



# IN MY FATHER'S HOUSE 2

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**Why do we come to church?**



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The Bible has a different value system: the glory of God is the supreme value! In times of persecution, Christians willingly give their lives rather than deny their Lord. Why would the Lord call us to sacrifice our lives to defend his honour? Because God's glory is more important than man's life.

**Kevin Smith**

## 2 Corinthians 4:6

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

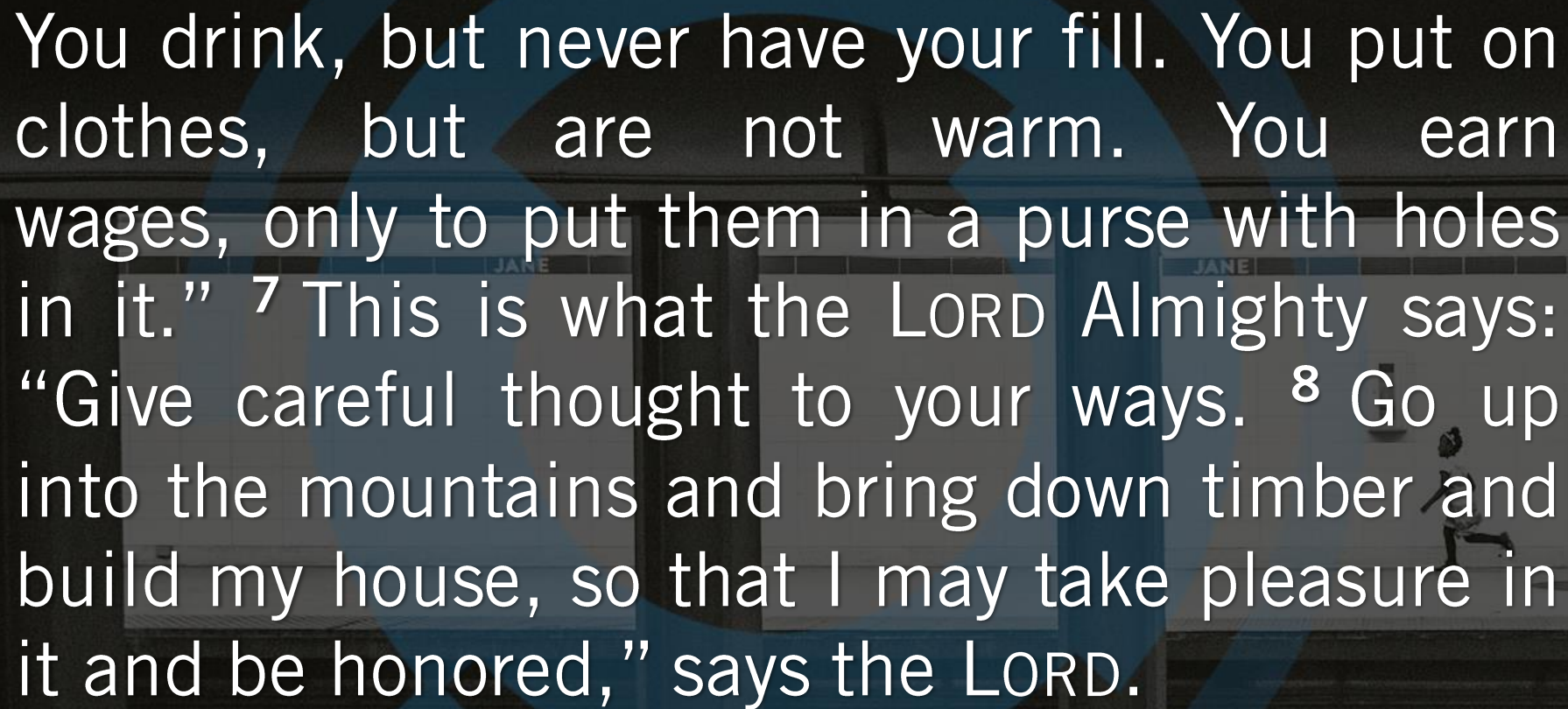


## Haggai 1 (NIV)

**1** In the second year of King Darius, on the first day of the sixth month, the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai to Zerubbabelson of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua son of Jozadak, the high priest: **2** This is what the LORD Almighty says: “These people say, ‘The time has not yet come to rebuild the LORD’s house.’”

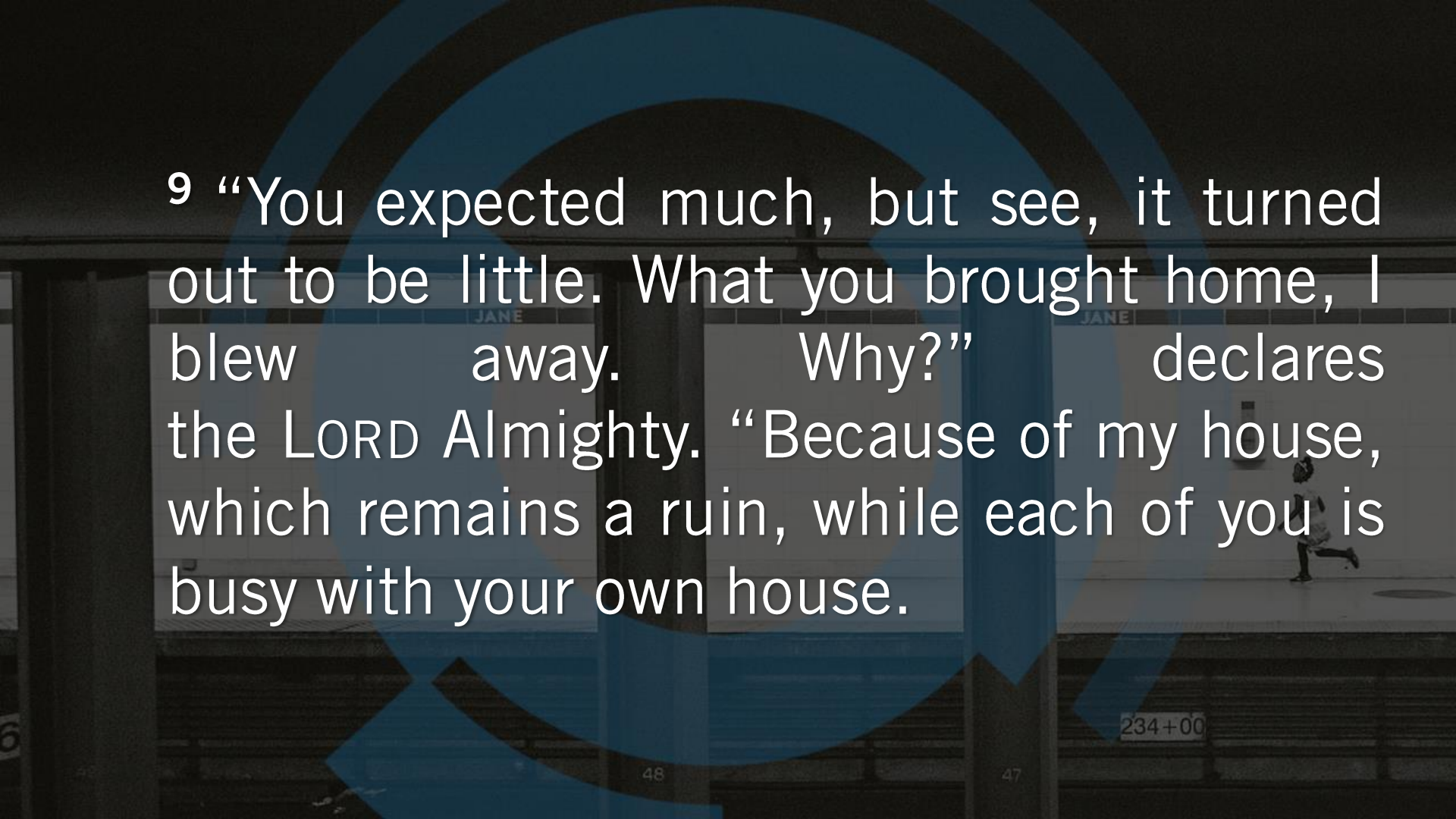
<sup>3</sup> Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: <sup>4</sup> “Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”

<sup>5</sup> Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>6</sup> You have planted much, but harvested little. You eat, but never have enough.



You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it.” <sup>7</sup> This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. <sup>8</sup> Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,” says the LORD.





9 “You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?” declares the LORD Almighty. “Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with your own house.”





Who's house am I building?



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## **Ephesians 5:21-33**

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything..

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.



He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— <sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body.<sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

<sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband

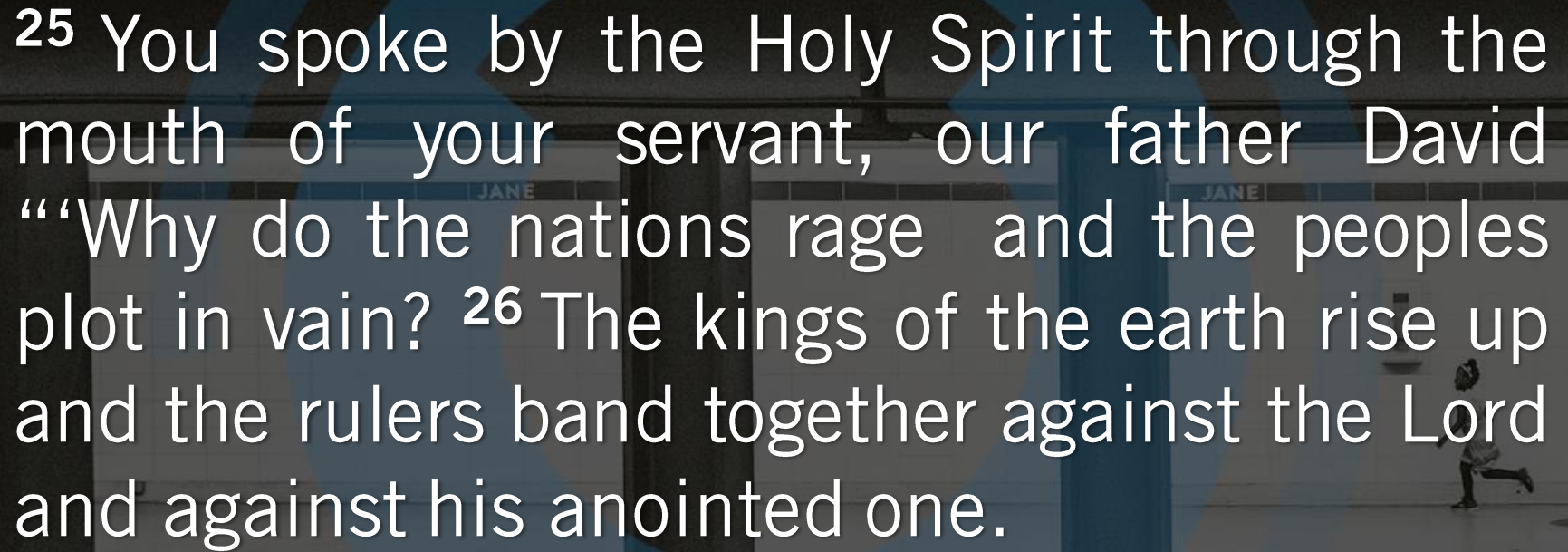


**How does the church look like if  
it is all about Jesus?**



## Acts 4:23-31

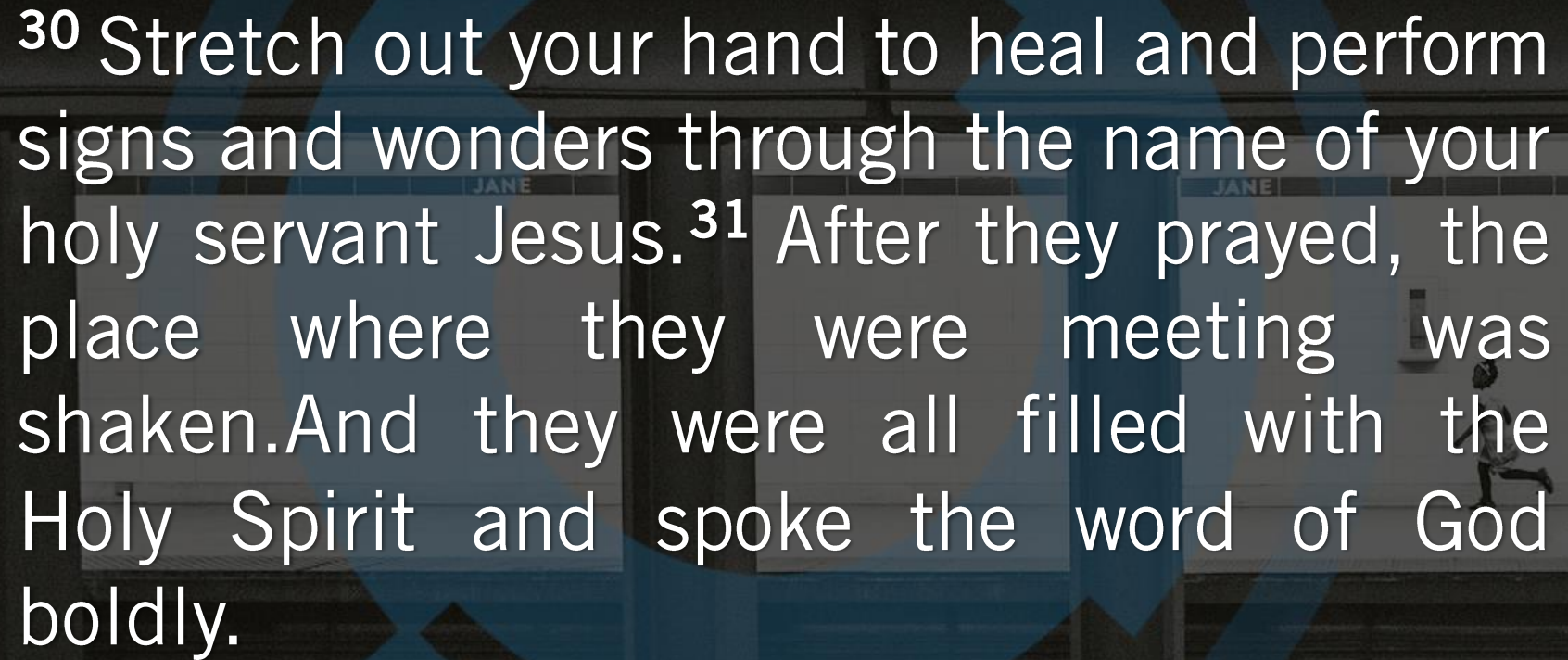
<sup>23</sup> On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them.<sup>24</sup> When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them.



<sup>25</sup> You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David  
““Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? <sup>26</sup> The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.

27 Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. 28 They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. 29 Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.





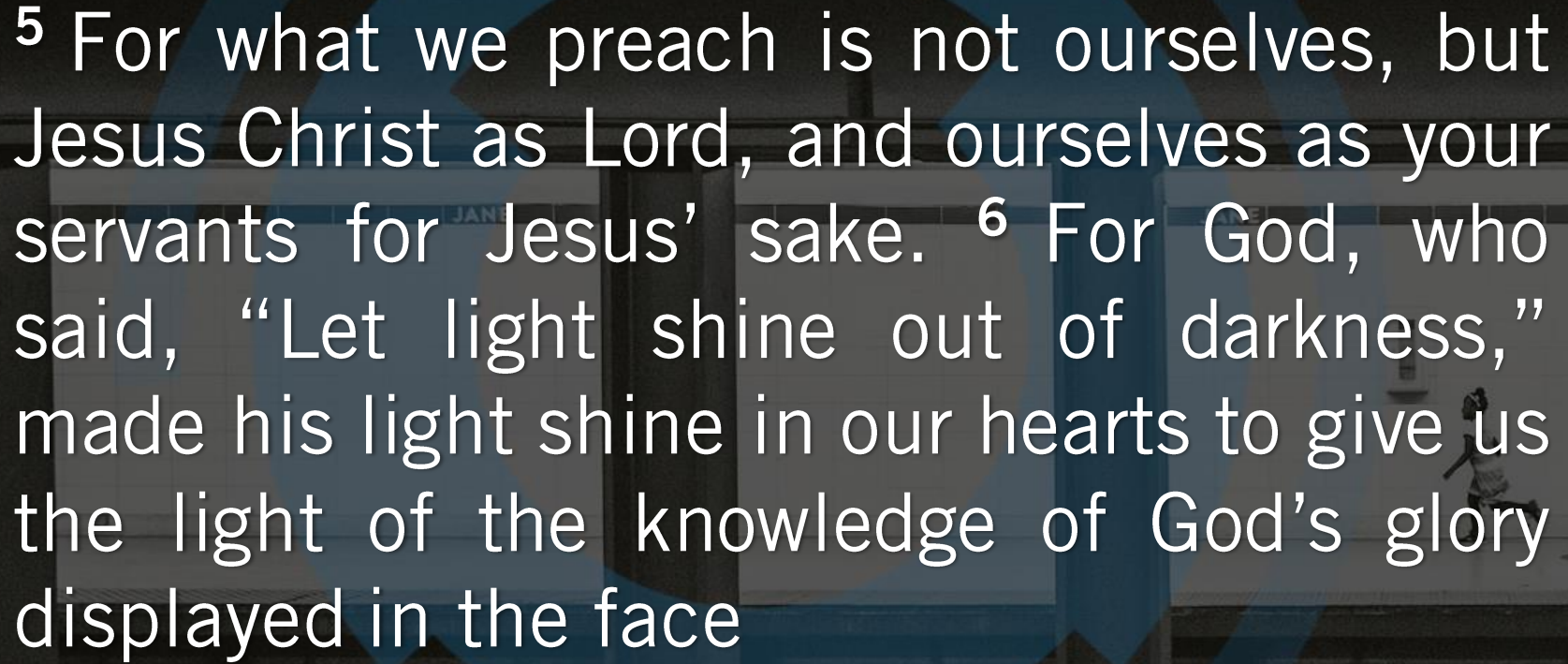
<sup>30</sup> Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.<sup>31</sup> After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

## 2 Corinthians 4 (NIV)

4 Therefore, since through God's mercy we have this ministry, we do not lose heart. <sup>2</sup> Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. of Christ.

On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. <sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.





<sup>5</sup> For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face

## Psalm 24

<sup>1</sup> The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,  
the world, and all who live in it;  
<sup>2</sup> for he founded it on the seas and  
established it on the waters <sup>3</sup> Who may  
ascend the mountain of the LORD? Who may  
stand in his holy place

<sup>4</sup> The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. <sup>5</sup> They will receive blessing from the LORD and vindication from God their Savior. <sup>6</sup> Such is the generation of those who seek him, who seek your face, God of Jacob <sup>7</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors that the King of glory may come in.



<sup>8</sup> Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle <sup>9</sup> Lift up your heads, you gates lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in <sup>10</sup> Who is he, this King of glory? The LORD Almighty—he is the King of glory.

# Suggested Small Group Questions :

1. What is the thing you love most about the Father's house (the church) and why?
2. Take a few minutes to read and meditate (think about it / read it again and again) on Haggai 1, write down what stands out for you and why. Discuss and share
3. Read Ephesians 5:21-33 and discuss the relation / connection / link between 'Jesus and the church' and marriage. How does this change your view on marriage?
4. How does Acts 4:23-31 direct us in being a church where it is all about Jesus?
5. Pray together in groups for the house of the Lord, bringing your own hearts before Him and lifting up the name of Jesus. Declaring Psalm 24