

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer next to a large wooden cross on a beach at sunset. The person is positioned in the lower center, facing away from the viewer towards the ocean. The cross is a simple wooden structure on the left side of the frame. The background shows waves crashing on the shore under a bright, low sun, creating a golden glow. The sky is a deep blue. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image, containing the text.


# 1. Reform – Spiritual Health

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large cross in the background. The scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the height of the cross and the person's devotion. The sky is a mix of deep blue and bright yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. The ocean waves are visible in the background, adding to the serene and contemplative atmosphere.

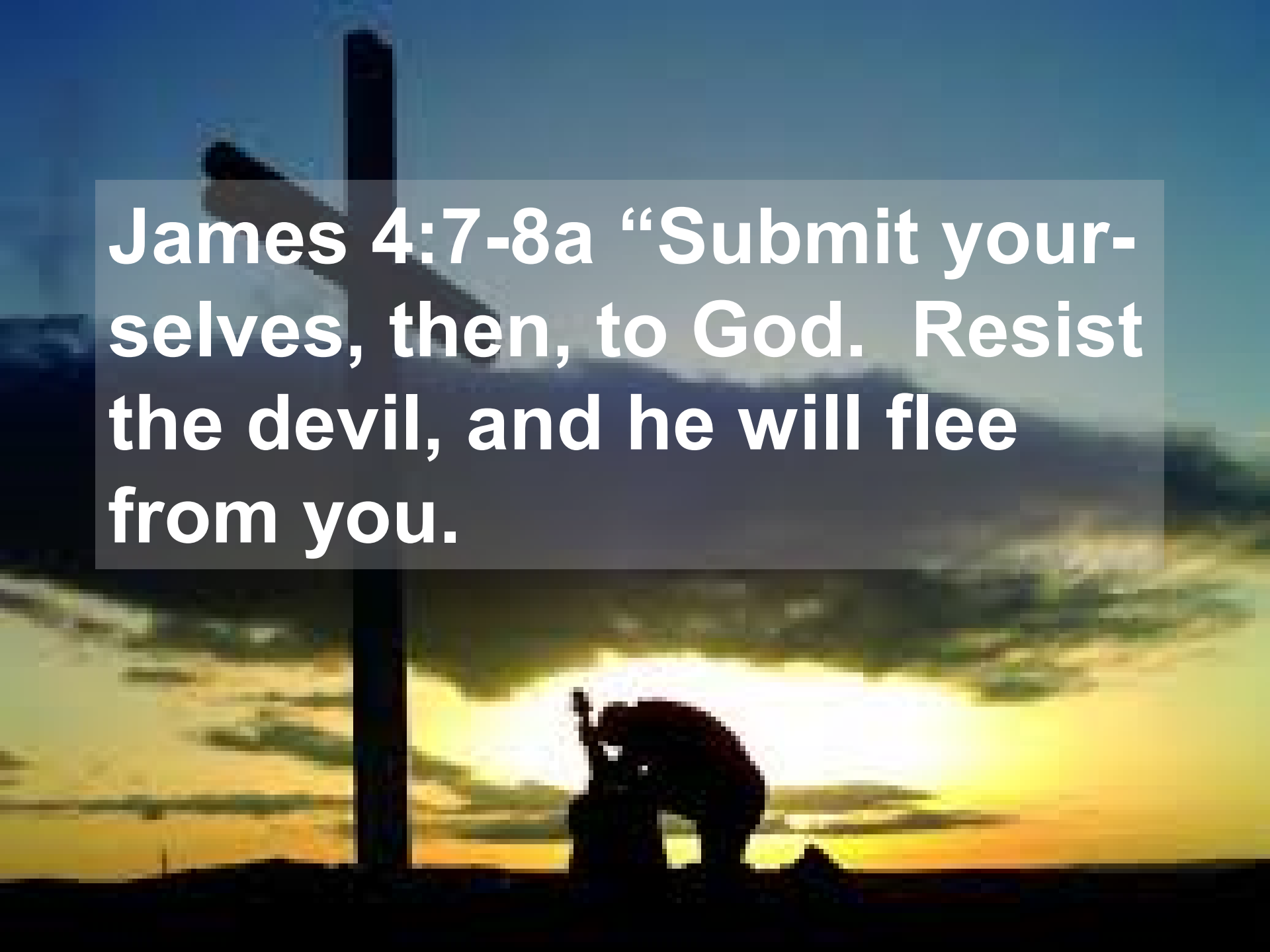
# “How to Get Closer to God”

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer next to a large wooden cross on a beach at sunset. The person is positioned in the lower center, facing away from the viewer towards the ocean. The cross is a simple wooden structure on the left side of the frame. The background shows waves crashing on the shore under a bright, low sun, creating a golden glow. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

# Introduction:

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half of the image.

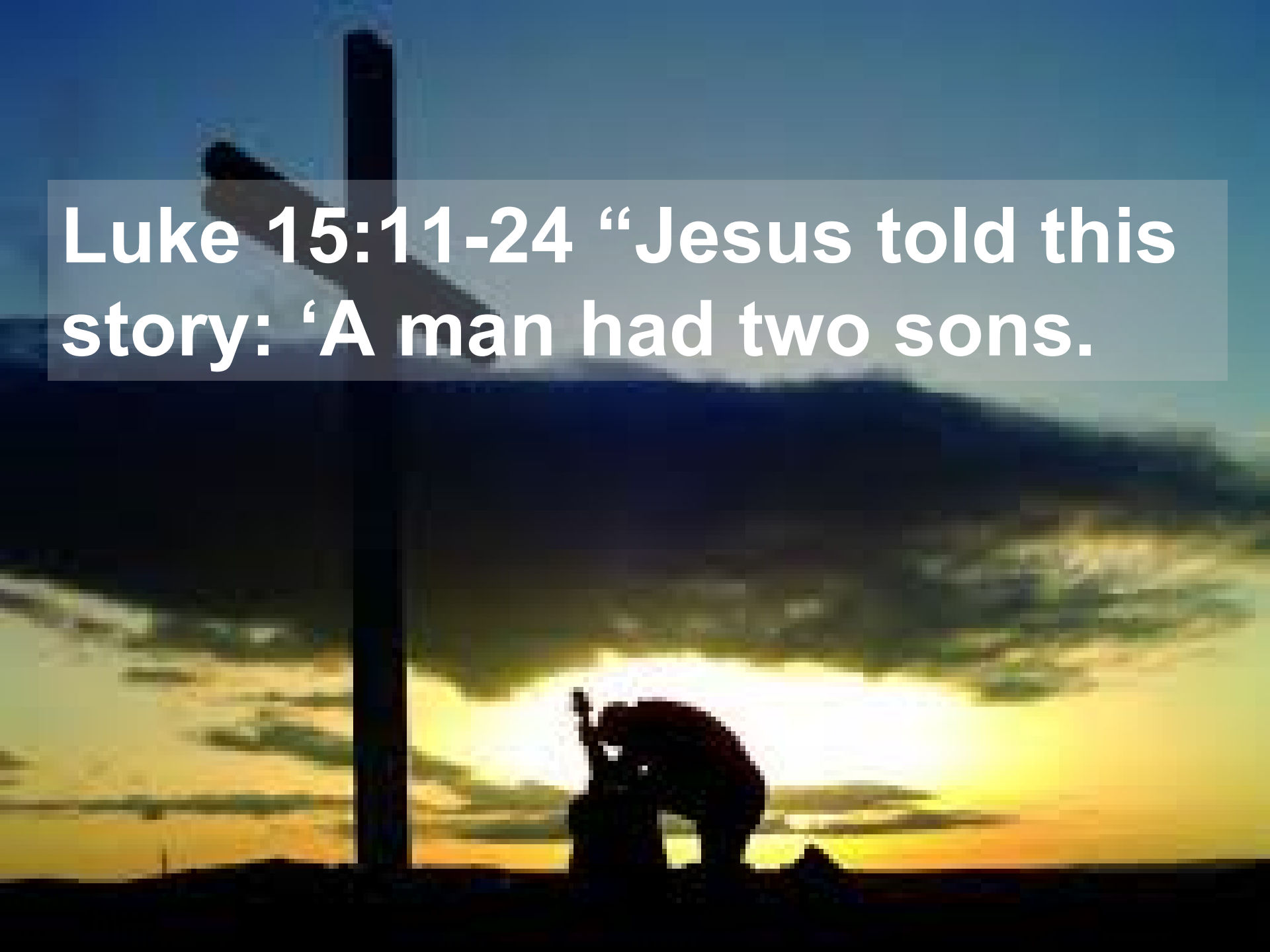
**Romans 12:2 “Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” *NIV***

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

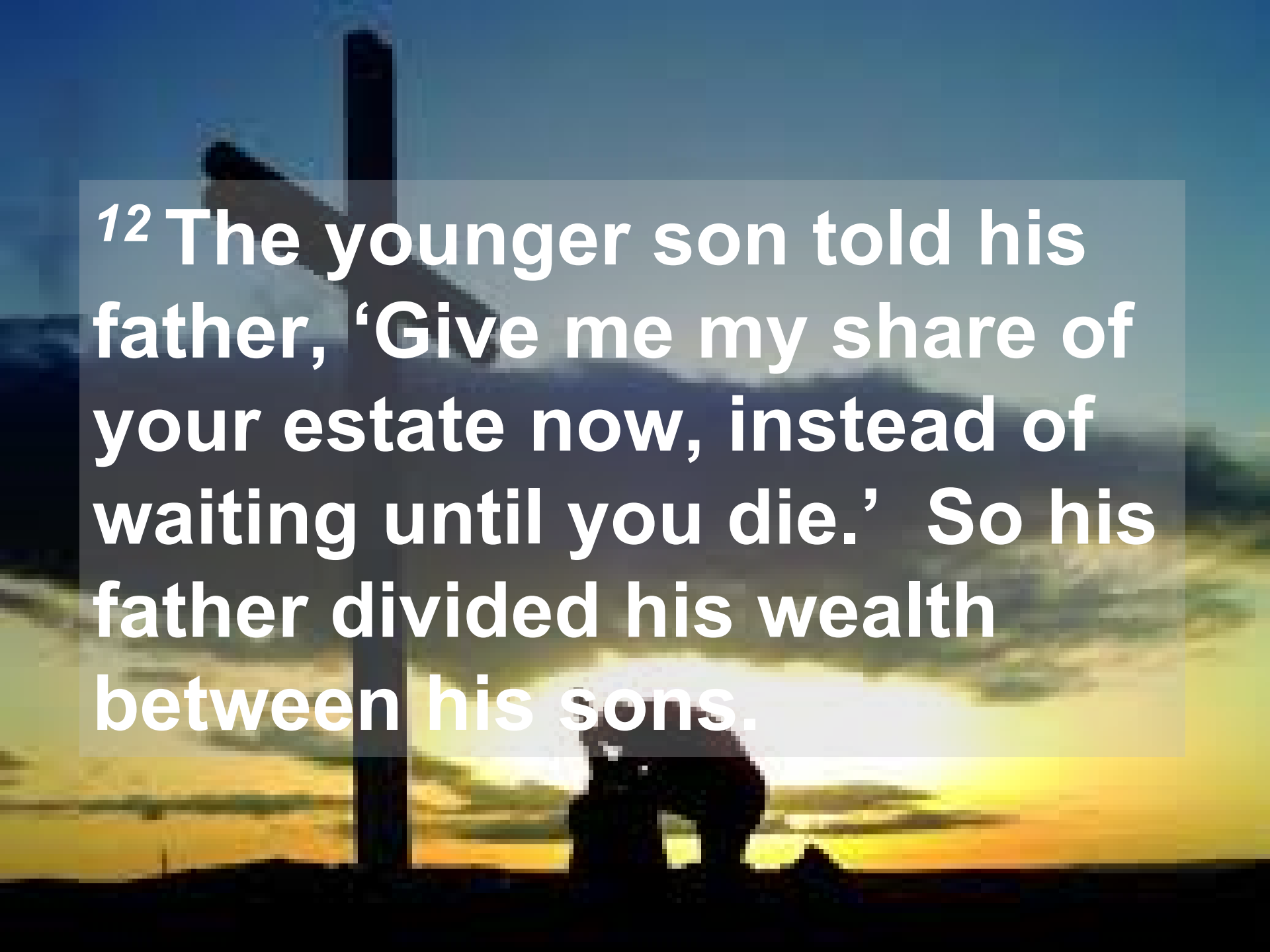
**James 4:7-8a “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large wooden cross in the foreground. The scene is backlit by the setting sun, creating a golden glow. The person is positioned in the lower center, facing away from the viewer towards the ocean. The cross is a simple wooden structure, with its vertical post extending from the bottom to the top of the frame. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

**8a Come near to God and he will  
come near to you.”**

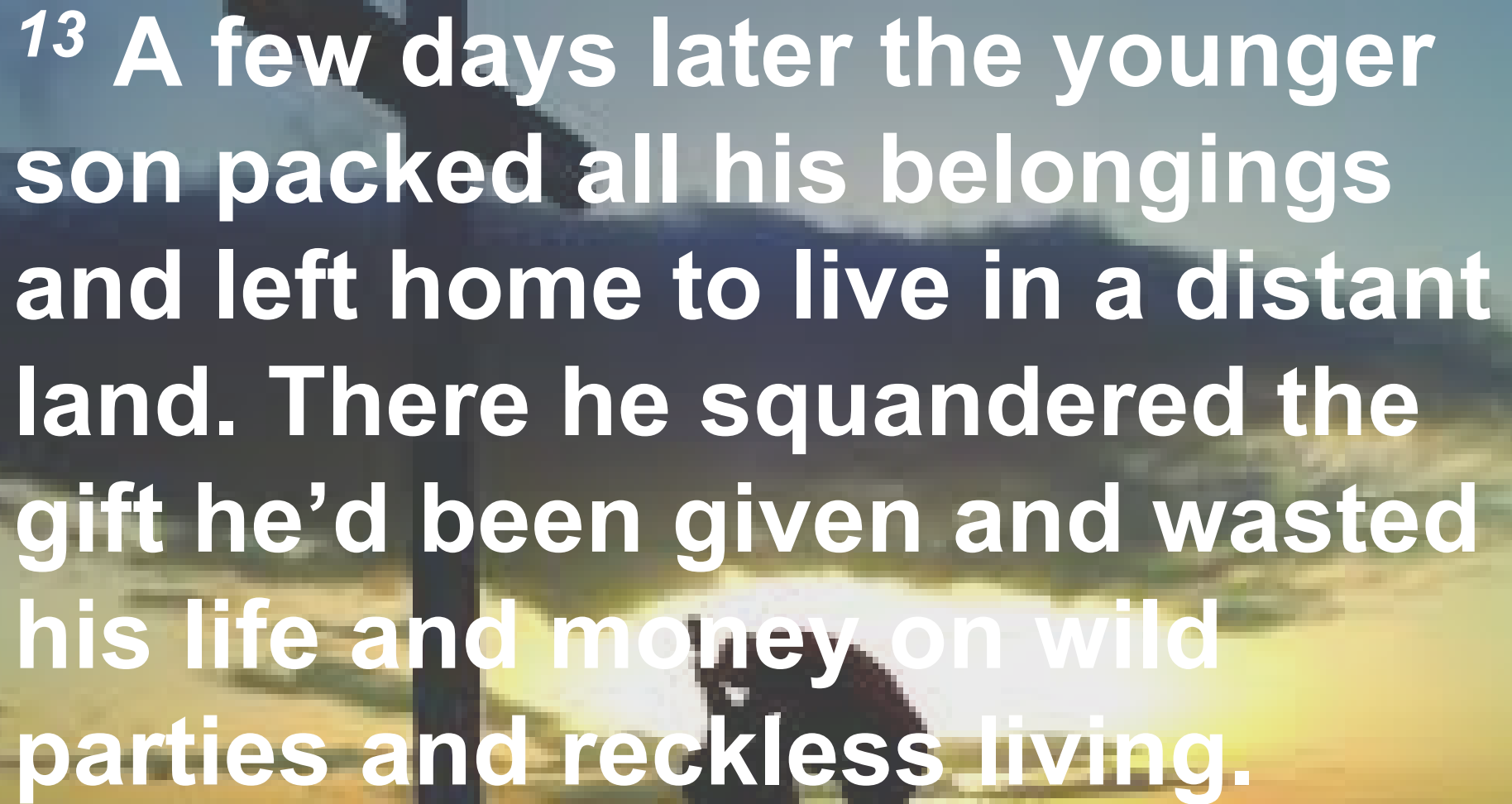
A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

**Luke 15:11-24 “Jesus told this story: ‘A man had two sons.**

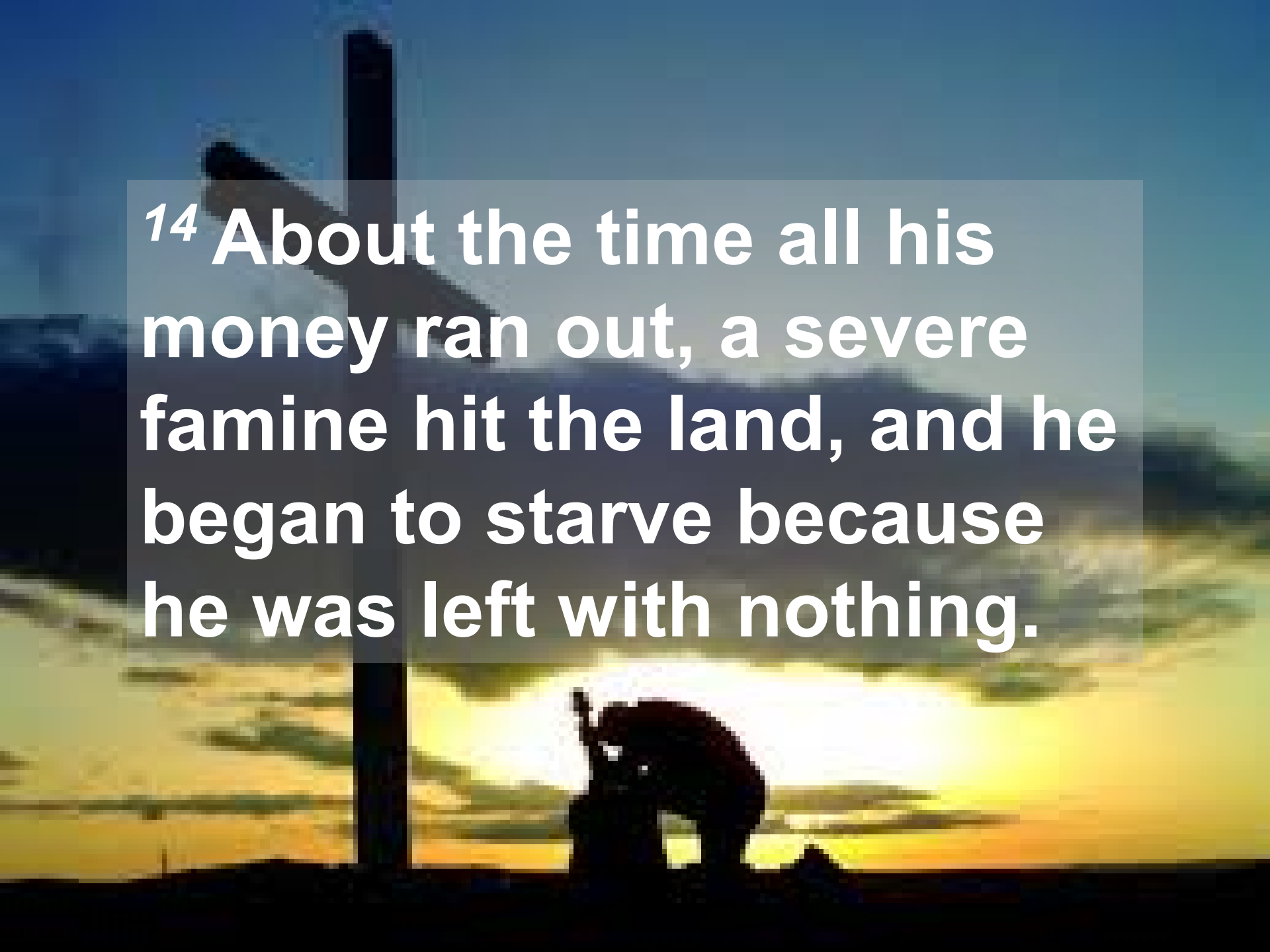
A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the foreground against a vibrant sunset background. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that transitions into a deep blue sky. The person's shadow is cast on the ground in front of them. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangular area.

**<sup>12</sup> The younger son told his father, ‘Give me my share of your estate now, instead of waiting until you die.’ So his father divided his wealth between his sons.**

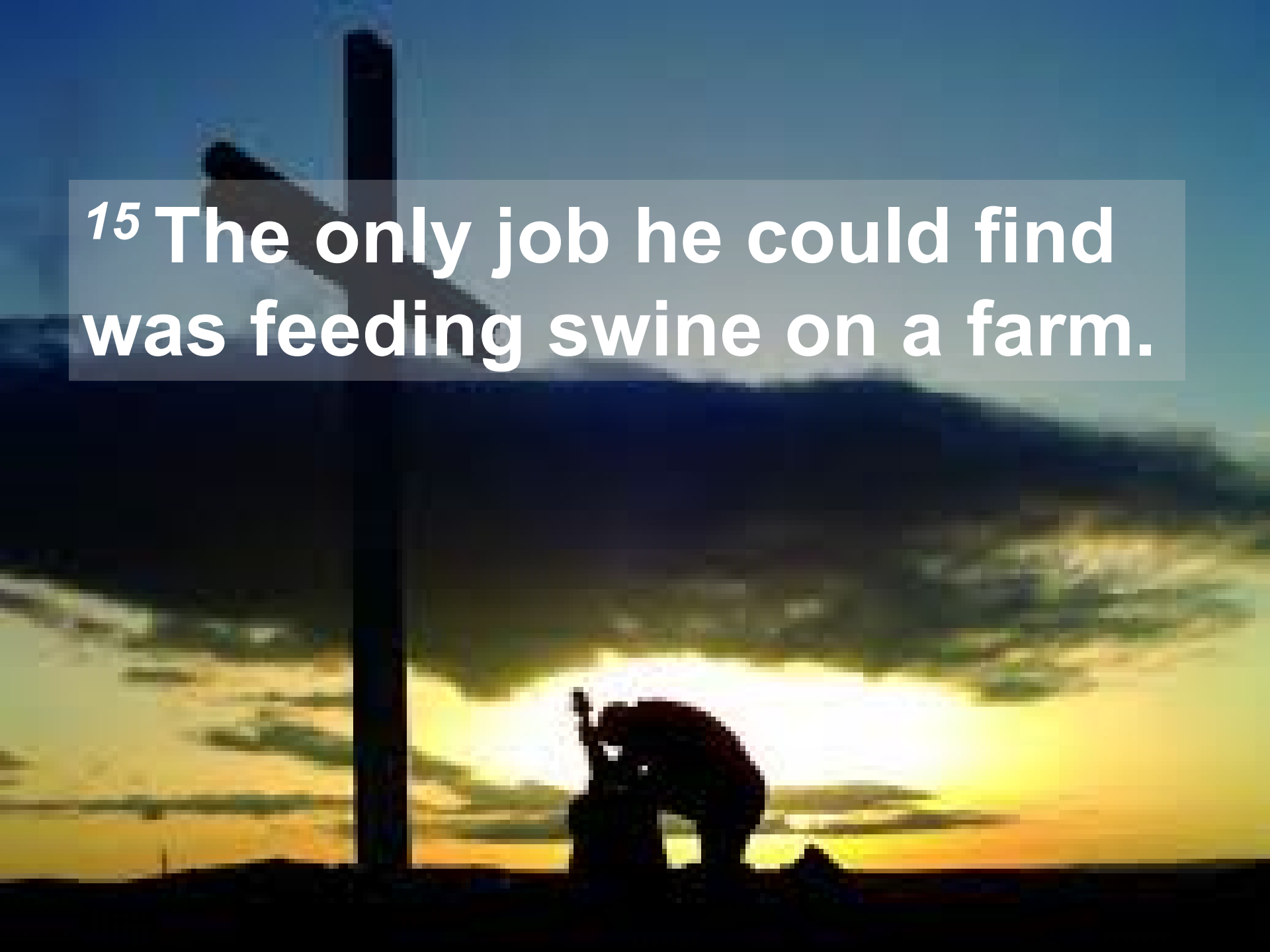




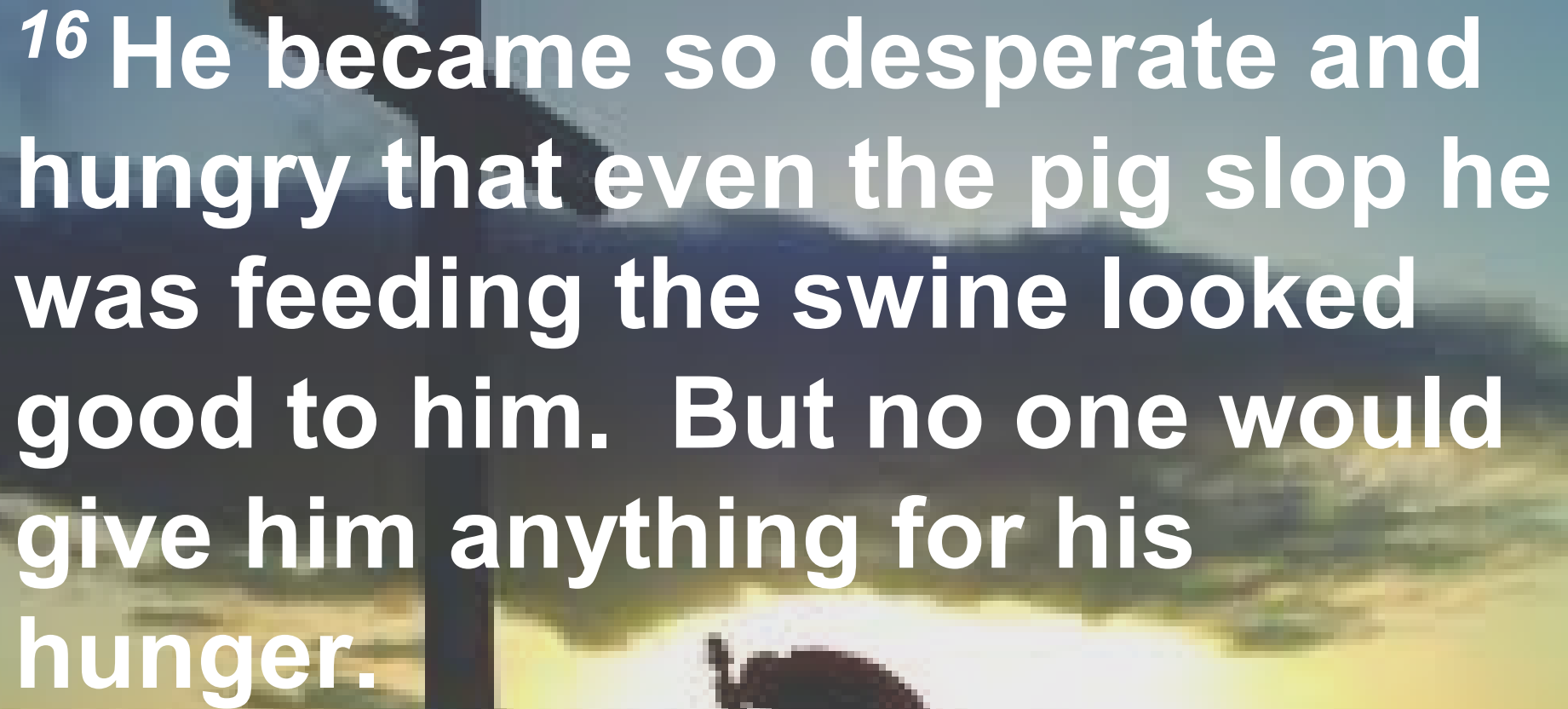
**<sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son packed all his belongings and left home to live in a distant land. There he squandered the gift he'd been given and wasted his life and money on wild parties and reckless living.**



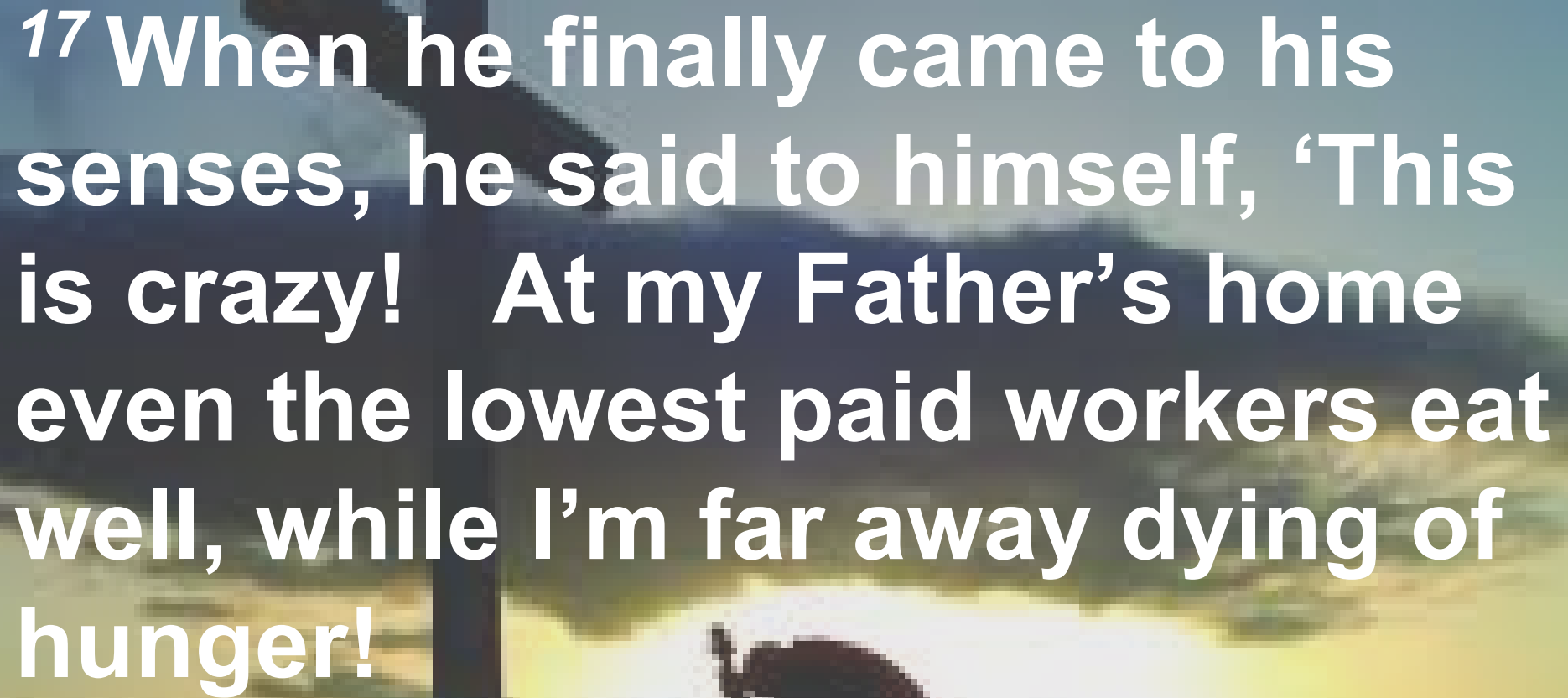
**<sup>14</sup> About the time all his money ran out, a severe famine hit the land, and he began to starve because he was left with nothing.**

A silhouette of a person feeding a pig in a field at sunset. The person is bent over, and the pig is standing in front of them. The background is a bright, hazy sunset over a field. A large, dark, stylized letter 'L' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

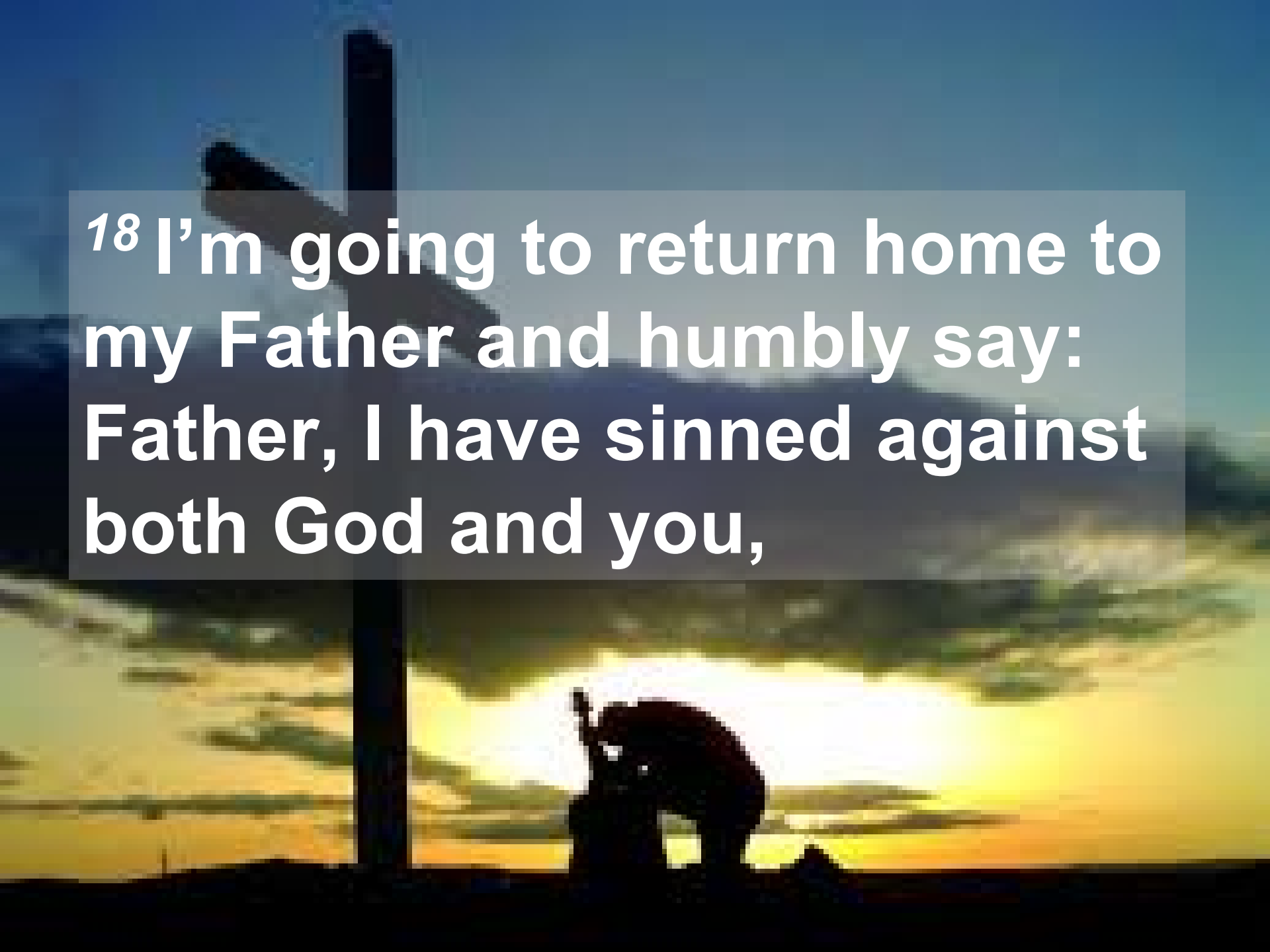
***15* The only job he could find was feeding swine on a farm.**



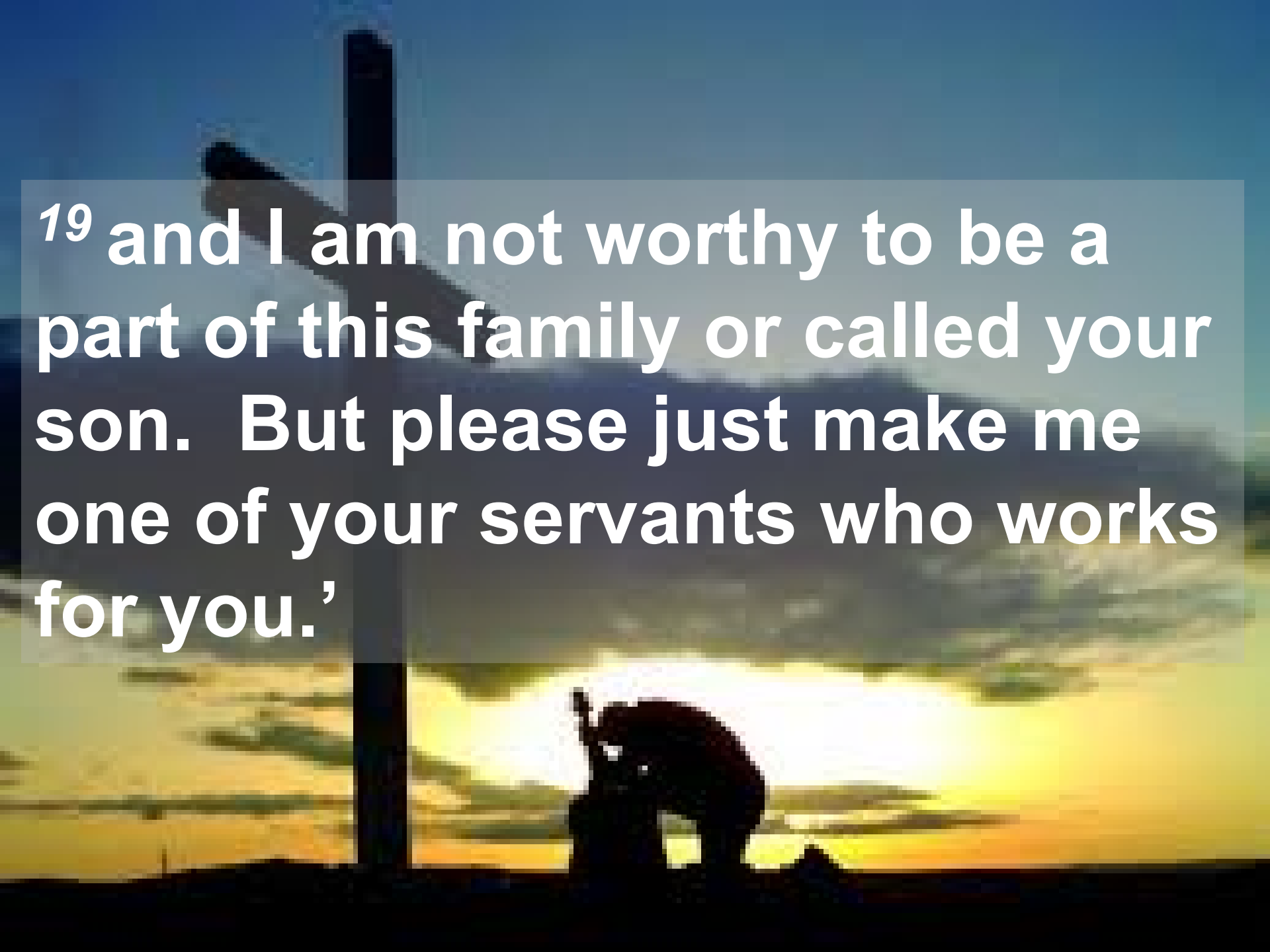
**<sup>16</sup> He became so desperate and hungry that even the pig slop he was feeding the swine looked good to him. But no one would give him anything for his hunger.**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a field, with a large, dark cross superimposed over the scene. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half.

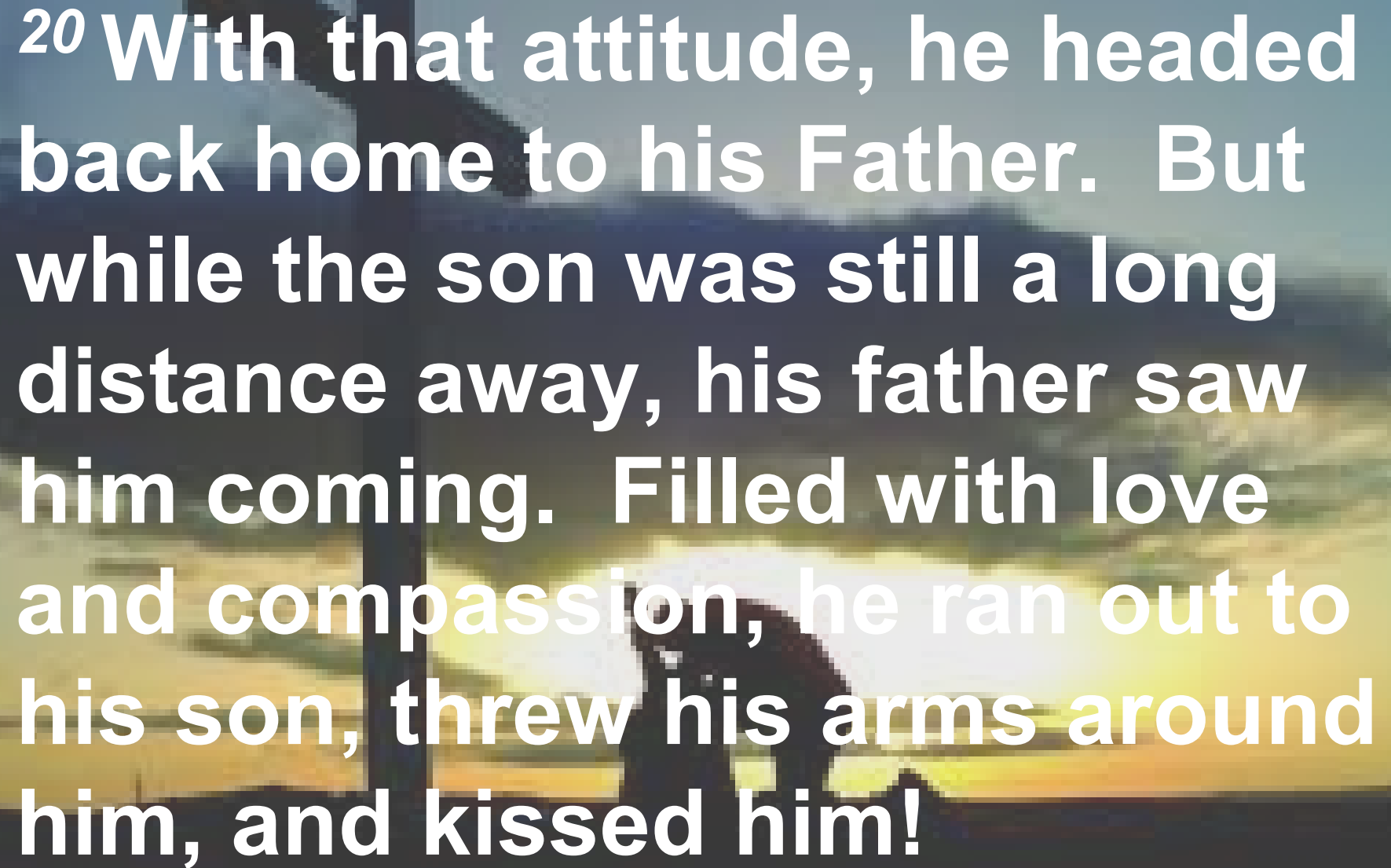
**<sup>17</sup> When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘This is crazy! At my Father’s home even the lowest paid workers eat well, while I’m far away dying of hunger!’**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

***18* I'm going to return home to my Father and humbly say: Father, I have sinned against both God and you,**

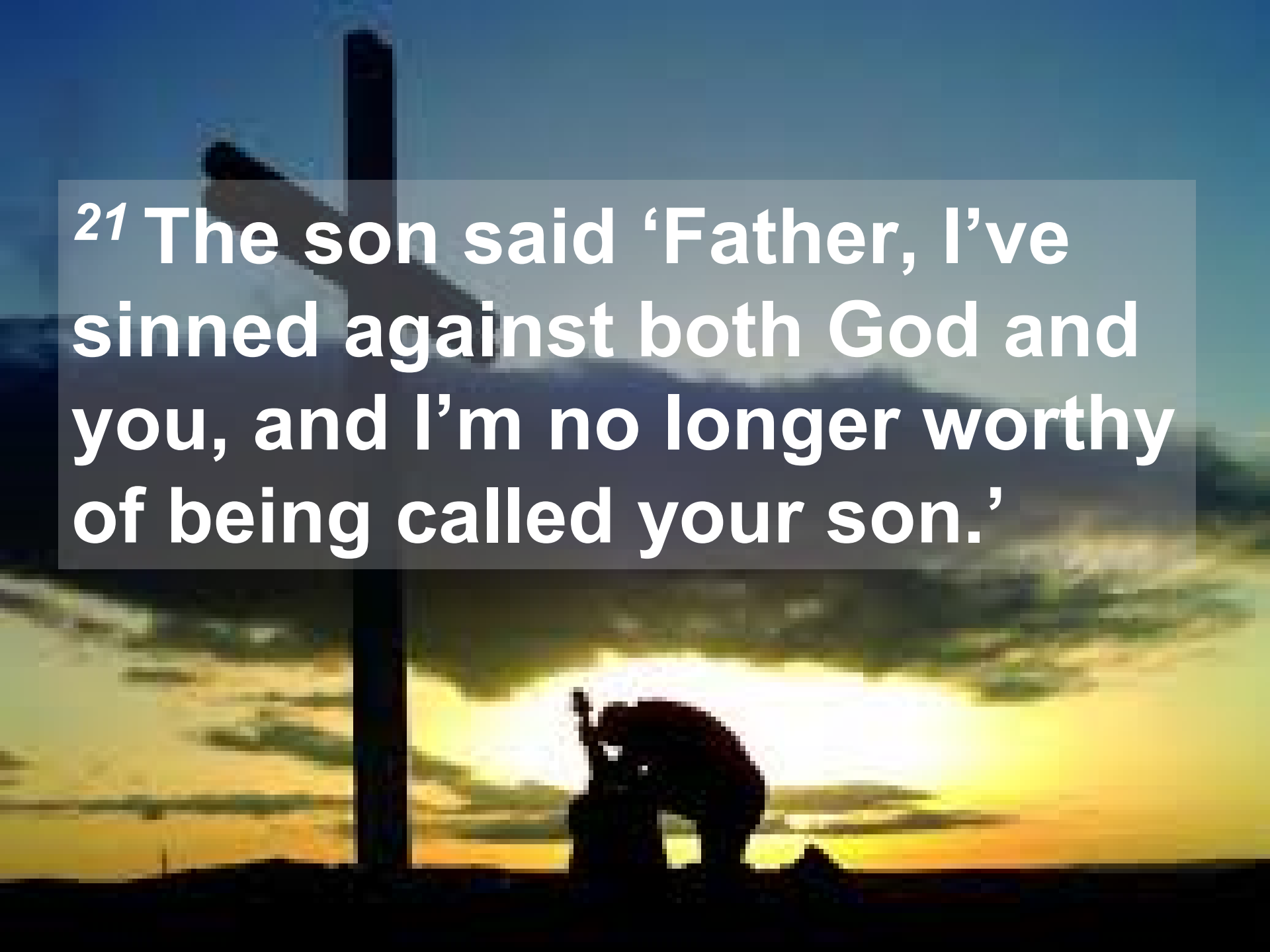
A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a bright sun low on the horizon. A dark, vertical cross-like shape is visible in the upper left quadrant. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half of the image.

**<sup>19</sup> and I am not worthy to be a part of this family or called your son. But please just make me one of your servants who works for you.'**

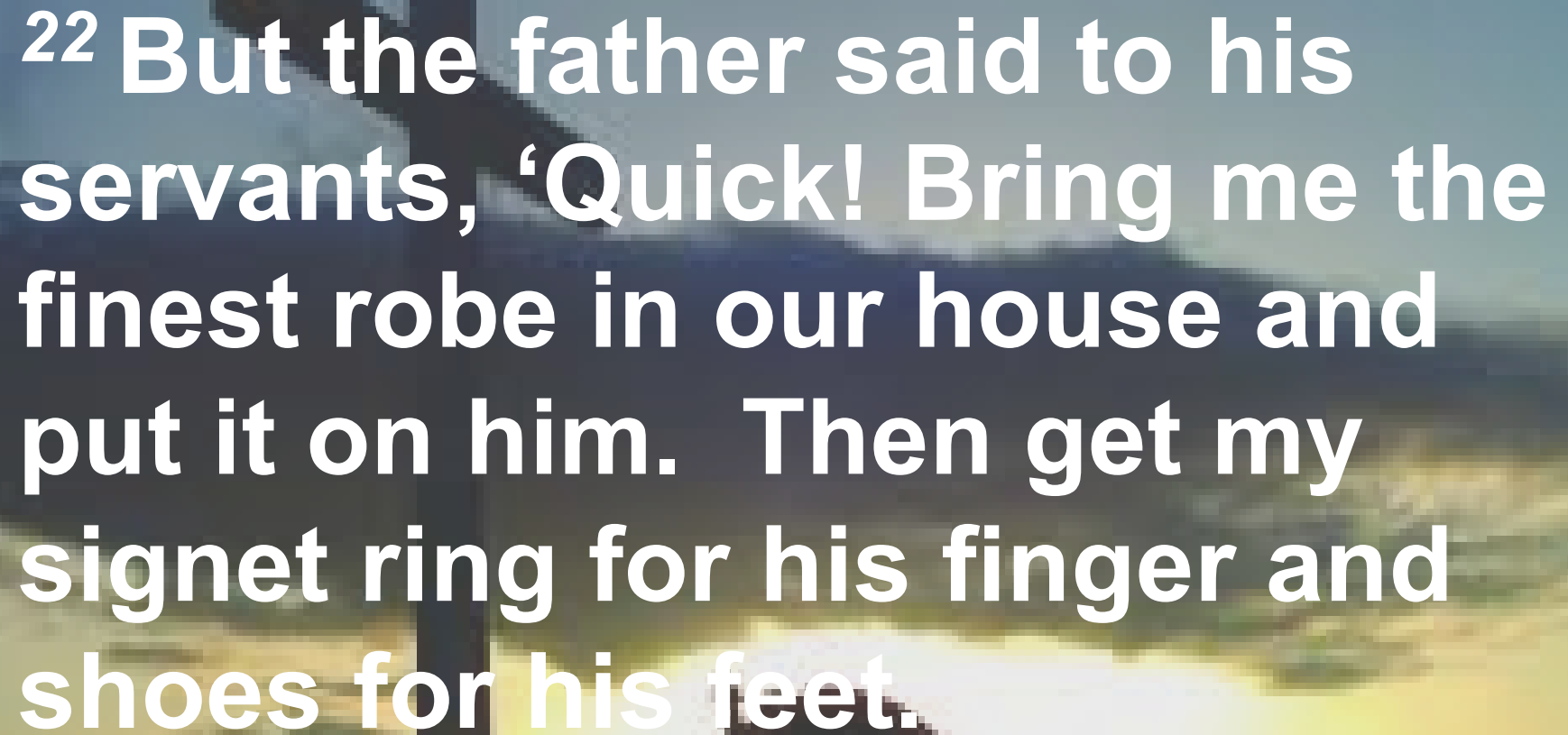


**<sup>20</sup> With that attitude, he headed back home to his Father. But while the son was still a long distance away, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him!**

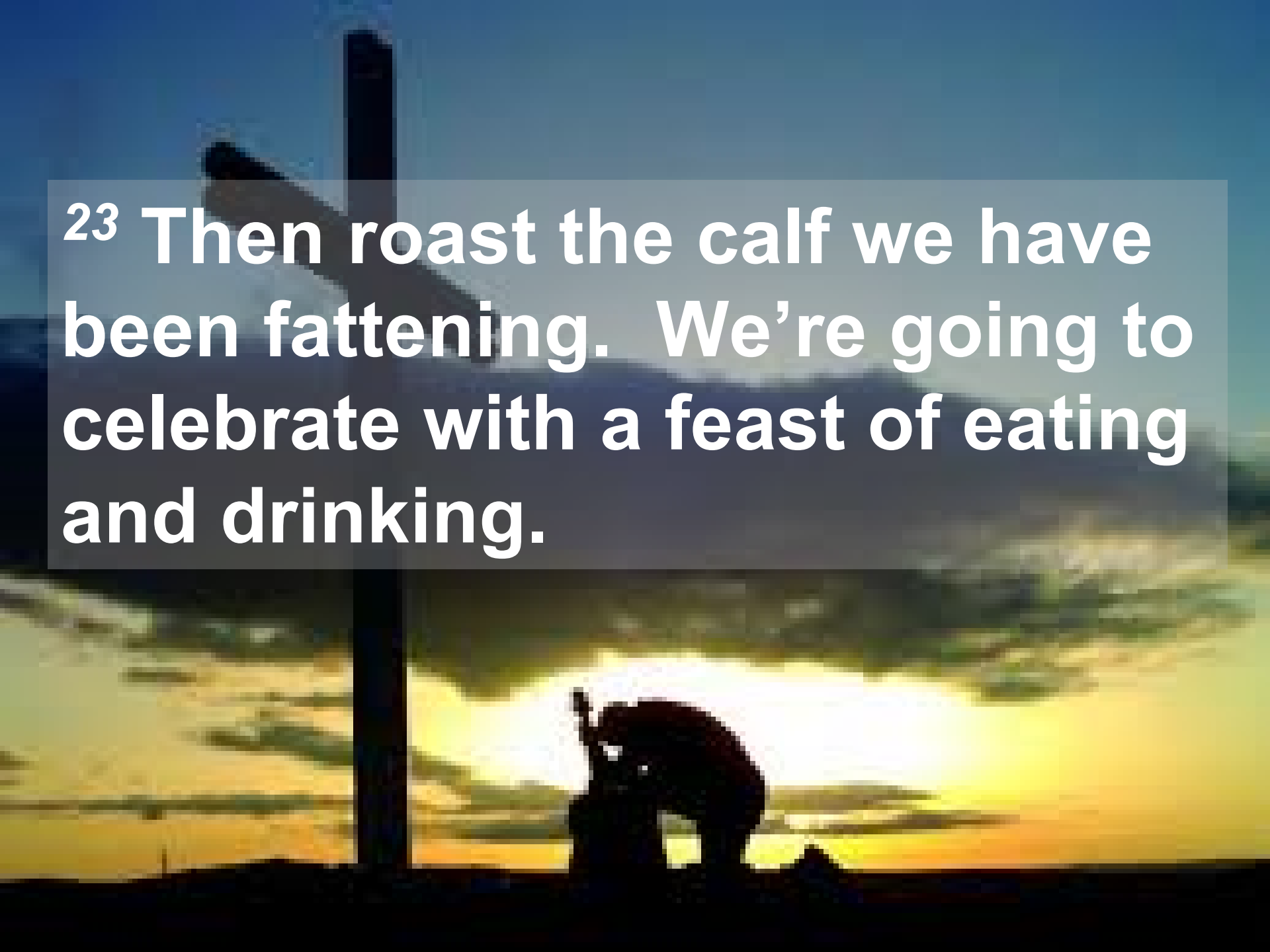


A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a bright sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle in the upper half of the image.

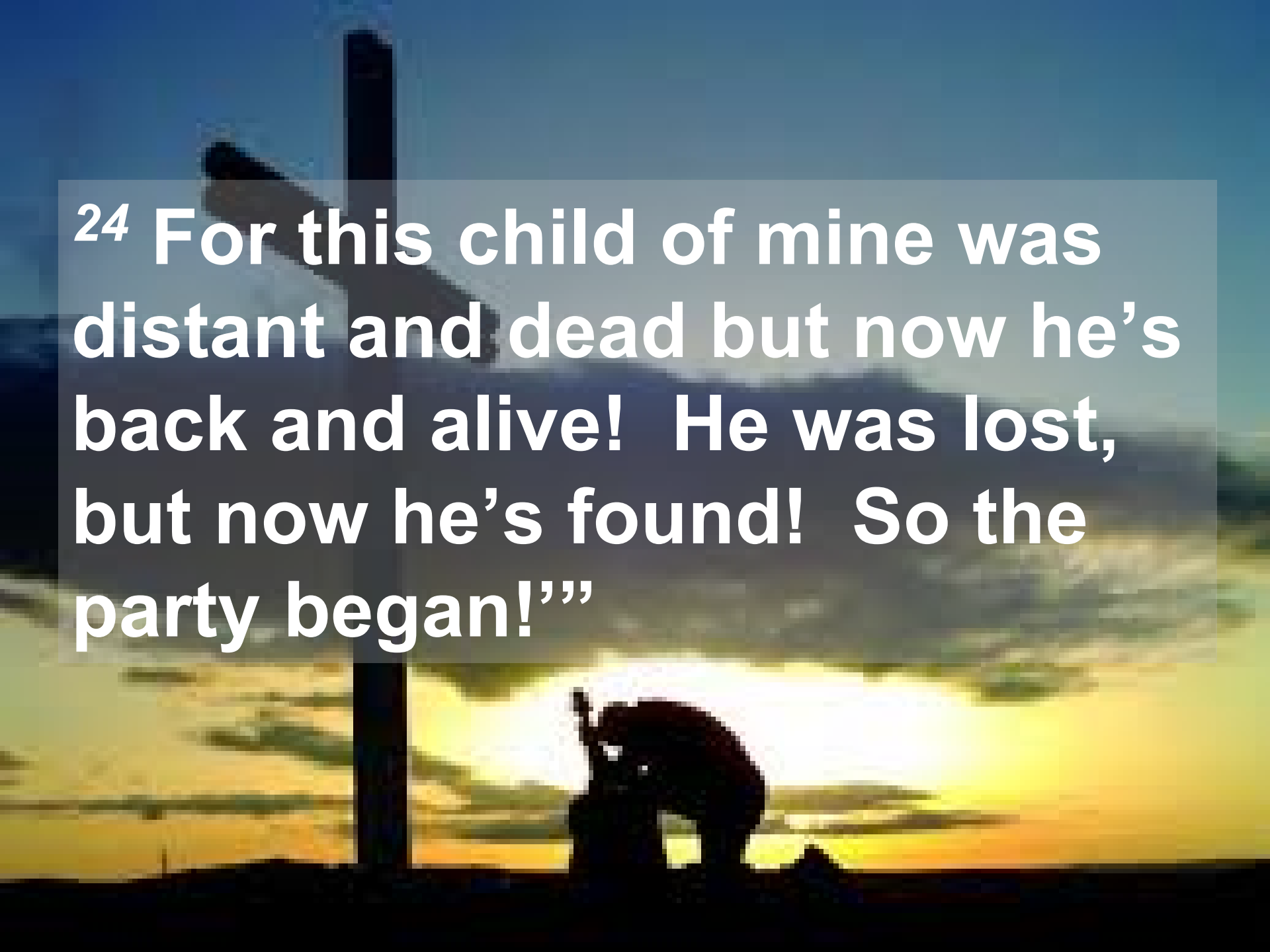
**21 The son said ‘Father, I’ve sinned against both God and you, and I’m no longer worthy of being called your son.’**

A silhouette of a man kneeling in prayer, with his hands clasped in front of him, set against a vibrant sunset background. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow and orange near the horizon. The man's shadow is cast on the ground in front of him.

**<sup>22</sup> But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring me the finest robe in our house and put it on him. Then get my signet ring for his finger and shoes for his feet.**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and reflecting on the water. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. A semi-transparent dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing white text.

**23 Then roast the calf we have been fattening. We're going to celebrate with a feast of eating and drinking.**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a bright sun low on the horizon. A dark, vertical post is visible on the left side of the frame. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half of the image.

**24 For this child of mine was distant and dead but now he's back and alive! He was lost, but now he's found! So the party began!"**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a wooden cross in the foreground. The scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the person's devotion. The background shows the ocean waves and a bright sunset sky. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey bar.

I. Get *fed up* with our lives!



A. Real changes don't happen  
when we're comfortable .

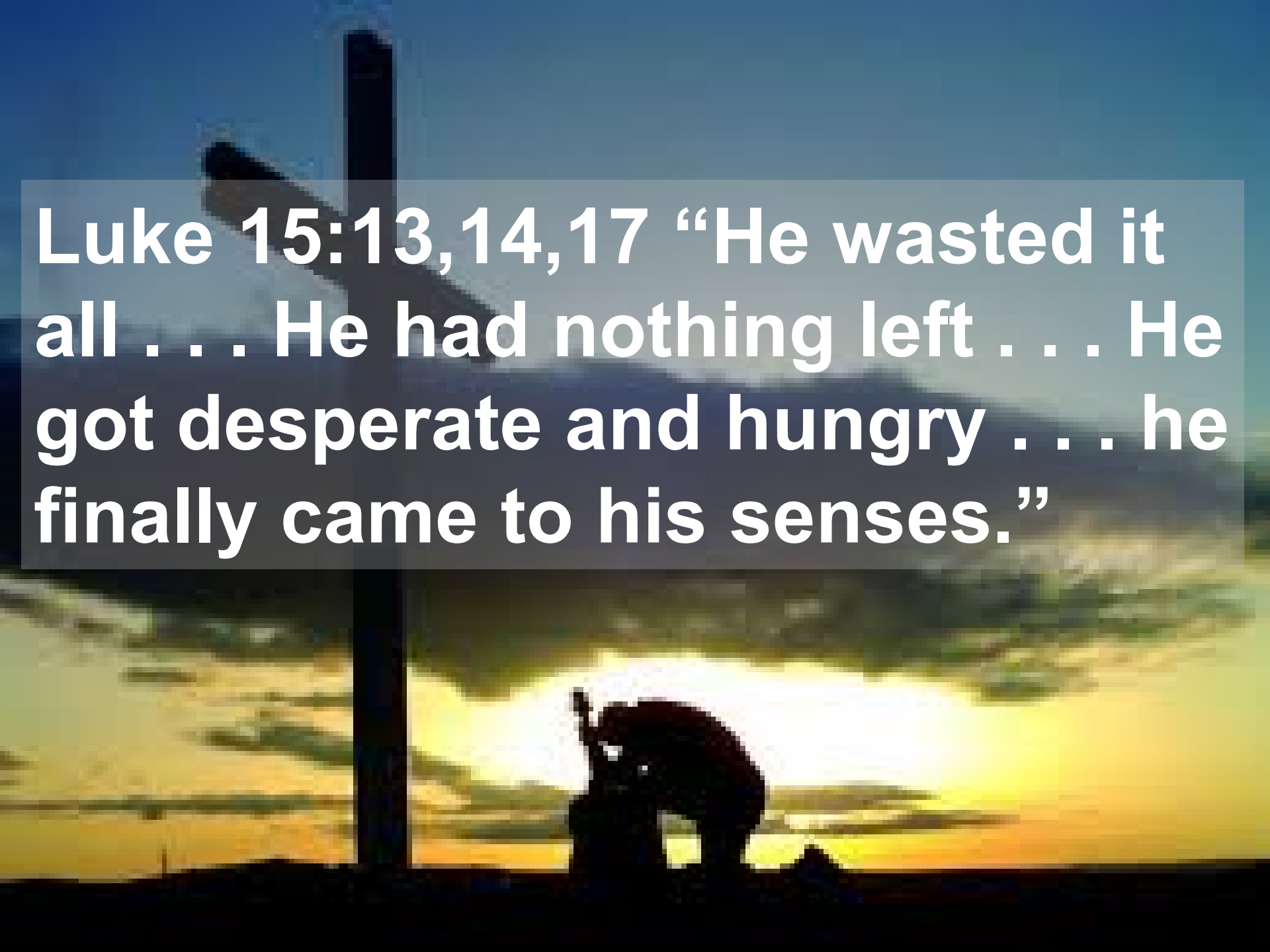


B. *Dissatisfaction* with the status quo leads to change.

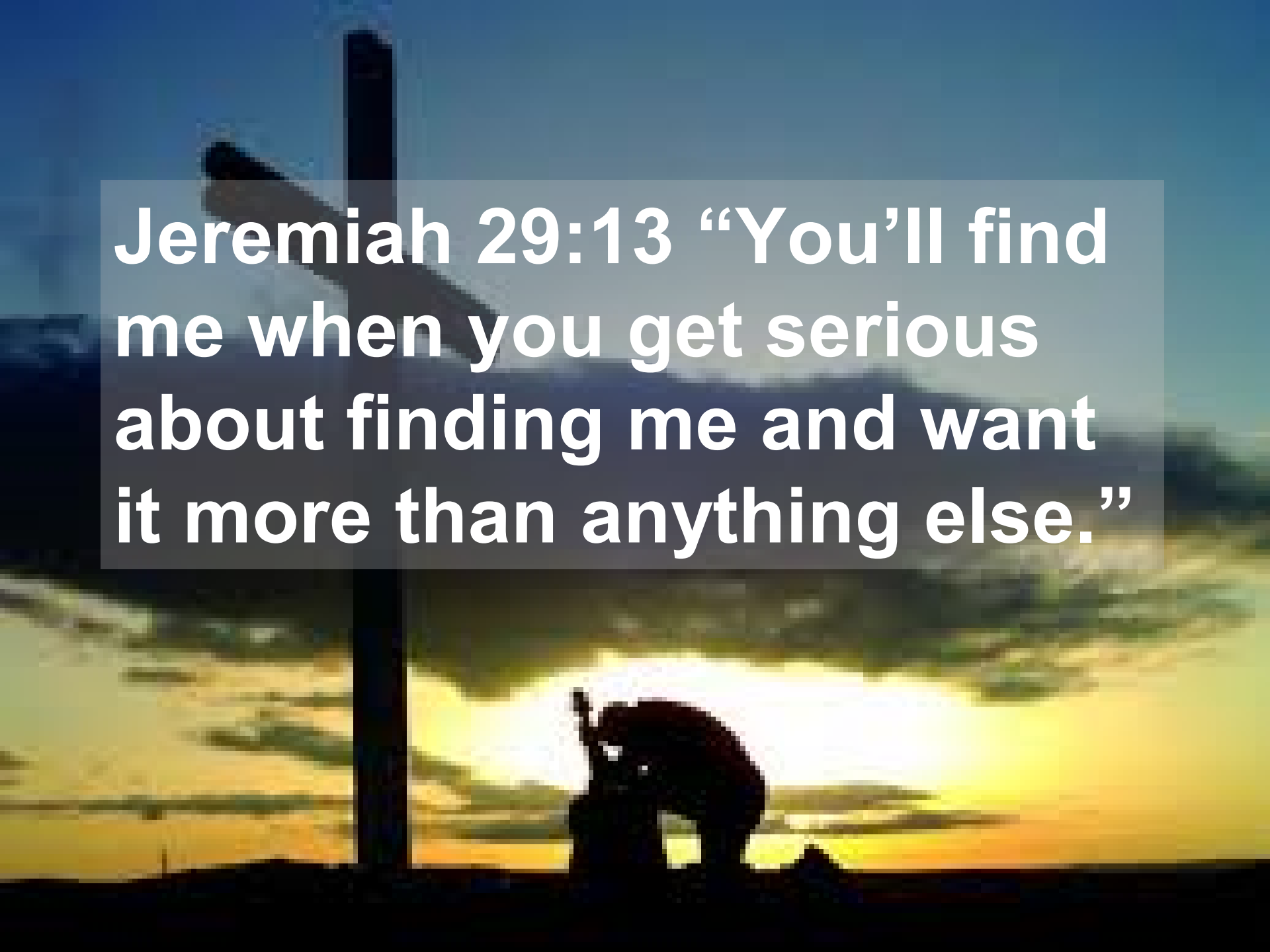
C. We've got to get desperate.





A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset with a large, bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow. A large, dark cross is visible in the upper left quadrant, partially overlapping the text. The text is white and set against a semi-transparent dark grey rectangular background.

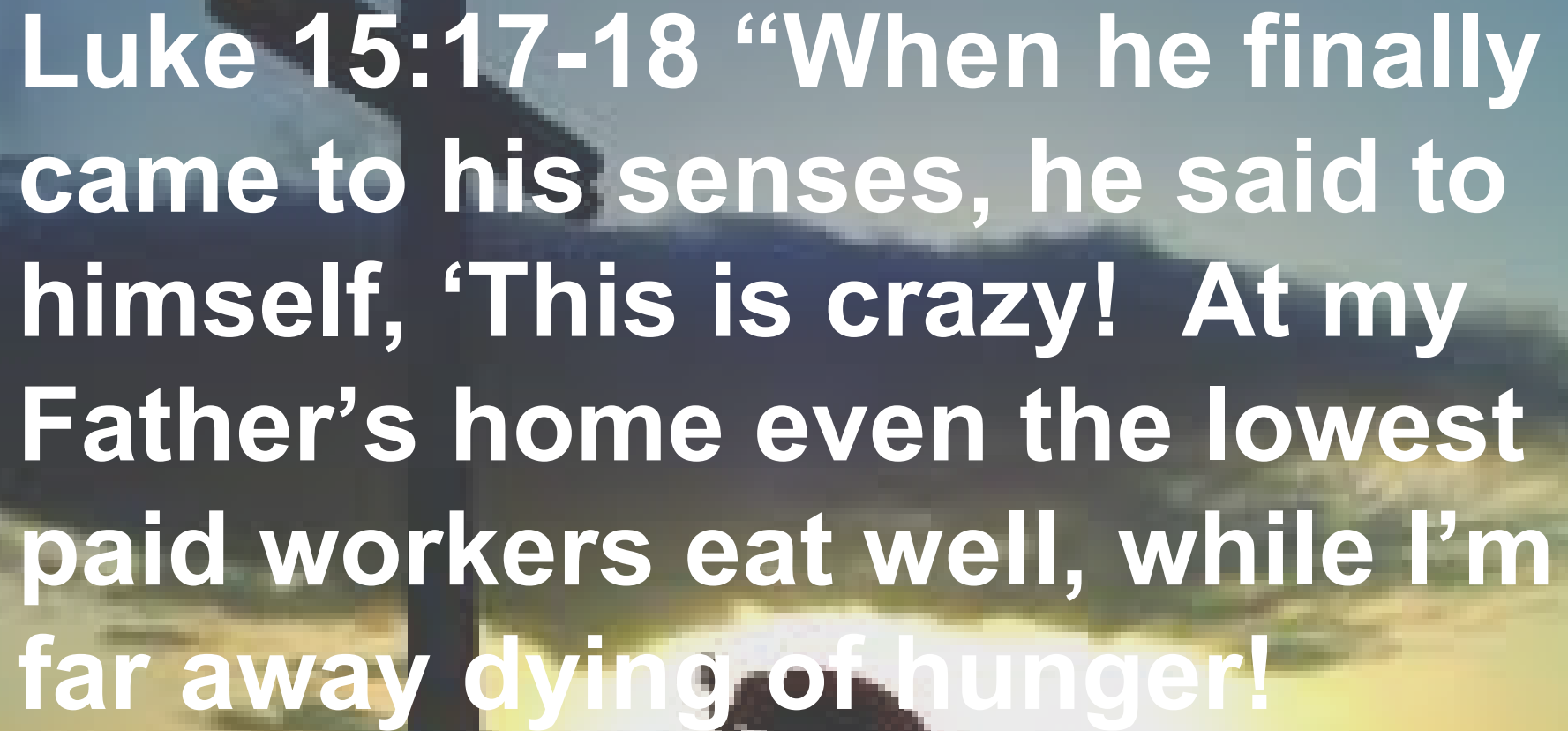
**Luke 15:13,14,17 “He wasted it all . . . He had nothing left . . . He got desperate and hungry . . . he finally came to his senses.”**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half of the image.

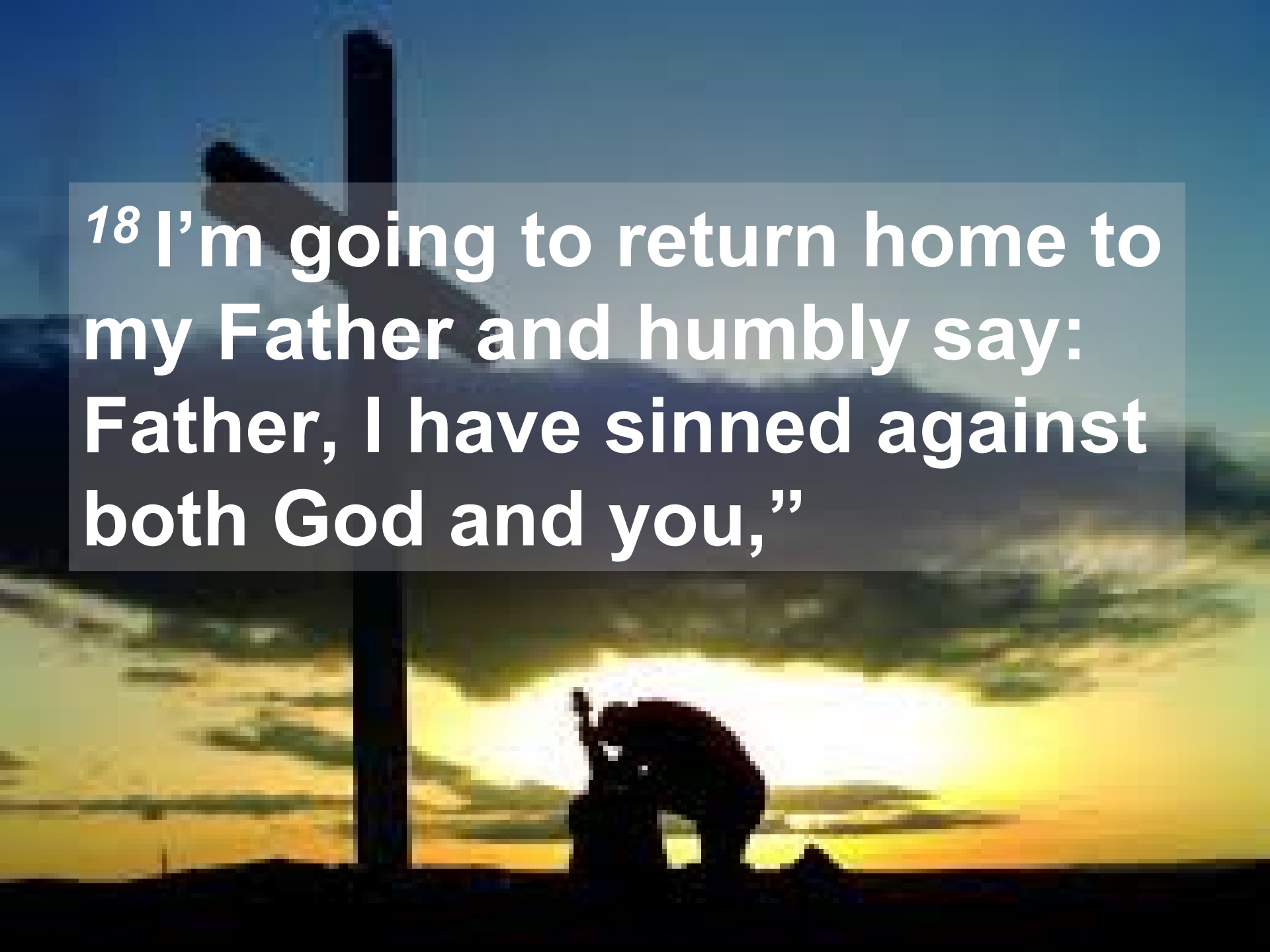
**Jeremiah 29:13 “You’ll find me when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else.”**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large wooden cross in the foreground. The scene is set against a backdrop of waves and a bright, low sun. The text "II. Own up to our sin ." is overlaid on the image in white font.

II. Own up to our sin .

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a field, with a large, dark cross-like shape in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half.

**Luke 15:17-18 “When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘This is crazy! At my Father’s home even the lowest paid workers eat well, while I’m far away dying of hunger!’**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark rectangle in the upper half of the image.


**1<sup>8</sup> I'm going to return home to my Father and humbly say: Father, I have sinned against both God and you,"**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer next to a large wooden cross on a beach at sunset. The person is positioned to the right of the cross, facing away from the camera. The background shows the ocean with waves breaking, and the sky is a mix of blue and orange from the setting sun. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

A. We have to admit our sin .

**B. Sin separates us from God.**




A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

**Isaiah 59:2 “Your sins have separated you from your God, and have hidden His face from you...”**




C. We have to confess our sin .



A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark blue rectangle.

**Psalm 51:1-4 “Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love. Because of your great mercy wipe away my sins! *GNB***

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large cross in the background.

**<sup>2</sup> Wash away all my evil and  
make me clean from my sin!**

*GNB*

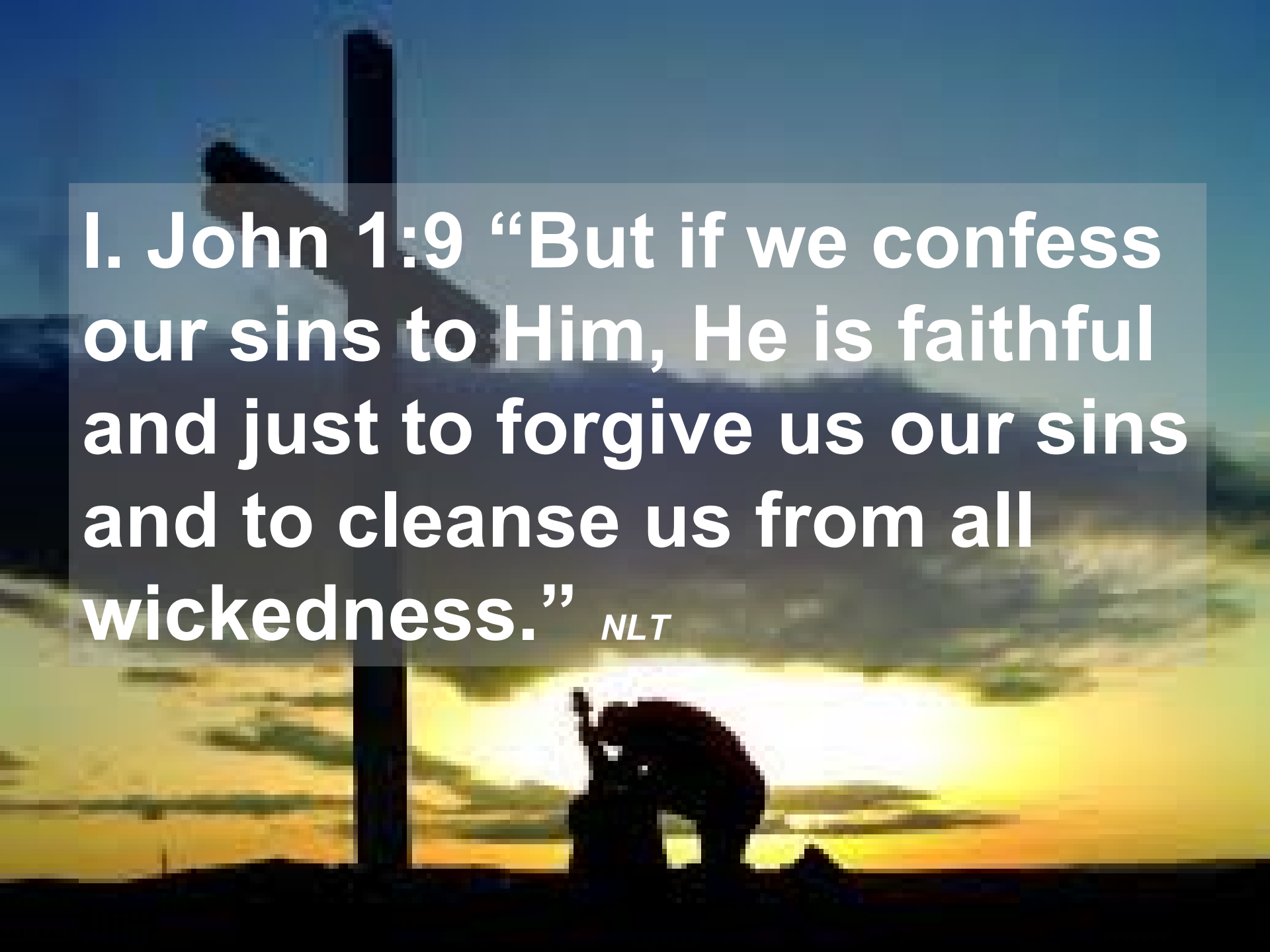
A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

**<sup>3</sup> I recognize my faults  
and I am conscious that  
I've sinned against you.**

*GNB*

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

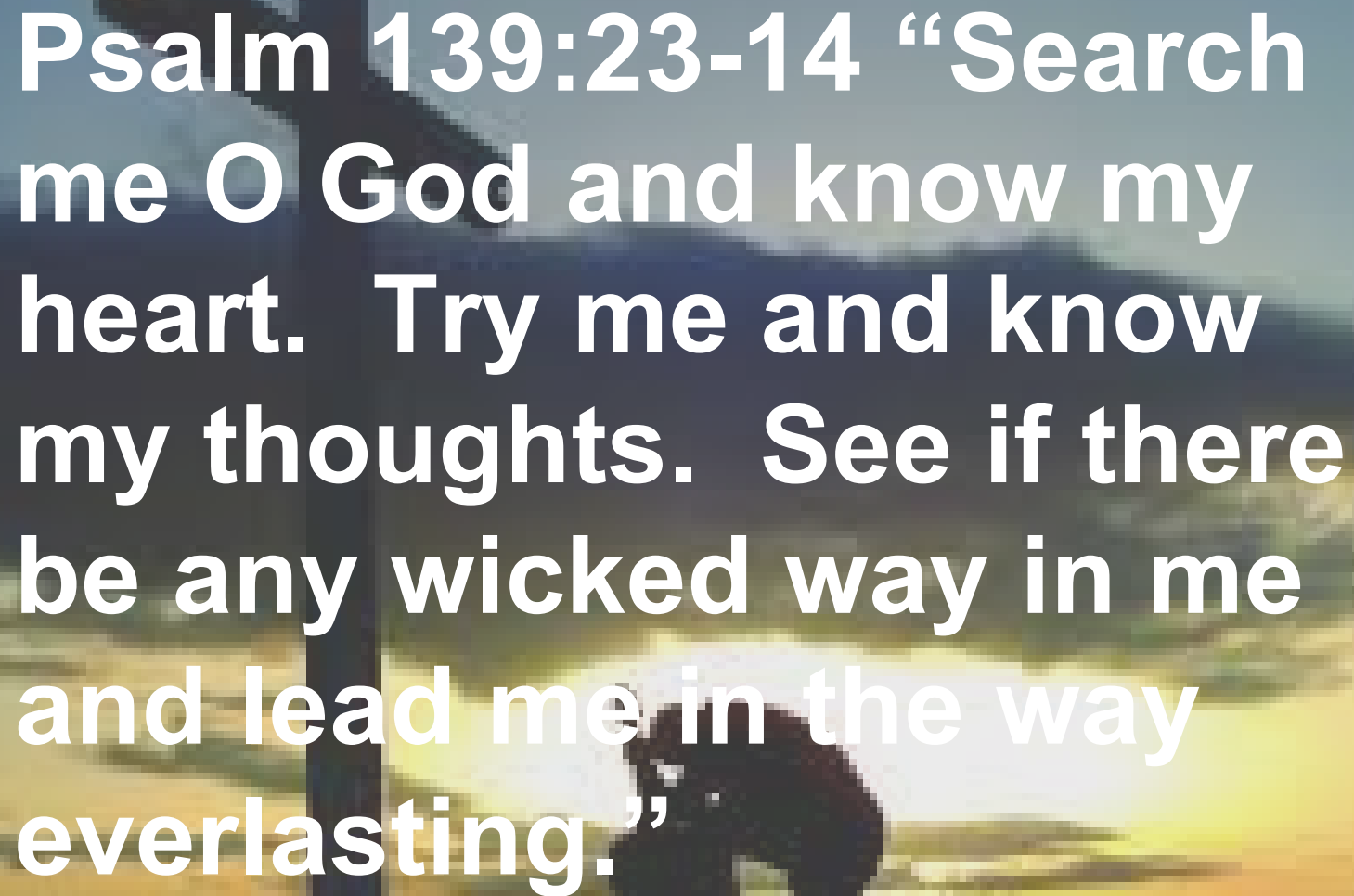
4 I have sinned against you –  
and done what you consider  
evil.” *GNB*

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half of the image.

**I. John 1:9 “But if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness.”** *NLT*

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large cross in the background. The scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the height of the cross and the person's devotion. The sky is a mix of deep blue and bright yellow, with the sun low on the horizon. The ocean waves are visible in the background, and the foreground shows the dark silhouette of the person and the cross.

# The Habit of a Regular *Spiritual Checkup* .

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a field, with a large, dark cross superimposed over the scene. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey rectangle in the upper half of the image.

**Psalm 139:23-14 “Search me O God and know my heart. Try me and know my thoughts. See if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.”**



III. Offer ourselves up to God.




A. A total change in attitude.



A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large cross in the background. The scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the height of the cross and the person's devotion. The sky is a deep blue, and the sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the water and sand. The person's shadow is cast on the sand, and the cross is a prominent feature in the background.

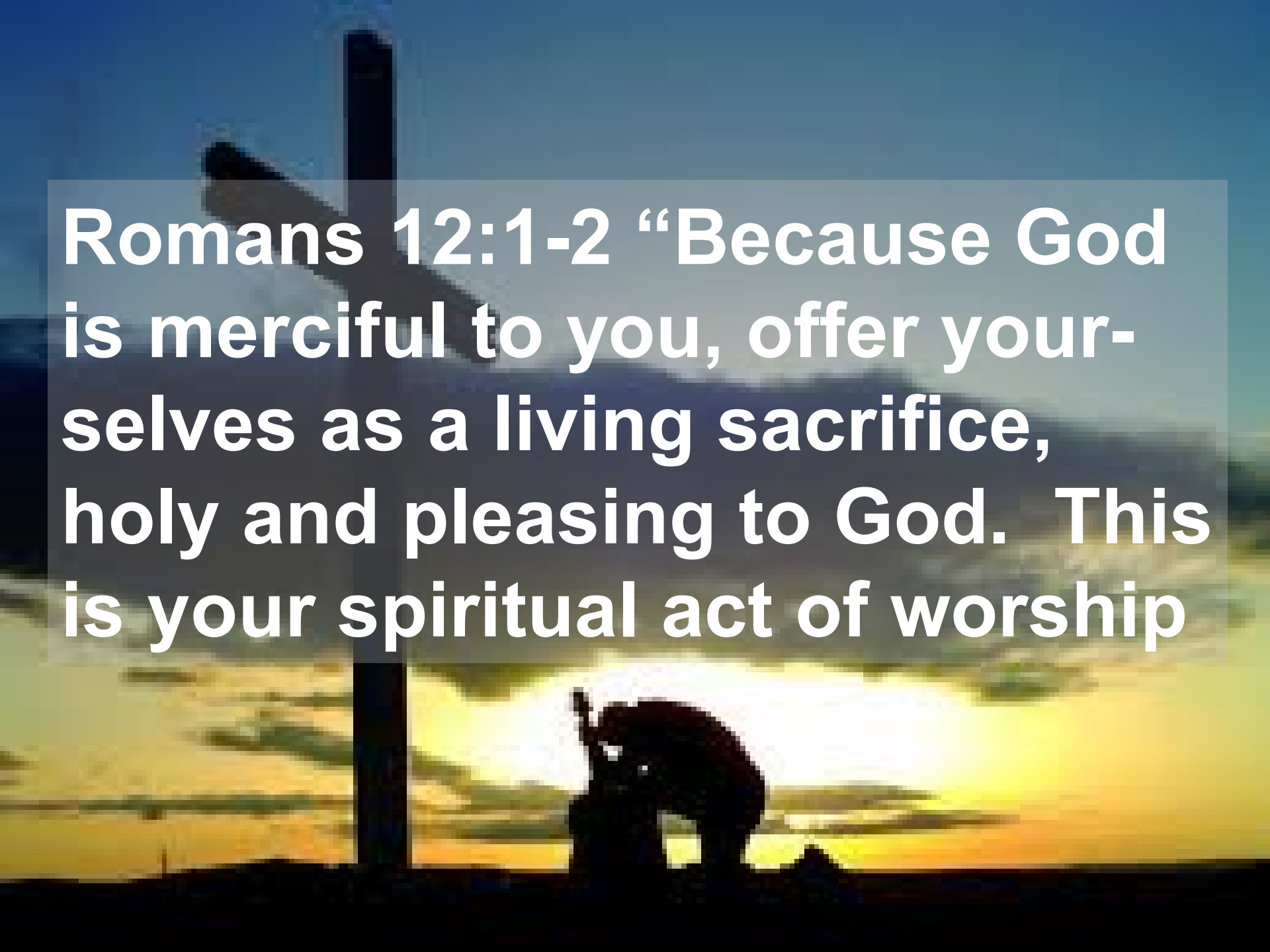
**B. There was true  
transformation .**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a bright, glowing sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half.

**II. Corinthians 3:18 “We reflect the Lord’s glory and are being transformed into His likeness. With ever increasing glory which comes from the Lord.”**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer on a beach at sunset, with a large cross in the foreground. The scene is captured in a low-angle shot, emphasizing the height of the cross and the person's devotion. The background shows the ocean waves and a bright sunset sky.

C. We must offer ourselves up to God.

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a field, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half of the image.

**Romans 12:1-2 “Because God is merciful to you, offer yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This is your spiritual act of worship**

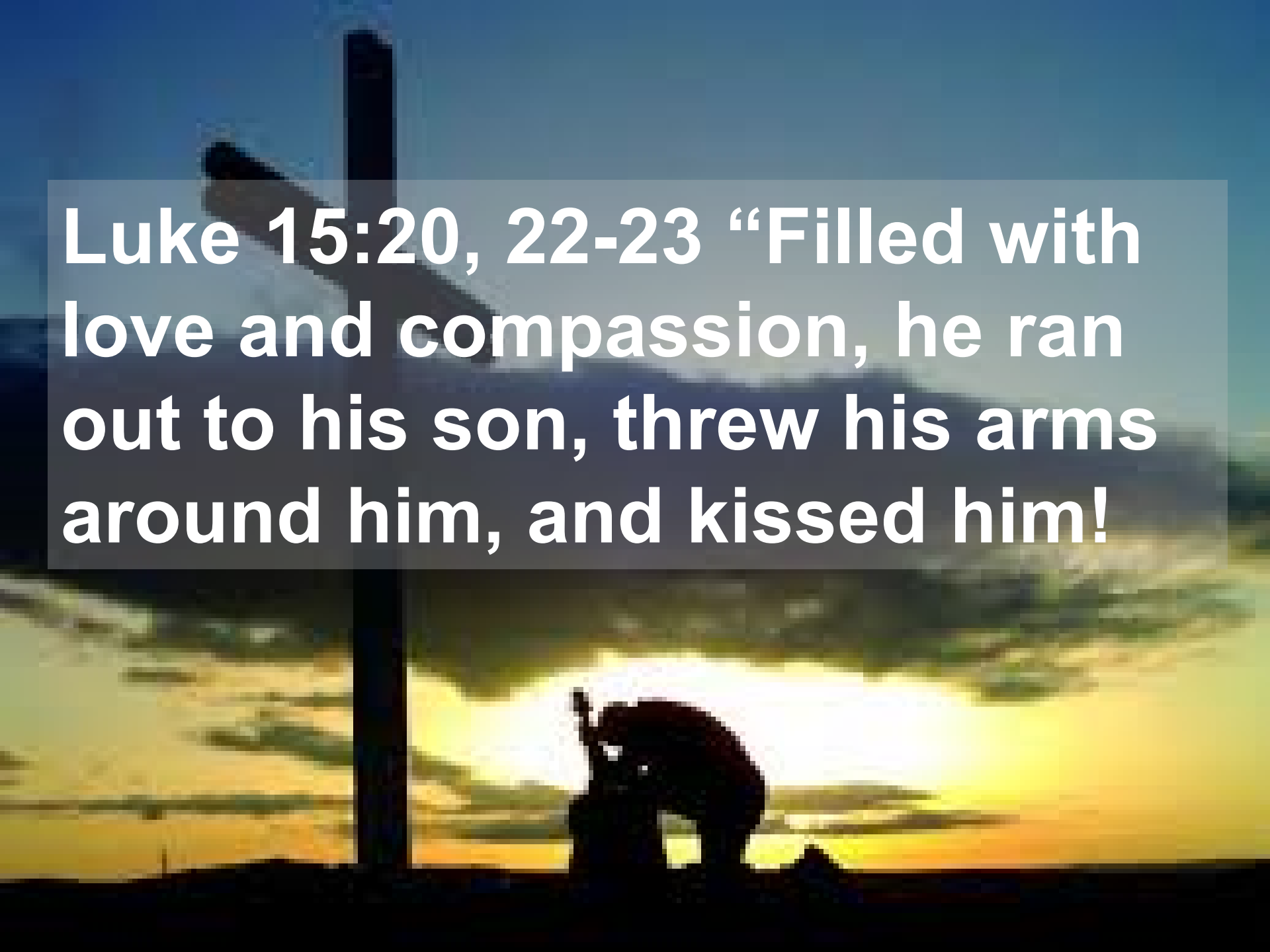
A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half of the image.

**and don't be conformed to  
the pattern of this world but  
be transformed by the  
renewing of your mind.”**

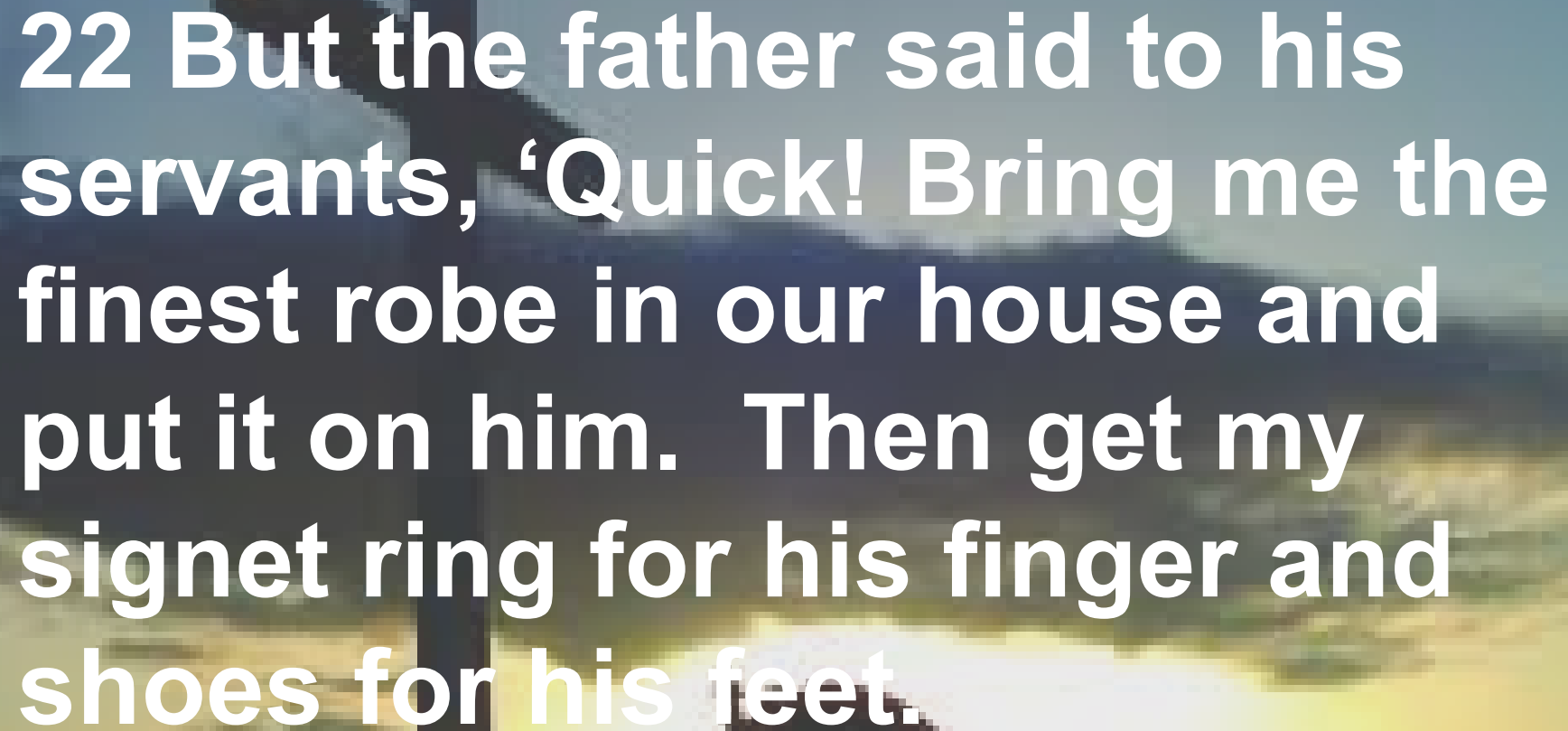
# The Father's Response





A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible on the left side. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper half of the image.

**Luke 15:20, 22-23 “Filled with love and compassion, he ran out to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him!”**




**22 But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring me the finest robe in our house and put it on him. Then get my signet ring for his finger and shoes for his feet.'**

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset with a bright sun low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over a landscape of rolling hills. A dark, vertical silhouette of a structure, possibly a cross, is visible on the left side of the frame. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing white text.

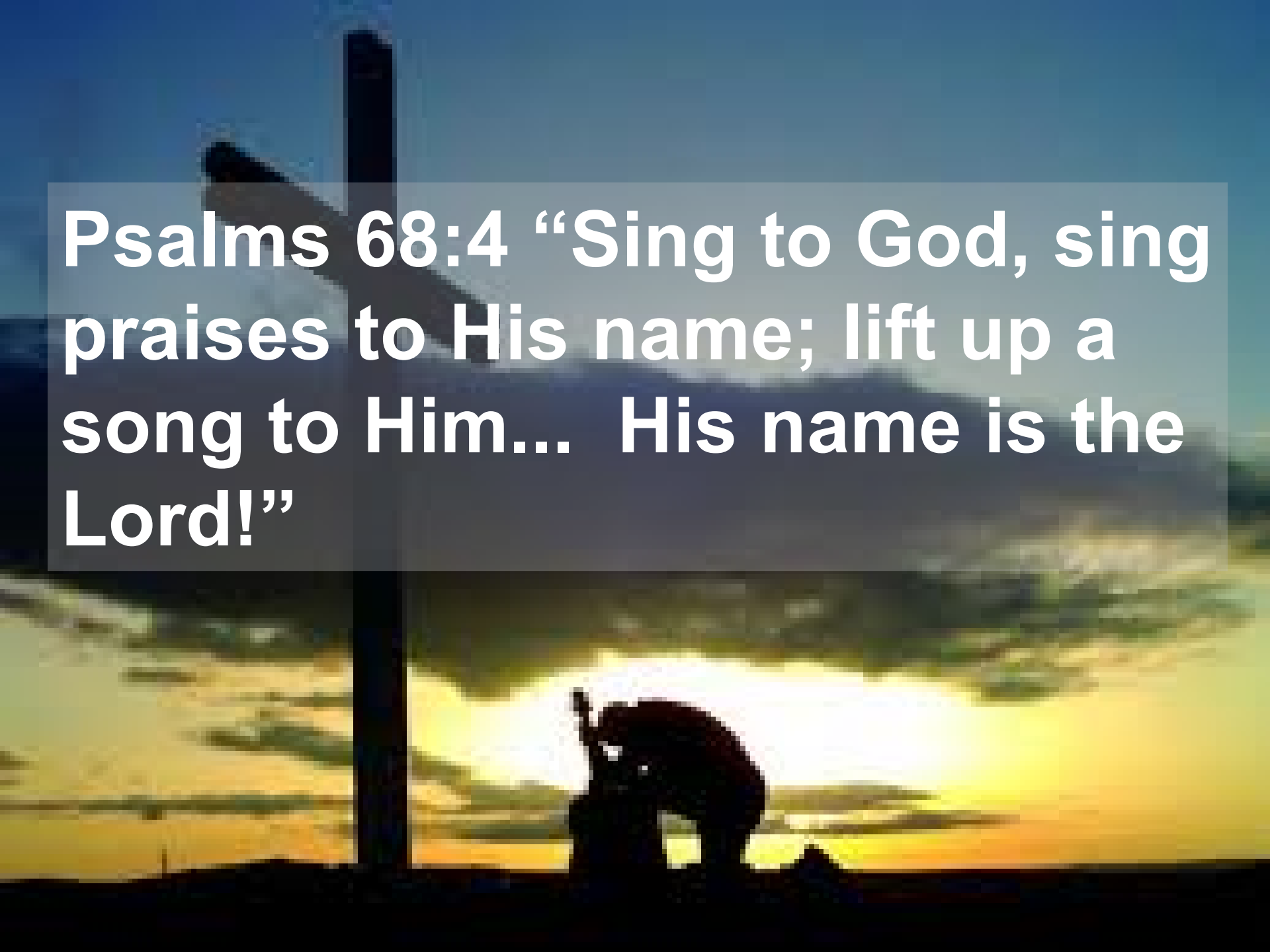
**23 Then roast the calf we have been fattening. We're going to celebrate with a feast of eating and drinking.”**

IV. Lift up our praise!



A silhouette of a person is seen from behind, standing on a beach and looking out at the ocean during a vibrant sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, golden glow that reflects on the water. In the foreground, a large, dark cross is visible, partially obscuring the view of the beach and the person. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a bright yellow near the horizon.

A. Life becomes a party when  
life becomes *transformed*.

A silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer is centered in the lower half of the image. The background is a vibrant sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a large, dark cross visible in the upper left. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent grey box in the upper left quadrant.

**Psalms 68:4 “Sing to God, sing praises to His name; lift up a song to Him... His name is the Lord!”**

B. We need to *sing at church* .



C. We need to *join the party* .





**So in conclusion:**

