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# Duty or Delight

*John 4:1-24*







# *John 4:7*

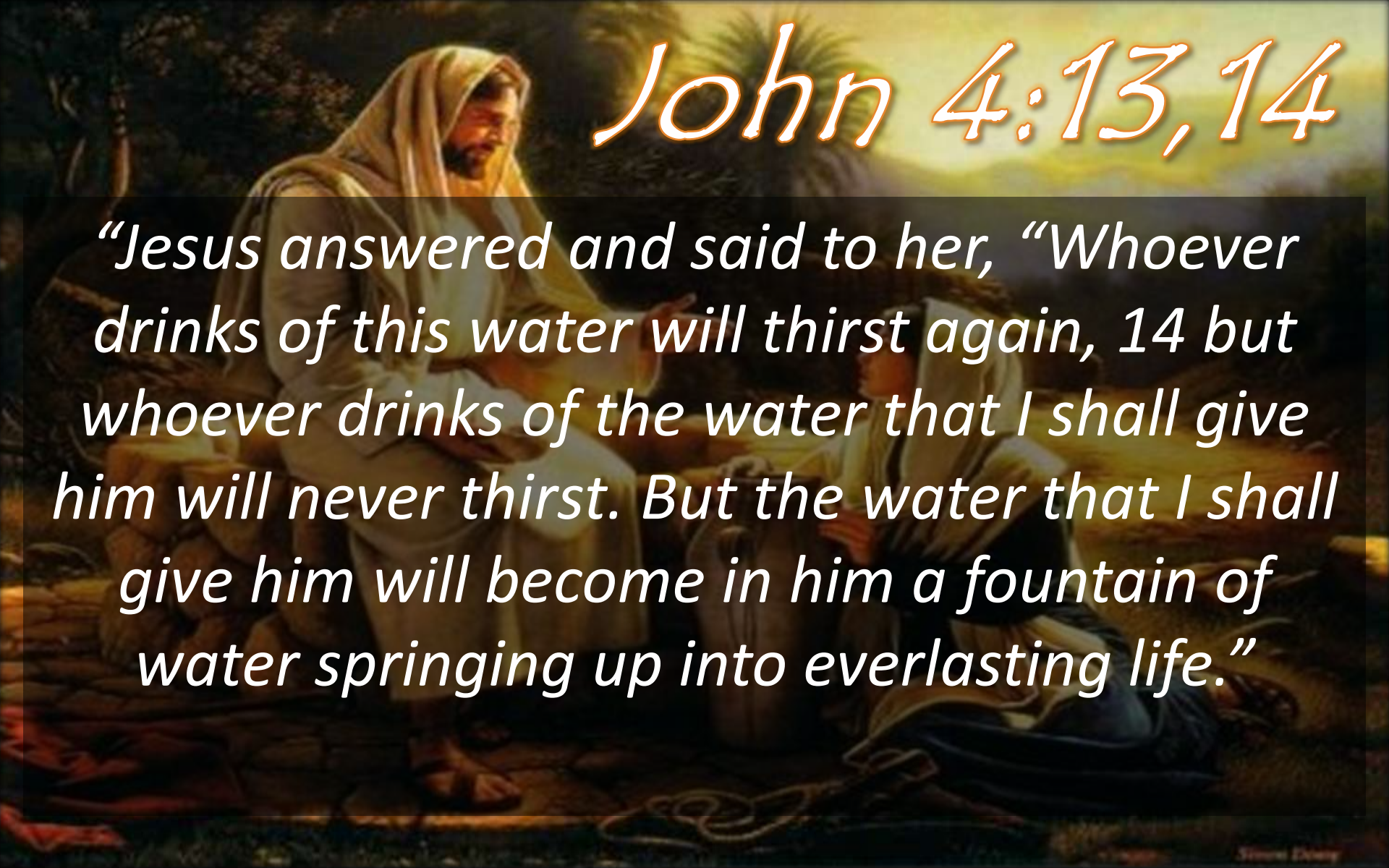
*“A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”*”

A religious painting depicting Jesus, with a halo, standing and talking to a Samaritan woman sitting at a well. The scene is set in a rural, hilly landscape with trees and a bright sky. The text is overlaid on the image.

# *John 4:10*

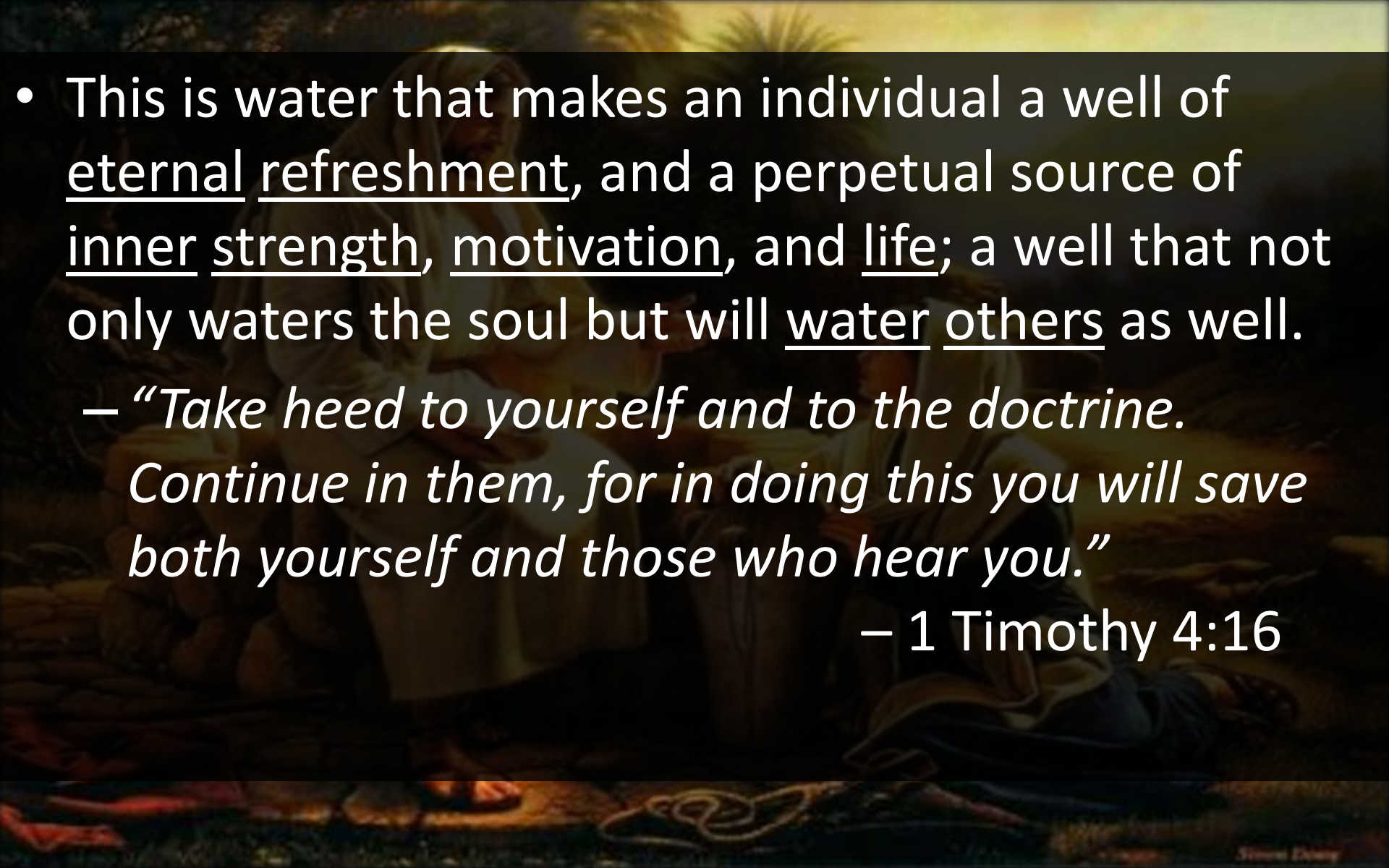
*“Jesus answered and said to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”*”



A painting depicting Jesus and a woman at a well. Jesus, on the left, is wearing a white robe and a head covering, looking towards the woman. The woman, on the right, is also wearing a head covering and a dark robe, looking down. They are standing near a stone well. The background is a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

# *John 4:13,14*

*“Jesus answered and said to her, “Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”*

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- This is water that makes an individual a well of eternal refreshment, and a perpetual source of inner strength, motivation, and life; a well that not only waters the soul but will water others as well.

– *“Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.”*

– 1 Timothy 4:16



A religious painting depicting Jesus standing at a stone well, gesturing towards a man kneeling on the ground. The scene is set in a rural, arid landscape with a warm, golden light. Jesus is wearing a white robe and a head covering. The man is wearing a blue robe and a head covering, and is holding a large earthenware jar. The background shows a stone wall and some trees.

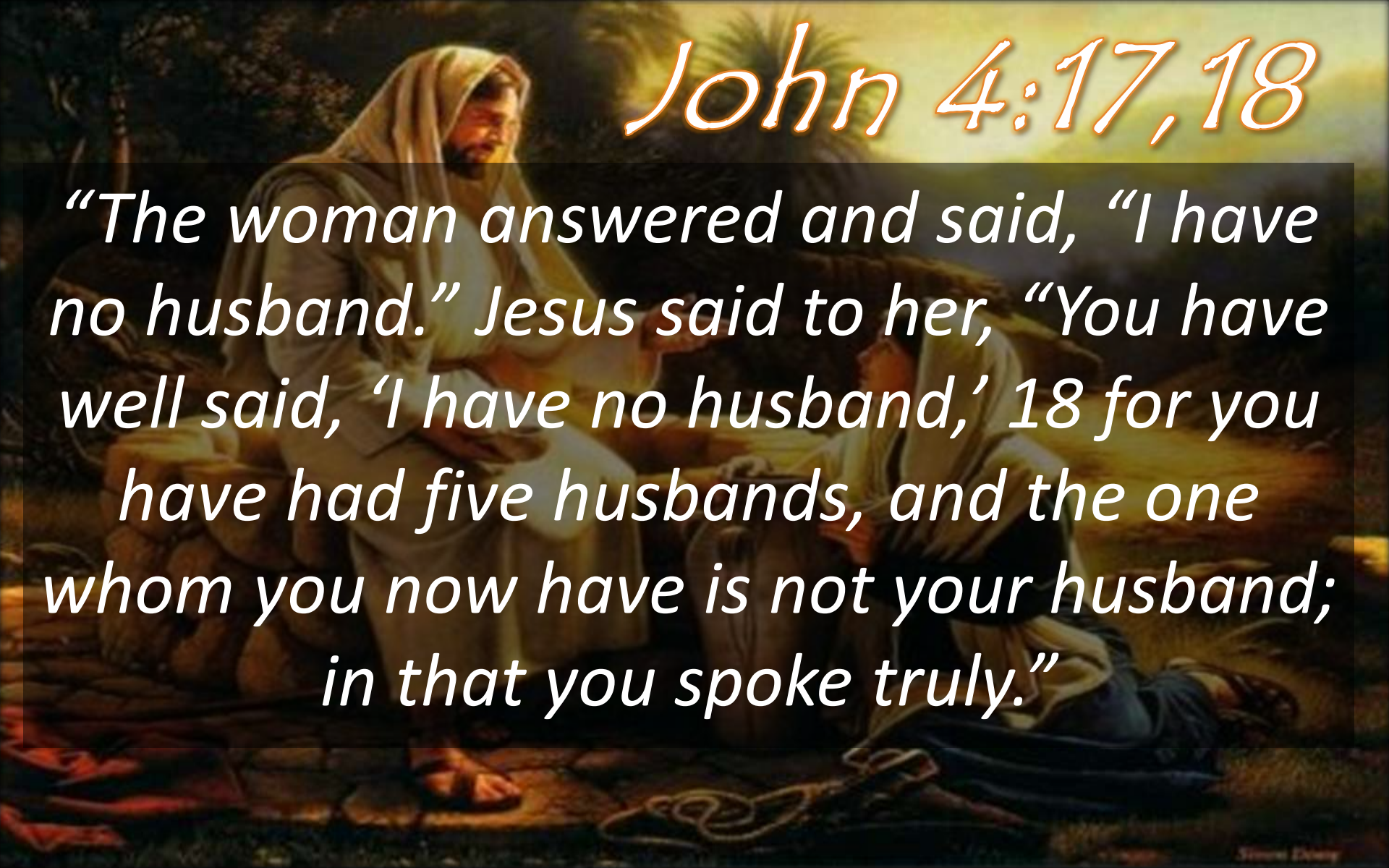
# *John 7:38*

*“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”*

# Consider

- Does this accurately describe us?
- Are we such wells of water?
- Do we refresh and revitalize the weak, weary, and discouraged?
- Do we bring new life into others; are we sources of spiritual refreshment?





# *John 4:17,18*

*“The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have well said, ‘I have no husband,’ 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly.”*

A religious painting depicting Jesus, with a halo, standing on the left in a white robe and talking to a man kneeling on the right. The man is wearing a blue robe and a white head covering. The background is a desert landscape with a bright light source in the sky. The text "John 4:20" is written in a glowing, orange font in the upper right corner.

# *John 4:20*

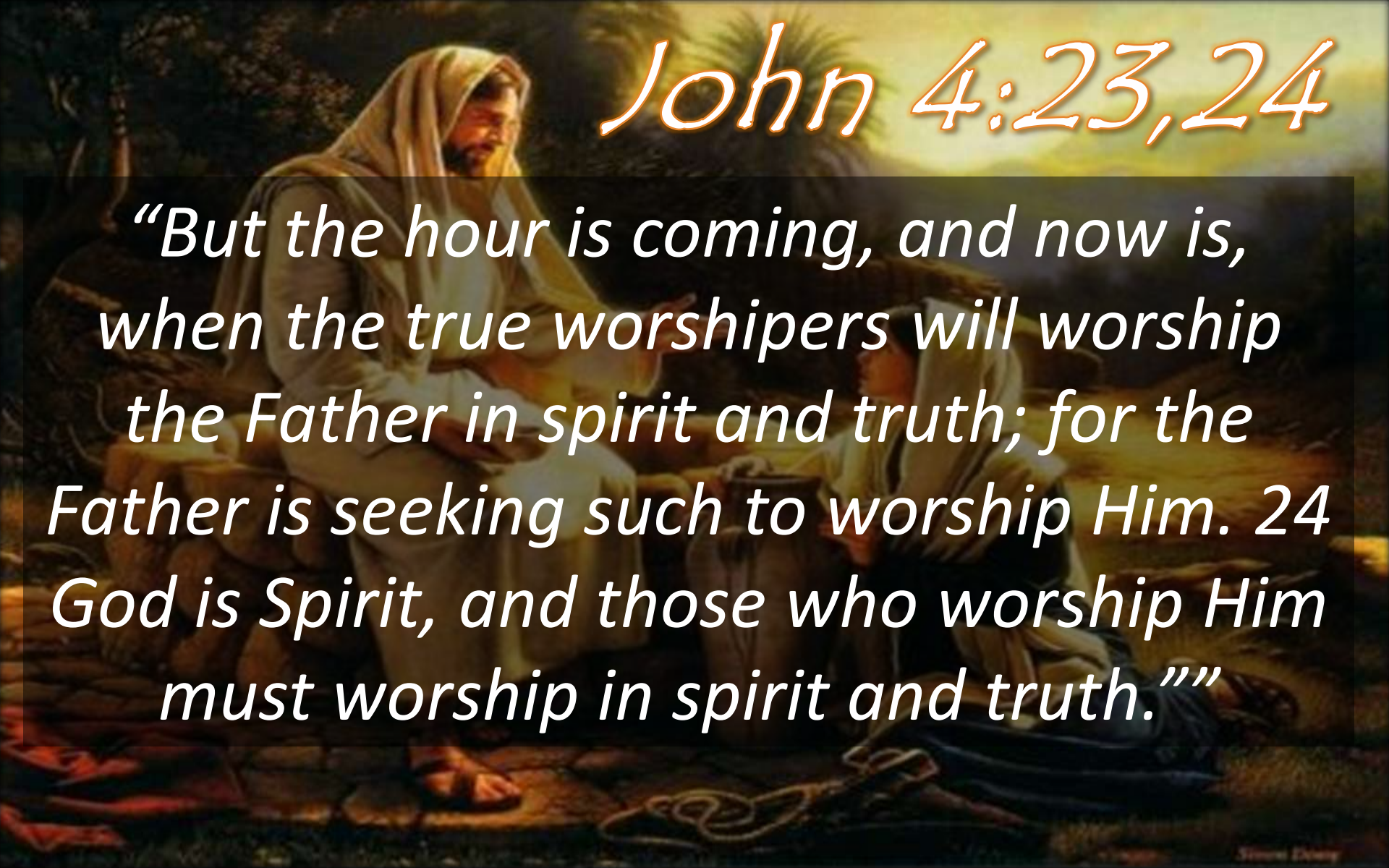
*“Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.”*



An artistic illustration of Jesus, with a beard and long hair, wearing a white robe and a light-colored shawl, standing on a stone path. He is gesturing with his right hand towards a man who is kneeling on the ground. The man is wearing a dark blue tunic and a light-colored shawl. The background is a hazy, golden landscape with a large, glowing sun or moon in the sky. The overall tone is dramatic and spiritual.

# *John 4:22*

*“You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews.”*



# *John 4:23,24*

*“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.””*





# Duty or Delight

# Consider

*“Truth without spirit produces a church full or half-full of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship” (Piper p. 76).*



# *Psalm 42:2*

*“My soul thirsts for God,  
for the living God”*

# *Psalm 19:10*

*“They are more desirable  
than gold”*





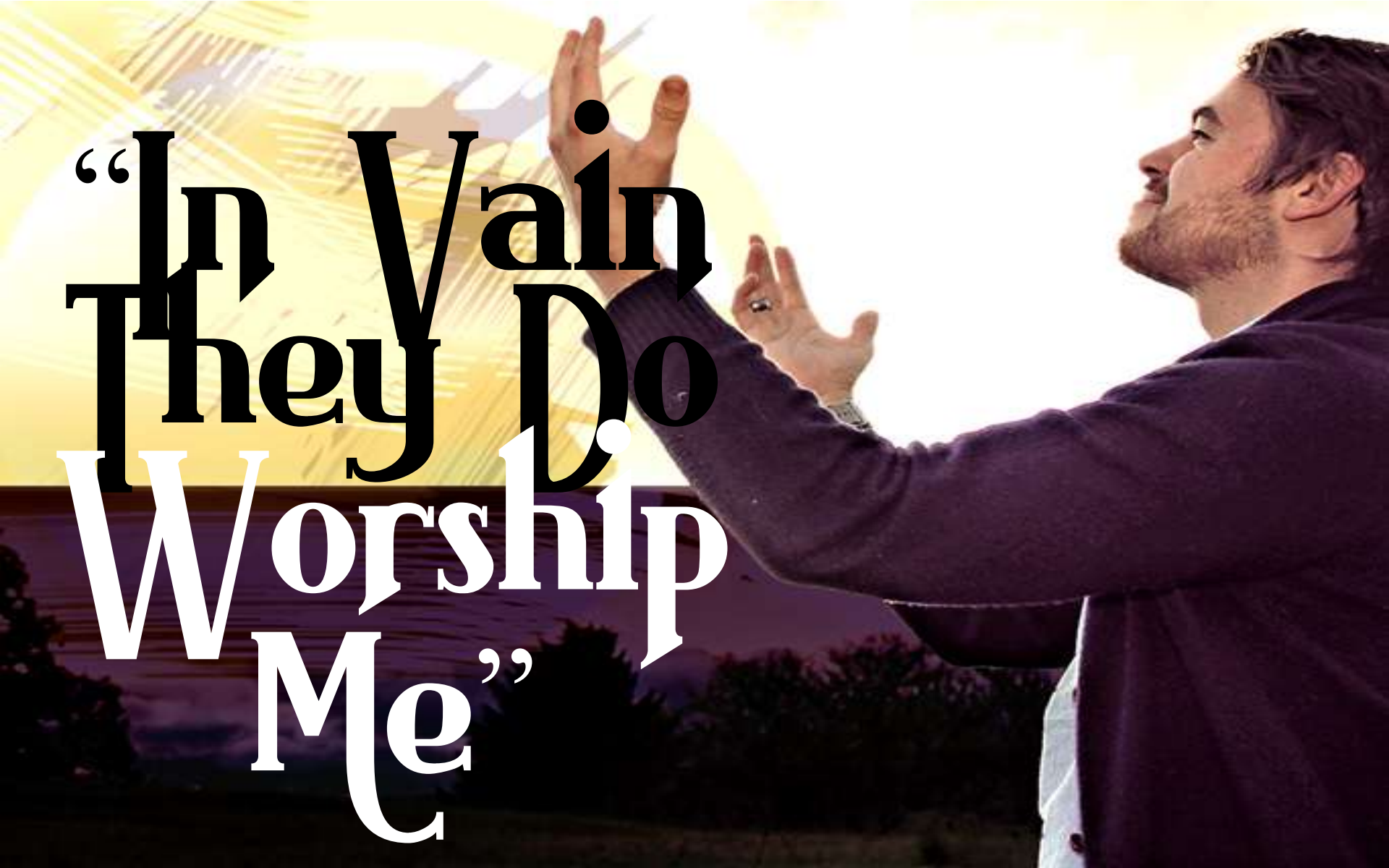
# *John 14:15*

*“If you love Me, you will  
keep My commandments”*

# *Matthew 15:8*

*“This people honors Me  
with their lips, but their  
heart is far away from Me”*



A man with a beard, wearing a dark suit jacket, is shown in profile from the chest up. He has his hands raised in a gesture of prayer or worship, with fingers slightly spread. He is looking upwards towards a bright sun that is partially obscured by a lens flare effect of radiating lines. The background is a mix of bright yellow and white from the sun, and a darker, purple-tinged sky below. The overall mood is one of devotion and spiritual seeking.

**“In Vain  
They Do  
Worship  
Me”**

# Consider

- *“Where feelings for God are dead, worship is dead” (Piper p. 79).*
- *Worshiping, obeying, and serving God should be a natural delight.*
  - *“My heart’s desire and prayer to God” (Romans 10:1);*
  - *“Whom have I in heaven but Thee? And besides Thee, I desire nothing on earth” (Psalm 73:25)*
  - *“Delight yourself in the Lord” (Psalm 37:4).*



A man with a beard, wearing a dark jacket, is shown in profile from the waist up, looking upwards with his hands raised in a gesture of awe or prayer. He is standing in a grassy field with trees in the background. A large, stylized sun with radiating lines is superimposed over the sky, partially behind the text. The sun has a yellow and orange gradient. The text 'Duty or Delight' is written in a large, black, serif font. 'Duty' is in a bold, slightly condensed serif font, 'or' is in a smaller, regular serif font, and 'Delight' is in a highly decorative, cursive-style serif font. The background is a mix of natural landscape and abstract graphic elements.

# Duty or Delight

# *"Duty or Delight"*

- *Empty, hollow ritual has never honored God.*
  - *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" (Matthew 22:37).*
  - *"O God, Thou art my God; I shall seek Thee earnestly; My soul thirsts for Thee, my flesh yearns for Thee...My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth offers praises with joyful lips" (Psalm 63:1-5).*





# *"Duty or Delight"*

- *There are 3 types of people in any Christian gathering:*
  - *The first are Christians in name only.*
  - *The second are those who are following Jesus but are following 'at a distance'.*
  - *The third type are those who in storm and sunshine, cleave to Him and enjoy daily communion with Him.*

# *"Duty or Delight"*

*"Many Christians go through life with a low sense of spiritual vitality. Our days are largely consumed with secular pursuits. Prayer and Bible reading are one-a-day 'fast food' items. 'Real life' is not life in the Spirit, but life in the flesh. It is reaching here and there, doing this and that, and fitting in Christian activity largely to meet our social needs. We may close the night in prayer as a 'spiritual glaze' over our real interests, but there is no manifest heart-hunger for God" (Williams p. 428).*







“Applications”

# *"Applications"*

- *A healthy desire for God also opens up the doors of other legitimate desires.*
  - *“My lips will praise Thee, so I will bless Thee as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Thy name” (Psalm 63:3-4).*
- *Our love for others will be genuine and fervent.*
  - *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart” – 1 Peter 1:22*





“Our Capacity  
for Joy”



# *Hebrews 11:25*

*“choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin,”*



# *"Capacity for Joy"*

*"We have settled for a home, a family, a few friends, a job, a television, a microwave oven, an occasional night out, a yearly vacation, and perhaps a new personal computer. We have accustomed ourselves to such meager, short-lived pleasures that our capacity for joy has shriveled" (John Piper, Desiring God p. 88).*



# *"Capacity for Joy"*

- *A life apart from God really restricts our ability to experience true and lasting joy.*
  - *How many people can't seem to have fun without alcohol or drugs?*
  - *How many people cannot seem to enjoy the scenery present when on vacation?*

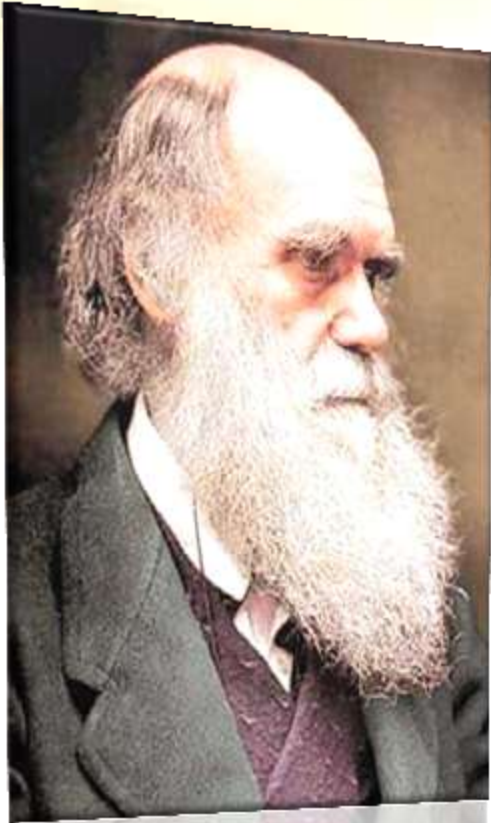




# *Phil. 4:10-13*

*“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”*

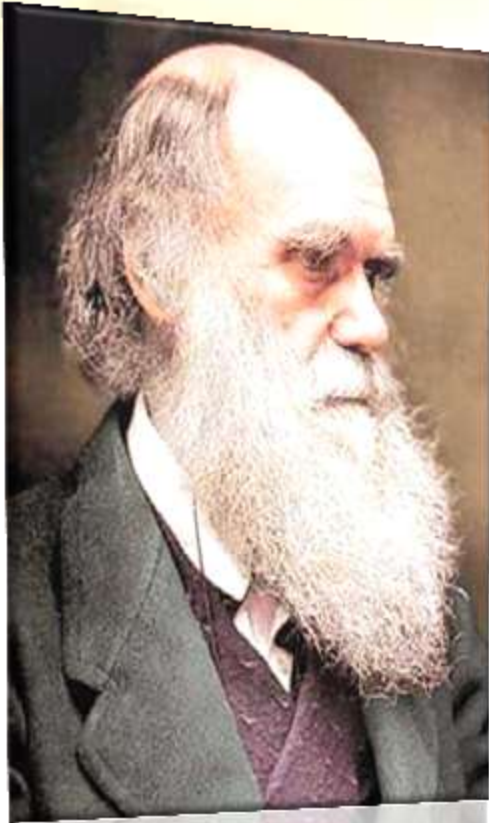
# *"Capacity for Joy"*



Charles Darwin

*"Up to the age of 30 or beyond it, poetry of many kinds gave me great pleasure. Formerly pictures gave me considerable, and music very great, delight. But now for many years I cannot endure to read a line of poetry. I have also almost lost any taste for pictures or music. I retain some taste for fine scenery, but it does not cause me the exquisite delight that it formerly did..."*

# *"Capacity for Joy"*



Charles Darwin

*"My mind seems to have become a kind of machine for grinding general laws out of large collections of facts, but why this should have caused the atrophy of that part of the brain alone, on which the higher tastes depend, I cannot conceive. The loss of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and may possibly be injurious to the intellect, and more probably the moral character, by enfeebling the emotional part of our nature".*





**“I Want The  
Reward”**



Immanuel Kant

# *"Wanting The Reward"*

*"an action is moral, only if one has no desire to perform it, but performs it out of a sense of duty and derives no benefit, from it of any sort, neither material nor spiritual. A benefit destroys the moral value of an action"*

**Terrible  
Philosophy!**

# *Hebrews 11:6*

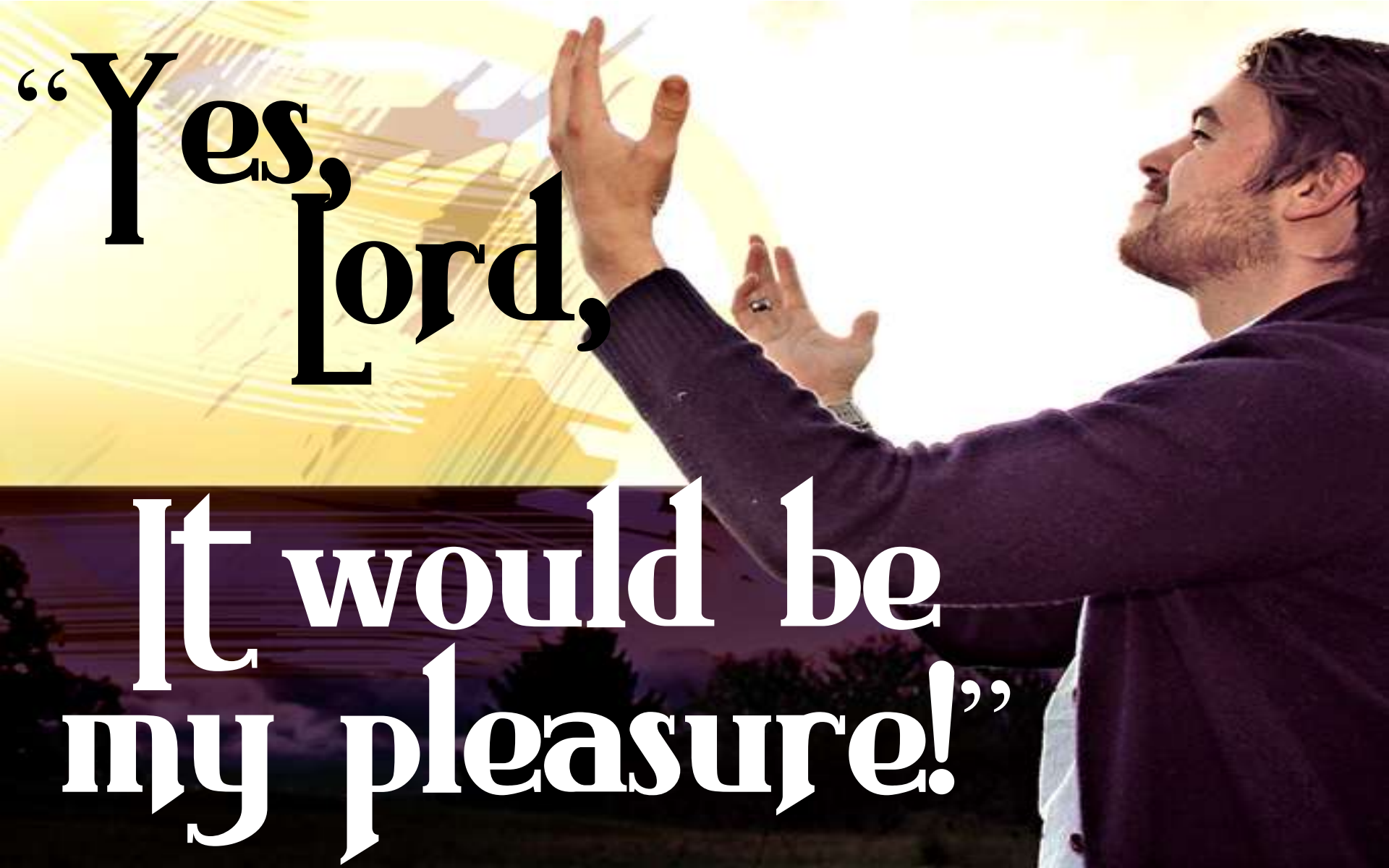
*“For he who comes to God  
must believe that He is, and  
that He is a rewarder of those  
who diligently seek Him”*





# *"Wanting the Reward"*

- *We need to renounce the idea that the virtue of an act diminishes to the degree that you enjoy doing it.*
- *It is spiritual and healthy to desire the reward!*
- *It is godly that one enjoys and thrives in...*
  - *studying the Scriptures, expressing mercy (Micah 6:8), in praying to God, in worshipping with God's people (Psalm 122:1), in sharing the gospel, delighting in God's truth, in interacting with other Christians, and beholding their faithfulness*



“Yes,  
Lord,

It would be  
my pleasure!”

# Conclusion

- *Do we have a healthy desire for God?*
  - *Is our love genuine and fervent?*
  - *Are we deeply emotional, a true worshipper who loves deep and sound doctrine?*
  - *Or are we artificial admirers?*
- *Is it a duty (burden) or an absolute delight to be His disciple?*



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# Duty or Delight



*"What The World  
Still Needs"*