




Welcome to Worship

Sanford church of Christ

A black and white photograph showing the silhouette of a person kneeling in prayer. The person's hands are clasped together in front of their face, and their head is bowed. The background is a bright, cloudy sky. The overall mood is contemplative and spiritual.

How do I live a life
pleasing to God?



A silhouette of a person with their hands clasped in prayer, set against a bright sunset or sunrise sky. The person's head is bowed, and their hands are joined in front of them. The background is a gradient of light blue and yellow, with the sun visible as a bright, glowing orb behind the person's hands.

Retaliate, or Bless? How to Respond to Persecution

unto wrath: for
Vengeance is mi
day, saith the Lo
erefore if thine e
God bless: Amen

Romans 12:17-19 (NASB) (“...when you are persecuted.”)

¹⁷ Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

¹⁹ Never take your own revenge, beloved, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,” says the Lord.



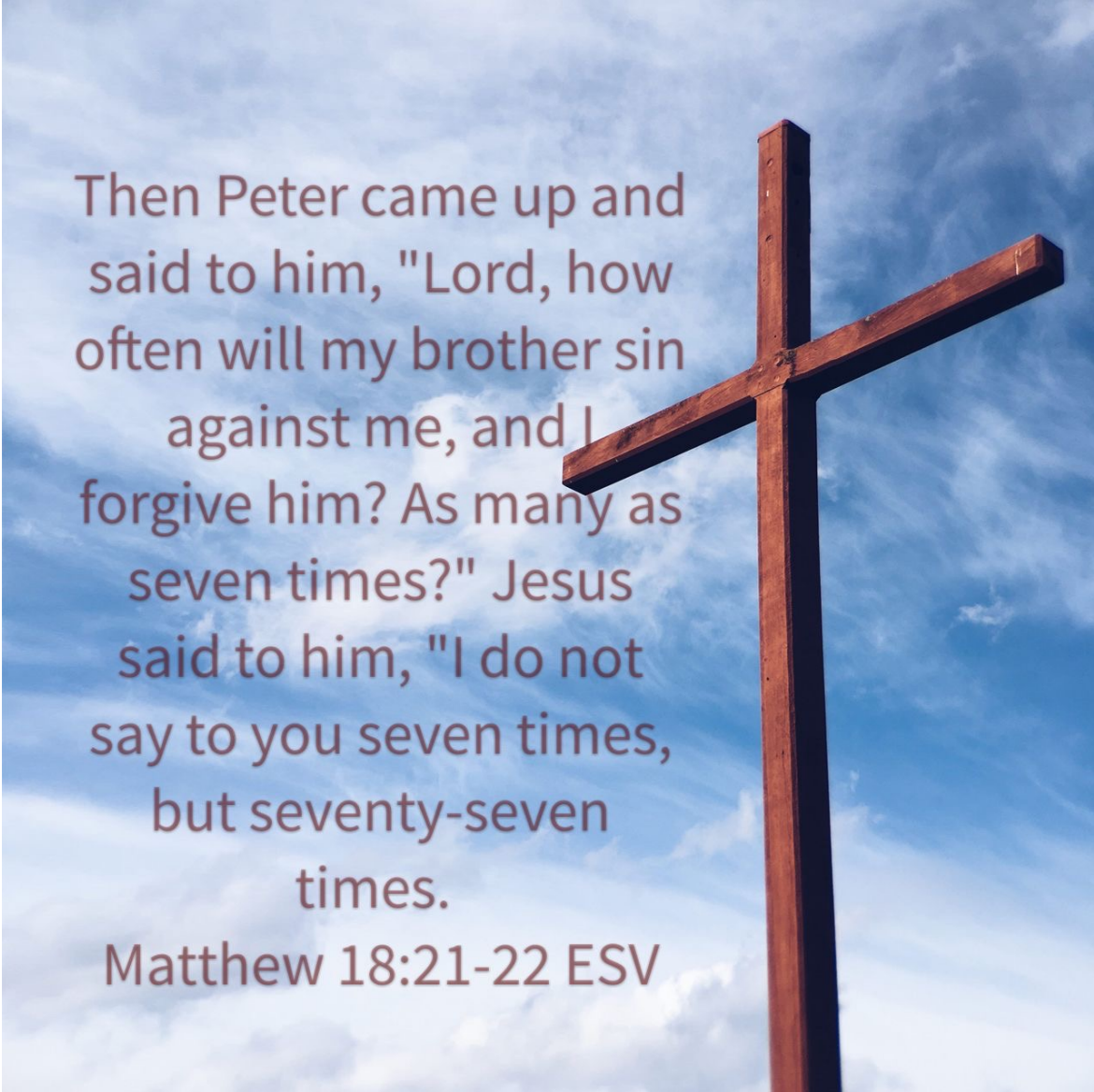
RETALIATION

Matthew 5:38-42



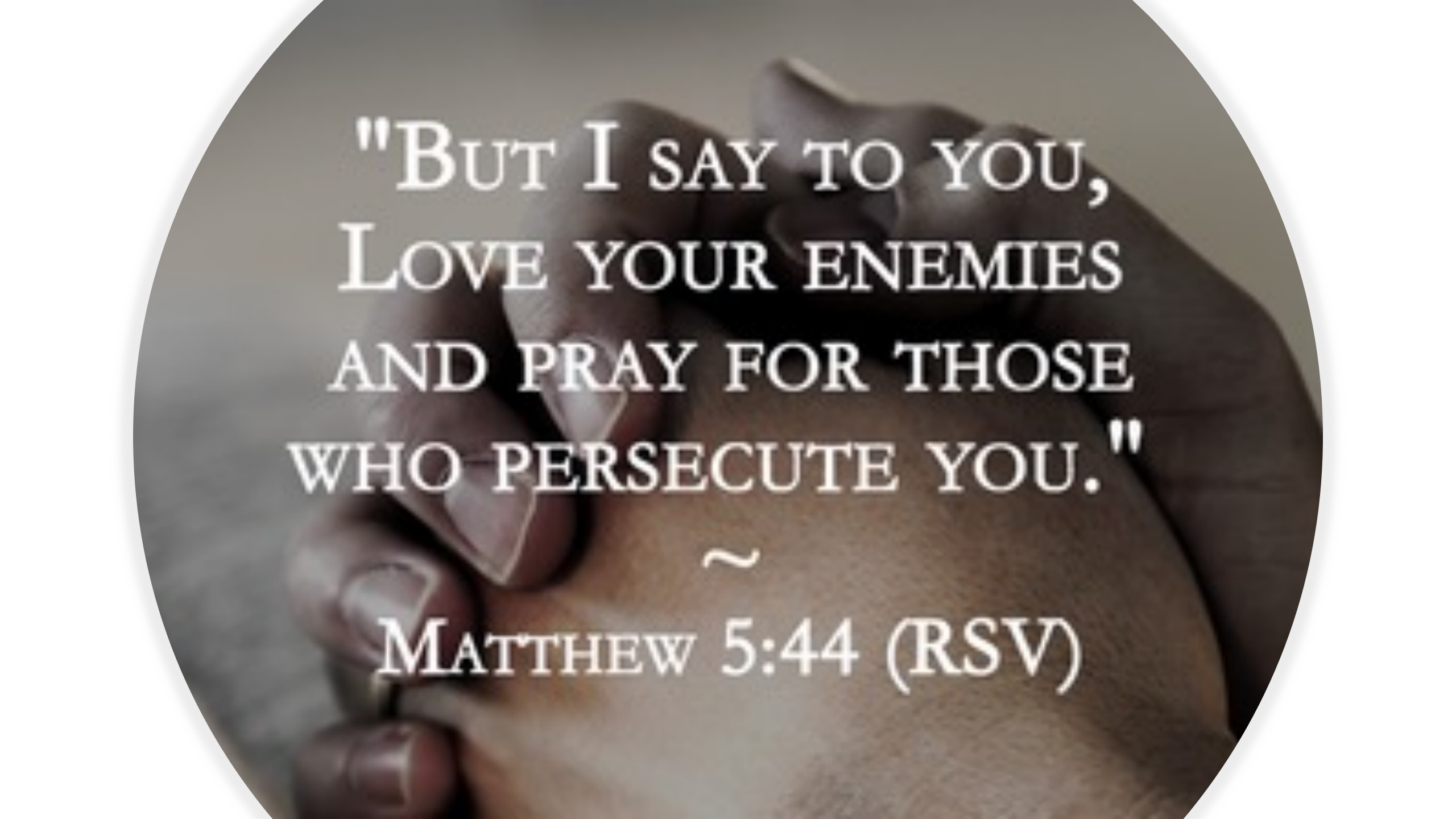
Before you seek
out vengeance,
remember from
where you have
fallen!



A wooden cross stands against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of two weathered wooden beams, one vertical and one horizontal, intersecting at the center. The background is a clear, vibrant blue sky with soft, wispy white clouds. The cross is positioned on the right side of the frame, with its vertical beam extending from the bottom towards the top, and its horizontal beam extending from the center towards the right.

Then Peter came up and
said to him, "Lord, how
often will my brother sin
against me, and I
forgive him? As many as
seven times?" Jesus
said to him, "I do not
say to you seven times,
but seventy-seven
times.

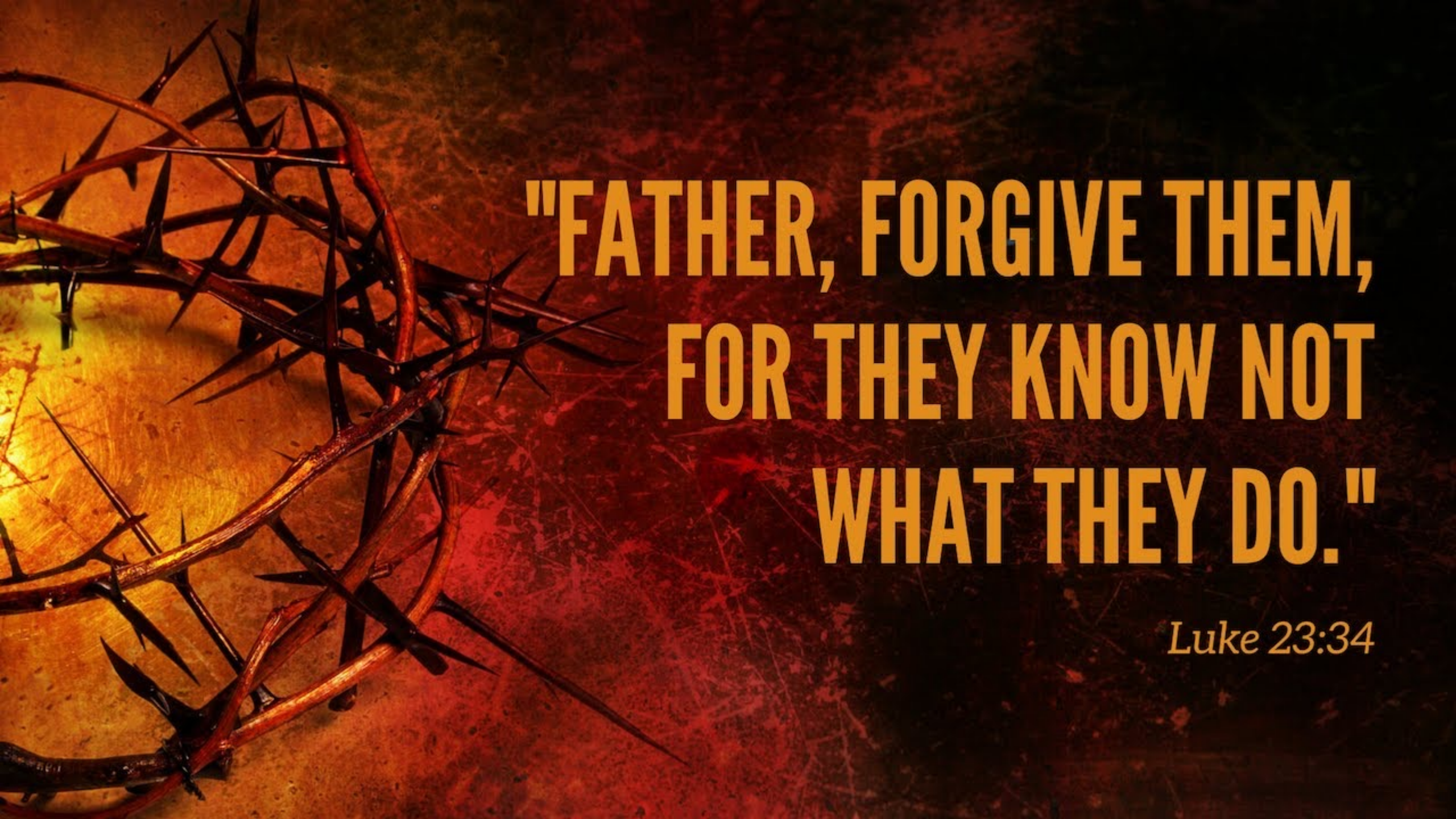
Matthew 18:21-22 ESV



"BUT I SAY TO YOU,
LOVE YOUR ENEMIES
AND PRAY FOR THOSE
WHO PERSECUTE YOU."

~

MATTHEW 5:44 (RSV)

A crown of thorns, made of dark, sharp, and tangled branches, is positioned on the left side of the image. The background is a dark, textured surface with a gradient of colors from deep red to black, suggesting a rough or stone-like material. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright yellow light source on the left, casting a glow on the thorns and creating a strong contrast with the dark background.

**"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM,
FOR THEY KNOW NOT
WHAT THEY DO."**

Luke 23:34

1 Corinthians 15:9-10

“For I am the least of the apostles, who am not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me did not prove vain; but I labored even more than all of them, yet not I, but the grace of God with me.”

BUT YOU ARE A CHOSEN PEOPLE, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD,
A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE BELONGING TO GOD, THAT YOU
MAY DECLARE THE PRAISES OF HIM WHO CALLED YOU
OUT OF DARKNESS INTO HIS WONDERFUL LIGHT. ONCE
YOU WERE NOT A PEOPLE, BUT NOW YOU ARE THE PEOPLE
OF GOD; ONCE YOU HAD NOT RECEIVED MERCY, BUT NOW
YOU HAVE RECEIVED MERCY.



1 PETER 2:9-10

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.

1 Peter 2:11-12 ESV

Colossians 3:12-13 ESV

**¹² Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
¹³bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.**



Do not be overcome by
evil, but overcome evil

with good

Romans 12:21 ESV

Are you
living in the
grace of
God?

Therefore we were buried with Him
by baptism into death, in order that,
just as Christ was **raised** from the
dead by the **glory** of the Father, so we
too may walk in a **new way of life.**

ROMANS 6:4

