

A scenic landscape at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm golden glow across the sky and the landscape. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds. In the foreground, there are dark, silhouetted rocks and some green foliage. The middle ground shows rolling green hills and a winding river or lake. The background consists of distant, hazy mountain ranges.

Welcome — TO — WORSHIP

Matthew 23



The Seven Woes to the Pharisees and Scribes



1



They shut up the Kingdom.

2



They corrupted new converts.

3



They were blind guides in taking oaths.

4



They neglected the weightier matters of the Law.

5



They were too concerned about the outward appearance.

6

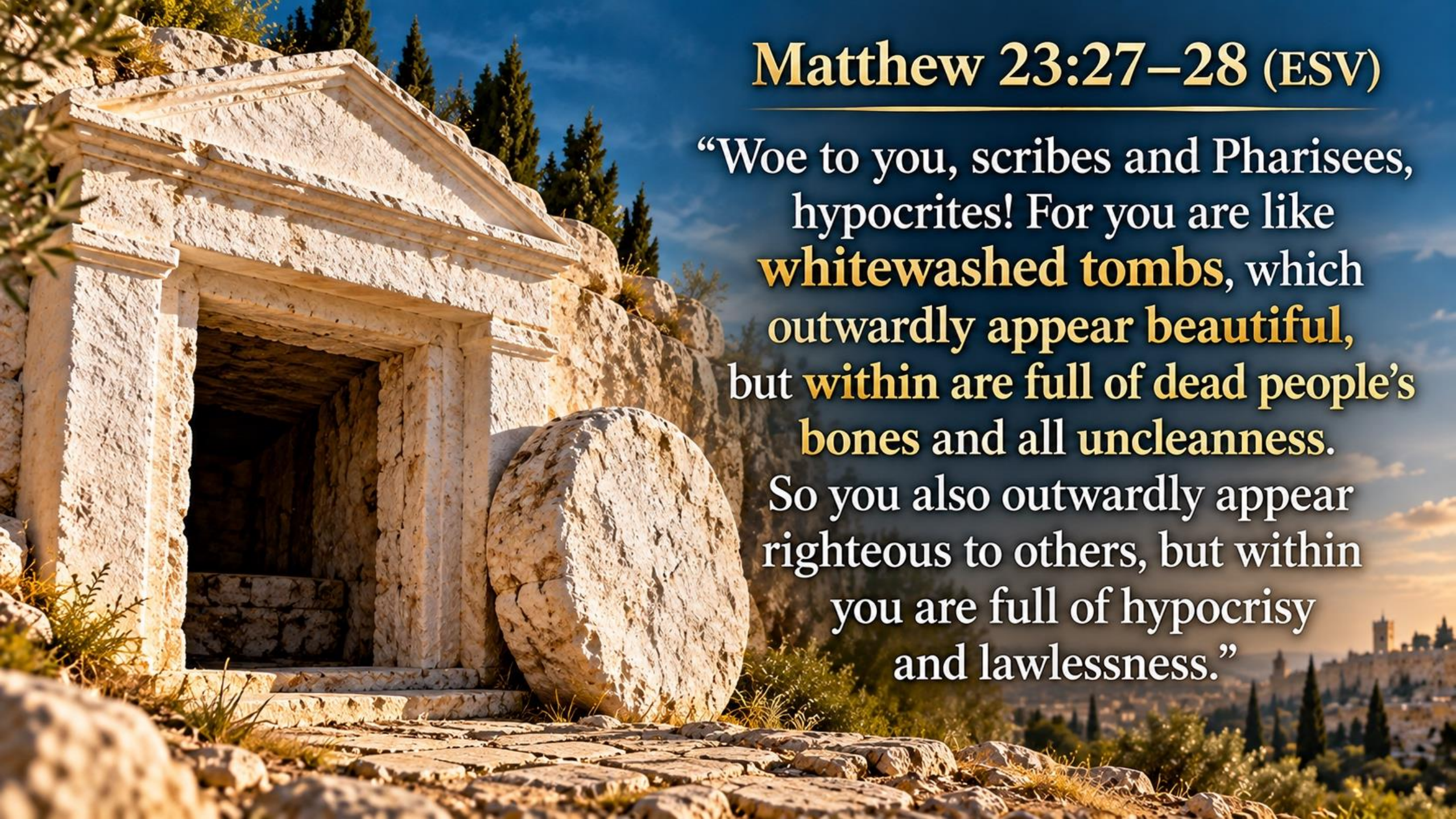


They were whitewashed tombs.

7



They rejected and killed the prophets of God.

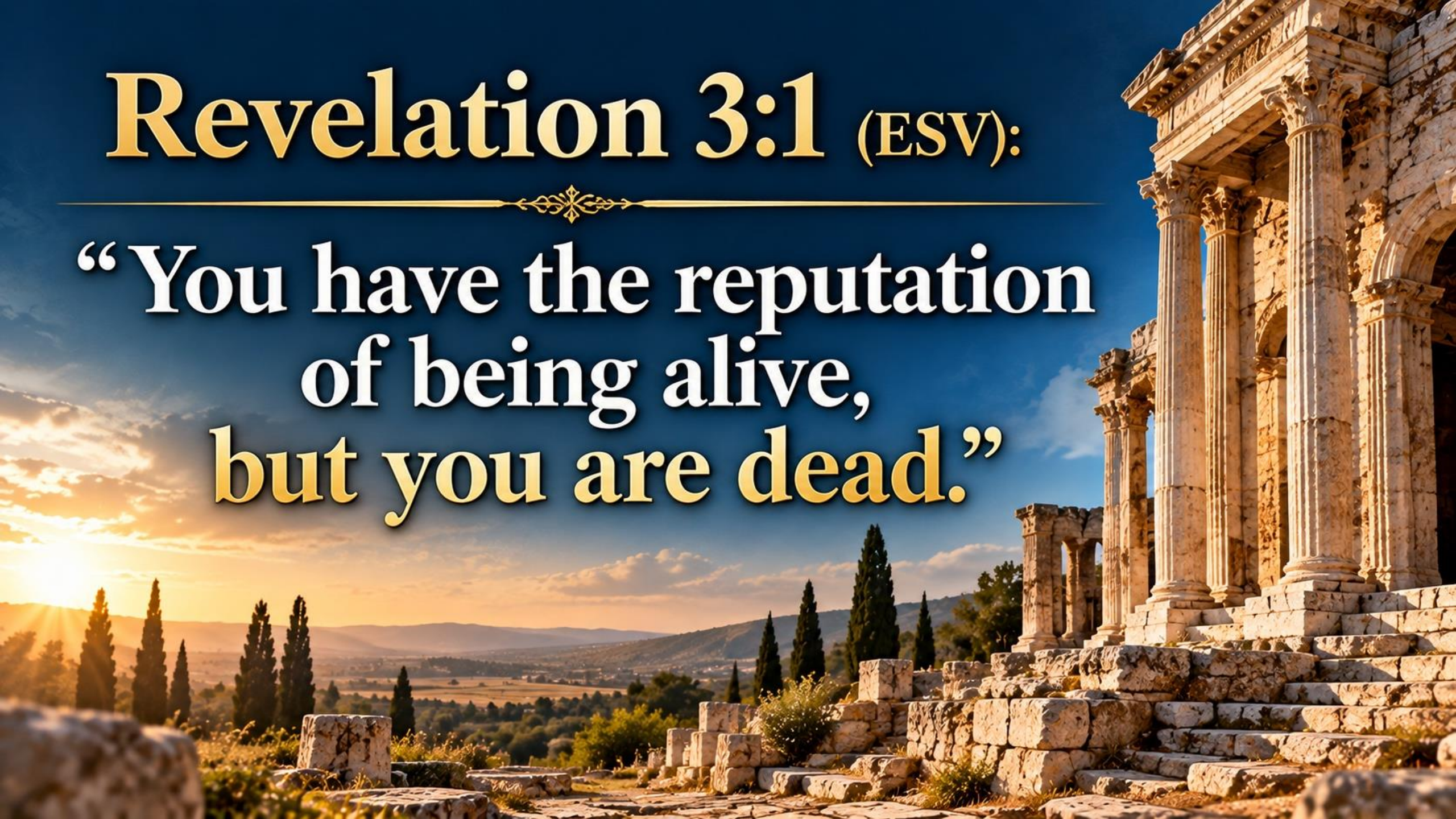


Matthew 23:27–28 (ESV)

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like **whitewashed tombs**, which outwardly appear **beautiful**, but **within** are full of dead people’s **bones** and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.”

Revelation 3:1 (ESV):

“You have the reputation
of being alive,
but you are dead.”



The image features a stone tomb on the left, with a large, circular stone rolled away from its entrance. The tomb is built from light-colored stone blocks and has a simple triangular pediment. In the background, a city with several towers and domes is visible under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. Tall, thin trees are scattered throughout the landscape.

How do we avoid
becoming
whitewashed tombs?





**We must engage
our minds!**

Romans 12:2

**We must engage
our hearts!**



A photograph of two people holding hands on a rocky cliff. The person on the right is wearing a white tunic and a patterned shawl. The person on the left has long, curly hair and is wearing a brown tunic. They are holding hands, with the person on the right pulling the person on the left up. The background shows a city with a church spire and a sunset sky with orange and blue hues.

We must engage our hands!

James 2:17



**We must engage
our feet!**

Romans 10:15

The background image shows a stone tomb on a hillside. A large, round stone is rolled away from the entrance. In the distance, a city with a castle-like wall is visible under a sunset sky. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Are you a whitewashed tomb?

Are you merely maintaining
the **appearance** of Christianity,
or are you **truly living** for
Jesus Christ?