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US kayaker who faked death to flee family sentenced to jail

27 August 2025

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Max Matza

BBC News

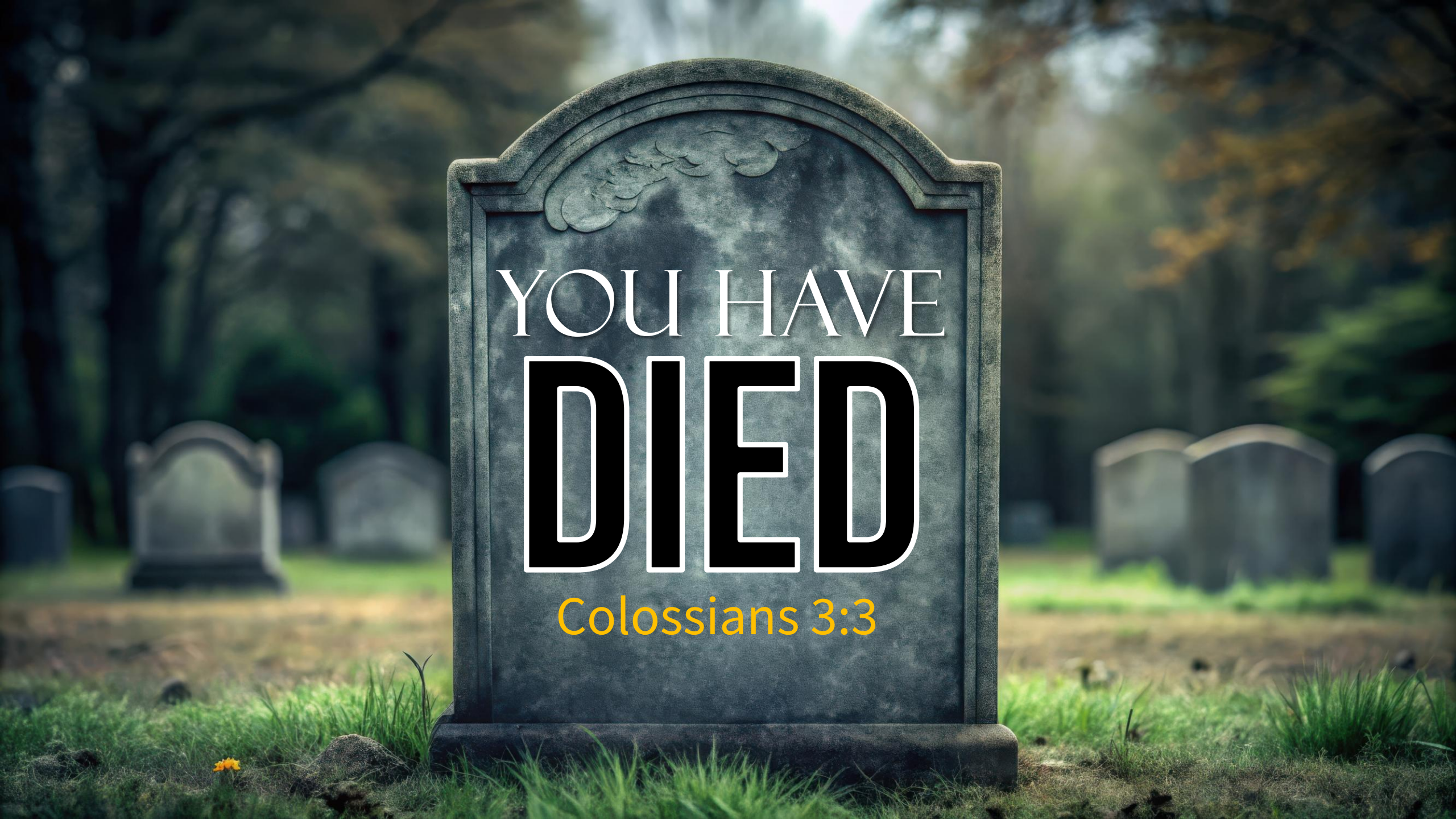
Before leaving his wife of 22 years, Borgwardt took out a life insurance policy, transferred funds to a foreign bank account, applied for a replacement passport, and had a medical procedure to reverse his vasectomy.

"His entire plan to fake his death, to devastate his family in order to serve his own selfish desires hinged on him dying in the lake and selling his death to the world," District Attorney Gerise LaSpisa said ahead of the sentencing.



Colossians 3:1-3

Therefore, if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.



YOU HAVE
DIED

Colossians 3:3





Acts 22:4-5

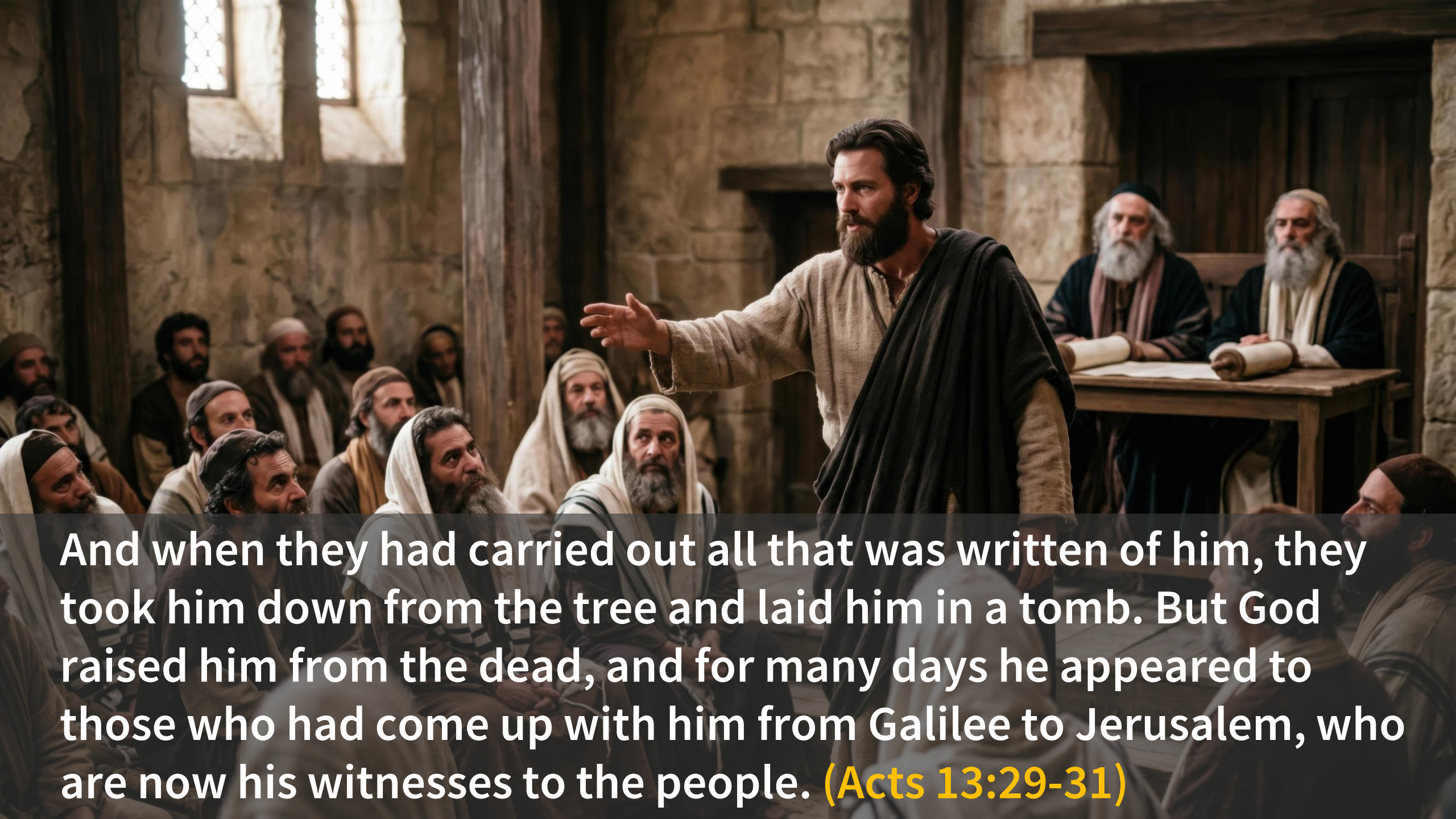
I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, as the high priest and the whole council of elders can bear me witness.



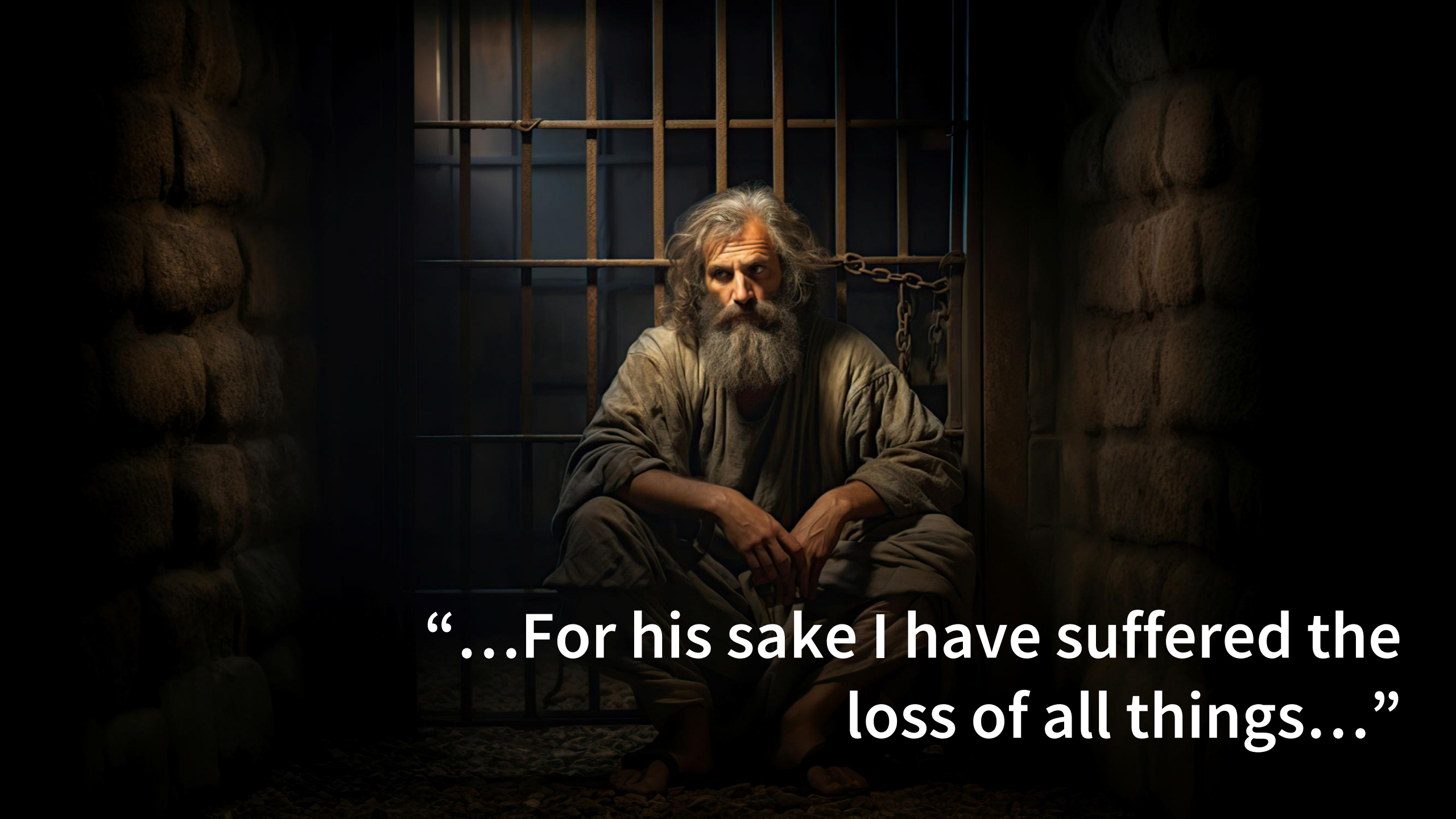
If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. **(Philippians 3:4-6)**



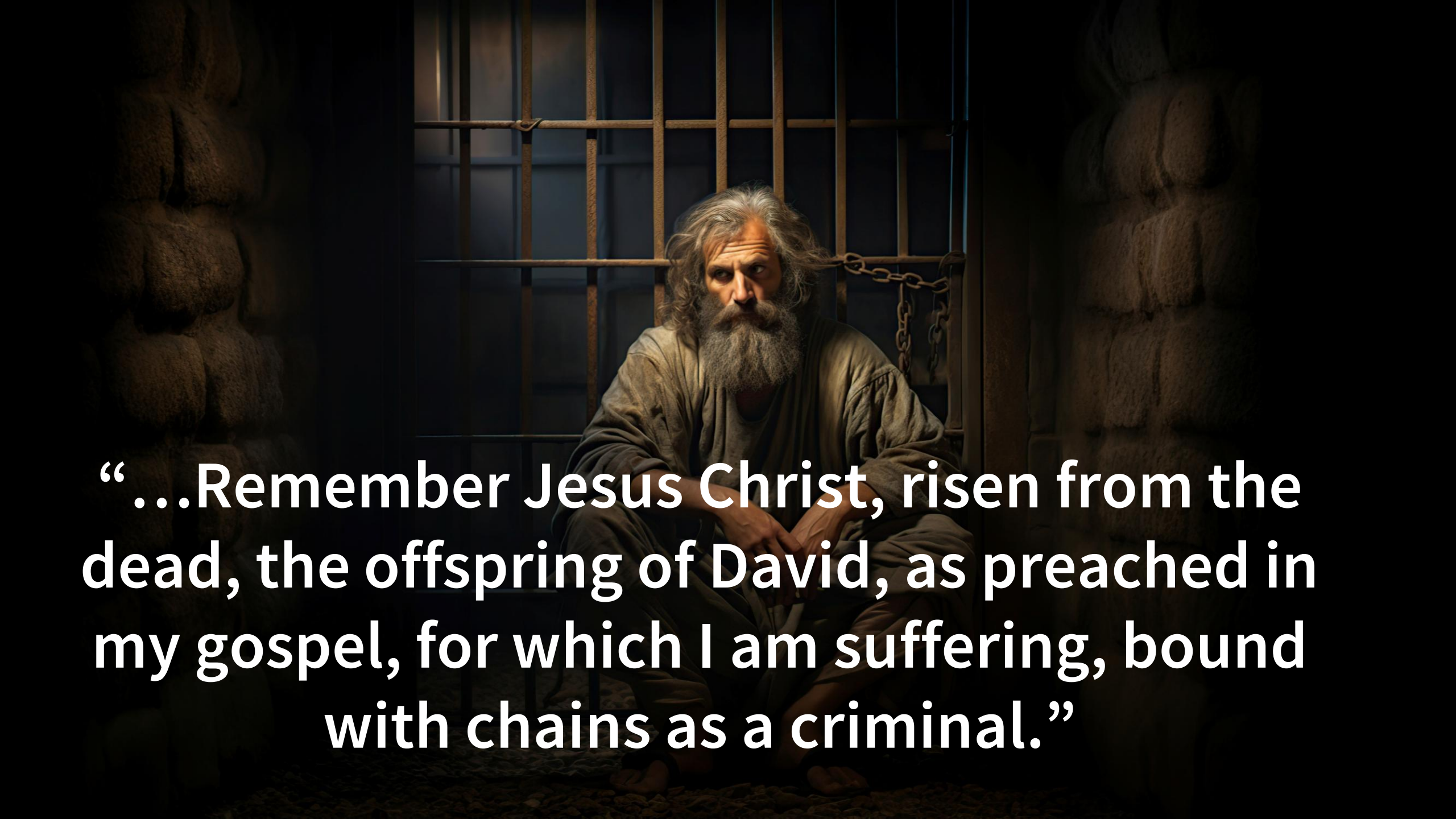
And I fell to the ground and
heard a voice saying to me,
'Saul, Saul, why are you
persecuting me?'



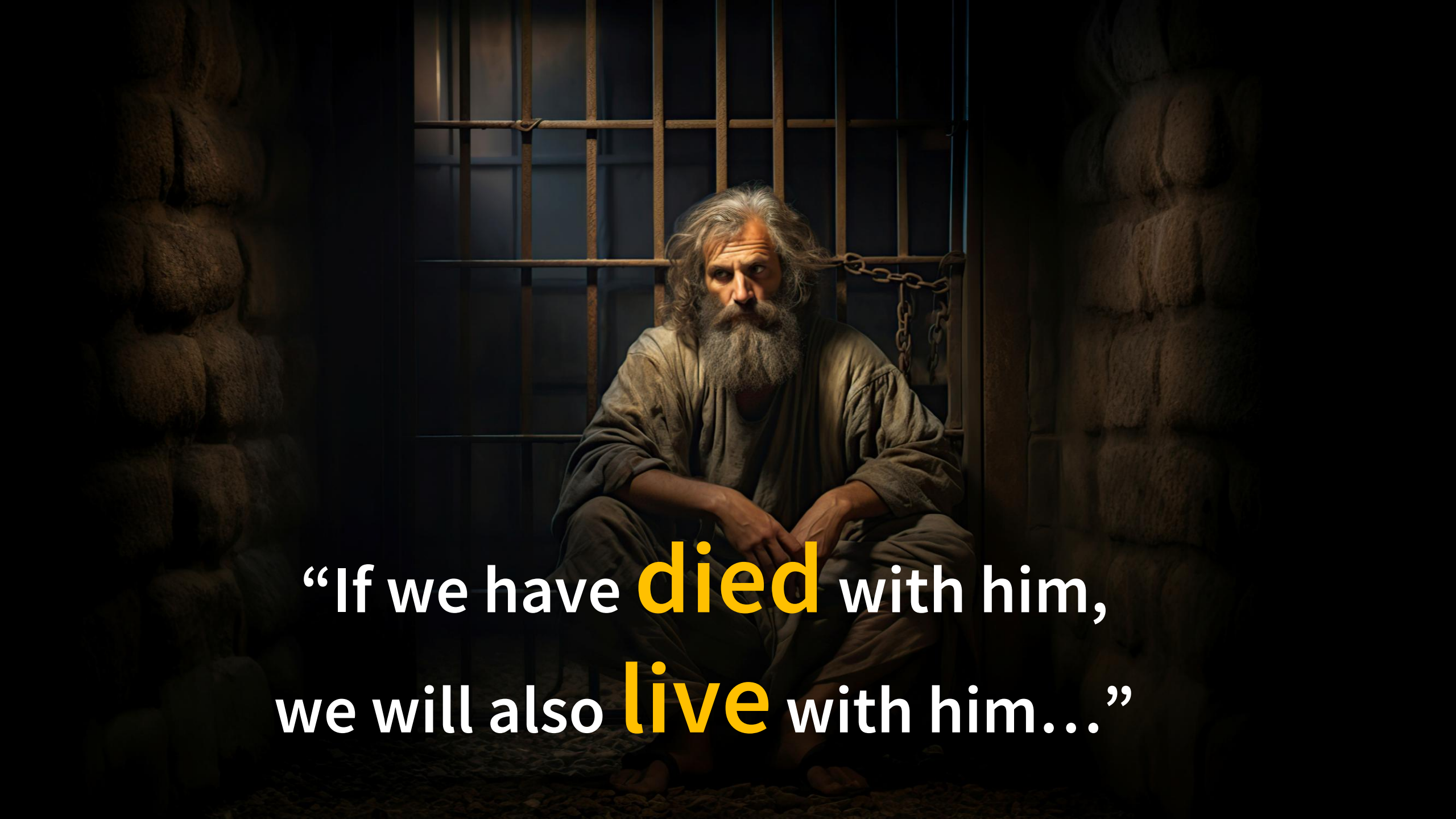
And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. But God raised him from the dead, and for many days he appeared to those who had come up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are now his witnesses to the people. (Acts 13:29-31)



**“...For his sake I have suffered the
loss of all things...”**



“...Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal.”



“If we have **died** with him,
we will also **live** with him...”

A dark, weathered gravestone stands in a cemetery. The stone has a decorative arched top with a carved floral motif. The text "HAVE YOU DIED?" is overlaid on the stone. The background shows other gravestones and trees in a soft, hazy light.

HAVE YOU
DIED?

Uh... how do I die, without dying?

Colossians 3:5-9

Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

We die by removing the parts of our character that are offensive to God.



We have to continue to die.



“BEAR FRUITS WORTHY OF REPENTANCE”



PULSE CHECK!

WHAT YOU

SAY

WHAT YOU

WANT

WHAT YOU

DO

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.