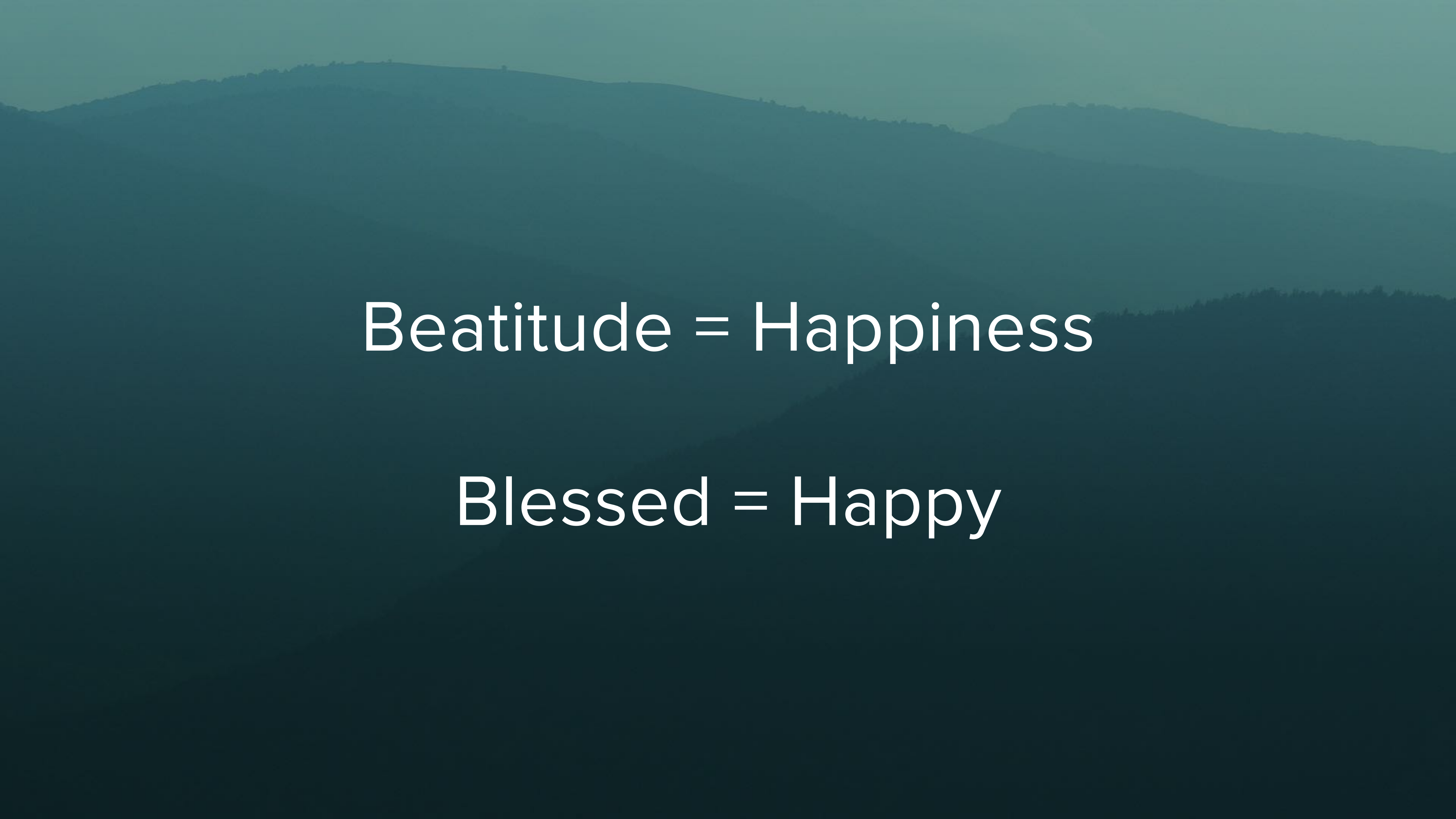


The
BEATITUDES

God's Comfort in a World of Hurts

Matthew 5:1-4

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.

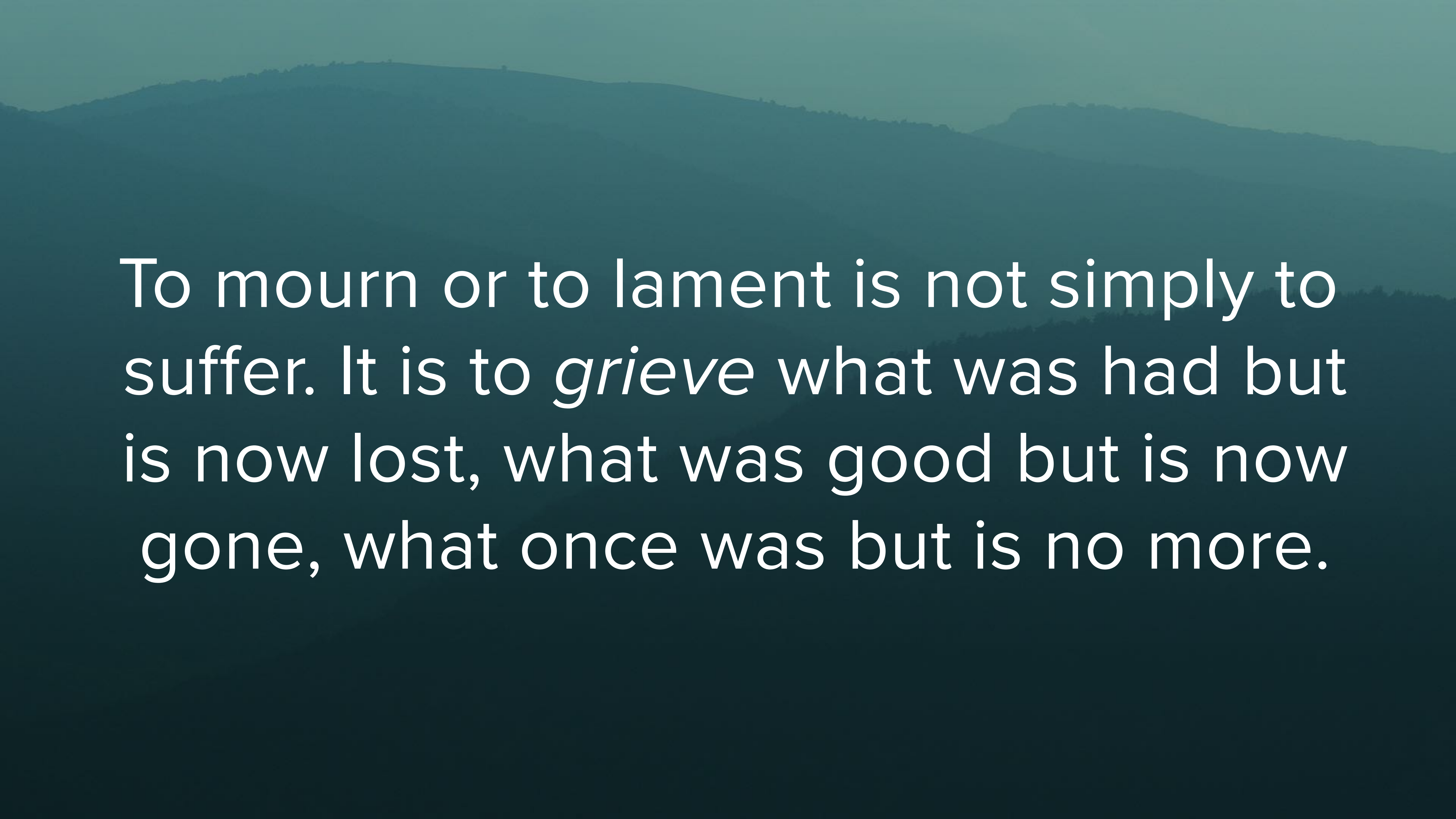


Beatitude = Happiness

Blessed = Happy

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

4 Blessed are those who *mourn*,
for *they will* be comforted.

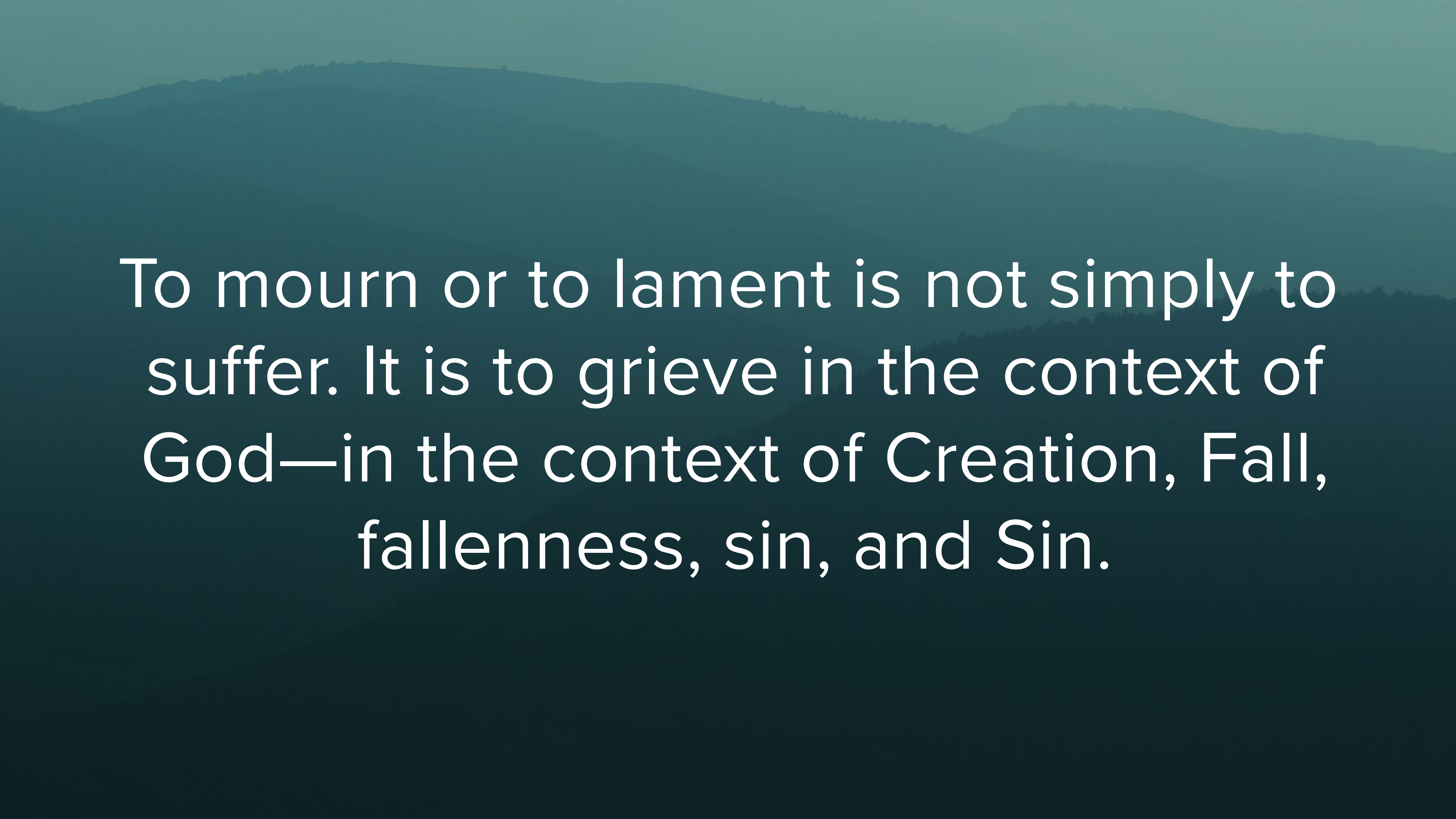


To mourn or to lament is not simply to suffer. It is to *grieve* what was had but is now lost, what was good but is now gone, what once was but is no more.

Lamentations 1:1

How deserted lies the city,
once so full of people!

How like a widow is she,
who once was great among the nations!
She who was queen among the provinces
has now become a slave.



To mourn or to lament is not simply to suffer. It is to grieve in the context of God—in the context of Creation, Fall, fallenness, sin, and Sin.

What do we mourn?

1. *Suffering we experience and the sin committed against us.*

What do we mourn?

1. Suffering we experience and the sin committed against us.
2. *Suffering of the world and sin effect in the world.*



“An awareness of the sin
of the world should produce
a mourning...in Christ’s
followers.”

JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE

Habakkuk 1 (prophet to Southern Kingdom / Judah)

¹ The prophecy that Habakkuk the prophet received.

² How long, Lord, must I call for help,
but you do not listen?

Or cry out to you, “Violence!”
but you do not save?

³ Why do you make me look at injustice?

Why do you tolerate wrongdoing?

Destruction and violence are before me;
there is strife, and conflict abounds.

What do we mourn?

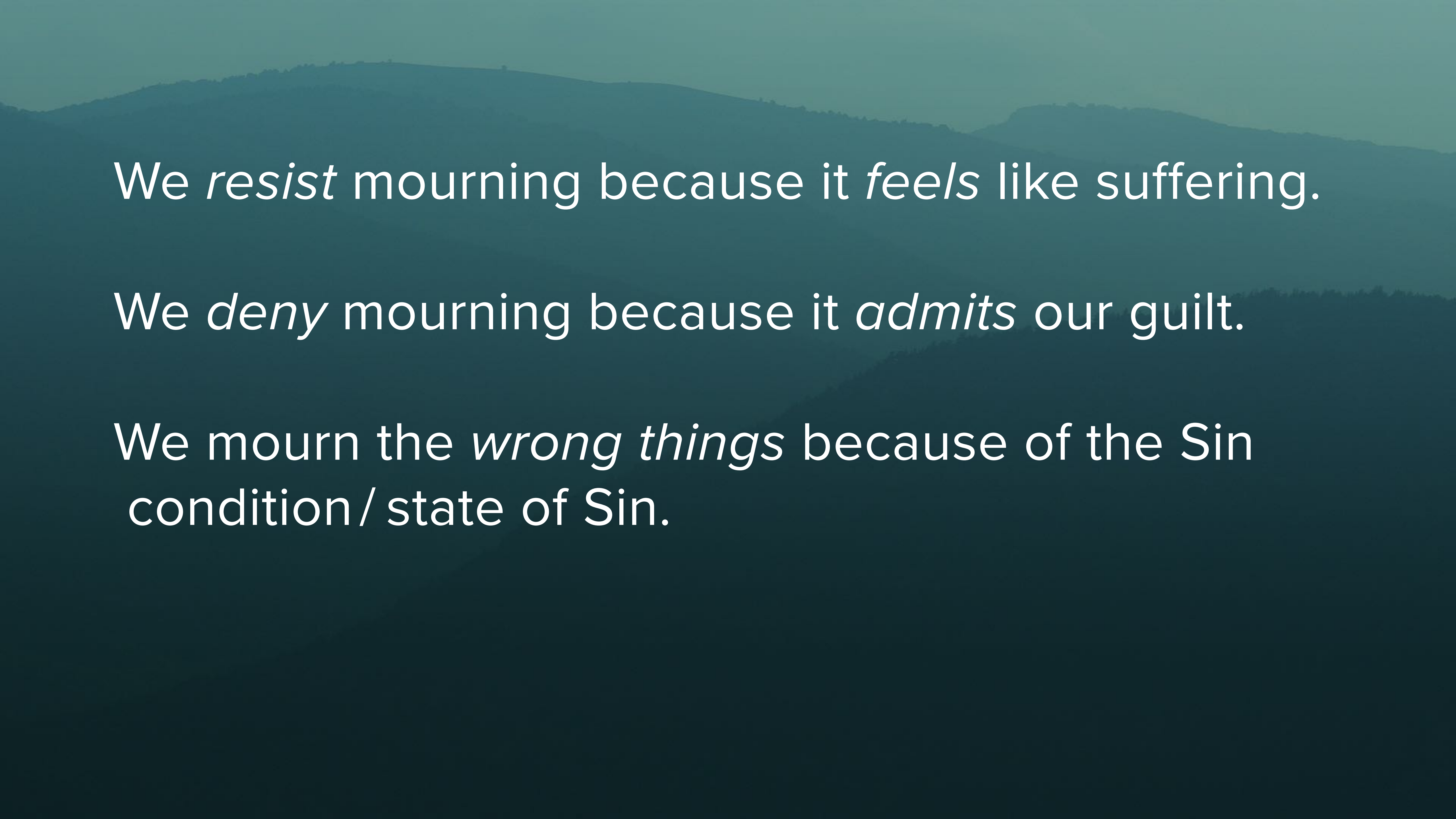
1. Suffering we experience and the sin committed against us.
2. Suffering of the world and sin effect in the world.
3. *Suffering we inflict and the sins we commit.*

What do we mourn?

1. Suffering we experience and the sin committed against us.
2. Suffering of the world and sin effect in the world.
3. Suffering we inflict and the sins we commit.
4. *Sin condition—not just an accumulation of suffering, but a condition of suffering and wrongdoing, an orientation to sin, a heart-direction to sin.*

Habakkuk 1

⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed,
and justice never prevails.
The wicked hem in the righteous,
so that justice is perverted.



We *resist* mourning because it *feels* like suffering.

We *deny* mourning because it *admits* our guilt.

We mourn the *wrong things* because of the Sin
condition/ state of Sin.

Revelation 18

¹ After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven. He had great authority, and the earth was illuminated by his splendor. ² With a mighty voice he shouted:

“Fallen! Fallen is Babylon the Great!”

She has become a dwelling for demons
and a haunt for every impure spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable animal.

³ For all the nations have drunk
the maddening wine of her adulteries.

The kings of the earth committed adultery with her,
and the merchants of the earth grew rich from her excessive luxuries.”

7b In her heart she boasts,
‘I sit enthroned as queen.
I am not a widow;
I will never **mourn**.’

⁹ When the kings of the earth who committed adultery with her and shared her luxury see the smoke of her burning, they will weep and **mourn** over her. ¹⁰ Terrified at her torment, they will stand far off and cry:

“Woe! Woe to you, great city,
you mighty city of Babylon!
In one hour your doom has come!”

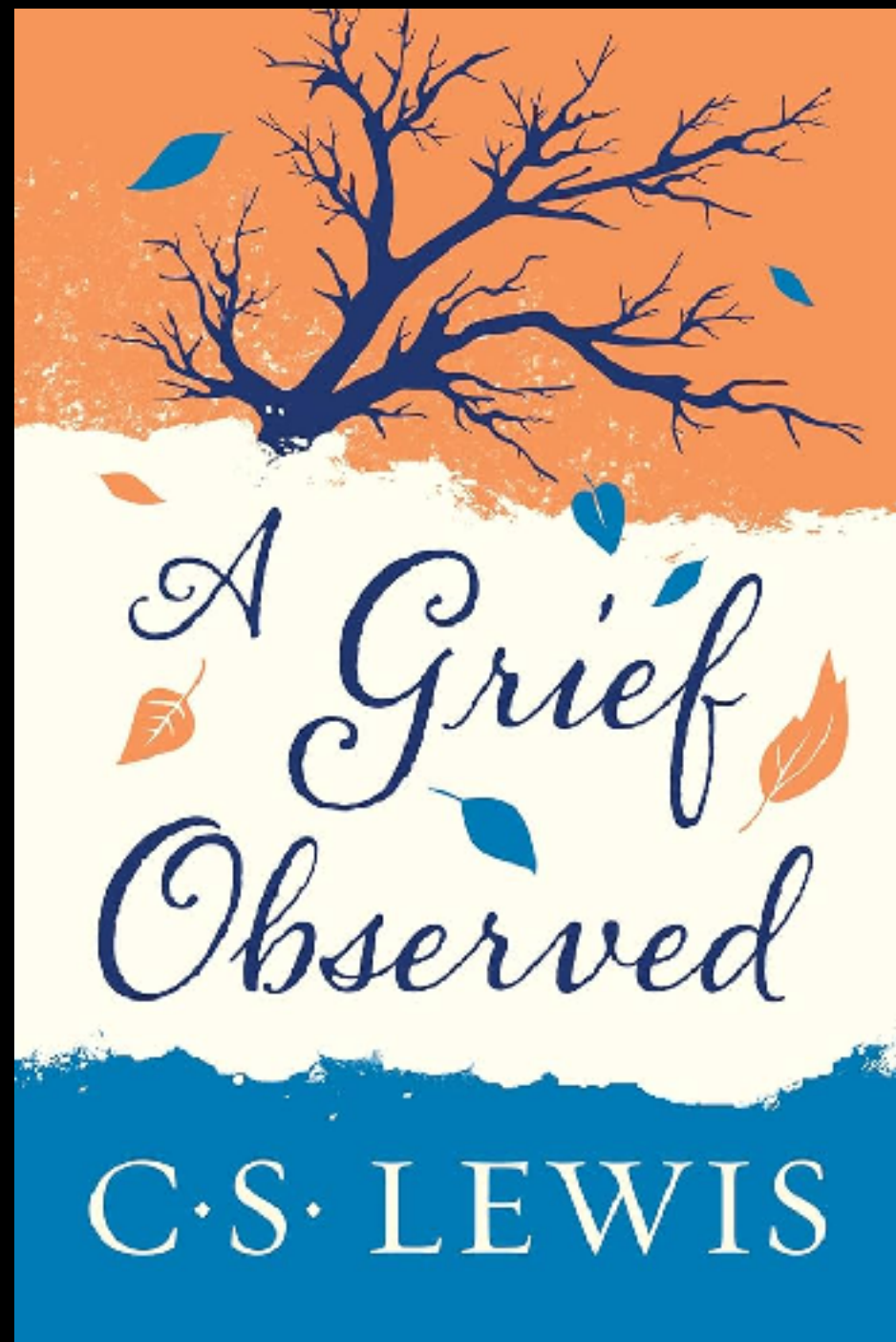
¹¹ “The merchants of the earth will weep and **mourn** over her because no one buys their cargoes anymore— ¹² cargoes of gold, silver, precious stones and pearls; fine linen, purple, silk and scarlet cloth; every sort of citron wood, and articles of every kind made of ivory, costly wood, bronze, iron and marble; ¹³ cargoes of cinnamon and spice, of incense, myrrh and frankincense, of wine and olive oil, of fine flour and wheat; cattle and sheep; horses and carriages; and human beings sold as slaves.

“The receiver did not survive the ground.”

TONY CORRENTE
DECEMBER 20, 2017

Why do we not mourn?

We avoid mourning because of what it might mean
about God.



“But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of silence. You may as well turn away... Why is he so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?”

C.S. LEWIS, A GRIEF OBSERVED

If we truly mourn, will we find a God who cares?
Who helps? Who forgives? Who rescues?

Psalm 69:1-3

¹ Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.

² I sink in the miry depths,
where there is no foothold.

I have come into the deep waters;
the floods engulf me.

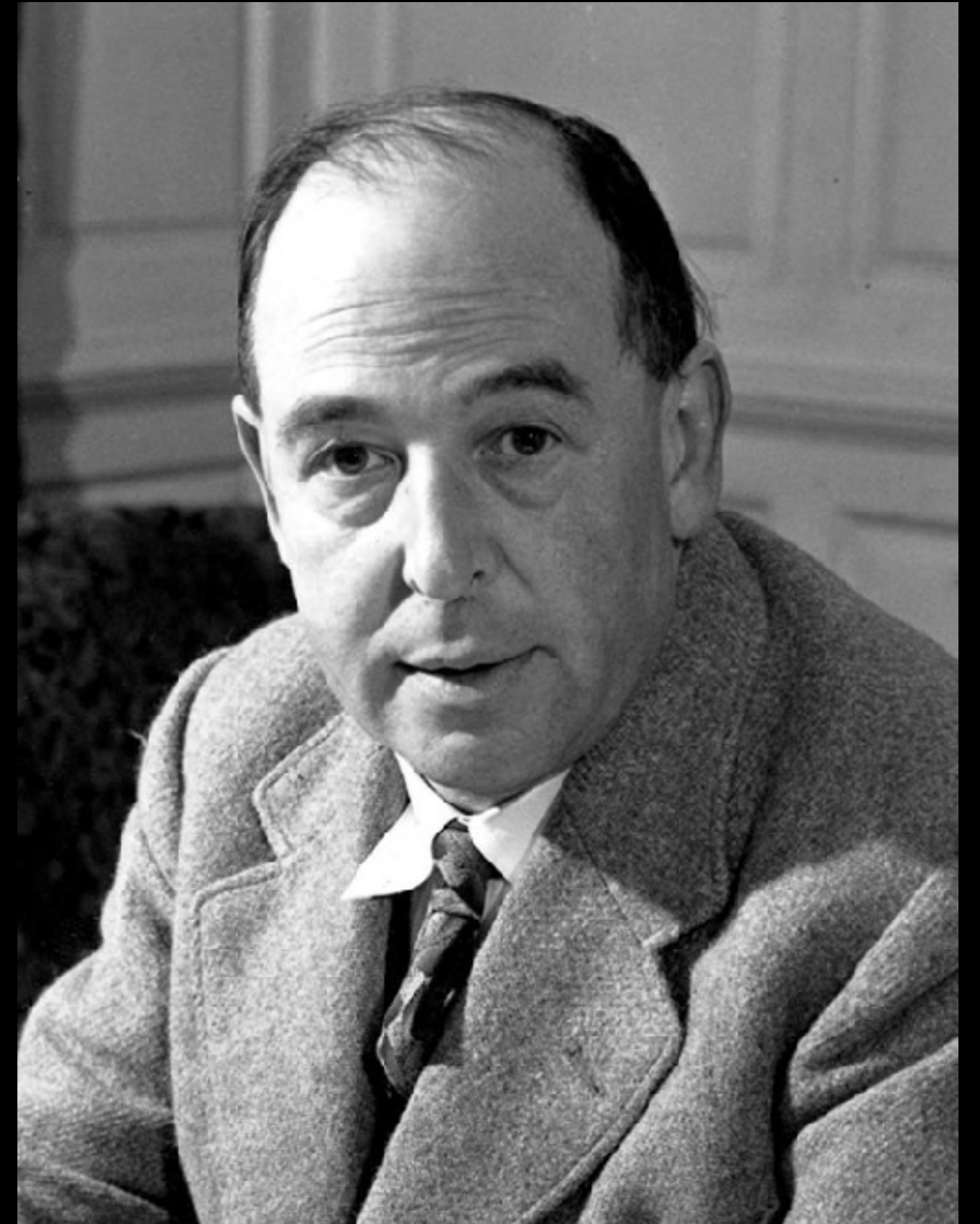
³ I am worn out calling for help;
my throat is parched.

My eyes fail,
looking for my God.

“Not that I am (I think) in much danger of ceasing to believe in God.

The real danger is of coming to believe such dreadful things about Him. The conclusion I dread is not ‘So there’s no God after all,’ but ‘So this is what God’s really like. Deceive yourself no longer.’”

C.S. LEWIS



Psalm 69:19-21

¹⁹ You know how I am scorned, disgraced and shamed;
all my enemies are before you.

²⁰ Scorn has broken my heart
and has left me helpless;

I looked for sympathy, but there was none,
for comforters, but I found none.

²¹ **They put gall in my food
and gave me vinegar for my thirst.**

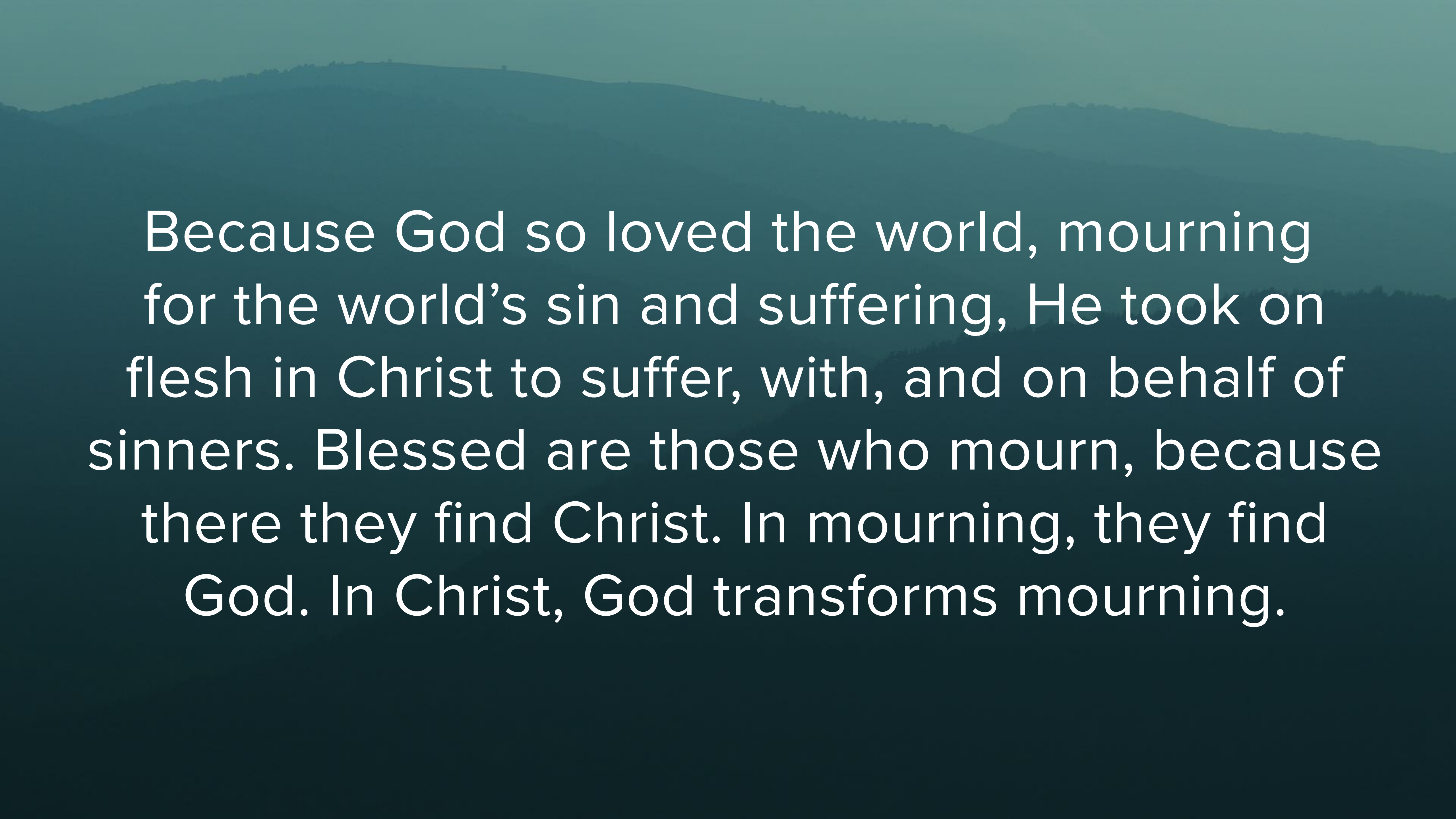


“If someone is really with you in something,
if someone says, ‘I got you,’ it changes the
nature of suffering itself. It changes the
nature of suffering.”

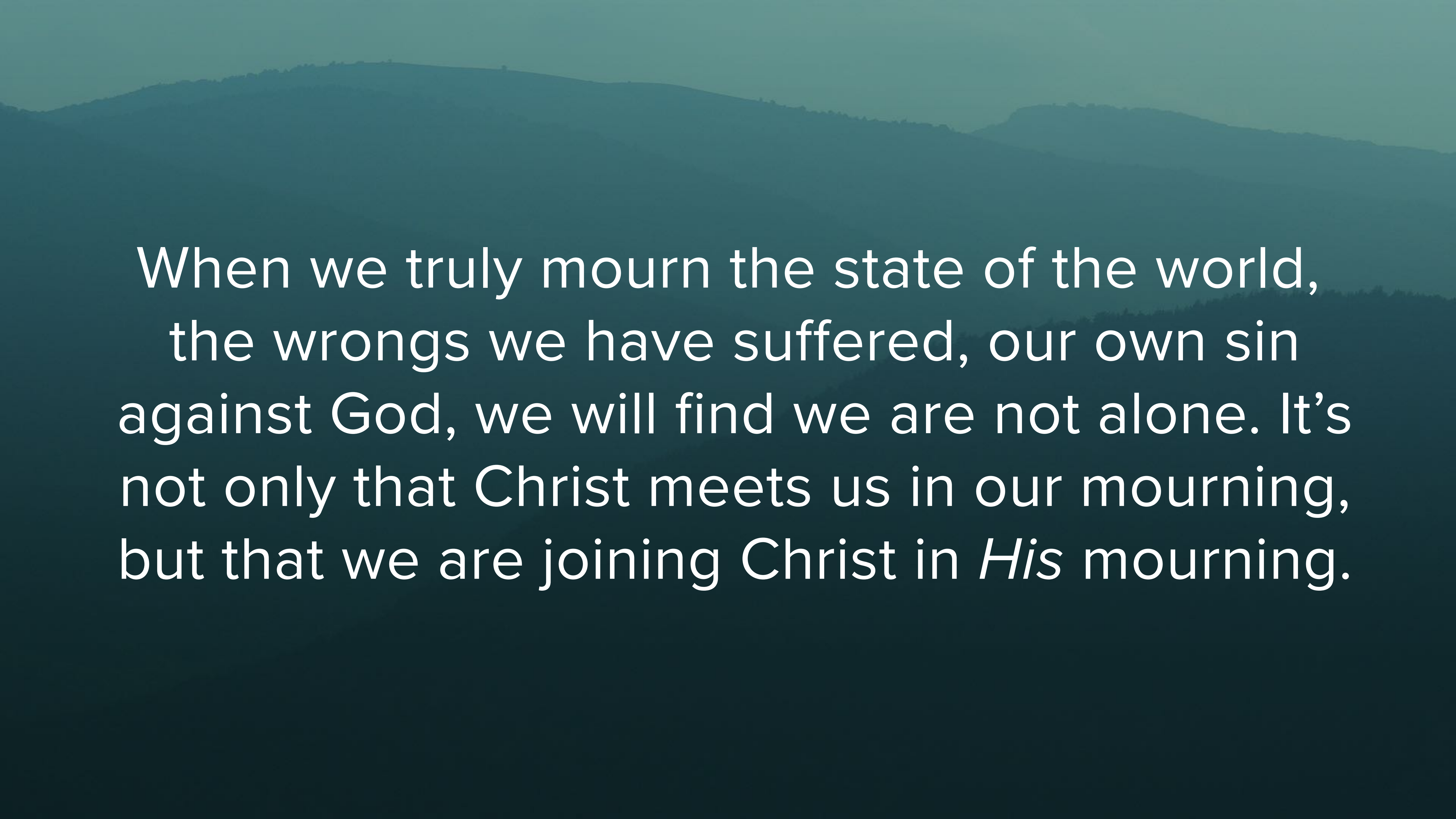
AMANDA ACHTMAN, ETHICIST AND EDUCATOR
WORKING WITH CANADIAN PHYSICIANS FOR LIFE

Matthew 27:32-35

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ³⁴ **There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it.** ³⁵ When they had crucified him...



Because God so loved the world, mourning for the world's sin and suffering, He took on flesh in Christ to suffer, with, and on behalf of sinners. Blessed are those who mourn, because there they find Christ. In mourning, they find God. In Christ, God transforms mourning.



When we truly mourn the state of the world,
the wrongs we have suffered, our own sin
against God, we will find we are not alone. It's
not only that Christ meets us in our mourning,
but that we are joining Christ in *His* mourning.

Matthew 27:50

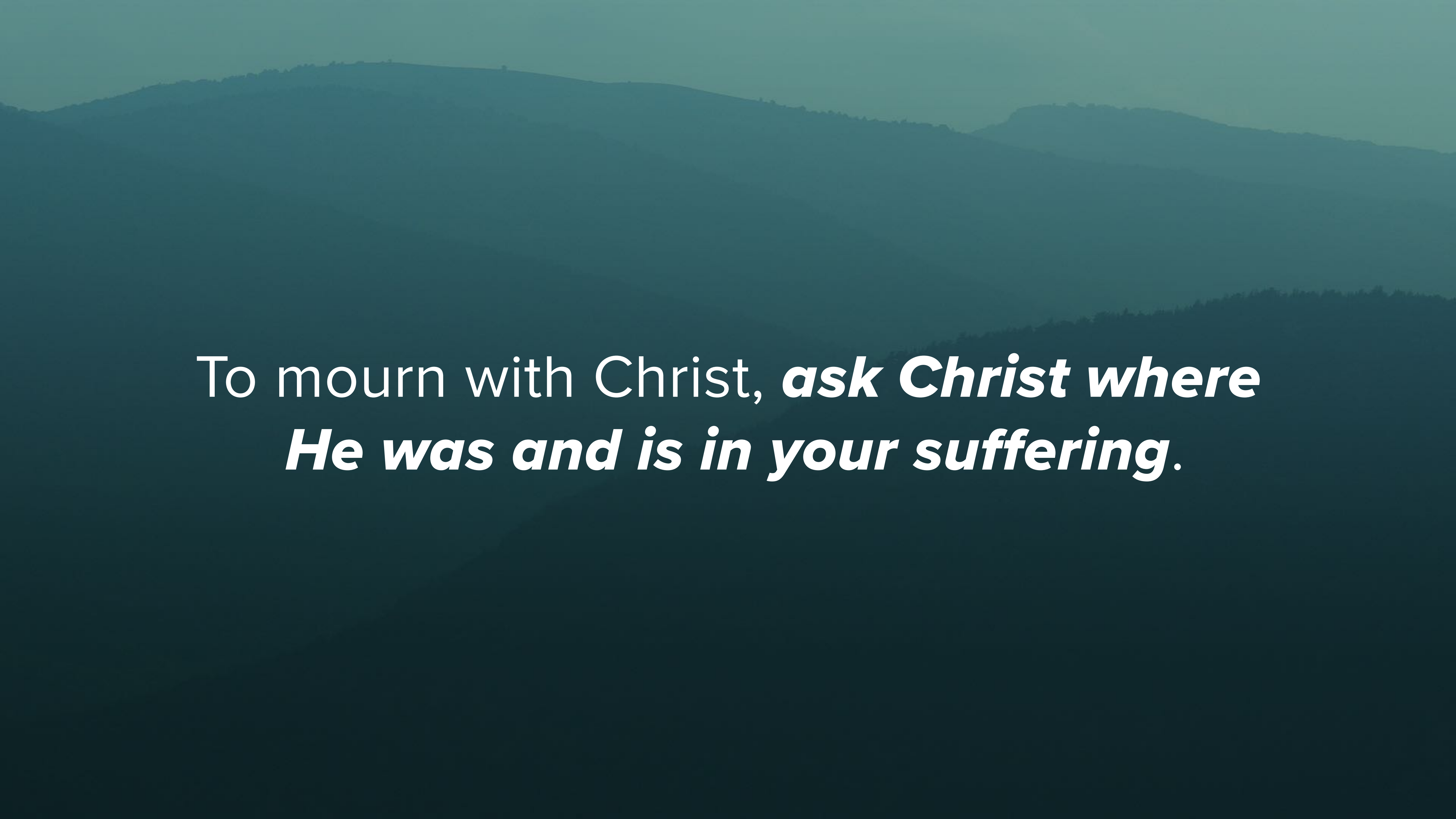
⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

Matthew 5:4

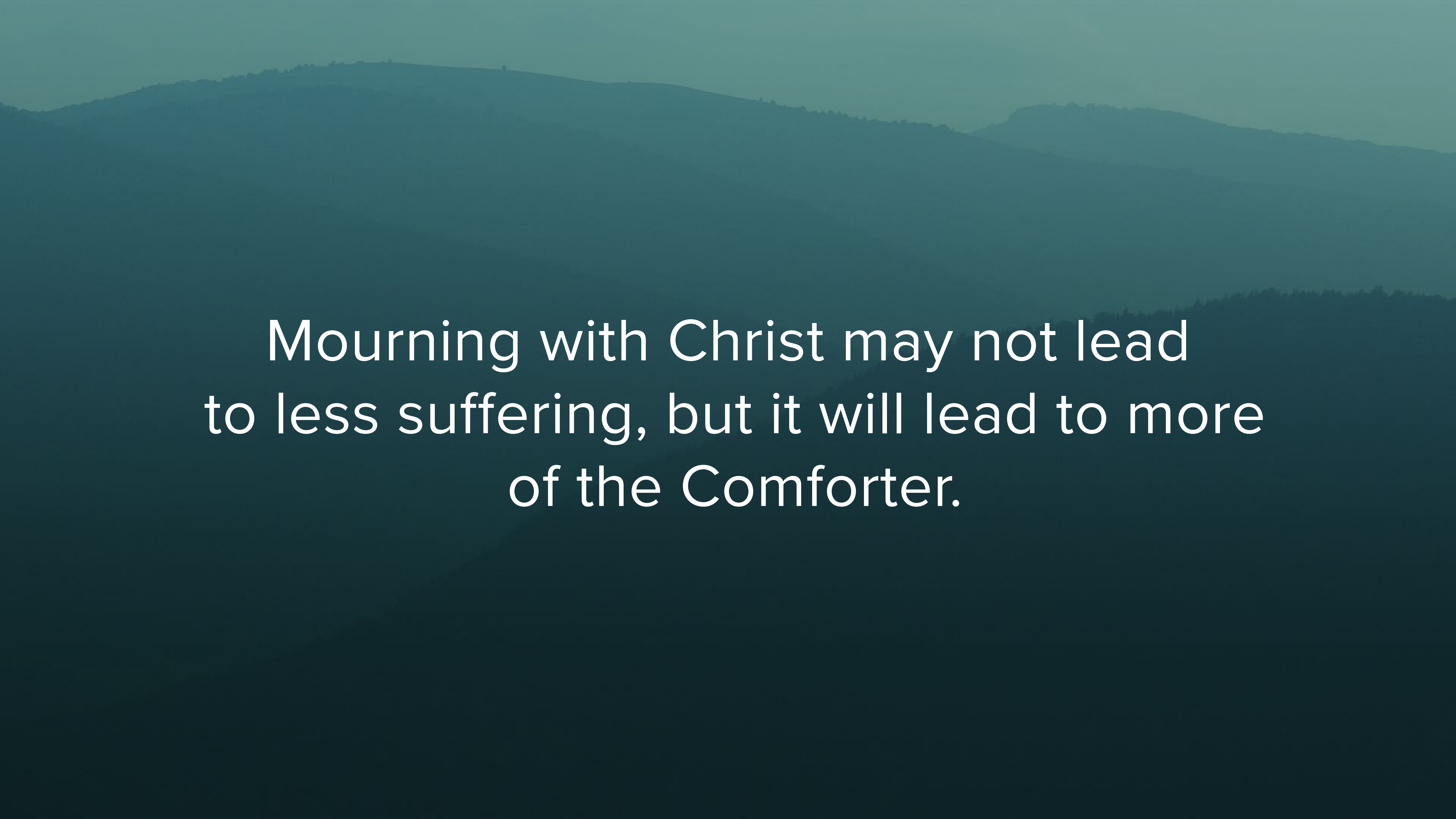
⁴ Blessed are those who *mourn*,
for they will be *comforted*.

John 14:16-17

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate [Comforter] to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.



To mourn with Christ, ***ask Christ where
He was and is in your suffering.***



Mourning with Christ may not lead
to less suffering, but it will lead to more
of the Comforter.

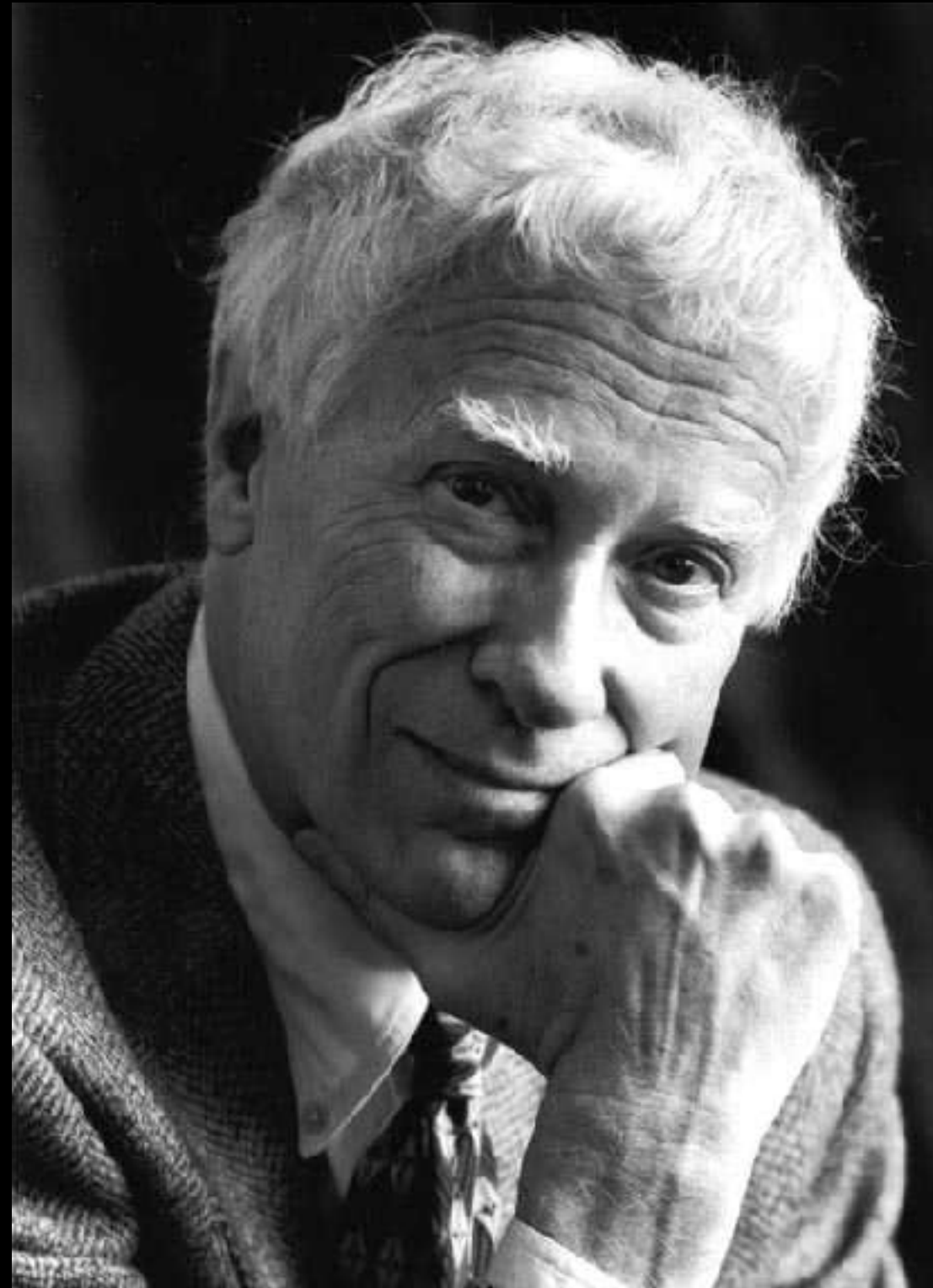
The background of the image is a serene, monochromatic landscape. It features a series of rolling hills and mountains, with the peaks and ridges softened by a thick mist or fog. The color palette is a range of teal and blue-green tones, creating a calm and somewhat somber atmosphere. The lighting is diffused, with no sharp shadows or highlights, contributing to the ethereal quality of the scene.

To mourn with Christ, **be the comforter.**



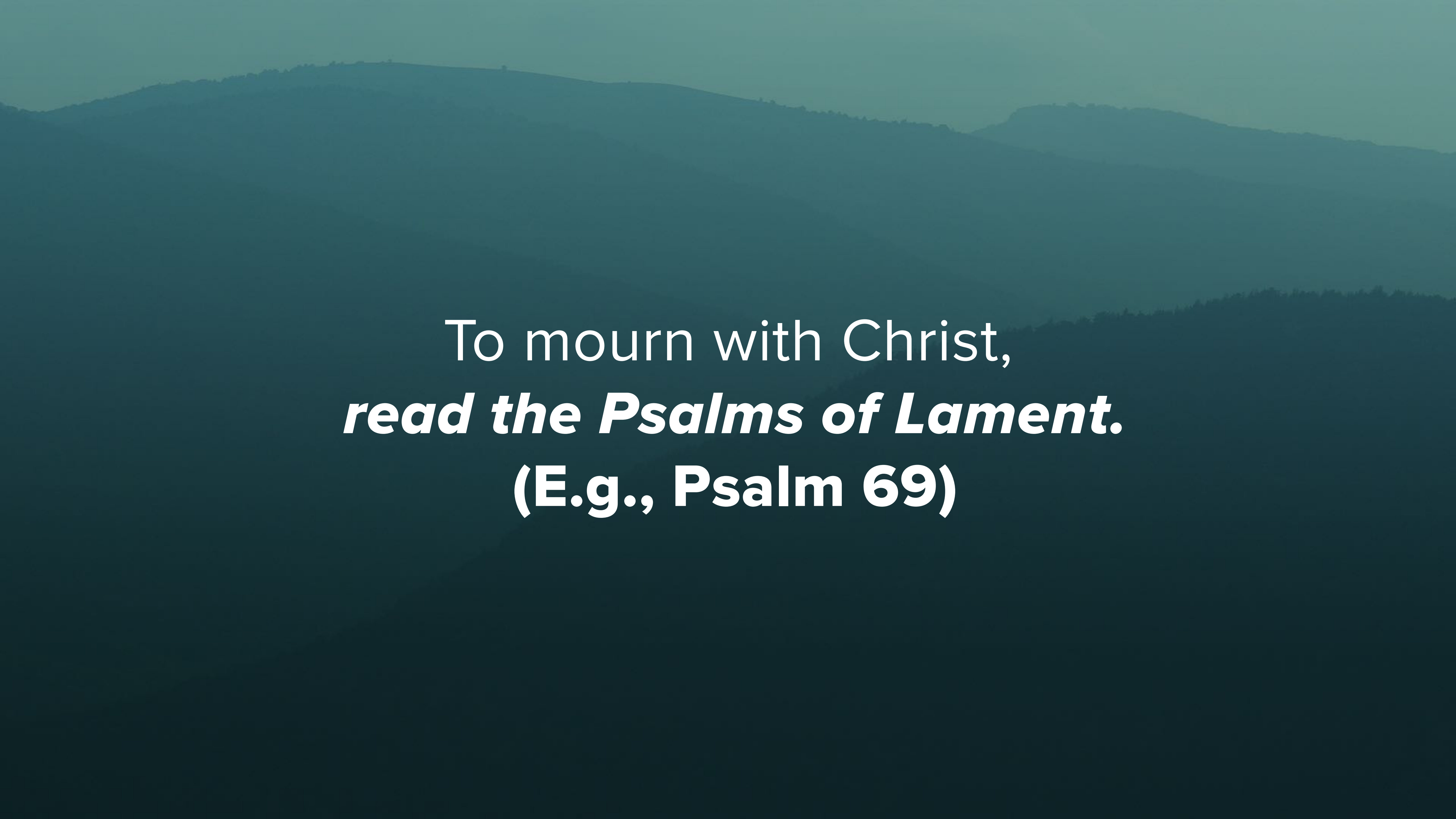
“As people clamor for more details, respect the fallen. Take a moment to mourn the fact that lungs the Lord filled with air have breathed their last breath. Remember that this human being was someone's son, brother, father, lover. Take a beat to pray for those whose lives will never be the same.”

JASMINE L. HOLMES



“And if you can’t think of anything at all to say, just say, ‘I can’t think of anything at all to say. But I want you to know that we are with you in your grief.’”

NICHOLAS WOLTERSTORFF
LAMENT FOR A SON



To mourn with Christ,
read the *Psalms of Lament.*
(E.g., Psalm 69)

Revelation 21:1-4

¹ Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴ ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”