

The
BEATITUDES

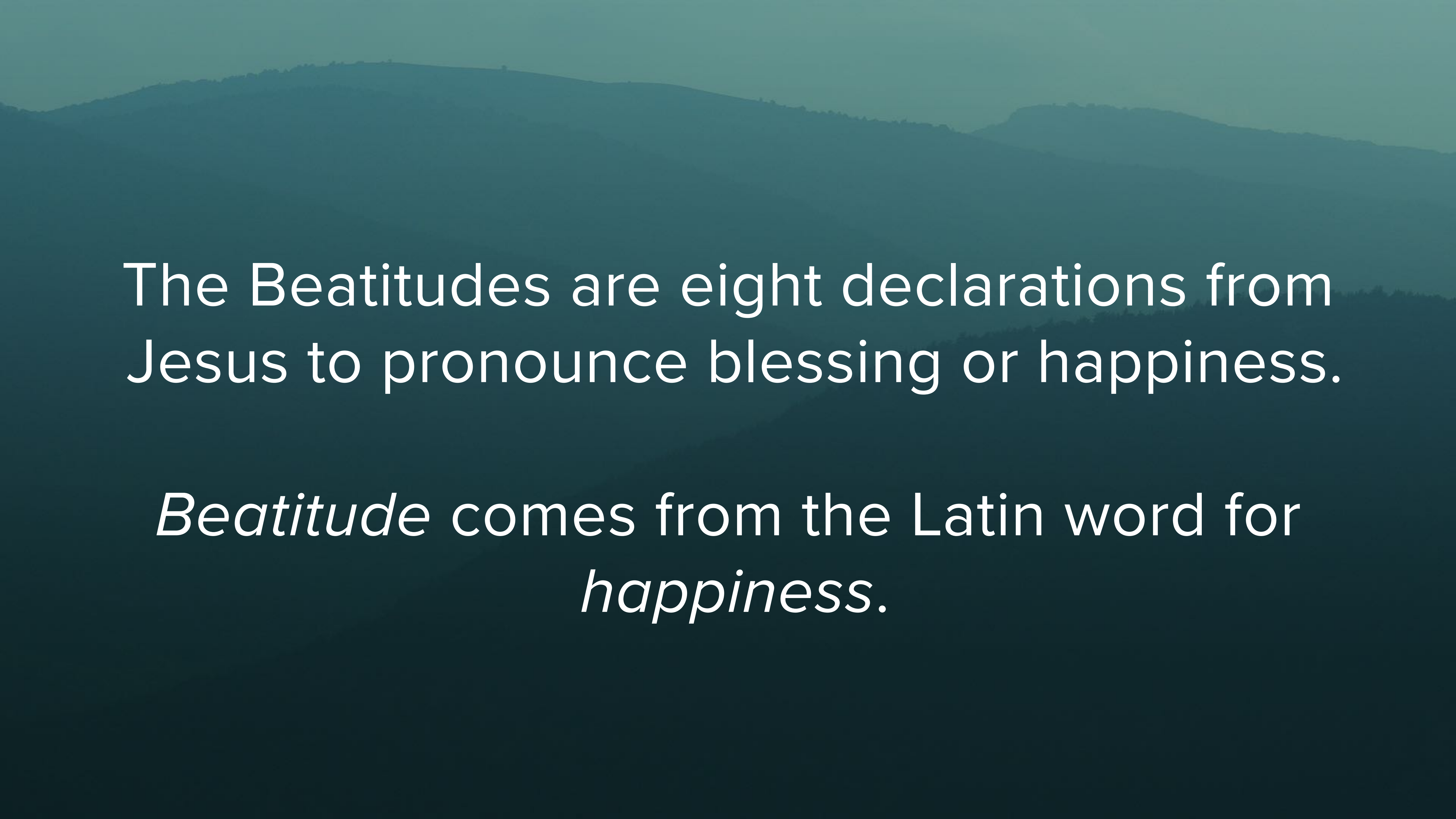
Whose Blessing Will You Seek?

Matthew 5:1-3

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,² he began to teach them.

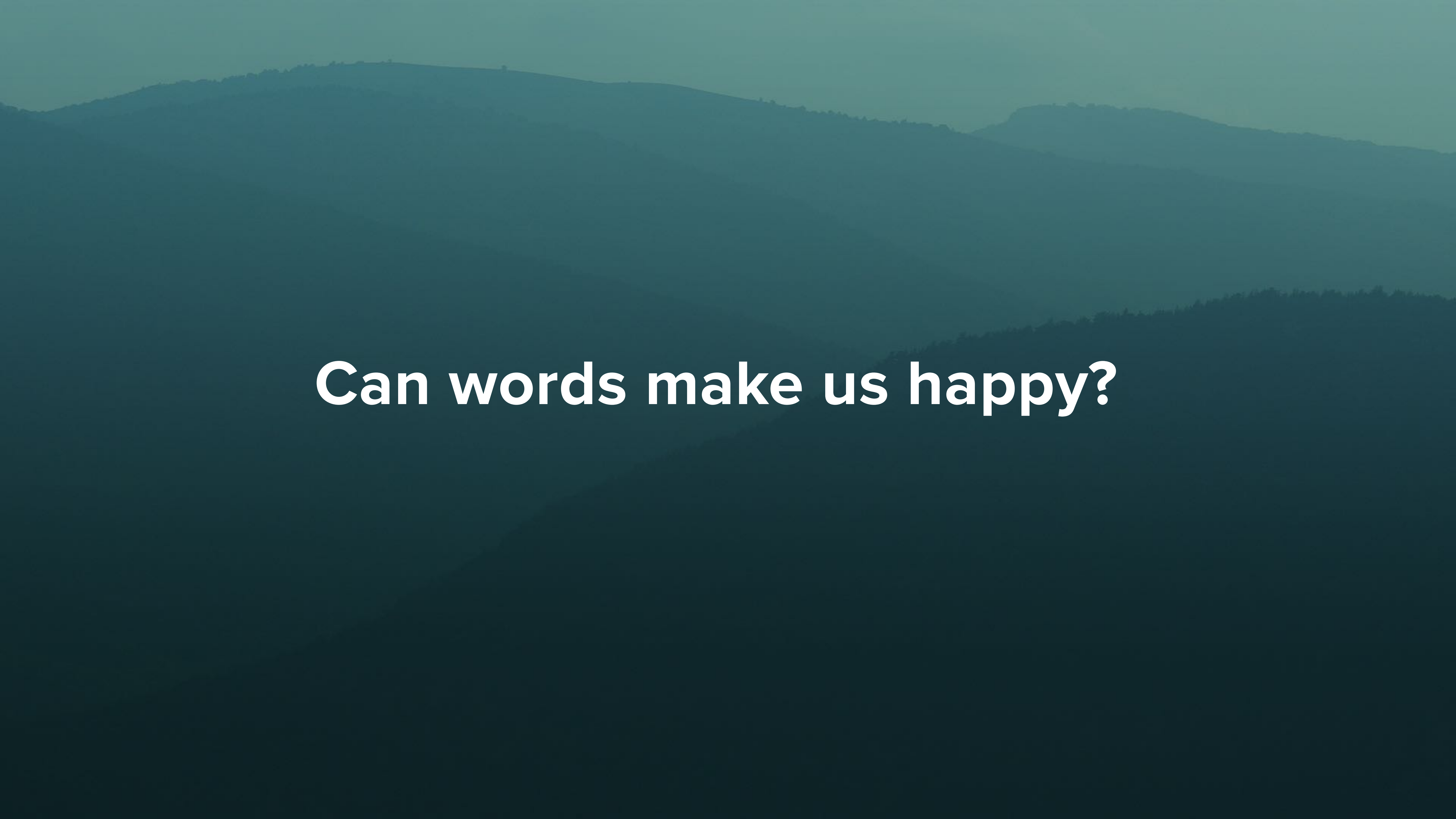
He said:

³ “Blessed...



The Beatitudes are eight declarations from Jesus to pronounce blessing or happiness.

Beatitude comes from the Latin word for
happiness.



Can words make us happy?

Isaac



Esau



Jacob



Isaac



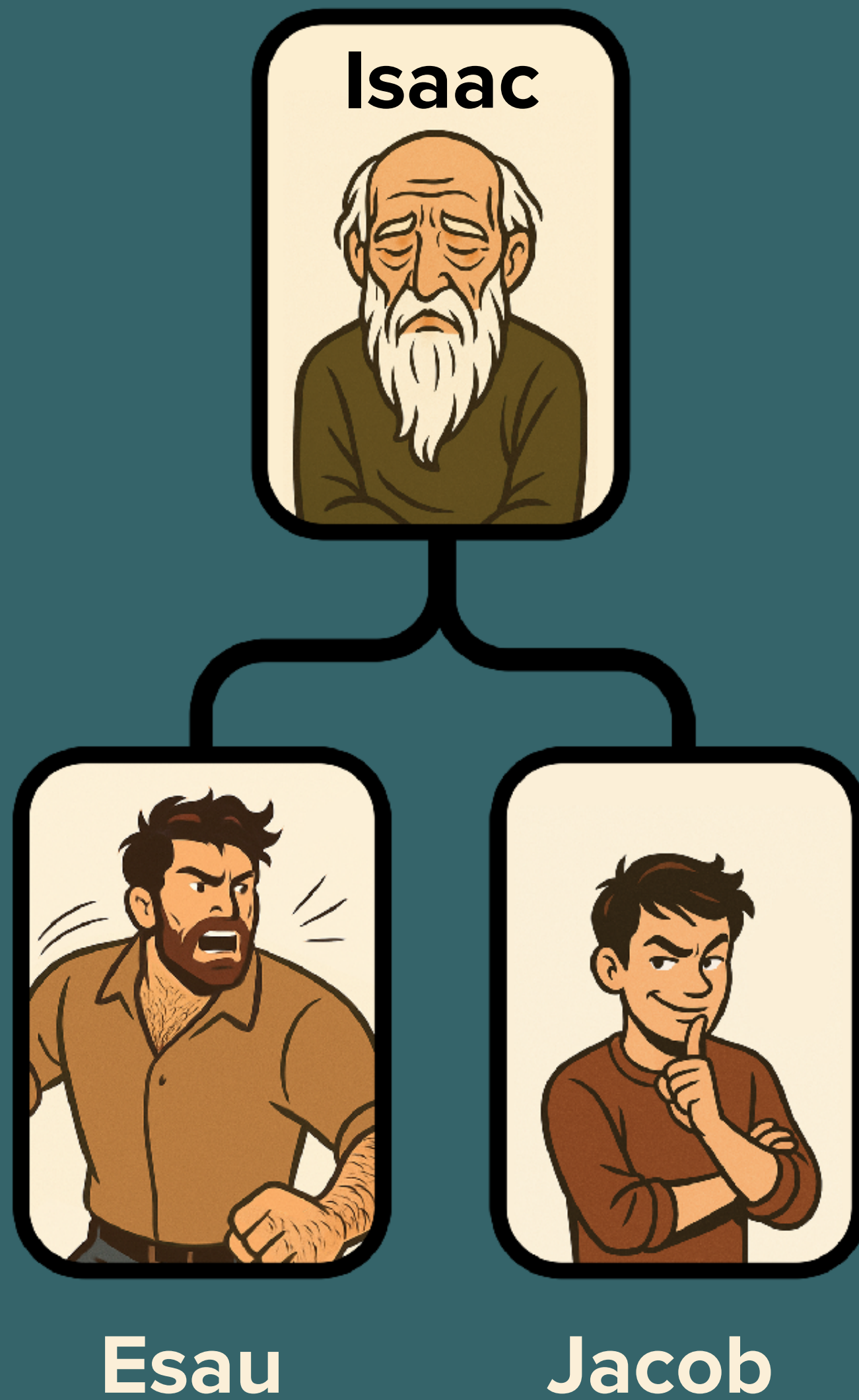
Esau



Jacob

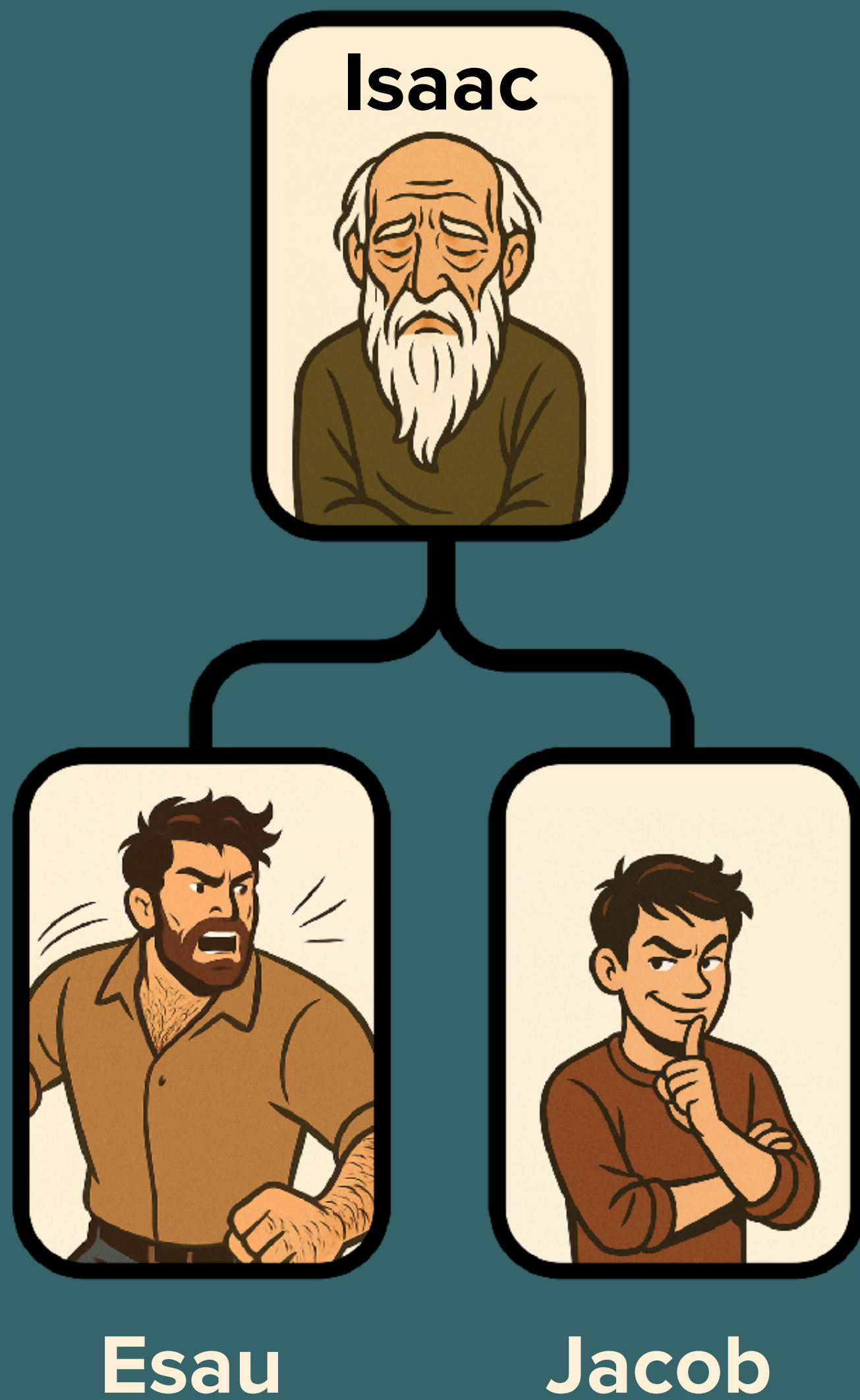
Genesis 27

³³ Isaac trembled violently and said, “Who was it, then, that hunted game and brought it to me? I ate it just before you came and I blessed him—and indeed he will be blessed!”



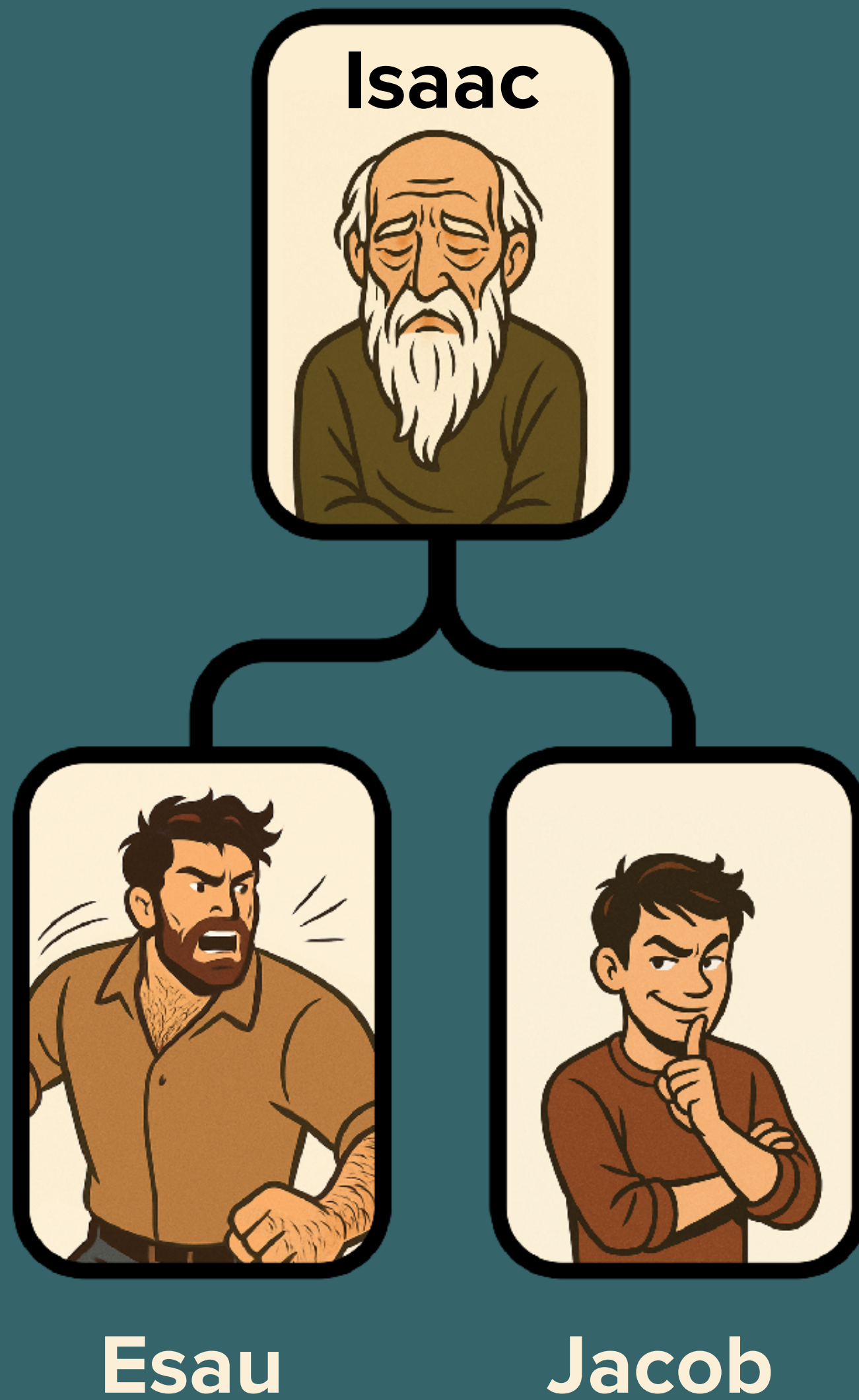
³⁴ When Esau heard his father's words, he burst out with a loud and bitter cry and said to his father, "Bless me—me too, my father!"

³⁵ But he said, "Your brother came deceitfully and took your blessing."



³⁶ Esau said, “Isn’t he rightly named Jacob? This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my birthright, and now he’s taken my blessing!” Then he asked, “Haven’t you reserved any blessing for me?”

³⁷ Isaac answered Esau, “I have made him lord over you and have made all his relatives his servants, and I have sustained him with grain and new wine. So what can I possibly do for you, my son?”



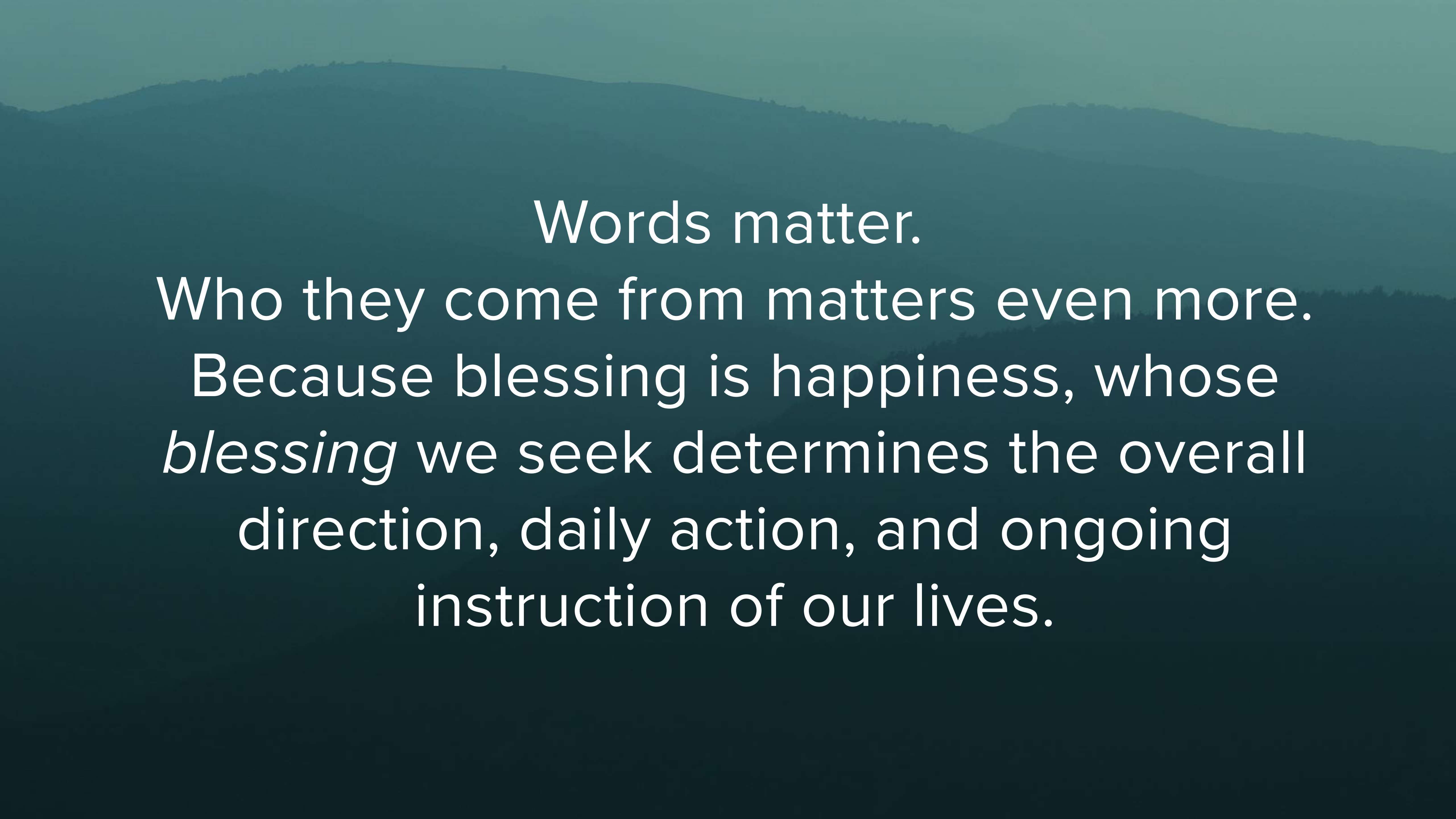
38 Esau said to his father, “Do you have only one blessing, my father? ***Bless me too, my father!***” ***Then Esau wept aloud.***





“I went over and I hugged my Dad and I got one of my first pats on the back that night.”

SHANE MCMAHON



Words matter.

Who they come from matters even more.

Because blessing is happiness, whose *blessing* we seek determines the overall direction, daily action, and ongoing instruction of our lives.

Genesis 32:22-29

[The night before Jacob was to meet Esau, he sent all his family and all his possessions ahead of him.]

²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."

But Jacob replied, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

27 The man asked him, “What is your name?”

“Jacob,” he answered.

28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”

29 Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.”

But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” **Then he blessed him there.**

Isaiah 66:1-2

¹ This is what the Lord says:

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.

Where is the house you will build for me?

Where will my resting place be?

² Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?”

declares the Lord.

“These are the ones I look on with favor:

▮▮▮ those who are humble and contrite in spirit,

▮▮▮ and who tremble at my word.

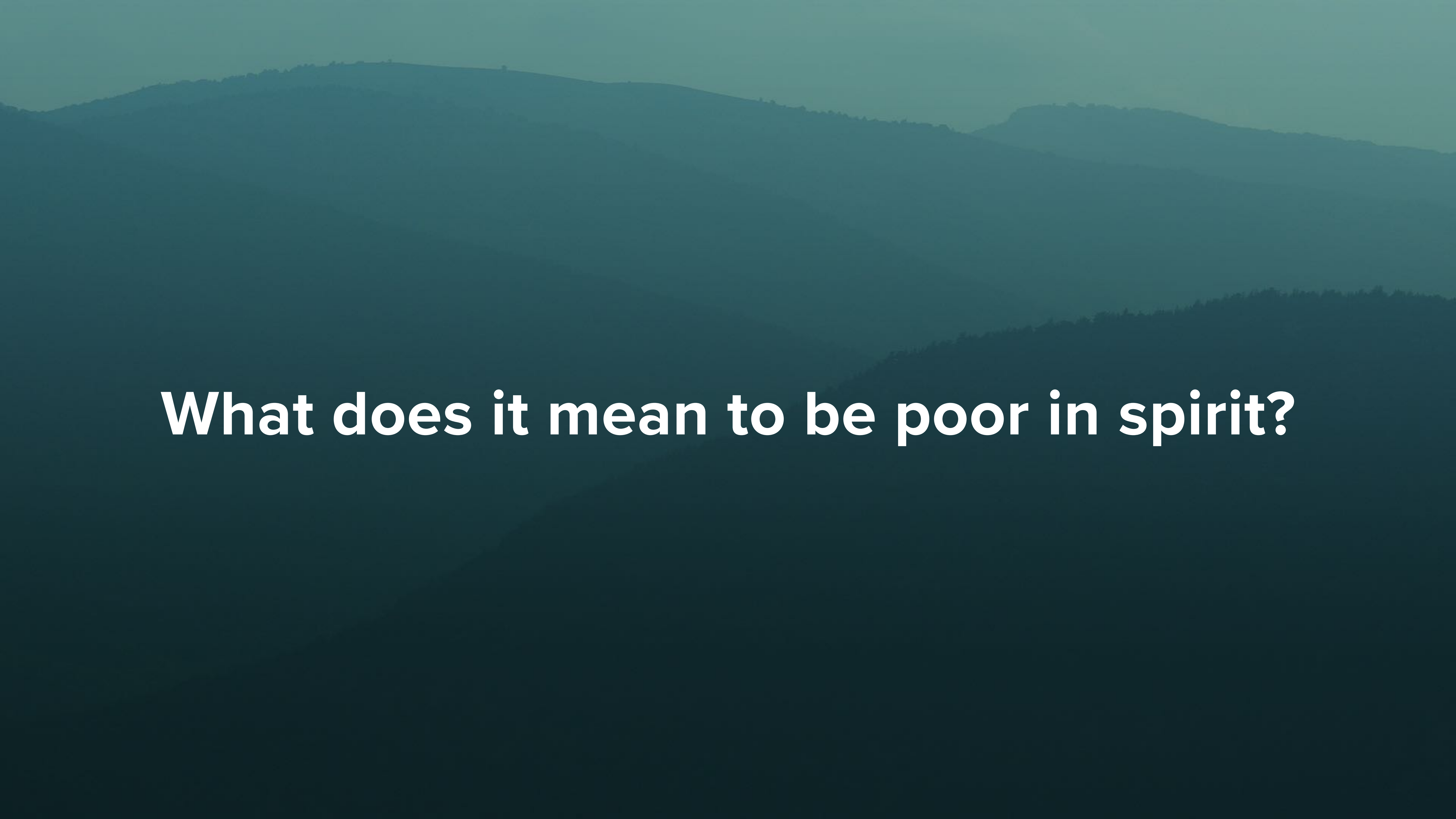
Matthew 5:1-3

¹ Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him,

² he began to teach them.

He said:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

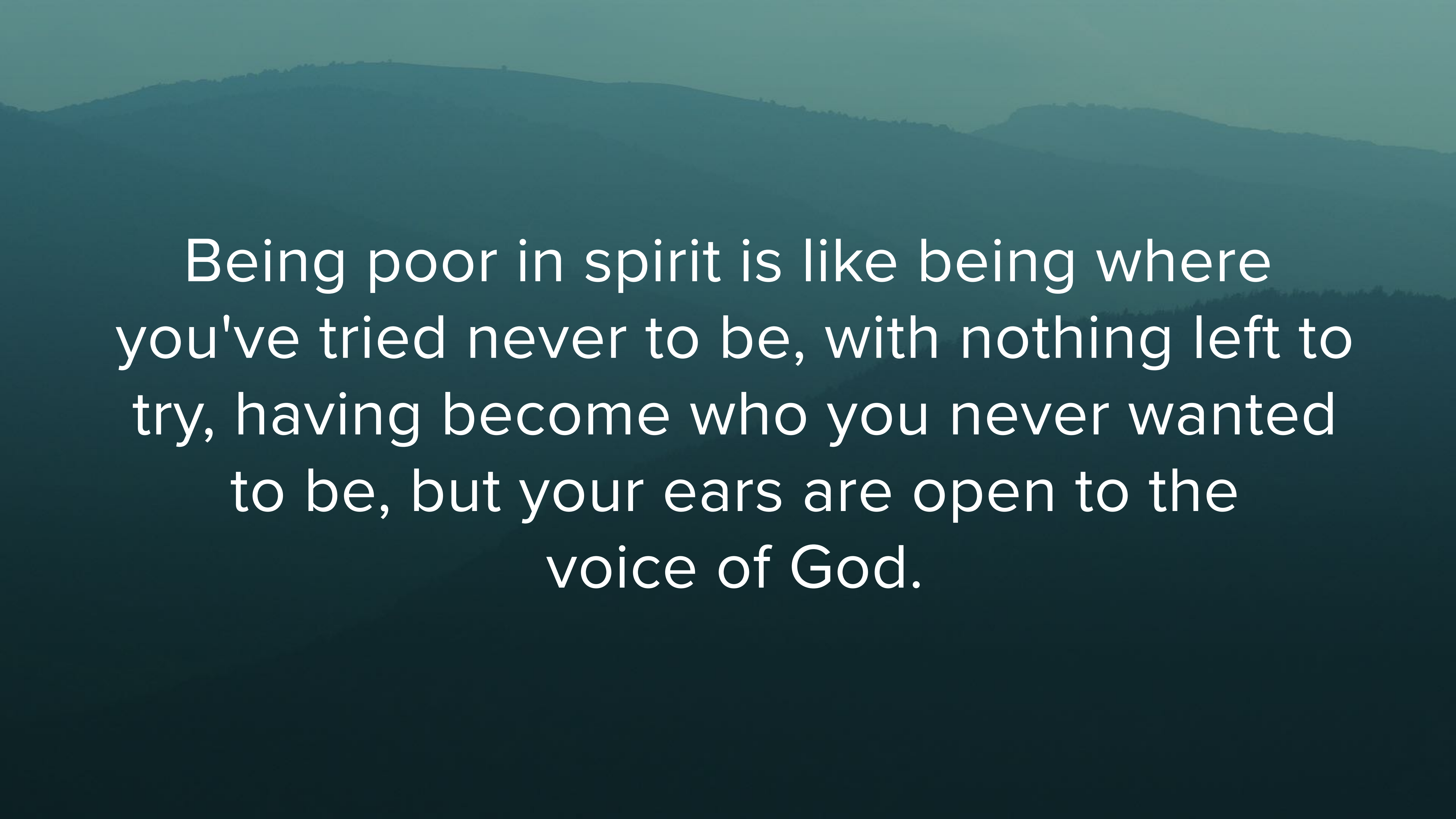


What does it mean to be poor in spirit?

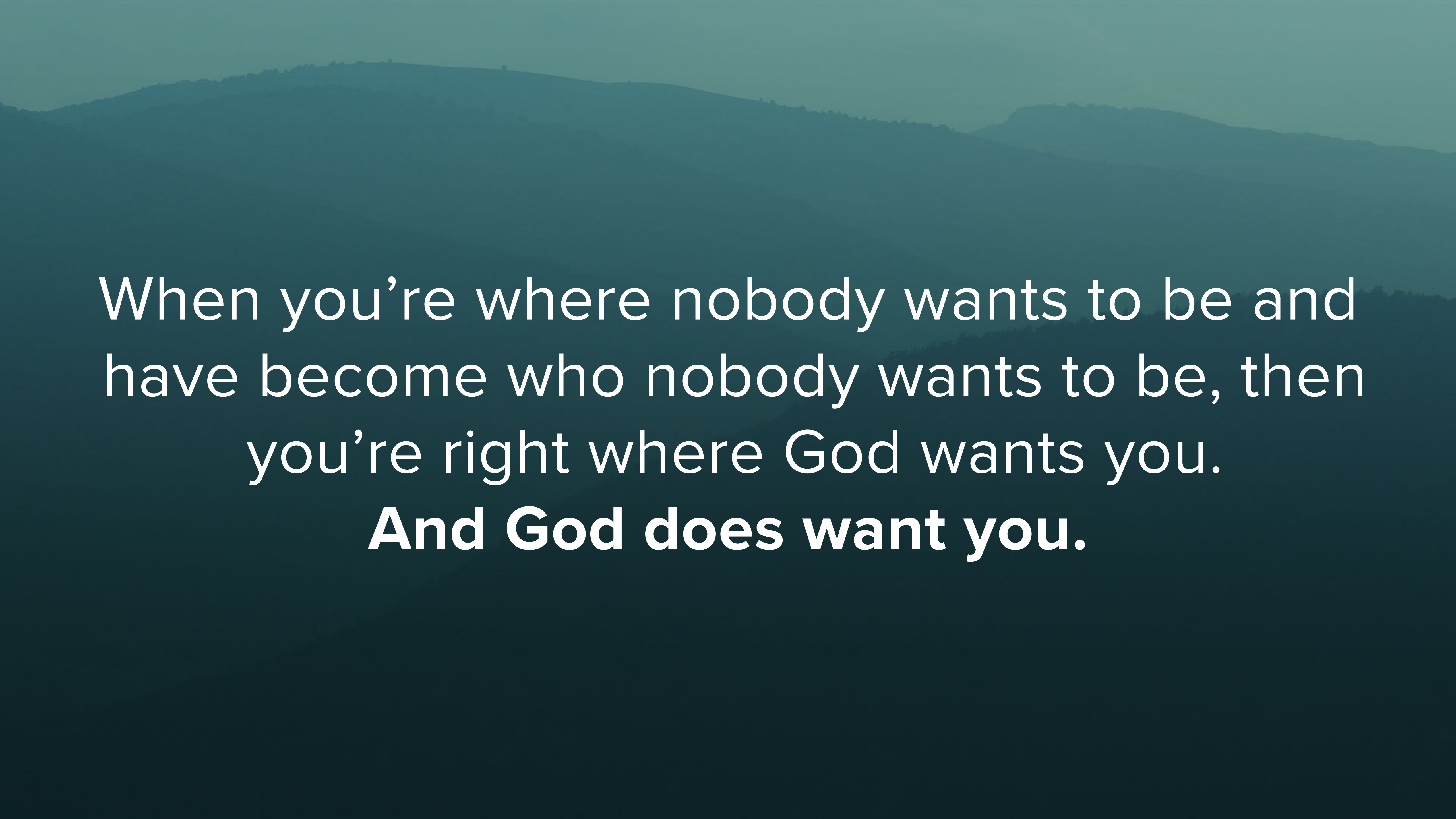
“Being poor in spirit is the opposite of being rich in pride.” JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

Being poor in spirit is genuine despair because it is saving despair. KARL BARTH

Being poor in spirit is being completely empty—of misguided love, of passionate hatred, of motivating bitterness, of energizing unforgiveness, of immature impulses.



Being poor in spirit is like being where
you've tried never to be, with nothing left to
try, having become who you never wanted
to be, but your ears are open to the
voice of God.



When you're where nobody wants to be and
have become who nobody wants to be, then
you're right where God wants you.

And God does want you.

It's a mercy—a terrible, fierce, painful mercy;
a “break-your-hip” kind of mercy—when
God opens our eyes to how needy we really
are. It's a mercy when God allows us to
sense true poverty of spirit. Why is it a
mercy? Because the poor in spirit know they
need a Savior; the poor in spirit know they
need everything.

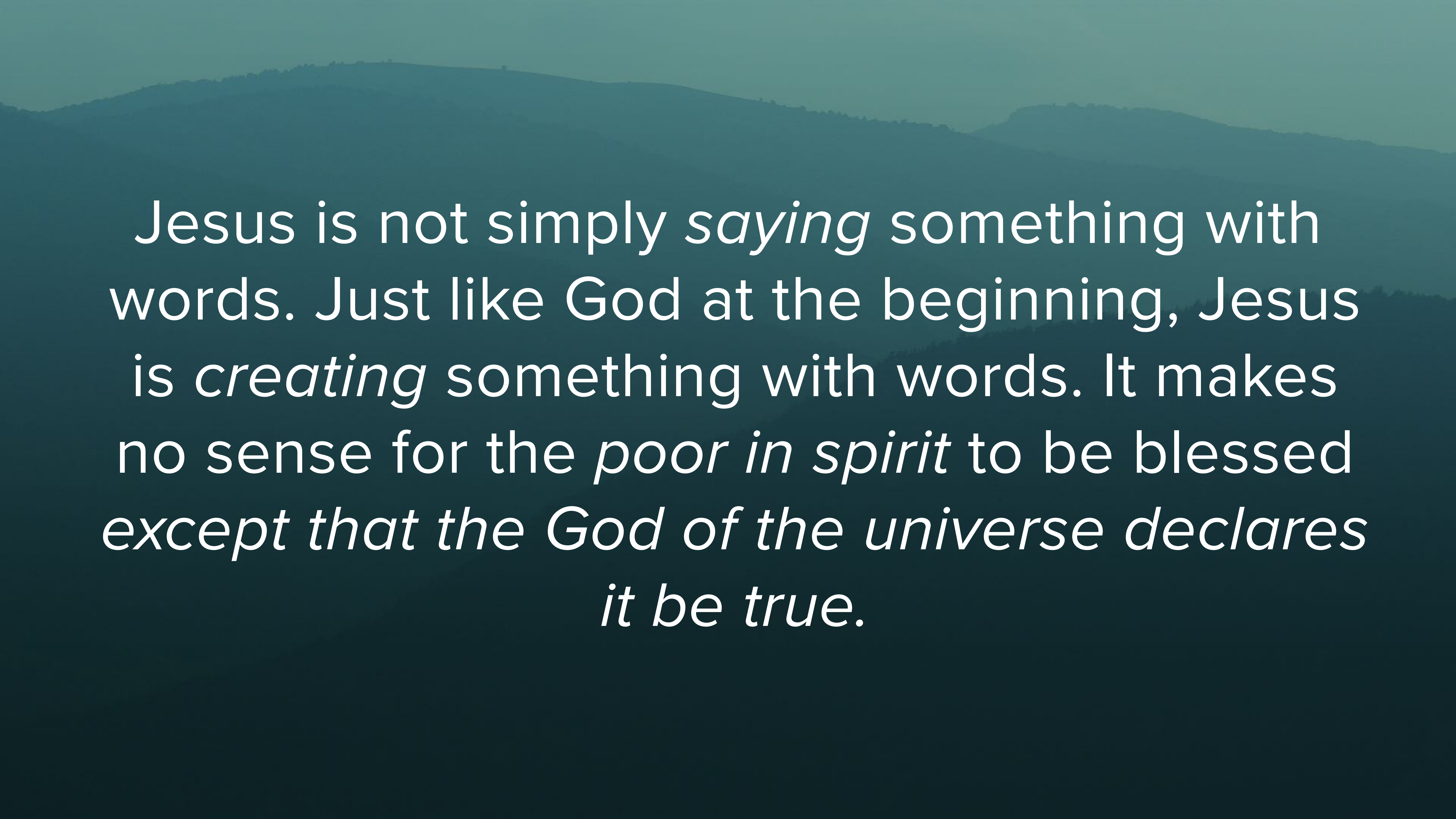


*What does God give to the poor in spirit?
The Kingdom of God.*

Where misery begins in human estimation, that's where blessedness begins in the eye of Heaven.



ST. AMBROSE
OF MILAN



Jesus is not simply *saying* something with words. Just like God at the beginning, Jesus is *creating* something with words. It makes no sense for the *poor in spirit* to be blessed *except that the God of the universe declares it be true.*

Matthew 27:50

And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he **gave up his spirit.**

It makes no sense for the poor in spirit to be blessed except that God gives His Spirit to the poor in spirit.



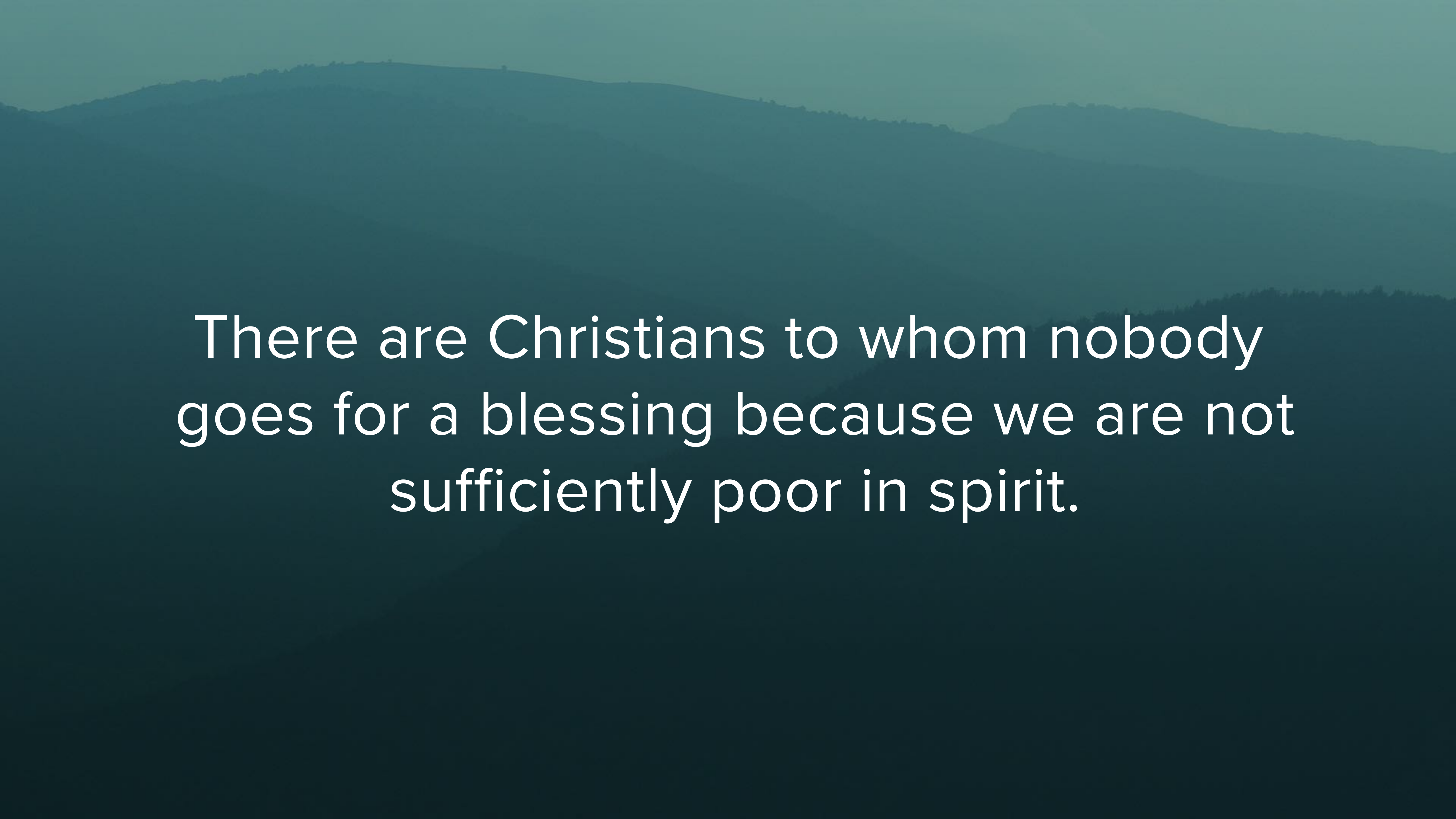
What's your response today?

1. **Attend** to the King

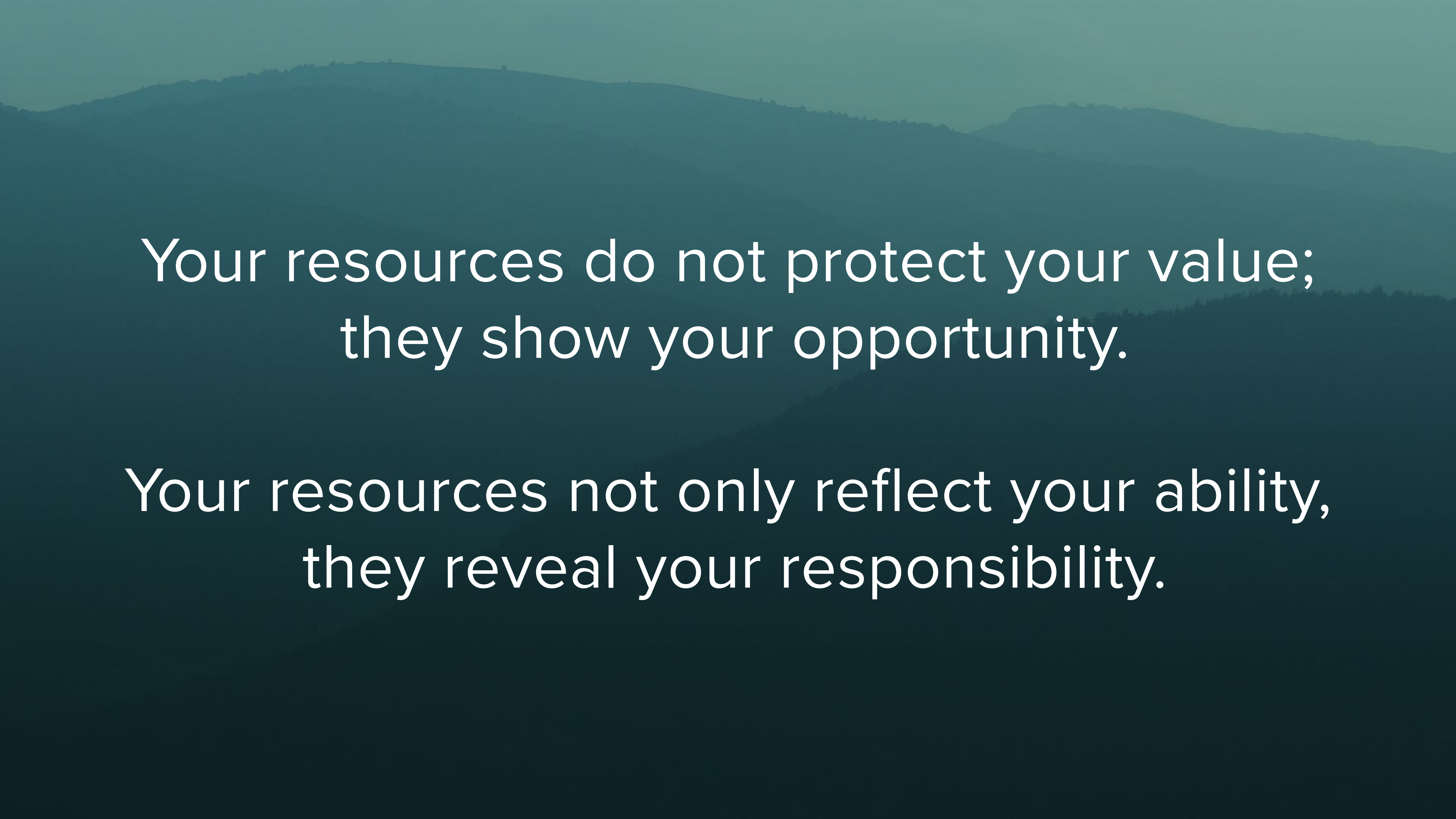


What's your response today?

1. **Attend** to the King
2. **Be** the blessing

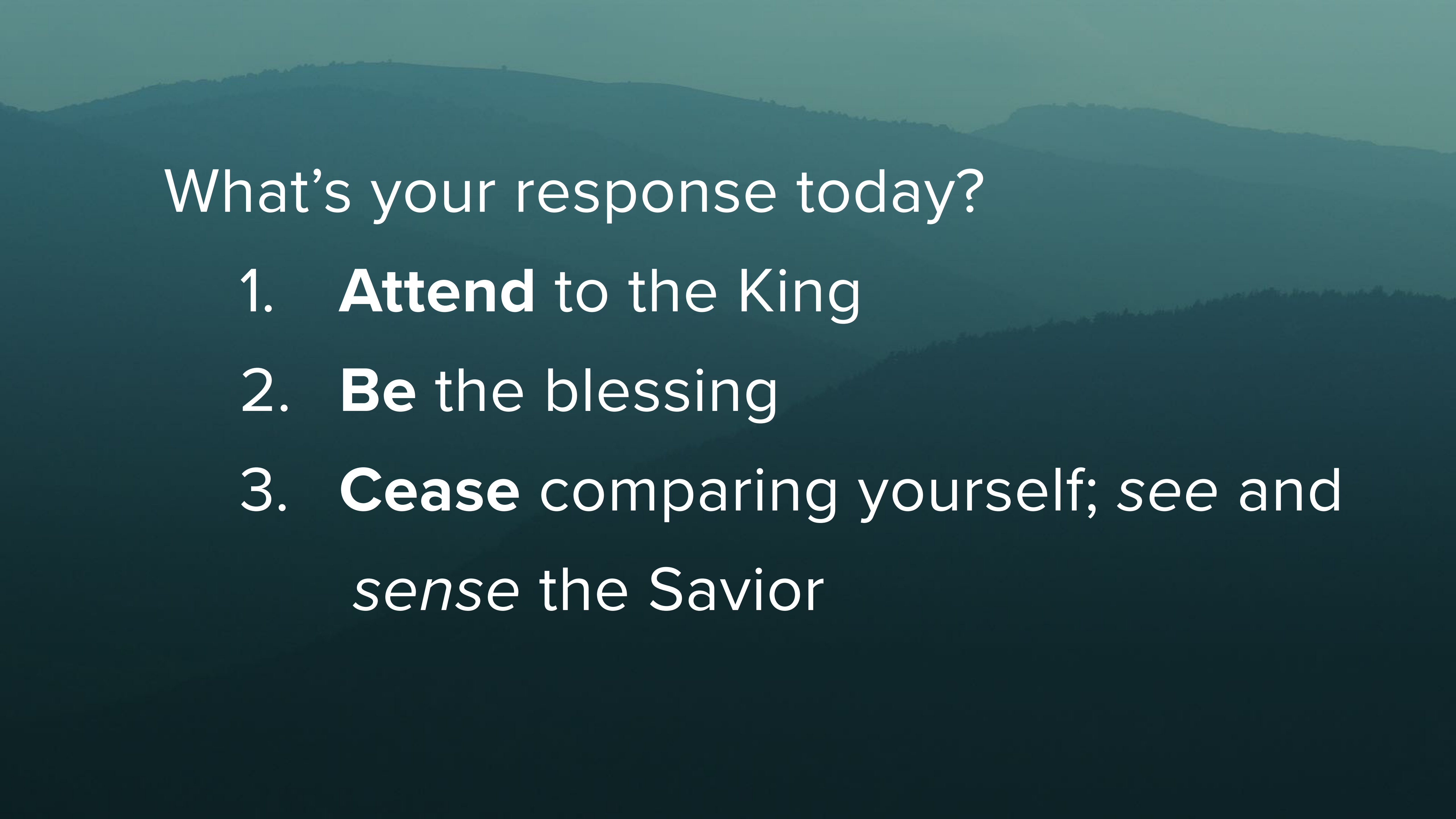


There are Christians to whom nobody
goes for a blessing because we are not
sufficiently poor in spirit.



Your resources do not protect your value;
they show your opportunity.

Your resources not only reflect your ability,
they reveal your responsibility.



What's your response today?

1. **Attend** to the King
2. **Be** the blessing
3. **Cease** comparing yourself; *see and sense* the Savior