

THE JESUS CHALLENGE

04 - Restoring the Soul



Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 26 FEB 2023

REGISTRATION CLOSED



THE FATHER'S HEART UNIT

6:30 PM MONDAY EVENINGS

6 FEB -5 JUN 2023

LEVEL 7/117 QUEEN ST. MALL, BRISBANE

WWW.HOLYFIRESCHOOL.COM

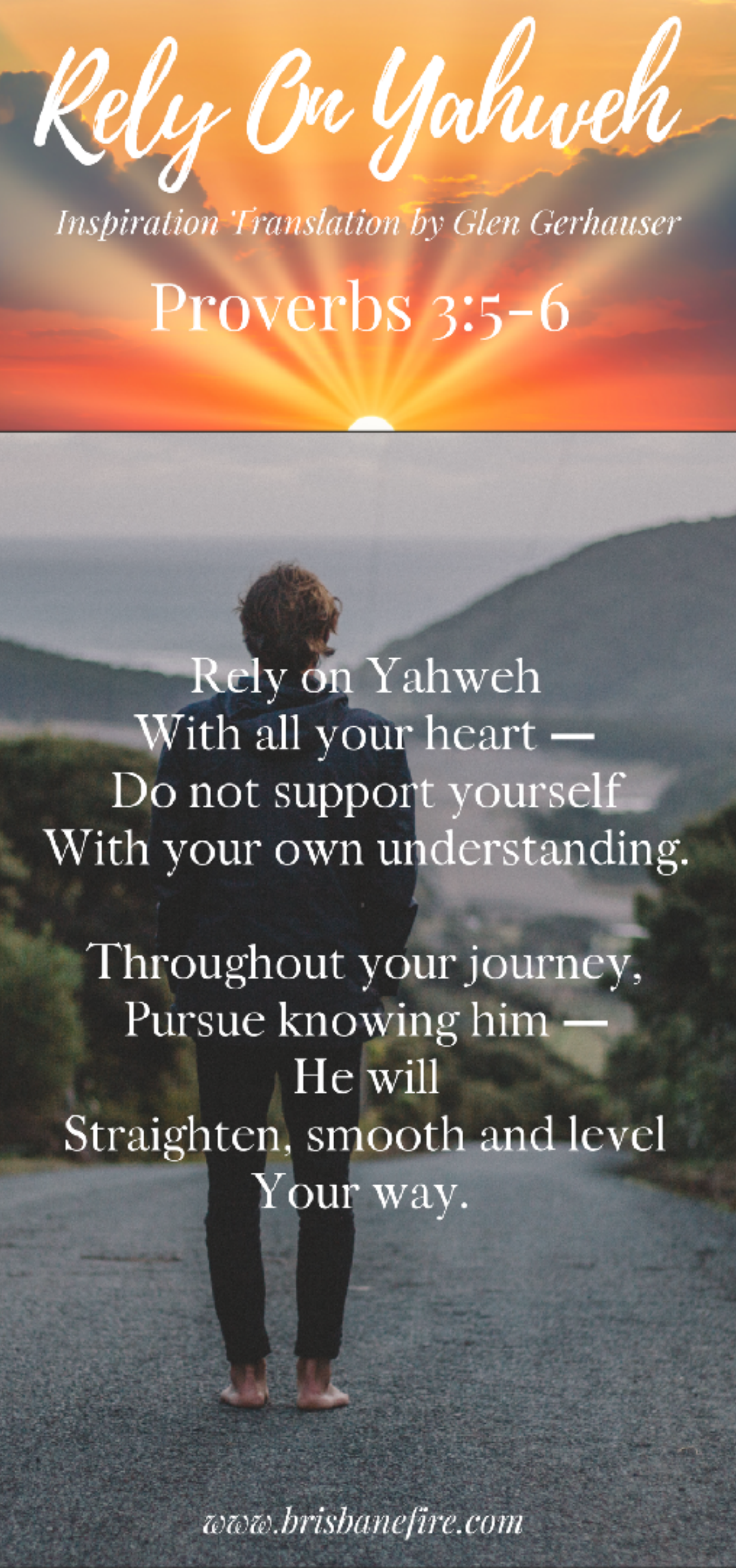
A scenic mountain landscape featuring a dirt path that winds through lush green hills. In the background, majestic mountains rise, some with patches of snow and partially shrouded in mist. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, creating a serene and atmospheric setting. The overall scene conveys a sense of adventure and natural beauty.

Today, we will focus on God's ways. These ways will challenge us, but they are the only way to know him (Matt. 14:13-21).

Rely On Yahweh

Inspiration Translation by Glen Gerhauser

Proverbs 3:5-6



Rely on Yahweh
With all your heart —
Do not support yourself
With your own understanding.

Throughout your journey,
Pursue knowing him —
He will
Straighten, smooth and level
Your way.

At the beginning of 2023 the Lord spoke to me saying, “This is a year of recovery and restoration for my people all around the world – a Psalm 23 year.”



Psalm 23

translated by Glen Gerhauser

יהוה רעי



Yahweh is my Shepherd;
I won't be without.



In pastures green
He settles me,
Beside waters gentle
He guides me.



My soul he restores.

He leads me
In paths
Trusted and right -
Yes, that's who He is.



Even if I walk
In a valley fogged,
thick and dark,
I fear no evil.



For you are with me,
Your rod and Your support
They comfort me.



You set before me a table,
Across from those
Attacking me.



You anoint
Robustly
My head,
My cup
Abundantly flows.



Yes!
Goodness and love kind
Pursue me
All the days of my life -

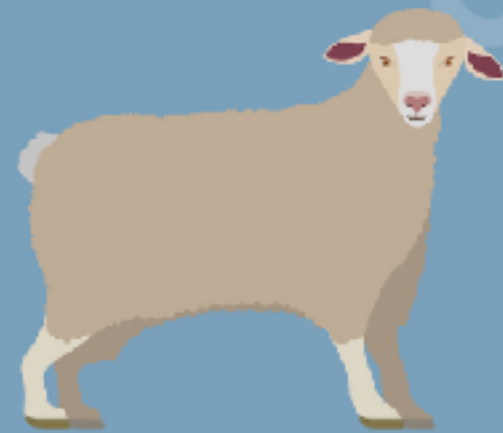


And I will be refreshed
In Yahweh's house
Continually,
Days without end.

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A large flock of sheep is moving through a narrow mountain pass in the Himalayas, India. The sheep are packed closely together, filling the path. The surrounding landscape is rugged and mountainous, with steep, rocky slopes and a clear sky. The lighting suggests a bright day, possibly late afternoon or early morning, with some shadows cast on the rocks.

I heard the Lord saying, my people will be

Soaked in my love,

Obedient to my Word,

Understanding my ways, and

Loving me, my people and the lost.”

Himalayas, India

Understanding God's ways is the key to knowing him. Moses prayed, "If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation is your people" (Exo. 33:13, NIV).





What are God's ways? God's ways are the paths he takes. These are both the paths he uses to get to us and the paths he leads us down.

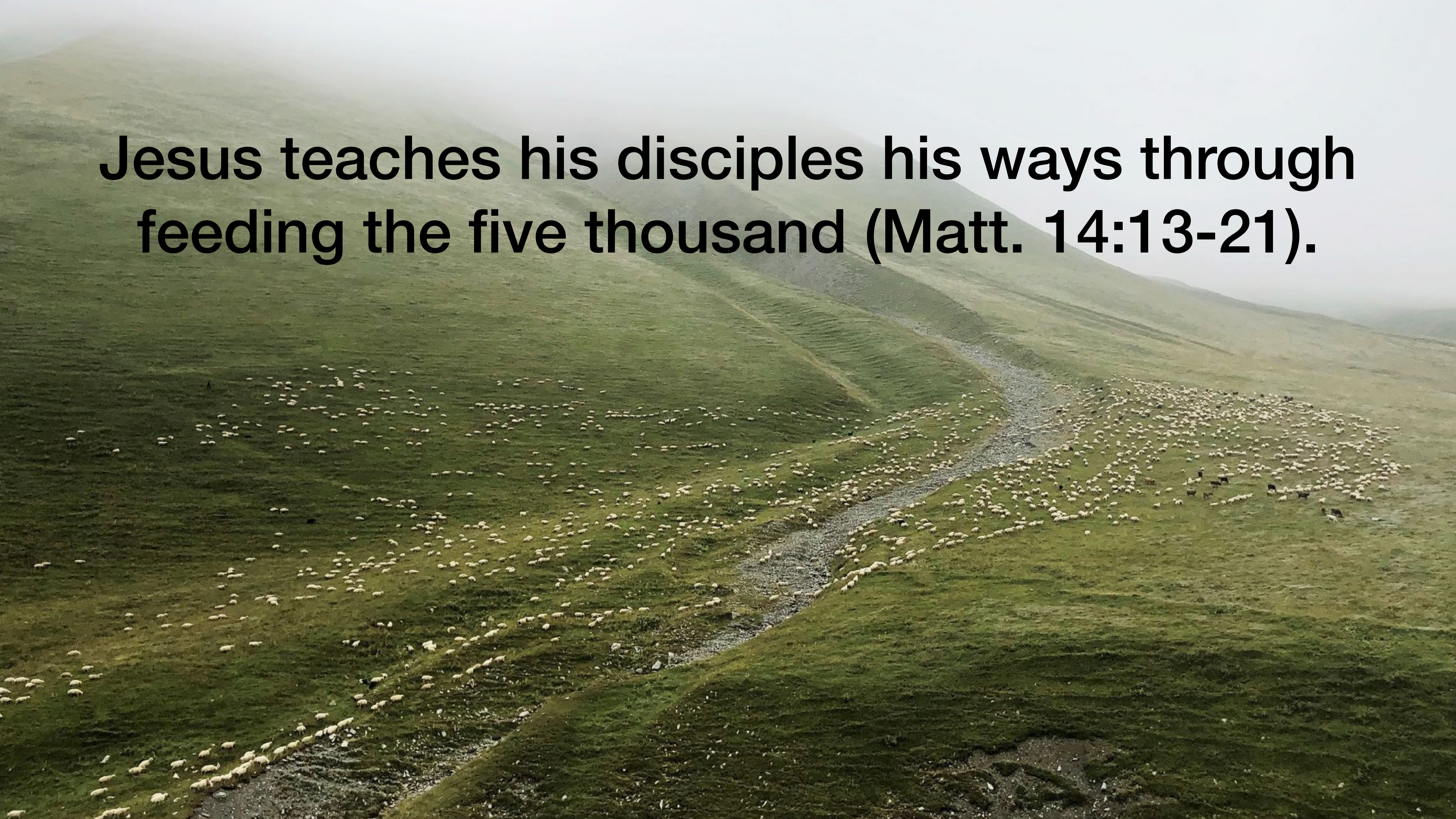




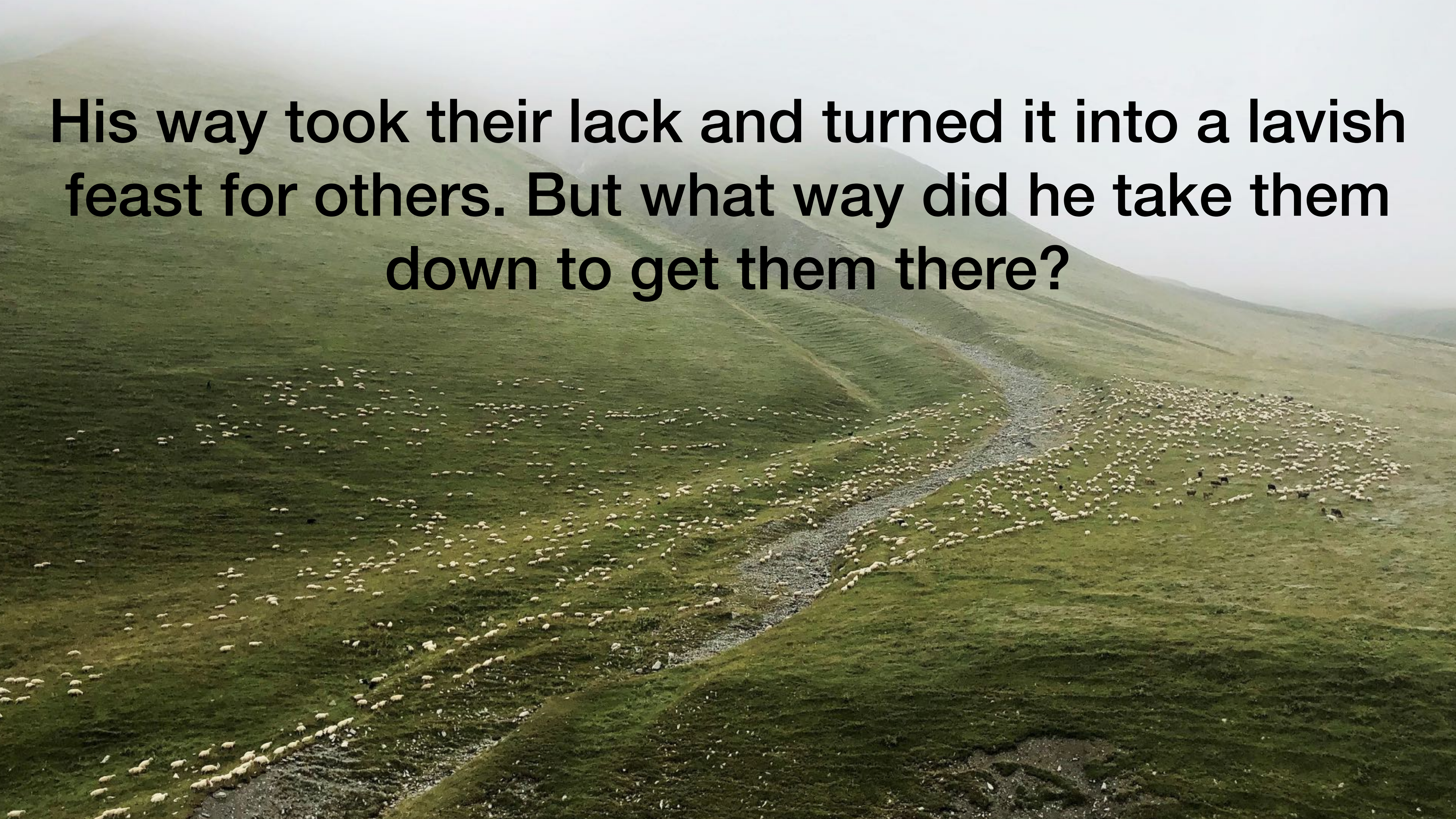
As you walk these ways, you get to know him. But be aware that these ways are higher than our ways, and they will stretch you. We take the path of least resistance; he takes the highest and costliest road (Isa. 55:9).



Jesus teaches his disciples his ways through feeding the five thousand (Matt. 14:13-21).



His way took their lack and turned it into a lavish feast for others. But what way did he take them down to get them there?





Let's go down Jesus' path. First, Jesus challenges them (Matt. 14:16). What else do you see in this story?






If you haven't felt the challenge and costliness of being Jesus' disciple, I would suggest that you haven't been listening to him. Everything our Father has called us to do is challenging and costly.





Second, Jesus calls them to give (Matt. 14:18). Even though what they have is not enough, Jesus calls them to place it in his hands.



A golden sunset scene with silhouettes of trees and a bright sun low on the horizon. The sun is positioned in the lower center, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the sky in a warm, golden light. The trees are dark silhouettes against the bright background, with their branches and foliage clearly visible. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

**Third, Jesus takes what they have, looks up to heaven
and gives thanks (Matt. 14:19a).**



Fourth, Jesus breaks the bread and gives it to his disciples to distribute (Matt. 14:19b).



Hard bread doesn't break. Our lives must be like fresh bread that Jesus can break and give to others.

The way of brokenness is one of the hardest to accept. When we are experiencing it, we think God is forsaking us. The last few years, God has brought us through intense brokenness. But my hope is found in what brokenness leads to: abundance.





Look at the way God brought Gideon and his army. Yahweh took Gideon into his hands and broke him, cutting his forces to the core. He was left totally dependent on God. And that's when Yahweh brought about a mighty victory.



Lastly, our Shepherd takes our lack and makes it into a lavish feast (Matt 14:20-21). The whole process teaches us faith. And it also makes us like our Shepherd, who became broken to feed us.



WHAT ARE GOD'S WAYS?

BY GLEN GERHAUSER

GOD'S WAYS ARE HOW HE DOES THINGS

"Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul [Deu. 10:12, NASB]."



THEY ARE LIKE PATHS

They are the paths he takes and that he calls us to take. They are different from what we usually choose [Prov. 3:6-8].

THEY REFLECT WHO HE IS

God's ways reflect his nature and character. He calls us to go down his ways because he wants us to be like him [1 John 2:3-6].



THEY WILL STRETCH YOU

His ways are higher than our ways. You may want revenge, but God desires mercy. Choosing his way will stretch you. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord" [Isa. 55:9, NIV].

THE FATHER'S WAYS ARE SUMMED UP IN HIS ULTIMATE WAY: JESUS

God has many ways, but they are all summed up in his Son, Jesus. Jesus leads us to the Father. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). And when you come to the Father, he transforms you to become like Jesus.



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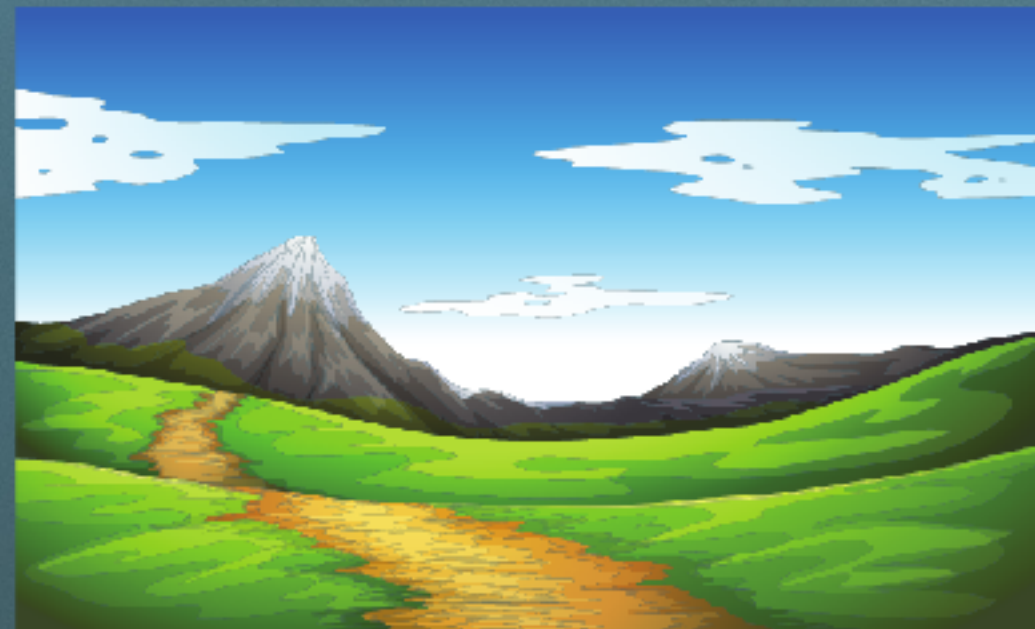
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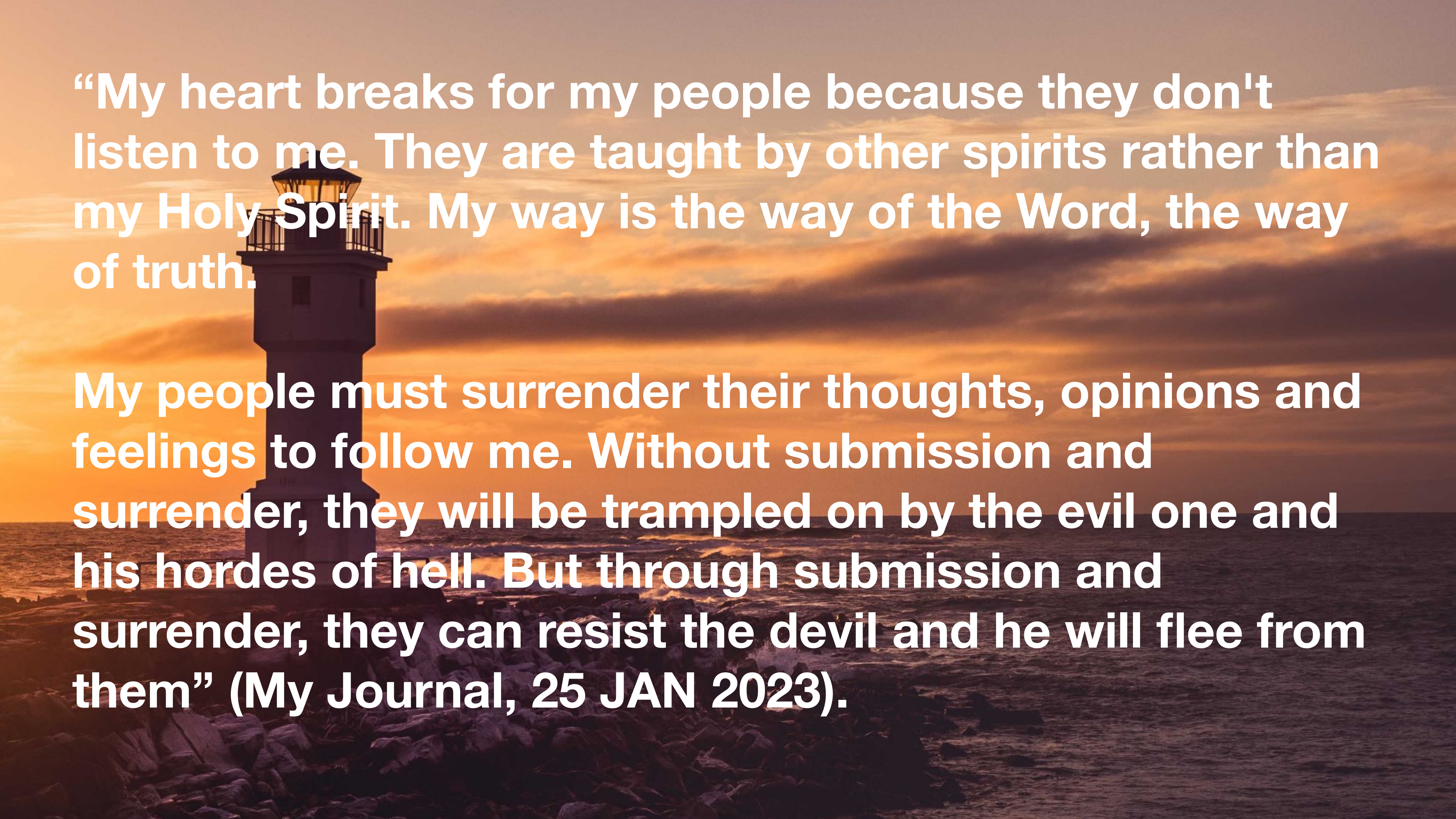
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A lighthouse stands on a rocky shore at sunset. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the ocean is visible in the background. The lighthouse is a dark silhouette against the bright sky.

“My heart breaks for my people because they don't listen to me. They are taught by other spirits rather than my Holy Spirit. My way is the way of the Word, the way of truth.

My people must surrender their thoughts, opinions and feelings to follow me. Without submission and surrender, they will be trampled on by the evil one and his hordes of hell. But through submission and surrender, they can resist the devil and he will flee from them” (My Journal, 25 JAN 2023).

**Brokenness that comes from
placing yourself in Jesus' hands
is one of the ways Yahweh
restores our souls.**

