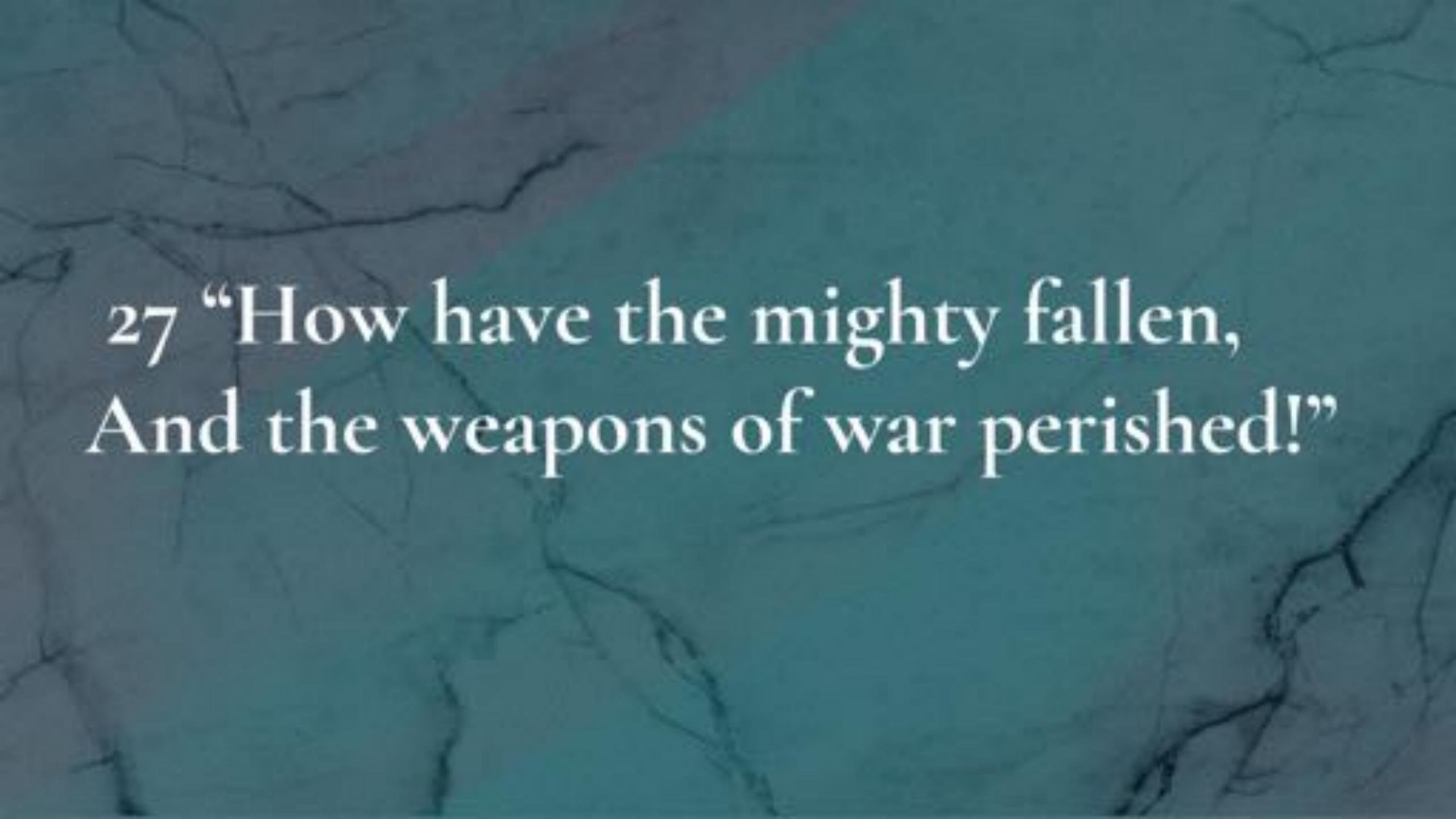
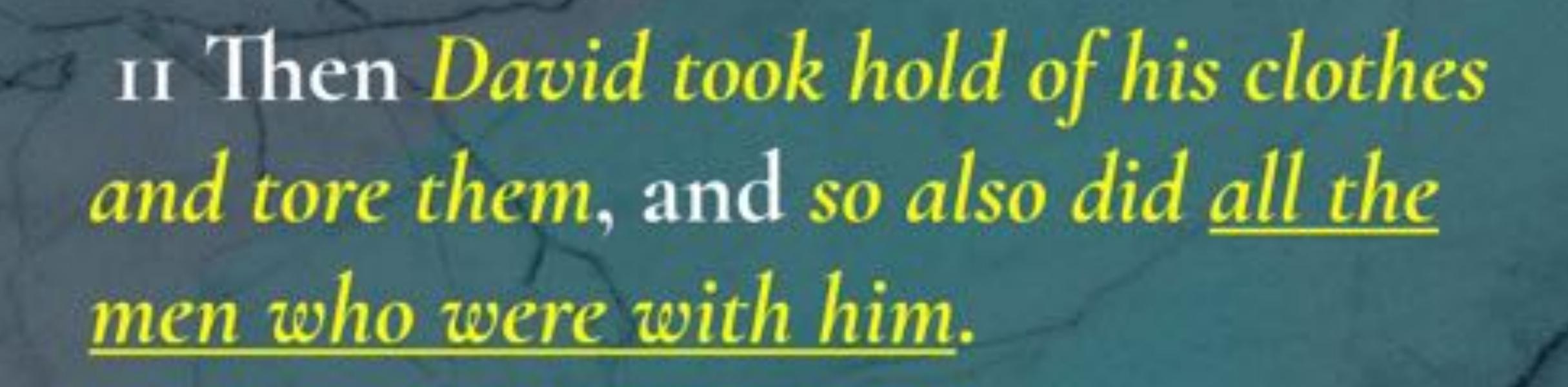
A Heart Like
God's

Part 19: The Heart of Forgiveness





2 Samuel 1:11-12

12 They mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and his son Jonathan and for the people of the LORD and the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

35 "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you, if each of you does not forgive his brother from your heart."

Matthew 18:35

Forgiveness begins with an act of the will - a choice to set someone free from the justice they deserve.

Forgiveness is complete when our heart is at peace that an offender may not face any consequence for his/ her actions, and we truly hope they are blessed by God.

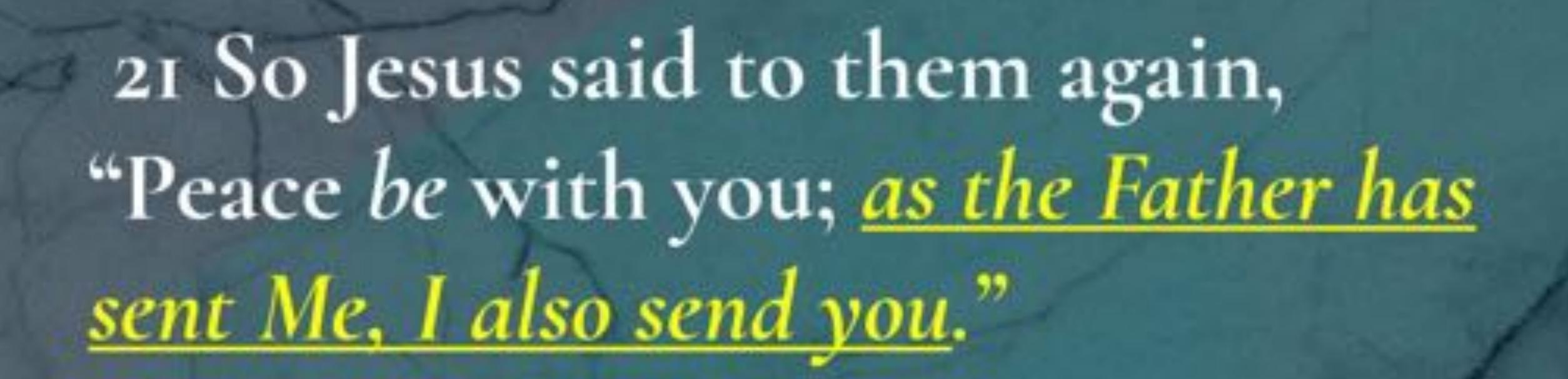
Our extension of forgiveness (and rejection of judgment) is a continuation of Jesus' ministry

17 "For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

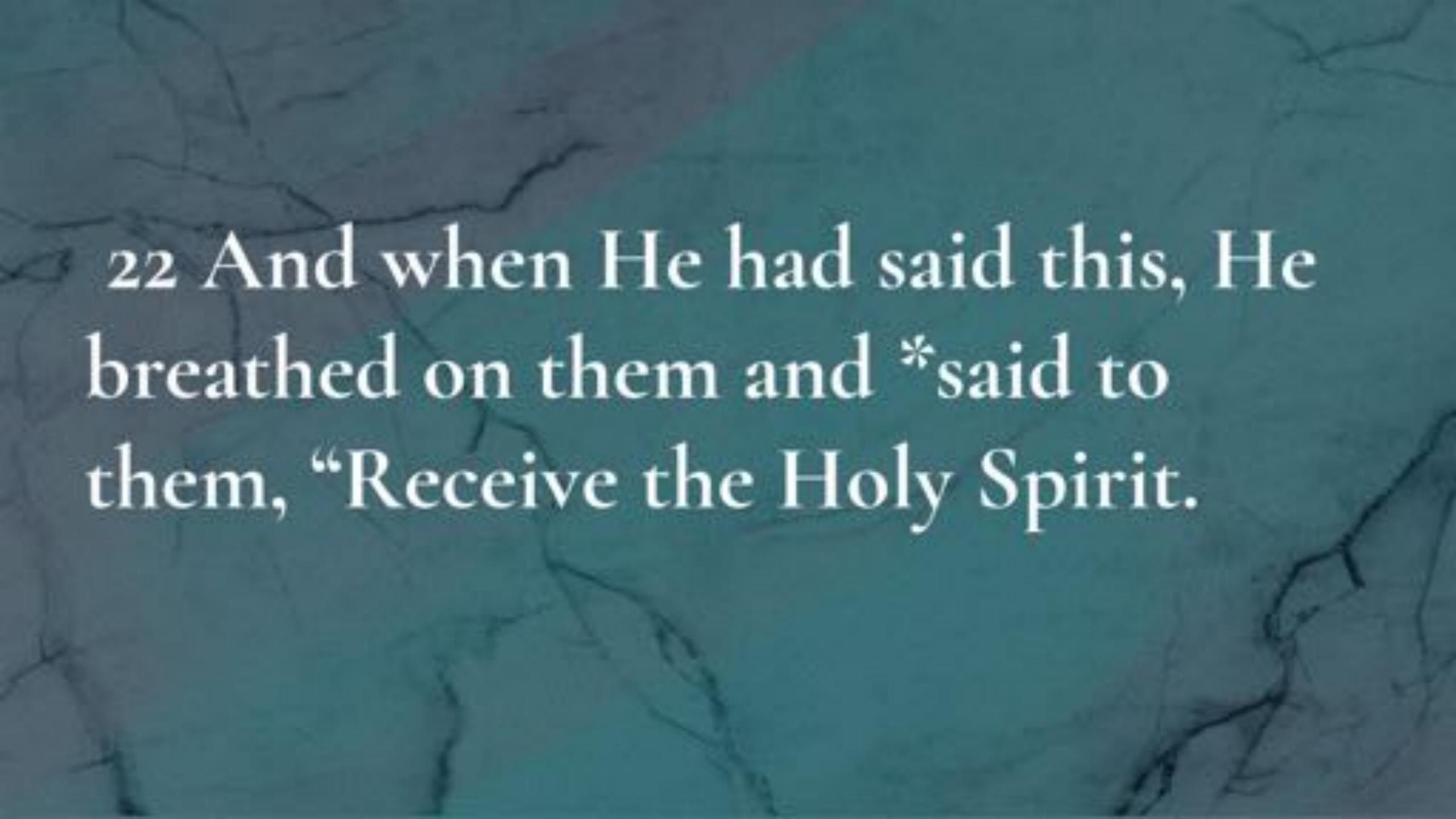
John 3:17

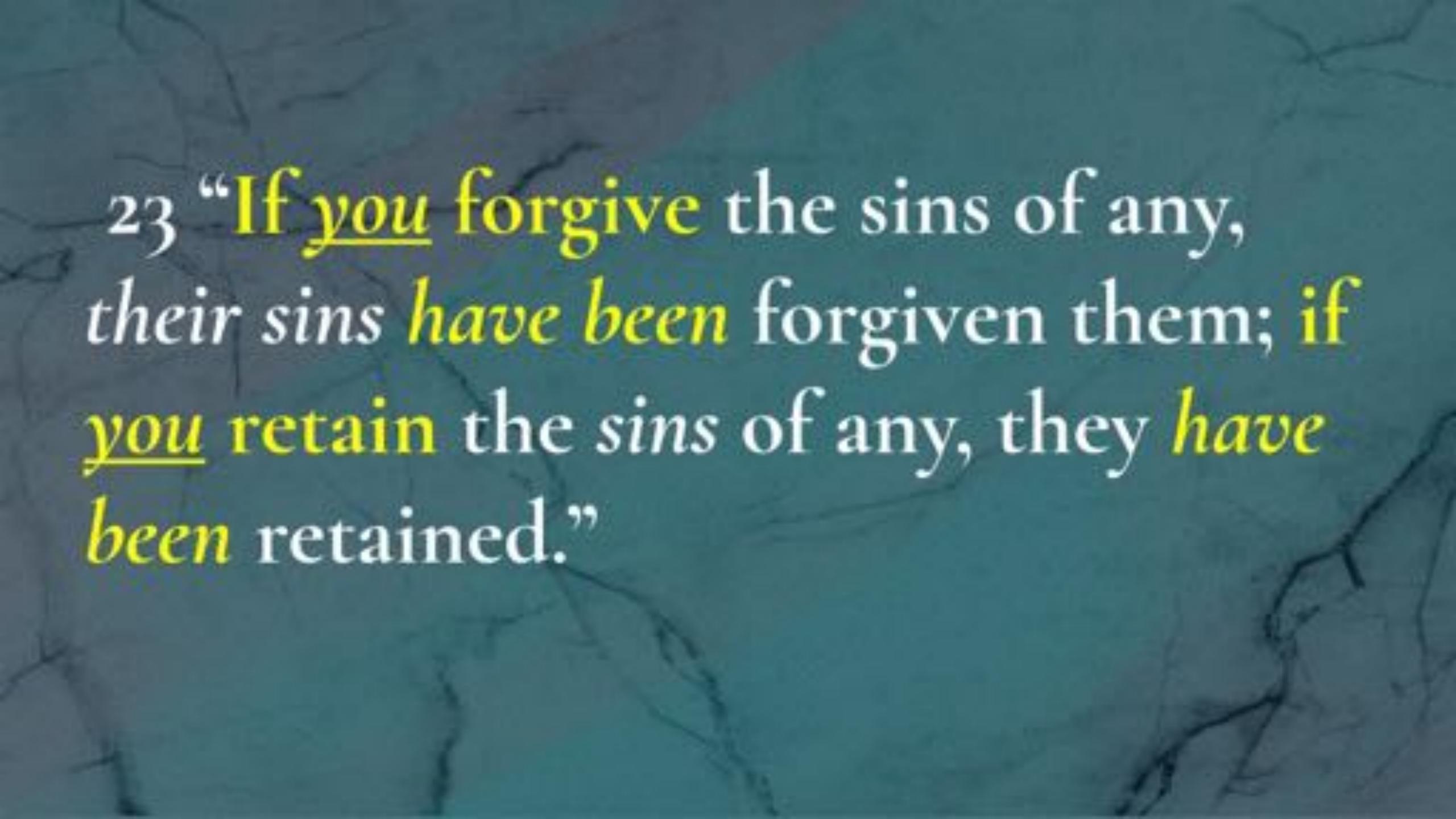
The devil is only an accuser. He has no authority to do anything unless he finds a willing judge and executioner.

David rejected serving those roles, and opened a seat of authority in the earth where mercy could triumph over judgment.



John 20:21 23



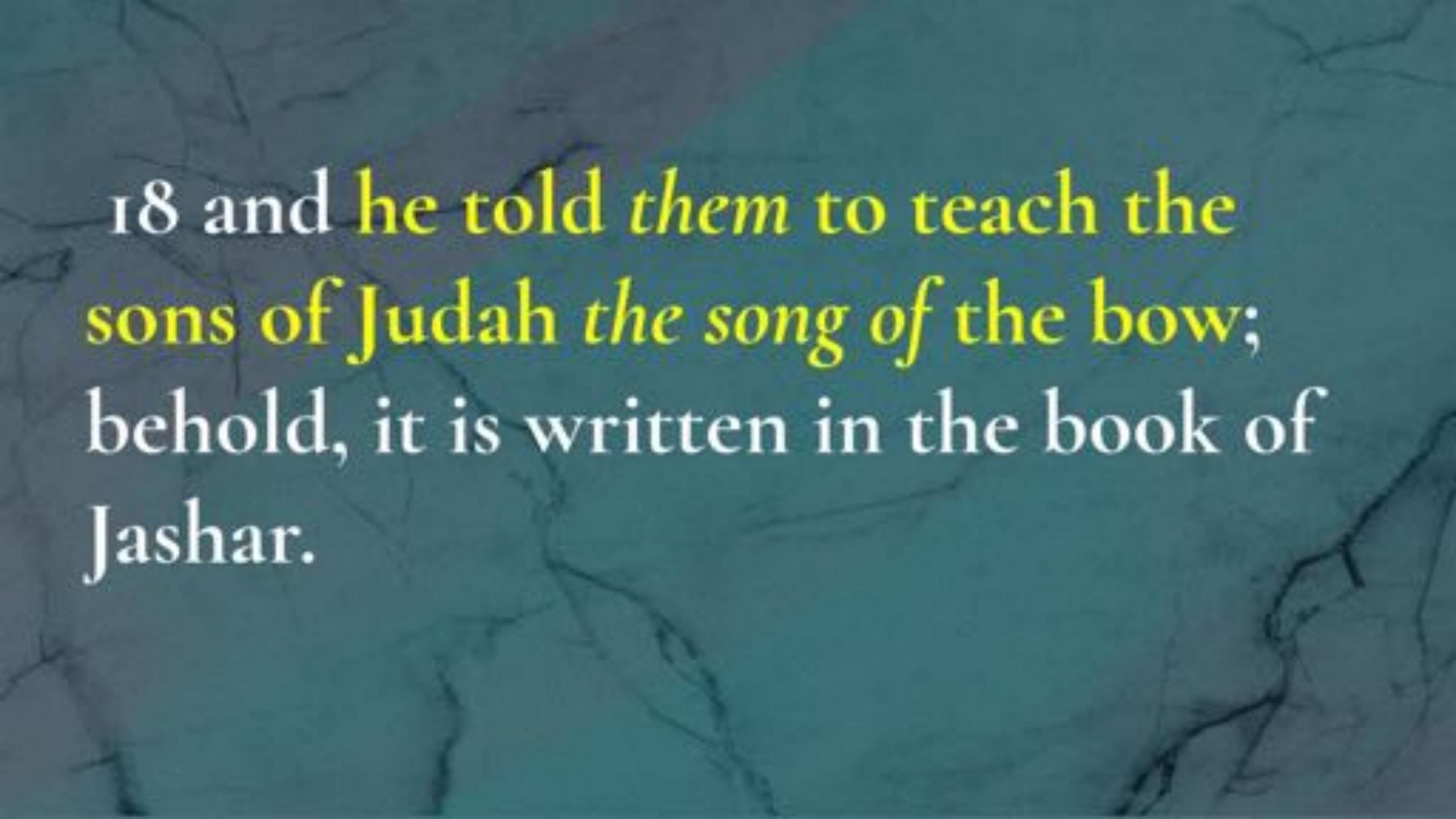


Our forgiveness aligns us with Leaven's judgment that the cross was sufficient to remove the sins of the whole world.

We have been delegated the authority to forgive sins, or to condenn "sinners." How we wield that authority determines whether heaven is welcome in a region.

17 Then David chanted with this lament over Saul and Jonathan his son,

2 Samuel 1:17 27





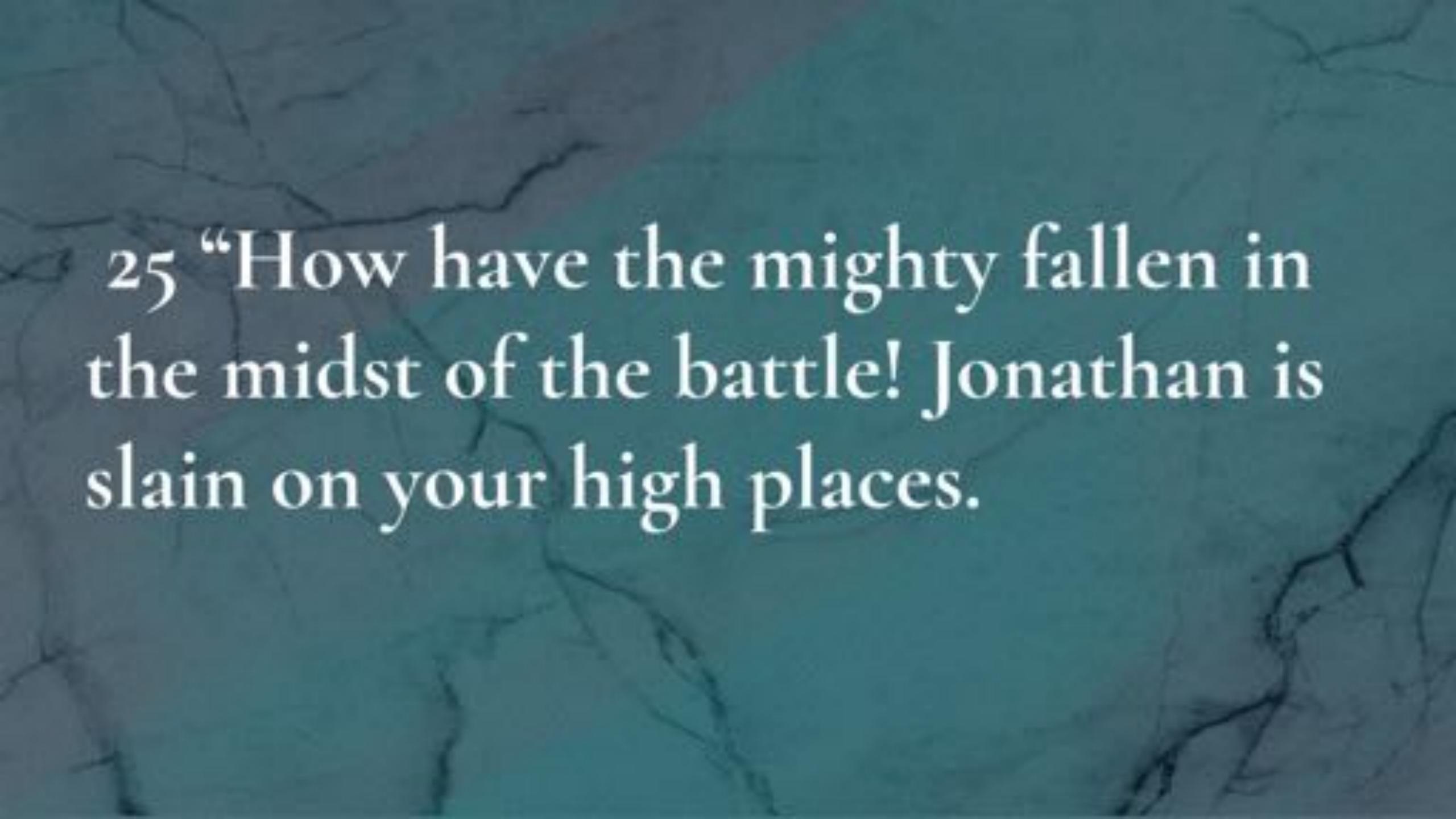
20 "Tell it not in Gath, Proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon, Or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice, The daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

21 "O mountains of Gilboa, Let not dew or rain be on you, nor fields of offerings; For there the shield of the mighty was defiled, The shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

22 "From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, The bow of Jonathan did not turn back, And the sword of Saul did not return empty.

23 "Saul and Jonathan, beloved and pleasant in their life, And in their death they were not parted; They were swifter than eagles, They were stronger than lions.

24 "O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet, Who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.



26 "I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; You have been very pleasant to me. Your love to me was more wonderful Than the love of women.

David's song was not "fake" or "unrealistic." He just learned from God Low to separate wheat from chaff.

David could lament the death of his enemy because he had been with Him in the Presence of God ...

ministering to Linn, praying for him, and contending for God's heart for Him.

We know we have forgiven from the heart when we find authentic compassion for the one who wronged us.

