


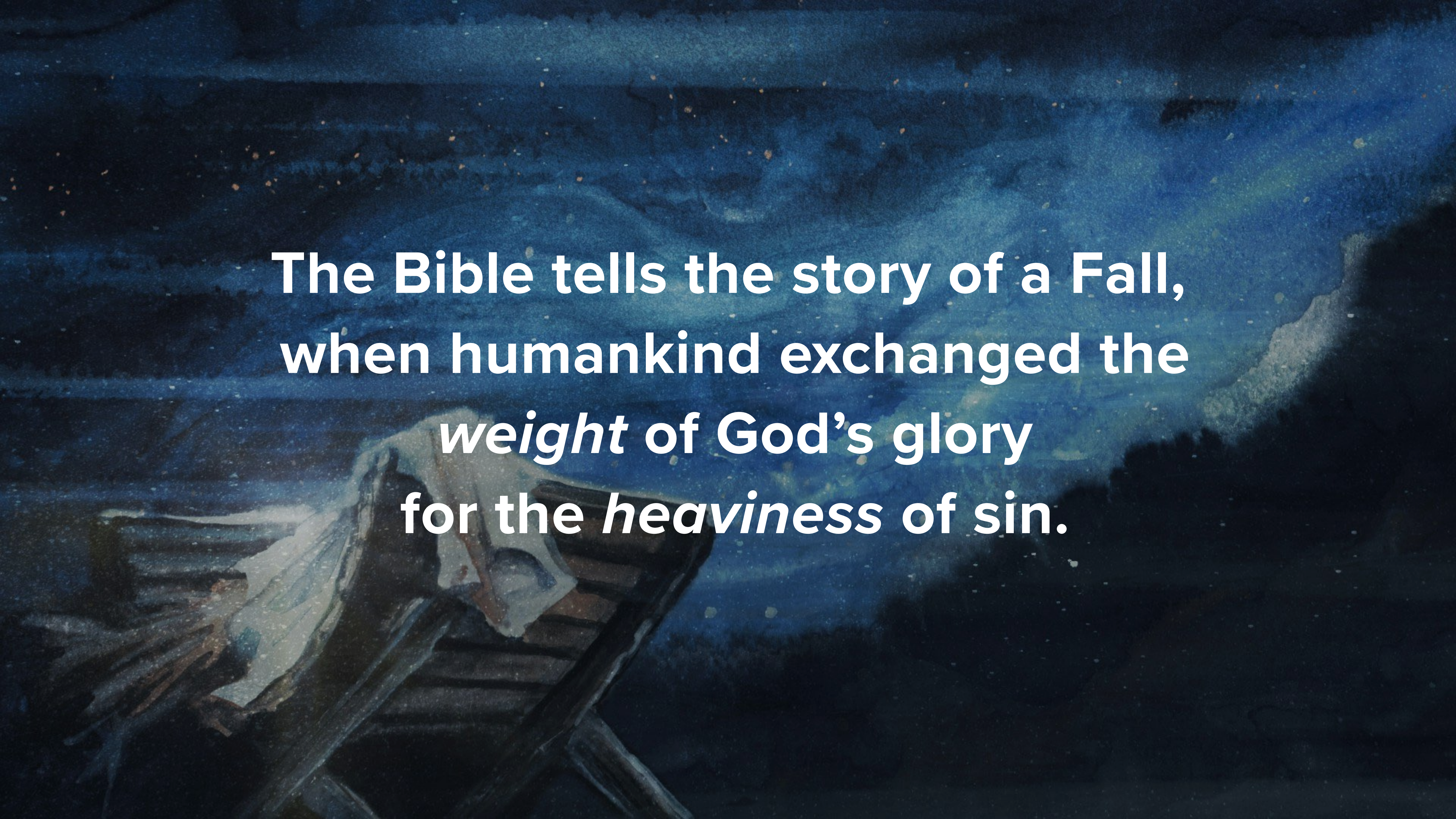
The background is a dark, atmospheric night scene. In the upper half, a deep blue and black sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. A bright, multi-pointed star or comet streaks across the upper right quadrant, leaving a long, glowing trail. Below the sky, a dark silhouette of a city skyline is visible, with various building shapes and some faint lights. In the foreground, there are dark, leafy plants, possibly ferns or similar foliage, adding to the nocturnal feel.

Christmas When Heaven Meets Earth


SEASON'S MEETINGS: A SERIES FOR ADVENT

The background is a painting of the Nativity scene. In the lower-left corner, a wooden manger is visible, containing a white cloth and a small blue object, likely representing the infant Jesus. The rest of the image is a deep blue night sky filled with numerous small, golden stars. The overall mood is serene and celestial.

The meeting of Heaven and Earth
in the birth of Jesus Christ was the
weight of Heaven's Love.



The Bible tells the story of a Fall,
when humankind exchanged the
weight of God's glory
for the *heaviness* of sin.



**The Devil takes the weight of God-given
responsibility and replaces it with the
heaviness of the world's expectations.**

“For those who are great and powerful in this world,
there are two places where their courage fails them,
which terrify them to the very depths of their souls,
and which they dearly avoid. These are the manger
and the cross of Jesus Christ.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

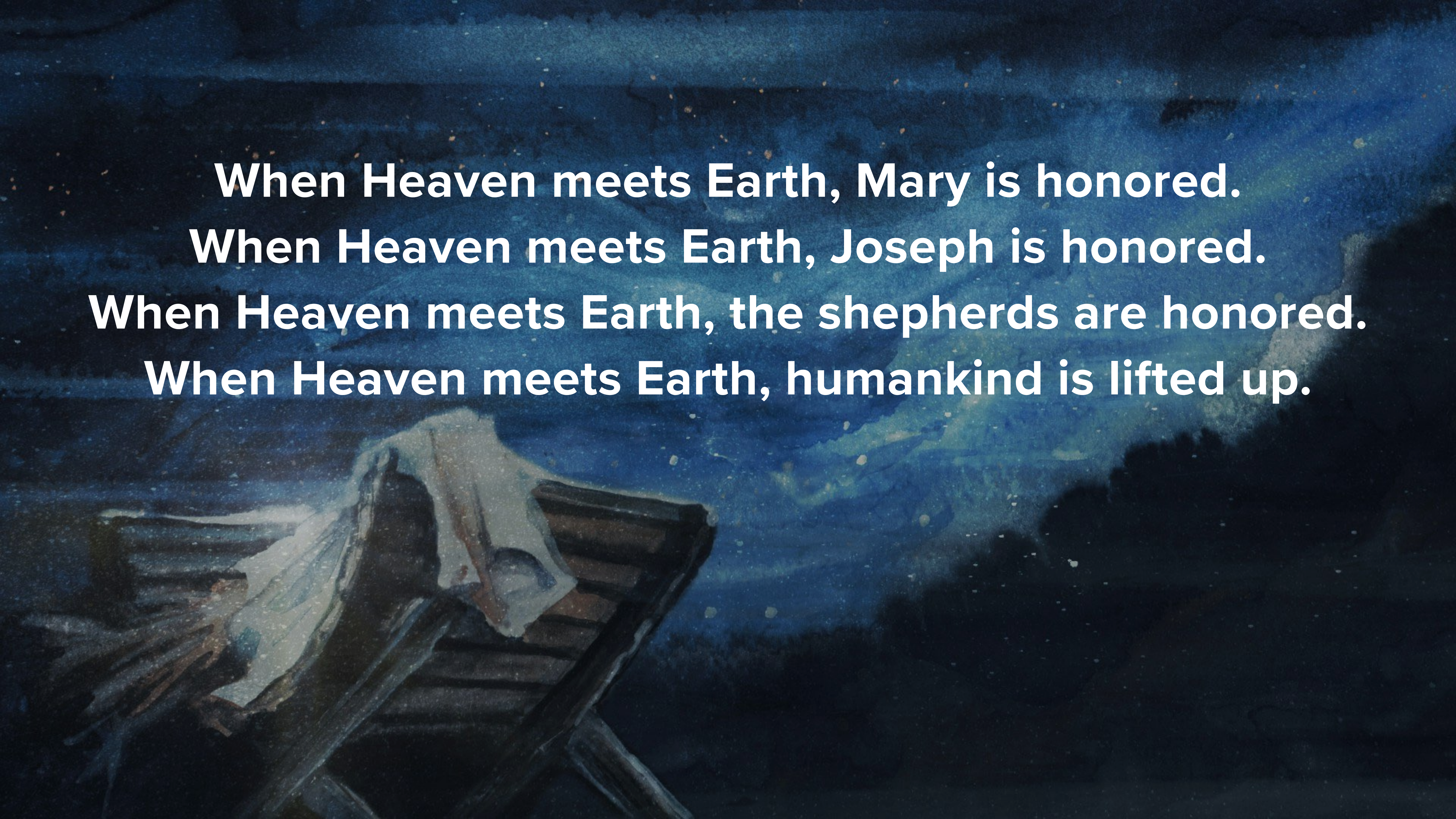


**The Devil is not willing to come as close to us
as is God's Son.**

(Paraphrase of Martin Luther)

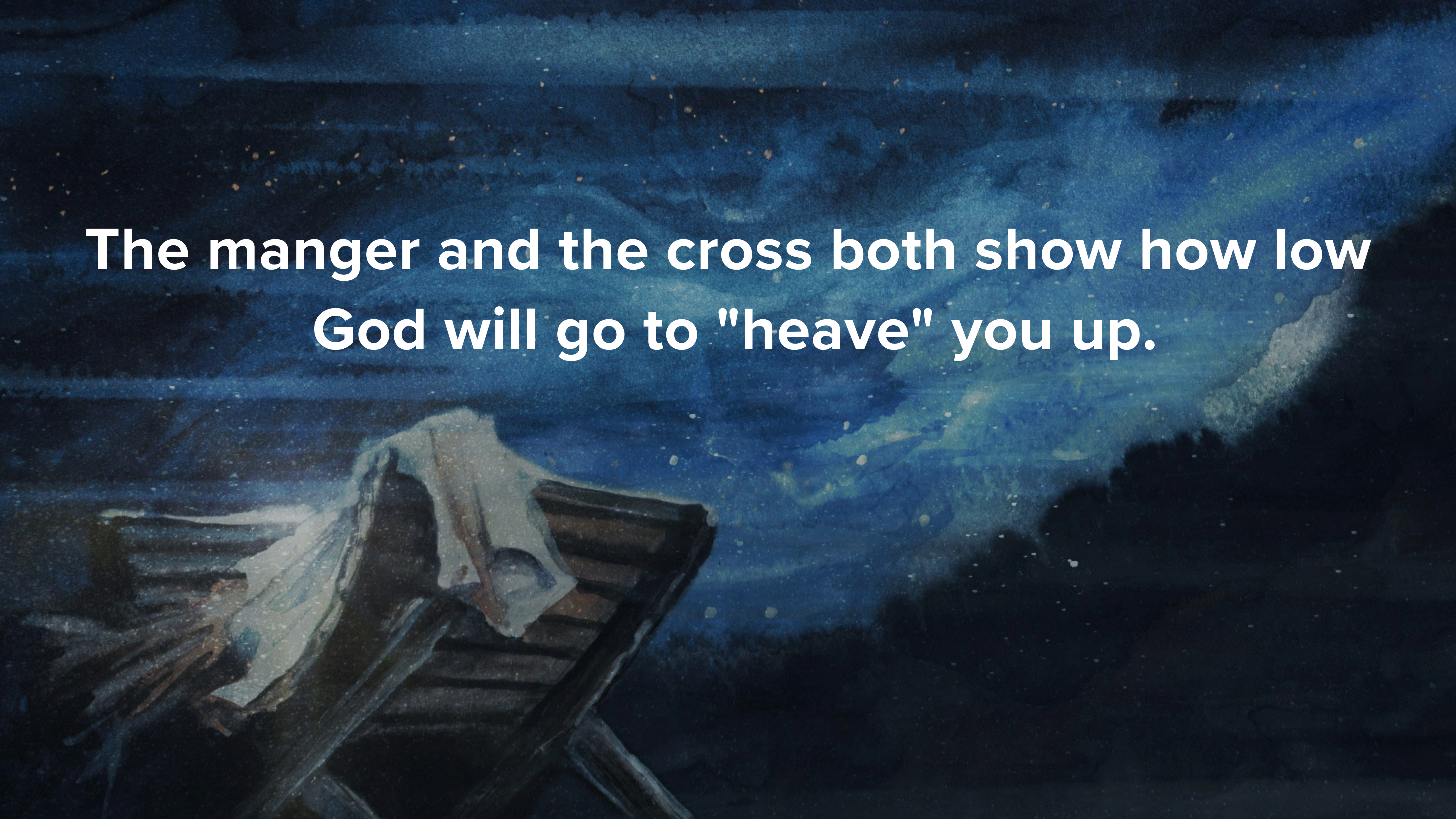
A painting of a wooden boat on a dark blue sea under a starry night sky. The boat is in the lower left corner, and the sea is dark with some lighter patches. The sky is a deep blue with many small white stars. The text is in the center, in white, and reads: "The weight of Heaven's love was greater than the heaviness of our sin."

The weight of Heaven's love was greater than
the heaviness of our sin.



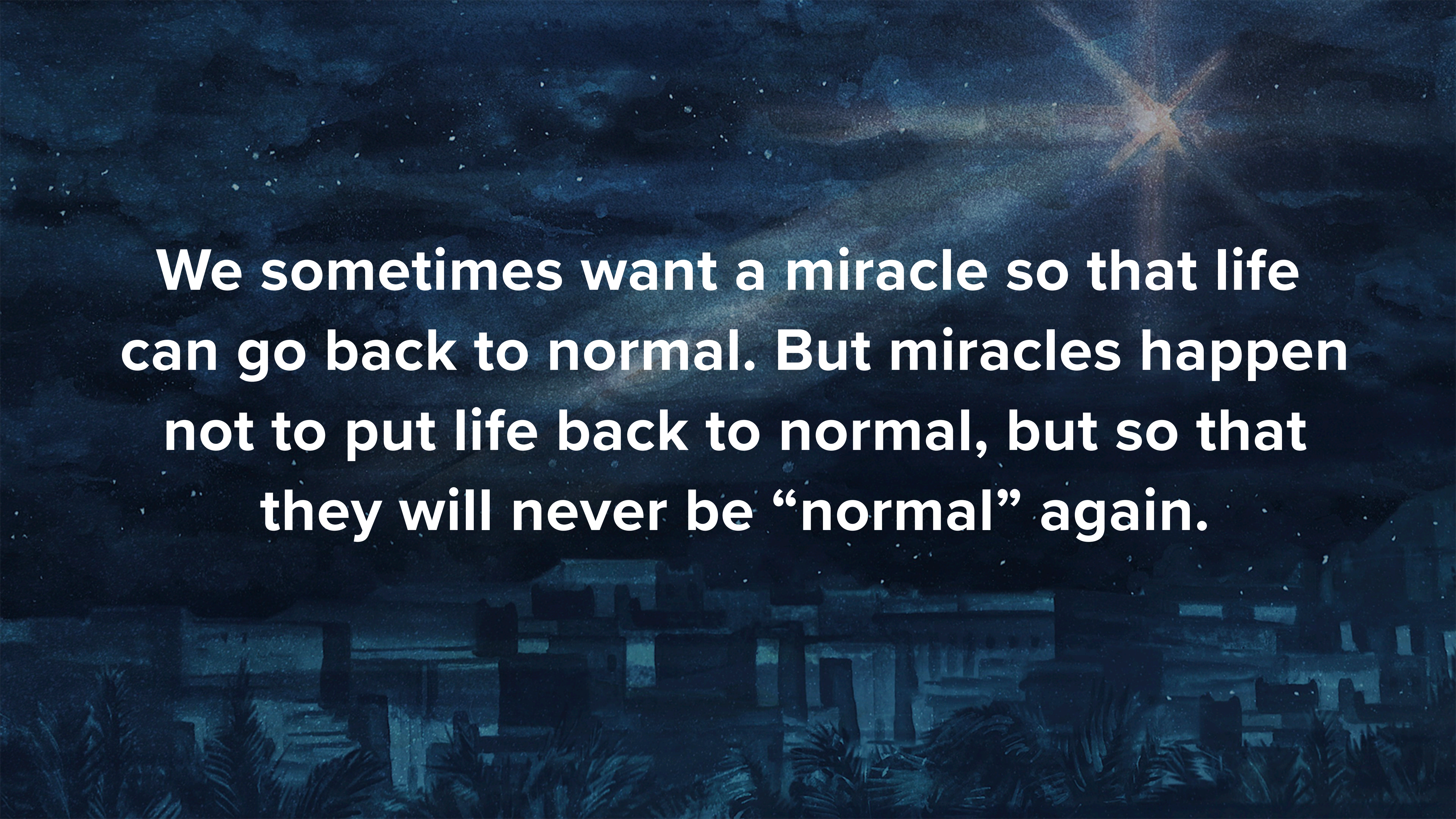
When Heaven meets Earth, Mary is honored.
When Heaven meets Earth, Joseph is honored.
When Heaven meets Earth, the shepherds are honored.
When Heaven meets Earth, humankind is lifted up.

**The manger and the cross both show how low
God will go to "heave" you up.**



“The throne of God in the world is set not on the thrones of humankind but in humanity’s deepest abyss, in the manger. There are no flattering courtiers standing around his throne, just some rather dark, unknown, dubious-looking figures, who cannot get enough of looking at this miracle and are quite prepared to live entirely on the mercy of God.”

DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

The background is a dark, moody night scene. In the upper half, a deep blue and black sky is filled with soft, ethereal clouds. A bright, multi-pointed starburst or comet tail glows in the upper right quadrant, casting a faint light across the sky. Below the sky, a dark silhouette of a city skyline is visible, with various building shapes and some faint lights. In the foreground, dark, leafy plants or trees are silhouetted against the city and sky. The overall tone is mysterious and contemplative.

**We sometimes want a miracle so that life
can go back to normal. But miracles happen
not to put life back to normal, but so that
they will never be “normal” again.**