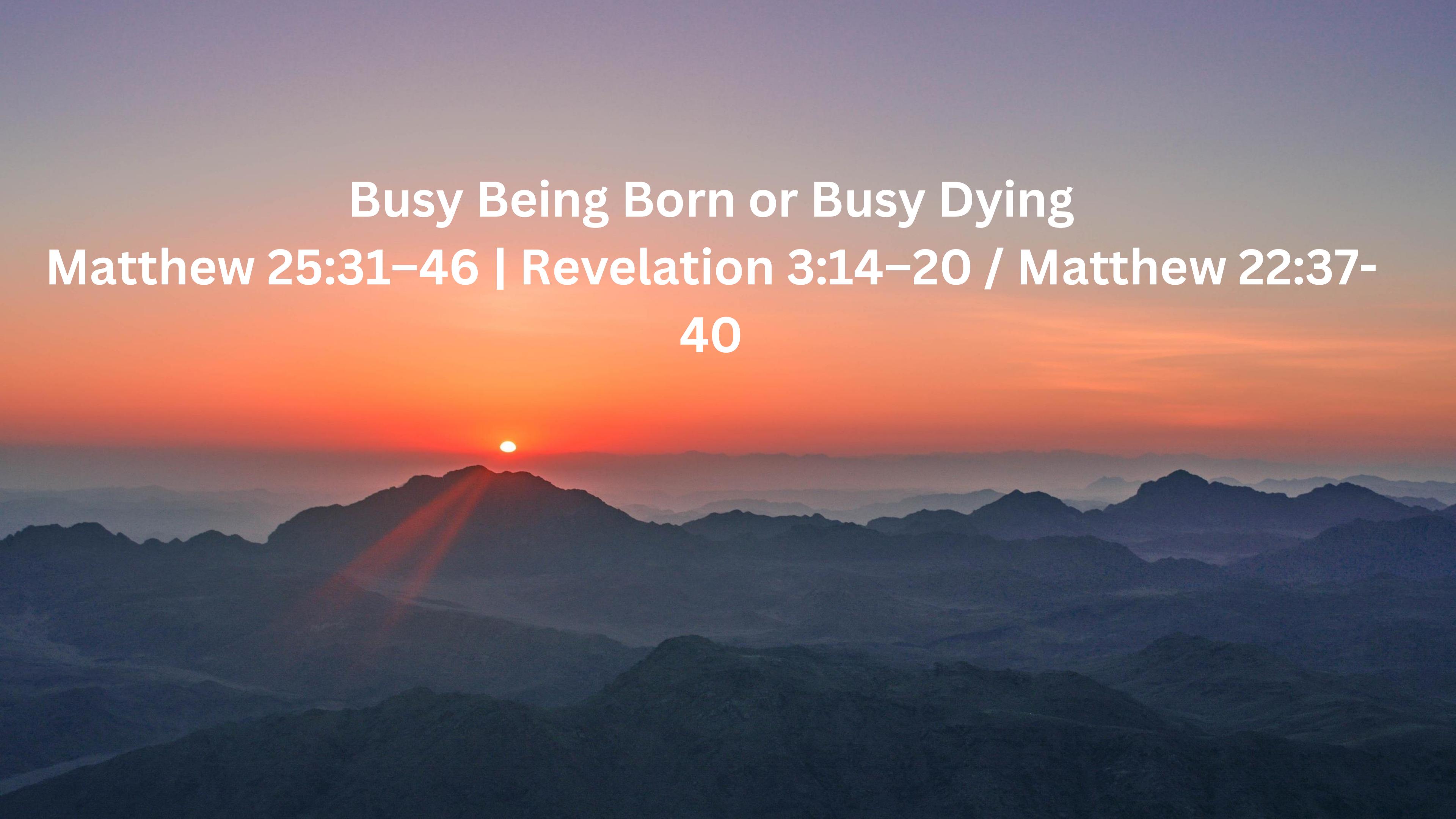


Busy Being Born or Busy Dying

Matthew 25:31–46 | Revelation 3:14–20 /
Matthew 22:37–40

VINE TREES



A photograph of a sunset over a mountain range. The sky is a gradient from orange to dark blue. The sun is a small white circle on the horizon. In the foreground, dark silhouettes of mountain peaks are visible against the bright sky.

Busy Being Born or Busy Dying

Matthew 25:31-46 | Revelation 3:14-20 / Matthew 22:37-

40

The Sheep and the Goats

31 “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33 He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

34 “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. 35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’

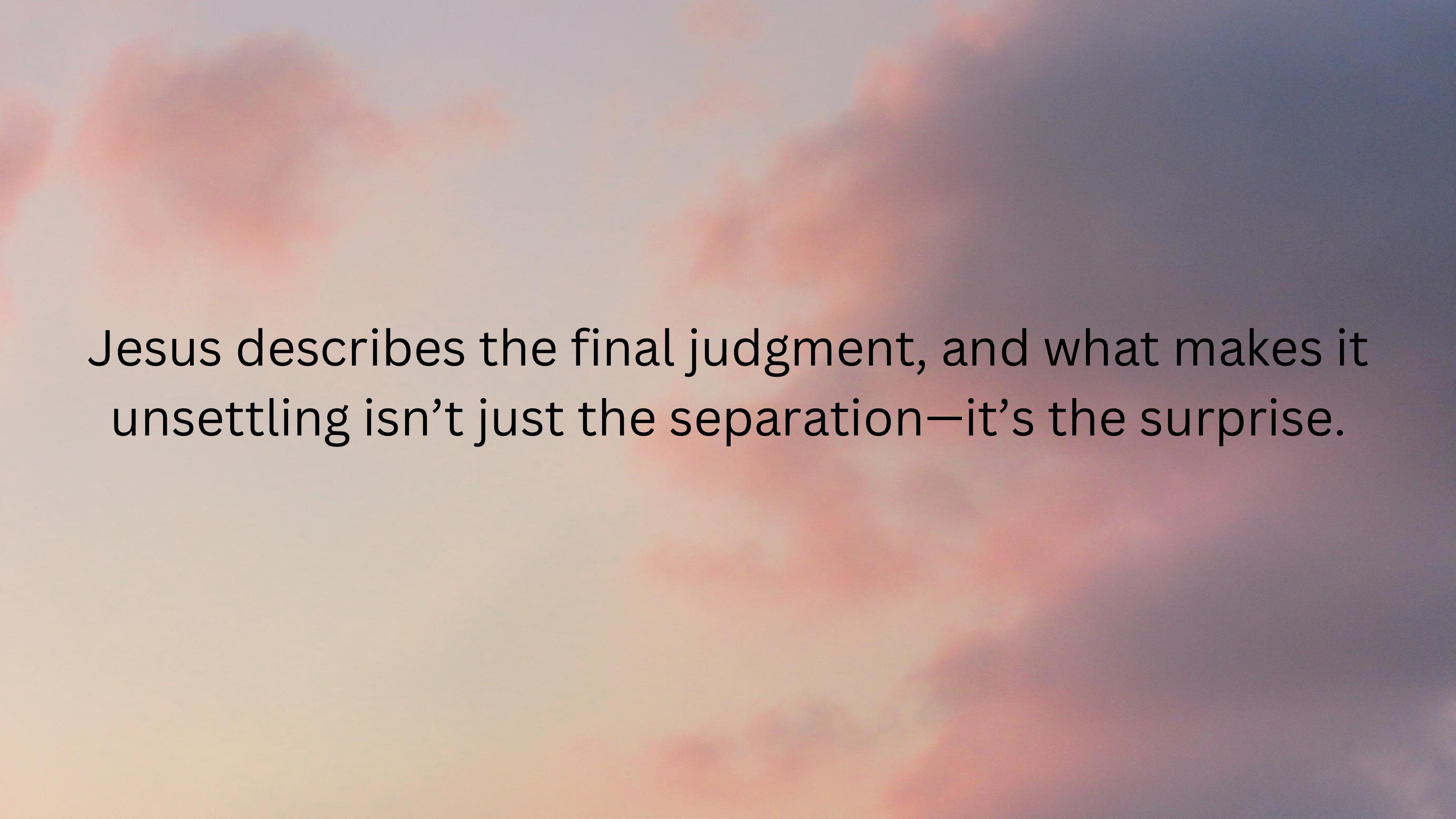
41 “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’

44 “They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’

45 “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’

46 “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

A photograph of a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of orange, pink, and purple, transitioning into a darker blue in the upper right corner.

Jesus describes the final judgment, and what makes it unsettling isn't just the separation—it's the surprise.

Both groups thought they were aligned with God.
but only one was right



1. GRACE SAVES, BUT GRACE
SHOULD NEVER STAY ALONE

The Bible is crystal clear: **we are saved by grace alone, through faith alone**, in Christ alone. You cannot earn your way into the Kingdom of God.

Grace should always bring transformation with it.
And transformation begins with obedience.

Jesus doesn't separate sheep and goats based on
what they *said* they believed.

**He separates them based on what their lives
*REVEALED.***

The sheep didn't serve in order to be saved.
**They served BECAUSE salvation had ALREADY
taken root in them.**

Works don't save you – but **they do expose what you actually believe.**

“He not busy being born
is busy dying.”

-Bob Dylan

A living faith moves. A living faith bears “fruit”

A dead faith stays comfortable.

You don’t staple apples onto a dead tree.

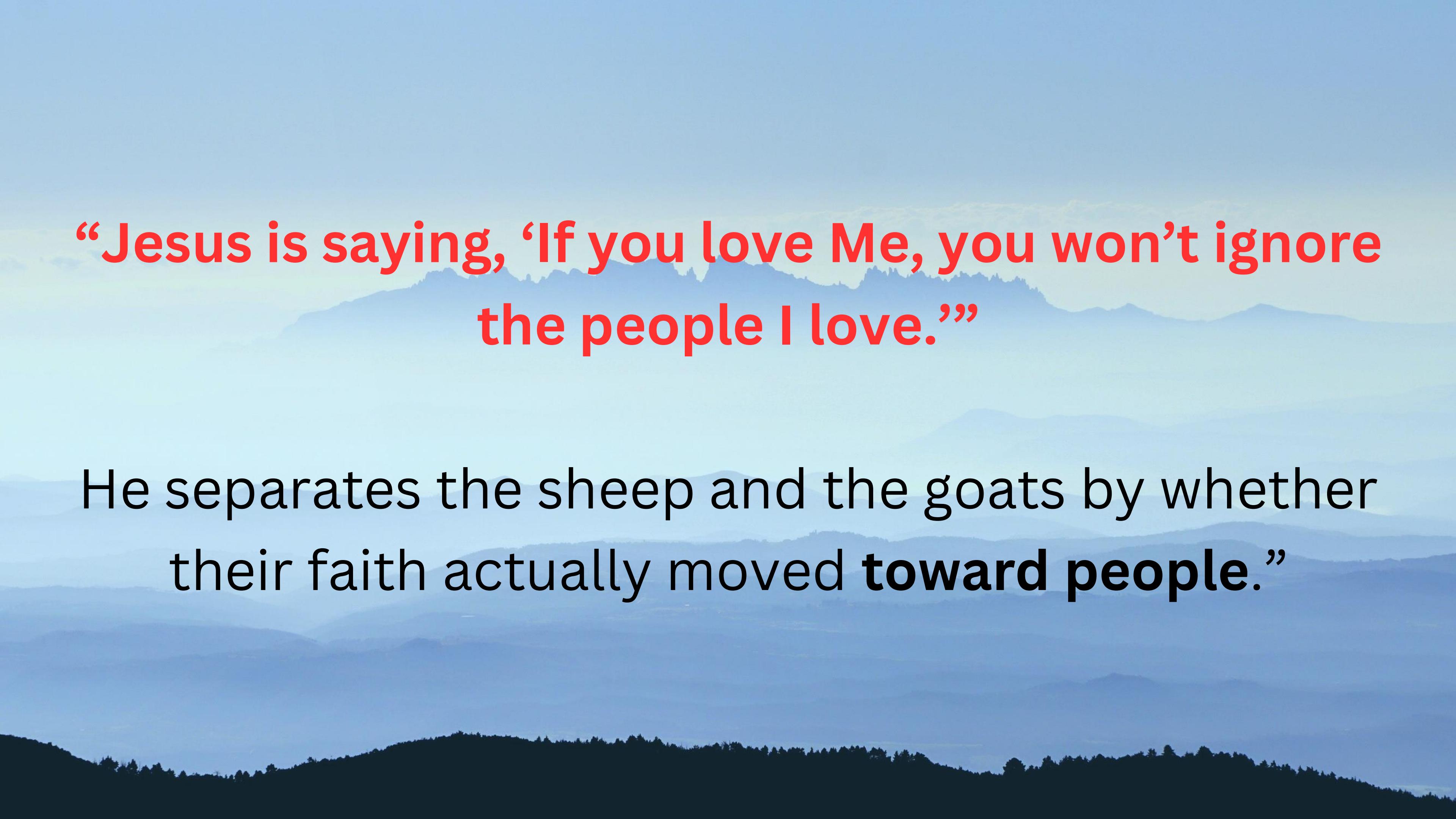


2. MOST PEOPLE MISS JESUS BECAUSE HE SHOWS UP INCONVENIENTLY



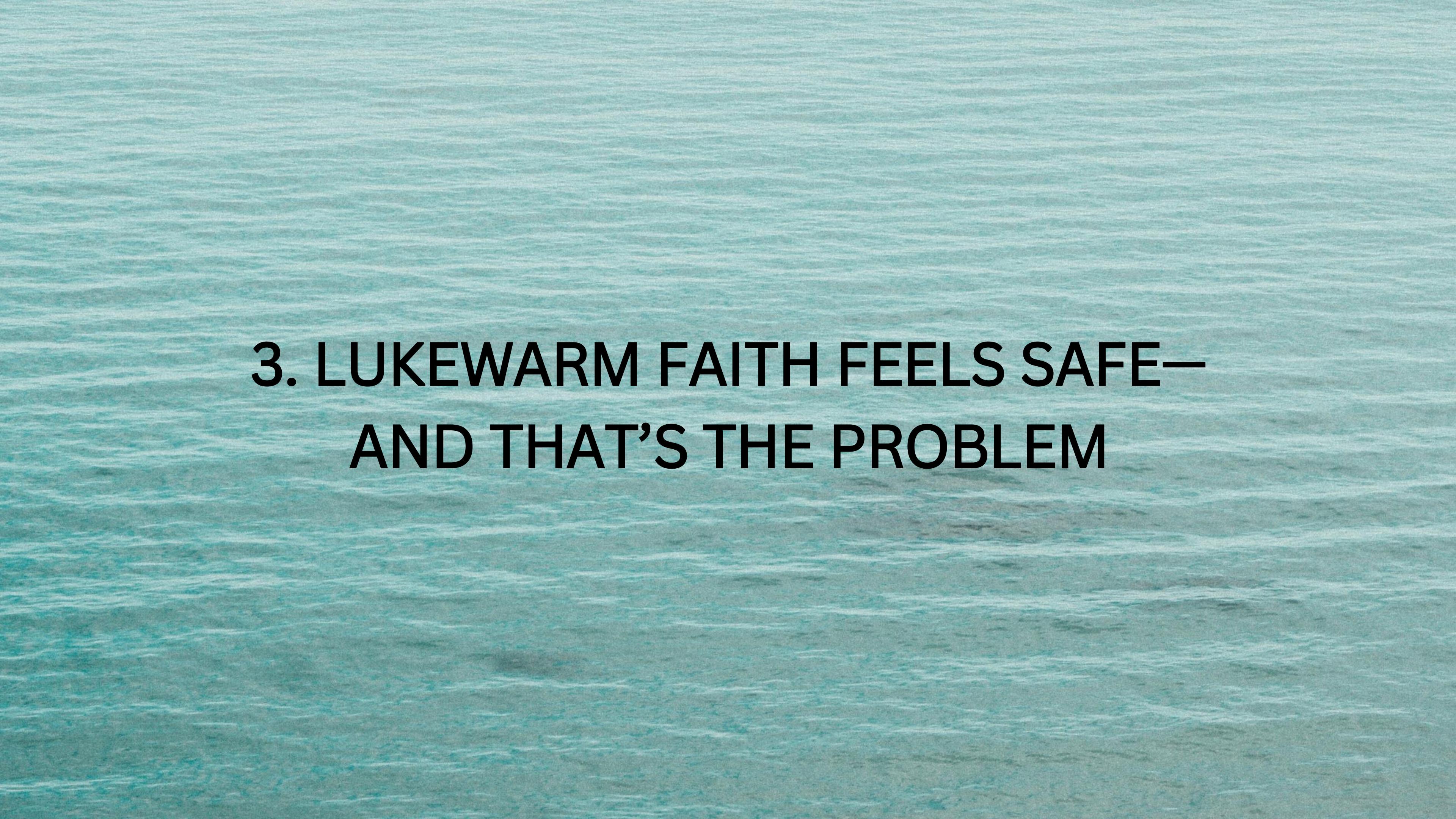
In other words, you didn't miss theology –
you missed people.

We often wait for Jesus to show up in powerful moments – in worship highs or spiritual breakthroughs – while ignoring Him in inconvenient ones.



**“Jesus is saying, ‘If you love Me, you won’t ignore
the people I love.’”**

He separates the sheep and the goats by whether
their faith actually moved **toward people.**”



**3. LUKEWARM FAITH FEELS SAFE—
AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM**

14 “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. **15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!** **16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.** 17 You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. 18 I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. 20 Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Revelation 3:14-20

Jesus speaks to a church that thinks it's healthy.

They say, “I am rich. I’m comfortable, I’m content. I don’t need a thing.”

BUT Jesus says, “You don’t realize that you are poor, blind, and naked.”

They weren't rebellious.

They weren't hostile.

They were comfortable and complacent.

This is what lukewarm faith looks like.

In Laodicea and in a lot of churches across America,
Jesus isn't rejected – He's just not necessary.

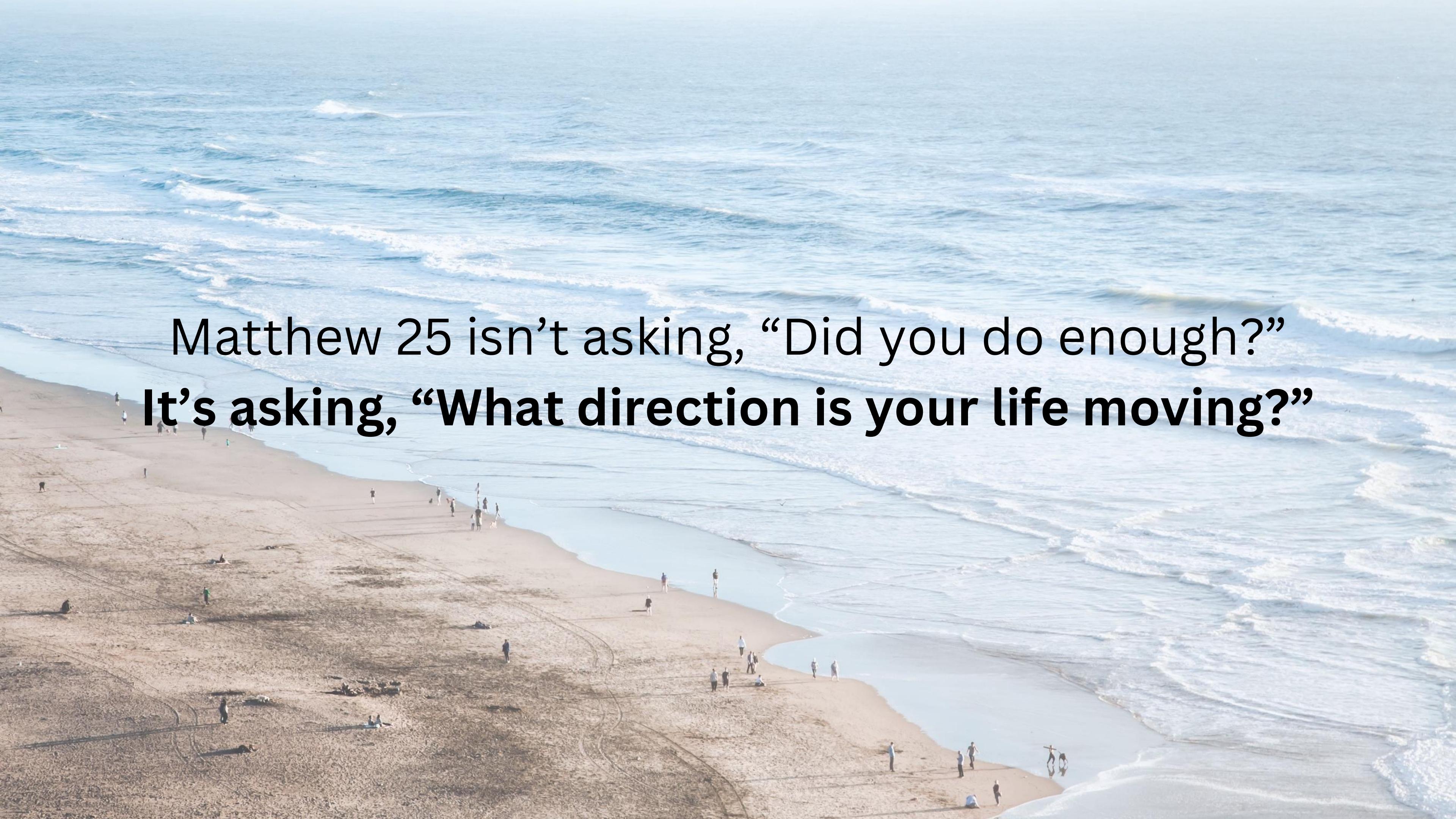
Because lukewarm Christianity isn't about
doing bad things:

It's about doing things
without dependence on Jesus.

**It's when Jesus just becomes part of your life
instead of the center of it.**



**4. BUSY BEING BORN MEANS
MOVING TOWARD PEOPLE**

A wide, sandy beach with gentle waves and people walking along the shore.

Matthew 25 isn't asking, "Did you do enough?"
It's asking, "What direction is your life moving?"

A close-up photograph of a dark green cherry blossom branch with clusters of delicate pink flowers. The branch curves from the top left towards the center. The background is a soft-focus sunset or sunrise sky with a gradient of colors from deep blue to bright orange and yellow, with wispy clouds. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

Faith that moves outward
instead of inward.



You don't need to fix everything.

You just need to stop ignoring the people God has already placed in front of you.

**Grace doesn't make us perfect –
but it does make us available.**

You're either busy being born or busy dying.

There is no standing still.
There's no spiritual grey area.

**Morality alone cannot save us, but only a
submitted life to Jesus as Lord and Savior**

Is your faith moving you toward Jesus
and toward others –
or is it just keeping you comfortable?



Matthew 22:37-39

37 Jesus replied: “**Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.**