





Jesus on the way to Jerusalem

Part 7: Luke 15:1-32

L'Amable Bible Chapel
Dec. 14, 2025, I. Franck
lamablebiblechapel.com

Kingdoms in Conflict

Teaching what God
values

Humanity in and out of
Harmony



Jesus' Mission in
Jerusalem

A Theme of End Times

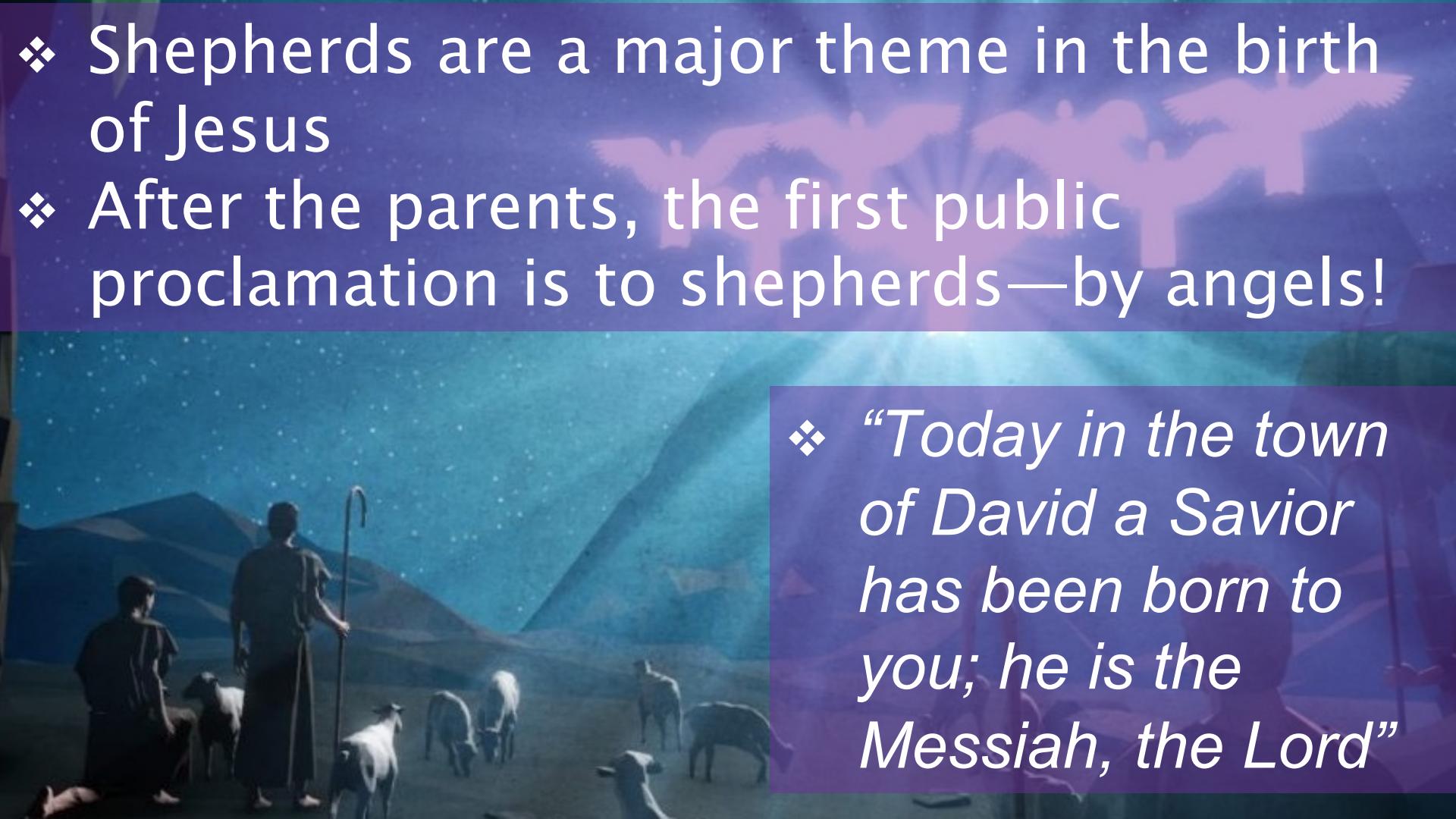


First, Shepherds in the Bible



*What do we remember about Shepherds
in the Christmas story and in Scripture?*

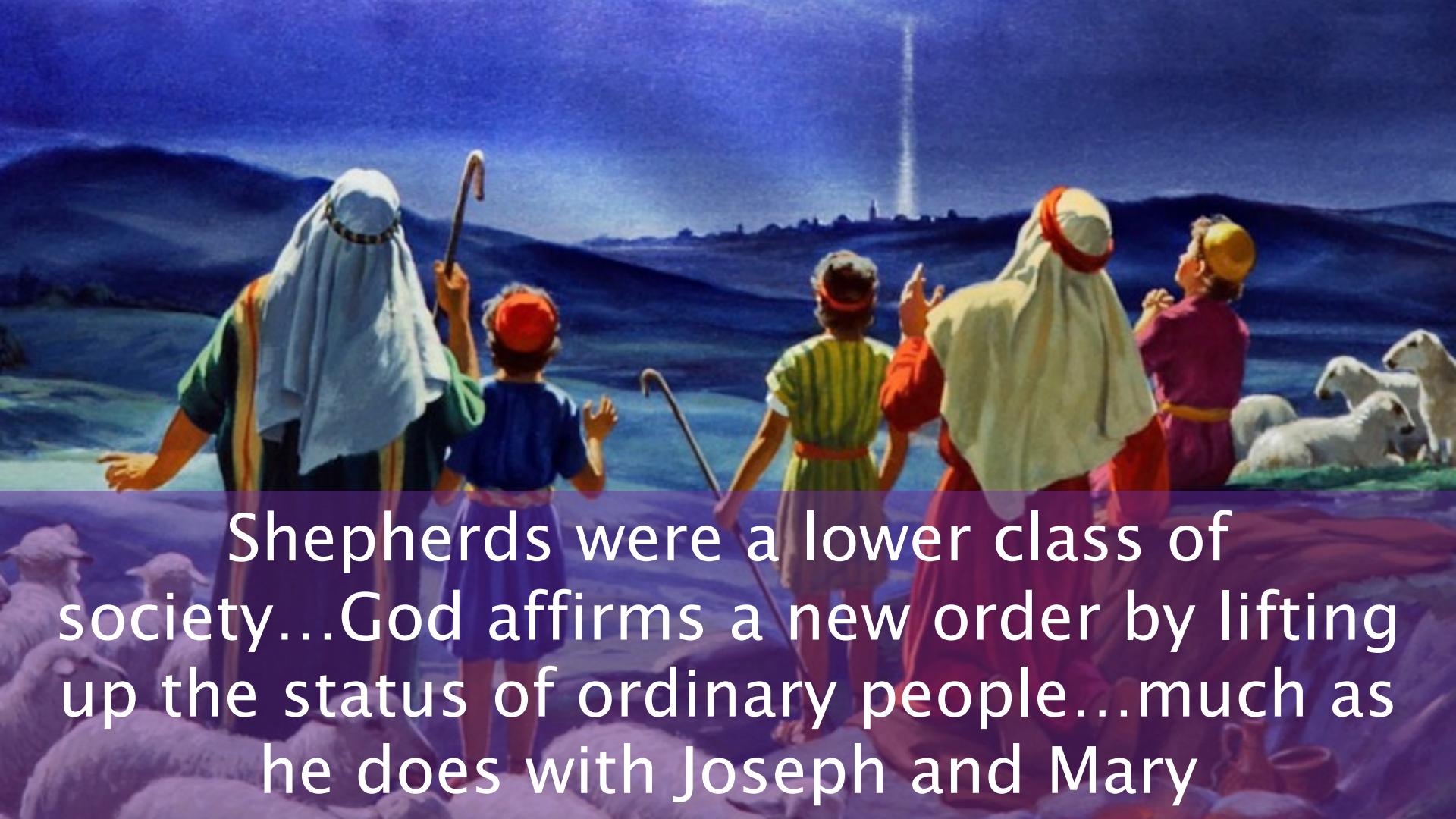
- ❖ Shepherds are a major theme in the birth of Jesus
- ❖ After the parents, the first public proclamation is to shepherds—by angels!



❖ *“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord”*

❖ The first angel is followed by a great number praising God—the shepherds go to Bethlehem to see what the angels have told them...





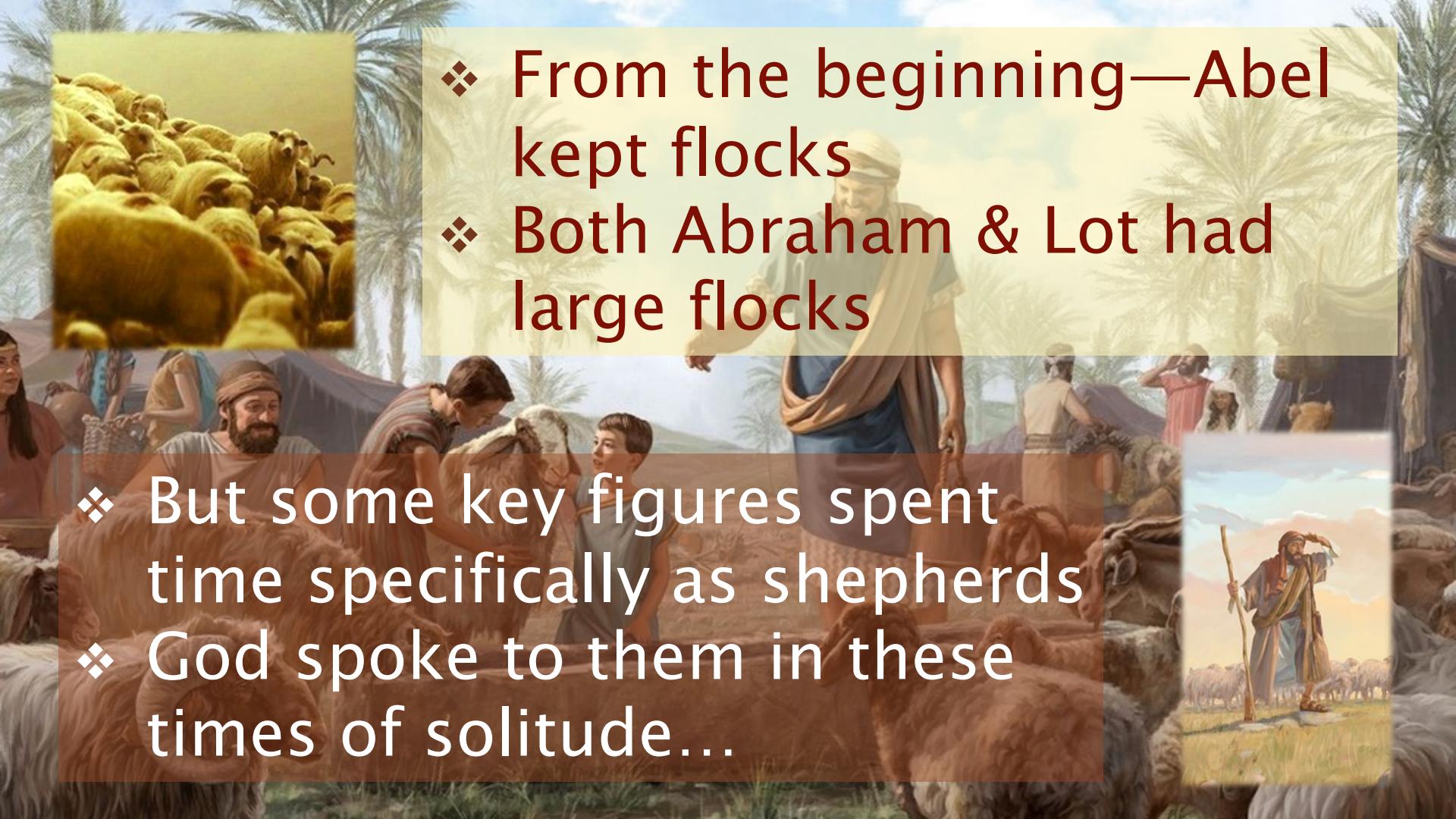
Shepherds were a lower class of society...God affirms a new order by lifting up the status of ordinary people...much as he does with Joseph and Mary



- ❖ Do we realize how many there are, and how prominent they were?

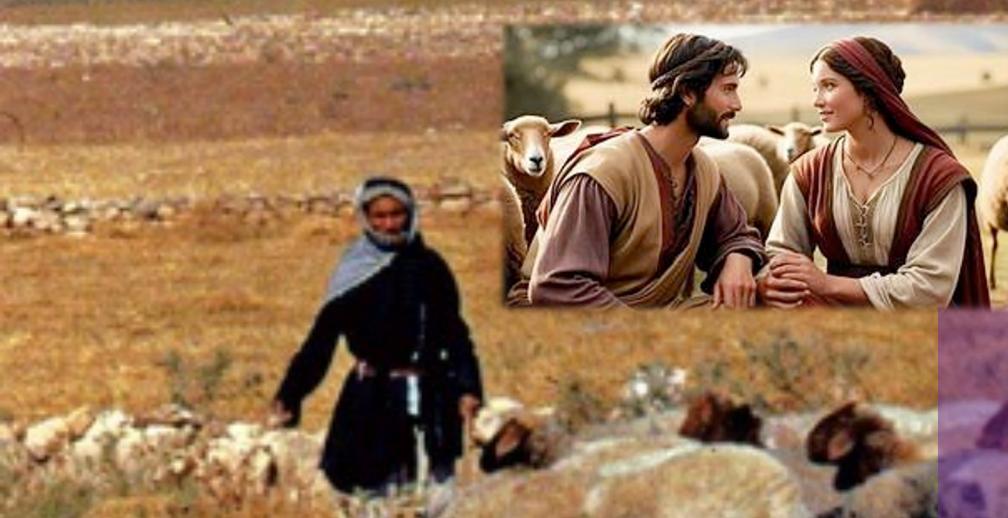
- ❖ What about other shepherds in the Scriptures?





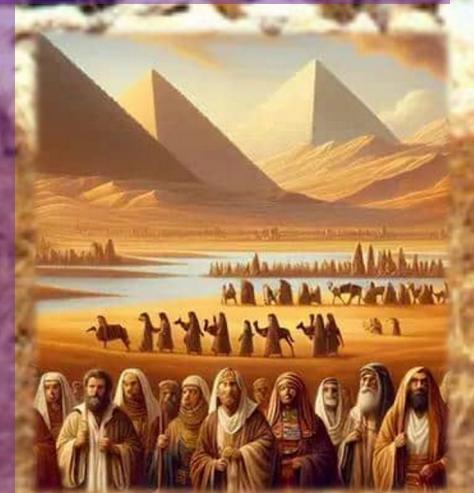
- ❖ From the beginning—Abel kept flocks
- ❖ Both Abraham & Lot had large flocks

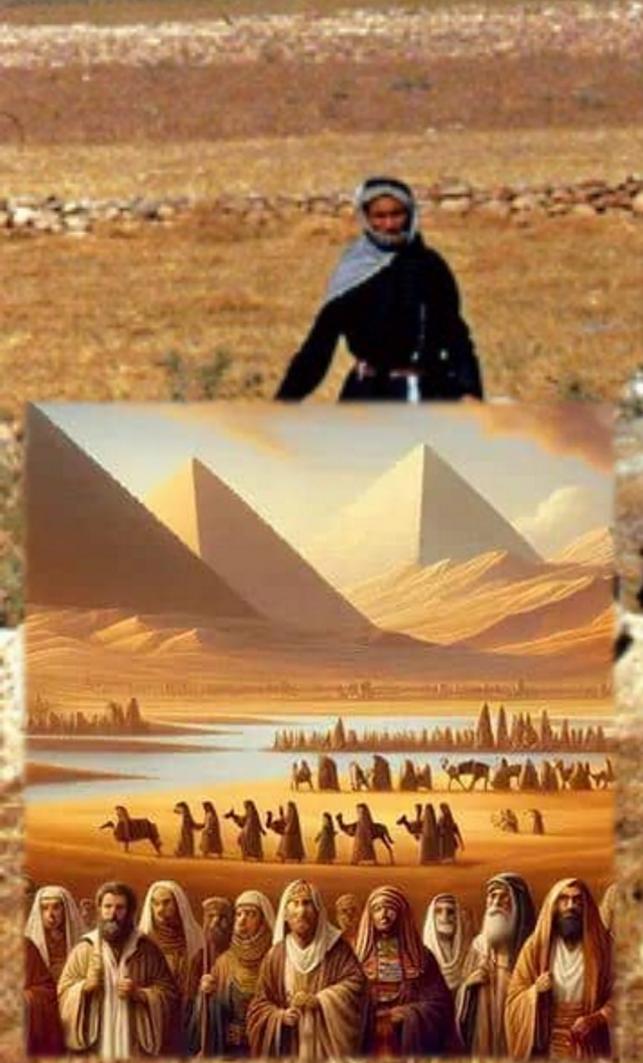
- ❖ But some key figures spent time specifically as shepherds
- ❖ God spoke to them in these times of solitude...



In Gen. 29, Jacob watered Rachel's sheep, and became a shepherd for uncle Laban

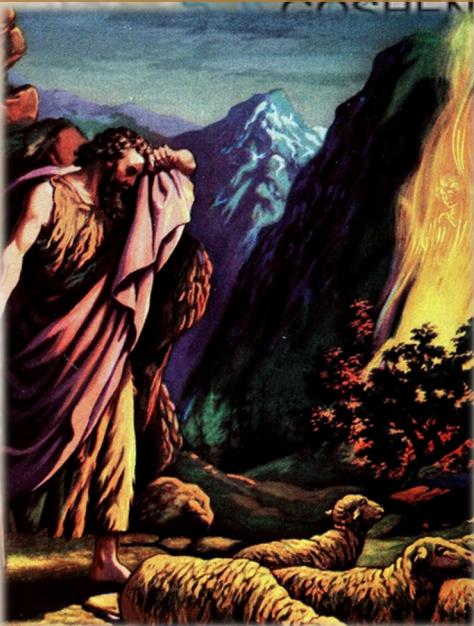
- ❖ Jacob's whole family was born while he was a shepherd...
- ❖ The children of Israel settled in Goshen, Egypt, as lower-class shepherds: Gen. 46:34



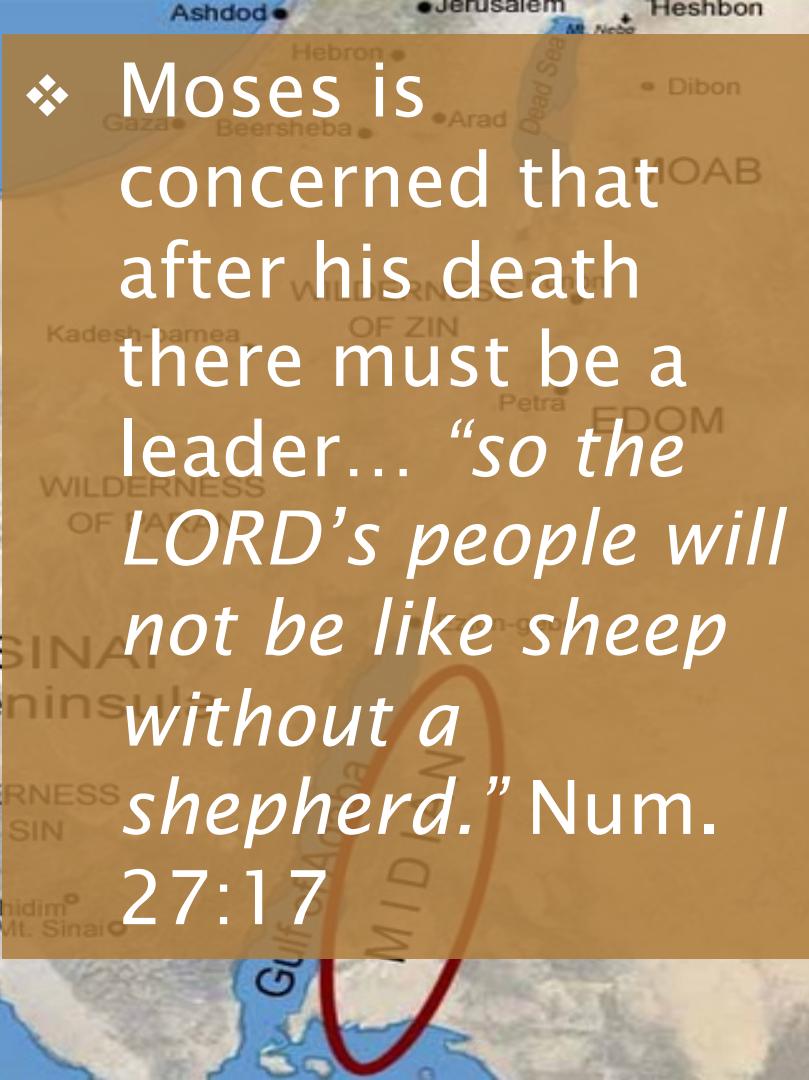


33 When Pharaoh calls you in and asks, ‘What is your occupation?’ 34 you should answer, ‘Your servants have tended livestock from our boyhood on, just as our fathers did.’ Then you will be allowed to settle in the region of Goshen, for all shepherds are detestable to the Egyptians.” Gen. 46:34

- ❖ Moses is a shepherd in Midian when God speaks to him from the burning bush Ex. 3



- ❖ Moses is concerned that after his death there must be a leader... *“so the LORD’s people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.”* Num. 27:17



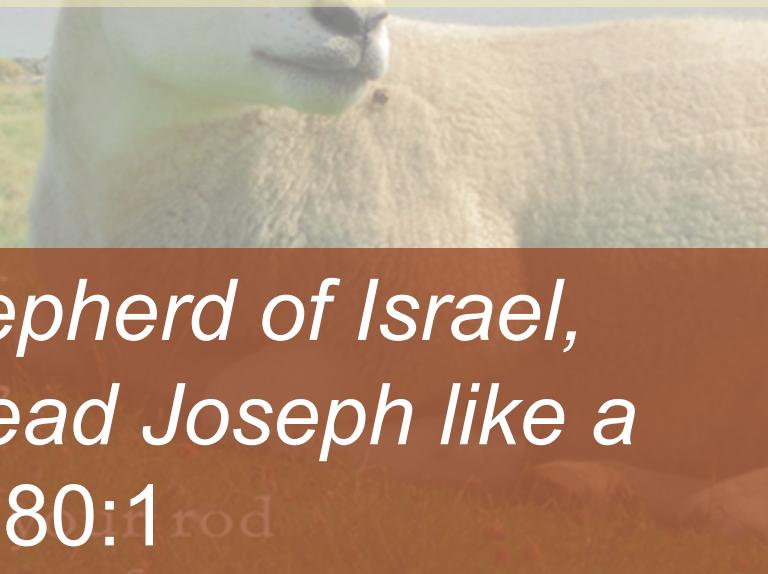
- ❖ The very next time the word shepherd occurs in the Bible is with David in 1 Sam. 17



- ❖ The people recognize David as King and say, “*the LORD said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’*”



- ❖ The 23rd Psalm is rich in imagery of shepherding
- ❖ Other Psalms highlight God's care...



❖ *Hear us, Shepherd of Israel,
you who lead Joseph like a
flock. Psalm 80:1*



“He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.”
Micah 5:4

- ❖ Both Major and Minor Prophets speak often about shepherds...
- ❖ Sometimes the shepherds of Israel are careless, but God is always a good Shepherd...

- ❖ In the New Testament Jesus is presented as the Good Shepherd...

“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—¹⁵ just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.” John 10

And in the last book...

*“For the Lamb at the center of the throne
will be their shepherd;
‘he will lead them to springs of living water.’
‘And God will wipe away every tear from
their eyes’.” Revelation 7:17*

Today:
“*The
Shepherd
who
searches*”



- Luke 15 follows Jesus' challenges to both the rich and the poor...
- But if Luke 14 highlighted how hard it was to be a disciple, Luke 15 shows how much God is searching for the lost...





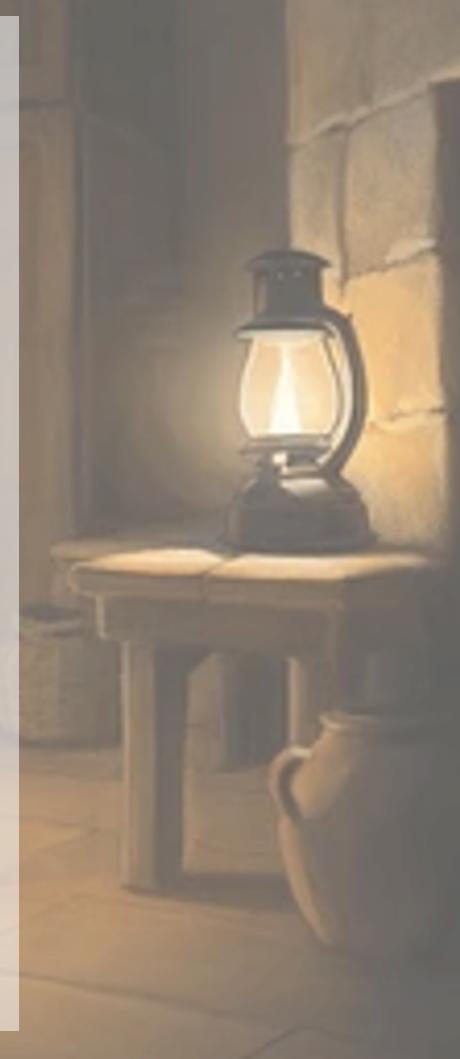
Three pictures in Luke 15...

15 ¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, *“This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”



1. A Sliding Scale of Value...

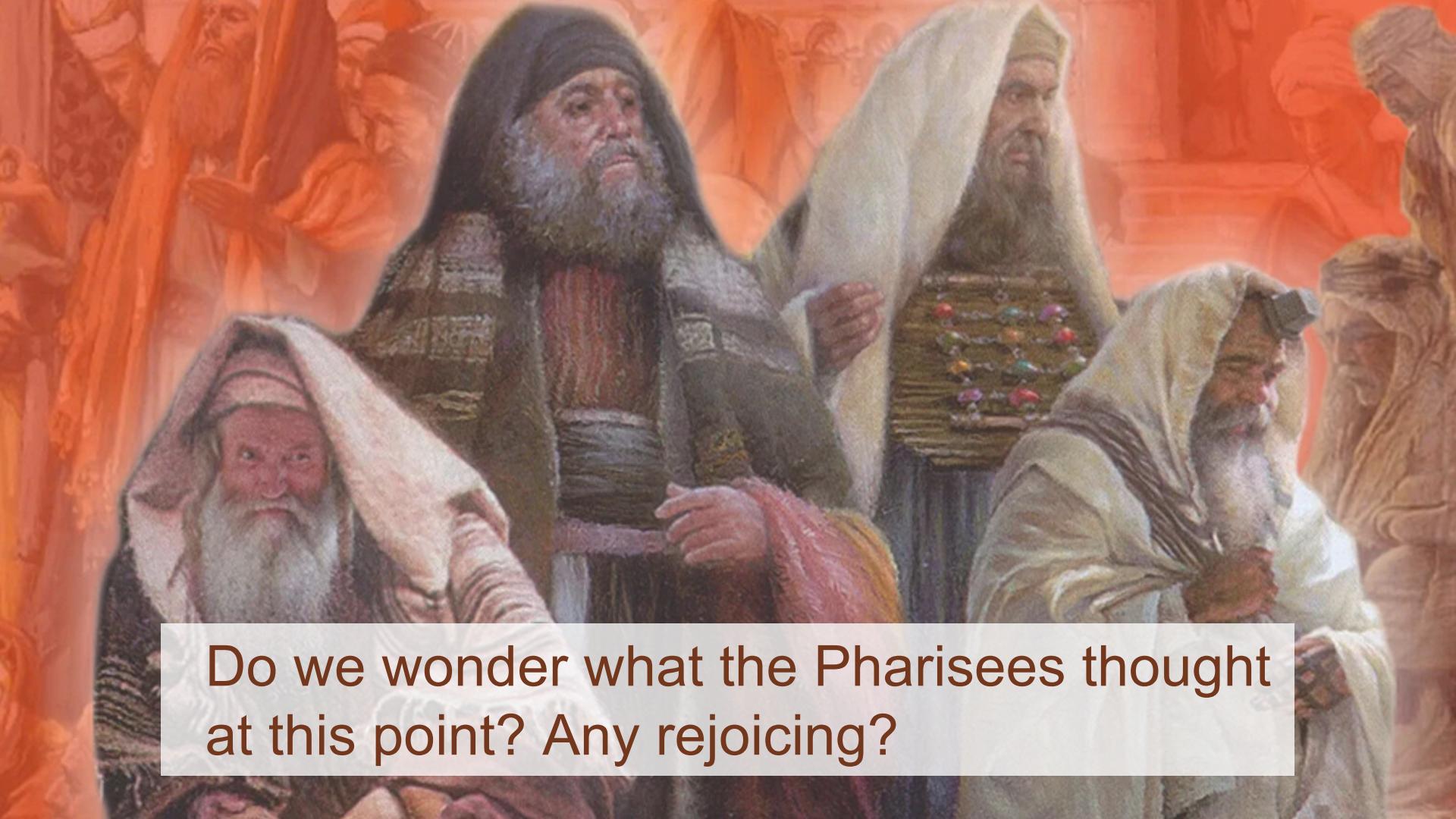
- a. The passage begins with the least valuable, as the Pharisees despise 'sinners'...
- b. Jesus then speaks of the loss of 1 of 100 sheep...
- c. He moves on to 1 in 10 coins...
- d. He will then speak of 1 lost boy of 2 brothers...
- e. What is the solution? *To search...*



2. An Overwhelming Rejoicing...

- a. In all cases, the friends and neighbours are called to rejoice in the lost being found. The angels join in!
- b. Jesus shares the outlook of heaven: *“7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”* Is that our outlook?

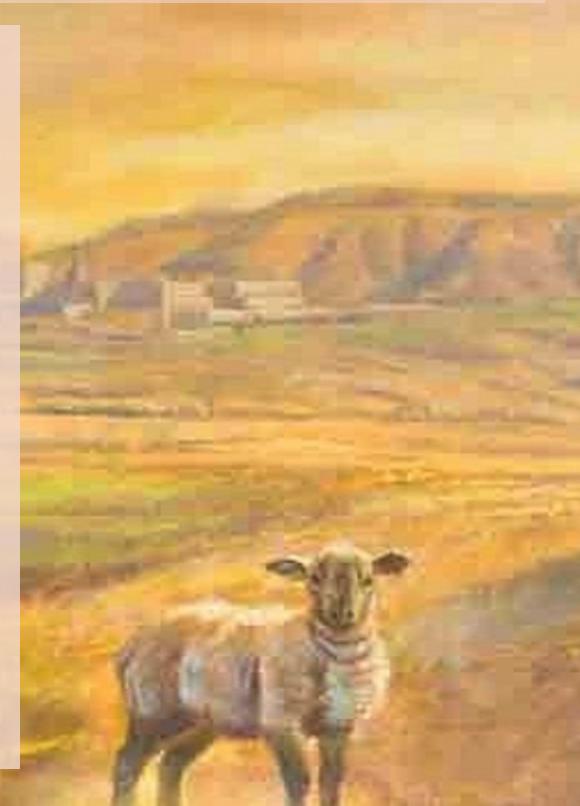




Do we wonder what the Pharisees thought at this point? Any rejoicing?

Is this also something his close disciples were taking to heart?

24 “He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; “by his wounds you have been healed.” 25 For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2)

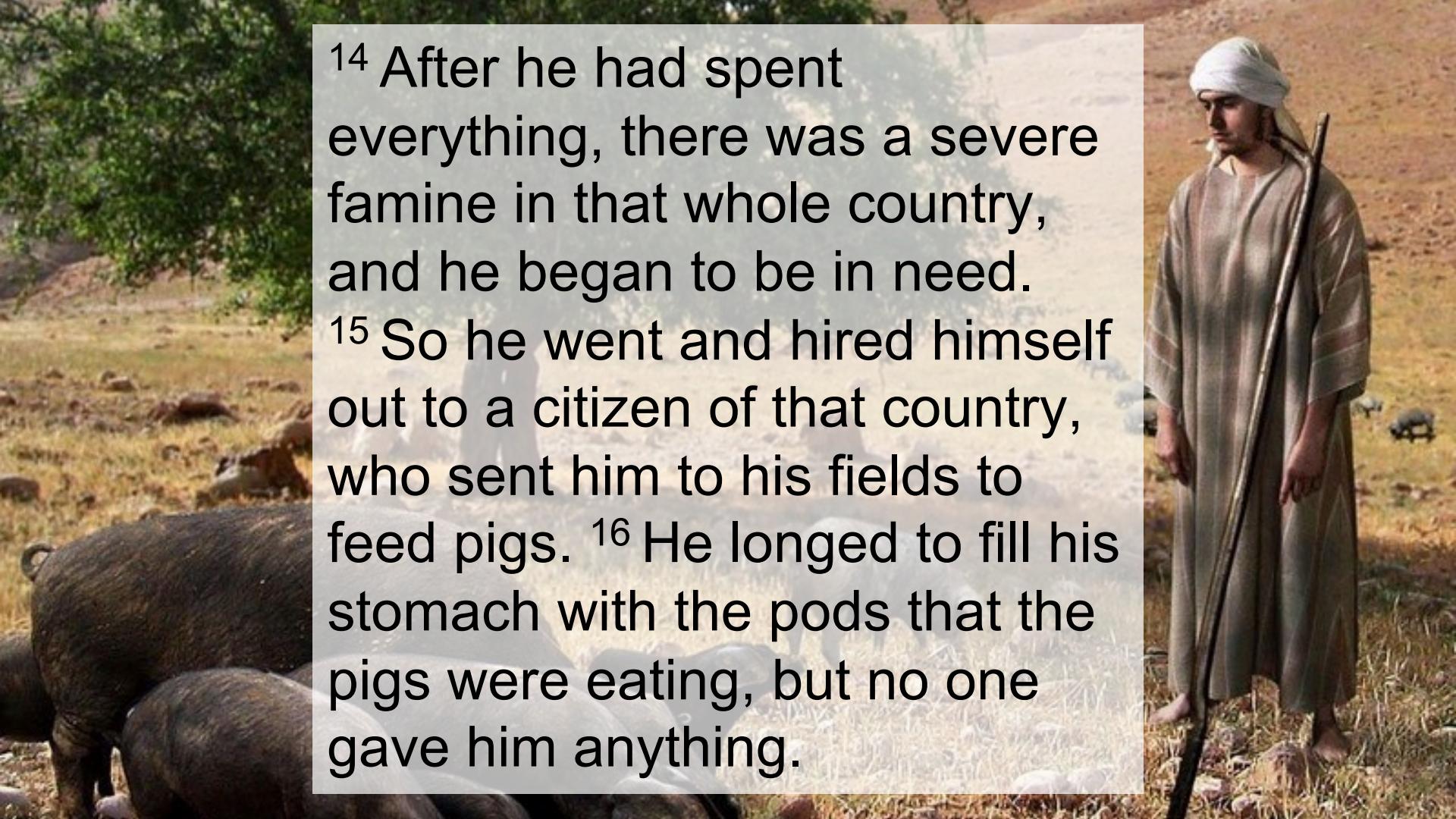


The Parable of the Lost Son

¹¹ Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

¹³ “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living.





14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

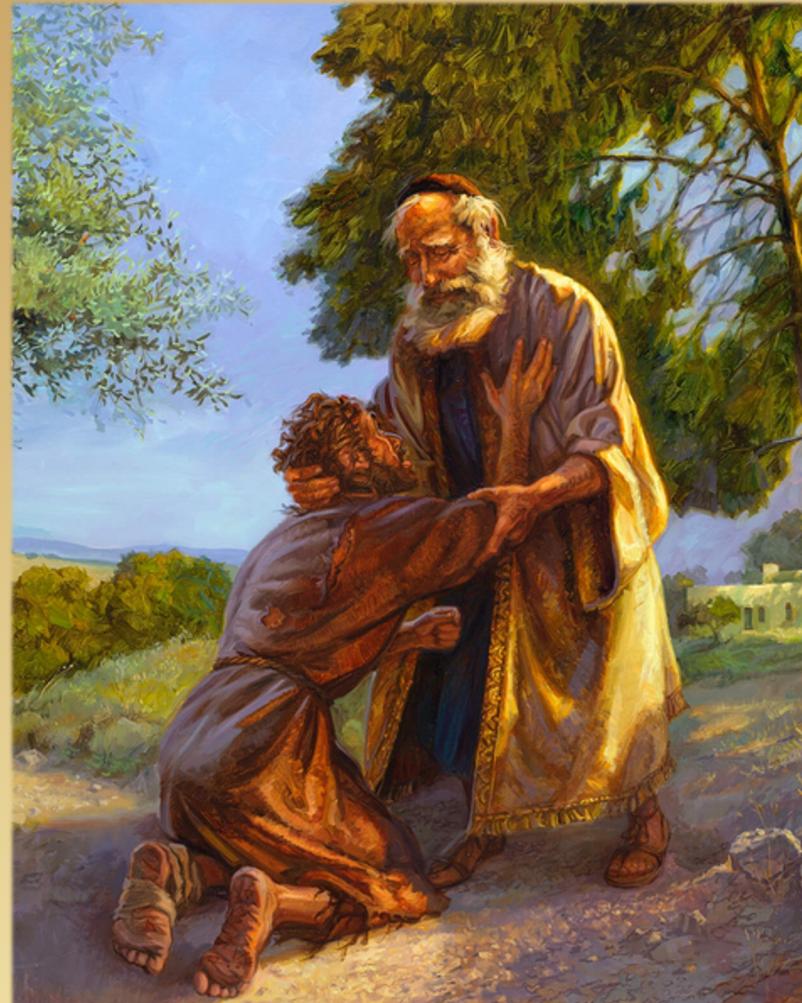


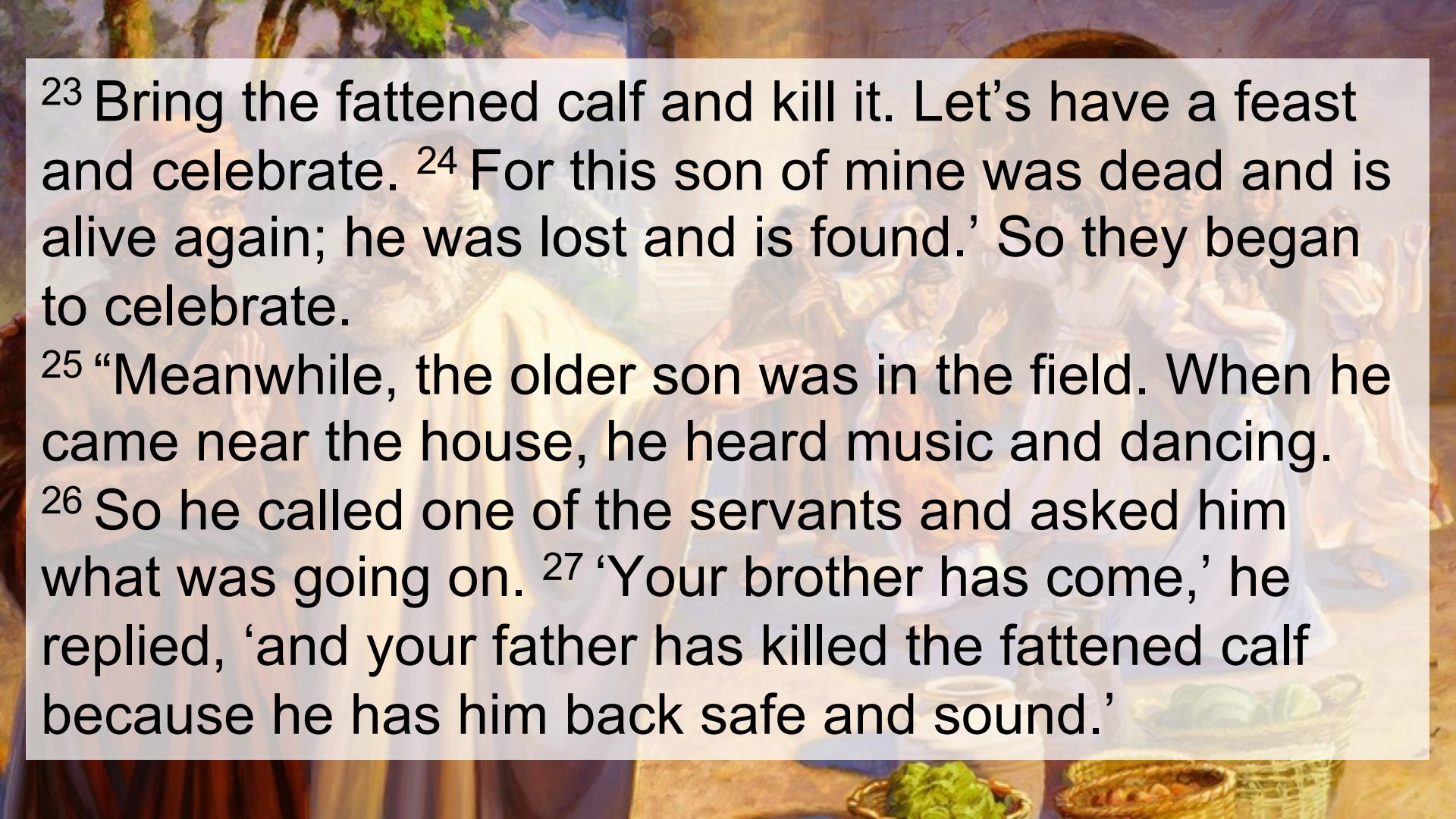
17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

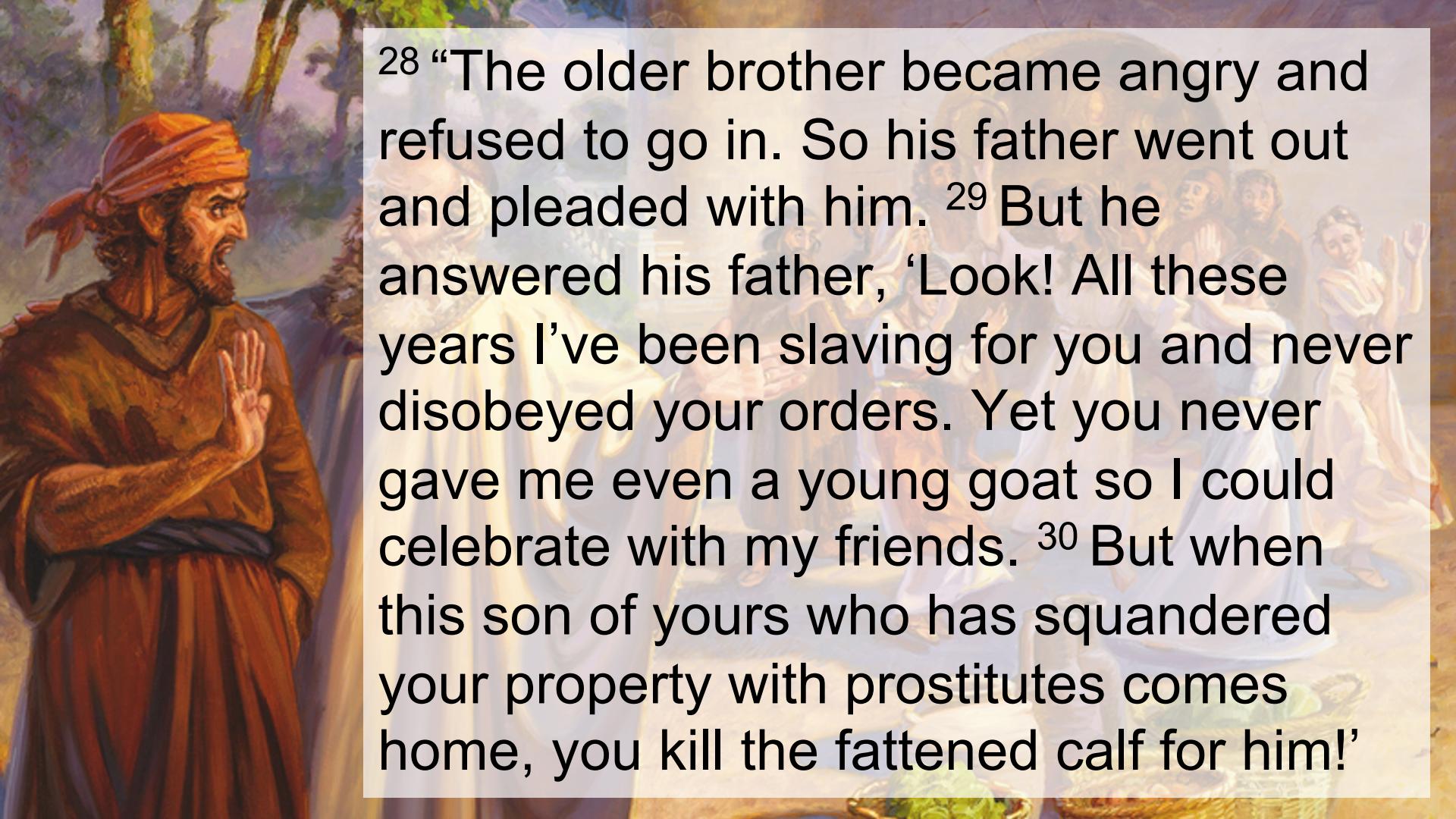


A painting depicting a joyful scene of celebration. In the foreground, a table is set with various food items, including a basket of bread and a bowl of fruit. Several people are gathered around the table, some sitting and some standing, all appearing to be in high spirits. In the background, more people are dancing in a circle, their hands raised in celebration. The overall atmosphere is one of joy and festivity.

²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.

²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.'



28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

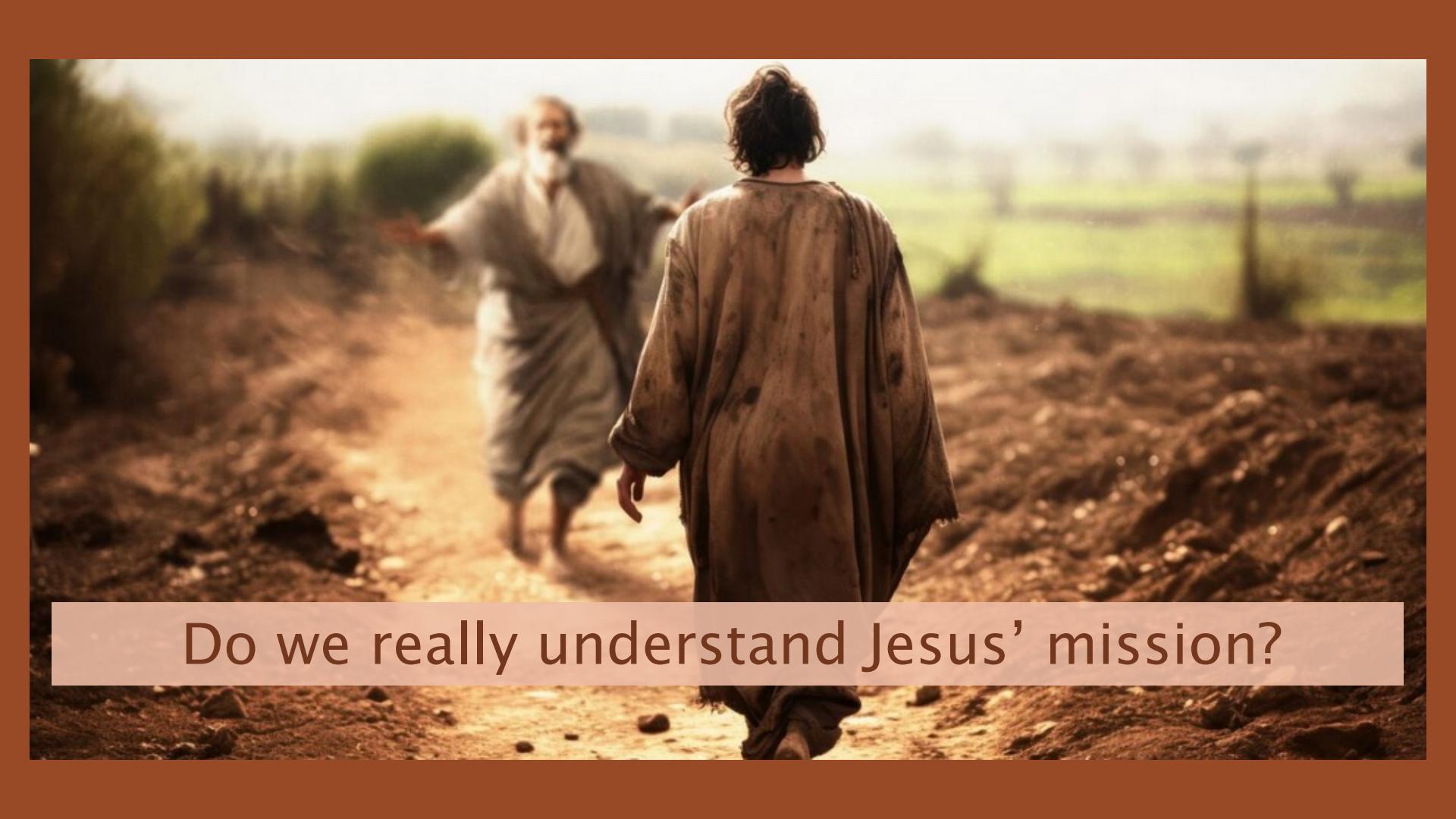


31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”



3. What is Redemption?

- a. For the father to lose one of his two sons is a far greater loss than the sheep or coins
- b. The wayward son does not regain his inheritance and will always feel some shame—the father knows this.
- c. Relationship is restored. Sensibility is renewed. Eternal loss is averted. Angels are rejoicing!
- d. Who does the older son represent?



Do we really understand Jesus' mission?

Conclusions

- ❖ We likely all see the value of finding the lost sheep and lost coin but may have some trouble with the wayward son
- ❖ Yet, to Jesus, we are all like the wayward son... Do we hear the angels rejoicing over us?
- ❖ Let's never be discouraged from seeking the lost... this is why Jesus came

*“...we had to
celebrate and be
glad, because
this brother of
yours was dead
and is alive
again; he was
lost and is
found.” Luke
15:32*



Now we have a special postscript...

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