

The
BEATITUDES

God's Gifts in a “Get Your Own” Culture

Matthew 5:1-12

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

The Beatitudes

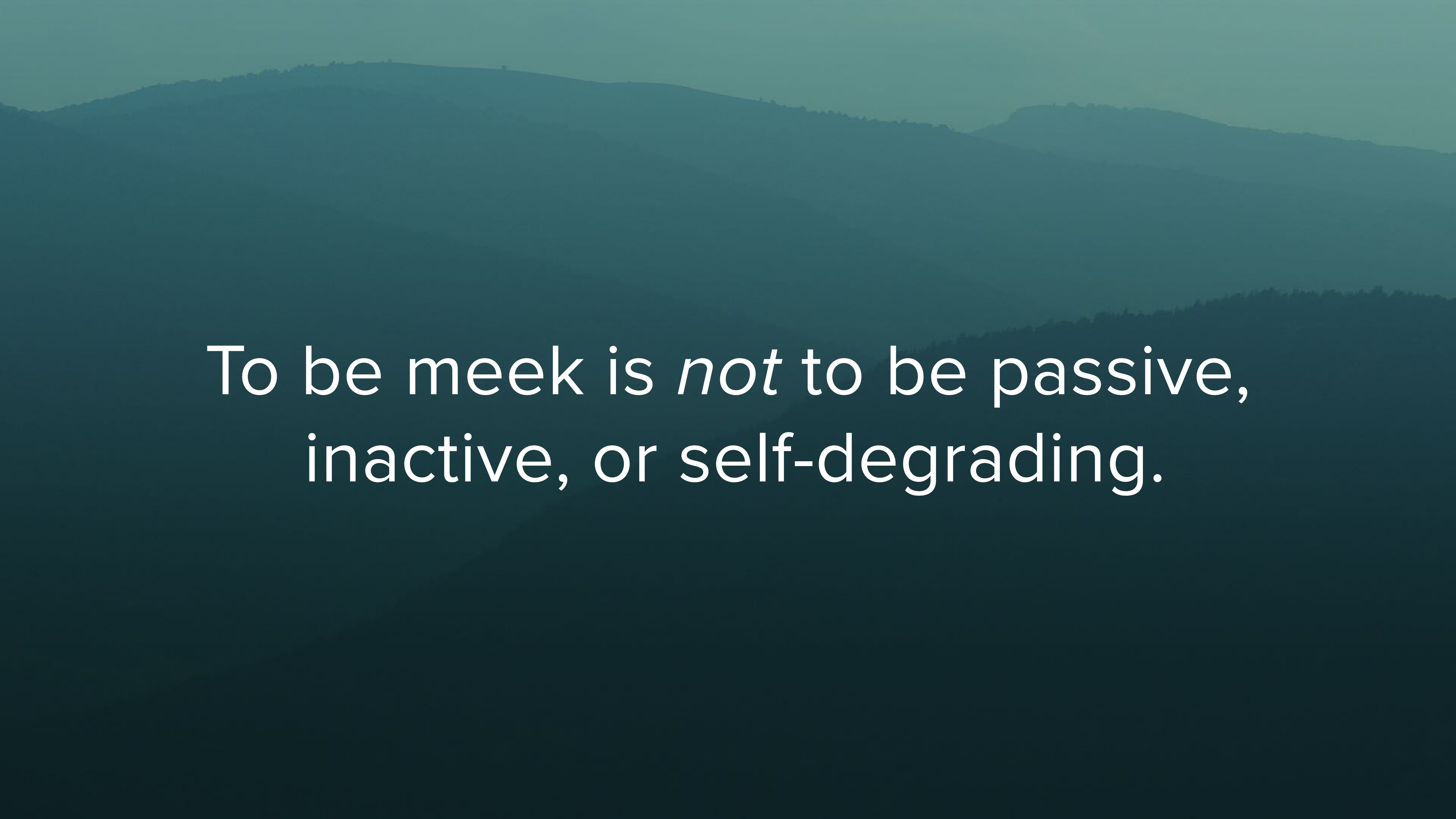
He said:

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.

⁵ **Blessed are the meek,**
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ **Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,**
for they will be filled.



To be meek is *not* to be passive,
inactive, or self-degrading.

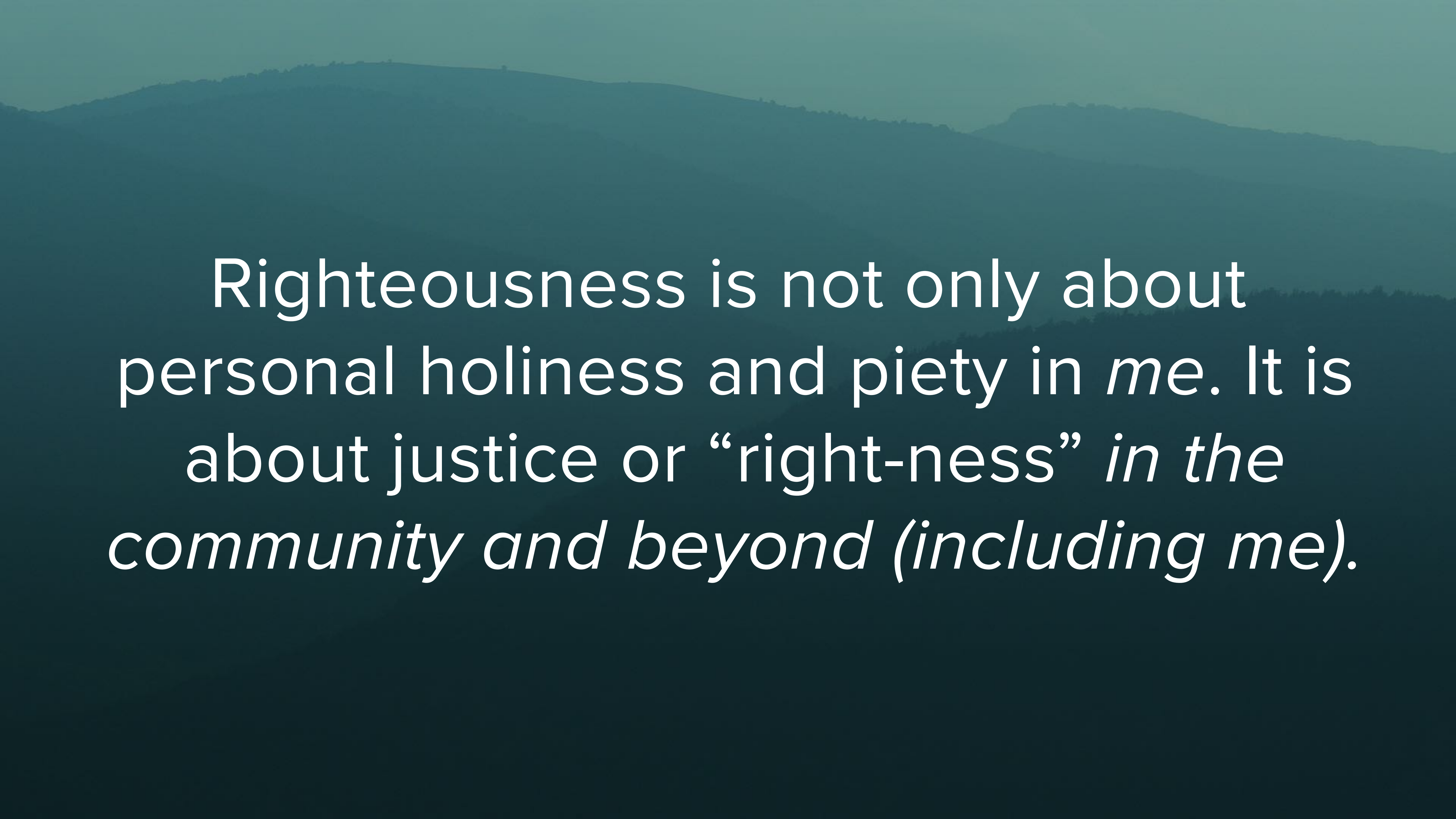
James 1

¹⁹ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. ²¹ **Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with *meekness*** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²² **But be doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. ²³ For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. ²⁴ For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.

25 But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

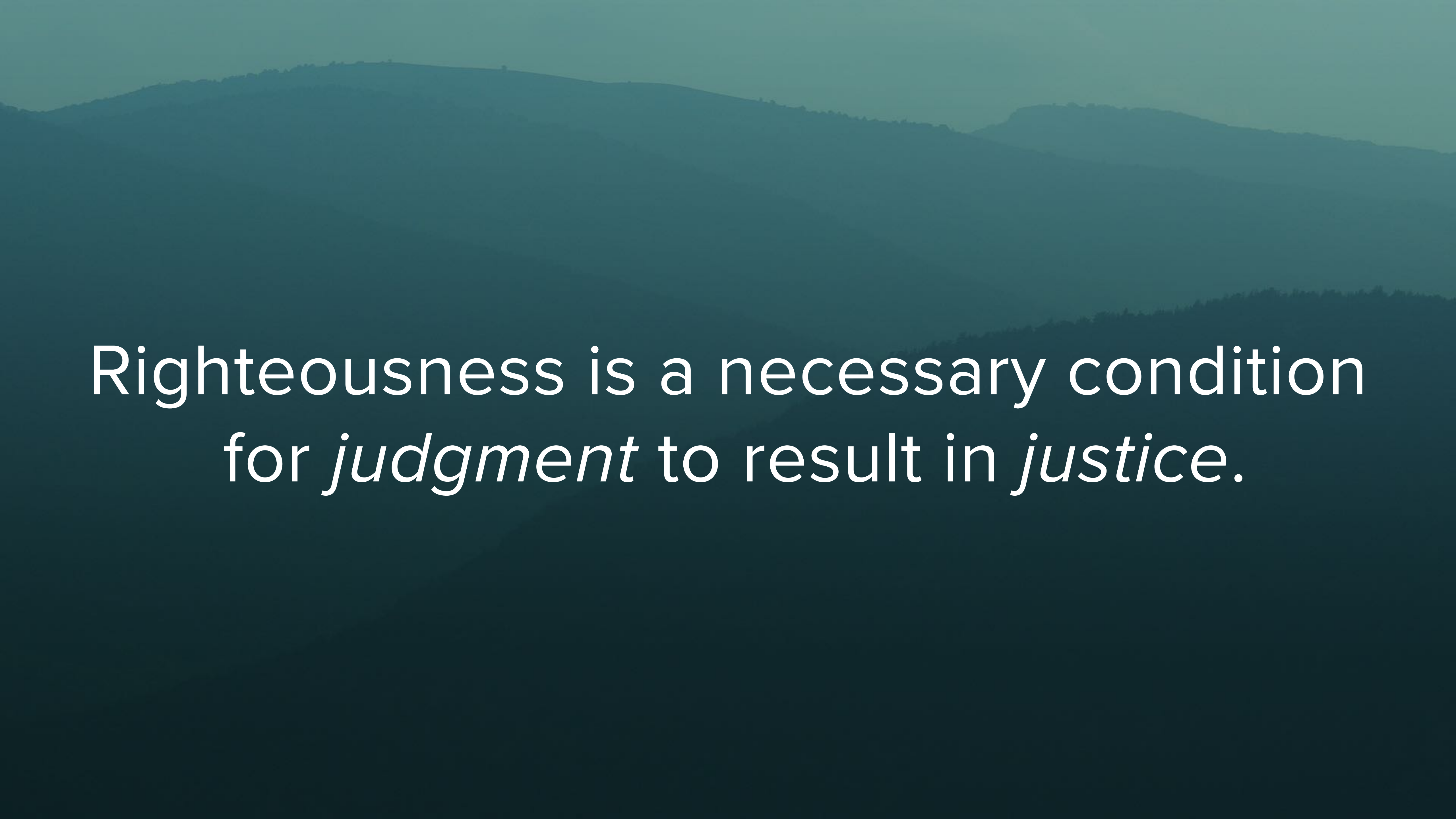
²⁶ If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



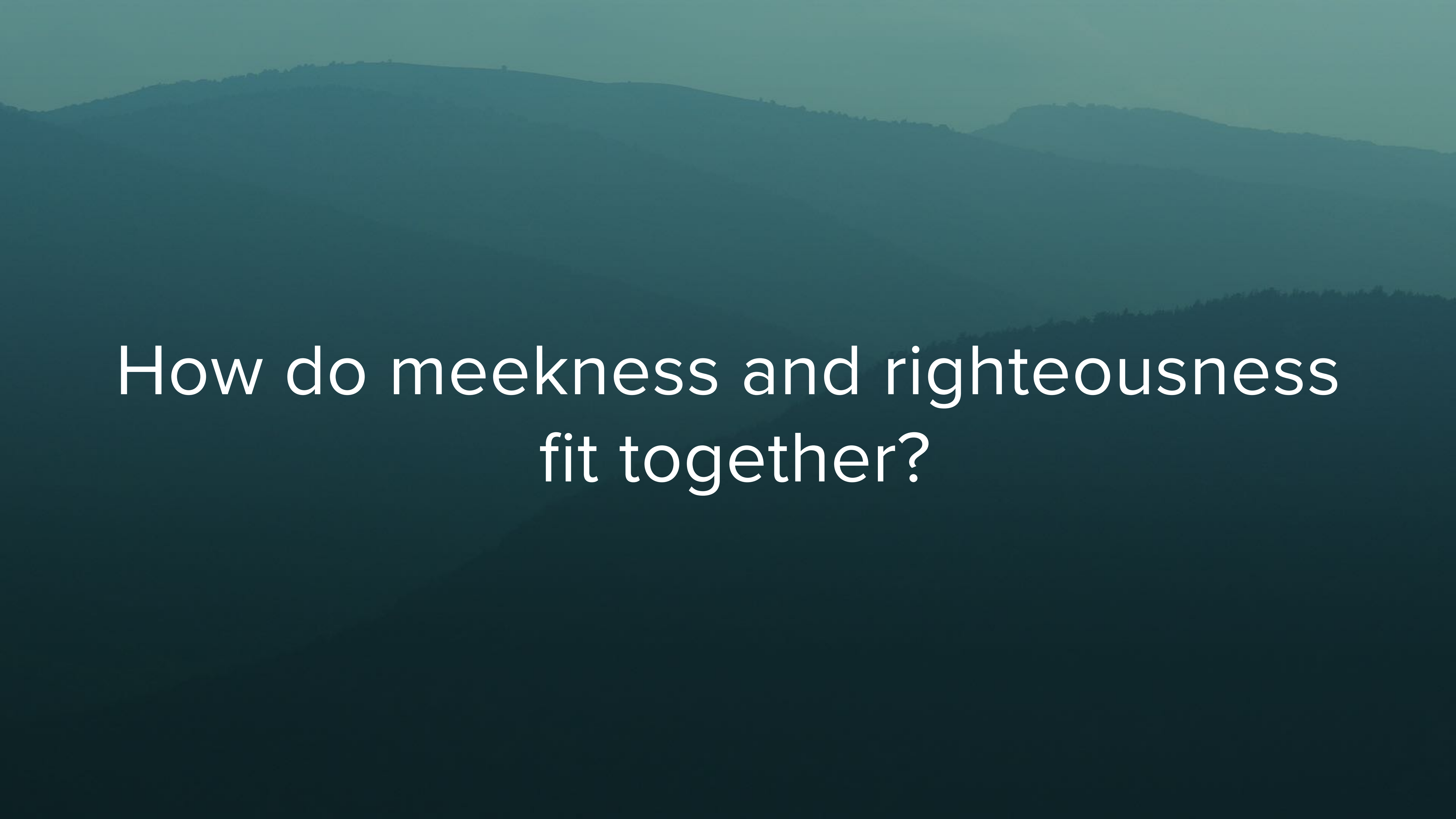
Righteousness is not only about personal holiness and piety in *me*. It is about justice or “right-ness” *in the community and beyond (including me)*.

Psalm 94:15

Judgment will again be founded on righteousness,
and all the upright in heart will follow it.



Righteousness is a necessary condition
for *judgment* to result in *justice*.



How do meekness and righteousness
fit together?

Exodus 2

¹¹ One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian **beating (naka) a Hebrew**, one of his people ¹² He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he **struck down (naka) the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.**

¹³ When he went out the next day, behold, two Hebrews were struggling together. And he said to the man in the wrong, **“Why do you strike (naka) your companion?”** ¹⁴ He answered, “Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you mean to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?”

Then Moses was afraid, and thought, “Surely the thing is known.” ¹⁵ When Pharaoh heard of it, he sought to kill Moses. But **Moses fled from the presence of Pharaoh** and settled in the land of Midian, and he sat down by a well.

Numbers 20

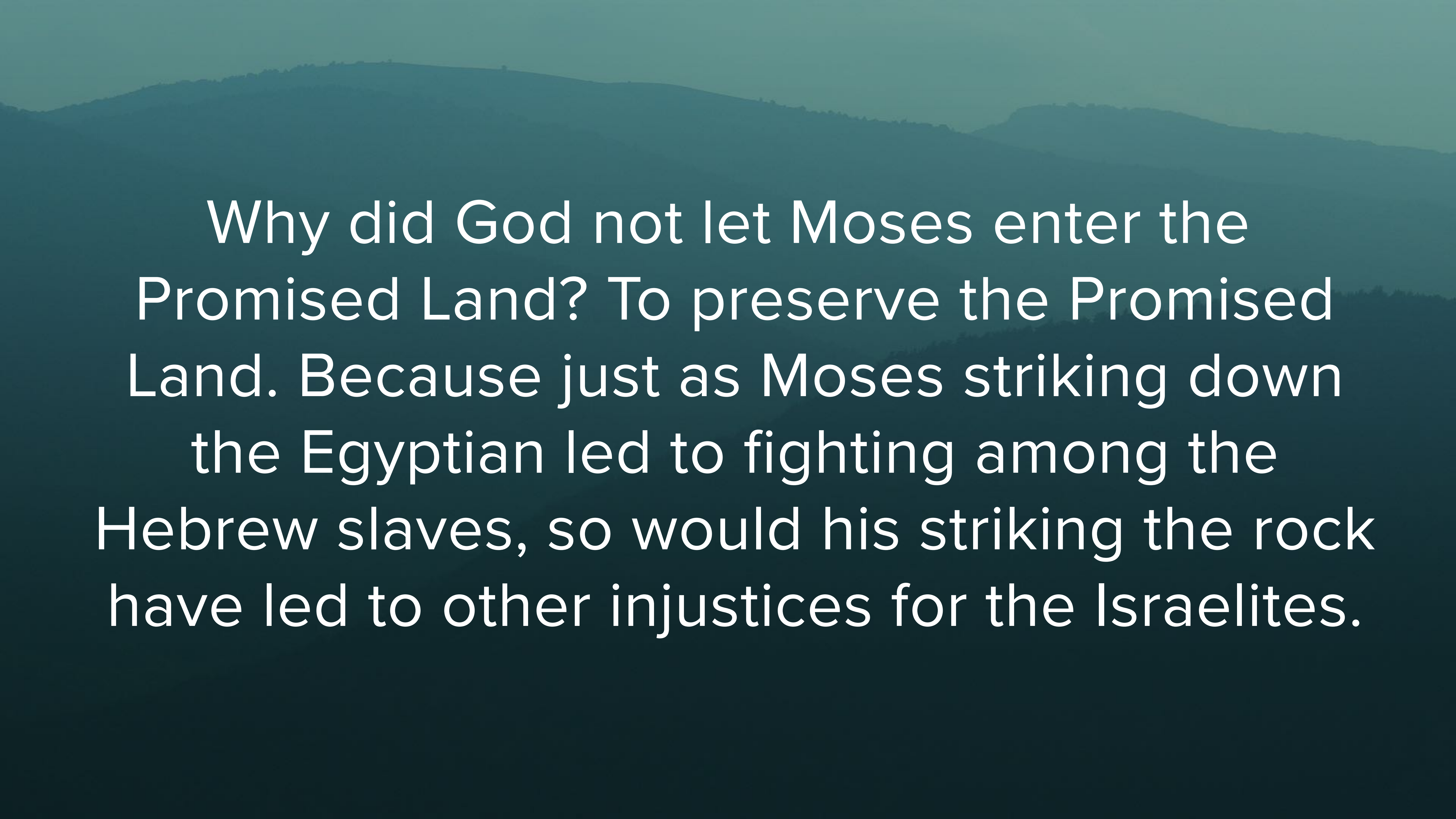
² Now there was no water for the congregation. And they **assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.** ³ And the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Would that we had perished when our brothers perished before the LORD!”

⁴ Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness, that we should die here, both we and our cattle? ⁵ And why have you made us come up out of Egypt to bring us to this evil place? It is no place for grain or figs or vines or pomegranates, and there is no water to drink.”

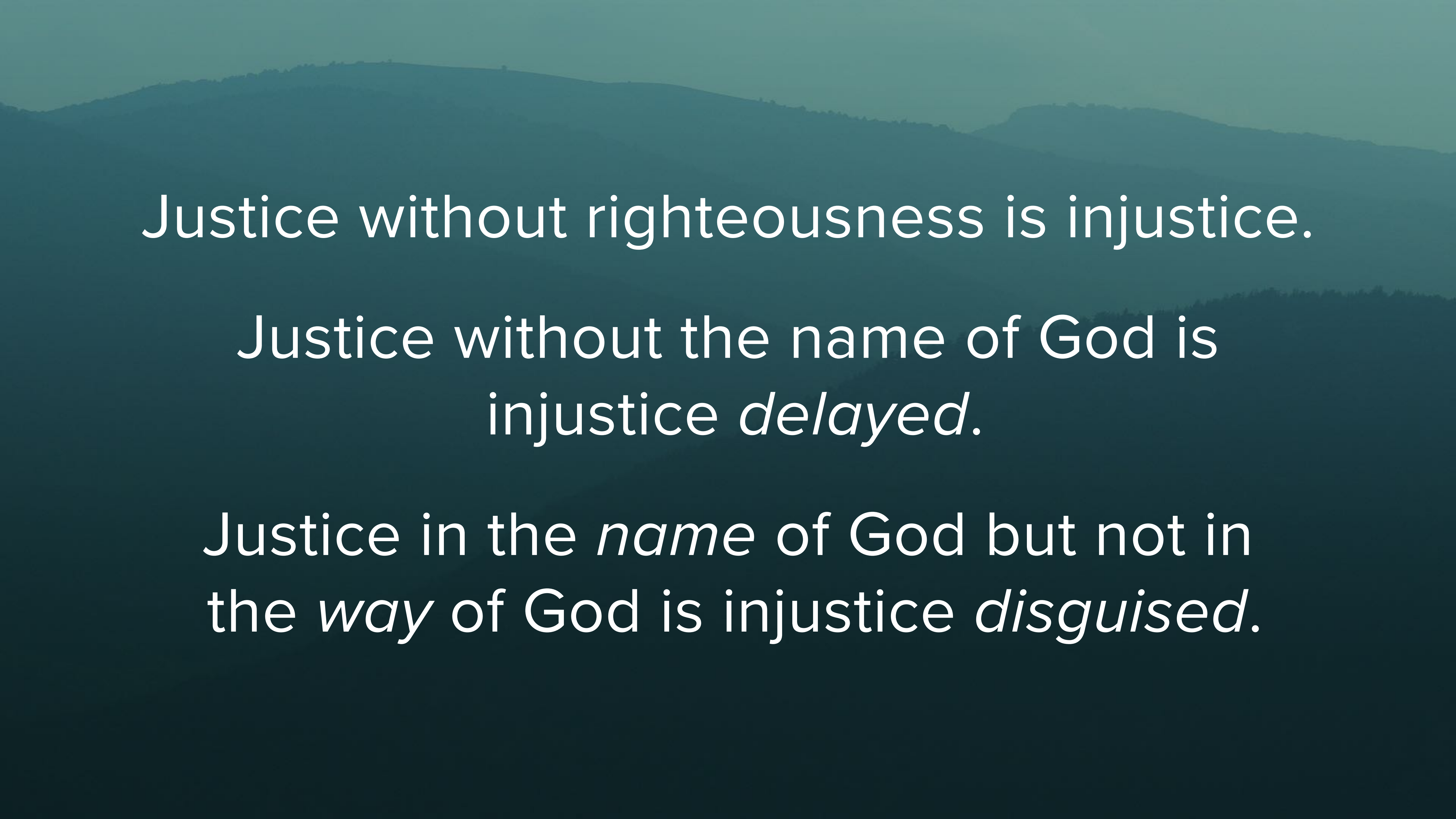
⁶ Then Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting and fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them,⁷ and the Lord spoke to Moses, saying,⁸ “Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and Aaron your brother, and **tell the rock before their eyes to yield its water**. So you shall bring water out of the rock for them and give drink to the congregation and their cattle.”⁹ And Moses took the staff from before the Lord, as he commanded him.

¹⁰ Then Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, “Hear now, you **rebels**: shall **we bring water for you out of this rock?**” ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand and **struck (naka) the rock** with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock.”

¹² And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, **therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them.**”



Why did God not let Moses enter the Promised Land? To preserve the Promised Land. Because just as Moses striking down the Egyptian led to fighting among the Hebrew slaves, so would his striking the rock have led to other injustices for the Israelites.



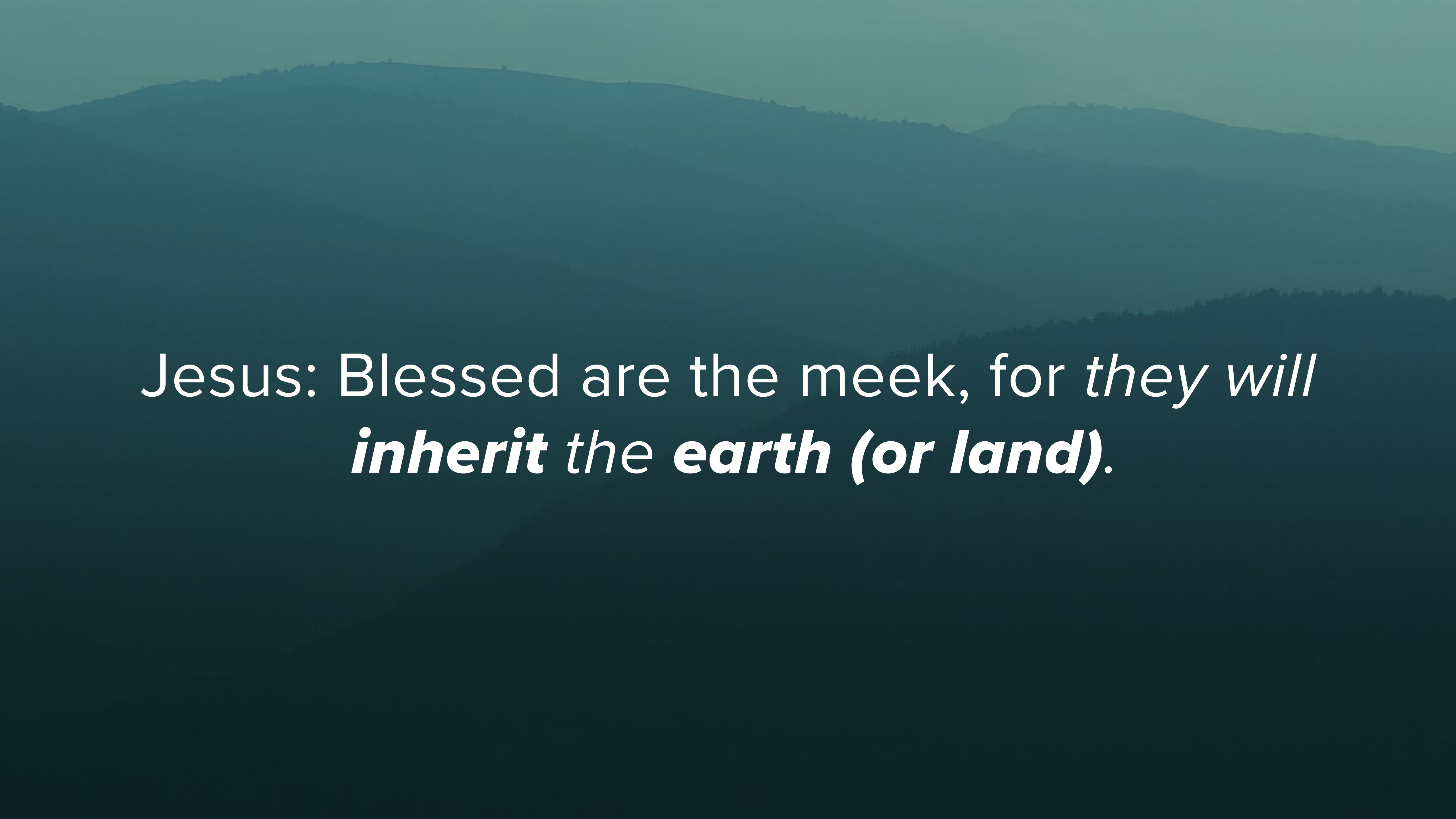
Justice without righteousness is injustice.

Justice without the name of God is
injustice *delayed*.

Justice in the *name* of God but not in
the *way* of God is injustice *disguised*.

Numbers 12:3 (English Standard Version)

Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.



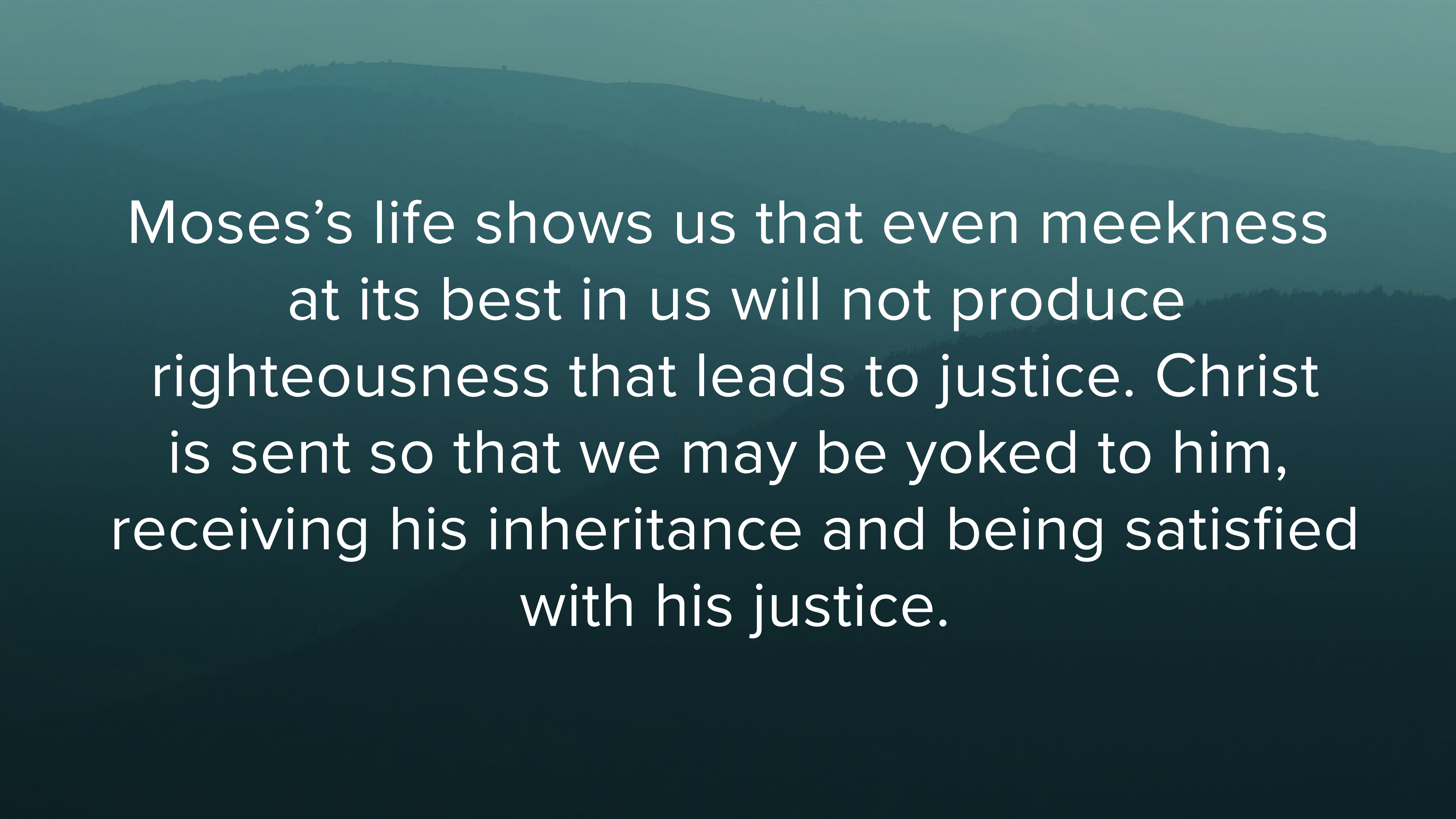
Jesus: Blessed are the meek, for *they will inherit the earth (or land).*

Matthew 11:28-30

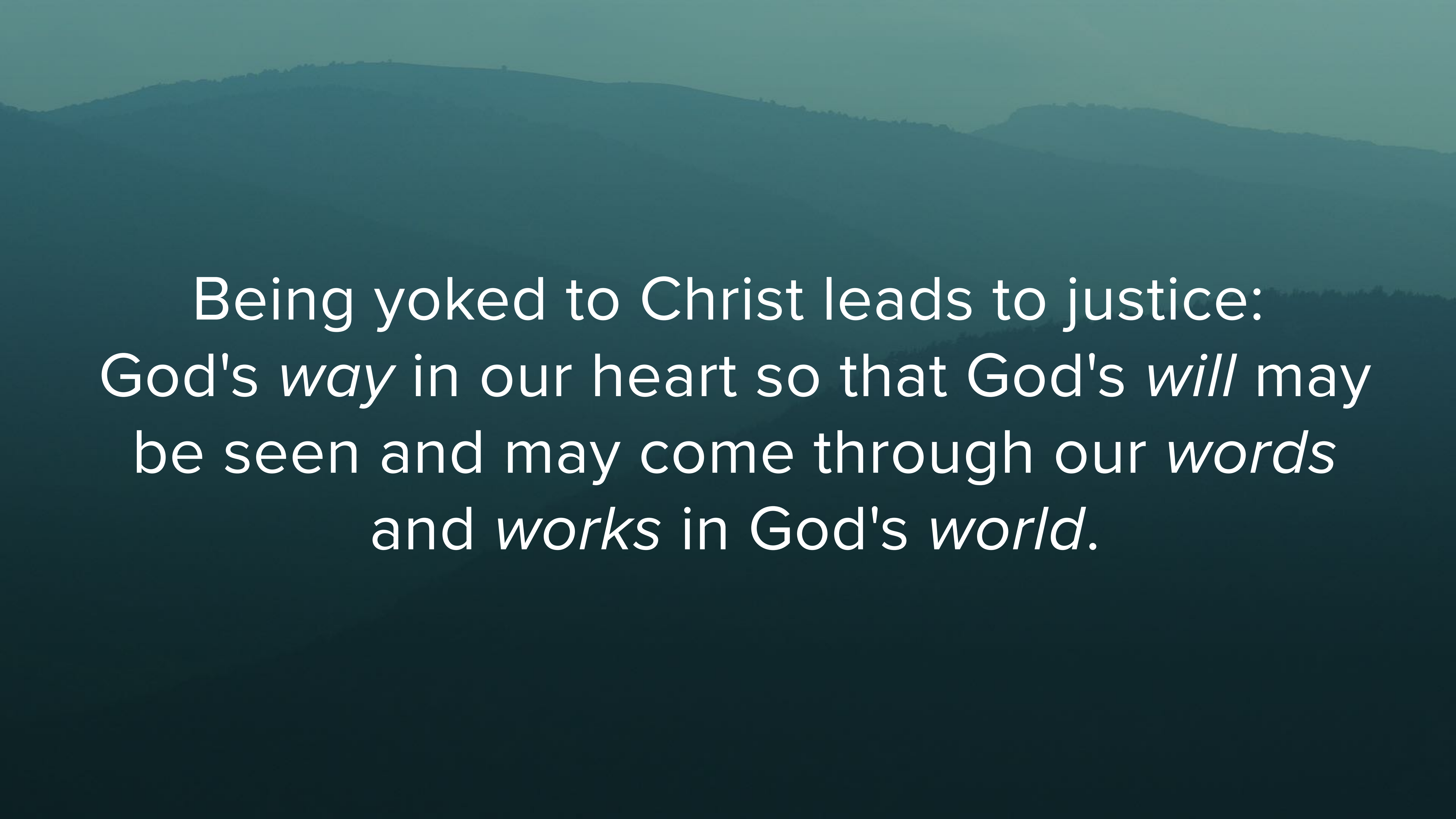
²⁸ “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am **gentle [meek] and humble in heart**, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” —Jesus

Galatians 5:22-23

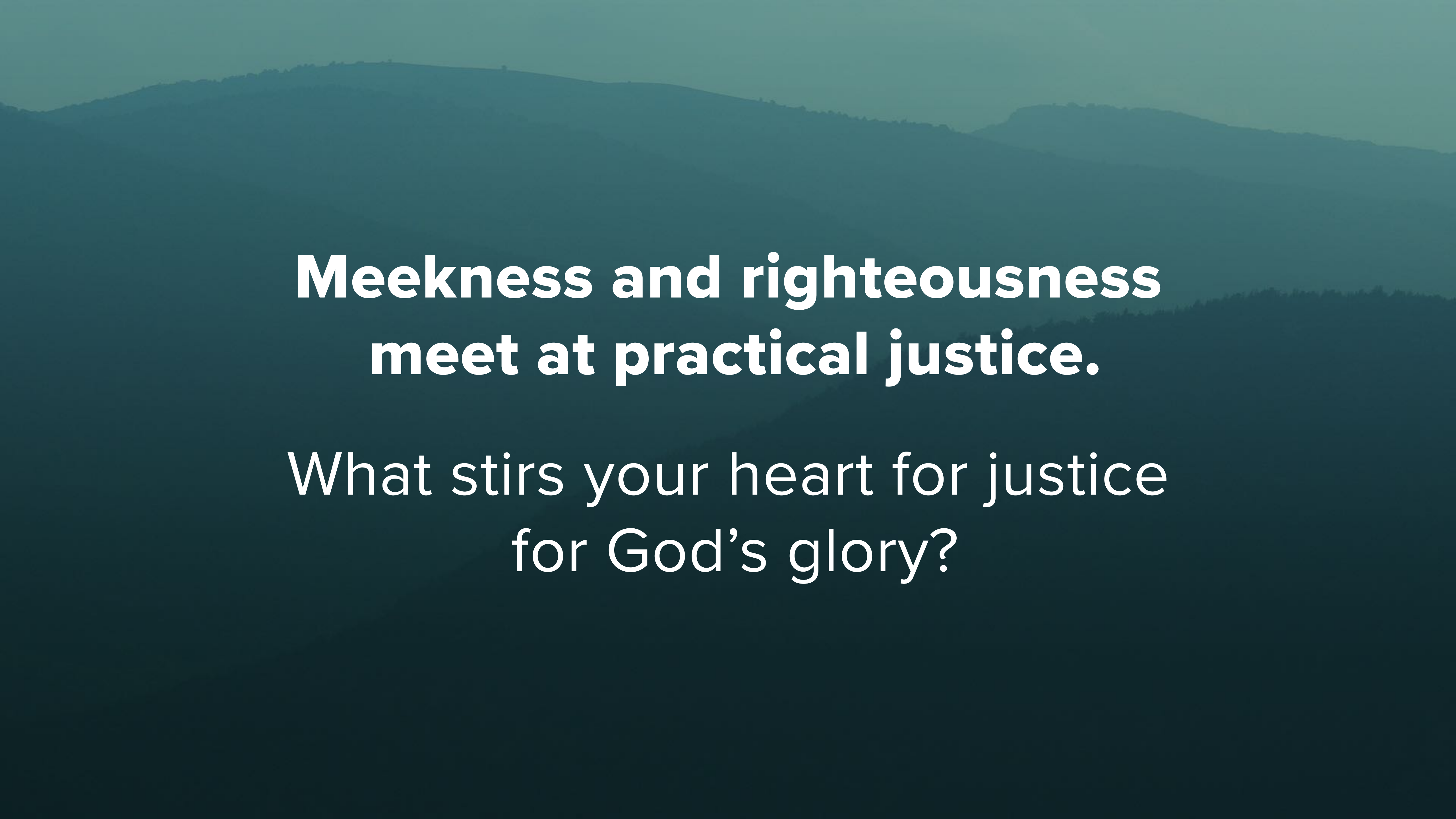
²² **But the fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ [meekness] and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, **let us keep in step** with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.



Moses's life shows us that even meekness
at its best in us will not produce
righteousness that leads to justice. Christ
is sent so that we may be yoked to him,
receiving his inheritance and being satisfied
with his justice.



Being yoked to Christ leads to justice:
God's *way* in our heart so that God's *will* may
be seen and may come through our *words*
and *works* in God's *world*.



**Meekness and righteousness
meet at practical justice.**

What stirs your heart for justice
for God's glory?

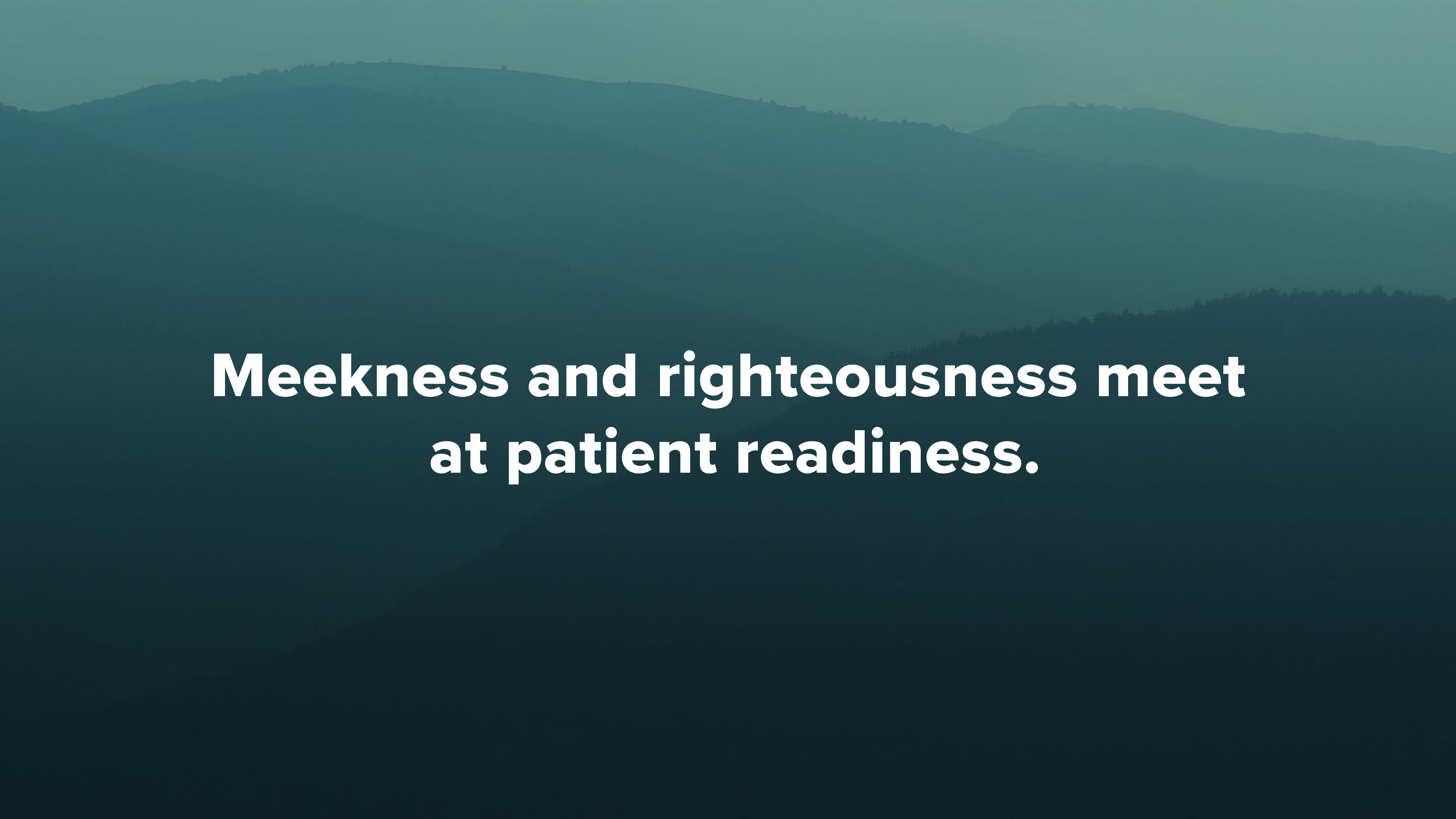


**Meekness and righteousness
meet at godly discipline.**

Whose discipleship sets your heart aflame?

Galatians 6:6

Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently [**meekly**]. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.



**Meekness and righteousness meet
at patient readiness.**

Sonnet 19:

When I Consider How My Light is Spent

John Milton, English Poet (Author of *Paradise Lost*)

When I consider how my light is spent,
Ere half my days, in this dark world and wide,
And that one Talent which is death to hide
Lodged with me useless, though my Soul more bent
To serve therewith my Maker, and present
My true account, lest he returning chide;
“Doth God exact day-labour, light denied?”
I fondly ask. But patience, to prevent

That murmur, soon replies, "God doth not need
Either man's work or his own gifts; who best
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state
Is Kingly. Thousands at his bidding speed
And post o'er Land and Ocean without rest:
They also serve who only stand and wait."



**Meekness and righteousness meet at
public integrity.**

1 Peter 3:15-16

¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness [meekness] and respect,
¹⁶ keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.

"Sarah Ruden has produced a version of the *Confessions* that speaks to us clearly and directly, and may well reflect Augustine's meaning more accurately than any other translation hitherto."

—J. M. COETZEE



CONFESSIONS

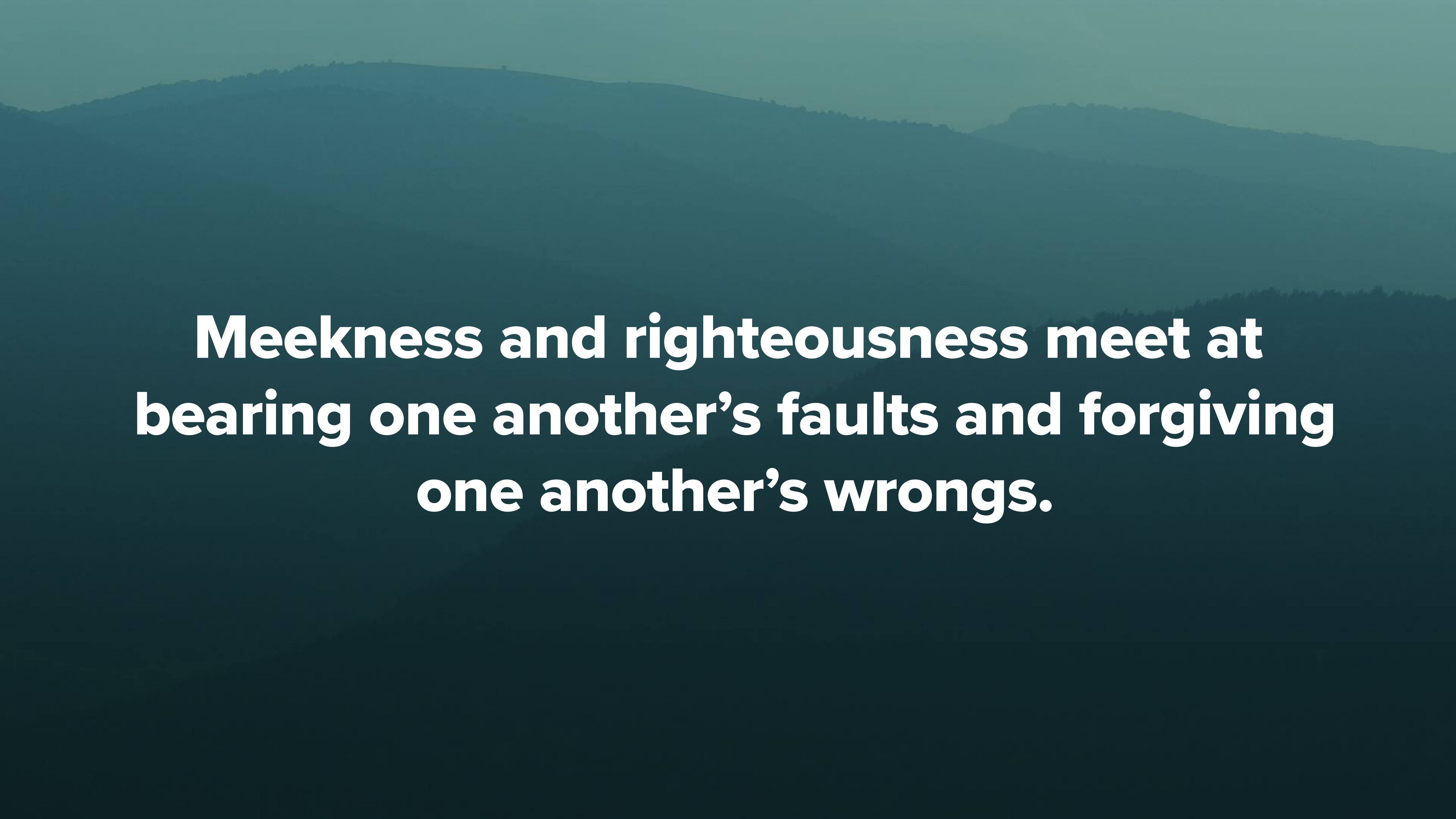
A NEW TRANSLATION BY
SARAH RUDEN



AUGUSTINE

“[Alypius] didn't want
such a powerful man as
a friend or fear him as
an enemy.”

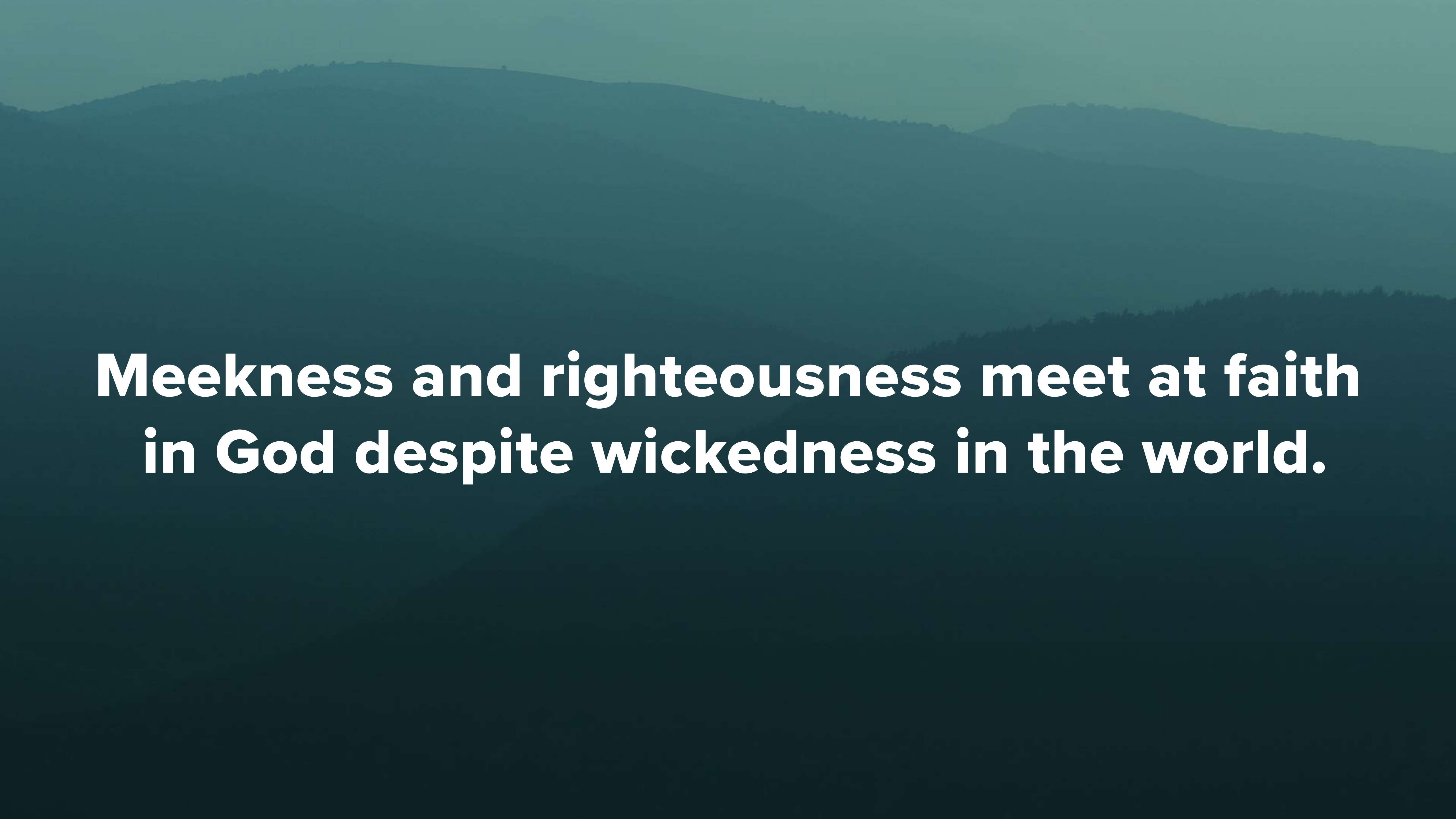
AUGUSTINE
Confessions



**Meekness and righteousness meet at
bearing one another's faults and forgiving
one another's wrongs.**

Galatians 3:12-14

¹² Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness [meekness] and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.



**Meekness and righteousness meet at faith
in God despite wickedness in the world.**

Psalm 37:1-3

- ¹ Do not fret because of those who are evil
or be envious of those who do wrong;
- ² for like the grass they will soon wither,
like green plants they will soon die away.
- ³ Trust in the Lord and do good;
dwel in the land and enjoy safe pasture.

- 7 Be still before the Lord
and wait patiently for him;
do not fret when people succeed in their ways,
when they carry out their wicked schemes.
- 8 **Refrain from anger and turn from wrath;
do not fret—it leads only to evil.**
- 9 For those who are evil will be destroyed,
**but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the
land.**

27 Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.

28 **For the Lord loves the just**
and will not forsake his faithful ones.

Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;
the offspring of the wicked will perish.

29 **The righteous will inherit the land**
and dwell in it forever.