

The Fork in the Road

A photograph of a dirt road that splits into two paths, one leading to the left and one to the right, in a grassy field. In the background, there are mountains and trees under a cloudy sky. The text 'The Fork in the Road' is overlaid at the top.

Who will you follow?
Matthew 7:13-29



Have you ever been here?



Confusing signs



What on earth?



Good for you...

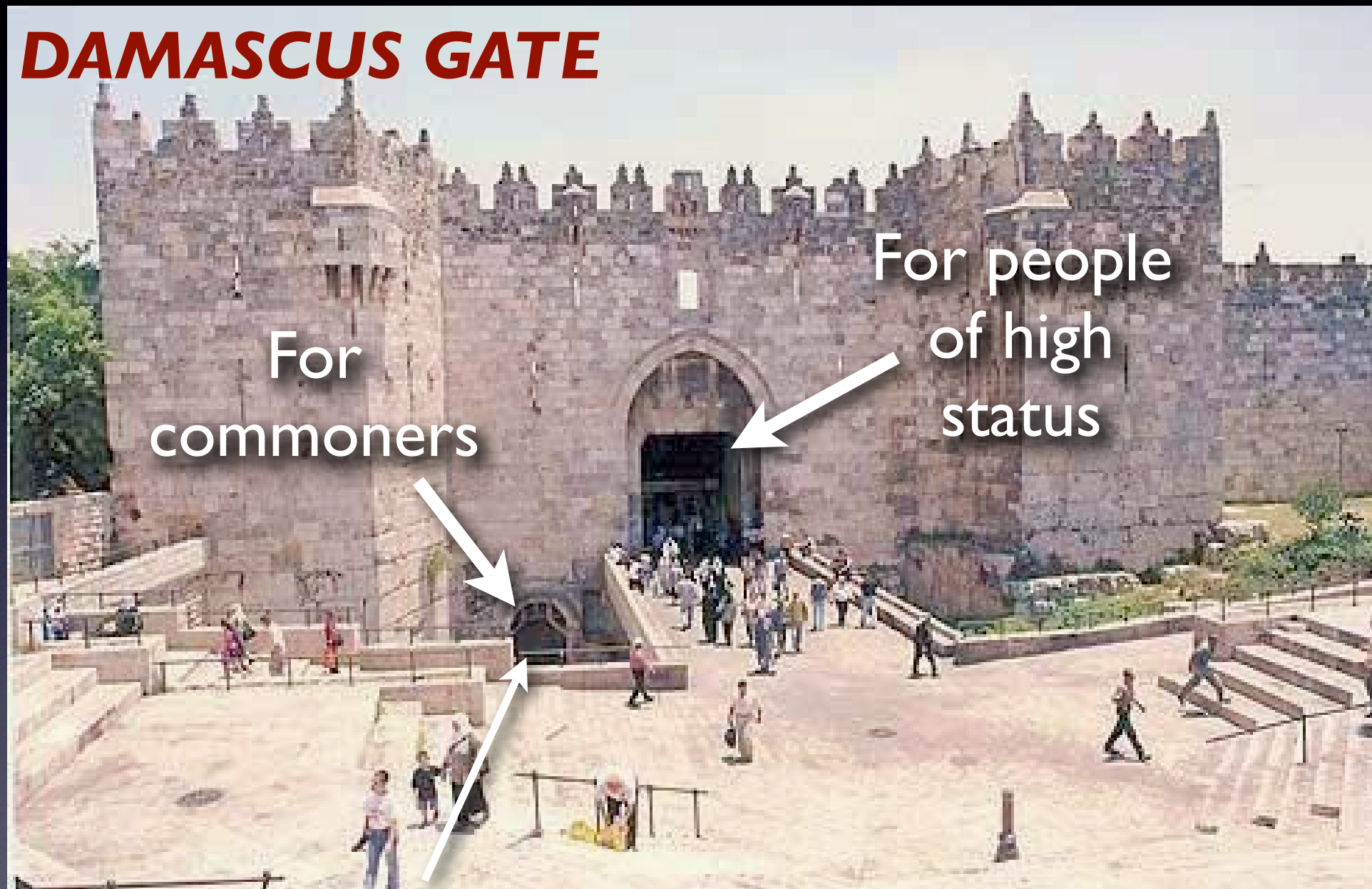
Spiritual GPS



Sermon on the Mount = a written guide to help us navigate through life

Holy Spirit = our ever-present guide to help us find our coordinates and recalculate

Two Gates



*Jesus went through here
with his cross*


“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.”

Matt. 7:13-14, NIV

Matt. 7:16-20, NIV

Two Trees

A photograph of two trees silhouetted against a sunset sky. The trees are on a grassy hill. A flock of birds is flying in a V-shape across the sky. The sky is a mix of orange and pink.

“Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”

Beware

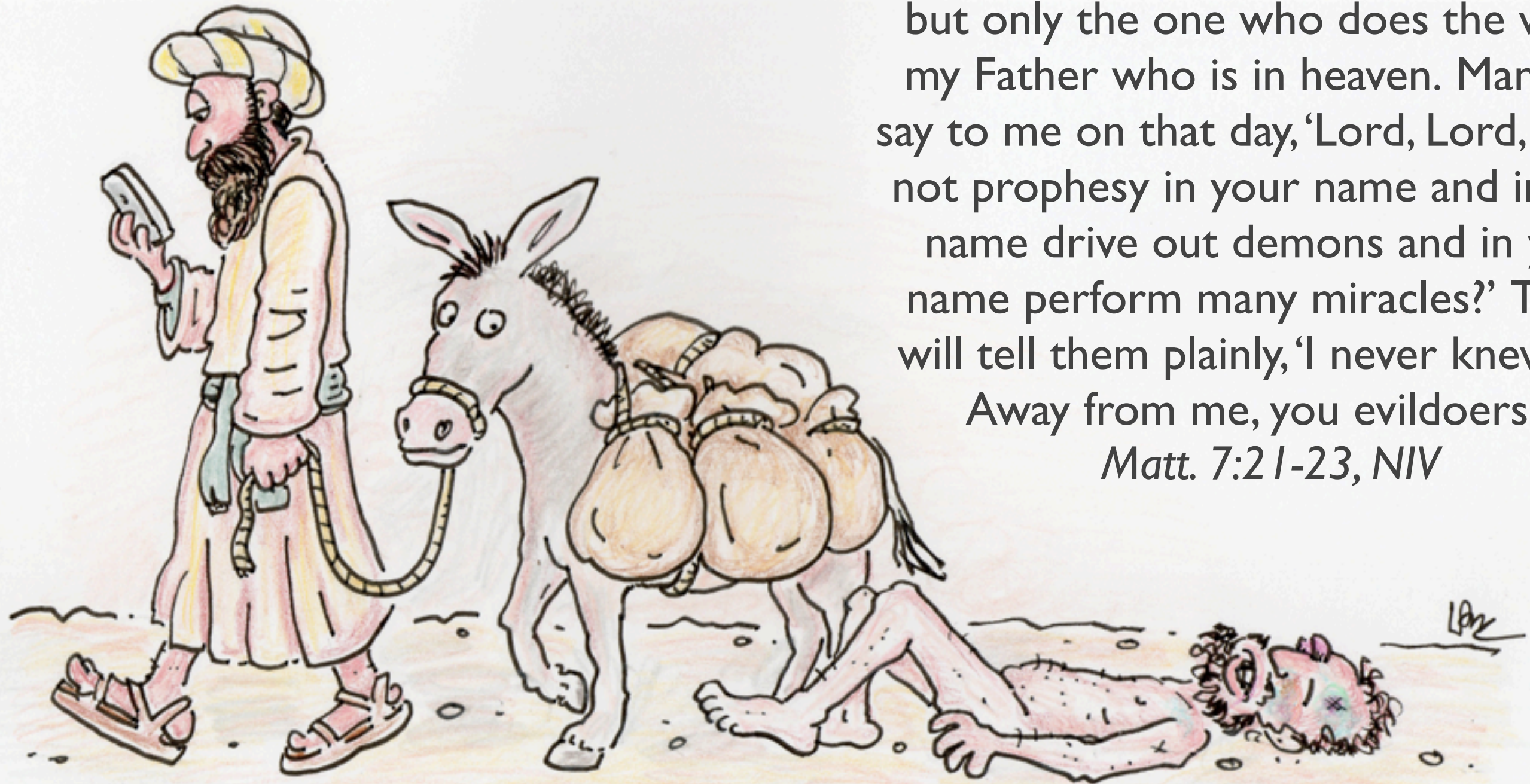


False Leaders

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them....”

Matt. 7:15, NIV

Beware



“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’”

Matt. 7:21-23, NIV

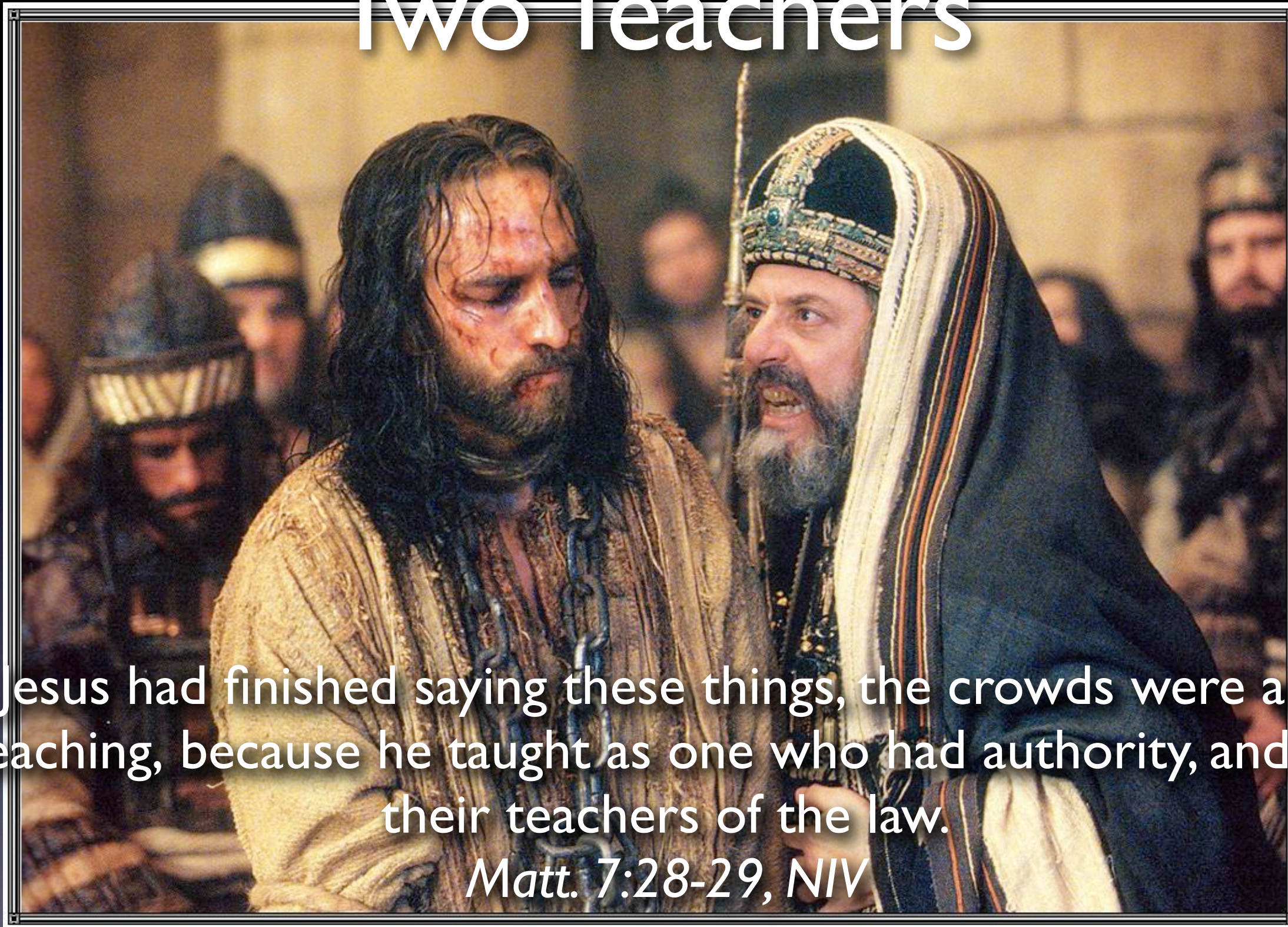


Two Kinds of Builders

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a **wise man** who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

“But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a **foolish man** who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

Two Teachers



When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

Matt. 7:28-29, NIV

Which Covenant?

Old Covenant	New Covenant
	Kingdom attitudes
	Seize opportunities to shine
Do not murder	Don't be angry
Do not commit adultery	Do not lust
Divorce with certificate	Divorce on infidelity
Keep your oaths	Do not swear
Revenge ok	Don't resist
Hate your enemy	Love your enemy

Which Way?

The Ways of the Teachers	The Way of Jesus
Giving to show off	Give in secret
Praying to show off	Pray in secret
Long prayers	Simple prayers
Fasting for show	Fast in secret
Treasures on earth	Serve God only
Worry about needs	Give to the poor
Judge others	Treat others kindly

Why Many Don't Follow?



Birds

Lack of understanding



Rocks

Trouble & persecution



Thorns

Worries of life

Deceitfulness of wealth

Which road will you take?

The Way

Narrow gate
Good tree
Good fruit
Wise builder
Jesus

The Old Ways

Wide gate
Bad tree
Bad fruit
False leaders
Foolish builder
Teachers of the Law

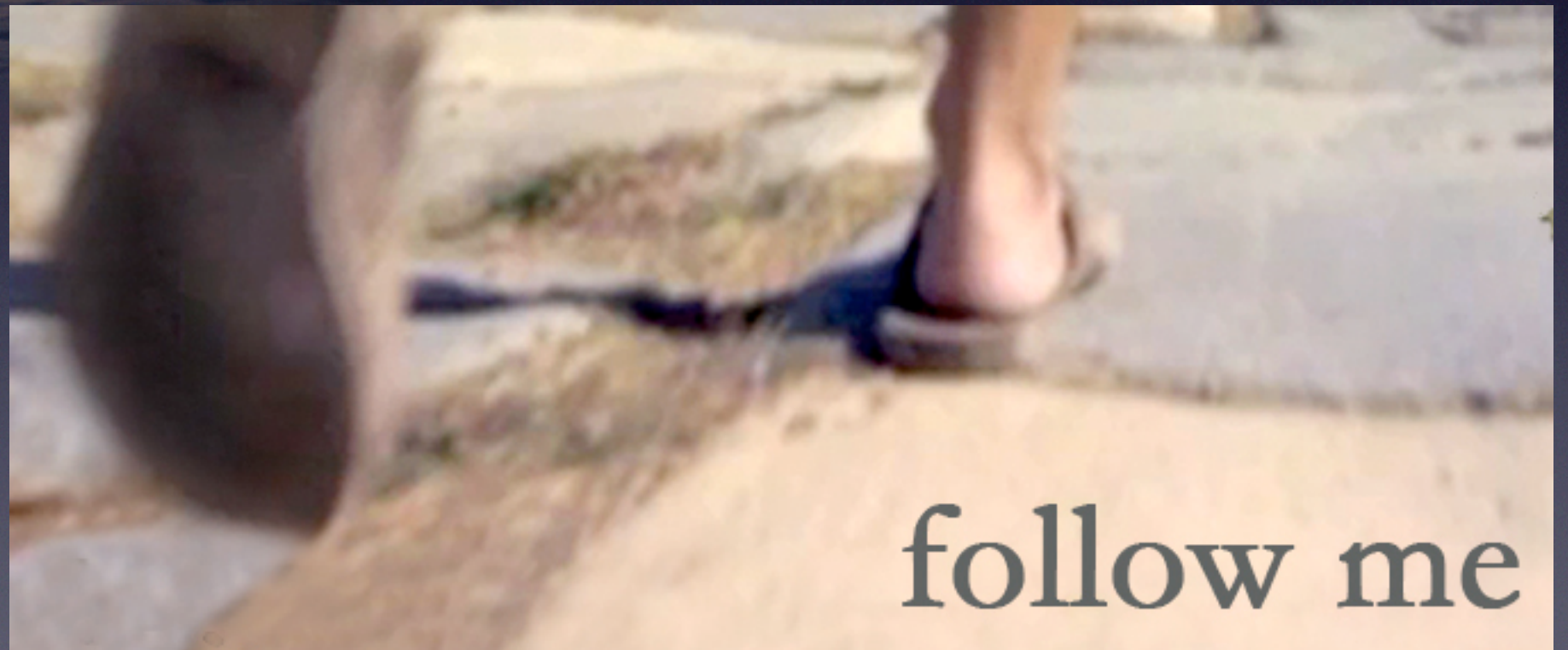


Follow
Jesus
The New Covenant
His commands





Come



follow me

ἑπομῶς με



THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978,
1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.