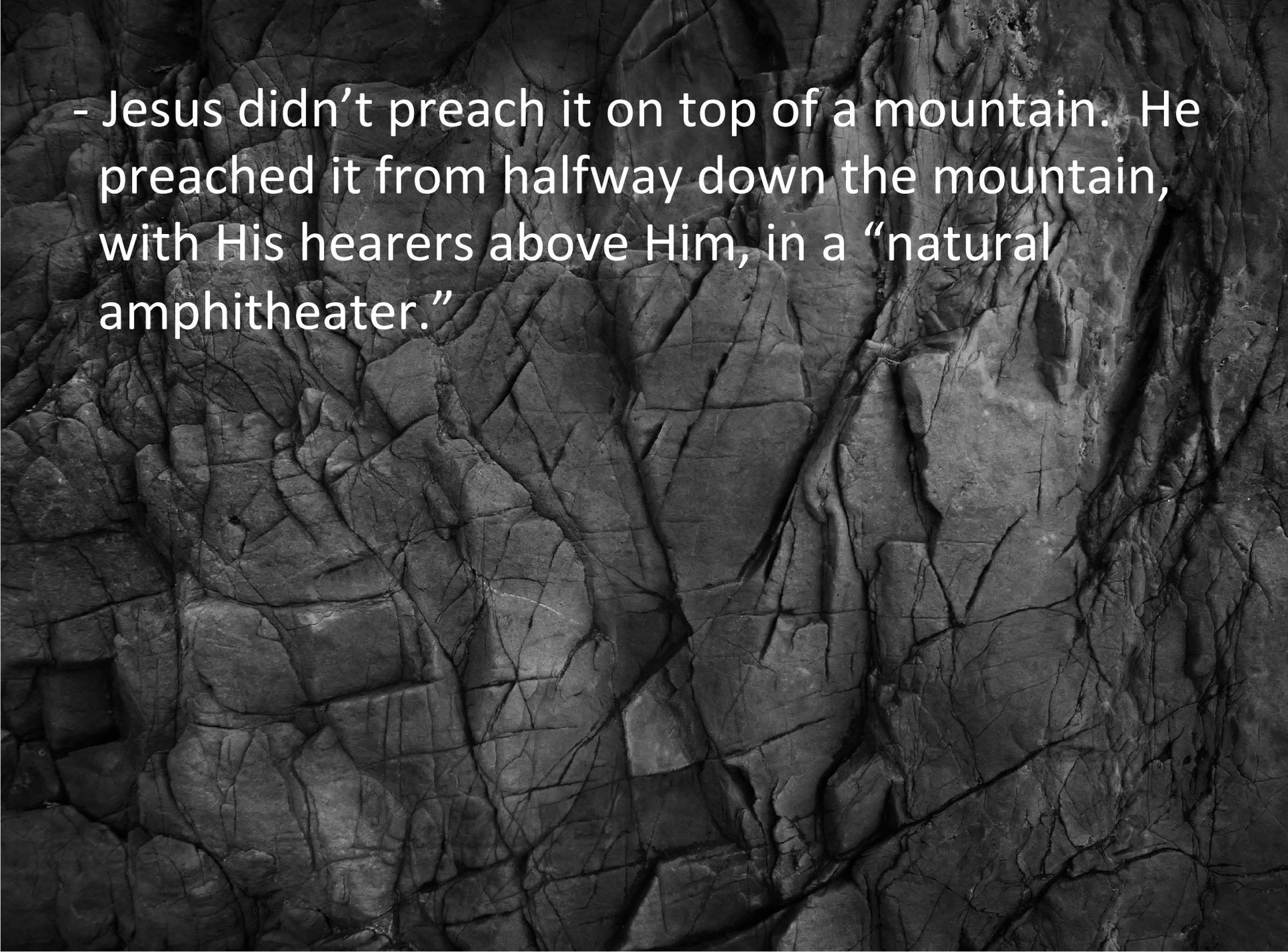
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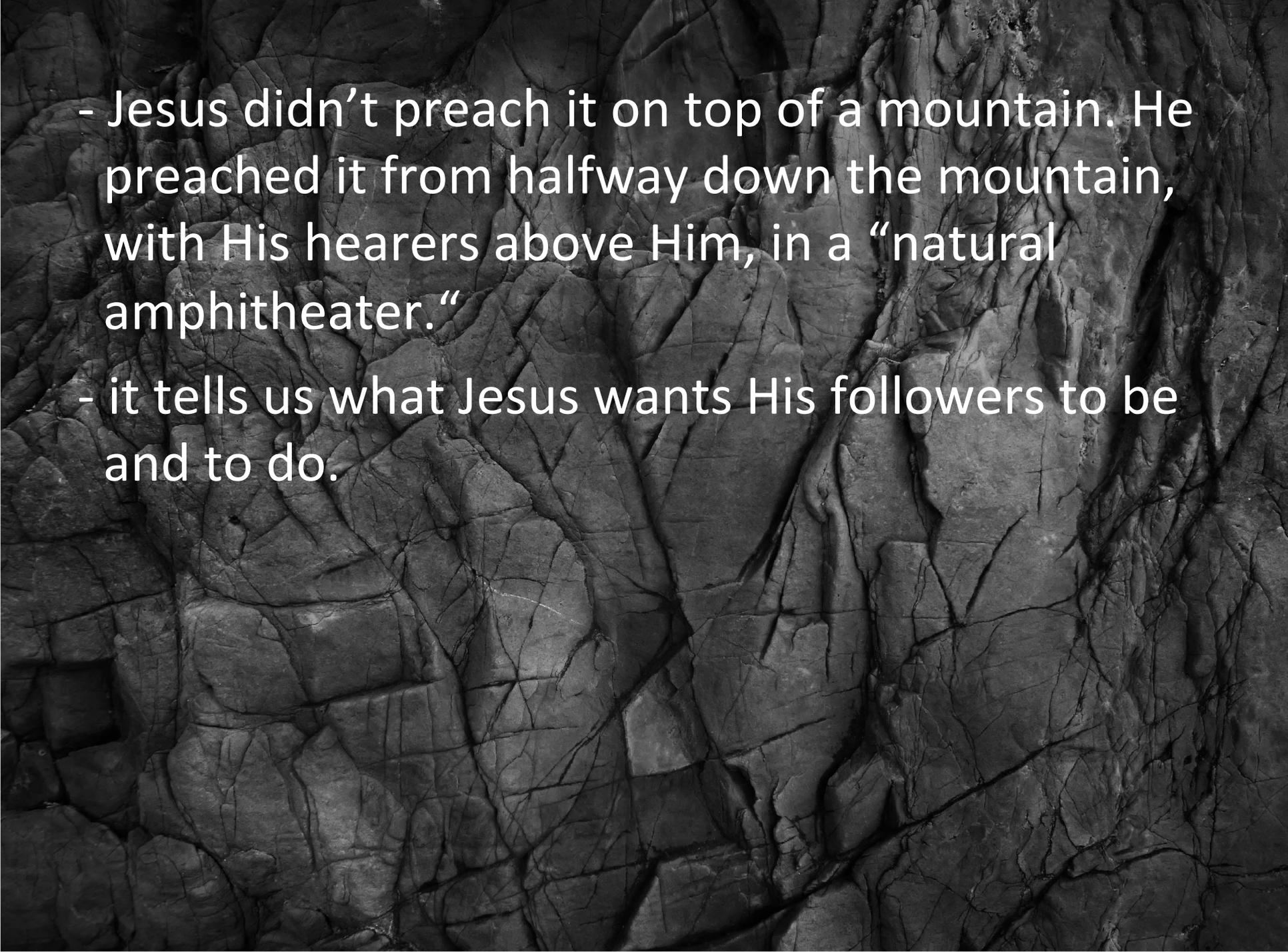
- great crowds are following Him at this time because of His teaching and the healing of the sick. (Matt. 4:23-25)

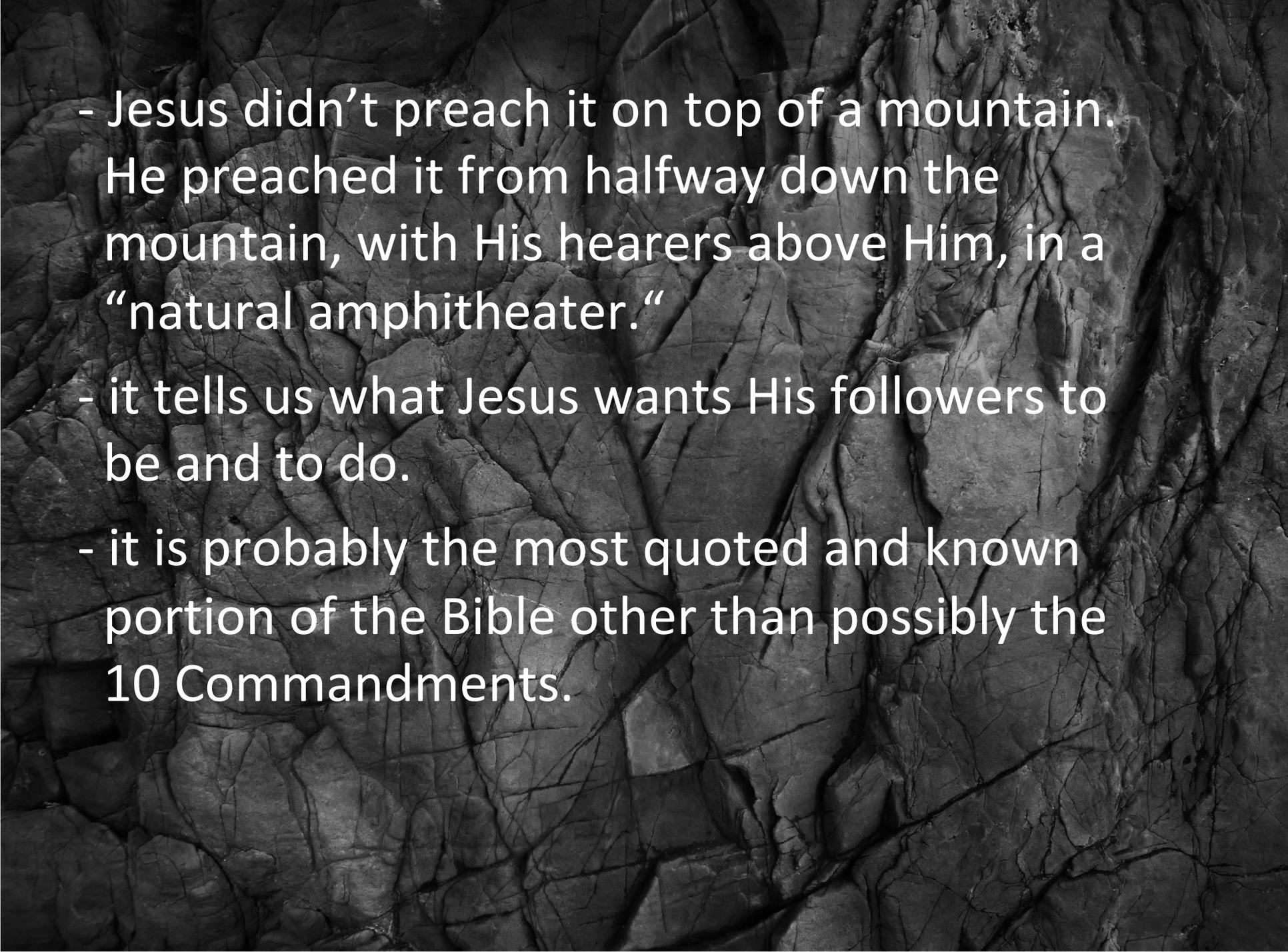
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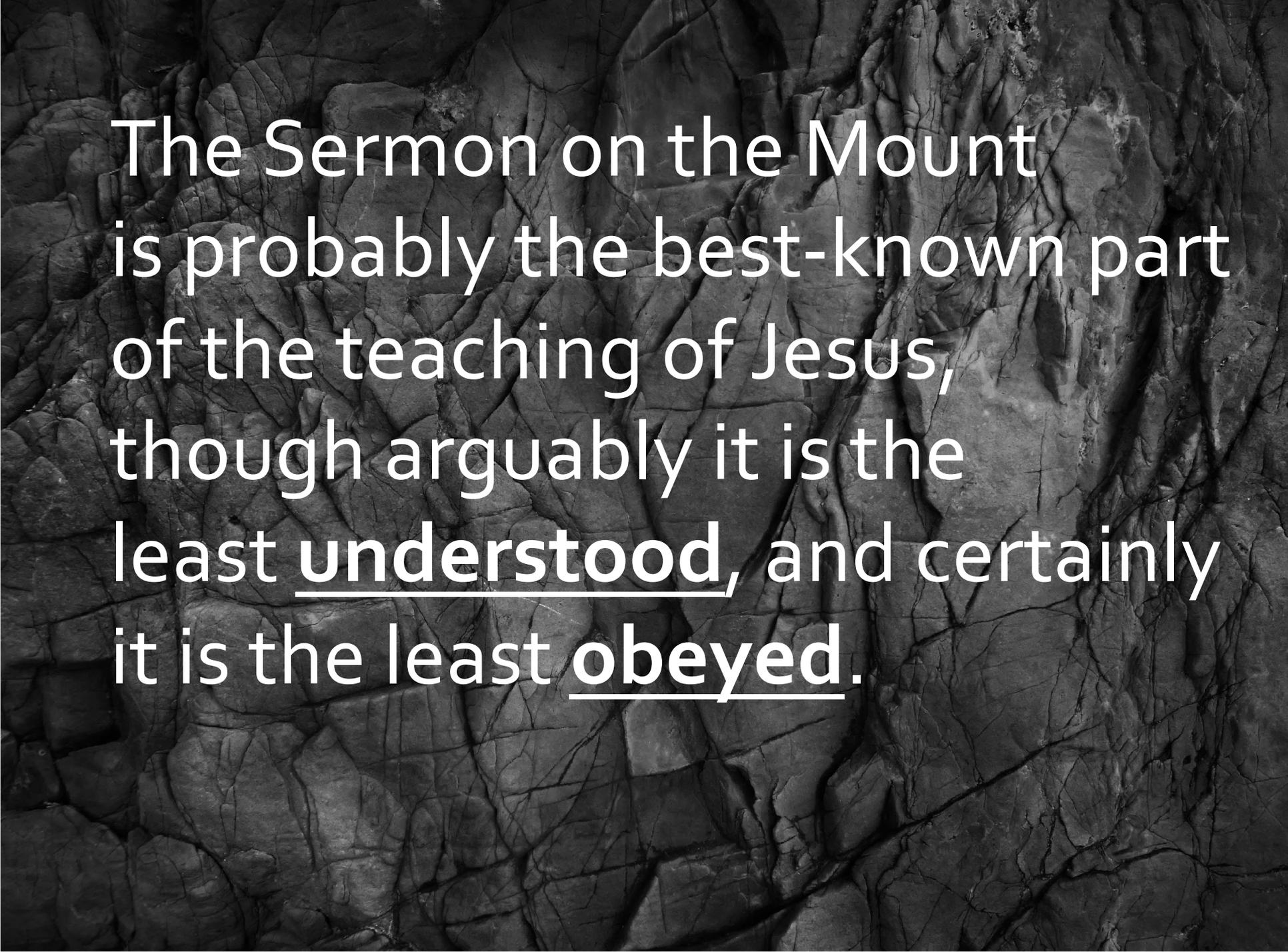
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- it is also recorded in Luke's gospel (Luke 6:17-49), but it is much shorter.
- great crowds are following Him at this time because of His teaching and the healing of the sick. (Matt. 4:23-25)
- although not just his disciples were present, Jesus directs these words to His disciples.



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 - it tells us what Jesus wants His followers to be and to do.
 - it is probably the most quoted and known portion of the Bible other than possibly the 10 Commandments.



The Sermon on the Mount
is probably the best-known part
of the teaching of Jesus,
though arguably it is the
least understood, and certainly
it is the least obeyed.

II. Let's look at the themes of the sermon.

Jesus is calling His followers to be different.

Matthew 6:8a NLT

⁸ Don't be like them,

Leviticus 18:1-5 NLT

¹ Then the Lord said to Moses, ² “Give the following instructions to the people of Israel. I am the Lord your God. ³ So do not act like the people in Egypt, where you used to live, or like the people of Canaan, where I am taking you. You must not imitate their way of life. ⁴ You must obey all my regulations and be careful to obey my decrees, for I am the Lord your God. ⁵ If you obey my decrees and my regulations, you will find life through them. I am the Lord.

1 Sam. 8:5, 19-20 NLT

⁵ “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.”

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel’s warning. “Even so, we still want a king,” they said. ²⁰ “We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle.”

Jesus wants us different from...

- the nominal church.

Rev. 3:1b NLT

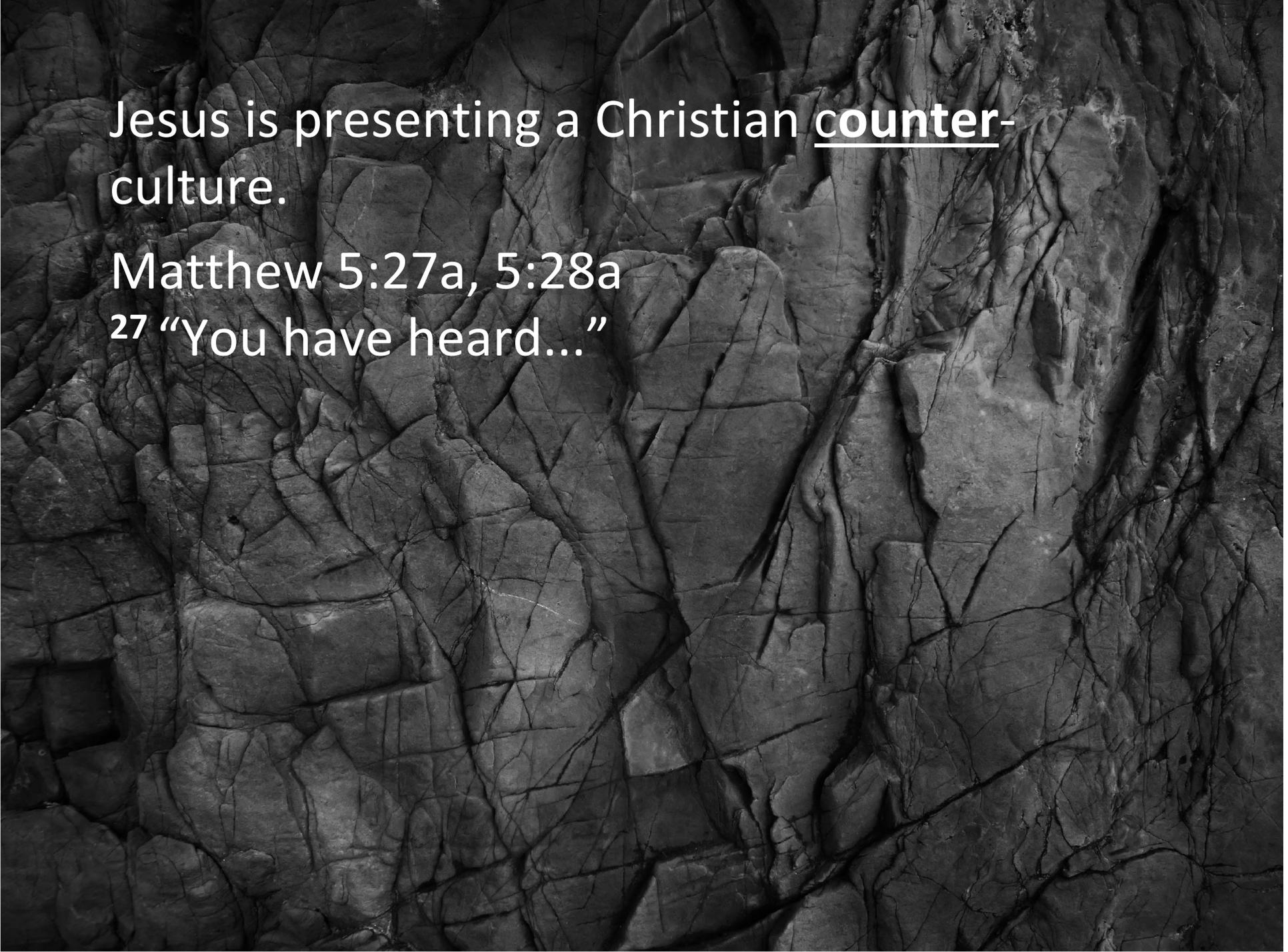
“I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead”.

- the secular world.

Ephesians 4:17-24 NLT

¹⁷ With the Lord's authority I say this: Live no longer as the Gentiles do, for they are hopelessly confused. ¹⁸ Their minds are full of darkness; they wander far from the life God gives because they have closed their minds and hardened their hearts against him. ¹⁹ They have no sense of shame. They live for lustful pleasure and eagerly practice every kind of impurity.

²⁰ But that isn't what you learned about Christ. ²¹ Since you have heard about Jesus and have learned the truth that comes from him, ²² throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. ²³ Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. ²⁴ Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy.



Jesus is presenting a Christian counter-
culture.

Matthew 5:27a, 5:28a
27 “You have heard...”

Jesus is presenting a Christian counter-
culture.

Matthew 5:27a, 5:28a

27 “You have heard...”

28 “But I say...”



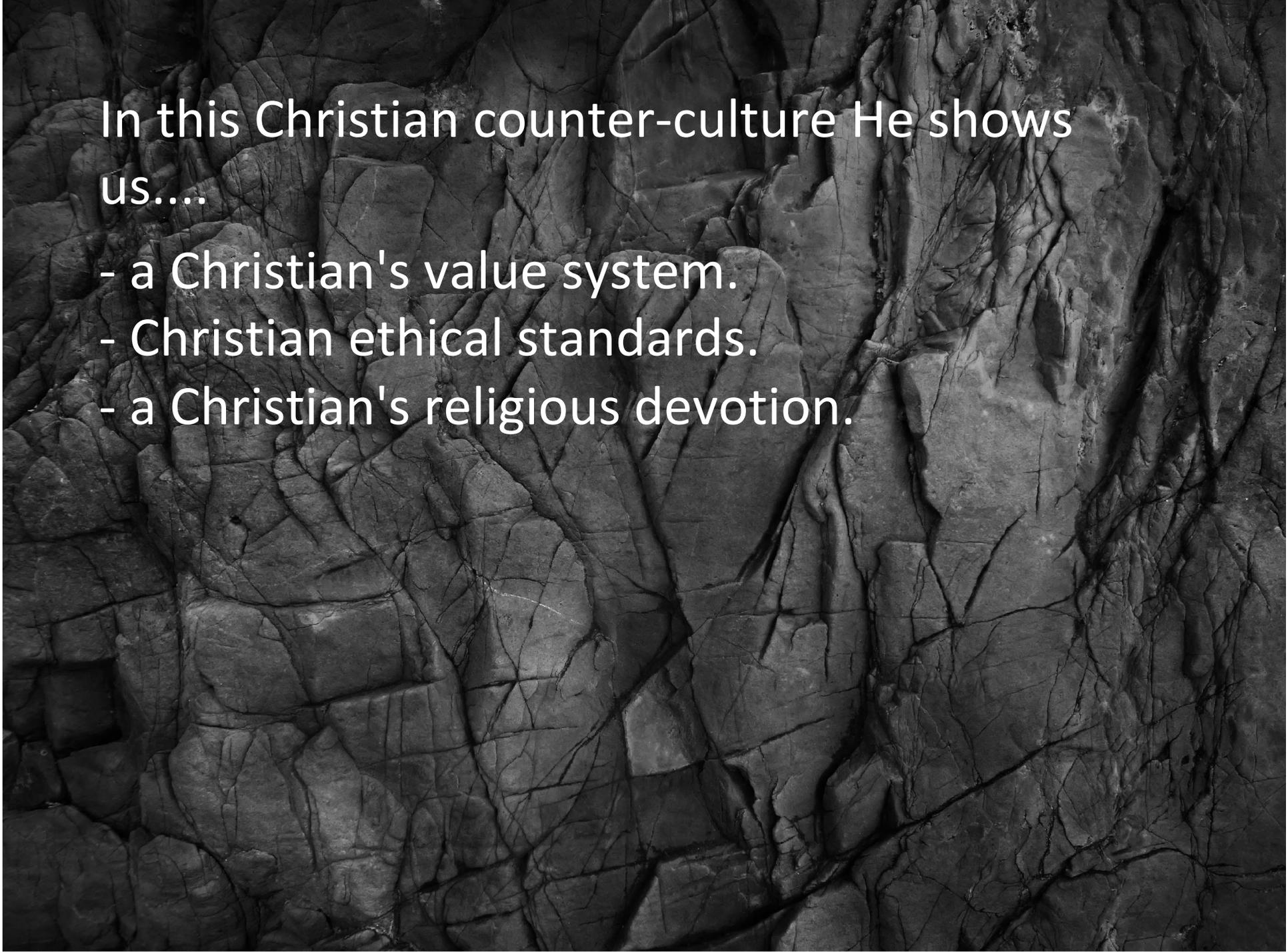
In this Christian counter-culture He shows
us....

- a Christian's value system.



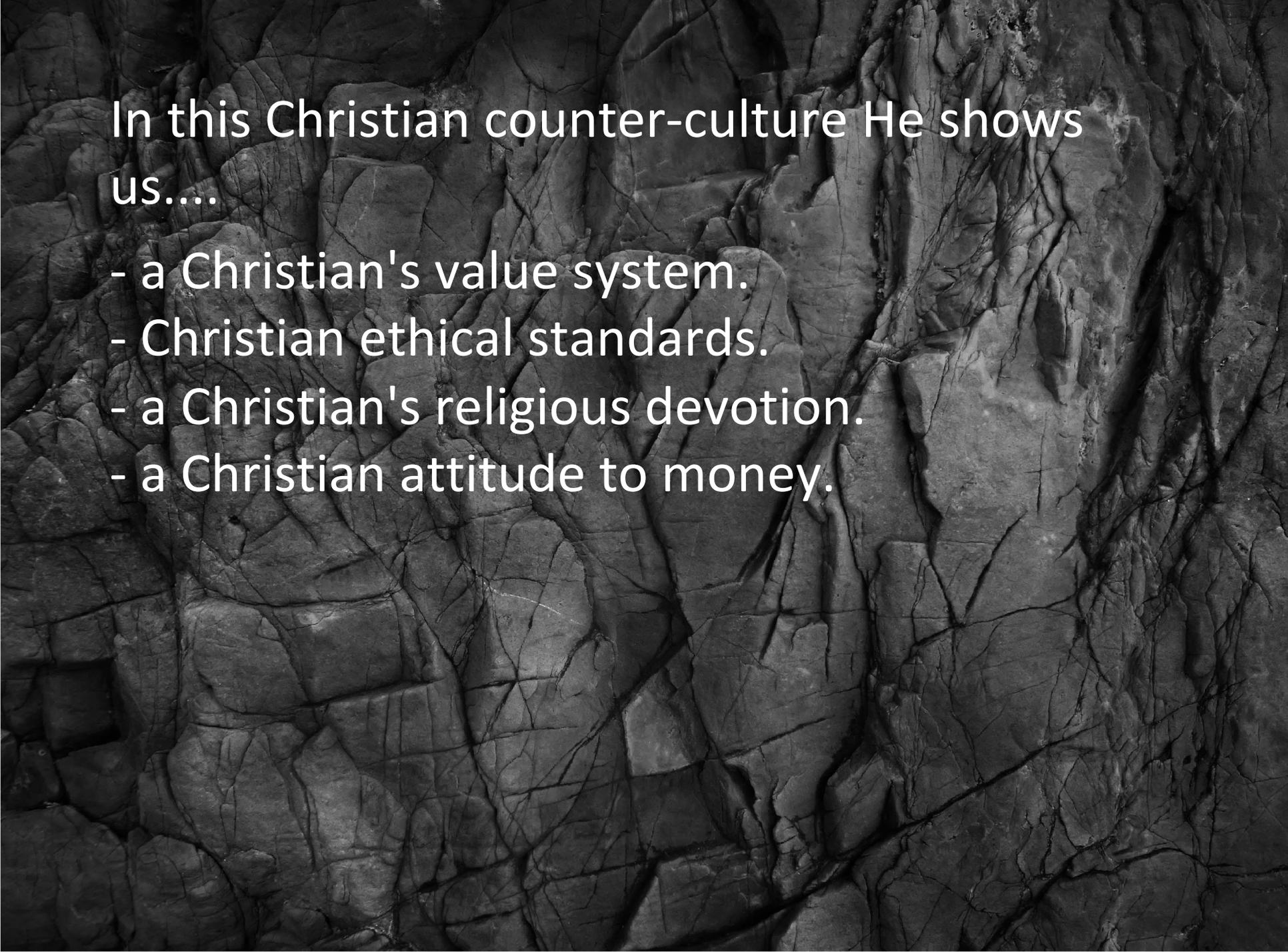
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- Christian ethical standards.



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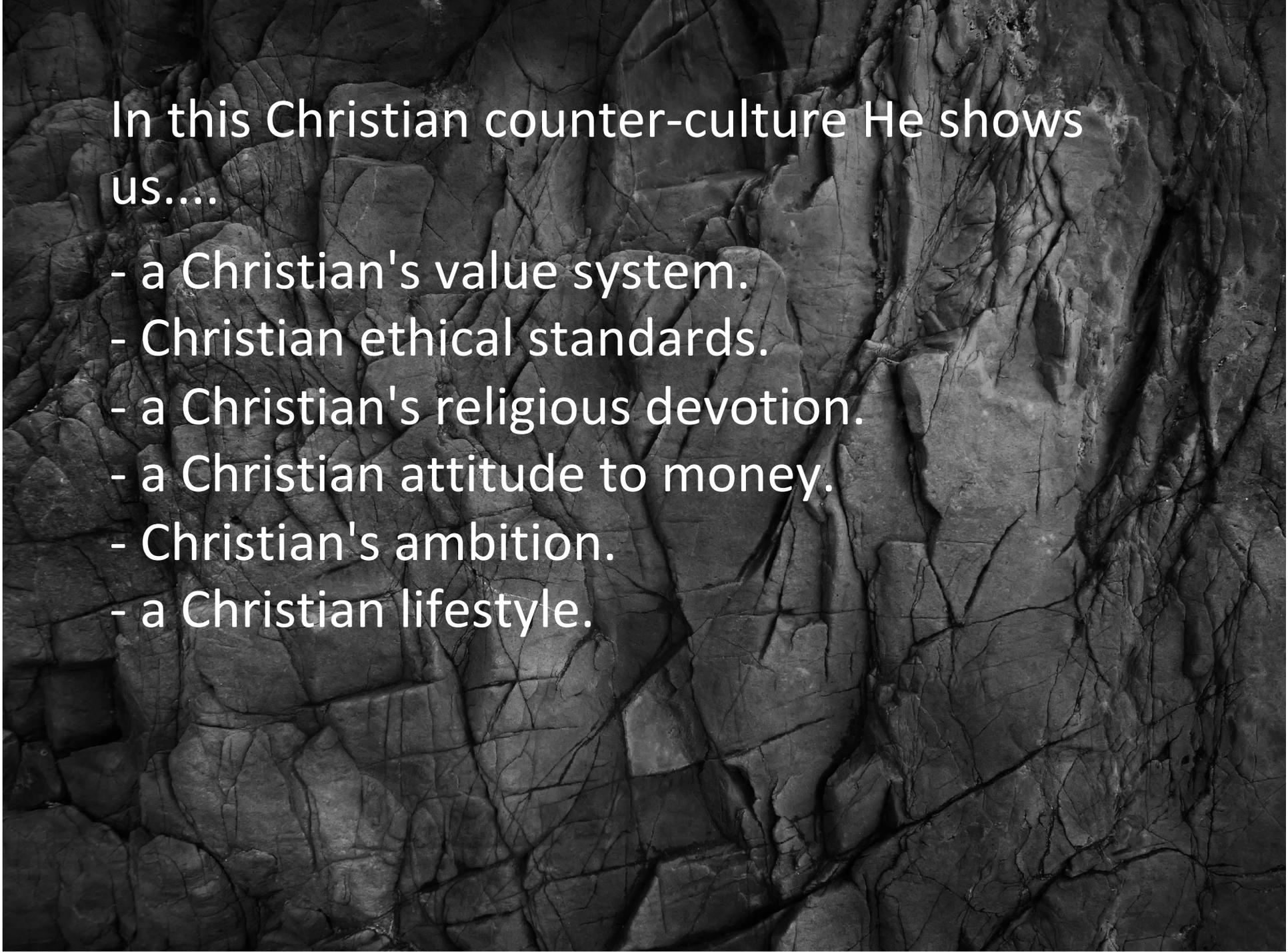


In this Christian counter-culture He shows us....

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- a Christian attitude to money.
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- a Christian lifestyle.

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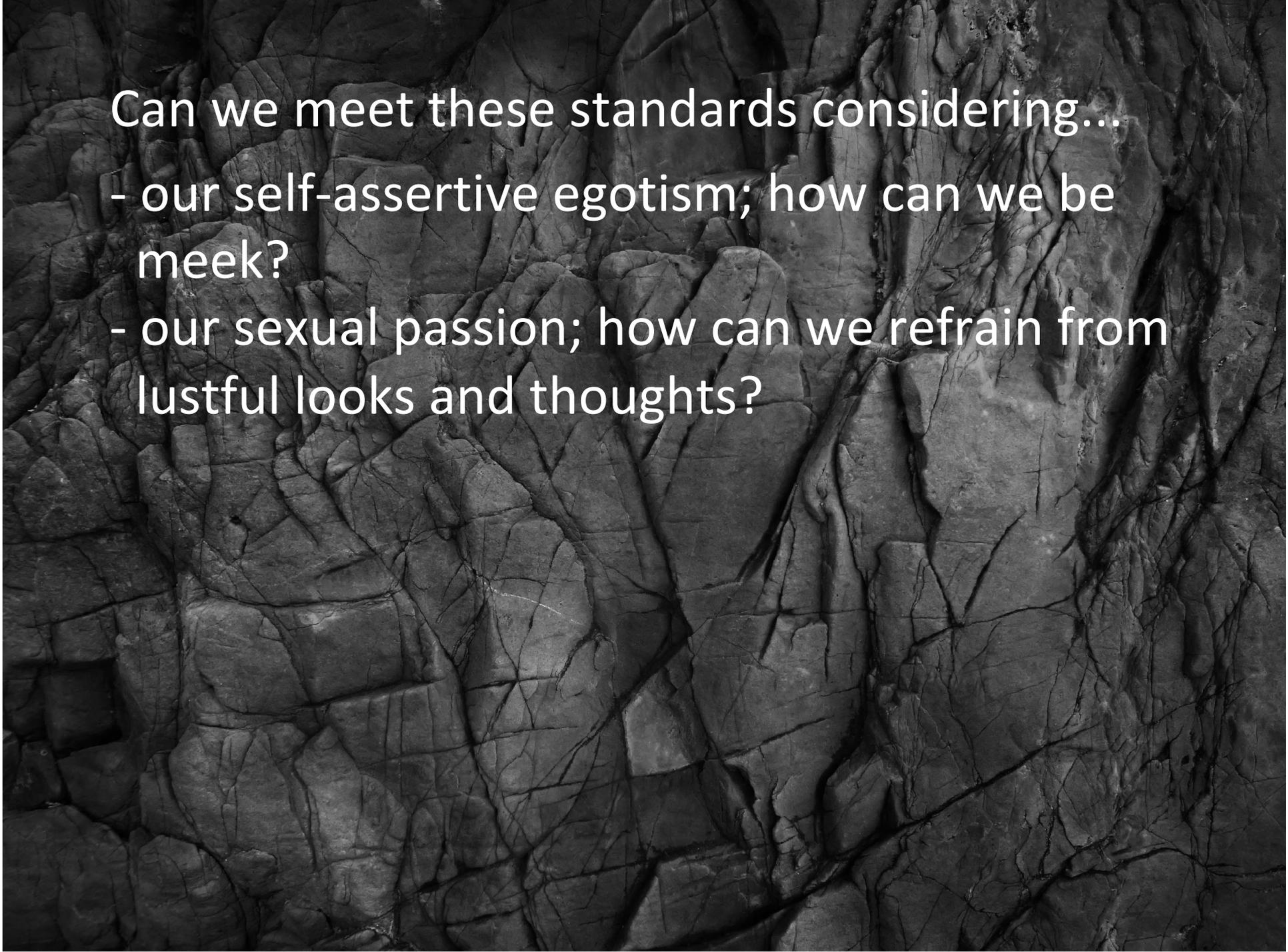
- a Christian's value system.
- Christian ethical standards.
- a Christian's religious devotion.
- a Christian attitude to money.
- Christian's ambition.
- a Christian lifestyle.
- a Christian network of relationships.

III. Are the standards attainable?

The background of the slide is a dark, monochromatic image of a heavily textured surface, possibly crumpled paper or leather. The texture is characterized by numerous sharp, irregular folds and creases that create a complex, three-dimensional appearance. The lighting is dramatic, with deep shadows in the recesses of the folds and bright highlights on the raised edges, emphasizing the tactile quality of the material. The overall color palette is a range of dark greys and blacks.



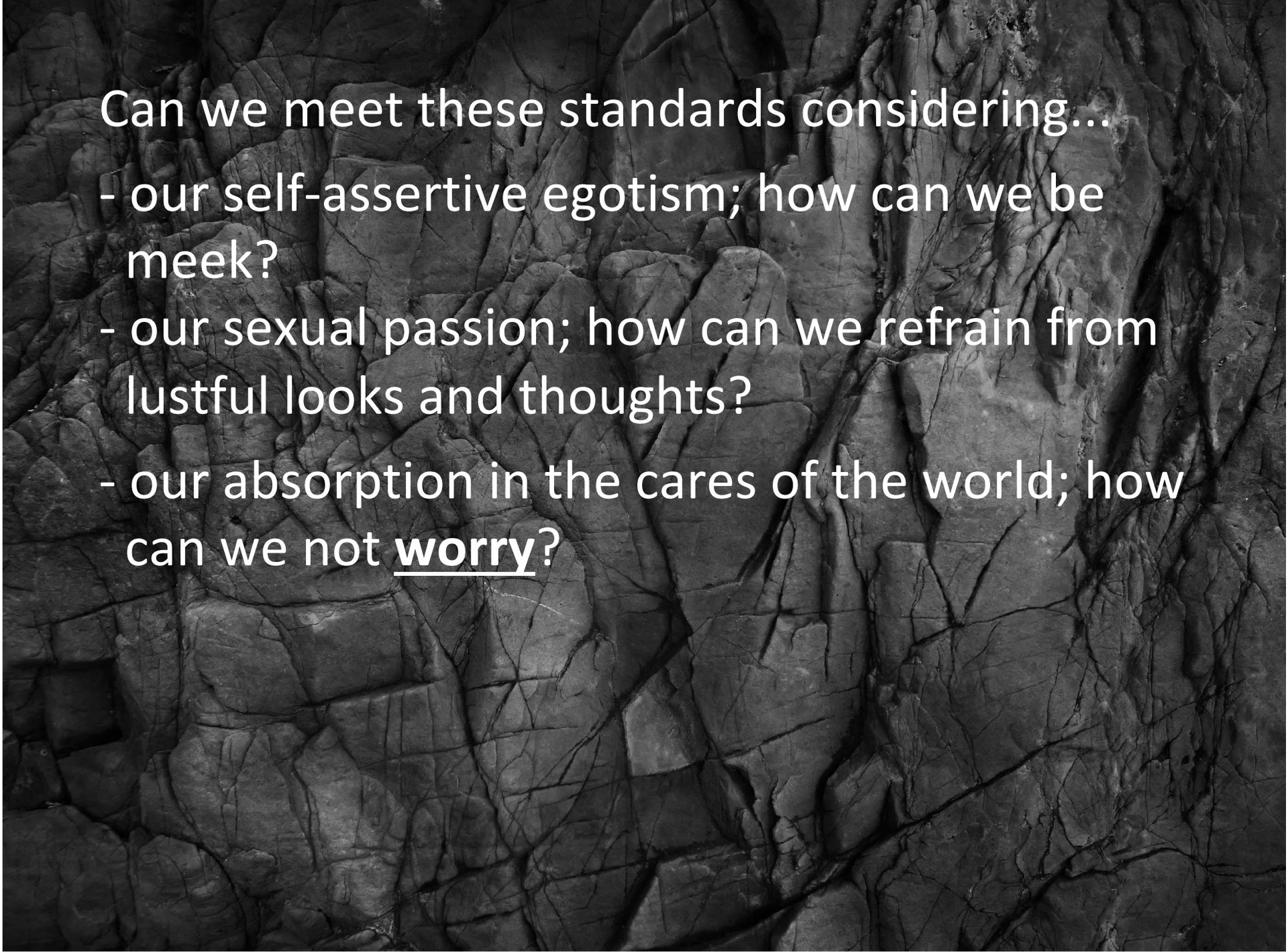
Can we meet these standards considering...
- our self-assertive egotism; how can we be
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- our sexual passion; how can we refrain from lustful looks and thoughts?

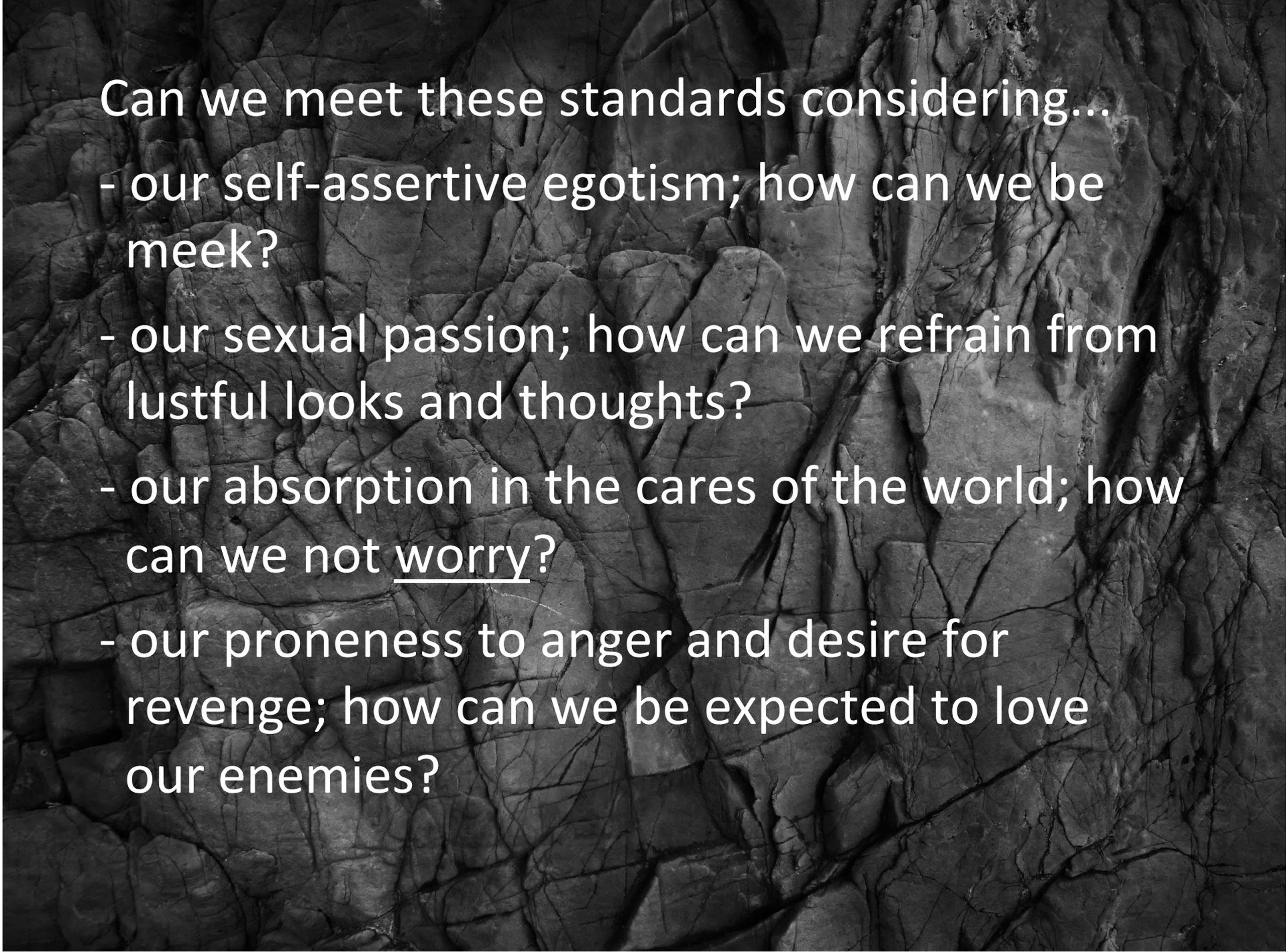


Can we meet these standards considering...

- our self-assertive egotism; how can we be meek?

- our sexual passion; how can we refrain from lustful looks and thoughts?

- our absorption in the cares of the world; how can we not worry?



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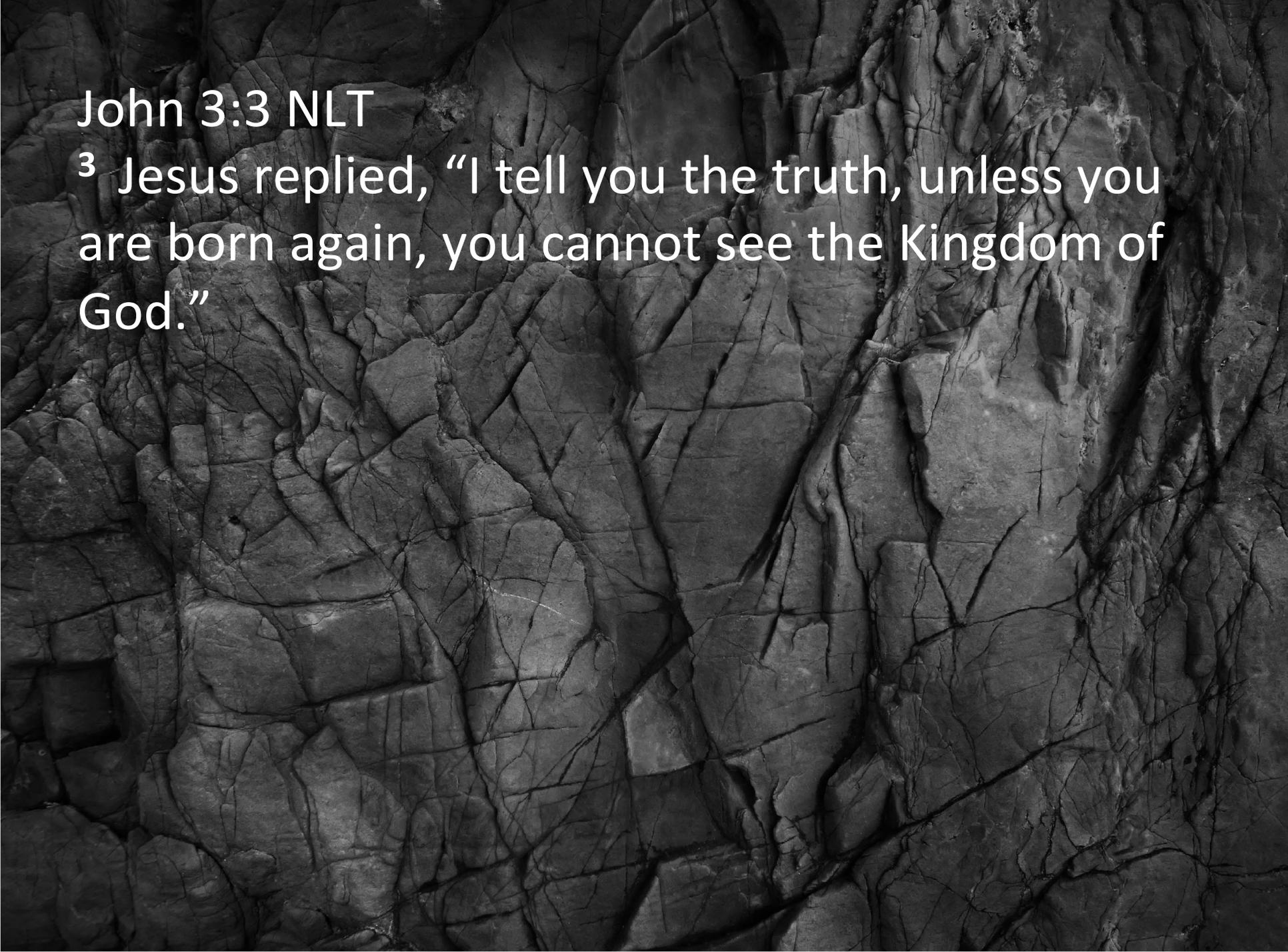
- our self-assertive egotism; how can we be meek?

- our sexual passion; how can we refrain from lustful looks and thoughts?

- our absorption in the cares of the world; how can we not worry?

- our proneness to anger and desire for revenge; how can we be expected to love our enemies?

"For the standards of the sermon are neither readily attainable by every man, nor totally unattainable by any man. To put them beyond anybody's reach is to ignore the purpose of Christ's sermon; to put them within everybody's is to ignore the reality of man's sin. They are attainable all right, but only by those who have experienced the new birth which Jesus told Nicodemus was the indispensable condition of seeing and entering God's kingdom." - John Stott



John 3:3 NLT

³ Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again, you cannot see the Kingdom of God."

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2 Cor. 5:17 NLT

¹⁷ This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

