



A Psalm for All Seasons

Week 3: Imprecatory Psalms - 10 things to know

Senior Teaching Pastor Jim Supp - Reston Bible Church - Sunday, November 14th 2024

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow that contrasts with the dark, starry sky above. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the forest canopy.

I will **extol you**, my God and King, and
bless your name forever and ever.

Psalm 145:1 ESV

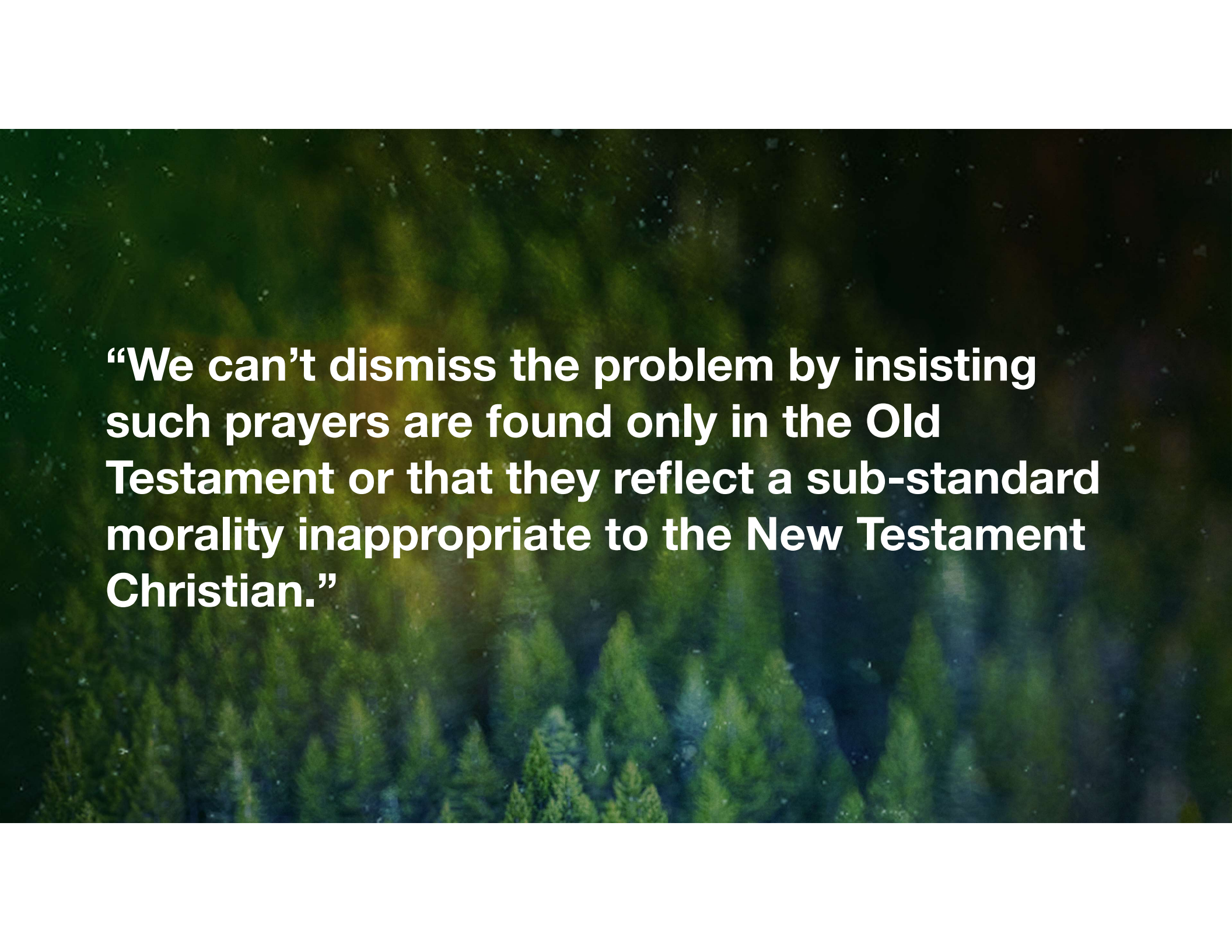
An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow that contrasts with the dark, starry sky above. The overall mood is serene and majestic.

Psalms are **Songs of Praise** for
Gathered Worship.

Worship: The process of positioning
one's proper place before God.

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are dark green and densely packed. A bright, starburst light effect is visible in the upper left quadrant, illuminating the surrounding trees. The overall scene is dark and atmospheric.

Imprecate – to call down a curse
upon someone

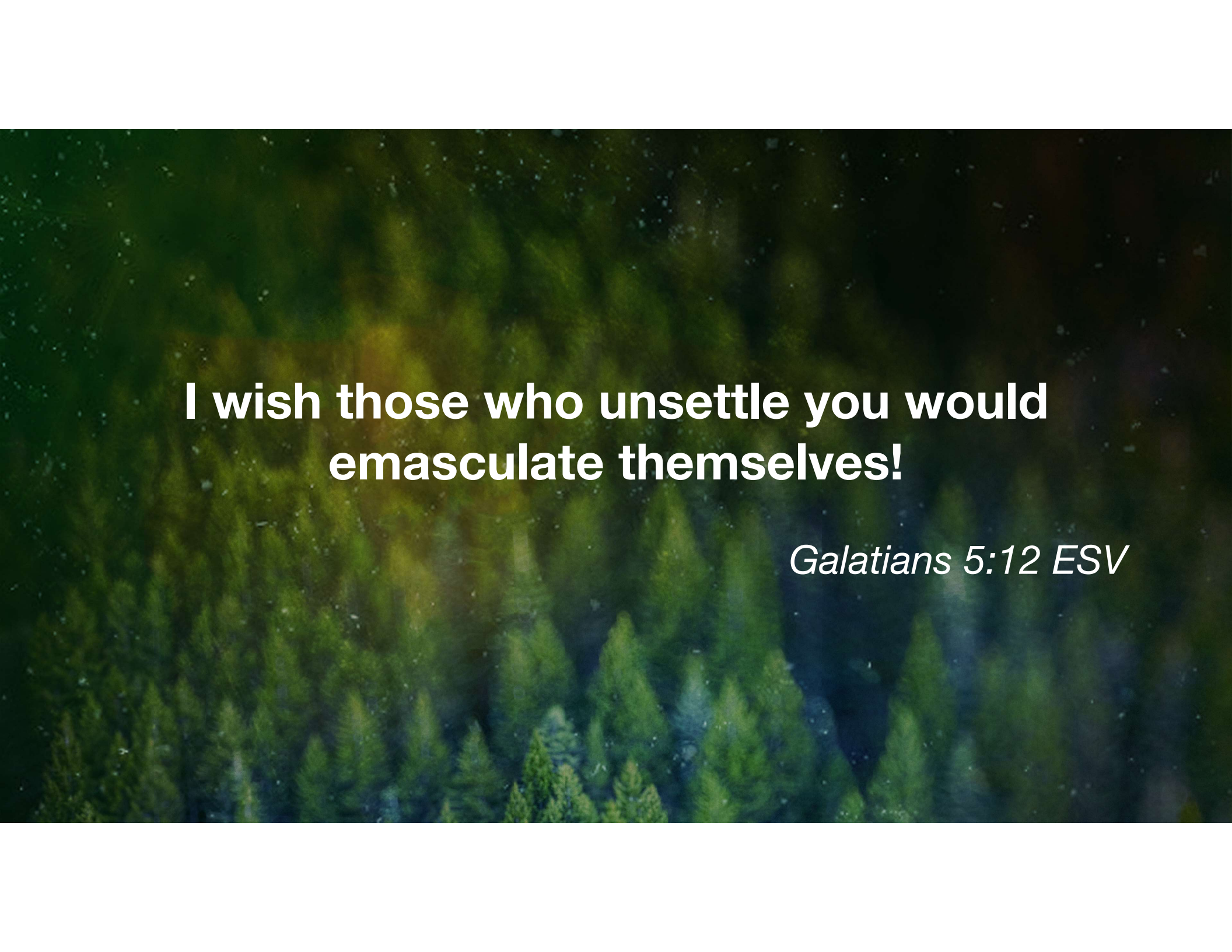


“We can’t dismiss the problem by insisting such prayers are found only in the Old Testament or that they reflect a sub-standard morality inappropriate to the New Testament Christian.”



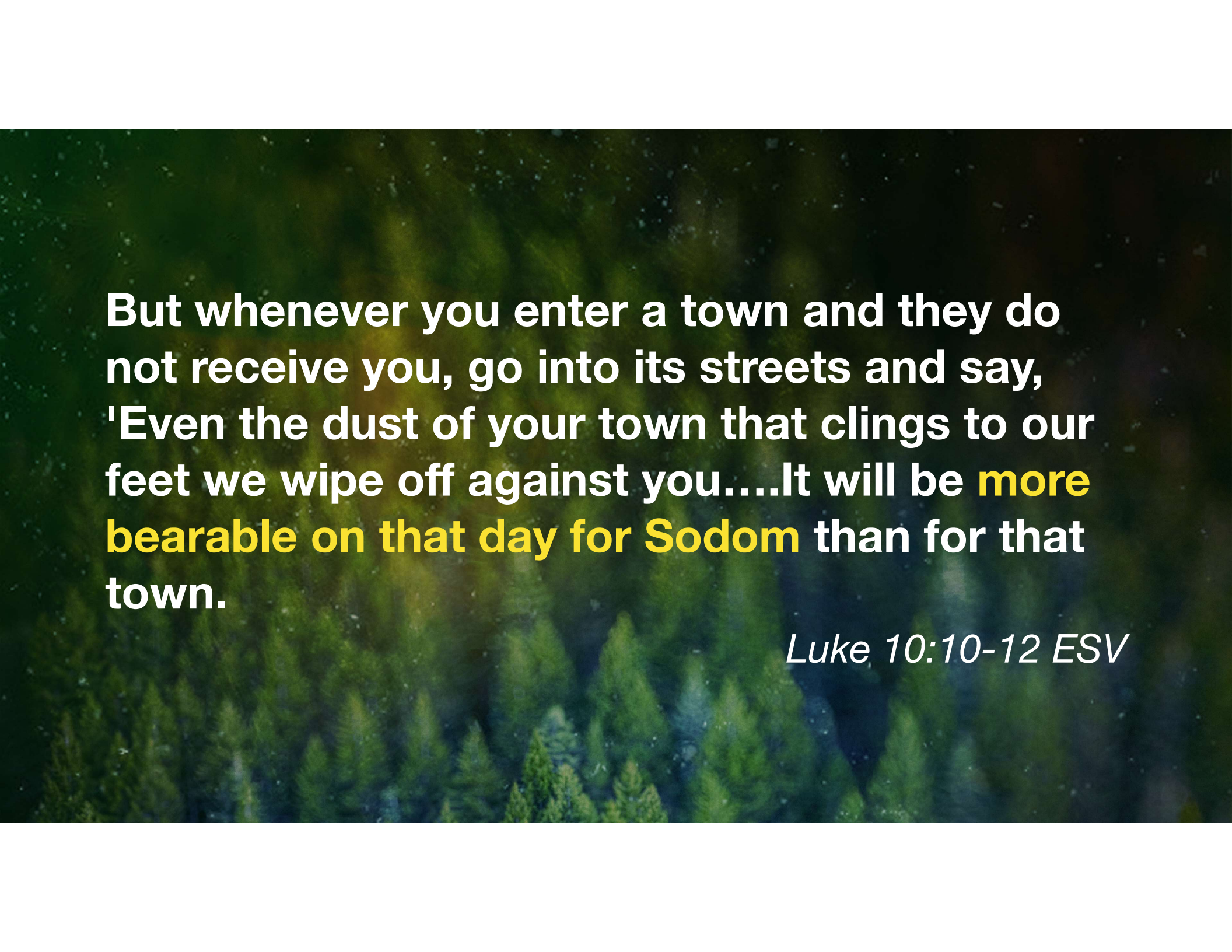
But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, **let him be accursed.**

Galatians 1:8 ESV



**I wish those who unsettle you would
emasculate themselves!**

Galatians 5:12 ESV



But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you....It will be **more bearable on that day for Sodom** than for that town.

Luke 10:10-12 ESV

7 Observations About Imprecatory Prayers

**Calculated Petitions not Spontaneous
Explosions**

Asking God to do what he has promised

Provoked by the Horror of Sin

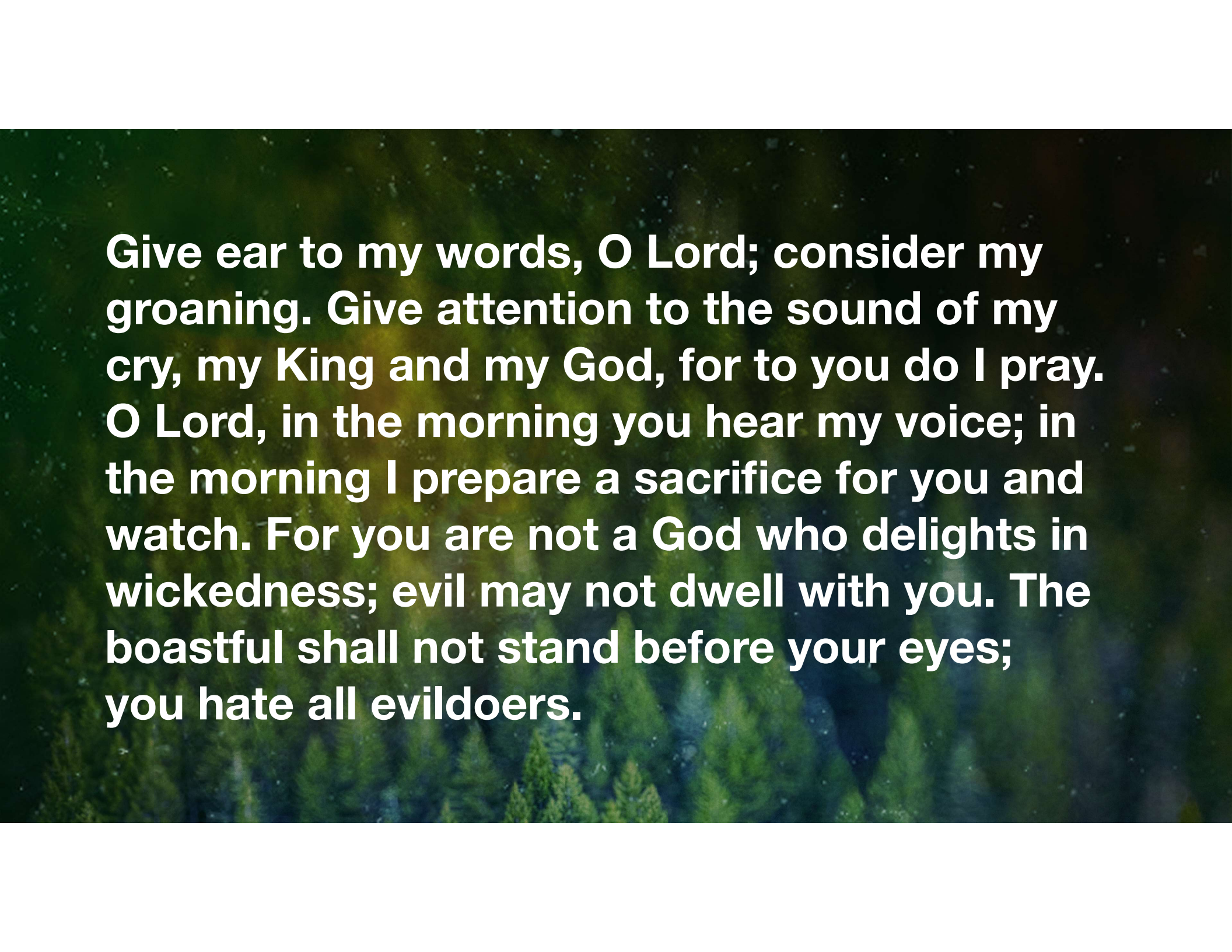
Zeal for God's Righteousness



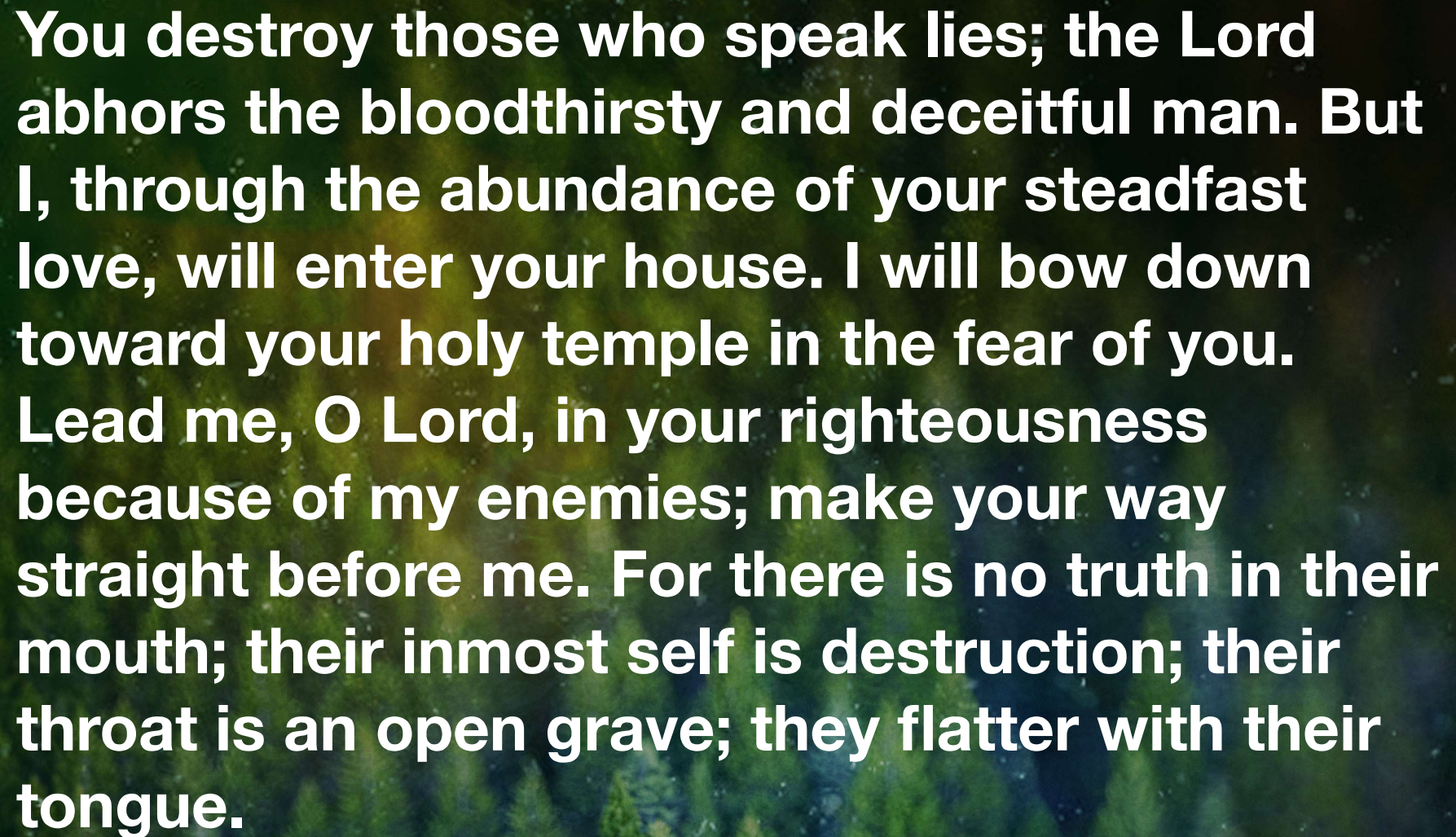
**Not primarily expressions of personal
vengeance**

Only after an extended call for Repentance

**Kept in Balance with an Evaluation
of Our Own Hearts**



Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my groaning. Give attention to the sound of my cry, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch. For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.



You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me. For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue.

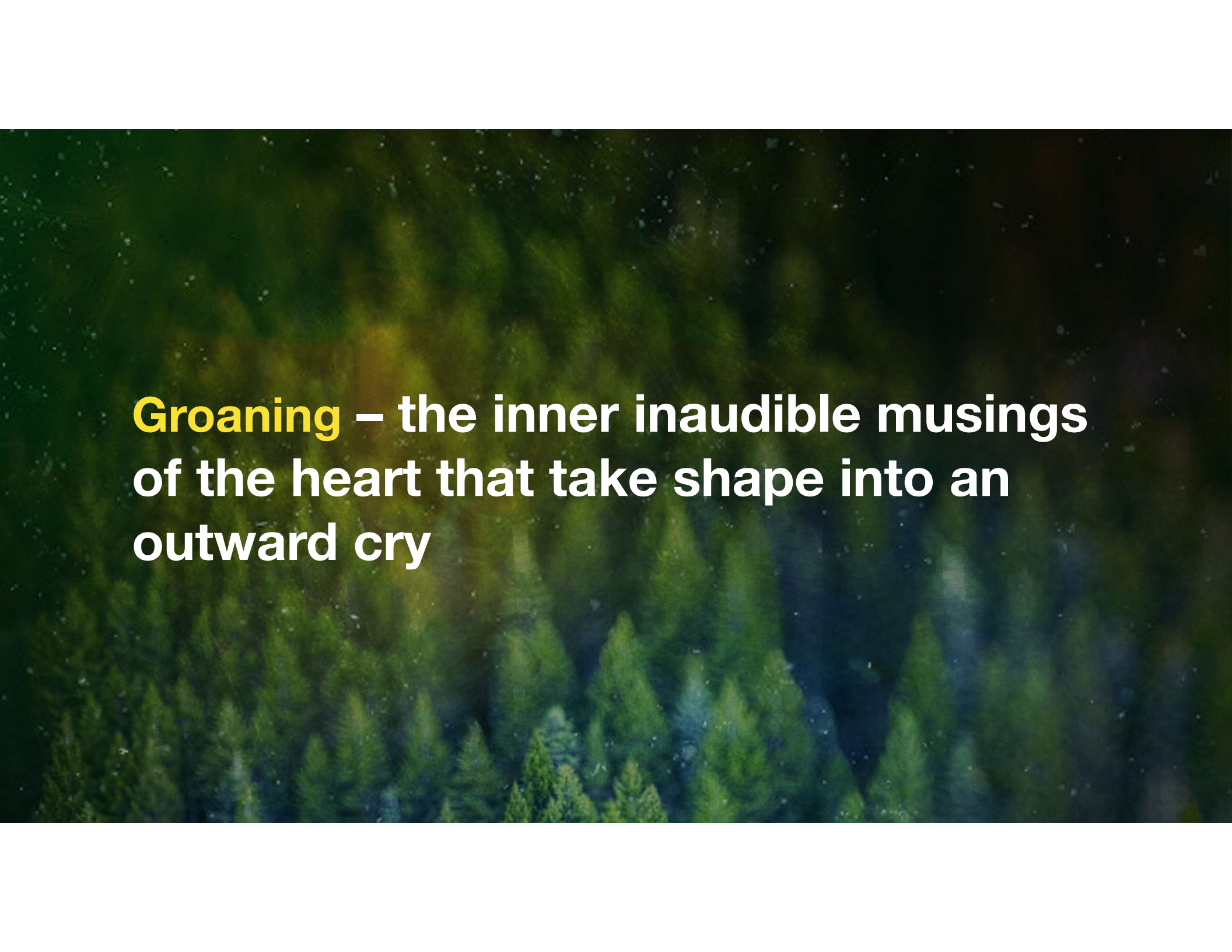
Make them bear their guilt, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; because of the abundance of their transgressions cast them out, for they have rebelled against you. But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 5:11-12 ESV

1. The Humble Pursuit of God

Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my **groaning**. Give attention to the sound of **my cry**, my King and my God, for to you do I pray. O Lord, in the morning **you hear my voice**; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch.

Psalm 5:1-3 ESV



Groaning – the inner inaudible musings
of the heart that take shape into an
outward cry

2. Declaration of God's Control

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; **you hate all evildoers**. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the **bloodthirsty and deceitful man**.

Psalm 5:4-6 ESV

3. The Request for Guidance

But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; **make your way straight before me.**

Psalm 5:7-8 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a warm, golden glow that contrasts with the dark, starry sky above. The perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the forest canopy.

...and lead me in the way everlasting!

Psalm 139:24 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a vibrant green glow. The sky above is dark and filled with numerous stars, suggesting a clear night sky. The overall scene is serene and majestic.

**“The art of being wise is the art of
knowing what to overlook.”**

William James

4. The Request for Divine Judgment

For there is no truth in their mouth; their inmost self is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue. Make them **bear their guilt**, O God; let them **fall by their own counsels**; because of the abundance of their transgressions **cast them out**, for they have rebelled against you.

Psalm 5:9-10 ESV

An aerial photograph of a dense evergreen forest at night. The trees are illuminated from below, creating a glowing effect against the dark sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars, suggesting a clear night. The overall scene is serene and majestic.


Whoever resists the authorities **resists what God has appointed**, and those who resist will incur judgment.

Roman 13:3 ESV

5. Declaration of Trust

But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy, and spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may exult in you. For you bless the righteous, O Lord; you cover him with favor as with a shield.

Psalm 5:11-12 ESV

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- **The Humble Pursuit of God**
 - **Declaration of God's Control**
 - **The Request for Guidance**
 - **The Request for Divine Judgment**
 - **Declaration of Trust in God**

1. You Were Once God's Enemy

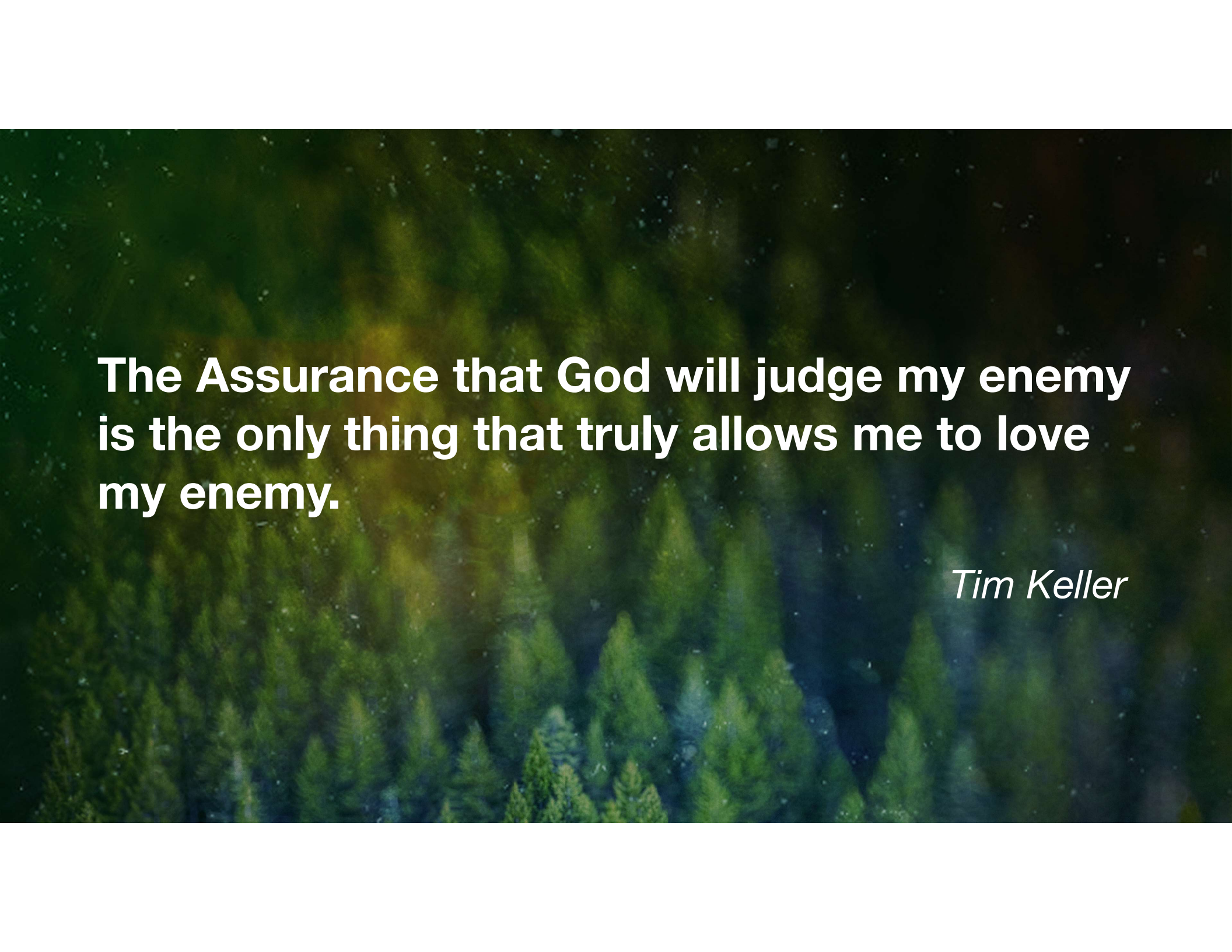
And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11 ESV

2. The Tension Between Love & Justice

But I say to you, **Love your enemies**
and pray for those who persecute you.

Matthew 5:44

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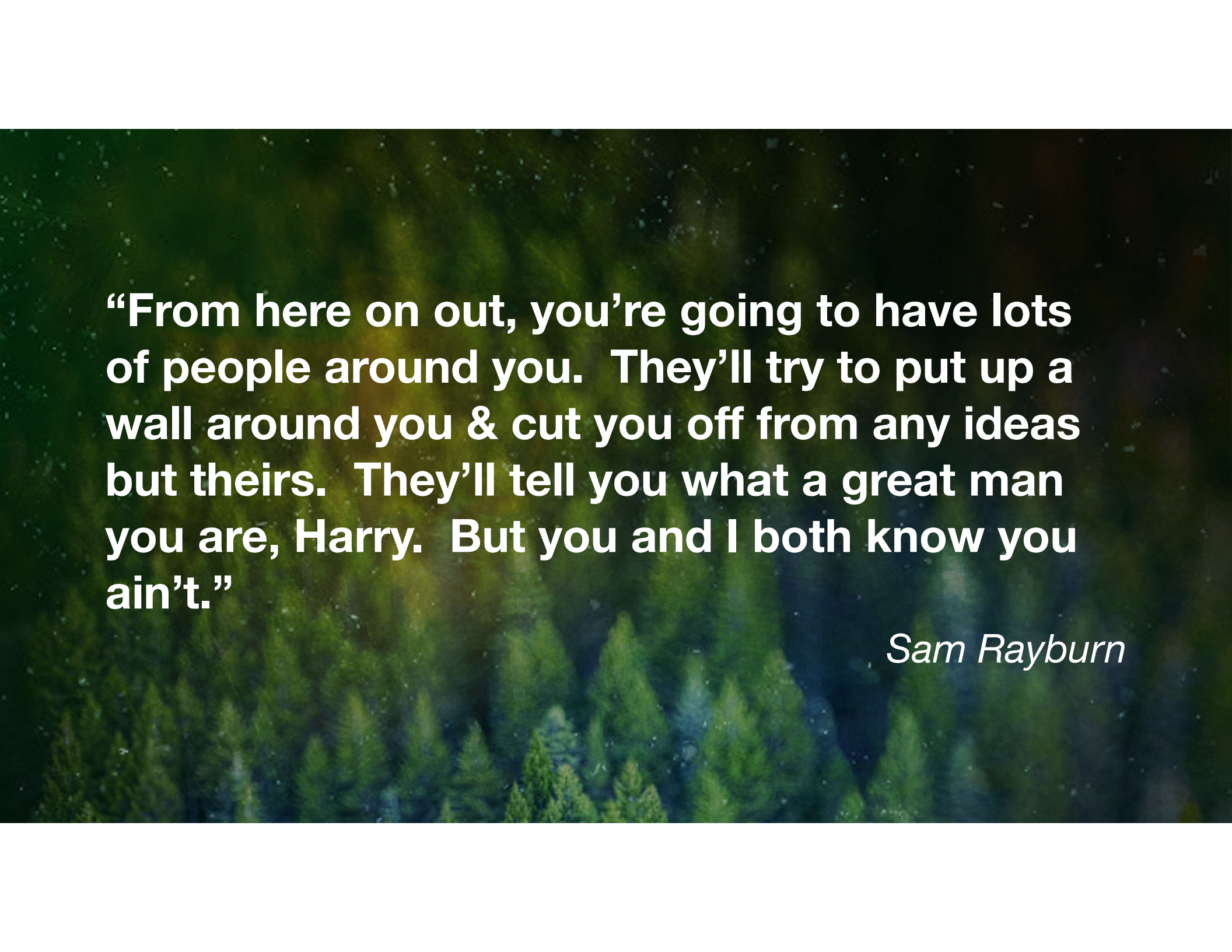
**The Assurance that God will judge my enemy
is the only thing that truly allows me to love
my enemy.**

Tim Keller

3. To Search Your Own Heart

Search me, O God, and **know my heart!** Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be **any grievous way in me...**

Psalm 139:23-24 ESV



“From here on out, you’re going to have lots of people around you. They’ll try to put up a wall around you & cut you off from any ideas but theirs. They’ll tell you what a great man you are, Harry. But you and I both know you ain’t.”

Sam Rayburn

4. To Trust God

**For you bless the righteous,
O Lord; you cover him with favor as
with a shield.**

Psalm 5:12 ESV