

the stories

JESUS TOLD

FINDING OURSELVES IN
THE PARABLES OF CHRIST



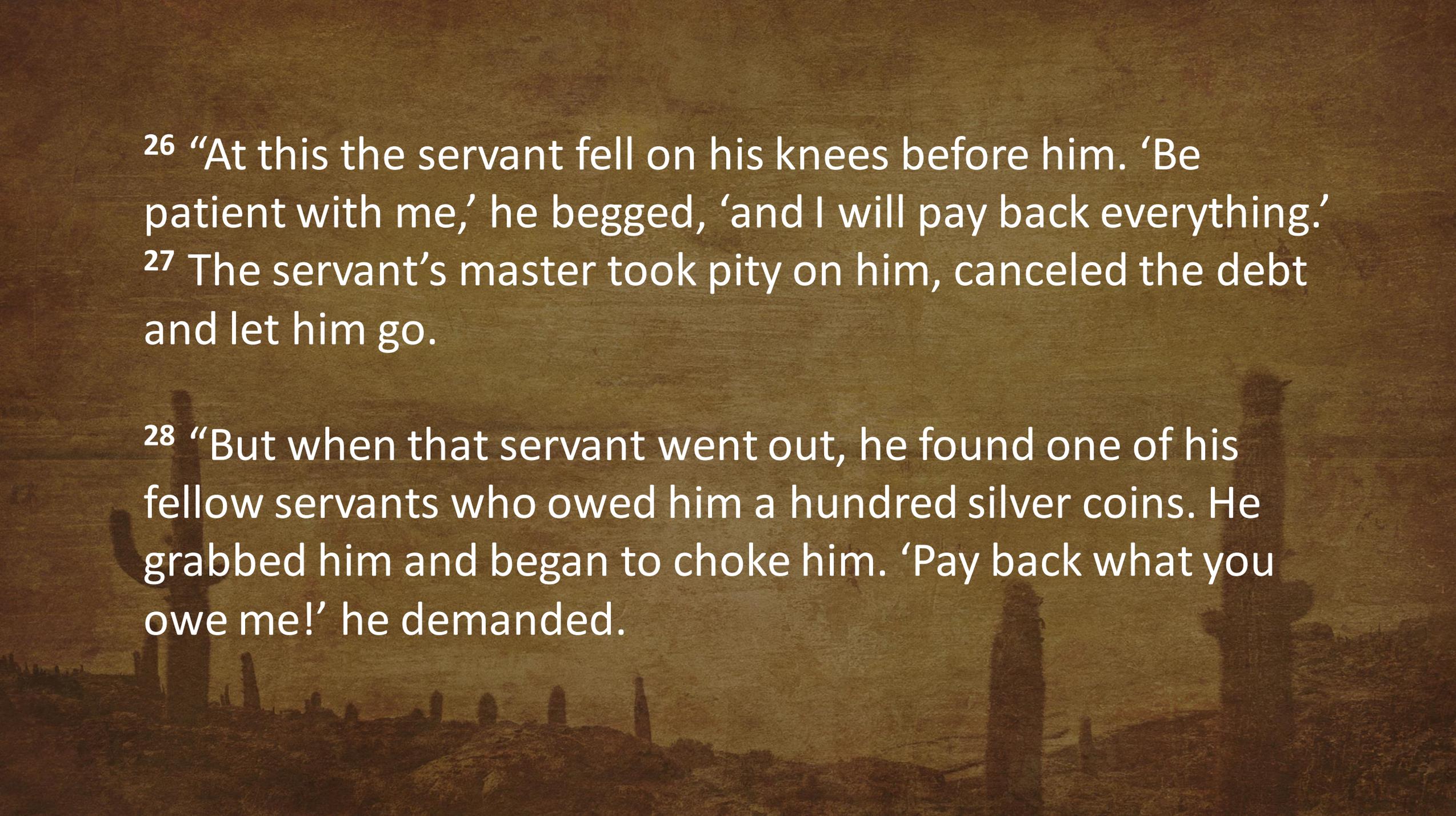
UNFORGIVEN

MATTHEW 18:21-35



²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

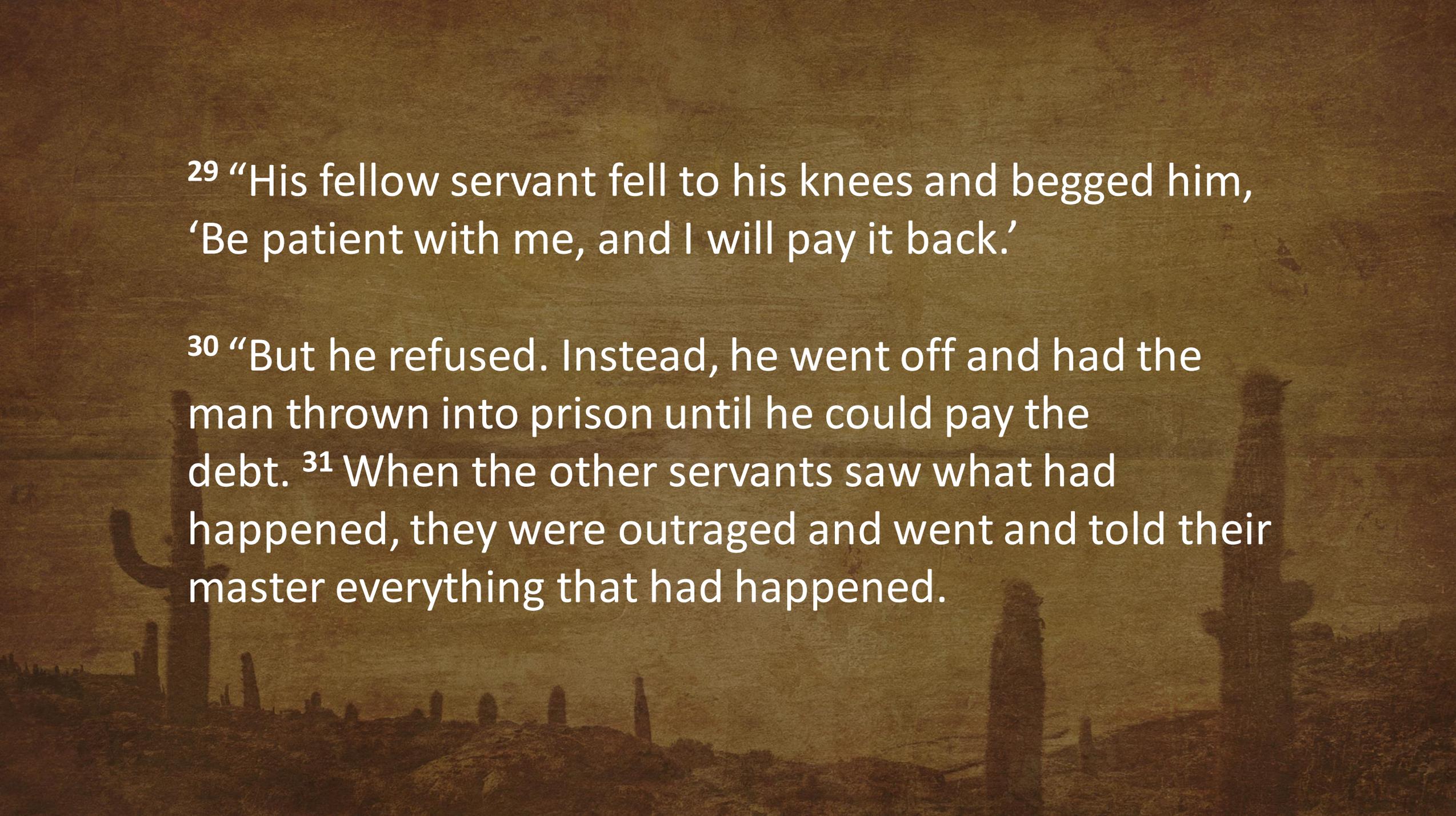
²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of Heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.



26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’

27 The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.



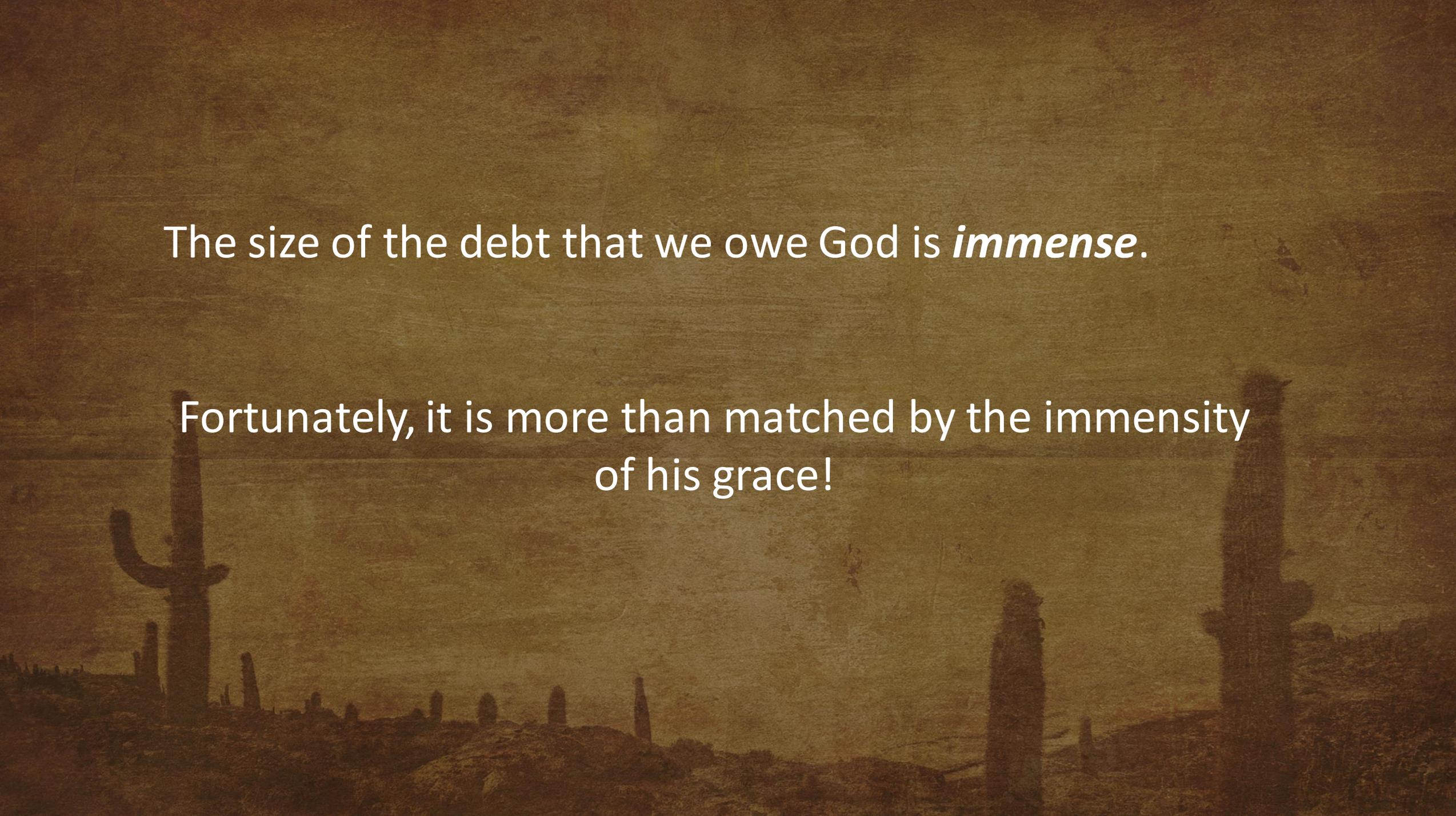
²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰ “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

- Matthew 18

The background is a sepia-toned landscape painting of a desert. In the foreground, there are several saguaro cacti of various sizes, some with arms. The ground is dark and textured, suggesting a rocky or sandy terrain. The sky is a uniform, light brownish-tan color, creating a hazy, atmospheric effect. The overall style is reminiscent of a classic oil painting.

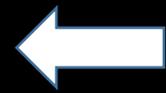
The size of the debt that we owe God is *immense*.

Fortunately, it is more than matched by the immensity
of his grace!

A sepia-toned landscape painting of a desert. The scene is dominated by several saguaro cacti of varying heights and stages of growth, scattered across a flat, arid plain. The background shows a distant, hazy horizon under a vast, overcast sky. The overall mood is quiet and expansive, with a focus on the natural elements of the desert environment.

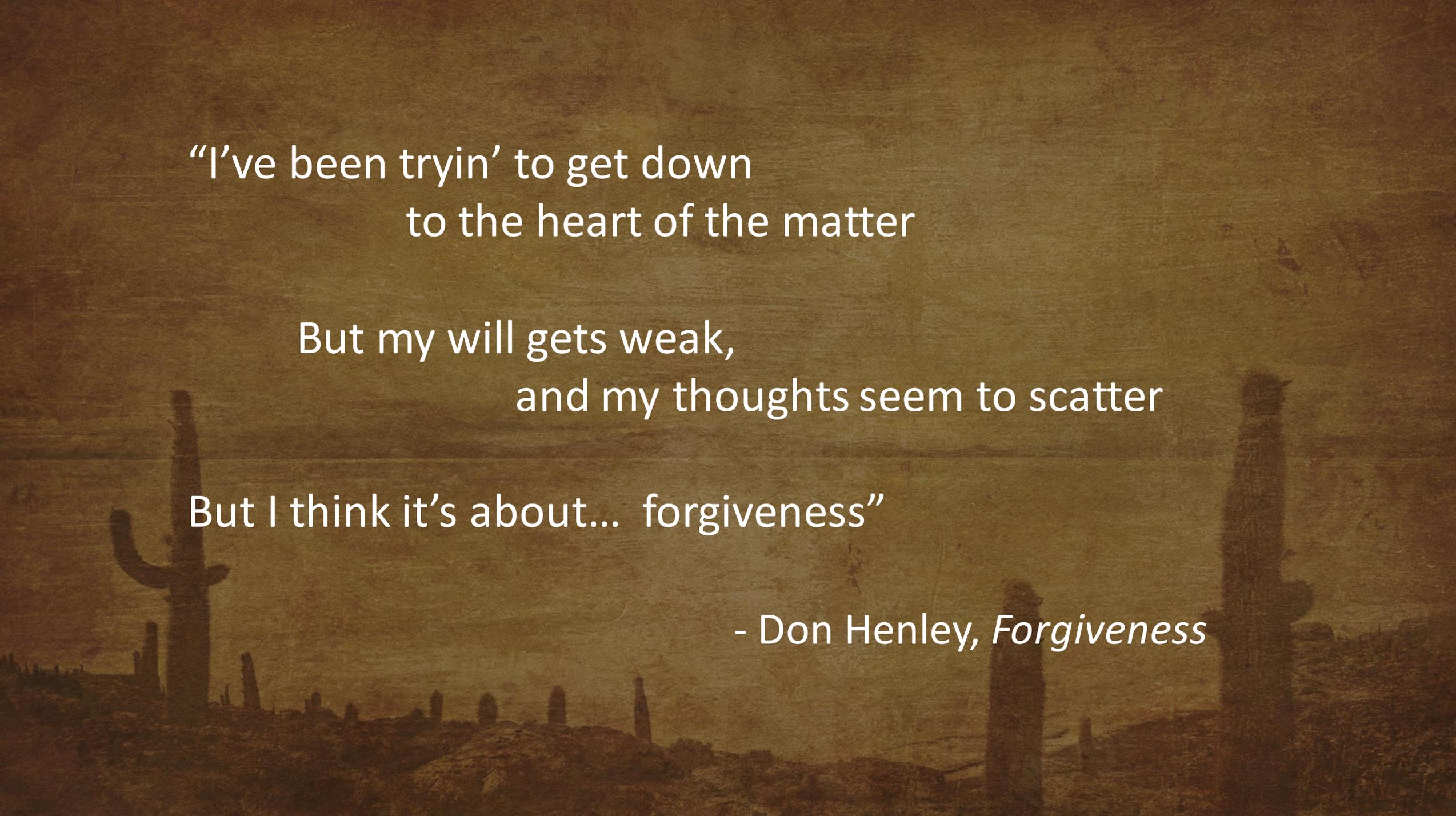
As recipients of God's amazing, *gigantic* grace –
we must also give it to others.





Not to Scale :)



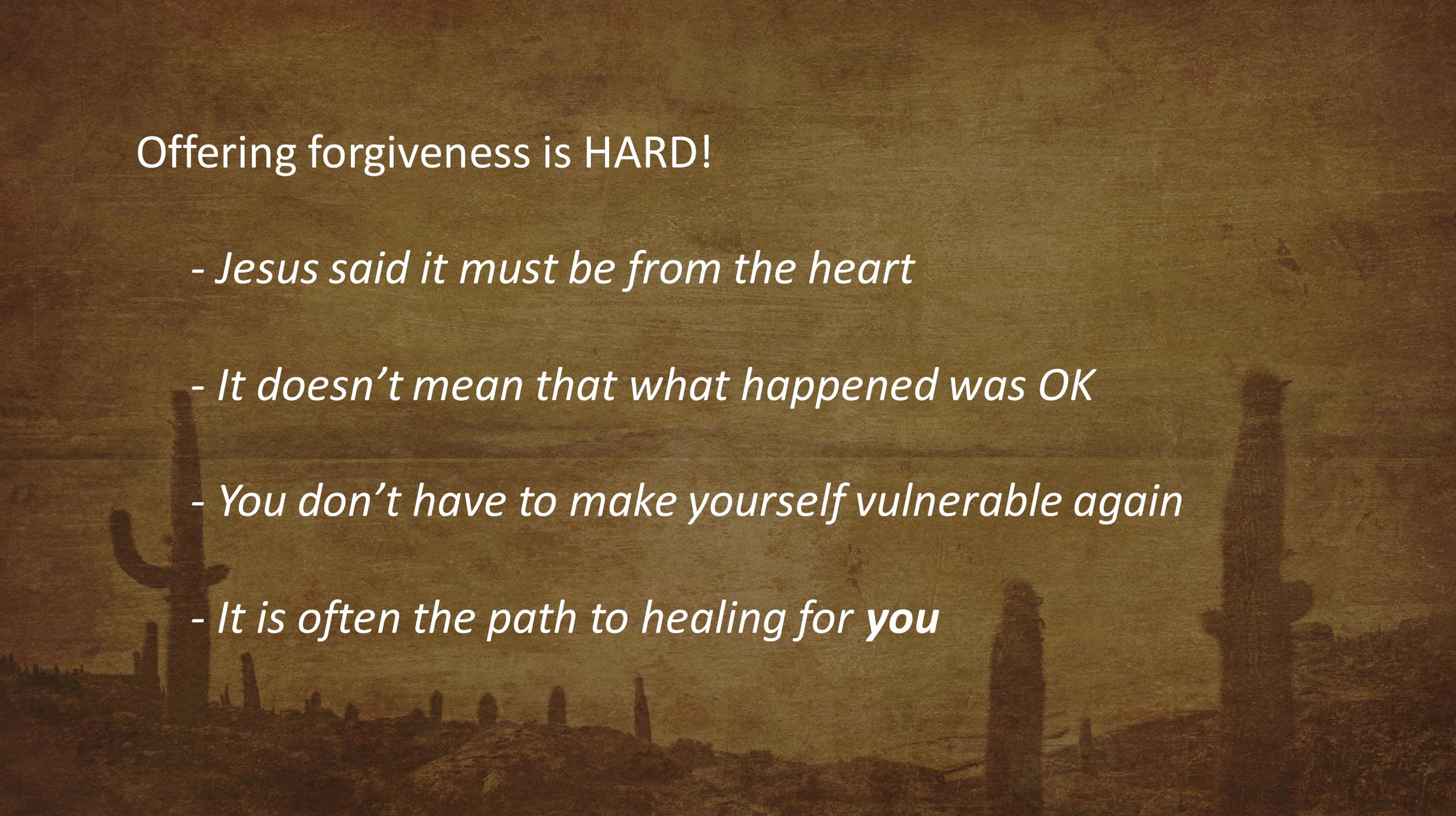
A sepia-toned photograph of a desert landscape. In the foreground, there are several saguaro cacti of various sizes. The background shows a vast, flat desert plain extending to a low horizon under a hazy sky. The overall tone is warm and nostalgic.

“I’ve been tryin’ to get down
to the heart of the matter

But my will gets weak,
and my thoughts seem to scatter

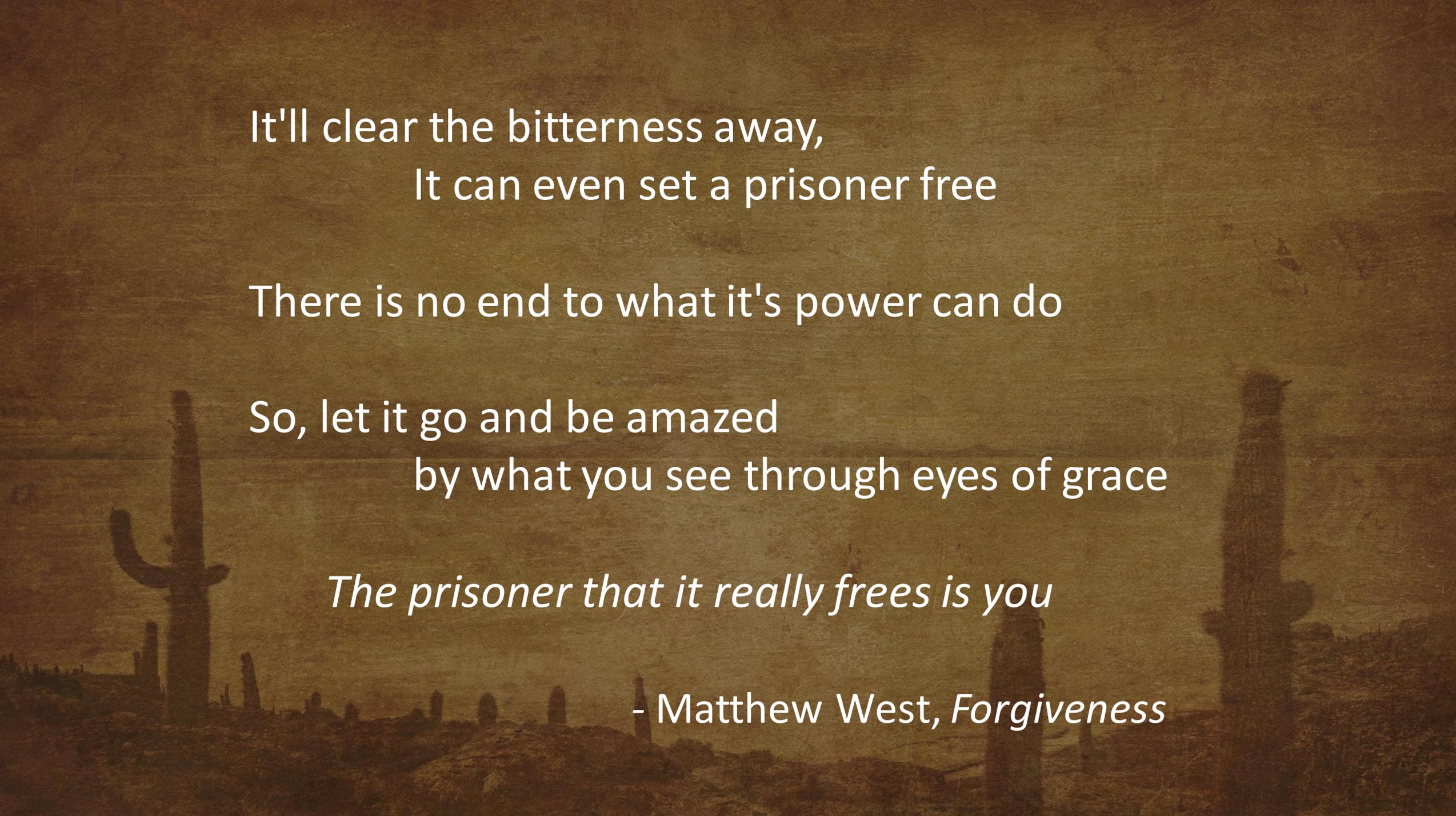
But I think it’s about... forgiveness”

- Don Henley, *Forgiveness*



Offering forgiveness is HARD!

- *Jesus said it must be from the heart*
- *It doesn't mean that what happened was OK*
- *You don't have to make yourself vulnerable again*
- *It is often the path to healing for you*

A sepia-toned landscape painting of a desert. The scene is dominated by several saguaro cacti of varying heights and stages of growth, scattered across a flat, arid plain. The background shows a hazy horizon under a pale, overcast sky. The overall mood is quiet and contemplative.

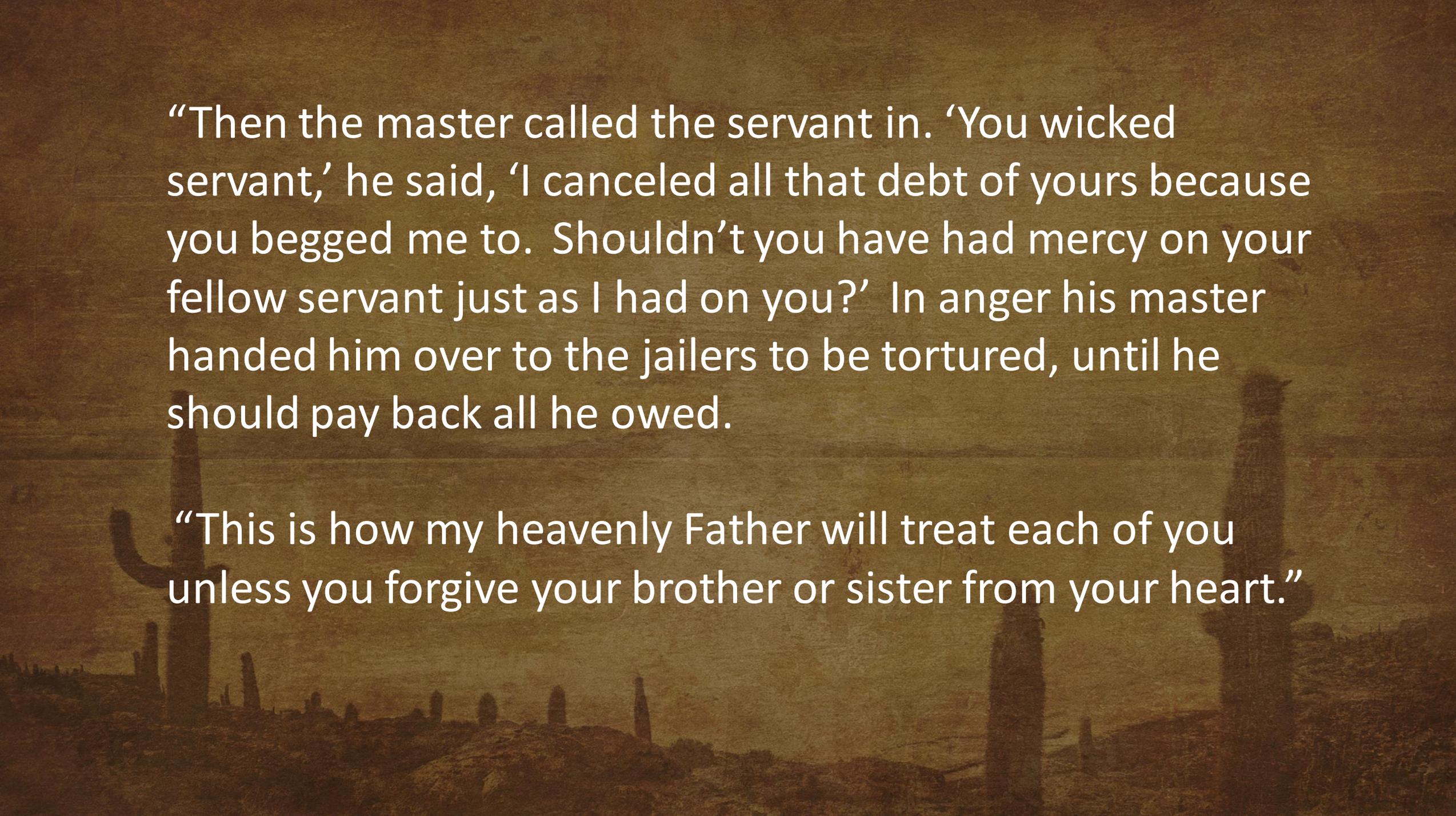
It'll clear the bitterness away,
It can even set a prisoner free

There is no end to what it's power can do

So, let it go and be amazed
by what you see through eyes of grace

The prisoner that it really frees is you

- Matthew West, *Forgiveness*



“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

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