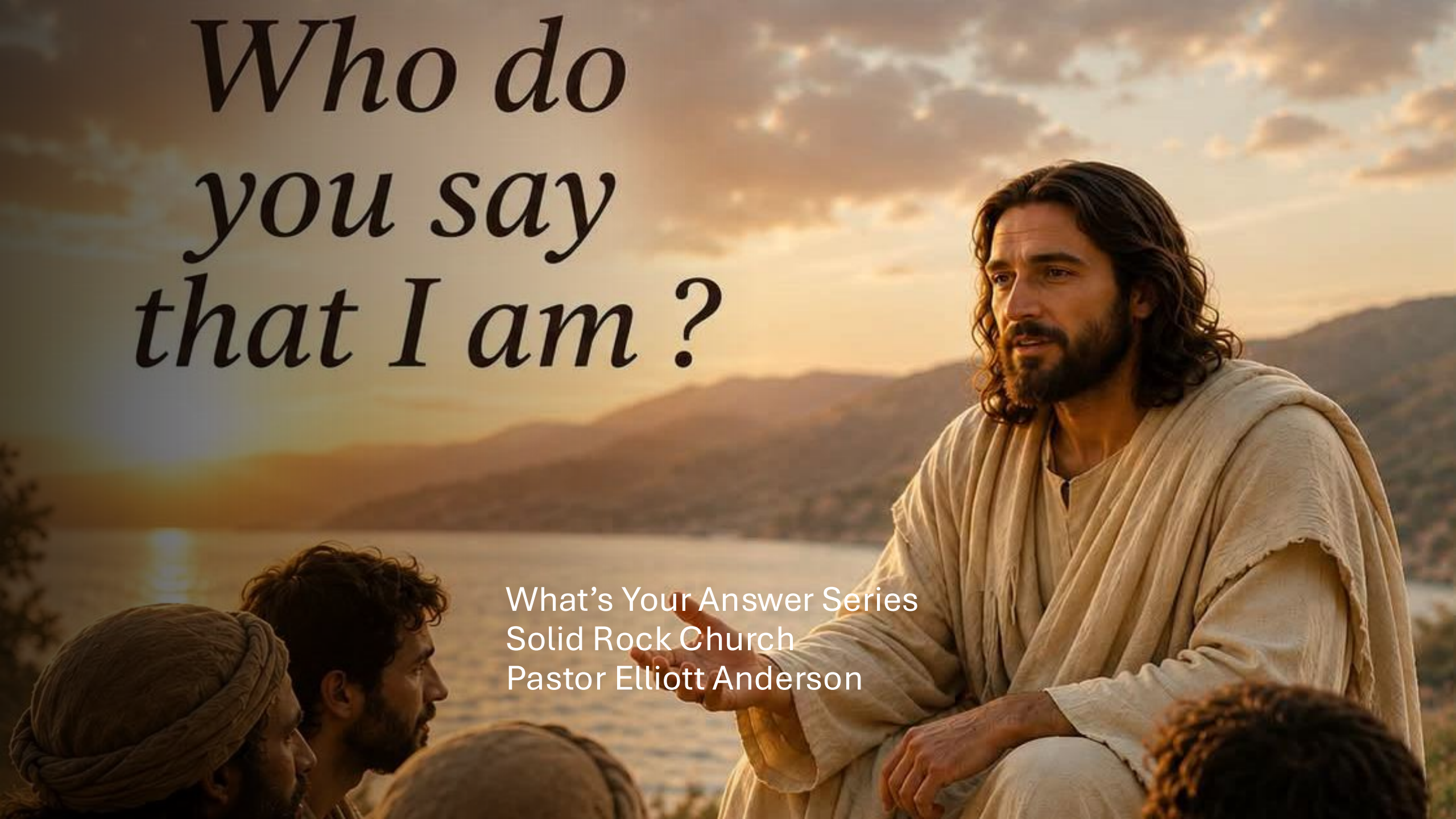


Who do you say that I am ?

What's Your Answer Series
Solid Rock Church
Pastor Elliott Anderson



Jesus to the World

Islam: (2B) Major prophet

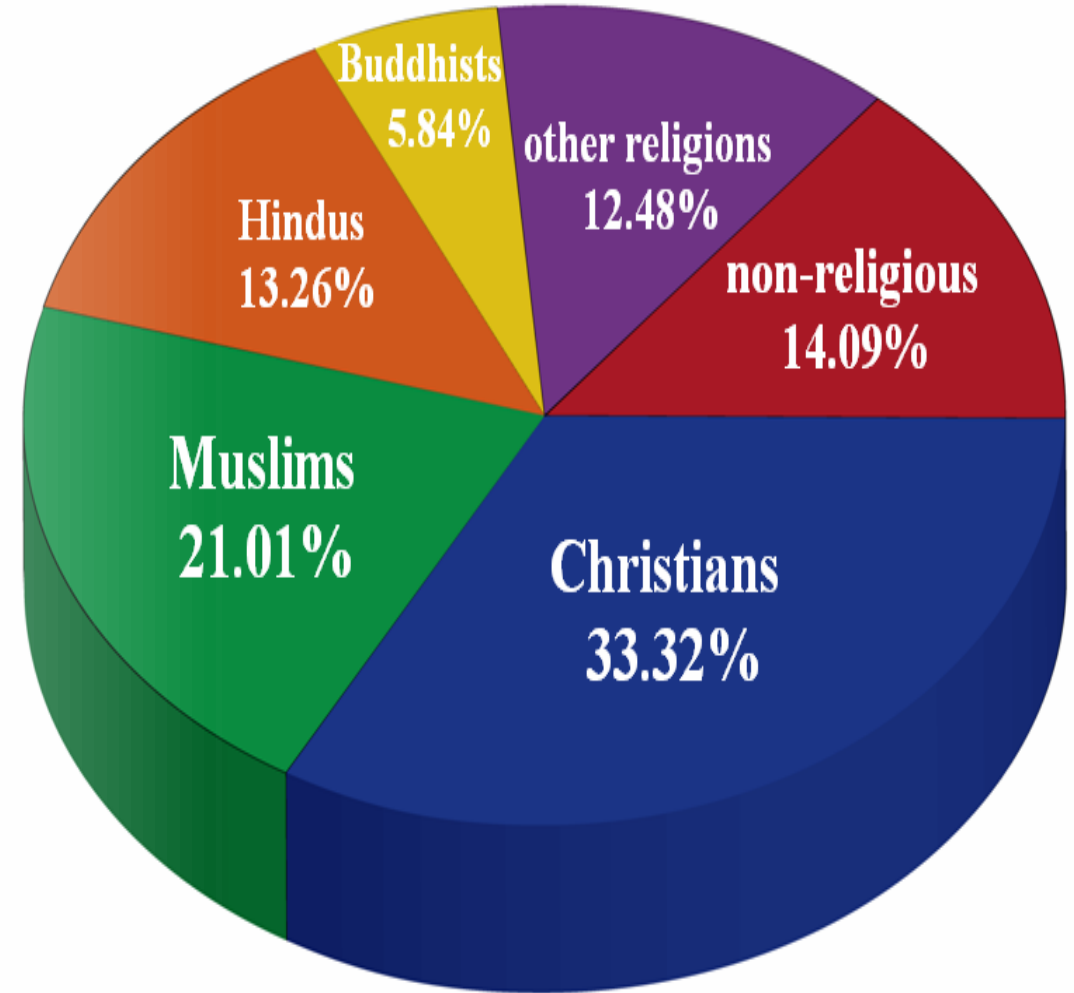
Atheists: (2B) Jewish teacher

Hindus: (1.2B) Holy Teacher

Buddhists: (500M) Wise man

Orthodox Jews: (2M) Prophet

World Religions by percentage



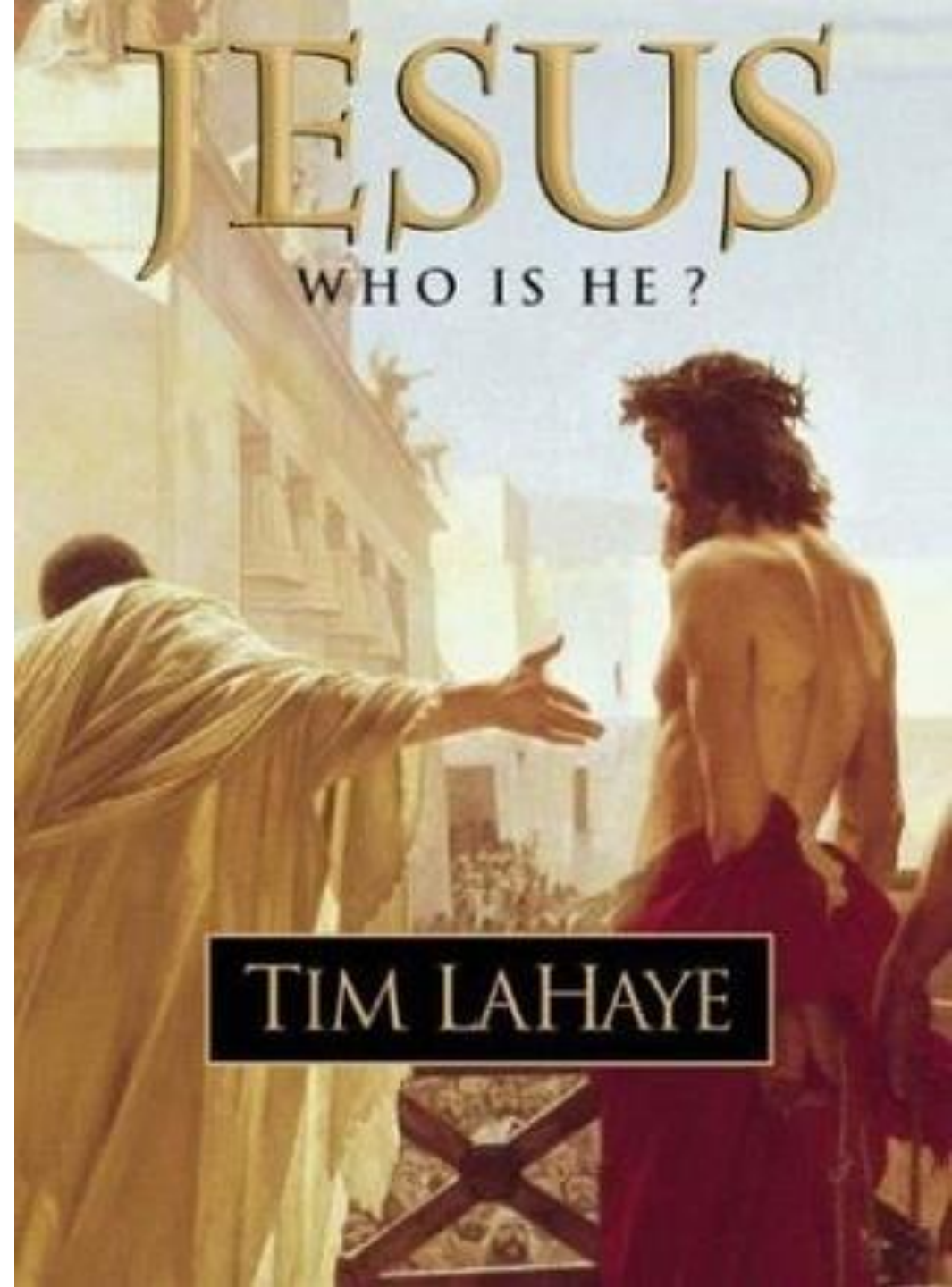
Indirect ?'s of Identity

Luke 5: 21, “Who can forgive sins?”
(Pharisees - paralytic)

Luke 7: 49, “Who is this?”
(Simon's house - people)

Luke 8:25, “Who calms the wind?”
(Disciples - Storm)

Luke 9: 9, “Who do I hear about?”
(King Herod - Curious)



Direct ?'s of Identity

Luke 7:19, (John the Baptist)
“Are you the one who is to come,
or shall we look for another?”

John 8:25, So the Pharisees said
to him, “Who are you?”

Luke 23:3, And Pilate asked him,
“Are you the King of the Jews?”

THE IDENTITY OF JESUS CHRIST

Who do you say that I am? - Matthew 16:15

His NAMES and TITLES



Strengthening the Case



Jesus Told Us Who He Is!

80X Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man

Luke 8:12, “...*the Son of Man will also acknowledge...*”

7 “I am” statements from John’s Gospel

John 6: 35, “...*the bread of life.*” **8: 12**, “...*light of the world.*”

3 Direct Claims to Deity and Son of God status

John 10:30, “*I and the Father are one.*”



180+ Questions for Jesus

Mark 10: 17, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?”

Luke 10: 29, “Who is my neighbor?”

300+ Questions from Jesus!

9 Questions in Mark 8 alone!

Do you still not see?

Do you still not hear?

Why are hearts hardened?

Do you not understand?

Who do you say I am?





MARK

8

Parallel Synoptic Gospel Accounts

Matthew 16 and Luke 9

Matt + Mark after feeding 4,000

Luke after feeding the 5,000

More questions in 2nd half

Mark 8: 22 - 23

And they came to Bethsaida and some people brought to Jesus a blind man and begged Him *to touch him*. And Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when Jesus had **spit on his eyes** and laid His hands on him, He asked him, “*Do you see anything?*”



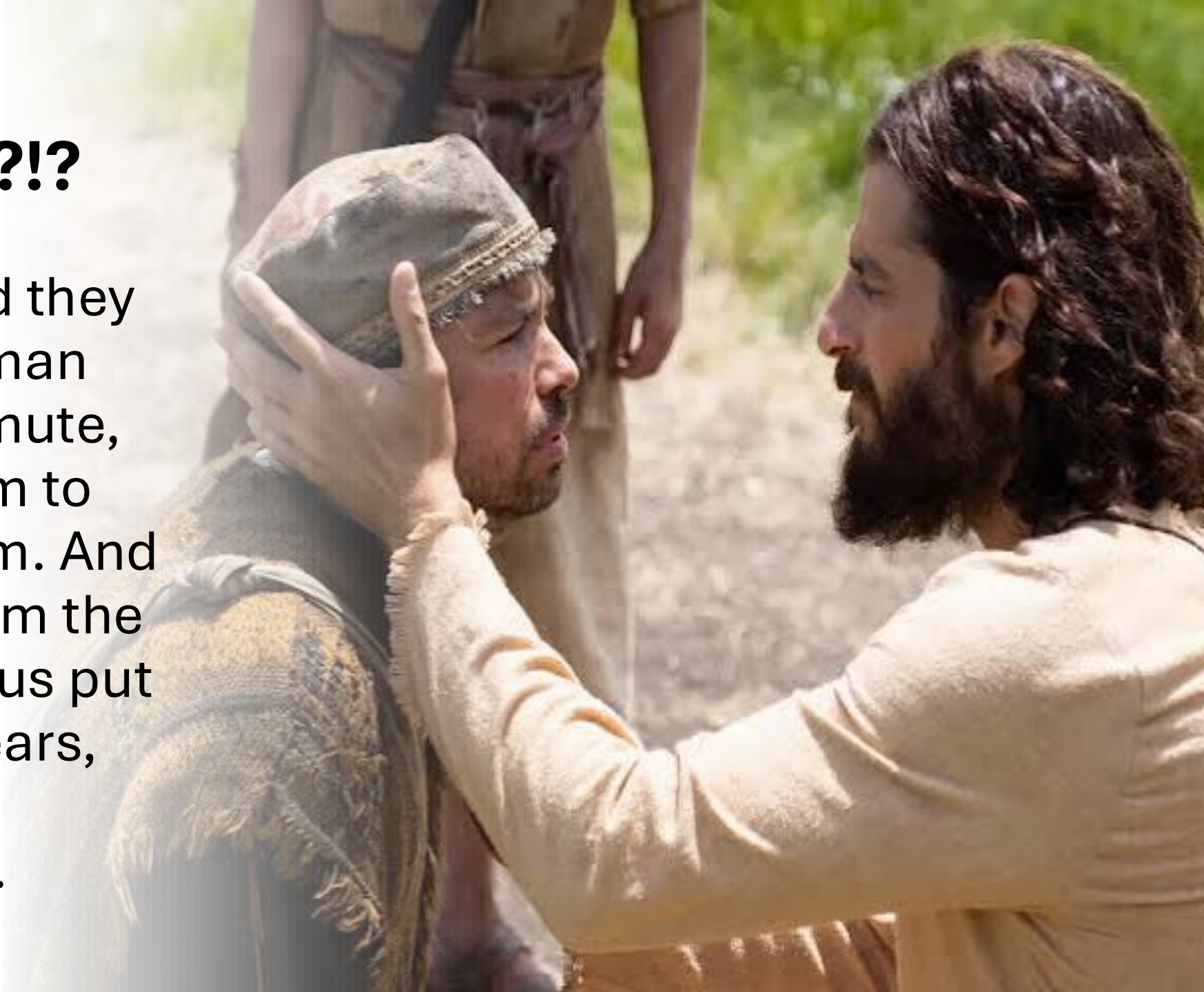
Spit on him?!?

In Greco-Roman and Jewish worlds, people believed saliva possessed medicinal properties—especially for failing eyesight or blindness.



Book-end Spit Miracles?!?

Mark 7: 32 - 33, And they brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and mute, and they begged him to *lay His hands* on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, Jesus put his fingers into his ears, and **after spitting** touched his tongue.





Both Miracles Refer to Ch 8 ?'s to Disciples

Mark 8: 18, Having eyes
do you not see?

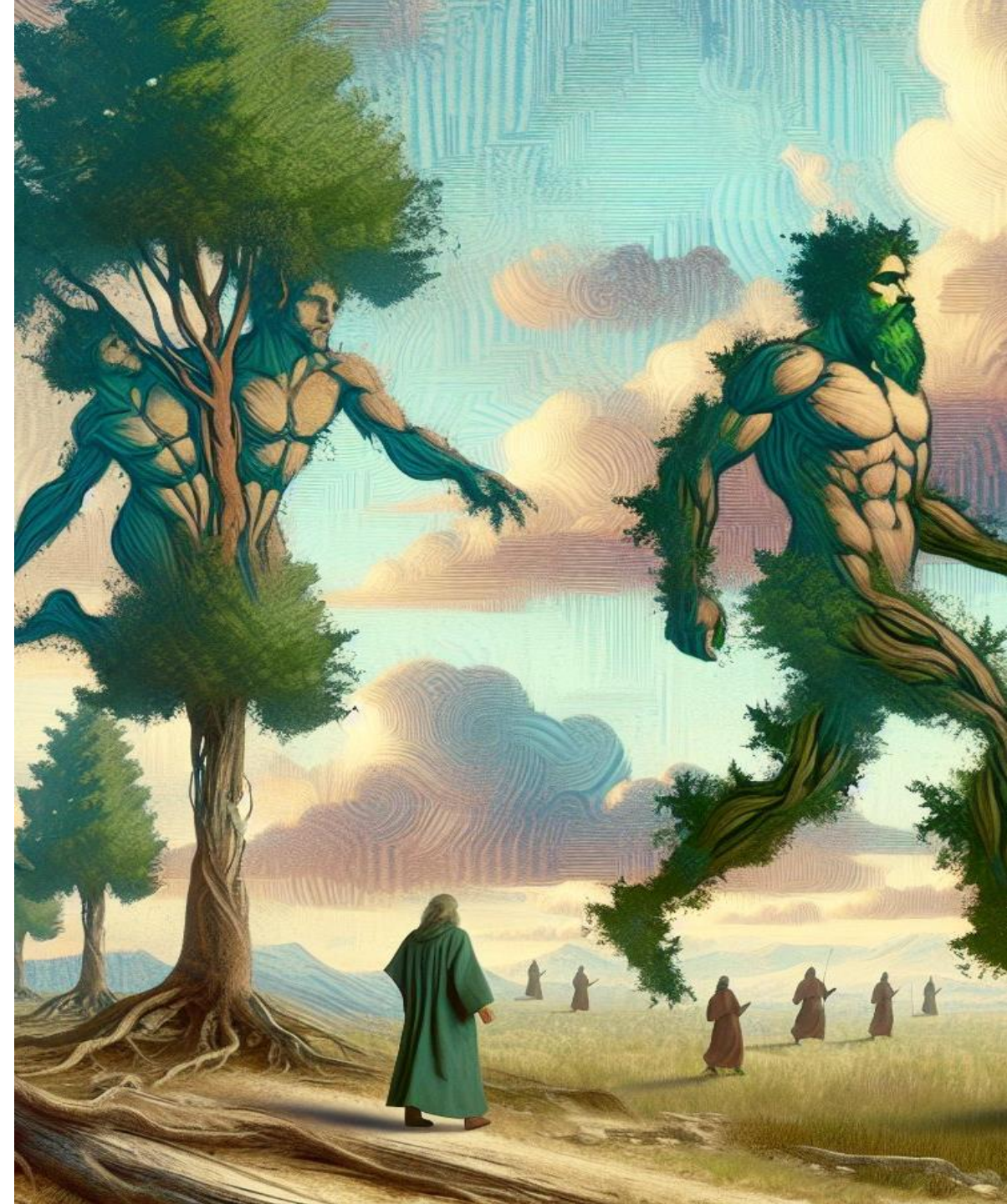
miracle in Bethsaida

Having ears do you not
hear?

miracle in Decapolis

Mark 8: 24 - 25

And the man looked up and said, “*I see people, but they look like trees, walking.*” Then Jesus laid His hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.



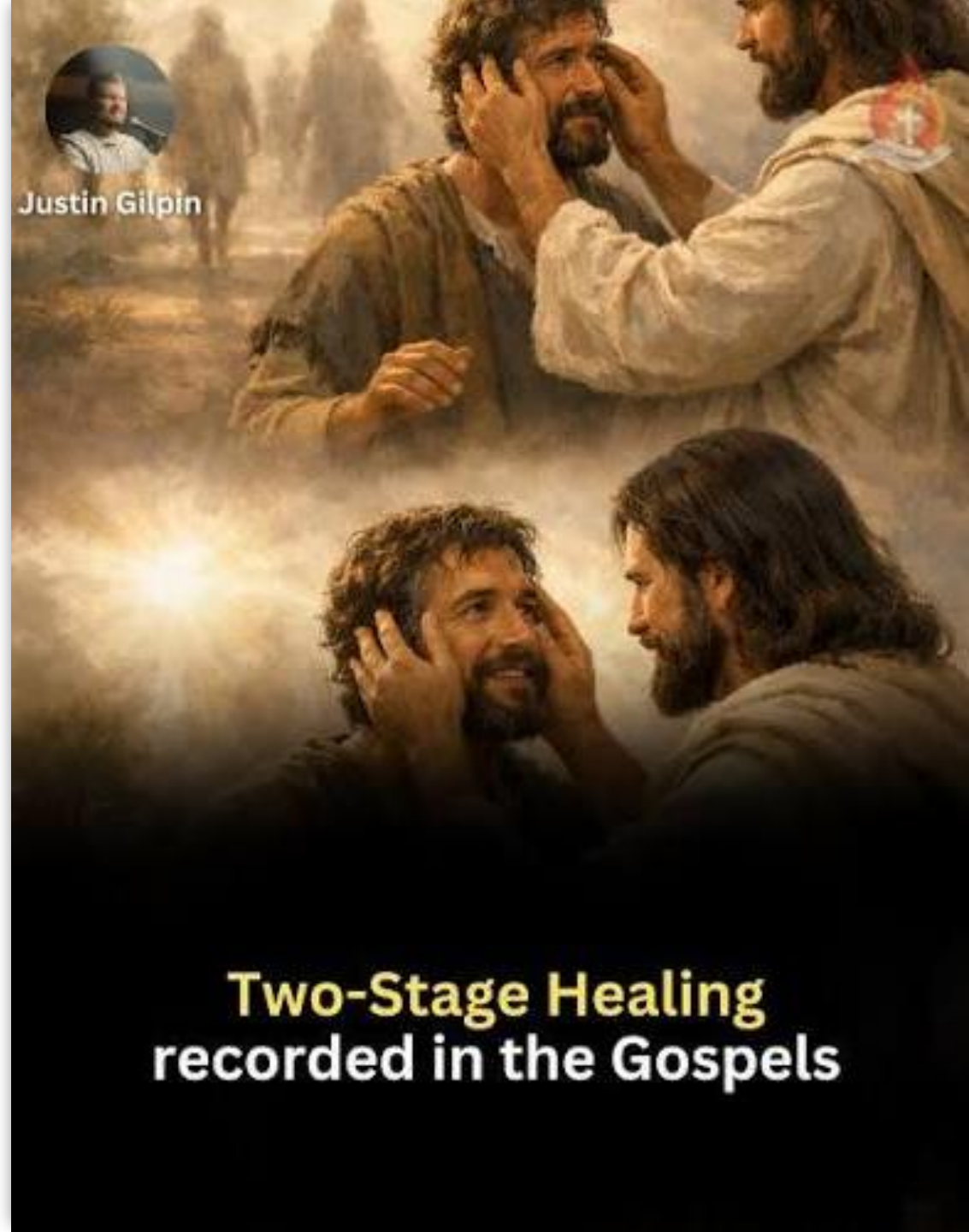
Only Jesus Miracle in 2 Stages

Sight... and Vision

Our Faith... and Divine Power

Salvation... and Sanctification

Life on Earth....Life in Heaven



Two-Stage Healing
recorded in the Gospels

On the Move Again

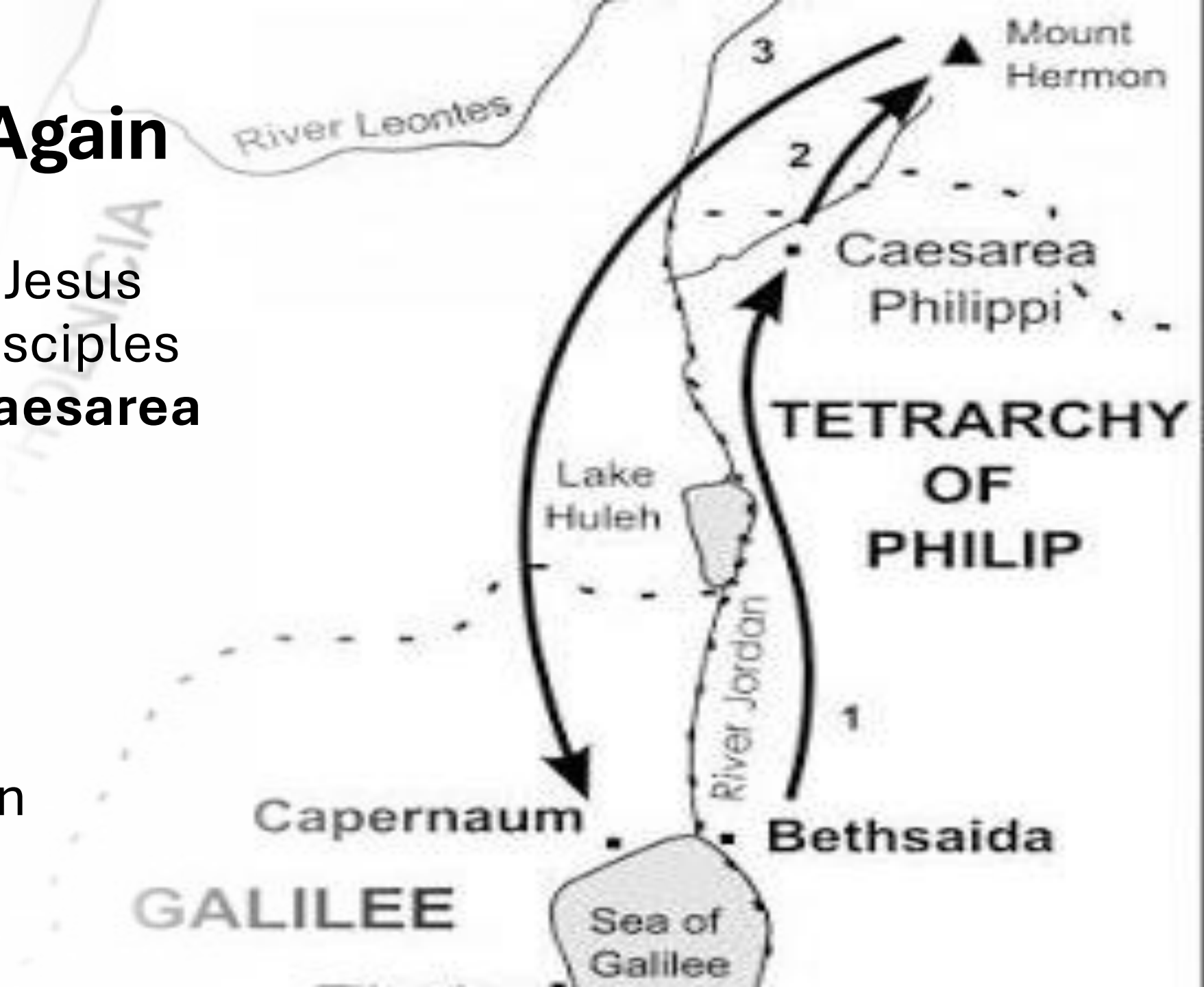
Mark 8: 27(a), And Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of **Caesarea Philippi**.

25 - 30 miles north

10 – 12 hour walk

Base of Mt. Hermon

9,232 ft.



The Sanctuary of Pan

Caesarea Phillipi

“Paneas,” named after Greek god Pan (god of the wild, shepherds/flocks). Paneas was filled with shrines, temples, and idol worship, and featured a deep cave spring that pagans viewed as the “Gates of Hades.”

Identity Question on the Way to Paneas

Mark 8: 27 (b), And
on the way Jesus
asked his disciples,
*“Who do people say
that I am?”*





John the Baptist

Elijah

Jeremiah

**He's one of
the prophets!**

So they said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Matthew 16:14

Jesus: the Super Prophet

Why not Moses or David?

John the Baptist: powerful teacher, caller to repentance, nomad preacher, eccentric and odd.

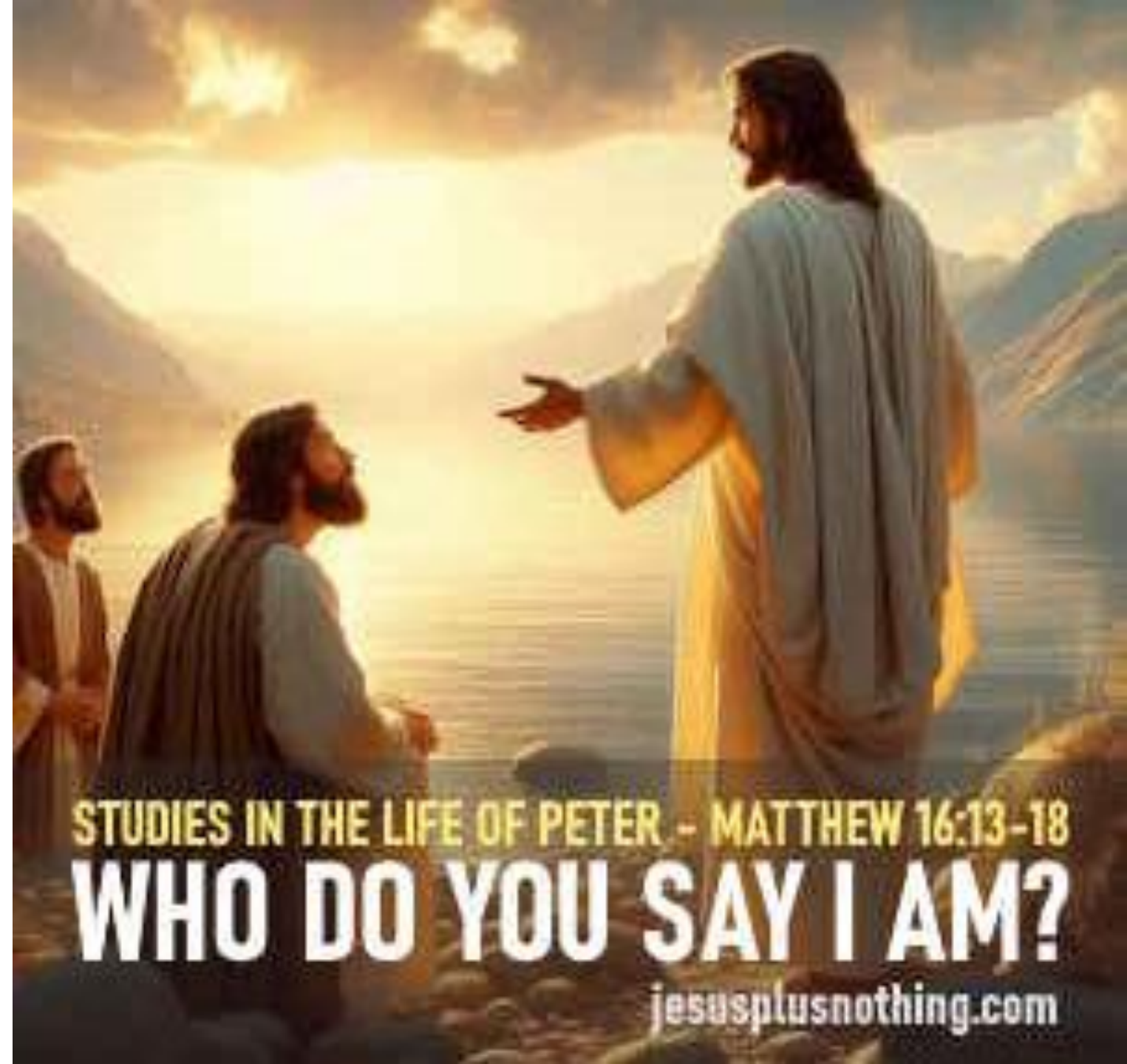
Elijah: fiery, authoritative, miracle worker, outcast.

Malachi 4:5, “Spirit of *Elijah* would return before the great and terrible day of the Lord.”

Jeremiah: weeping prophet, suffering servant, warning Jewish leaders all the time, ostracized.

Most Important Question in History

Mark 8: 29 - 30, And
Jesus asked them,
**“But who do YOU
say that I am?”**



STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF PETER - MATTHEW 16:13-18
WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?
jesusplusnothing.com



Greatest Answer in History

Matthew 16: 16, Simon Peter replied, “*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, **Simon Bar-Jonah!** For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.”

Bar-Jonah is Aramaic
for “son of Jonah”

Matching Peter’s
“flesh and blood,”
family of origin
identity -- with his
new Divine Identity.

From Simon to Peter
in John 1:42





**Peter: *Petra(os)*,
Cephas = Rock**

Matthew 16: 18,
And I tell you, you
are **Peter**, and on
this **rock**, I will build
my church, and the
gates of hell shall
not prevail against
it.

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

An aerial photograph of the archaeological site of Caesarea Philippi. The site is built into a steep, rocky hillside. A prominent feature is a large, classical-style temple with a pediment and columns. To the left of the temple, a cave entrance is circled in red. The surrounding landscape is rugged and rocky, with some sparse vegetation.

GATES OF HELL VS THE CHURCH

Hills and Valleys

Seasons of tremendous joys and earth-shattering lows, often at same time!

Isaiah 40:4, Every valley shall be raised up, and every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

Mark 9: 2 – 9, Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor - then valley of Jezreel (God sows)



A cinematic-style photograph of Jesus standing on a hill, gesturing with his hands as he speaks to a group of his twelve apostles who are seated or kneeling around him. The background shows a vast landscape with a city, likely Jerusalem, visible in the distance under a warm, golden light, suggesting sunrise or sunset.

1st Disclosure of Death / Resurrection

Matthew 16: 21, From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

Peter's 1st Leadership Declaration

Matthew 16: 22,
And Peter took
Jesus aside and
began to rebuke
him, saying, “Far be
it from you, Lord!
This shall never
happen to you.”





REBUKE

Rebuke in the Greek

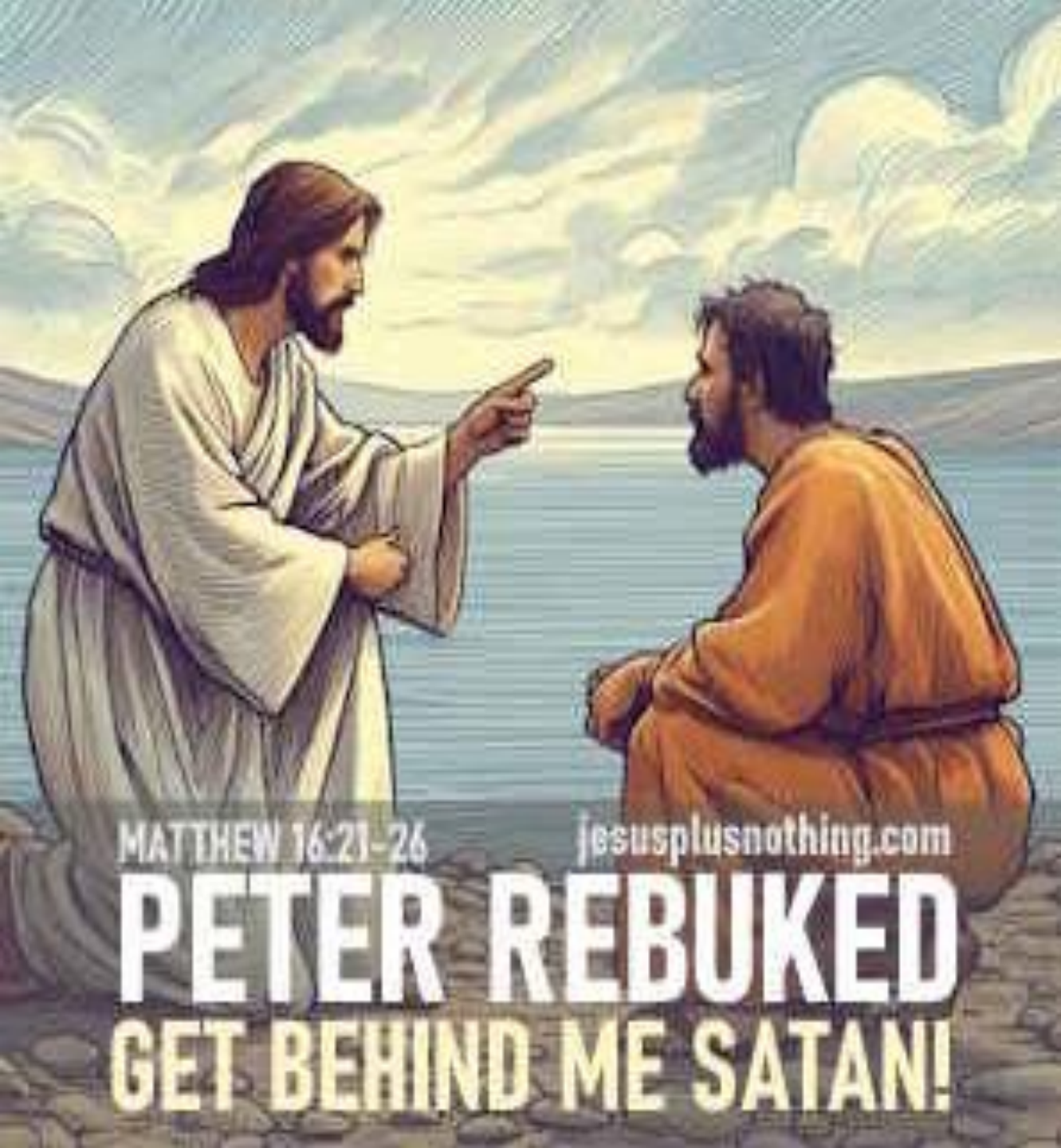
Epitimao = censure,
admonish, strictly charge

Tochacha = communal
responsibility to correct
and restore a brother

Jesus Rebukes Peter

Matthew 16: 23, But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”





Get Behind Me

Jesus didn't call Peter demonic
Jesus identified the source of
Peter's thoughts and words

"Get behind me" – tells Satan to
leave the moment.

"Get behind me" – tells Peter to
return to his follower position.



*Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross, and follow me*

Take Up Your Cross

Matthew 16, 24, Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

The Cross in Roman Culture: an instrument of painful suffering; a tool for excruciating humiliation and death.

“To completely surrender your own selfish will, personal ambitions, and desires to follow Jesus Christ, no matter the cost.”

What does it mean
to
**Take up your
cross daily?**



Mandatory Cross Requirements

Mark 1: 15, “Repent and believe the good news.”

Luke 6:46, “Don’t call me Lord, and not do what I tell you?”

Luke 14:27, “Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.”

John 14:15, “If you love me, keep my commandments.”



Follow Me

If you answer, “Jesus is Lord and Savior”

1. Align your life around His words, ways, and will
2. Deny your selfish sinful nature daily
3. Follow Jesus even when the world questions