

MY FATHER

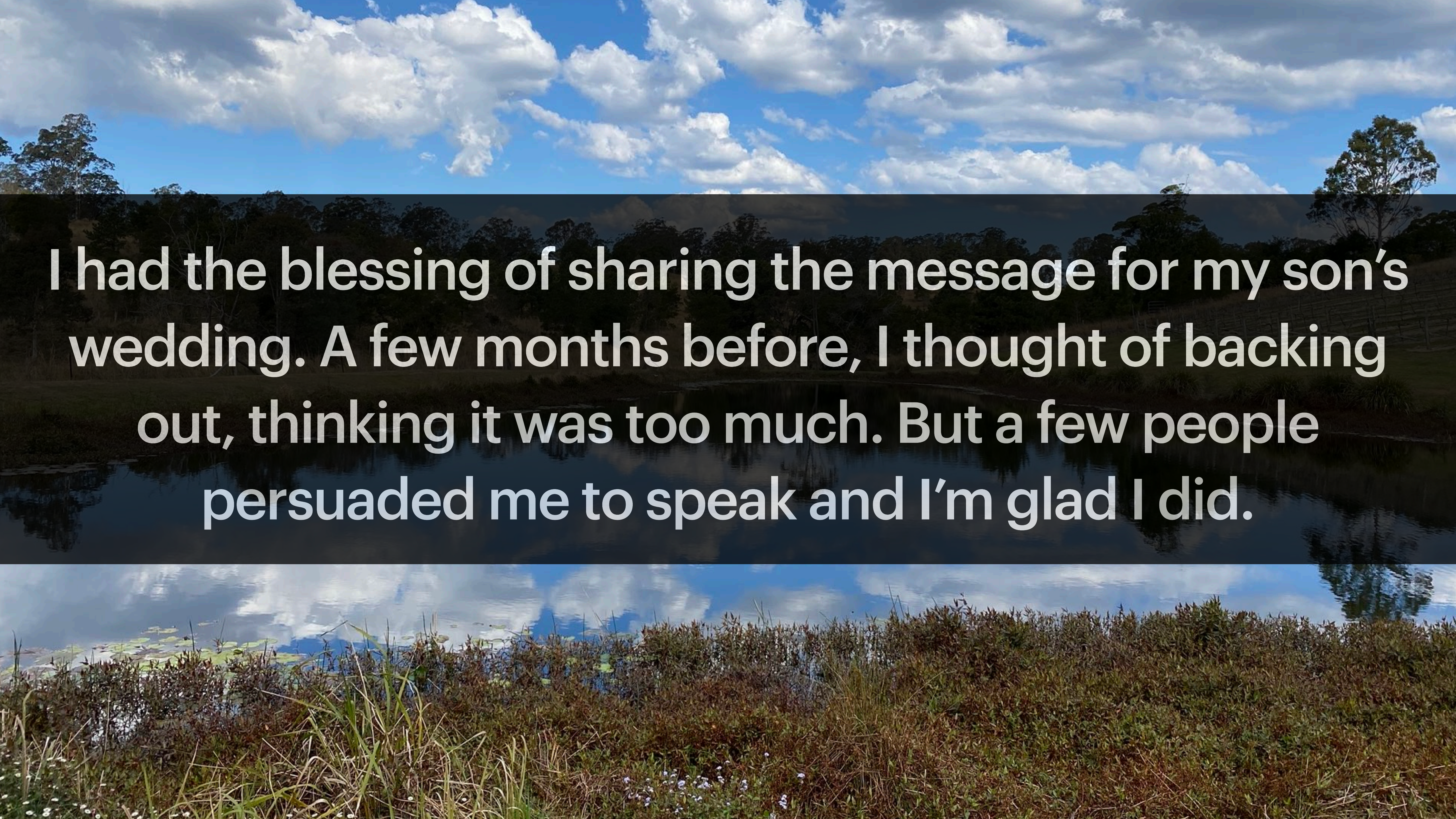


Glen Gerhauser | Church on the Park | Sunday, 10 SEPT 2023

Today, I'm inspired to share based on what the Father spoke to me through Gideon and Thabo's wedding and John 15.

We thank God that last Sunday's wedding was filled with joy and bursting with life.





I had the blessing of sharing the message for my son's wedding. A few months before, I thought of backing out, thinking it was too much. But a few people persuaded me to speak and I'm glad I did.

We visited the wedding place about a week earlier and as I sat, I prayed, "Father, speak to me." Immediately, I began to see the setting differently: the Lord highlighted to me the vineyard. The whole place reminded me of the Song of Songs.



Then, the verse came to me, where Jesus said, “I am the vine [grapevine]; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit” (John 15:5, NIV).

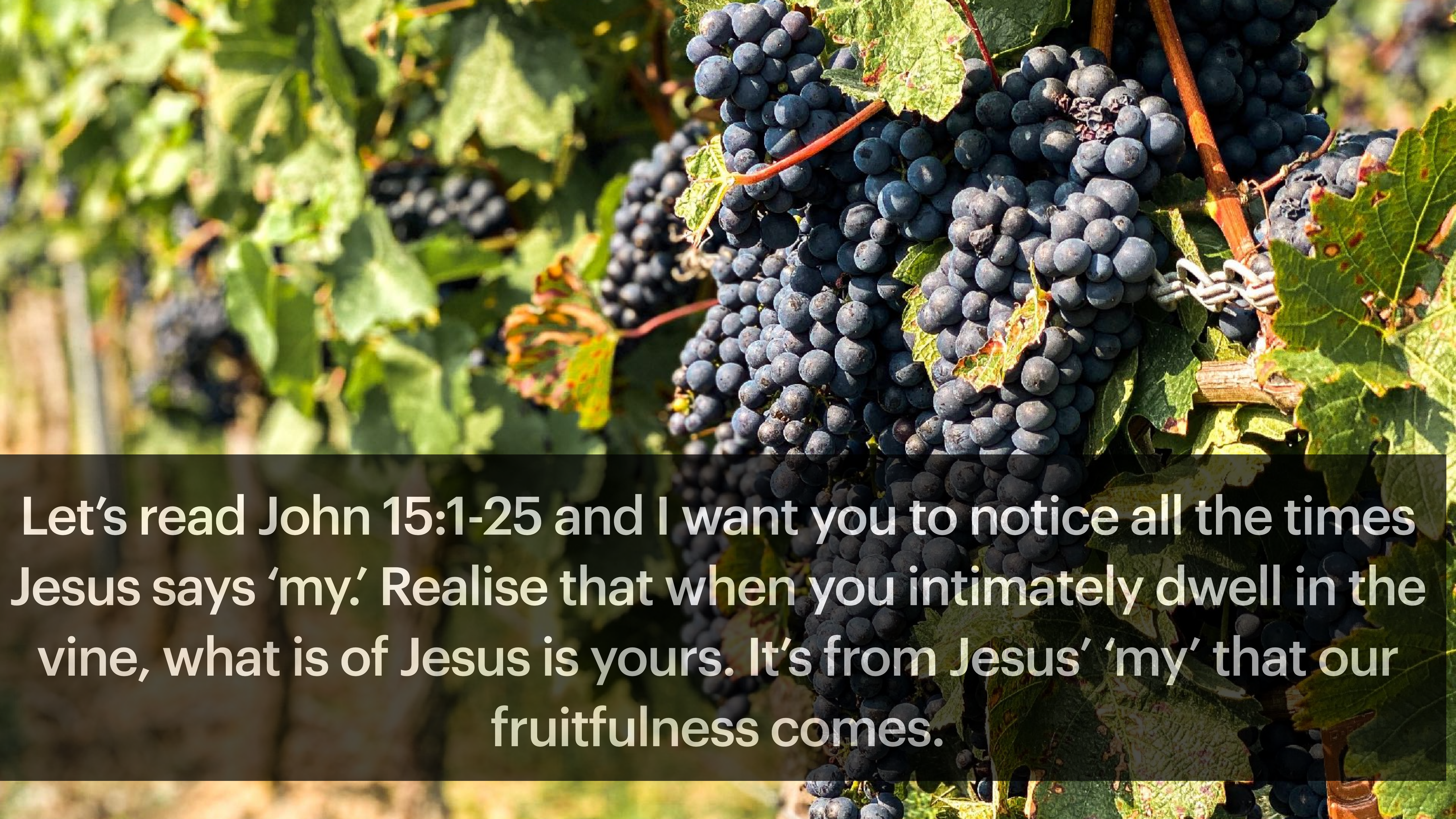




I saw the secret of a successful and fruitful marriage hidden in God's creation, specifically in the vine and branches. The mystery was intimacy with Jesus. It's not about looking to one another but instead looking to Jesus and giving each other what you received from him.



I shared with Gideon and Thabo that their marriage to Jesus – staying close to him and constantly listening to his voice – was most important.



Let's read John 15:1-25 and I want you to notice all the times Jesus says 'my.' Realise that when you intimately dwell in the vine, what is of Jesus is yours. It's from Jesus' 'my' that our fruitfulness comes.

1) My Father
(John 15:1, 8, 10, 15, 23, 24)

2) My words
(John 15:7)

3) My disciples
(John 15:8)

4) My love
(John 15:9)

5) My commandments
(John 15:10, 12)

6) My Father's commandments
(John 15:10)

7) My joy
(John 15:11)

8) My friends
(John 15:14)

9) My name
(John 15:16)

10) My logos (teaching)
(John 15:20)



In marriage, the two become one. The New Covenant is all about becoming one with Jesus. We're invited to his table and what is his becomes ours.





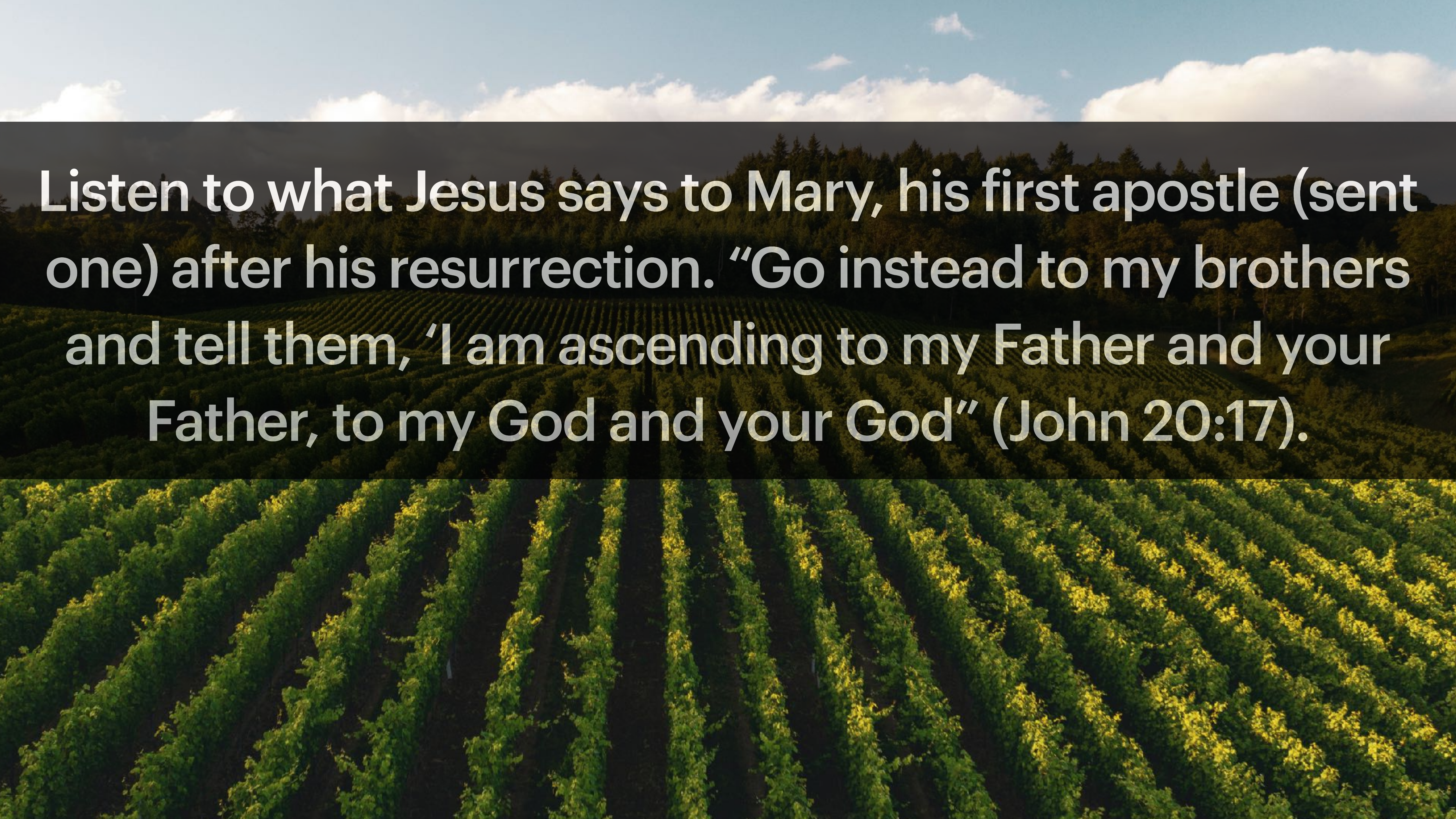
Let what is his become yours.



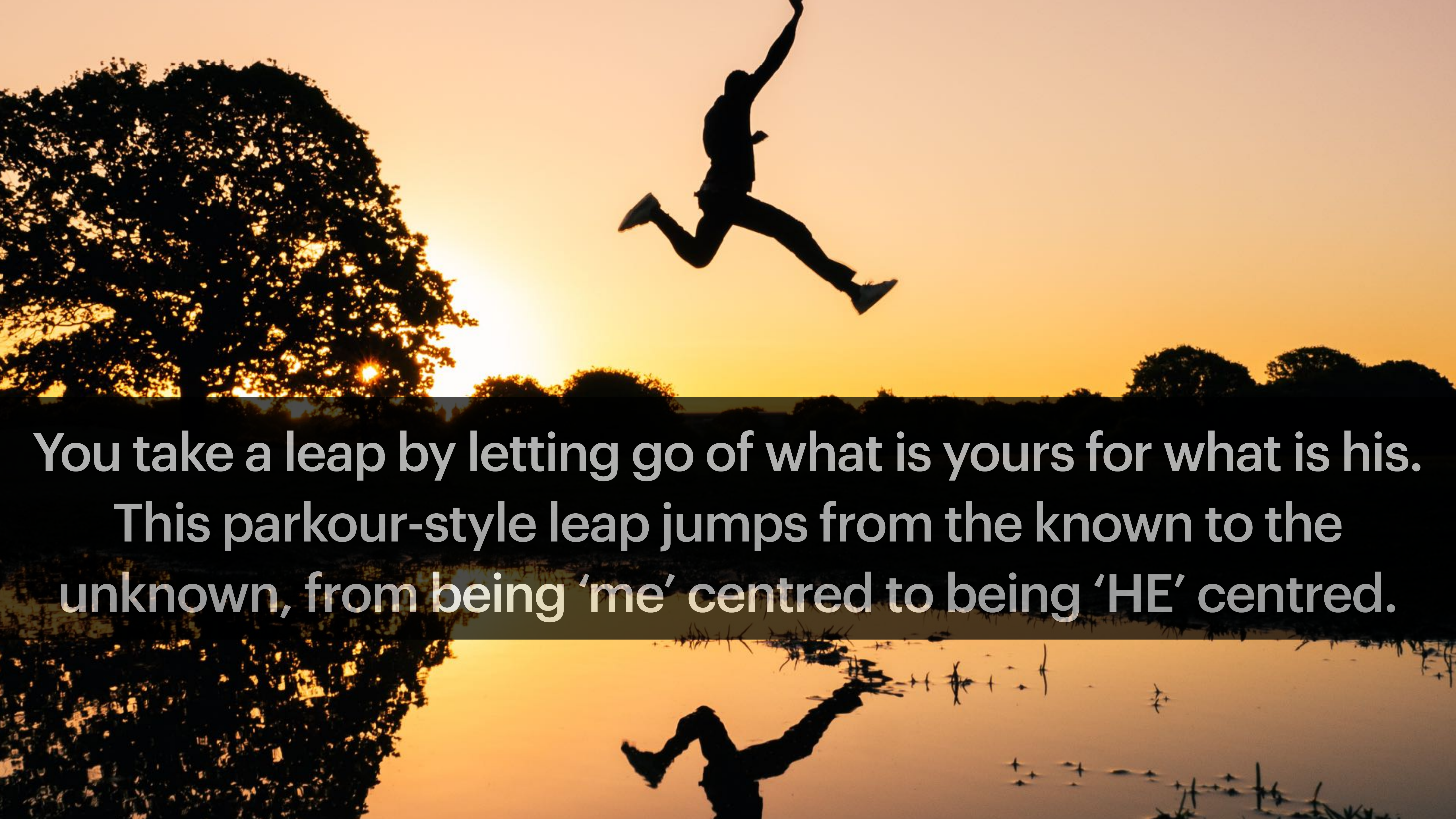
That's the secret to living victoriously.



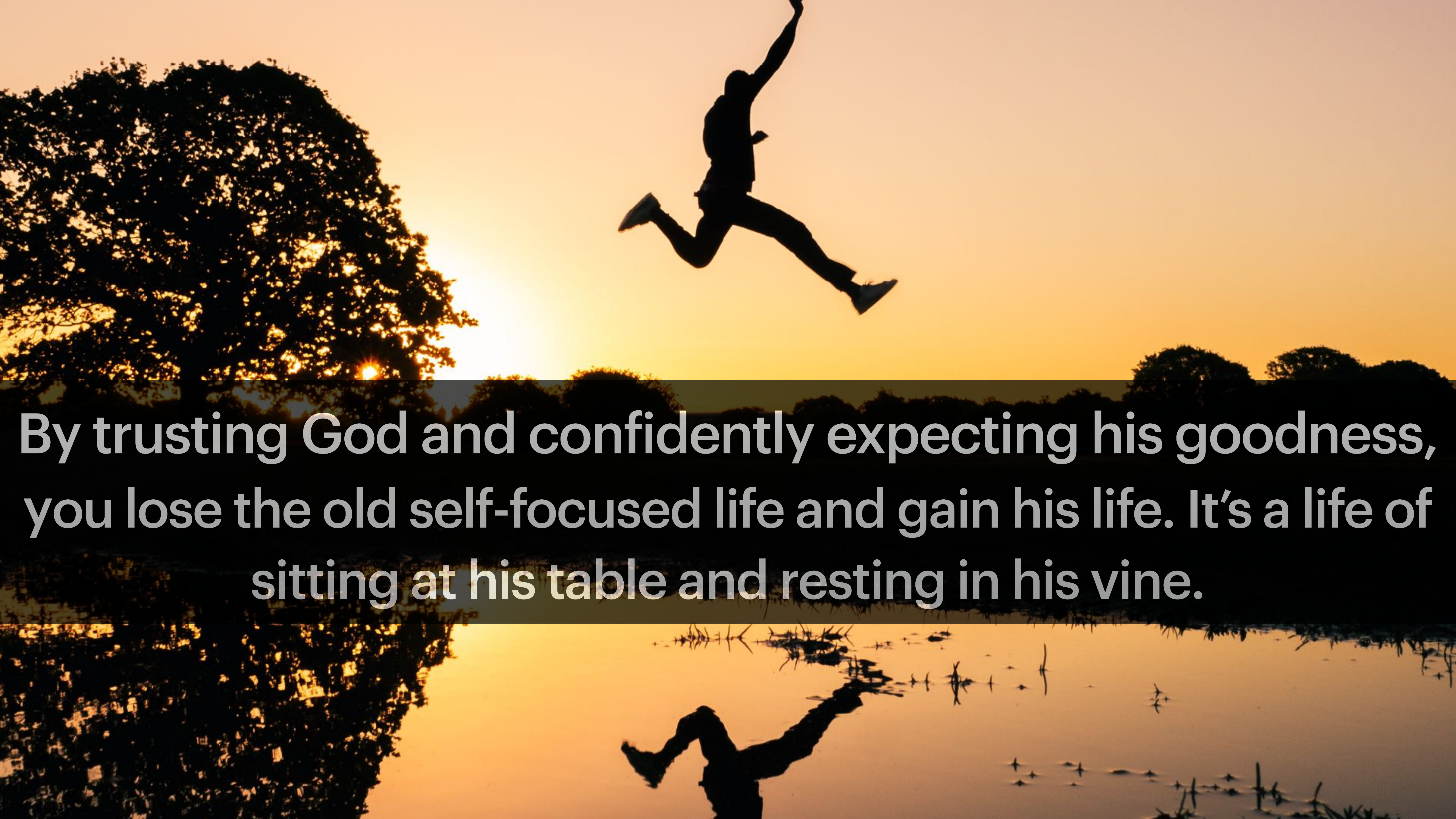
Further, let what is yours become his.



Listen to what Jesus says to Mary, his first apostle (sent one) after his resurrection. “Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God’” (John 20:17).



**You take a leap by letting go of what is yours for what is his.
This parkour-style leap jumps from the known to the
unknown, from being 'me' centred to being 'HE' centred.**



By trusting God and confidently expecting his goodness, you lose the old self-focused life and gain his life. It's a life of sitting at his table and resting in his vine.

His life is now yours and your life is his: this is the message of the vine and the branches (John 15).

