



THE
GOSPEL OF THE
KINGDOM

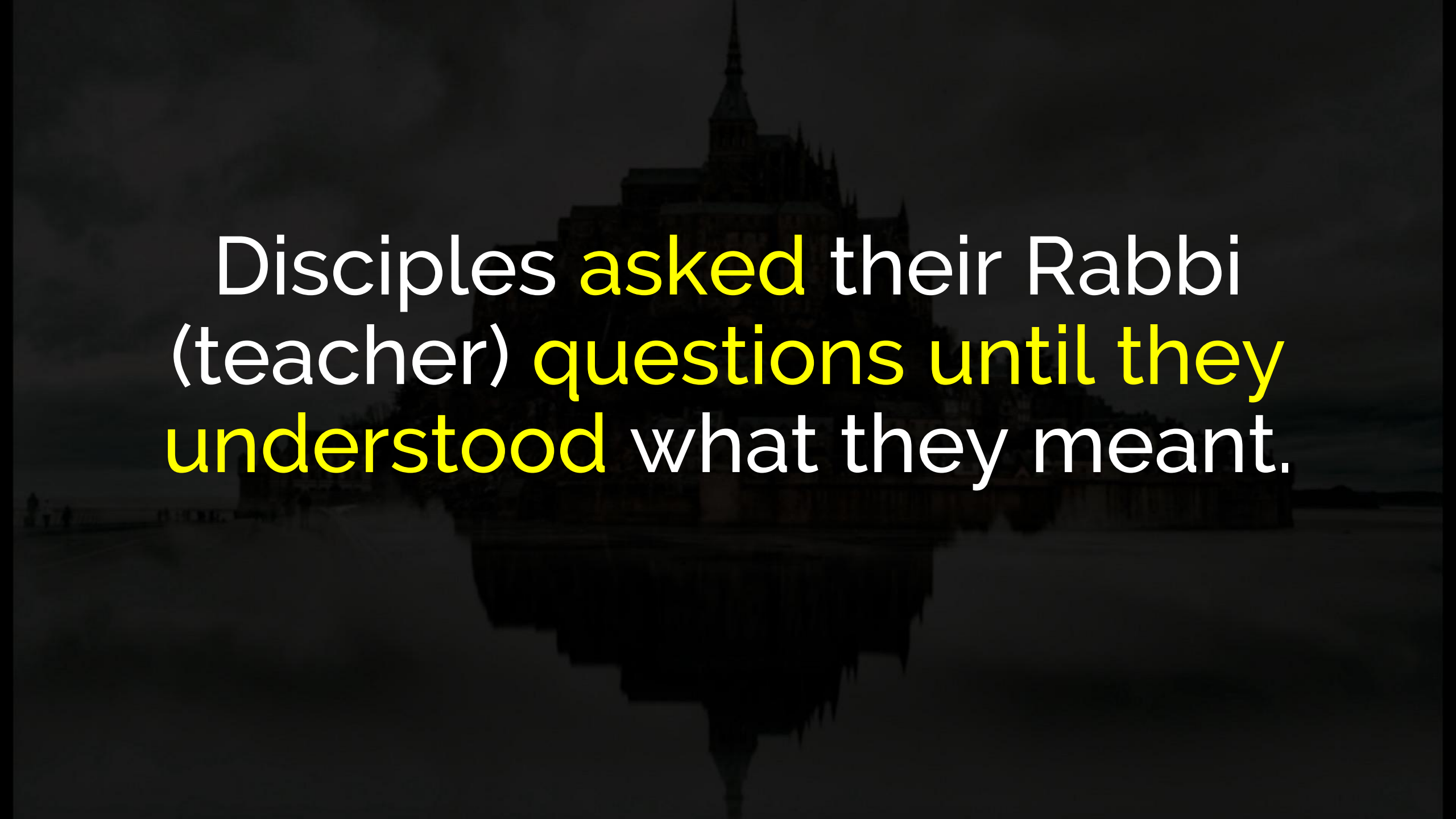
Definition:

The Kingdom of God is the rule of God over the hearts of men and women so they can live in the realm of Divine blessing.

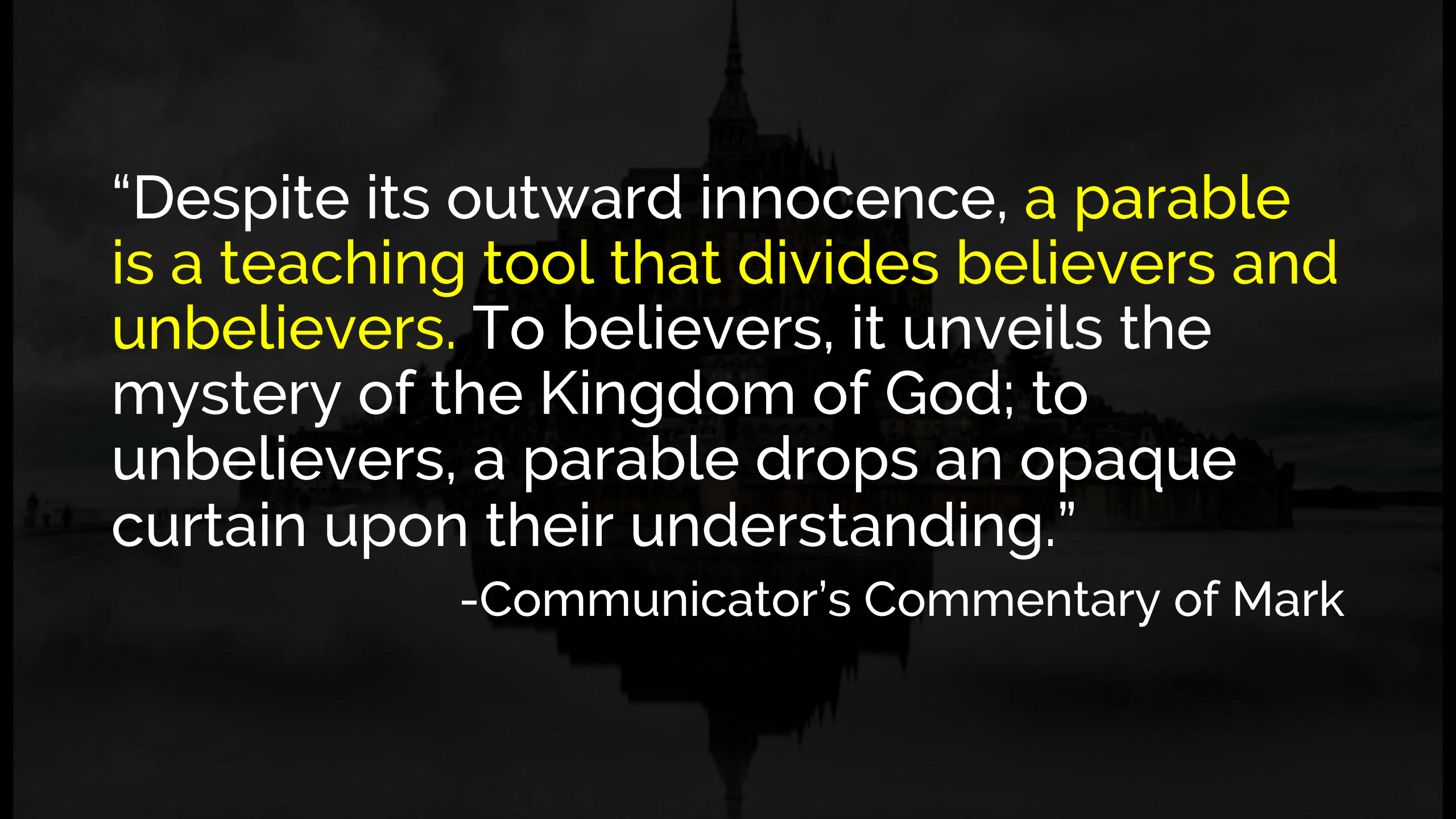
¹⁰ Then the disciples came up and asked him, “Why are you speaking to them in parables?” ¹¹ He answered, “Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them. ¹² For whoever has, more will be given to him, and he will have more than enough; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ That is why I speak to them in parables, because looking they do not see, and hearing they do not listen or understand. ¹⁴ Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

You will listen and listen, but never understand; you will look and look, but never perceive. ¹⁵ For this people's heart has grown callous; their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; otherwise they might see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn back—and I would heal them. ¹⁶ "Blessed are your eyes because they do see, and your ears because they do hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see the things you see but didn't see them, to hear the things you hear but didn't hear them.

-Matt. 13:10-17

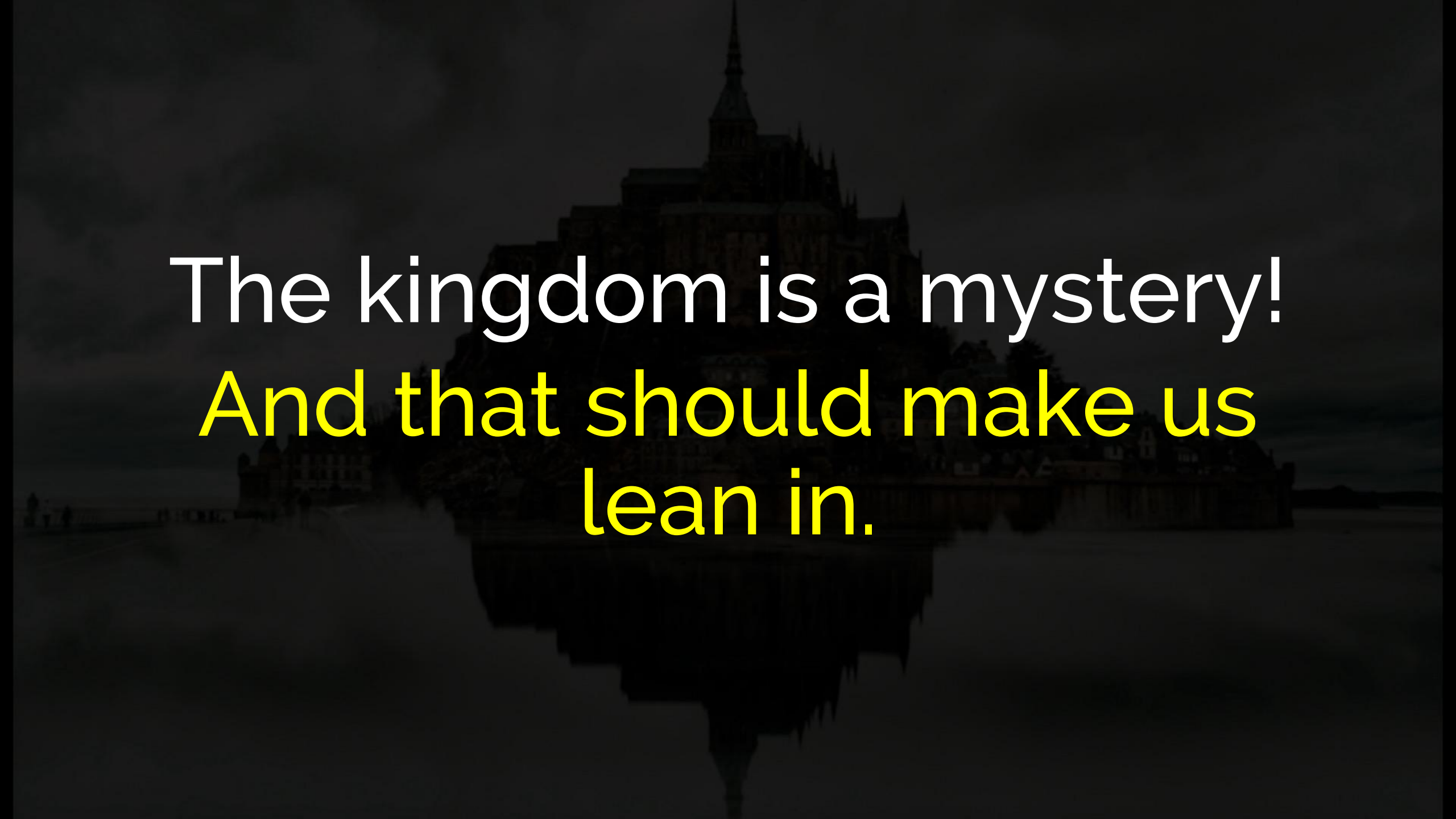


Disciples **asked** their Rabbi
(teacher) **questions until they**
understood what they meant.



“Despite its outward innocence, a parable is a teaching tool that divides believers and unbelievers. To believers, it unveils the mystery of the Kingdom of God; to unbelievers, a parable drops an opaque curtain upon their understanding.”

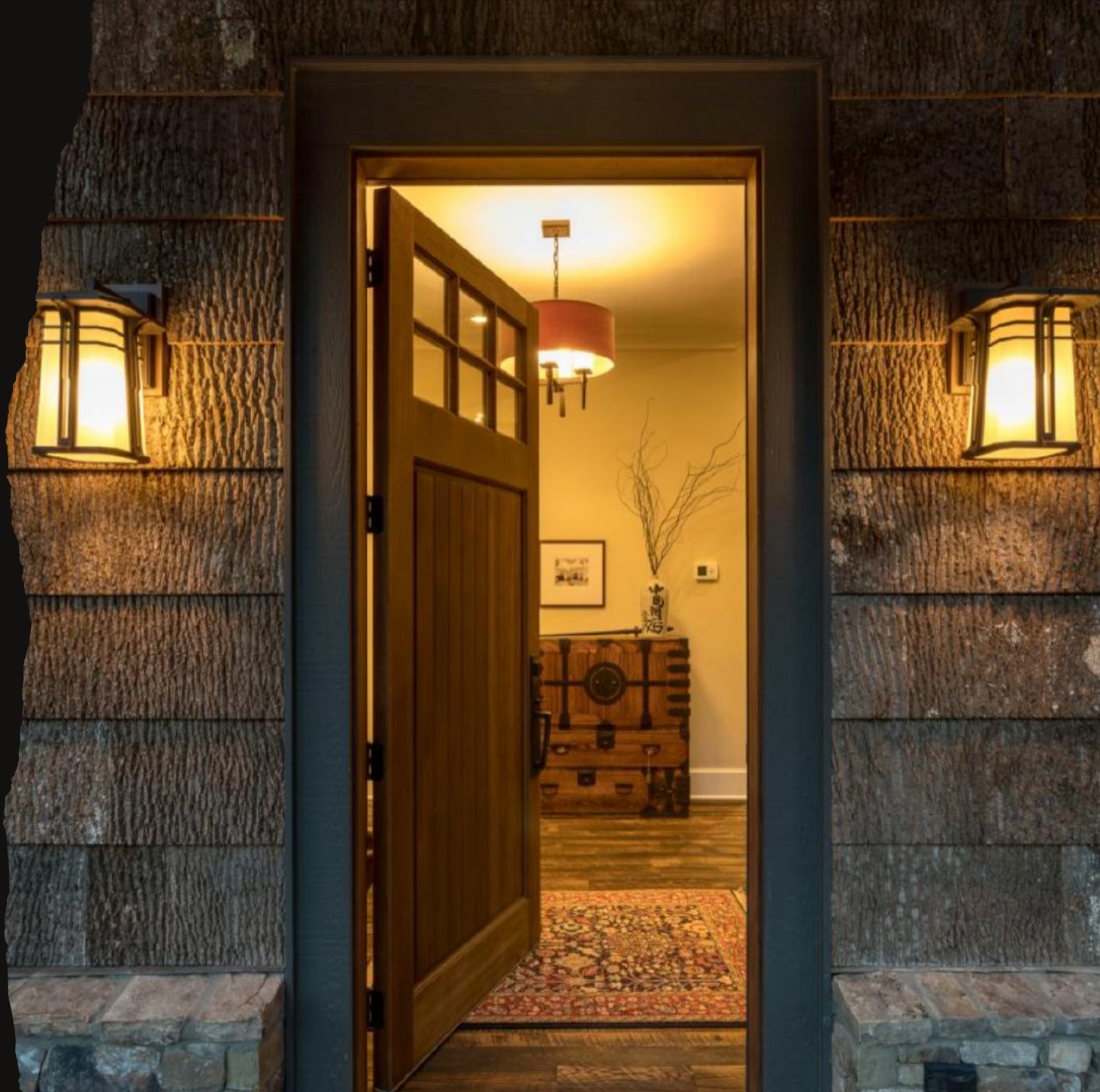
-Communicator's Commentary of Mark



The kingdom is a mystery!
And that should make us
lean in.

“It is easy to think of a parable as a good way to ‘launch’ an idea. Once the idea is ‘on its way’ the parable can be discarded. But this is not so. If the parable is a house in which the listener/reader is to take up residence, then **that person is urged by the parable to look on the world through the windows of that residence.**”

-Kenneth Bailey





As a believer, **Matt. 13:10-17**
should encourage us to...

- Thank God that you know Jesus!



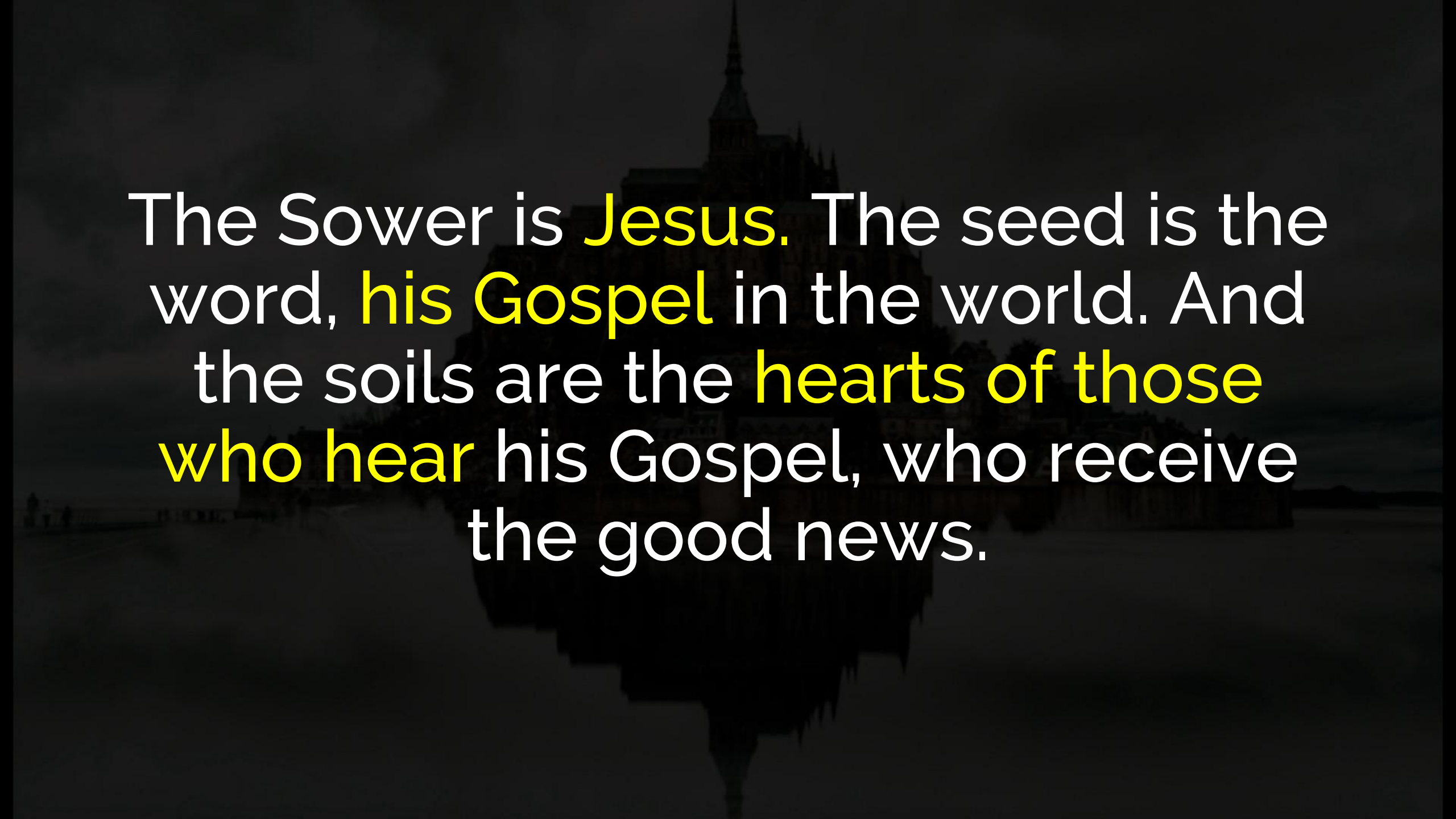
As a believer, **Matt. 13:10-17**
should encourage us to...

- Thank God that you know Jesus!
- Pray hard for those who don't!

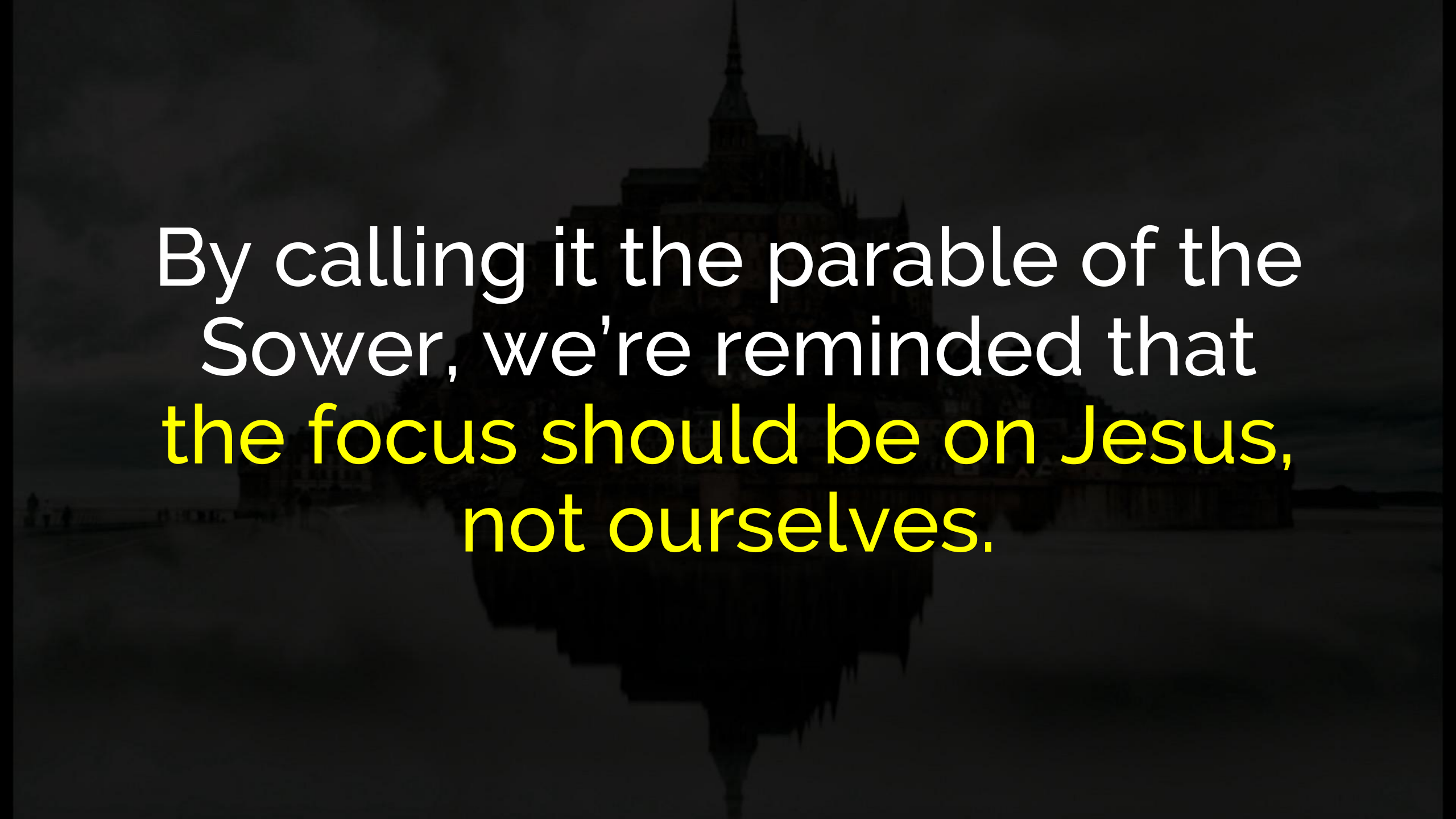
On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying, "Consider the sower who went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground where it didn't have much soil, and it grew up quickly since the soil wasn't deep. ⁶ But when the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good ground and produced fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Let anyone who has ears listen."

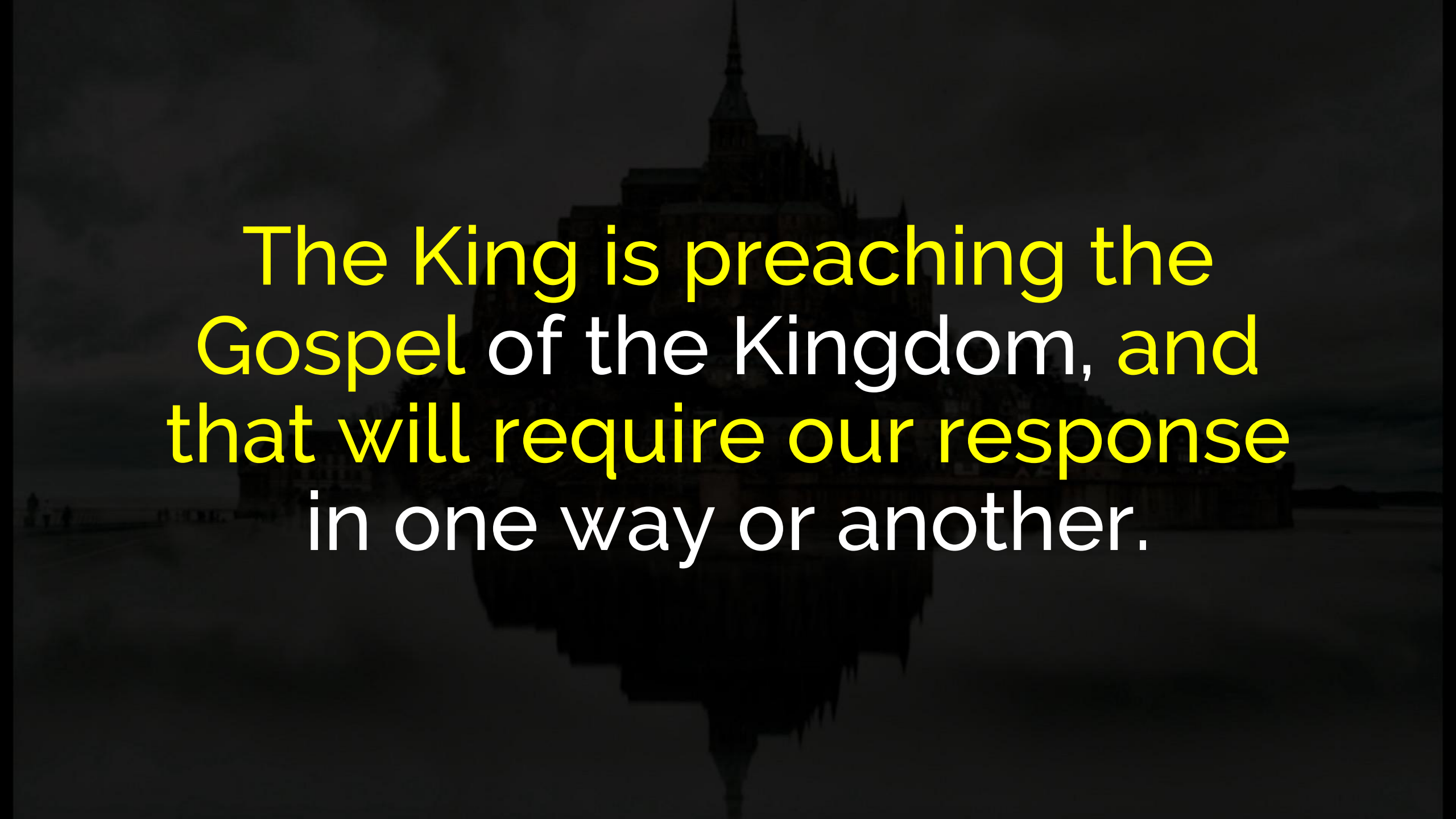
-Matt. 13:1-9



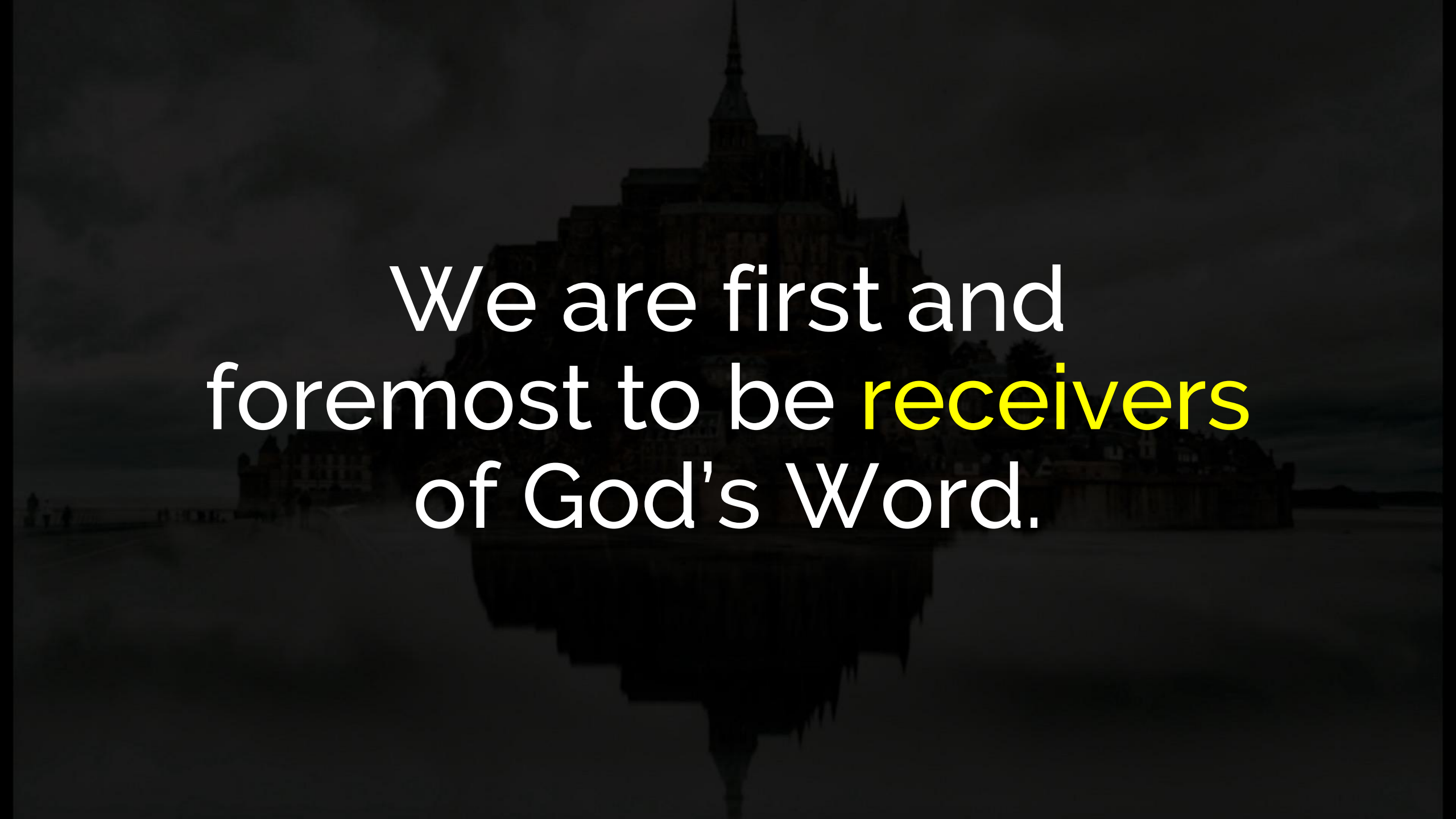
The Sower is **Jesus**. The seed is the word, **his Gospel** in the world. And the soils are the **hearts of those who hear** his Gospel, who receive the good news.



By calling it the parable of the
Sower, we're reminded that
the focus should be on Jesus,
not ourselves.



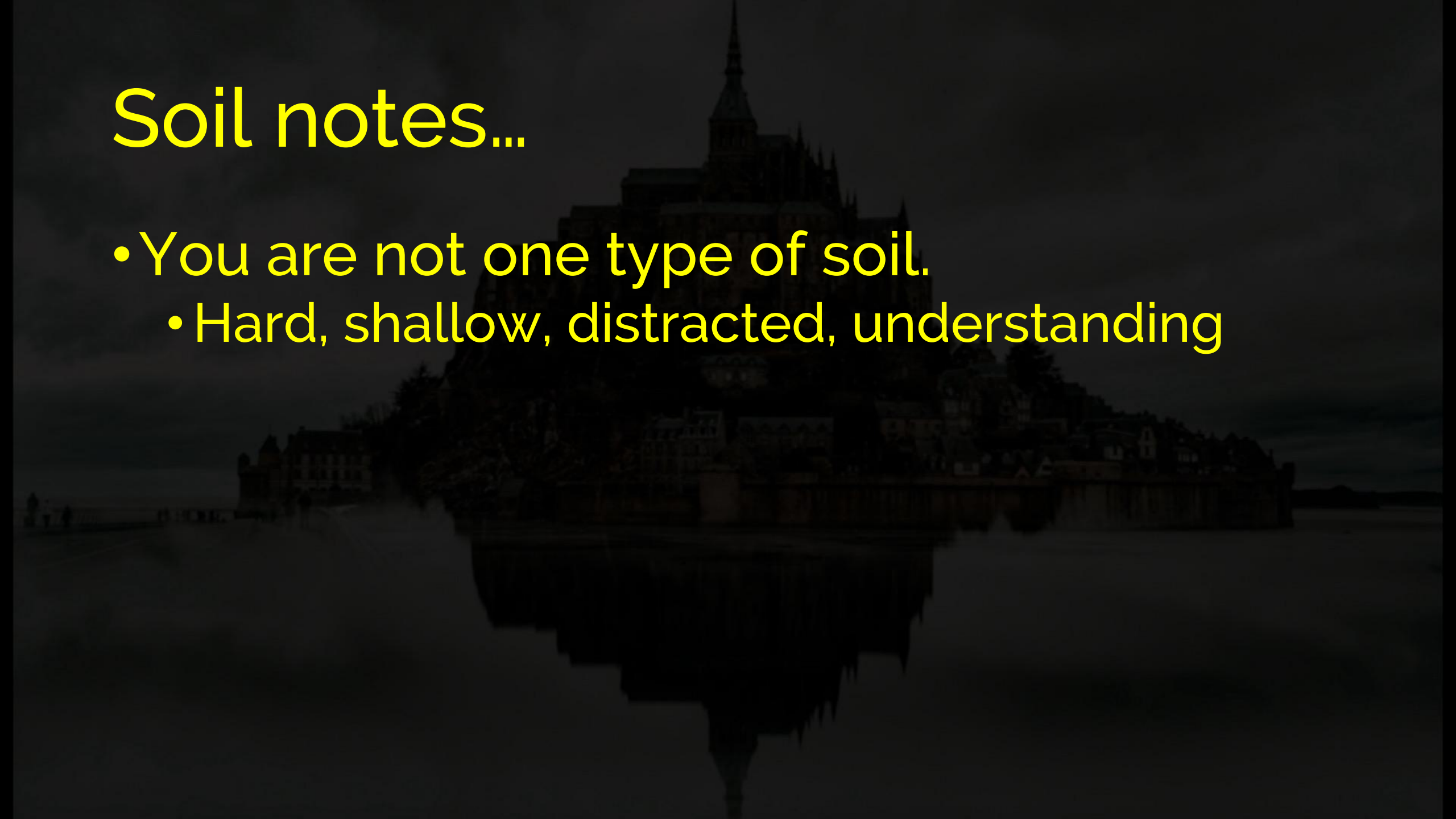
The King is preaching the
Gospel of the Kingdom, and
that will require our response
in one way or another.

A dark, atmospheric photograph of a Gothic cathedral, likely a church, with its intricate spires and arches silhouetted against a dark sky. The building is reflected in a body of water in the foreground, creating a symmetrical effect. The overall mood is solemn and contemplative.

We are first and
foremost to be **receivers**
of God's Word.

Soil notes...

- You are not one type of soil.
 - Hard, shallow, distracted, understanding



Soil notes...

- You are not one type of soil.
 - Hard, shallow, distracted, understanding
- Only one bears lasting fruit.

Soil notes...

- You are not one type of soil.
 - Hard, shallow, distracted, understanding
- Only one bears lasting fruit.
- Jesus preaches the Gospel with full knowledge that not all will accept it.

The HARD Heart


¹⁸ “So listen to the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word about the kingdom and doesn’t understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one sown along the path.

-Matt. 13:18-19



“This soil is unfruitful because its orientation is wrong. It receives the activity of people and not the activity of the Sower as its main occupation. **In short, people are more important to footpaths than seeds.** If enough people are doing or saying something, then that must be what God is doing and saying.”

-Dale Bruner



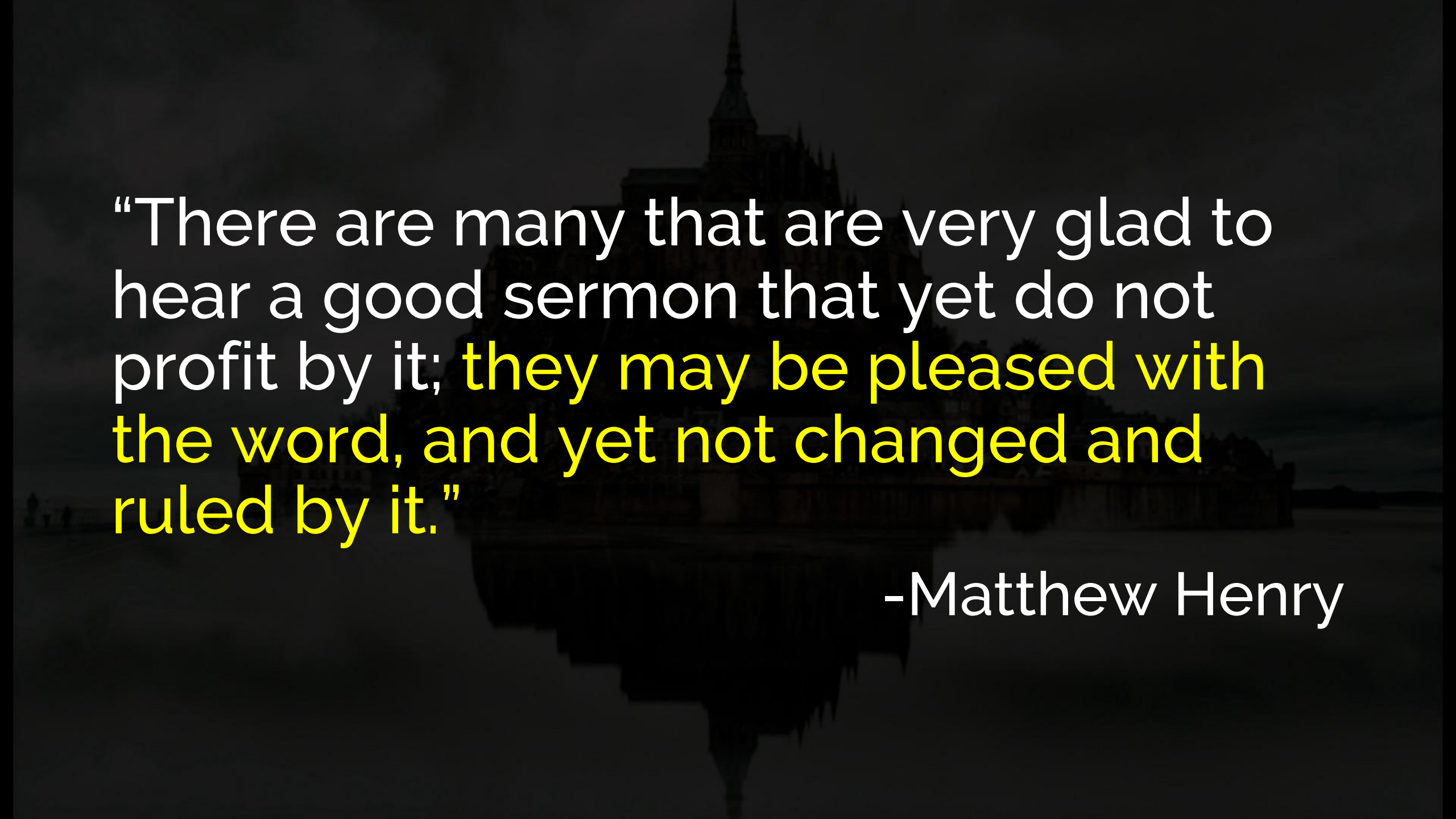
The goal of the evil one is
to remove the Gospel
completely.

The **SHALLOW** Heart

²⁰ And the one sown on rocky ground—this is one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. ²¹ But he has no root and is short-lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away.

-Matt. 13:20-21





“There are many that are very glad to hear a good sermon that yet do not profit by it; they may be pleased with the word, and yet not changed and ruled by it.”

-Matthew Henry

The DISTRACTED Heart

²² Now the one sown among the thorns—this is one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

-Matt. 13:22





The UNDERSTANDING Heart

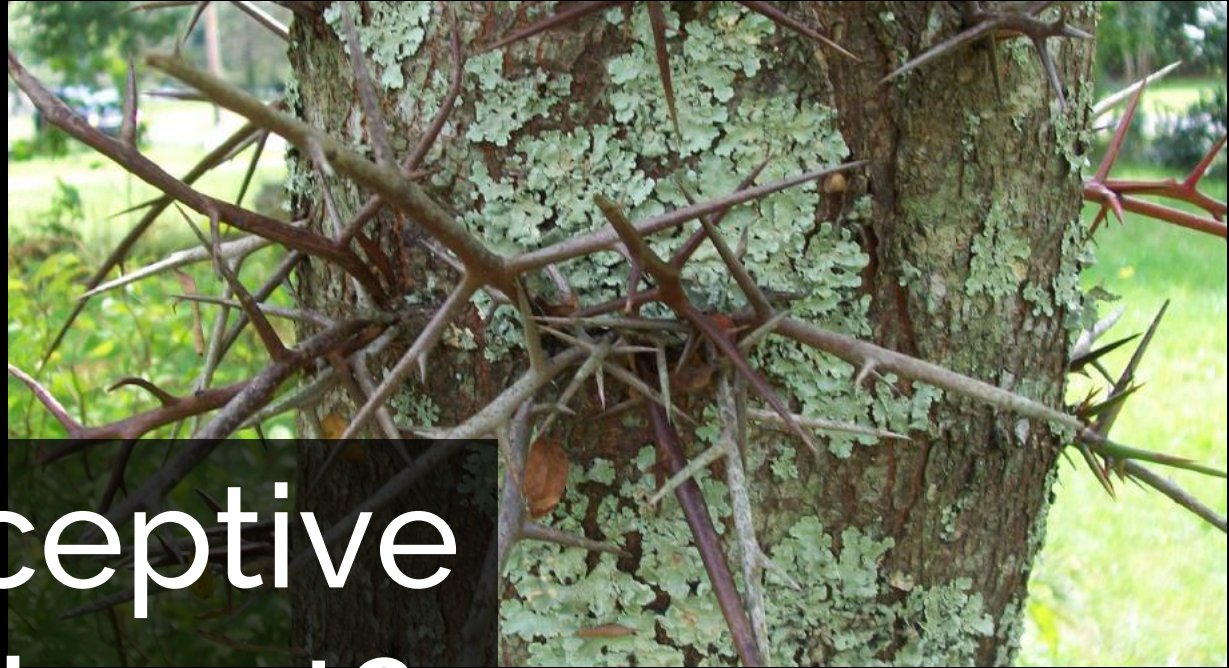
²³ But the one sown on the good ground—this is one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields: some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown.”

-Matt. 13:23



Understand...

- To get in line with
- To yield to
- To stand under



How receptive
is **your** heart?

Do this in remembrance of me.

