



# Preparation for the Supper

**A Memorial at a Funeral**



# Jesus Prepares His Disciples

- Jesus *began* His ministry teaching the Sermon on the Mount
  - As the new Moses, he corrected the Pharisees and reissued the Law to the New Israel of God, the church
  - Sitting atop the largest Moses' seat in the land
- Jesus *ended* His ministry teaching on the Mount of Olives
  - Pronouncing woes, making predictions and explaining the Kingdom of God

# Jesus Prepares His Disciples



- Then He *announced* His death
  - *As you know, Passover begins in 2 days, and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified (Mt. 26:2)*
    - Like a good Jew, He counted the days to the feast
    - He expected His disciples to do the same
    - He also spoke of betrayal and dying a disgraceful death
      - Implying that one of them would turn Him in to the Jewish authorities
      - Suggesting that those authorities would brand Him a criminal and nail Him to a shameful tree

# Jesus Prepares His Disciples



- Jesus did this to *prepare* them for His upcoming death
  - As God's Lamb, He linked His crucifixion to the Passover
  - He also blamed His death on a traitor
    - An act of treacherous disloyalty
    - By someone
      - Who will second-guess and double-cross Him
      - The poster-boy of all who think they can use Jesus to fulfill their agenda instead of embracing His plans for them



# Jesus Prepares His Disciples

- How would the disciples *react* to the news?
  - With consolation for Jesus, or
    - With self-pity?
  - Would they urge others to mourn with them, or
    - Would they resent anyone who cared more than them?
  - Would they selfishly pamper themselves, or
    - Would they unselfishly support Jesus?
  - Would they cling to the safer past, or
    - Would they embrace the dangerous future?



# Enemies Prepared to Kill Him

- *At that same time*, according to Matt. 26:3-5
  - *The leading priests and elders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest*
    - *Plotting how to capture Jesus secretly and kill him*
    - *“But not during the Passover celebration,” they agreed, “or the people may riot”*
  - At odds with the people, they were nevertheless bent on fulfilling their plans
    - Self-righteously certain that they were better qualified than Jesus or the people to determine what is right



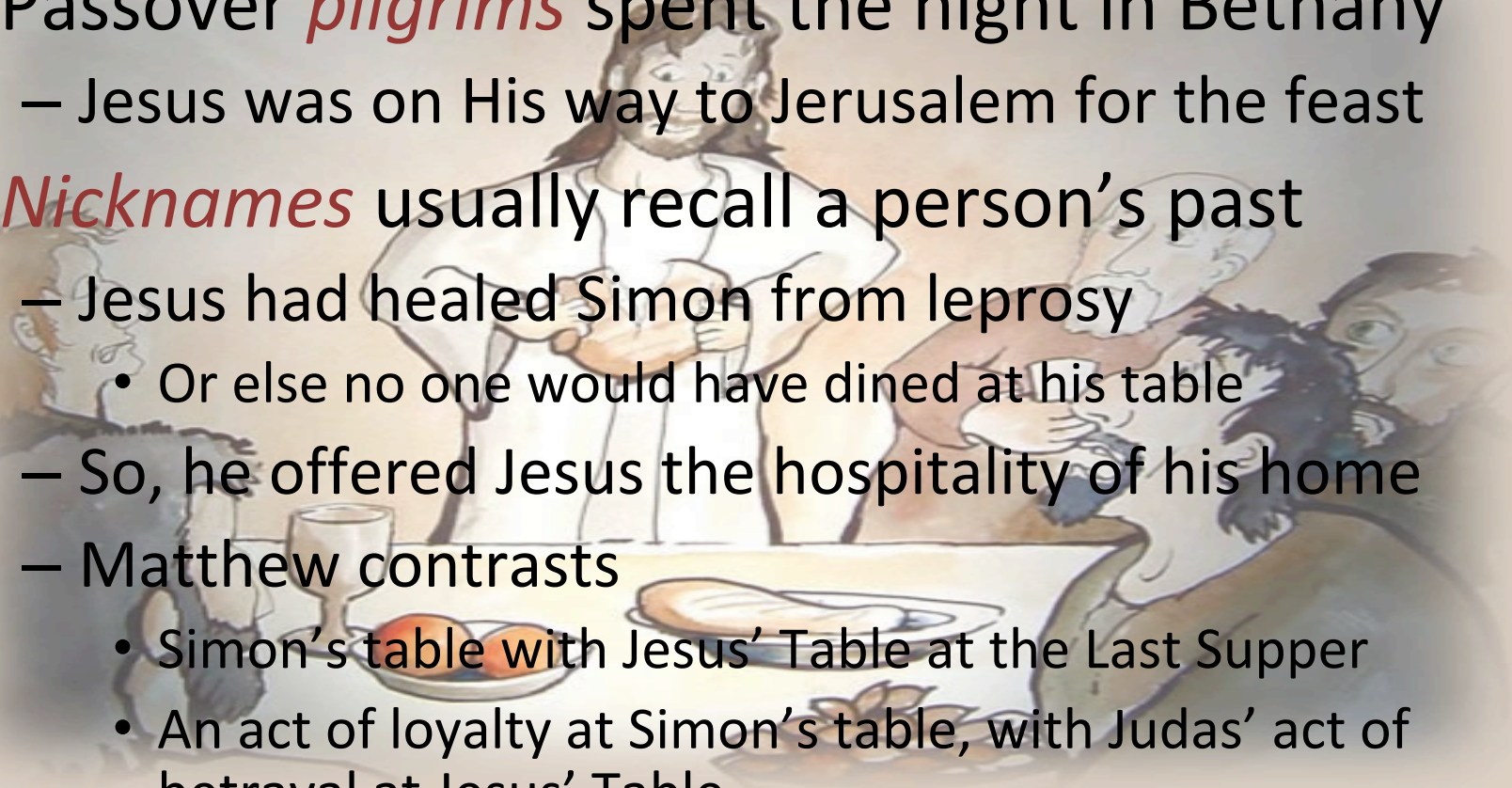
# A Woman Shows Them Up



- Mt. 26:6
- *Meanwhile, Jesus was in Bethany at the home of Simon, a man who had previously had leprosy*

# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Passover *pilgrims* spent the night in Bethany
  - Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem for the feast
- *Nicknames* usually recall a person's past
  - Jesus had healed Simon from leprosy
    - Or else no one would have dined at his table
  - So, he offered Jesus the hospitality of his home
  - Matthew contrasts
    - Simon's table with Jesus' Table at the Last Supper
    - An act of loyalty at Simon's table, with Judas' act of betrayal at Jesus' Table





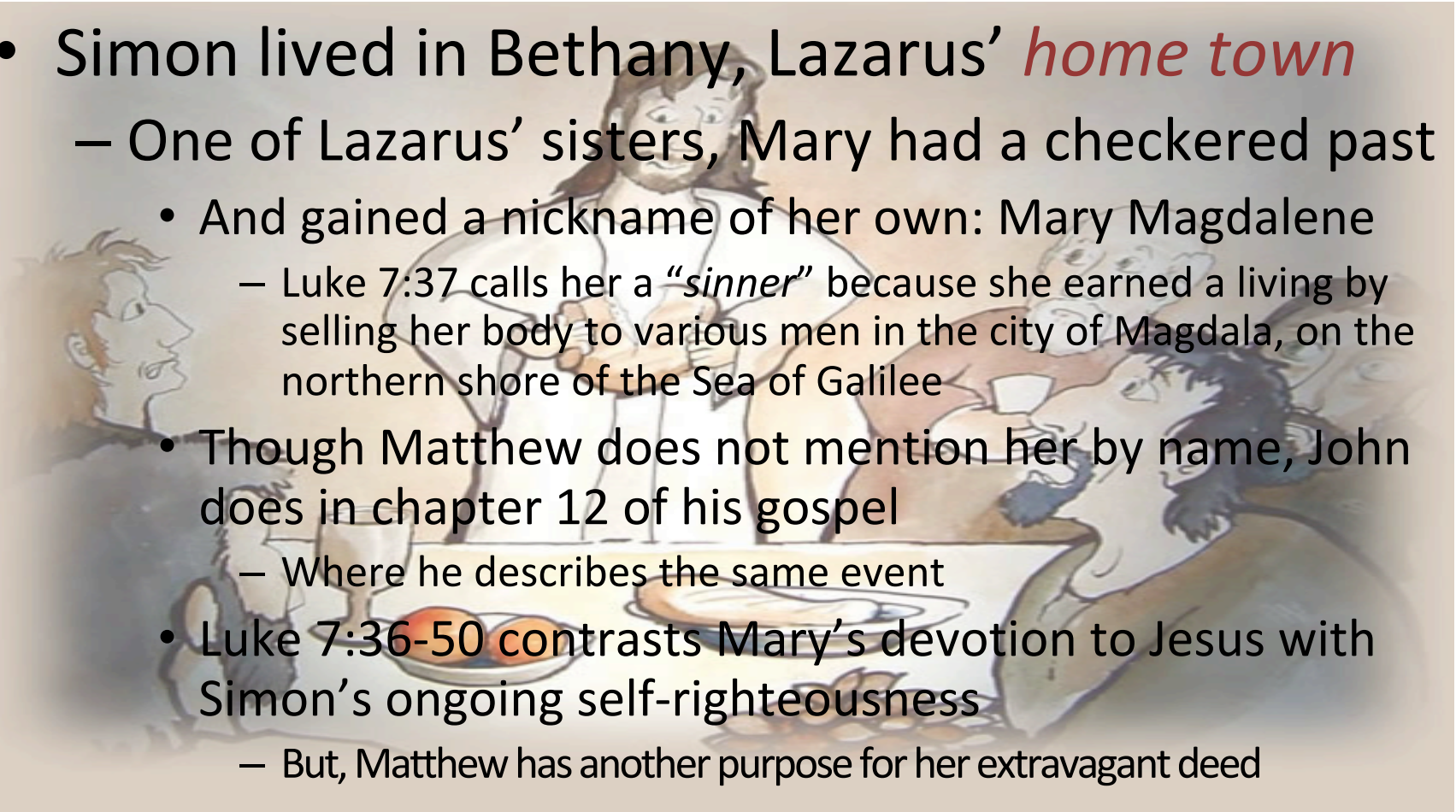
# A Woman Shows Them Up



- Mt. 26:7
- *While he was eating, a woman came in with a beautiful alabaster jar of expensive perfume and poured it over his head*

# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Simon lived in Bethany, Lazarus' *home town*
  - One of Lazarus' sisters, Mary had a checkered past
    - And gained a nickname of her own: Mary Magdalene
      - Luke 7:37 calls her a “*sinner*” because she earned a living by selling her body to various men in the city of Magdala, on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee
    - Though Matthew does not mention her by name, John does in chapter 12 of his gospel
      - Where he describes the same event
    - Luke 7:36-50 contrasts Mary's devotion to Jesus with Simon's ongoing self-righteousness
      - But, Matthew has another purpose for her extravagant deed





# A Woman Shows Them Up



- Mt. 26:8
- *The disciples were indignant when they saw this. "What a waste of money," they said*

# A Woman Shows Them Up

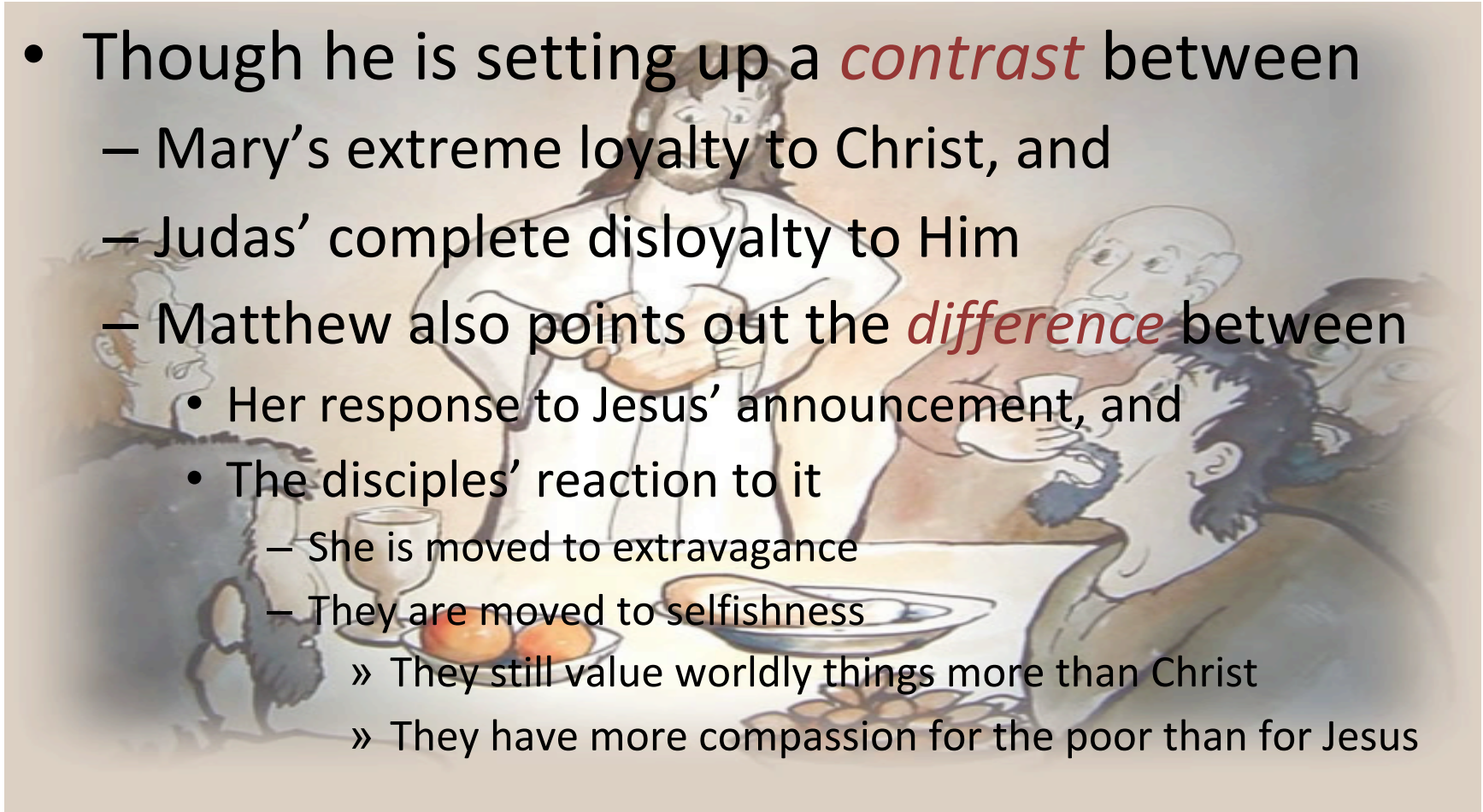


- Mt. 26:9
- *It could have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor*



# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Though he is setting up a *contrast* between
  - Mary's extreme loyalty to Christ, and
  - Judas' complete disloyalty to Him
  - Matthew also points out the *difference* between
    - Her response to Jesus' announcement, and
    - The disciples' reaction to it
      - She is moved to extravagance
      - They are moved to selfishness
        - » They still value worldly things more than Christ
        - » They have more compassion for the poor than for Jesus



# Jesus Rebukes the Disciples

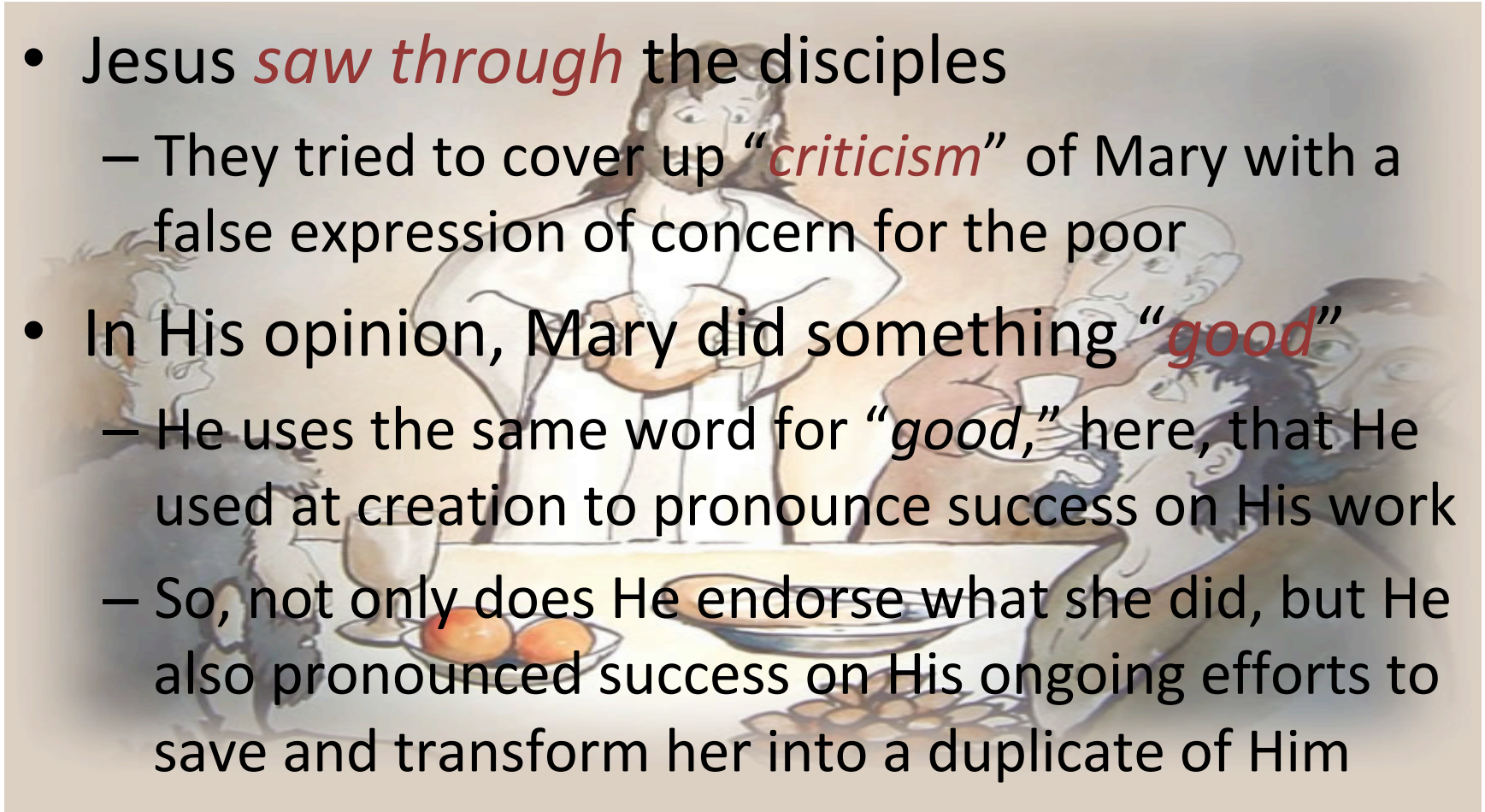


- Mt. 26:10
- *But Jesus, aware of this, replied, “Why criticize this woman for doing such a good thing to me?”*



# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Jesus *saw through* the disciples
  - They tried to cover up “*criticism*” of Mary with a false expression of concern for the poor
- In His opinion, Mary did something “*good*”
  - He uses the same word for “*good*,” here, that He used at creation to pronounce success on His work
  - So, not only does He endorse what she did, but He also pronounced success on His ongoing efforts to save and transform her into a duplicate of Him



# Jesus Rebukes the Disciples



- Mt. 26:11
- *You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me*



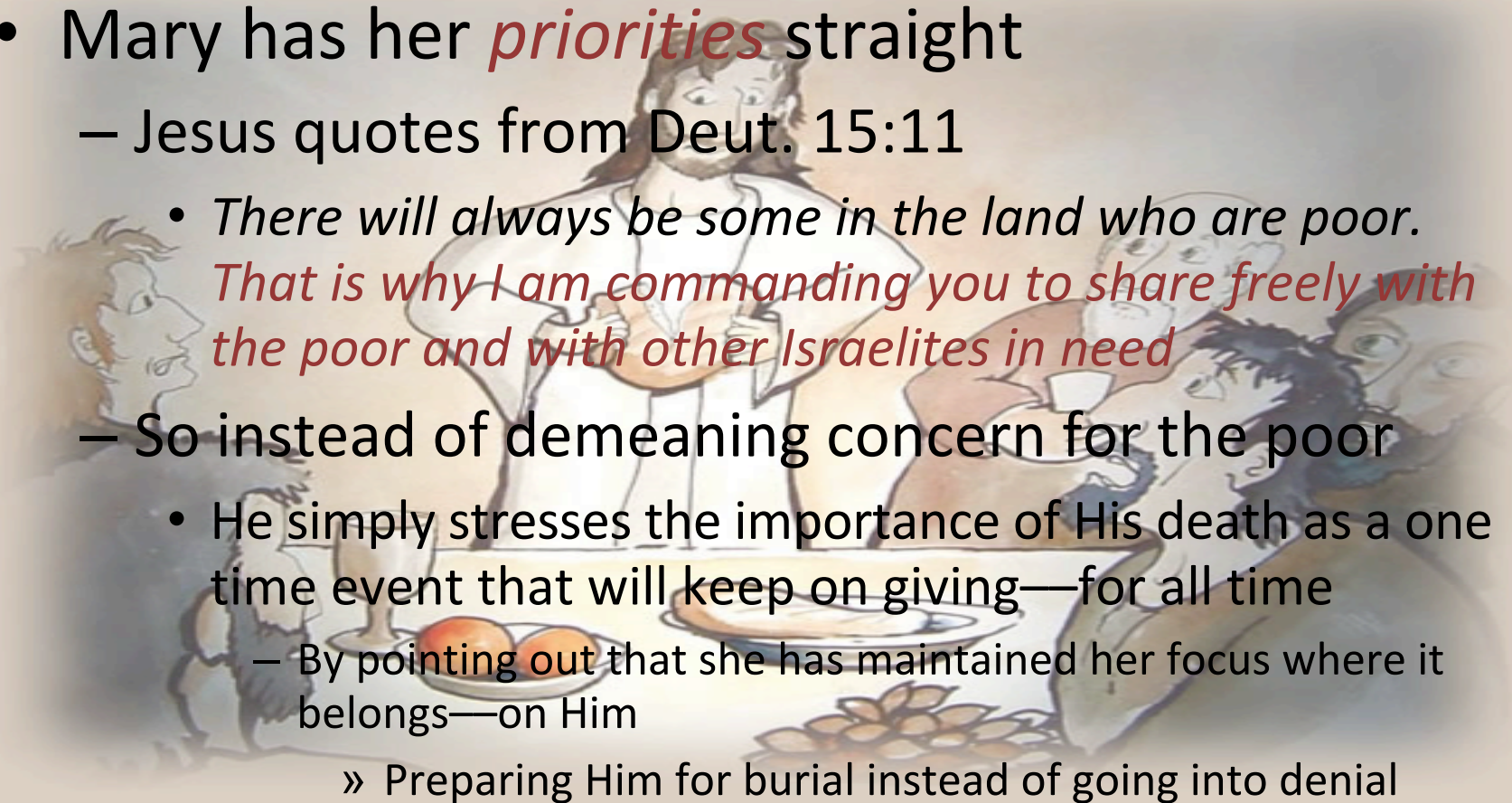
# Jesus Rebukes the Disciples



- Mt. 26:12
- *She has poured this perfume on me to prepare my body for burial.*

# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Mary has her *priorities* straight
  - Jesus quotes from Deut. 15:11
    - *There will always be some in the land who are poor. That is why I am commanding you to share freely with the poor and with other Israelites in need*
  - So instead of demeaning concern for the poor
    - He simply stresses the importance of His death as a one time event that will keep on giving—for all time
      - By pointing out that she has maintained her focus where it belongs—on Him
        - » Preparing Him for burial instead of going into denial





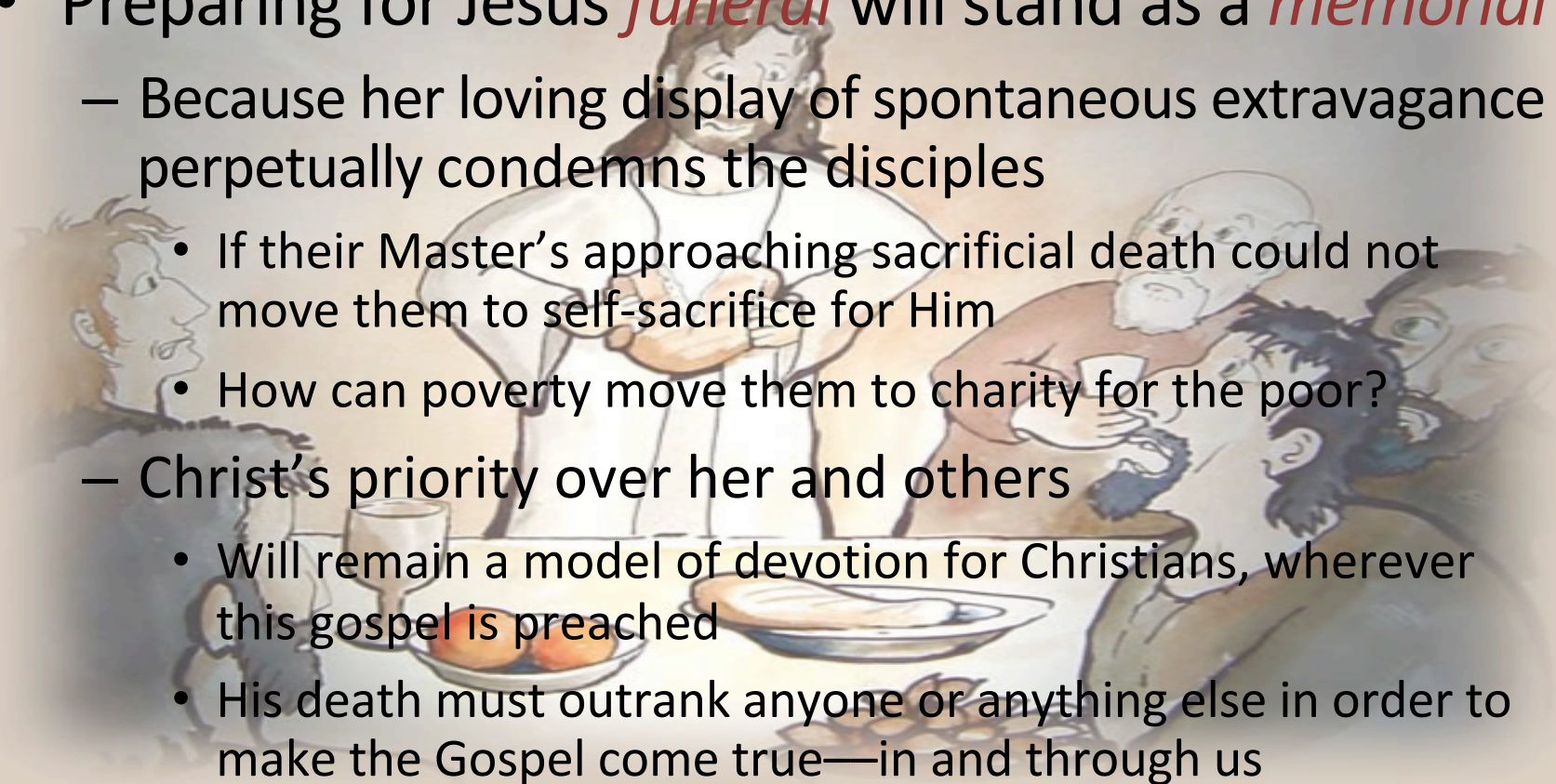
# Jesus Rebukes the Disciples



- Mt. 26:13
- *I tell you the truth, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, shall also what this woman has done, be told for a memorial of her*

# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Preparing for Jesus *funeral* will stand as a *memorial*
  - Because her loving display of spontaneous extravagance perpetually condemns the disciples
    - If their Master's approaching sacrificial death could not move them to self-sacrifice for Him
    - How can poverty move them to charity for the poor?
  - Christ's priority over her and others
    - Will remain a model of devotion for Christians, wherever this gospel is preached
    - His death must outrank anyone or anything else in order to make the Gospel come true—in and through us





# Judas Betrays Jesus



- Mt. 26:14
- *Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests*

# Judas Betrays Jesus



- Mt. 26:15
- *and asked, “How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?” And they gave him 30 pieces of silver.*



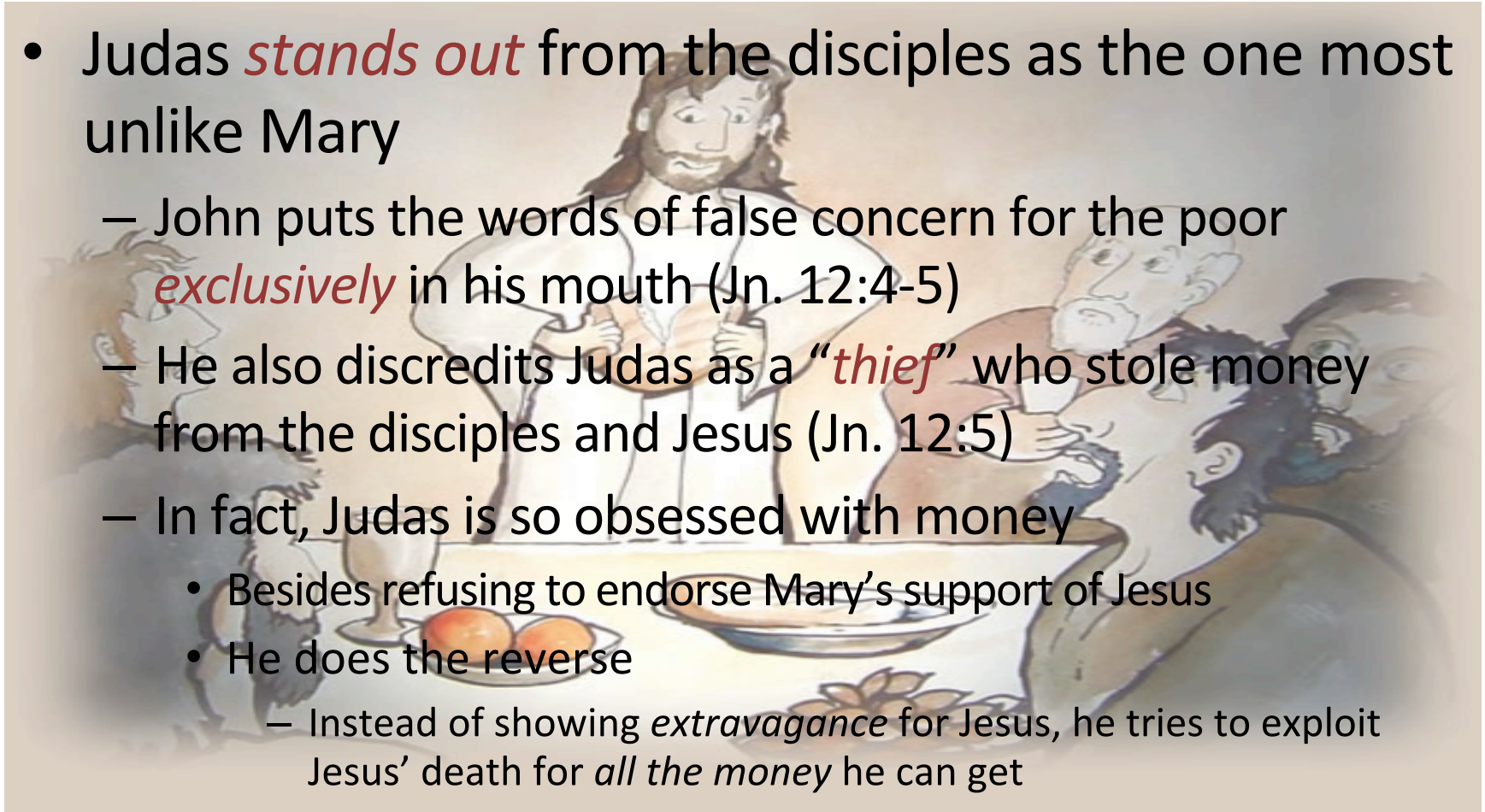
# Judas Betrays Jesus



- Mt. 26:16
- *From that time on, Judas began looking for an opportunity to betray Jesus.*

# Eye-Opening Commentary

- Judas *stands out* from the disciples as the one most unlike Mary
  - John puts the words of false concern for the poor *exclusively* in his mouth (Jn. 12:4-5)
  - He also discredits Judas as a “*thief*” who stole money from the disciples and Jesus (Jn. 12:5)
  - In fact, Judas is so obsessed with money
    - Besides refusing to endorse Mary’s support of Jesus
    - He does the reverse
      - Instead of showing *extravagance* for Jesus, he tries to exploit Jesus’ death for *all the money* he can get



# An Enlightening Conclusion

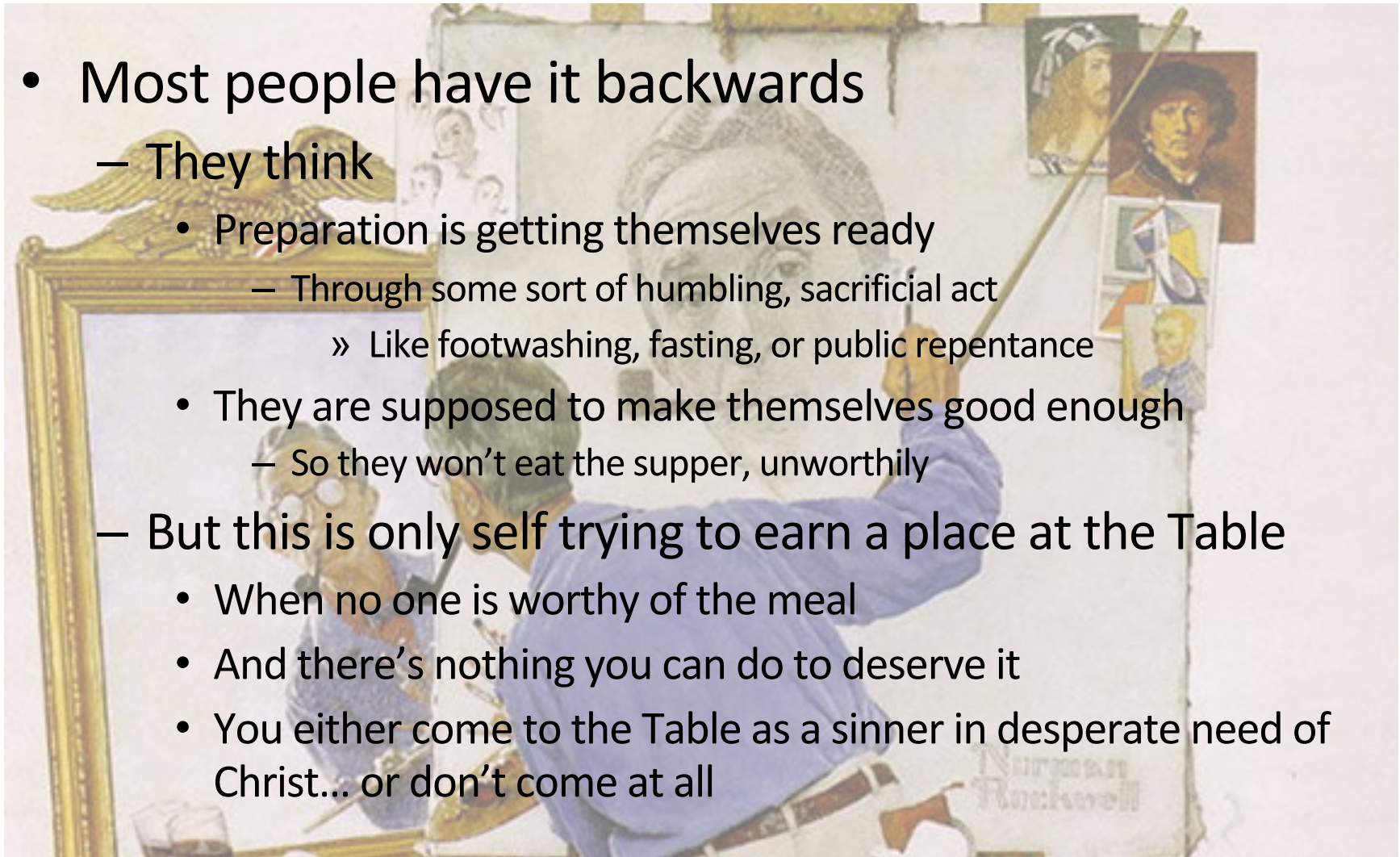
- When we come to the *LORD's* Table
  - Wipe everything else from your mind
    - Focus entirely on Him and what He has done for you to derive the maximum benefit from the meal
  - It does not matter who you are
    - Sinners and even misguided disciples are always welcome
    - Provided you put Christ ahead of yourself and others
      - When His love at the cross moves you to love Him with everything you've got, demonstrated by unplanned, all-out personal sacrifice
        - » Then, you can truly care about yourself and others
        - » You can fulfill the Law and love your neighbor as yourself, the attitude Paul advocated for approaching the Table (1 Cor. 11)





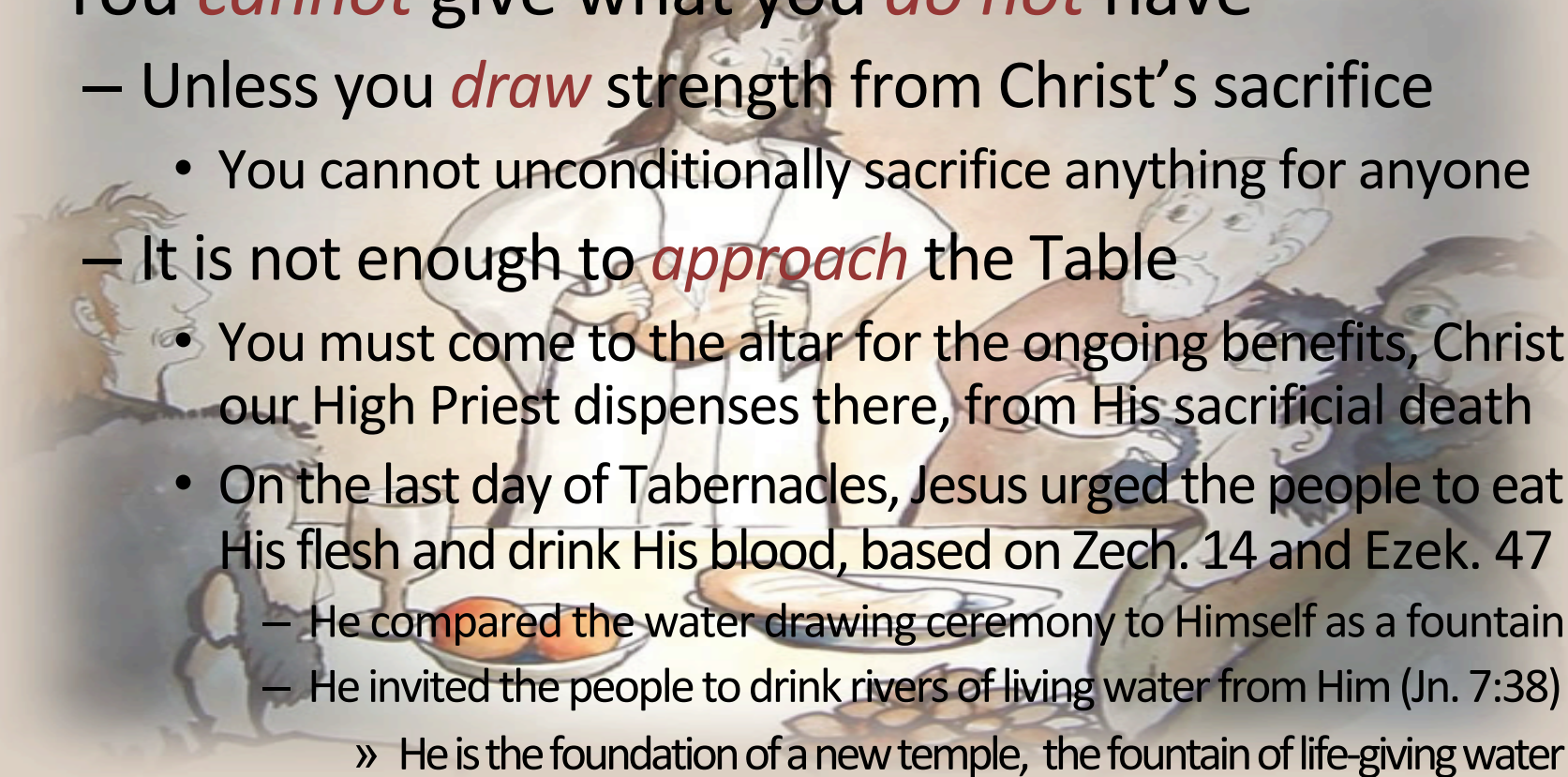
# An Enlightening Conclusion

- Most people have it backwards
  - They think
    - Preparation is getting themselves ready
      - Through some sort of humbling, sacrificial act
        - » Like footwashing, fasting, or public repentance
    - They are supposed to make themselves good enough
      - So they won't eat the supper, unworthily
  - But this is only self trying to earn a place at the Table
    - When no one is worthy of the meal
    - And there's nothing you can do to deserve it
    - You either come to the Table as a sinner in desperate need of Christ... or don't come at all



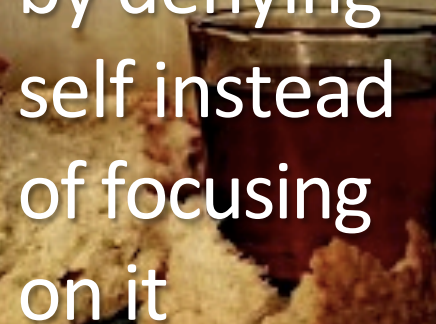
# An Enlightening Conclusion

- You *cannot* give what you *do not* have
  - Unless you *draw* strength from Christ's sacrifice
    - You cannot unconditionally sacrifice anything for anyone
  - It is not enough to *approach* the Table
    - You must come to the altar for the ongoing benefits, Christ our High Priest dispenses there, from His sacrificial death
    - On the last day of Tabernacles, Jesus urged the people to eat His flesh and drink His blood, based on Zech. 14 and Ezek. 47
      - He compared the water drawing ceremony to Himself as a fountain
      - He invited the people to drink rivers of living water from Him (Jn. 7:38)
        - » He is the foundation of a new temple, the fountain of life-giving water



# Are *You* Prepared for the Supper?

*Screw  
your head  
on straight  
about Christ  
by denying  
self instead  
of focusing  
on it*

A photograph of a glass of red wine and bread crumbs on a table, likely representing the Eucharist.

**RE  
MEMBER**  
1 CORINTHIANS 11:23-26



# Let's Eat and Drink with Jesus



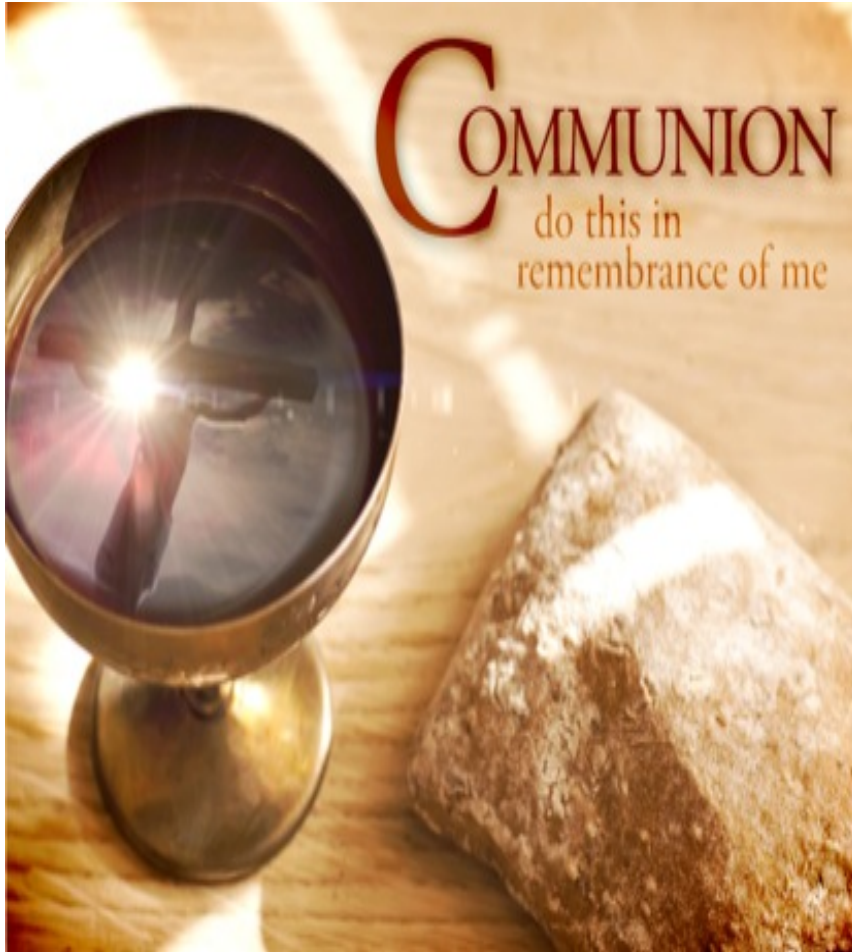
- 1 Cor. 11:23
- For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread

# Let's Eat and Drink with Jesus



- 1 Cor. 11:24
- and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me.”

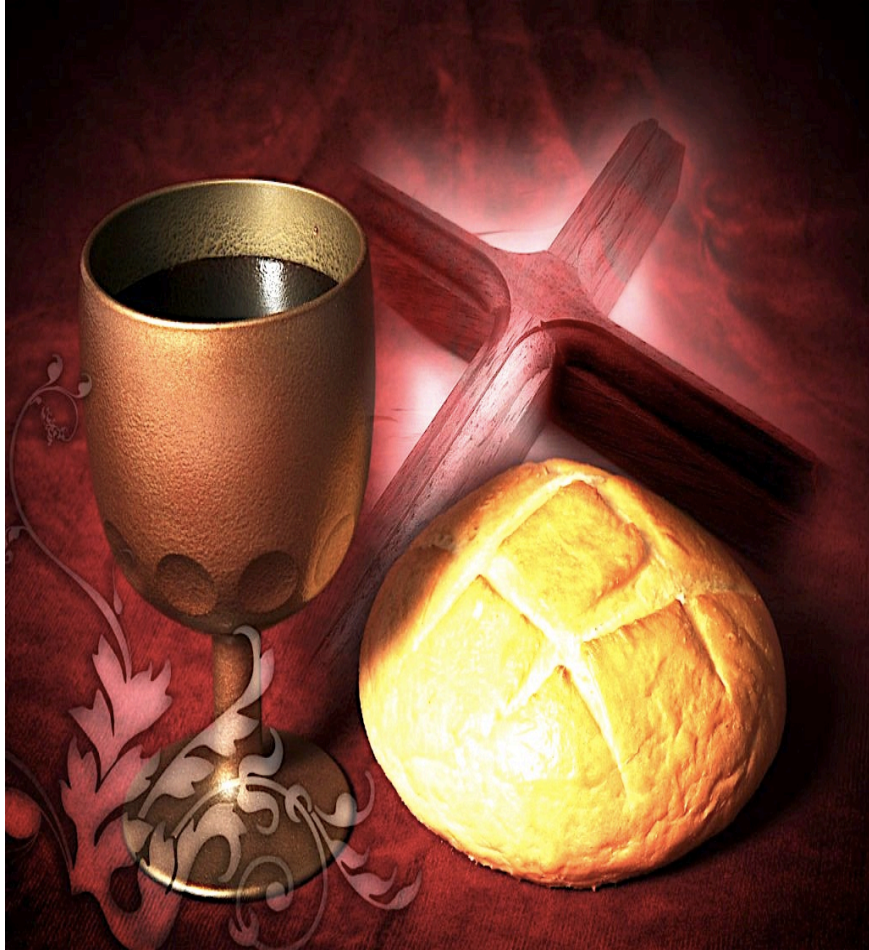
# Let's Eat and Drink with Jesus



- 1 Cor. 11:25
- In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it.”



# Let's Eat and Drink with Jesus



- 1 Cor. 11:26
- For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.