



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM

03 - The People of God

Sunday, 20 November 2022 | Church on the Park | Glen Gerhauer

“An Act to constitute the Commonwealth of Australia

[9th July 1900]

WHEREAS the people of New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, and Tasmania, **humbly relying on the blessing of Almighty God**, have agreed to unite in one indissoluble Federal Commonwealth under the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and under the Constitution hereby established:

– *Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act (www.apf.gov.au), emphasis mine*

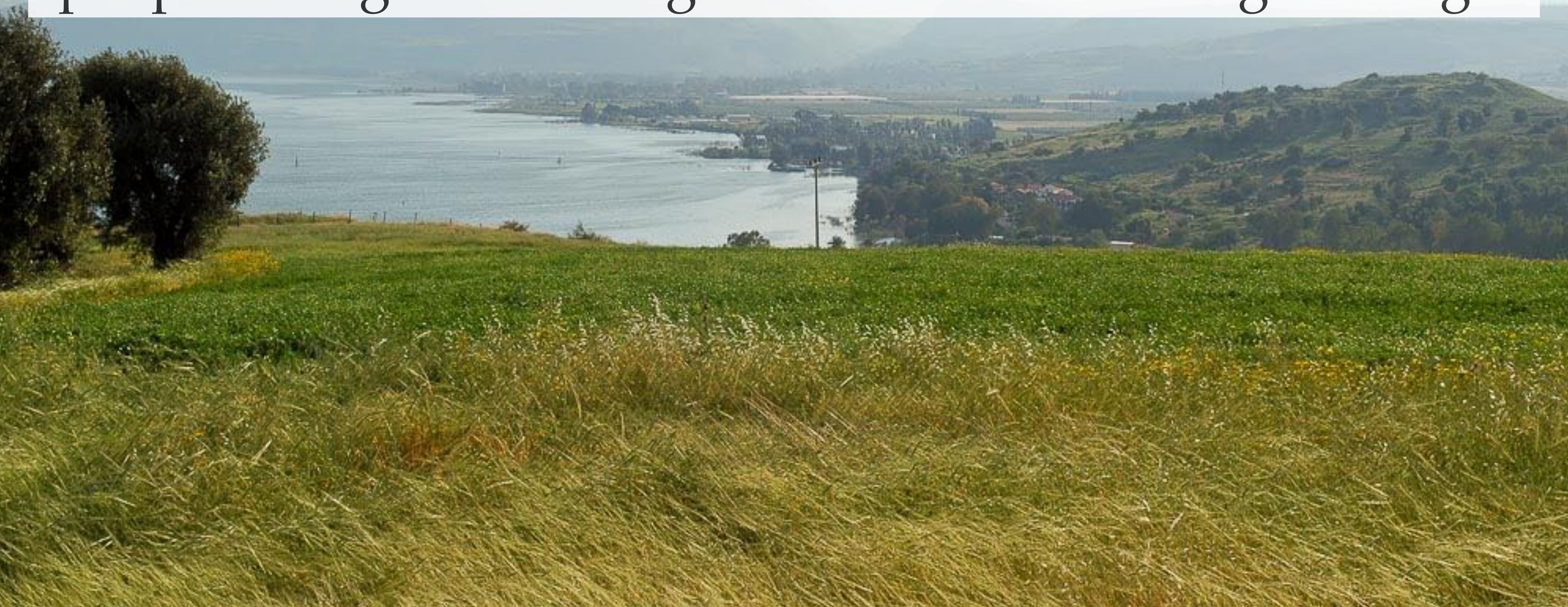
“Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them... You are the light of the world. A city (*polis*) built on a hill cannot be hidden.”

– *The Sermon on the Mount, Matthew 5:1-2, 14*

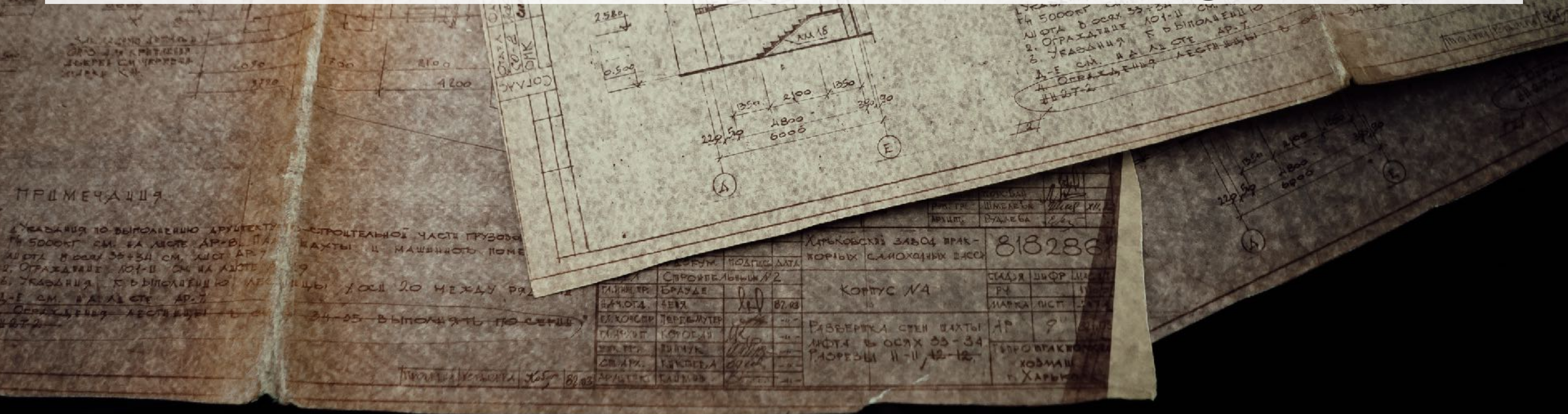
What is the Sermon on the Mount?

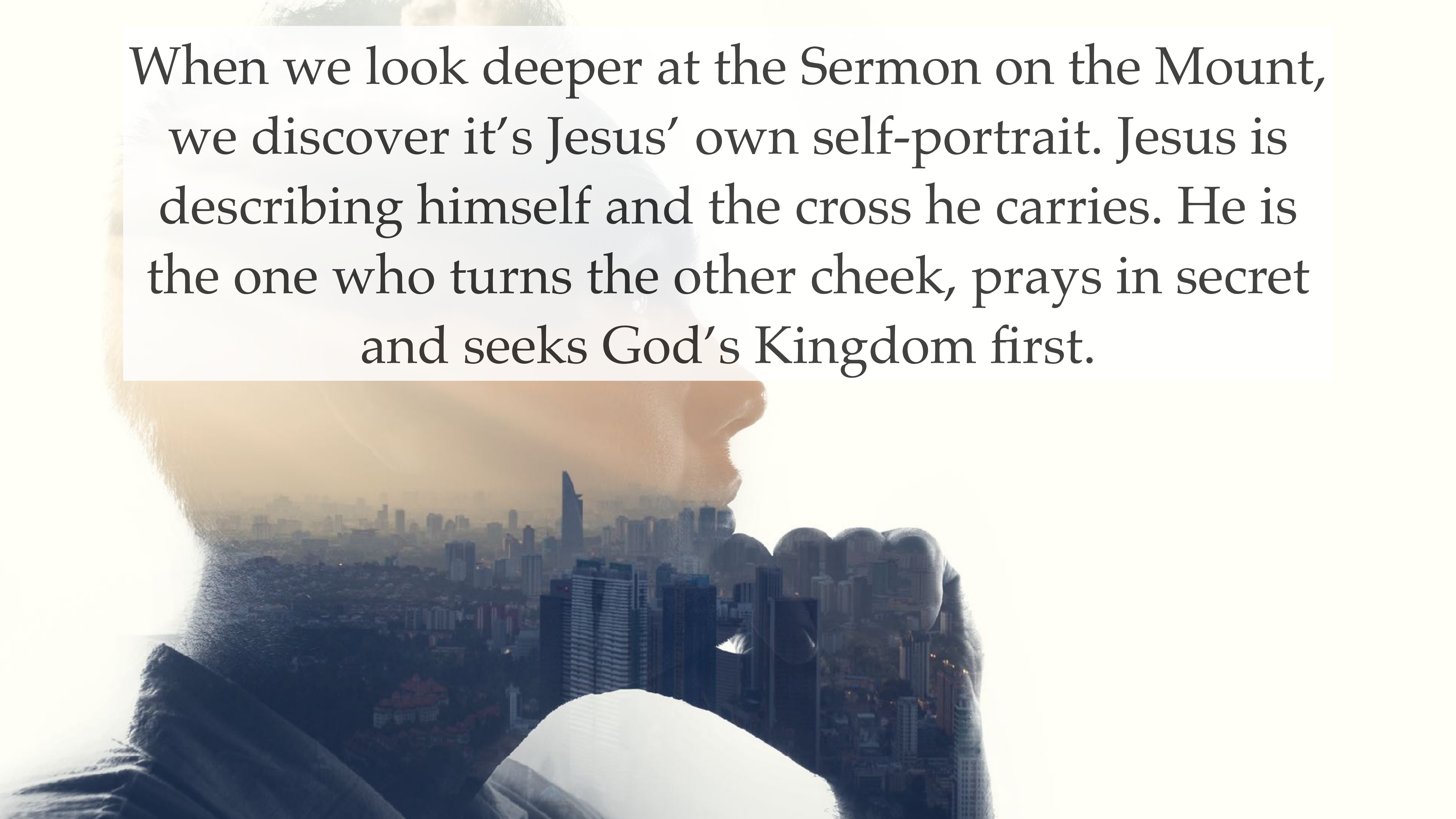


The Sermon on the Mount is the constitution of God's Kingdom. Through it, Jesus paints a portrait of God's people living under the government of the King of Kings.

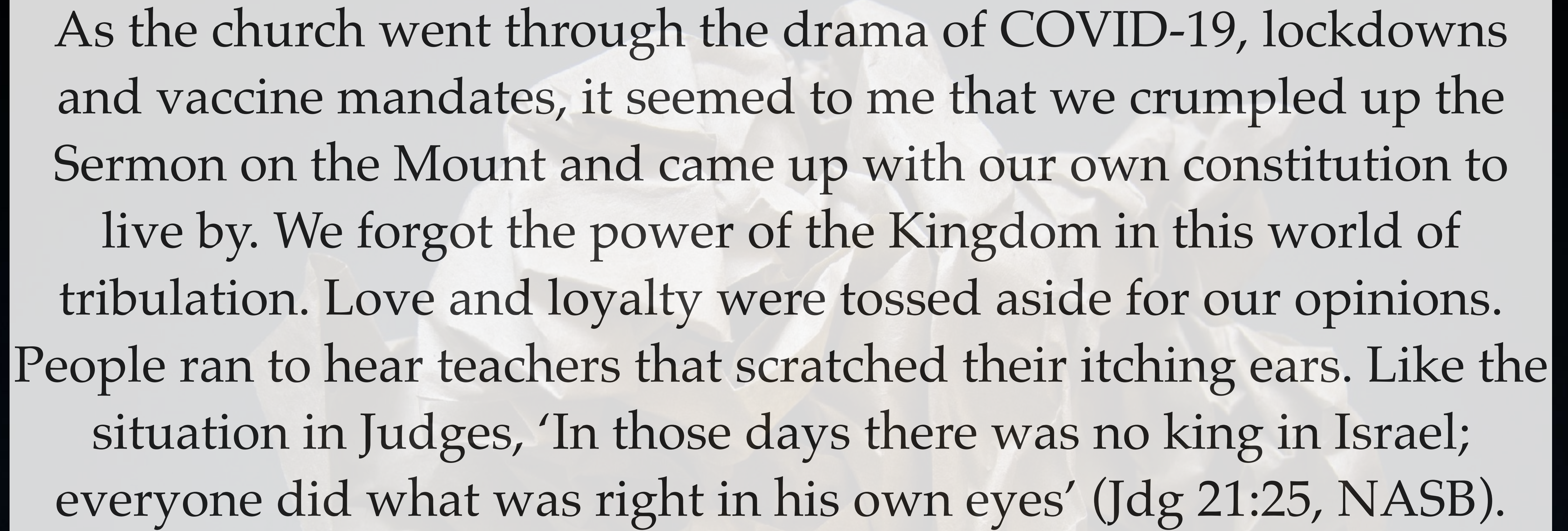


The Sermon on the Mount is the blueprint of God's church. It shows us what Jesus is building and how he has designed us. When we are in the throes of turbulent times, we must constantly consult our Master's blueprint rather than our own understanding.

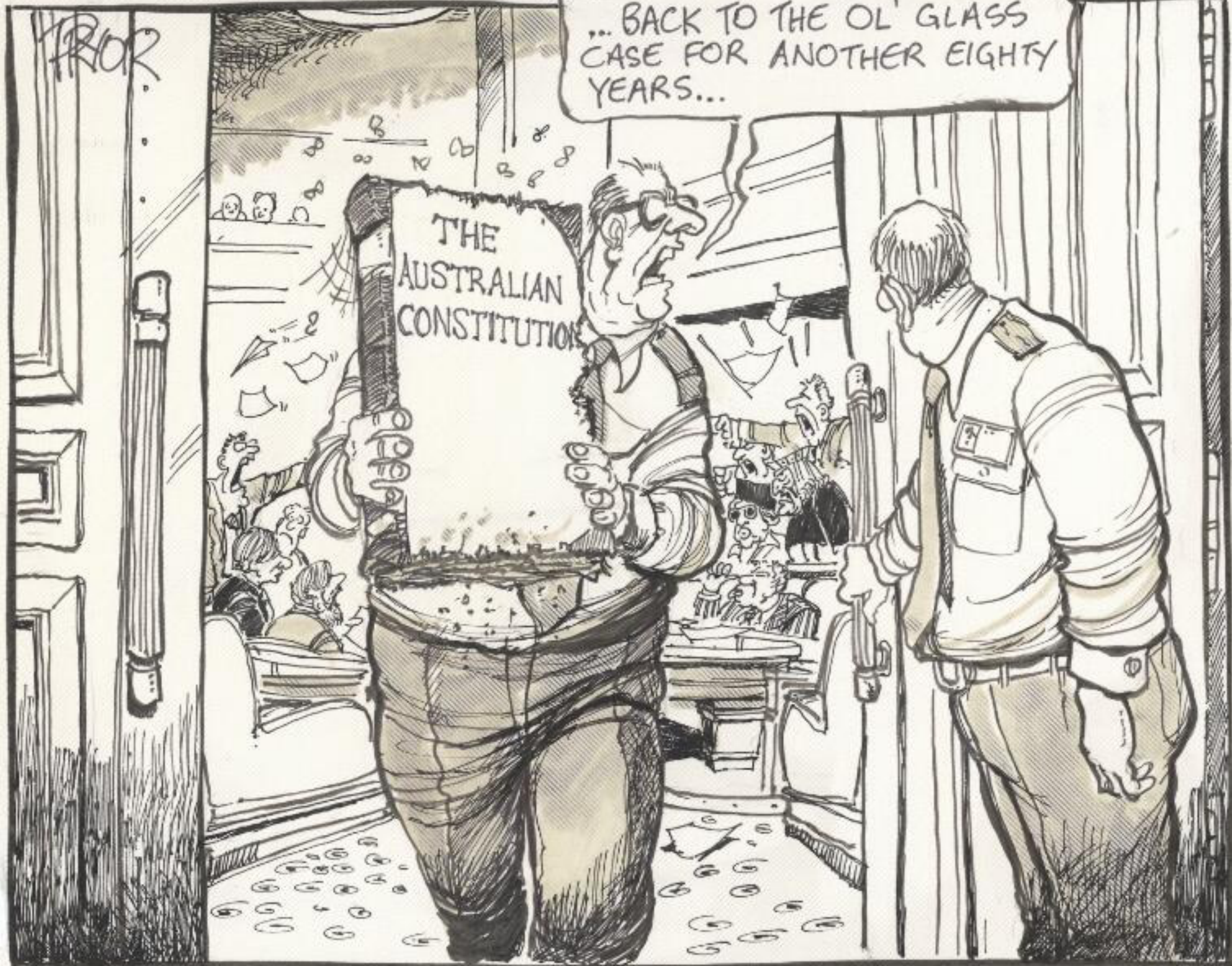




When we look deeper at the Sermon on the Mount, we discover it's Jesus' own self-portrait. Jesus is describing himself and the cross he carries. He is the one who turns the other cheek, prays in secret and seeks God's Kingdom first.



As the church went through the drama of COVID-19, lockdowns and vaccine mandates, it seemed to me that we crumpled up the Sermon on the Mount and came up with our own constitution to live by. We forgot the power of the Kingdom in this world of tribulation. Love and loyalty were tossed aside for our opinions. People ran to hear teachers that scratched their itching ears. Like the situation in Judges, 'In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes' (Jdg 21:25, NASB).



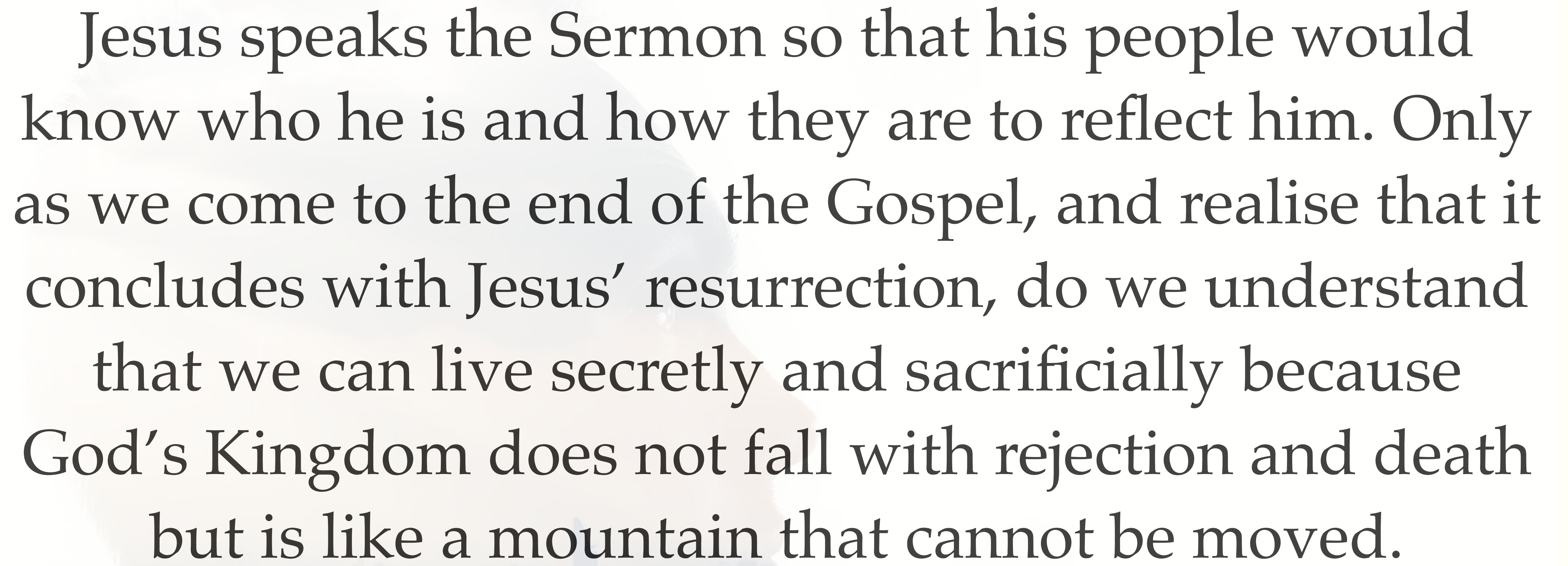
... BACK TO THE OL' GLASS CASE FOR ANOTHER EIGHTY YEARS...

THE AUSTRALIAN CONSTITUTION

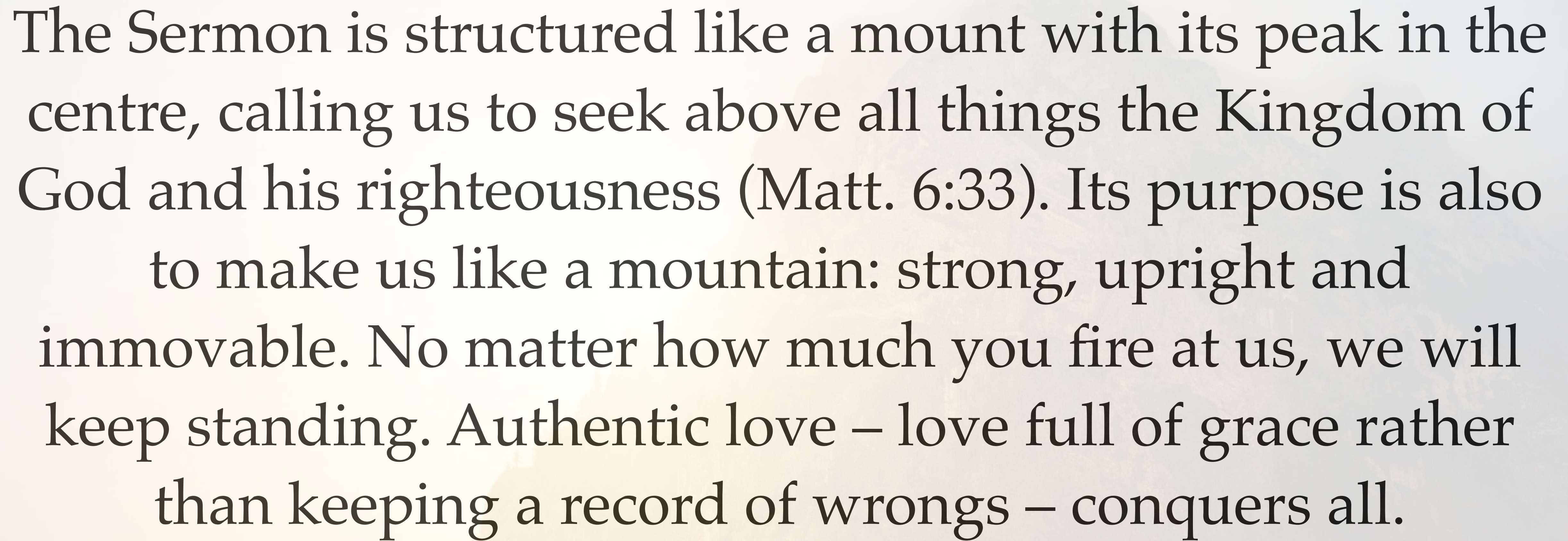
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If God's people are going to move ahead, we must learn the lessons of the Kingdom and get back to the foundation of the Sermon on the Mount. Let's throw away our own opinions and philosophy for Jesus' way.



A person is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark jacket and a white shirt, reading a book. The background is a blurred cityscape at dusk or dawn. The text is overlaid on the image in a large, black, serif font.

Jesus speaks the Sermon so that his people would know who he is and how they are to reflect him. Only as we come to the end of the Gospel, and realise that it concludes with Jesus' resurrection, do we understand that we can live secretly and sacrificially because God's Kingdom does not fall with rejection and death but is like a mountain that cannot be moved.



The Sermon is structured like a mountain with its peak in the centre, calling us to seek above all things the Kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matt. 6:33). Its purpose is also to make us like a mountain: strong, upright and immovable. No matter how much you fire at us, we will keep standing. Authentic love – love full of grace rather than keeping a record of wrongs – conquers all.

Let's survey this mountain. It has five distinct parts, like the first five books of the Bible, the Torah. The Sermon of the Mount is the essence of the Torah explained by its author, the Word that has become flesh (John 1:1-2, 14).



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM

1 - The People of the Kingdom (Matt. 5:1-16)

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mt 5:16).

2 - The Purpose of the Kingdom (Matt. 5:17-48)

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them” (Mt 5:17).

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM

3 - The Priorities of the Kingdom (Matt. 6:1-34)

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Mt 6:33).



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM

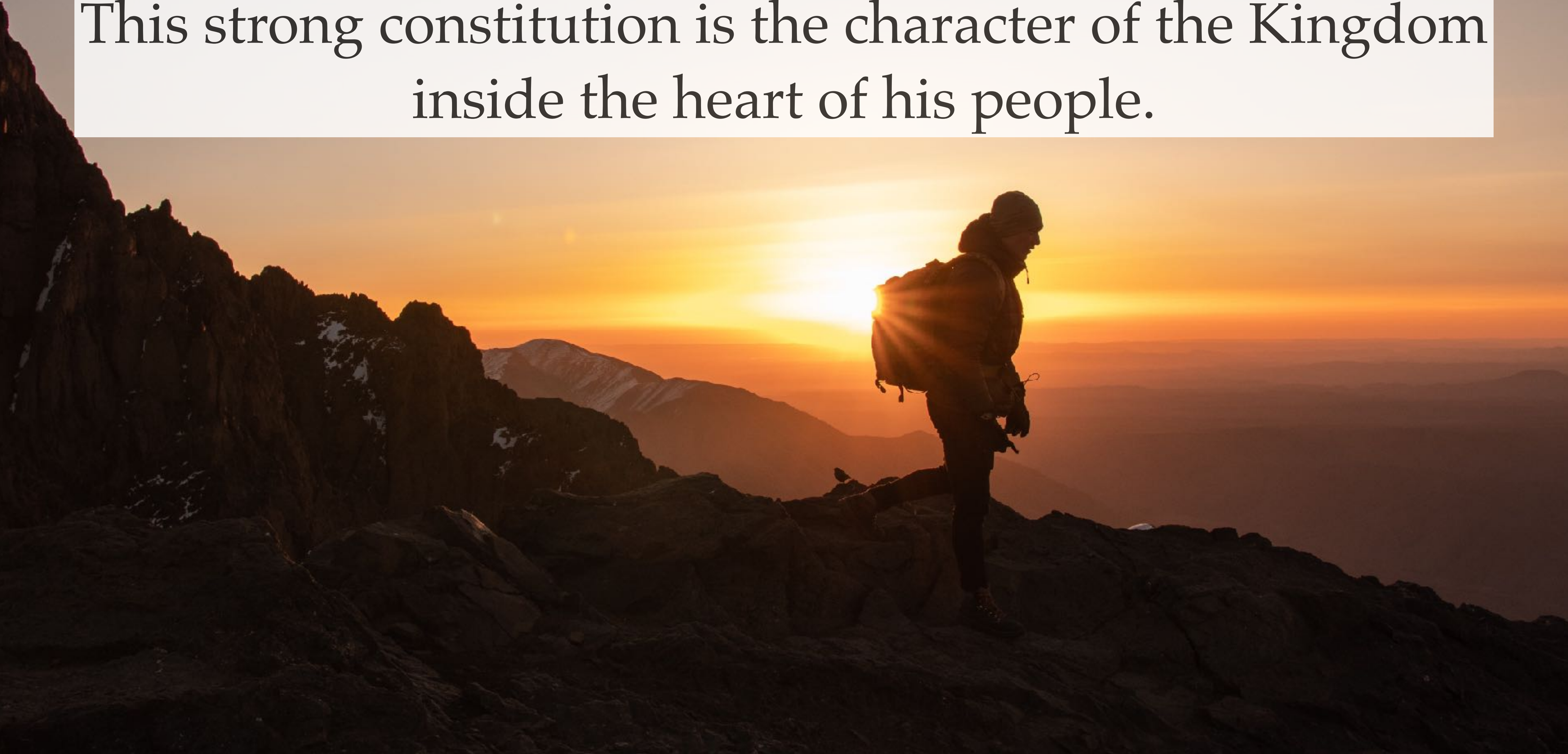
4 - The Practice of the Kingdom (Matt. 7:1-12)

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets” (Mt 7:12).

5 - The Pathway of the Kingdom (Matt. 7:13-27)

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it” (Mt 7:13–14).

Jesus is building in his people a strong constitution.
This strong constitution is the character of the Kingdom
inside the heart of his people.

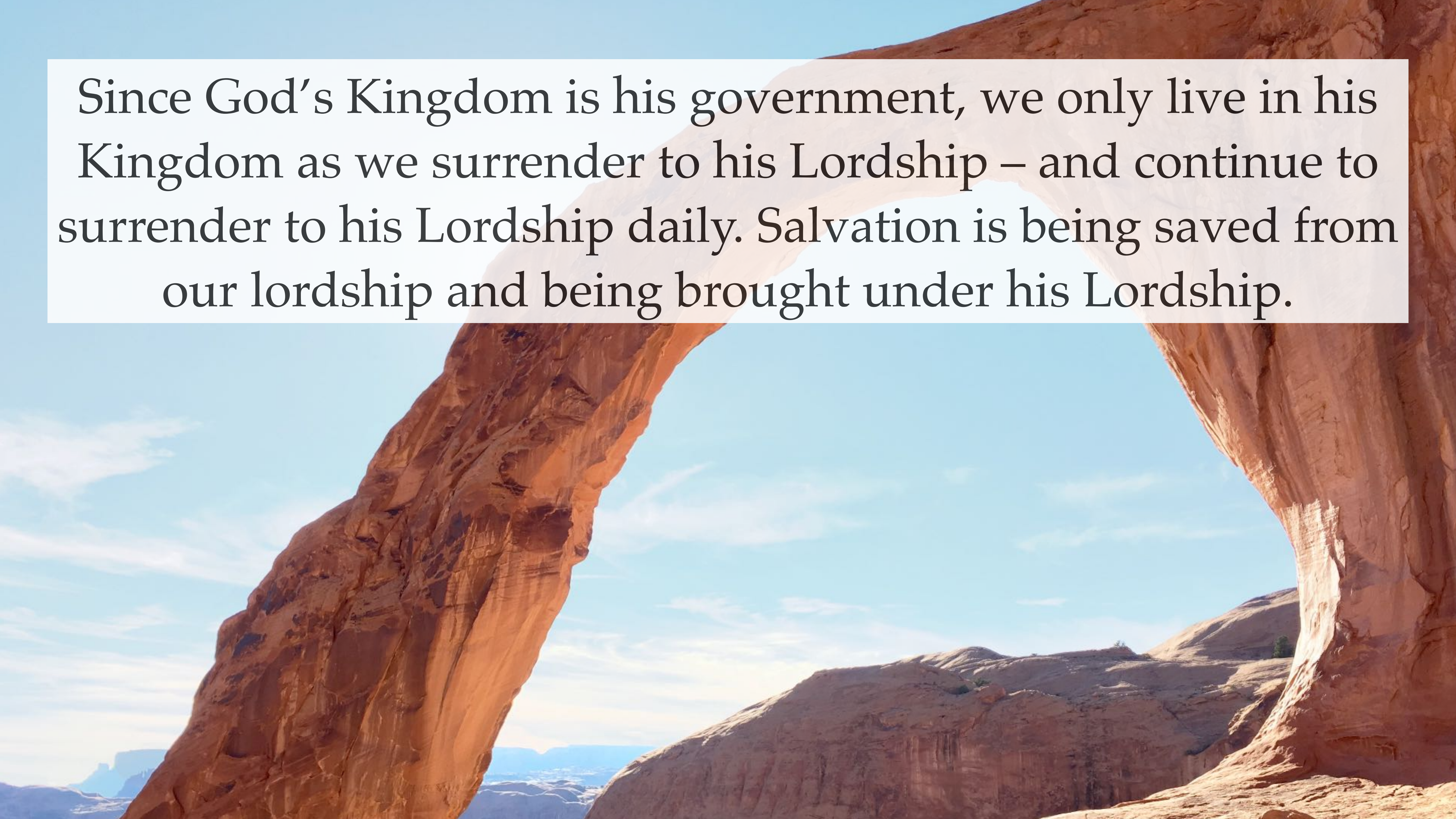


It's possible to have the outward look of the Kingdom without the inner heart and spirit of the Kingdom. When this happens, we try to look good to others. We also fight first and foremost in the political realm rather than the spiritual realm. We get angry, aggressive and forceful. Yet, we forget the way of the cross and that God makes his people in the secret place of the Most High.



God is not impressed with our size, signs, wonders and miracles. However, our Father is delighted when we submit to him as Lord. Submission to his will shows genuine trust in him (Matt 7:21-23).



A photograph of a natural rock arch in a desert landscape. The arch is made of reddish-brown sandstone and frames a view of a vast, hazy desert valley. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and open, suggesting a sense of freedom and vastness.

Since God's Kingdom is his government, we only live in his Kingdom as we surrender to his Lordship – and continue to surrender to his Lordship daily. Salvation is being saved from our lordship and being brought under his Lordship.