



*Real Men  
Don't  
Put Out  
Fires!*



*<sup>51</sup>“You stubborn people! You are heathen at heart and deaf to the truth. Must you forever resist the Holy Spirit? That’s what your ancestors did, and so do you!*

*<sup>52</sup>Name one prophet your ancestors didn’t persecute! They even killed the ones who predicted the coming of the Righteous One—the Messiah whom you betrayed and murdered. <sup>53</sup>You deliberately disobeyed God’s law, even though you received it from the hands of angels.”*

*Acts 7:51-53 <sup>NLT</sup>*

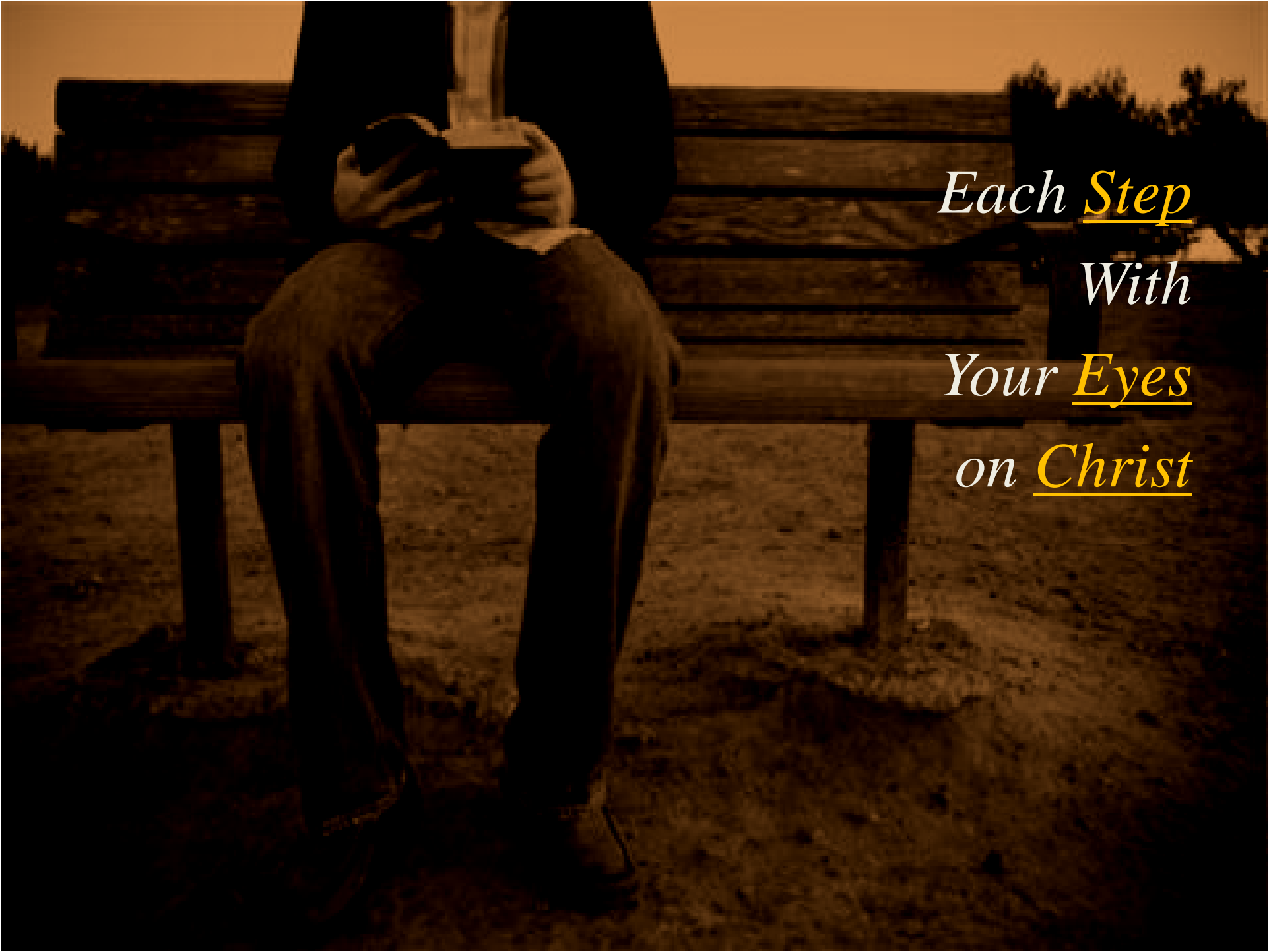
*54The Jewish leaders were infuriated by Stephen's accusation, and they shook their fists at him in rage. 55But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed steadily into heaven and saw the glory of God, and he saw Jesus standing in the place of honor at God's right hand. 56And he told them, "Look, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing in the place of honor at God's right hand!"*

*Acts 7:53-56<sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>57</sup>Then they put their hands over their ears and began shouting. They rushed at him <sup>58</sup>and dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. His accusers took off their coats and laid them at the feet of a young man named Saul. <sup>59</sup>As they stoned him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” <sup>60</sup>He fell to his knees, shouting, “Lord, don’t charge them with this sin!”*

*And with that, he died.*

*Acts 7:57-60 <sup>NLT</sup>*

A person is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors during sunset. The person is wearing a dark jacket and pants, and is looking down at a smartphone held in their hands. The background shows a beach and the ocean under a warm, orange sky. The overall mood is contemplative and focused on the device.

*Each Step  
With  
Your Eyes  
on Christ*



How can I forgive  
when it hurts so much



UNTIL THE  
LEAST  
OF THESE

Matthew 25:31-46



"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"

Matthew 7:3-5



Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will easily remove the speck from your brother's eye.

*<sup>12</sup>Those who want to make a good impression outwardly are trying to compel you to be circumcised.*

*The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Not even those who are circumcised obey the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your flesh.*

*Galatians 6:12, 13 <sup>NIV</sup>*

*<sup>14</sup>May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

*<sup>15</sup>Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a new creation.*

*<sup>16</sup>Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even to the Israel of God.*

*Galatians 6:14-16 <sup>NIV</sup>*

*<sup>8</sup>That is why I am boldly asking a favor of you. I could demand it in the name of Christ because it is the right thing for you to do. <sup>9</sup>But because of our love, I prefer simply to ask you. Consider this as a request from me—Paul, an old man and now also a prisoner for the sake of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison.*

*Philemon 1:8-10<sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>11</sup>Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. <sup>12</sup>I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart. <sup>13</sup>I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf. <sup>14</sup>But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced.*

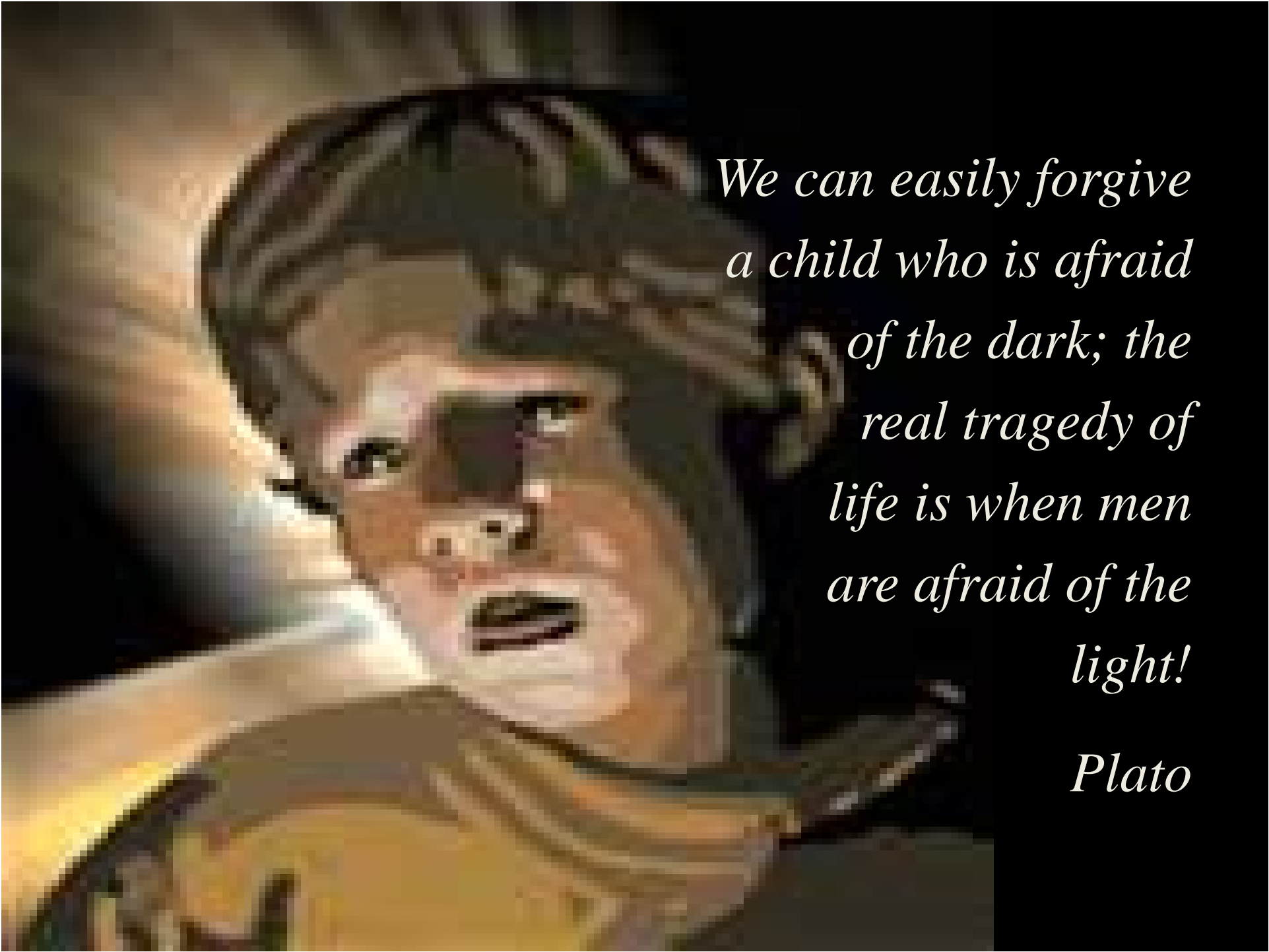
*Philemon 1:11-14<sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>15</sup>It seems Onesimus ran away for a little while so that you could have him back forever. <sup>16</sup>He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.*

*Philemon 1:15, 16<sup>NLT</sup>*

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire*

*1 Thessalonians 5:19<sup>NIV</sup>*

A close-up photograph of a young child with dark hair, looking directly at the camera with a wide-eyed, fearful expression. The child's mouth is slightly open, and their skin appears pale. The background is dark and out of focus, with some light reflecting off the child's face and hair. The overall mood is one of fear and vulnerability.

*We can easily forgive  
a child who is afraid  
of the dark; the  
real tragedy of  
life is when men  
are afraid of the  
light!*

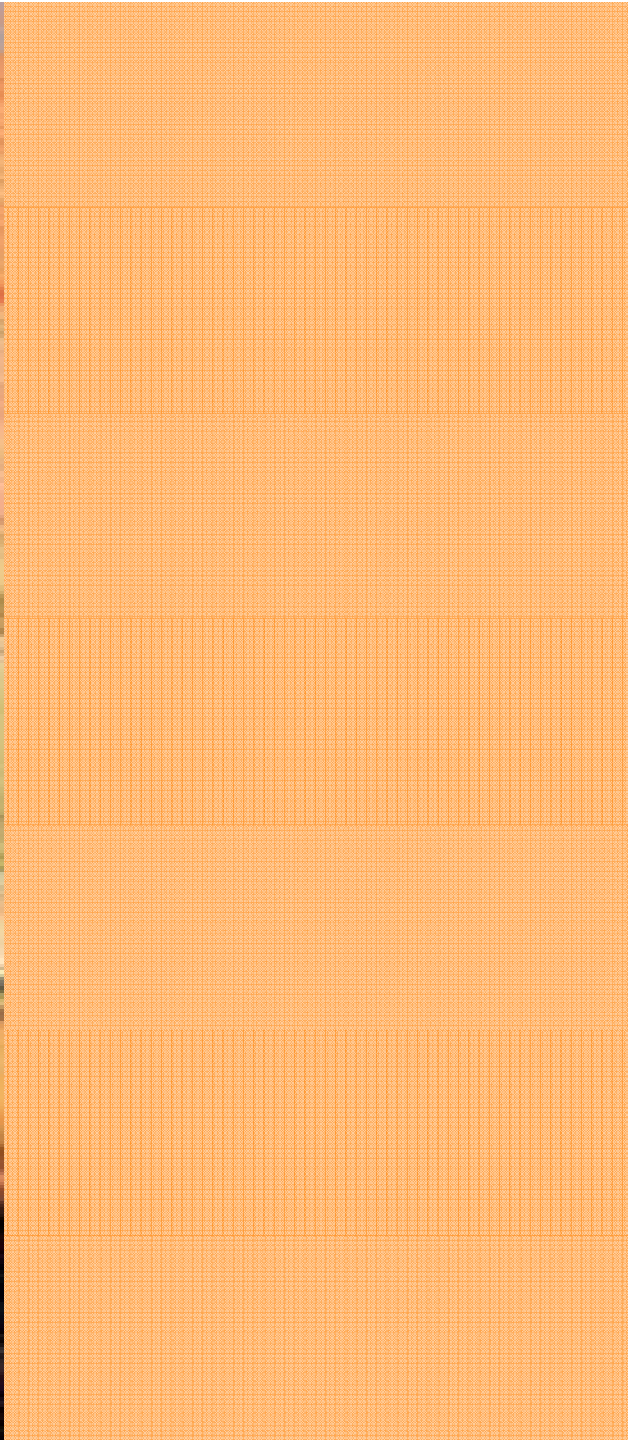
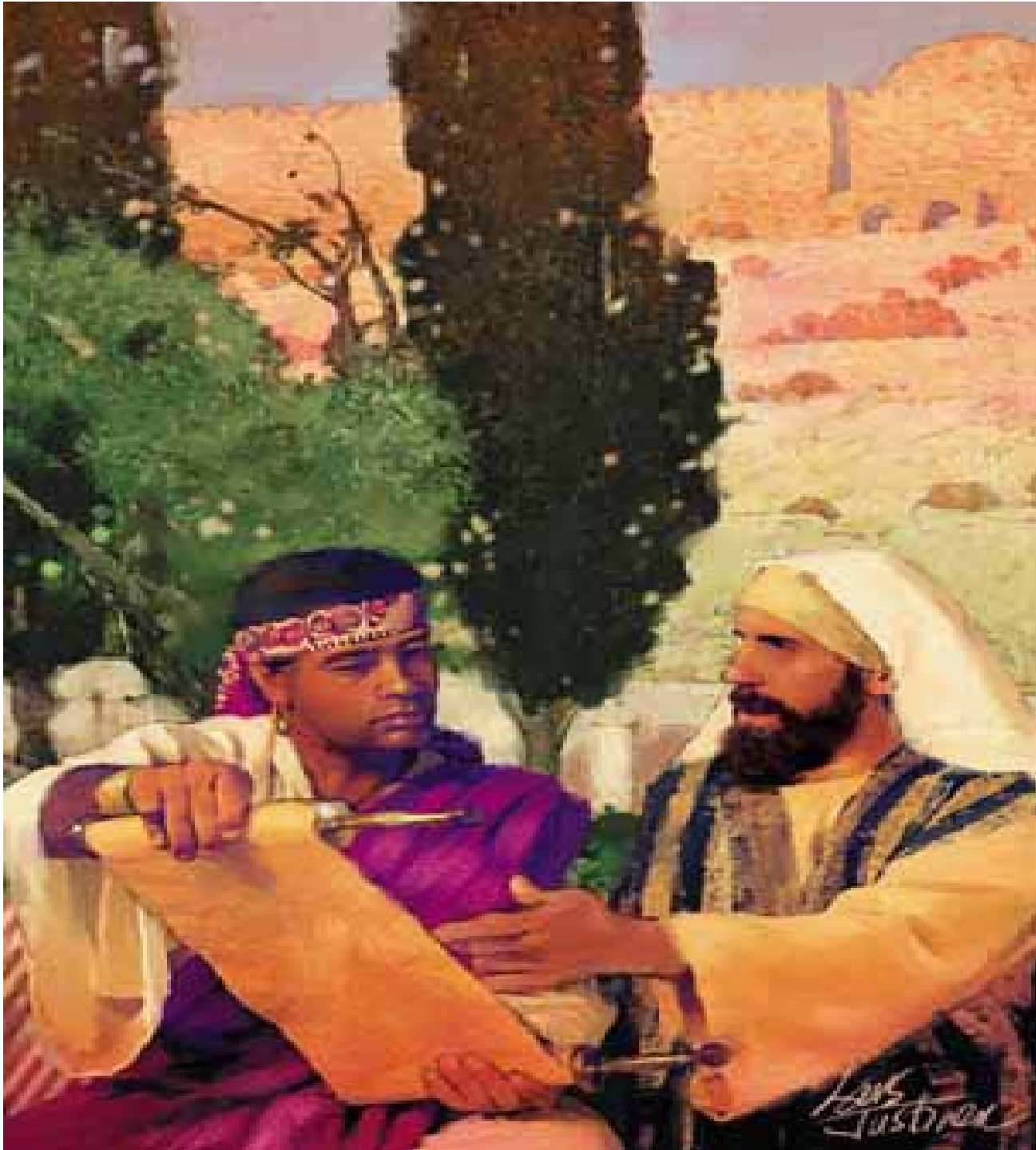
*Plato*

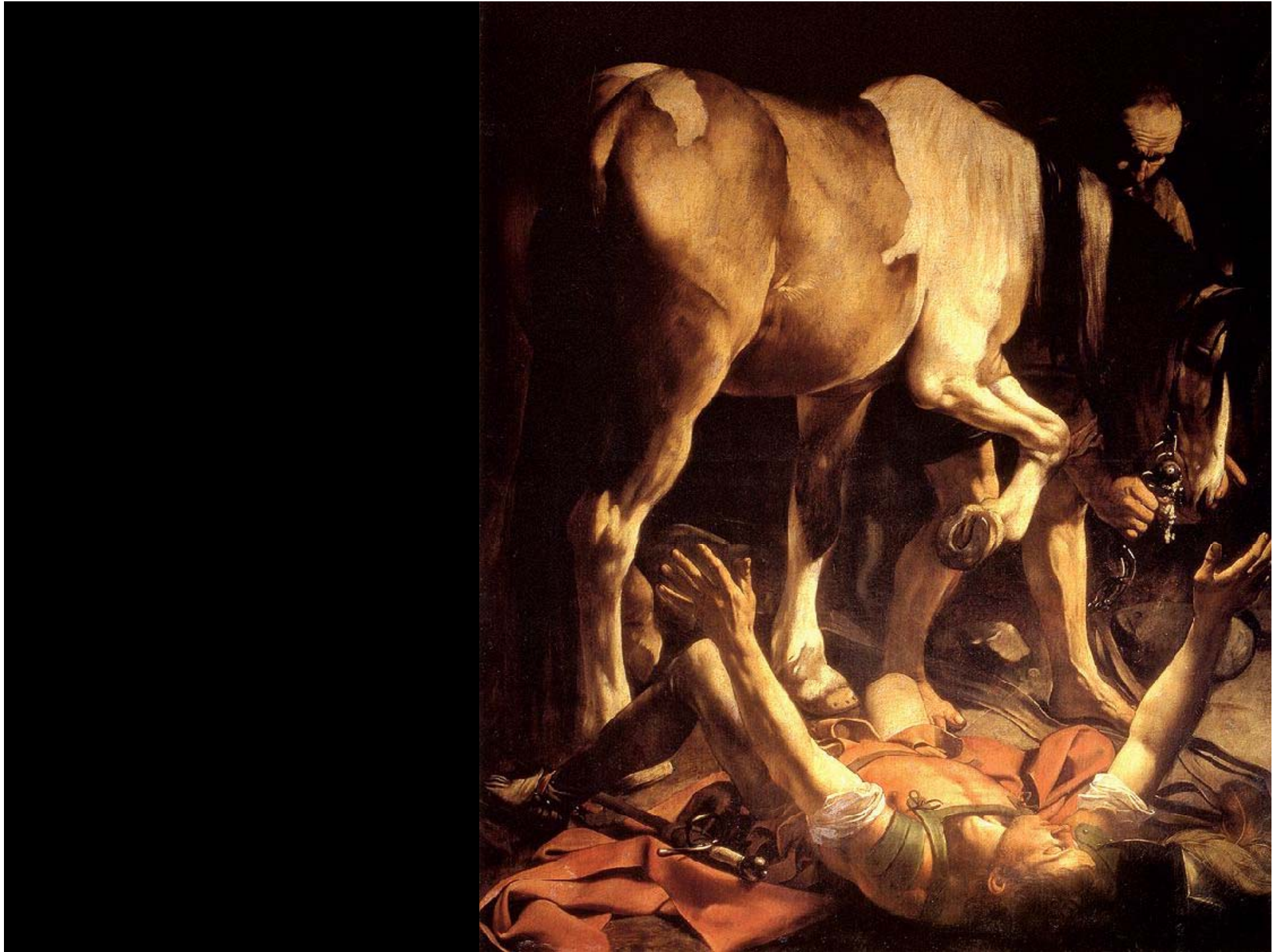


*Gone*

*Too*

*Soon*







*Stephen has been confessing Christ before men,  
and now he sees Christ confessing his servant before  
God. The proper posture for a witness is the standing  
posture. Stephen, condemned by an earthly court,  
appeals for vindication to a heavenly court, and his  
vindicator in that supreme court is Jesus,  
who stands at God's right hand  
as Stephen's advocate.*

*F. F. Bruce*