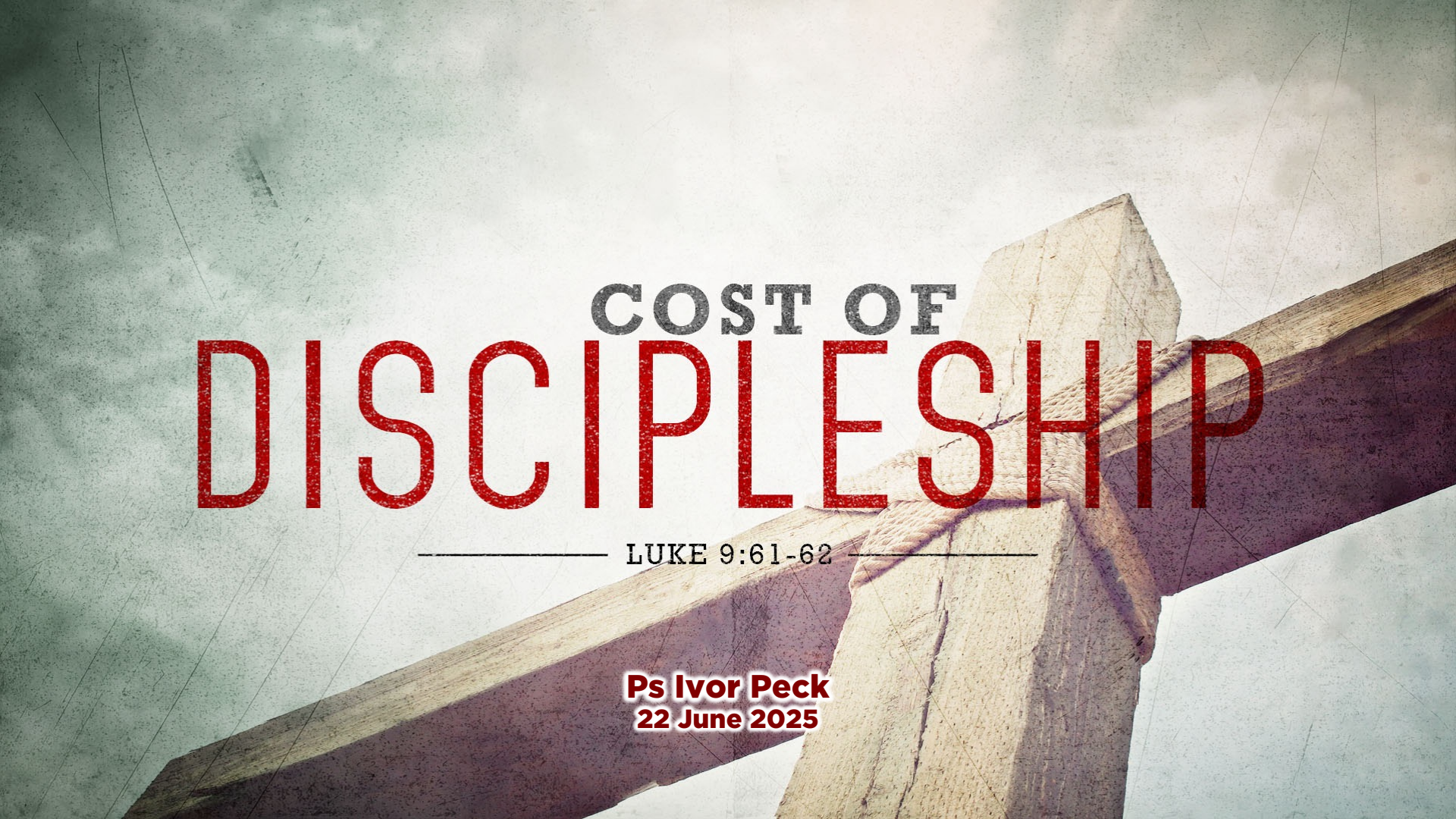


A wooden cross is the central visual element, constructed from two thick, weathered wooden beams. The cross is set against a background of a cloudy sky, with the clouds appearing in shades of grey and white. The lighting is soft, creating a somber and reflective atmosphere. The cross itself is slightly off-center, with the vertical beam extending from the bottom towards the top of the frame, and the horizontal beam crossing it at about two-thirds of the way up.

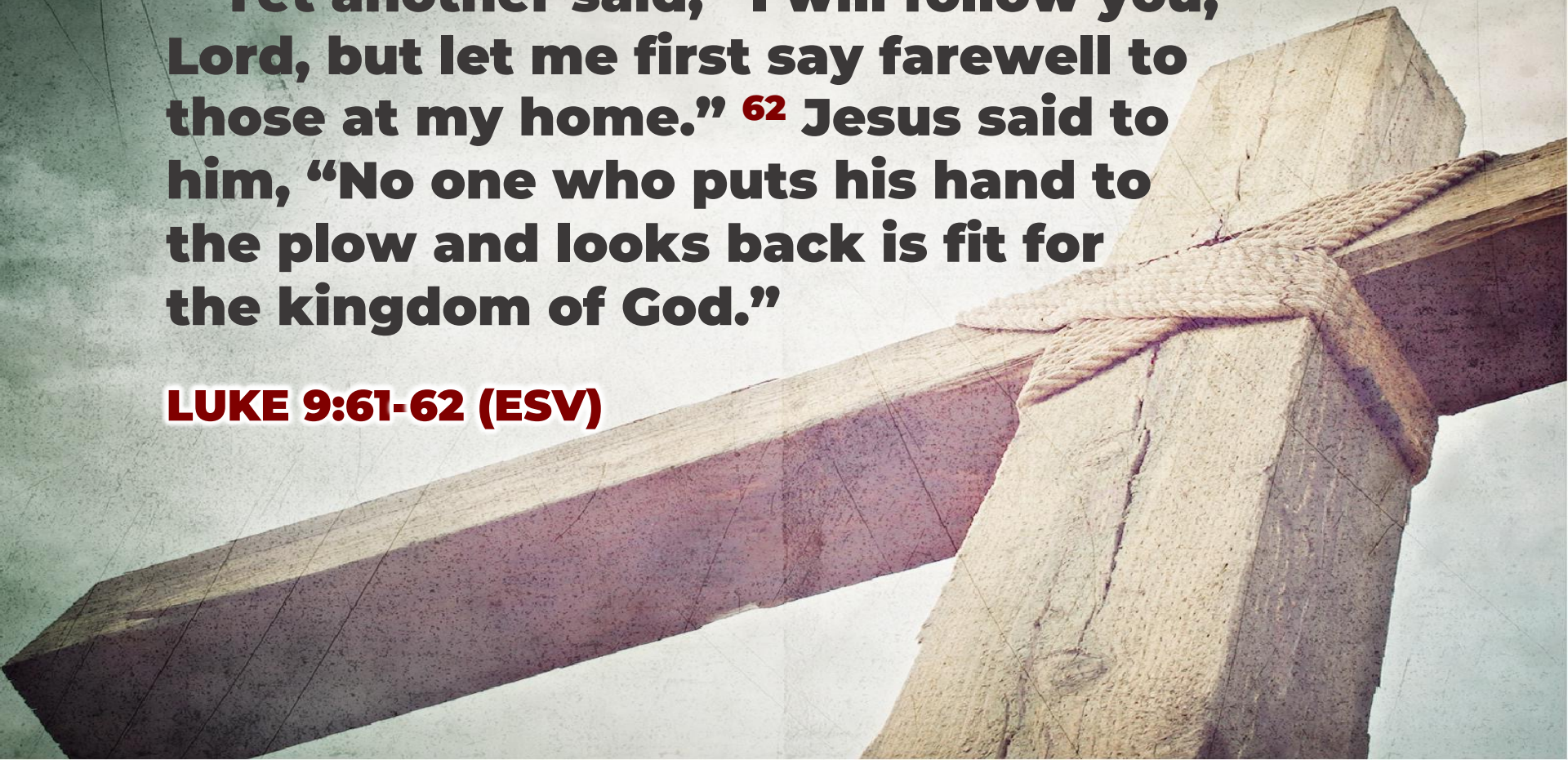
COST OF **DISCIPLESHIP**

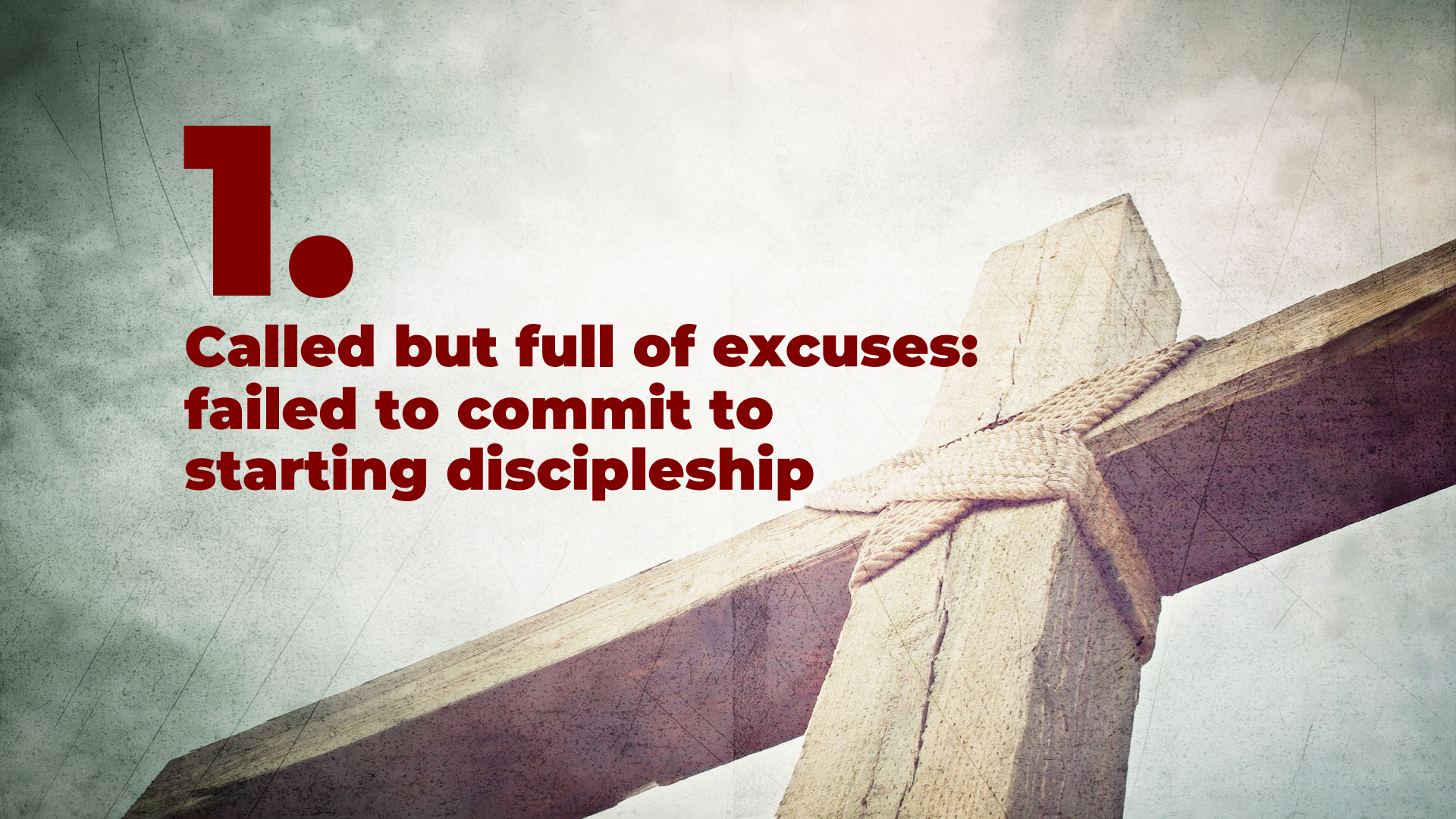
— LUKE 9:61-62 —

Ps Ivor Peck
22 June 2025

61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

LUKE 9:61-62 (ESV)



A low-angle shot of a weathered wooden cross against a cloudy sky. The cross is made of two thick, light-colored wooden beams. A thick, light-colored rope is tied around the intersection of the beams. The sky is a mix of light and dark clouds, with some rays of light breaking through. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

1.

**Called but full of excuses:
failed to commit to
starting discipleship**

A low-angle shot of a weathered wooden cross against a cloudy sky. A thick, light-colored rope is tied in a knot around the intersection of the cross's beams. The image has a textured, slightly grainy appearance with some faint scratches or lines across it.

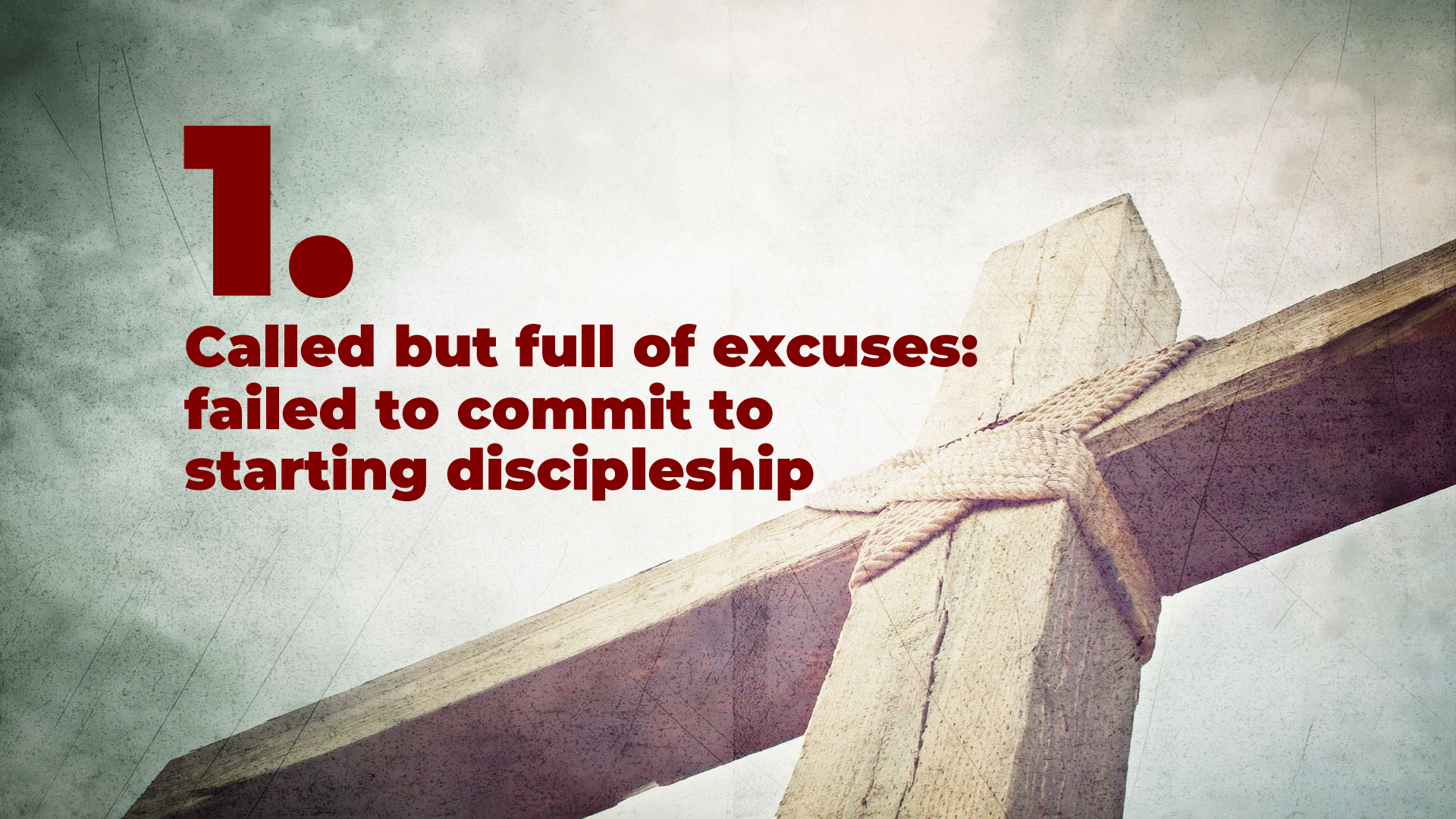
2.

**Called but kept looking back:
falter in commitment**

3.

**Called and took up the cross:
fully committed**



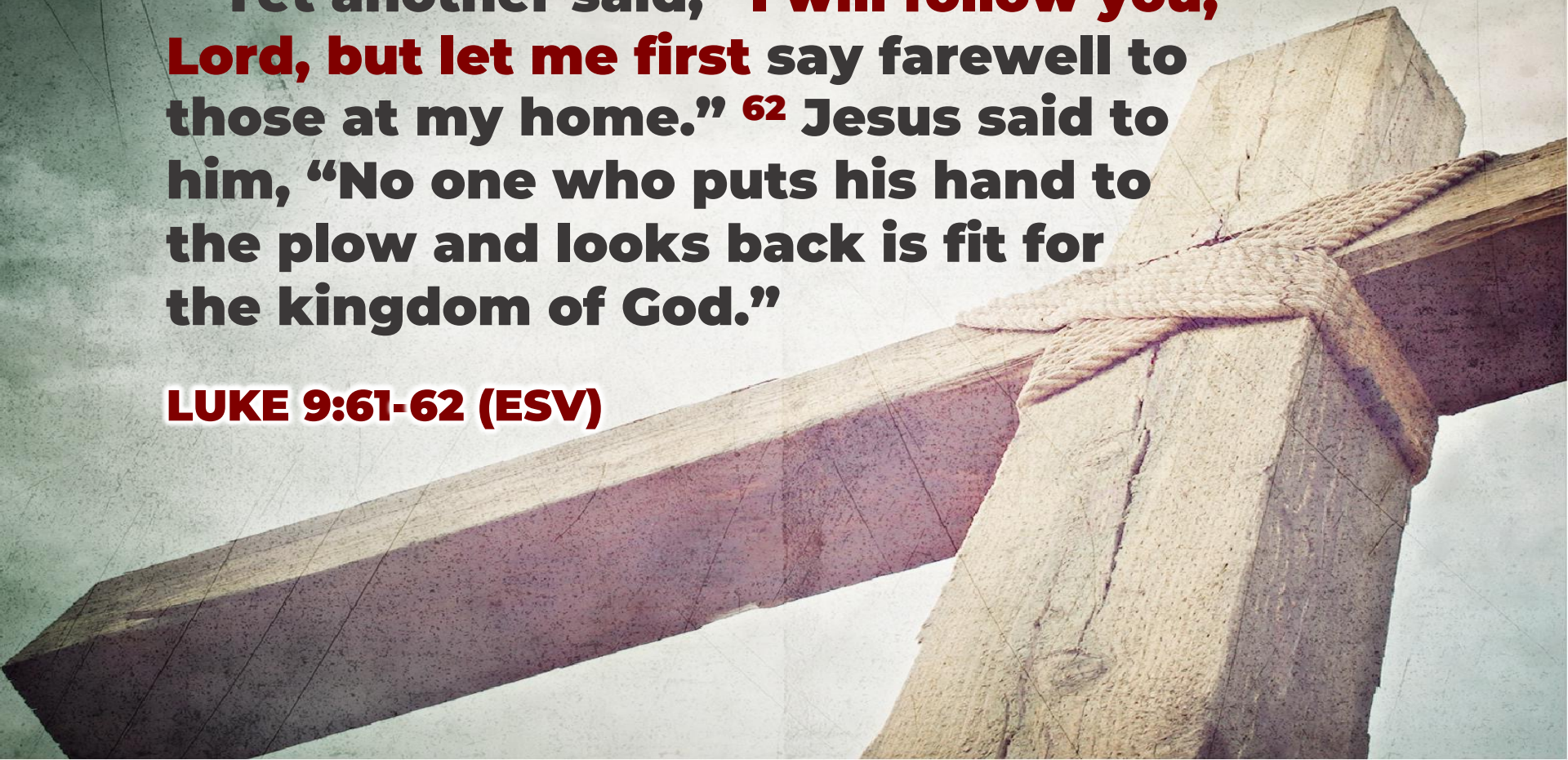
A low-angle shot of a weathered wooden cross against a cloudy sky. A thick, light-colored rope is tied around the intersection of the cross's beams. The cross is made of two rough-hewn wooden planks. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is bright and airy.

1.

**Called but full of excuses:
failed to commit to
starting discipleship**

61 Yet another said, **“I will follow you, Lord, but let me first** say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, **“No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”**

LUKE 9:61-62 (ESV)



**1. Called but full of excuses:
failed to commit to starting discipleship**

This man wasn't simply asking for five minutes—he was asking for an indefinite delay.

**1. Called but full of excuses:
failed to commit to starting discipleship**

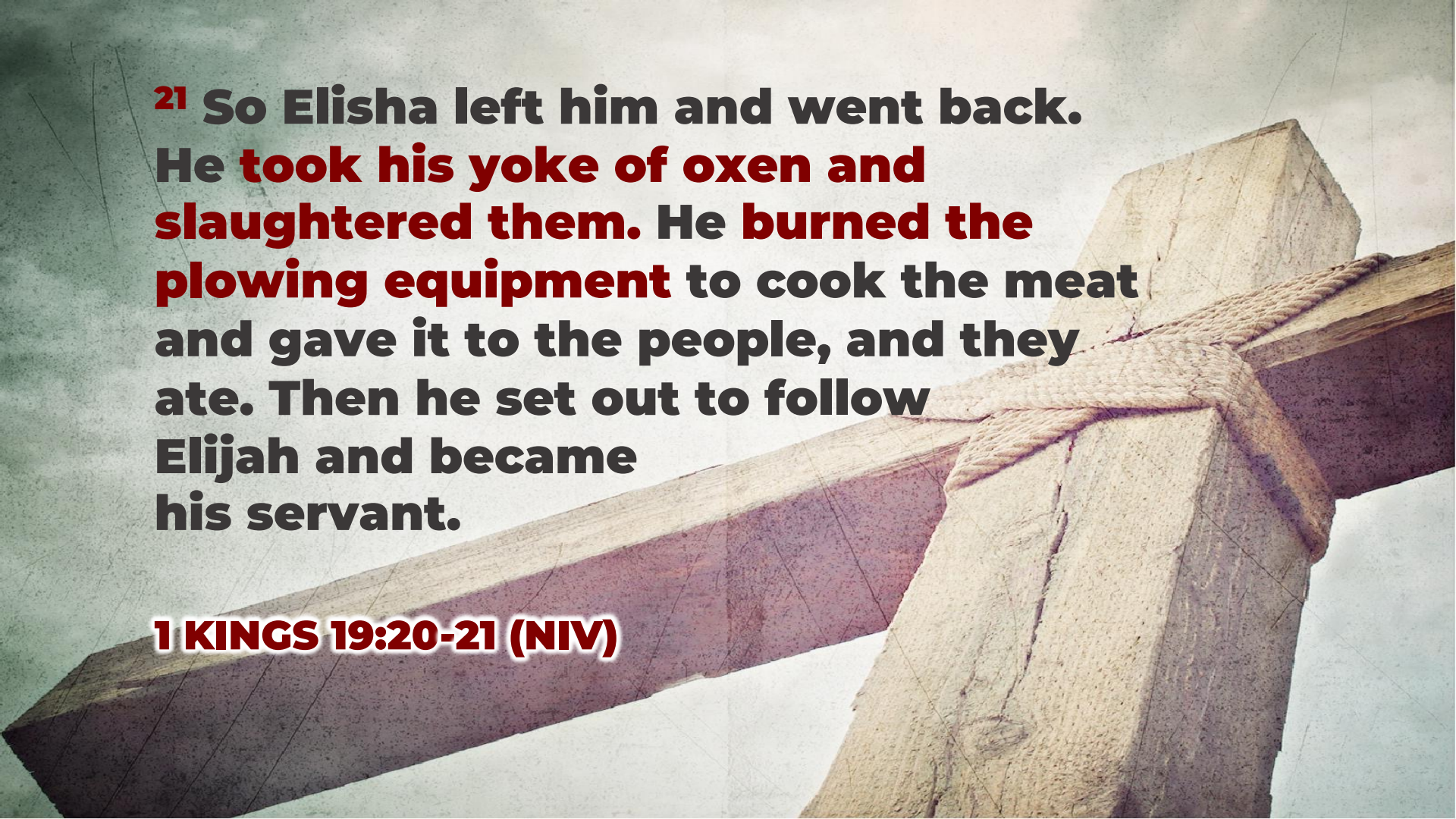
Jesus sees the heart behind the words.

**It's not about the farewell—
it's about the hesitation."**



20 Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. **“Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,”** he said, **“and then I will come with you.”** **“Go back,”** Elijah replied. **“What have I done to you?”**

1 KINGS 19:20-21 (NIV)

A wooden cross is positioned diagonally across the frame, from the bottom left towards the top right. A thick, light-colored rope is wrapped around the intersection of the cross's arms. The background is a mottled, textured surface in shades of green and grey.

21 So Elisha left him and went back.
He **took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment** to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

1 KINGS 19:20-21 (NIV)

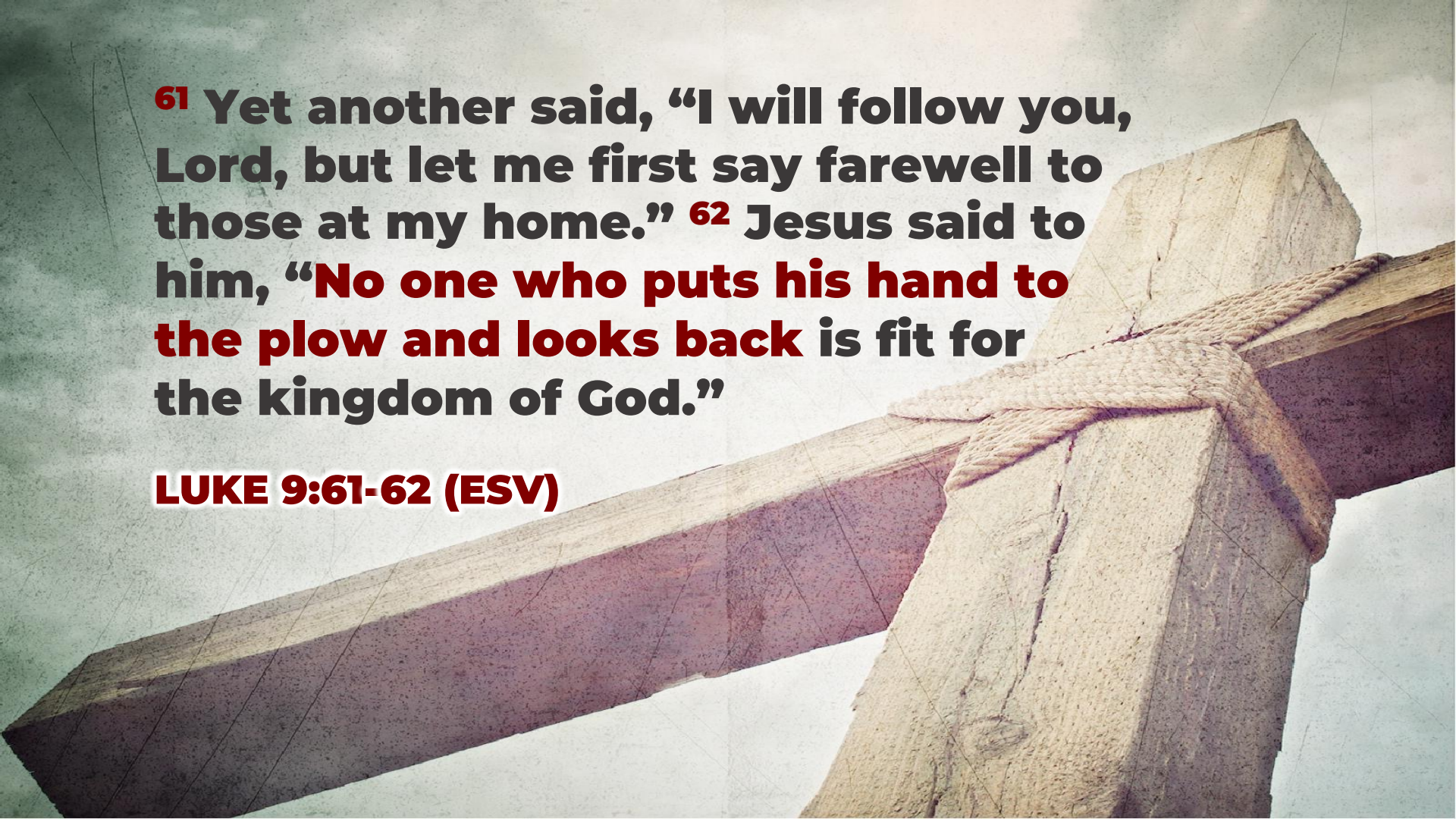
**1. Called but full of excuses:
failed to commit to starting discipleship**

**Elisha literally "burned the bridge" to
follow Elijah, there were no excuses and
no turning back**

A low-angle shot of a weathered wooden cross against a cloudy sky. A thick, light-colored rope is tied in a knot around the intersection of the cross's beams. The image has a textured, slightly grainy appearance with some faint scratches or lines across it.

2.

**Called but kept looking back:
falter in commitment**

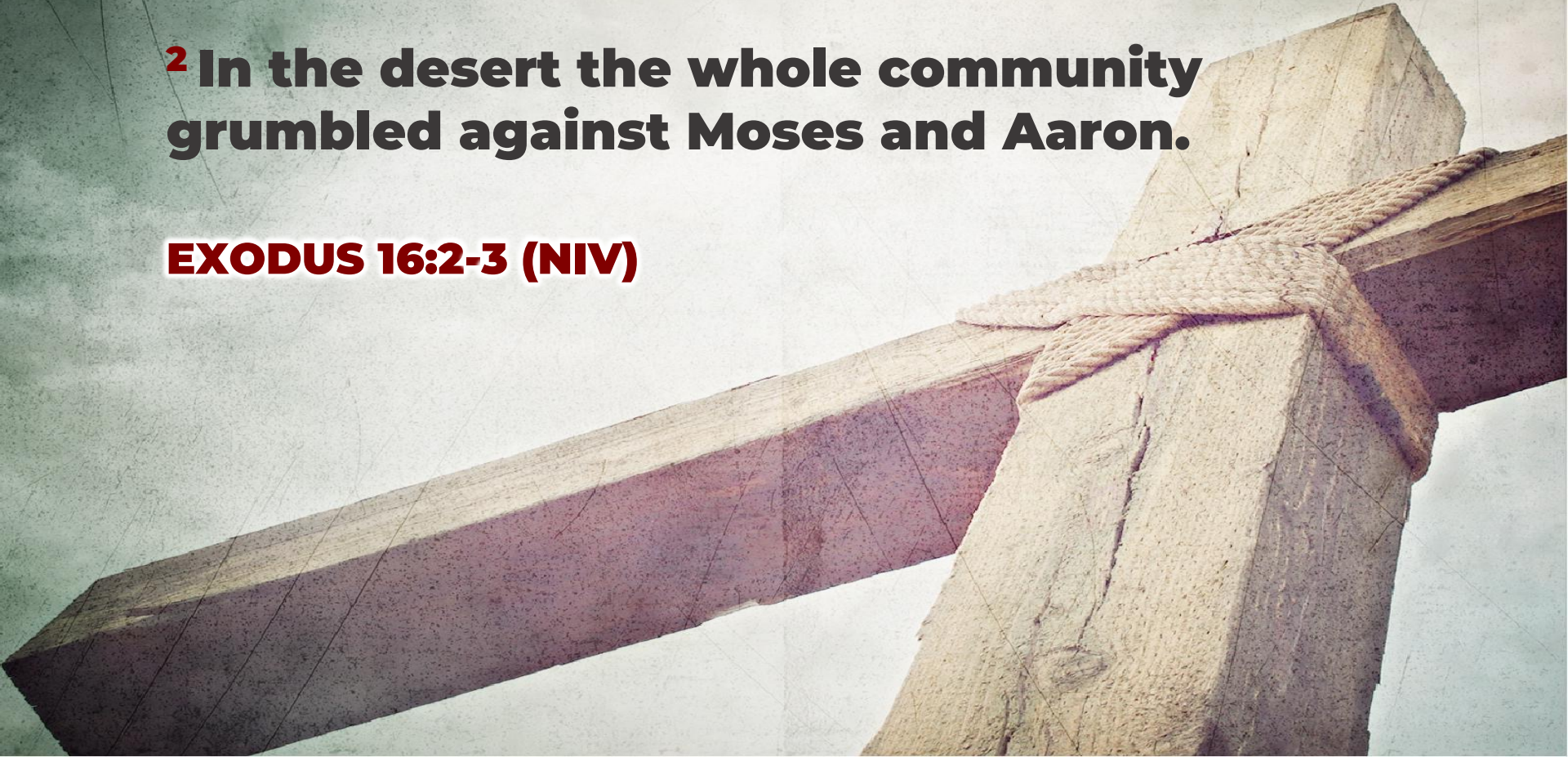


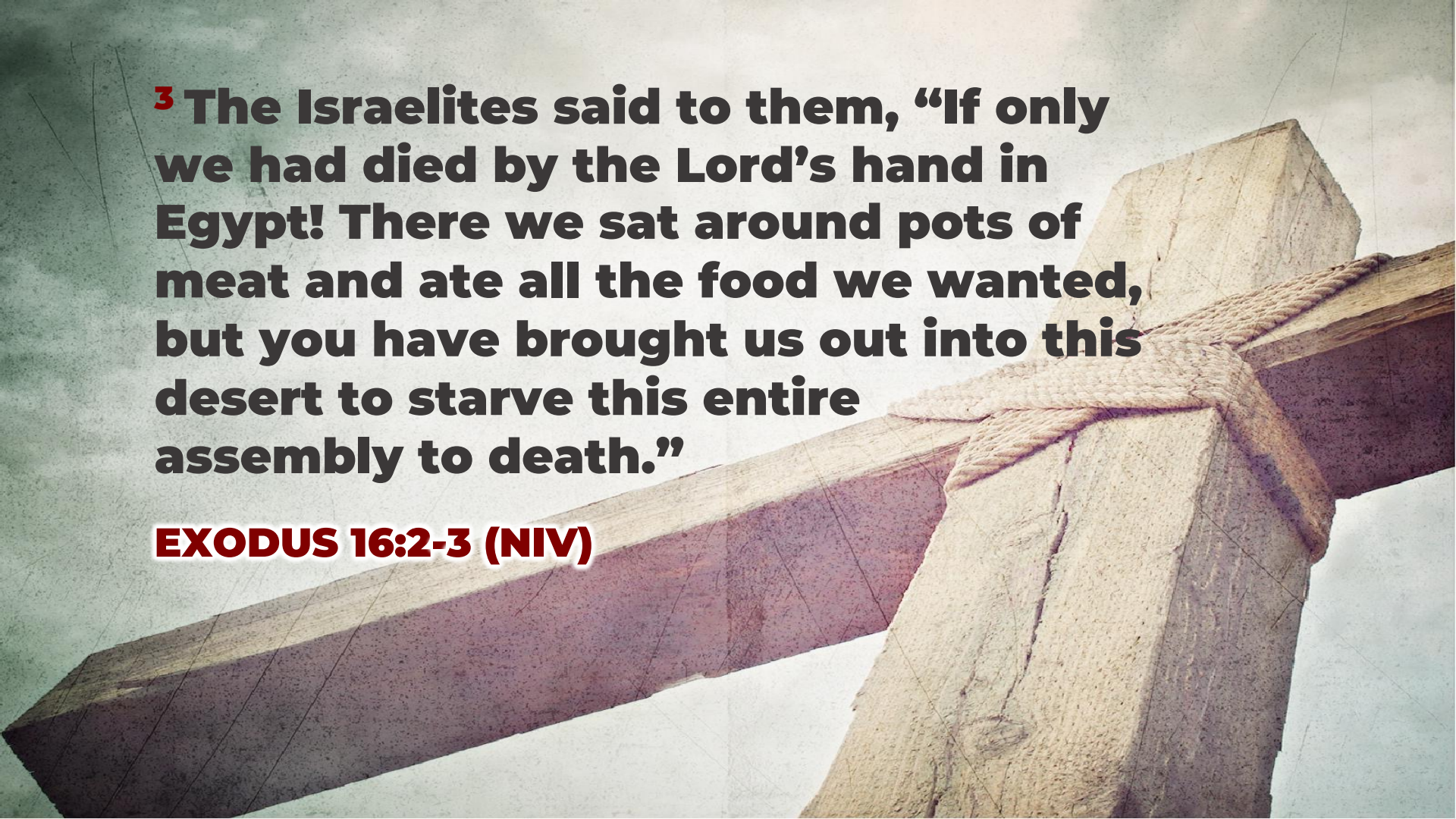
61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, “**No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back** is fit for the kingdom of God.”

LUKE 9:61-62 (ESV)

**2 In the desert the whole community
grumbled against Moses and Aaron.**

EXODUS 16:2-3 (NIV)





3 The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the Lord’s hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death.”

EXODUS 16:2-3 (NIV)

**2. Called but kept looking back:
falter in commitment**

**The flesh always tries to pull you
back to Egypt.**

**It promises security, but delivers
slavery.**

2. Called but kept looking back: falter in commitment

Looking back symbolizes:

- **Regret over leaving the past behind**
- **Longing for old comforts and habits**
- **Reluctance to fully surrender**

2. Called but kept looking back: falter in commitment

- **Discipleship requires steady plowing**

**The moment you look back,
you lose momentum**

2. Called but kept looking back: falter in commitment

- **Discipleship requires being forward-focused**

**The moment you look back,
you lose alignment**

2. Called but kept looking back: falter in commitment

- **Discipleship requires being vision-driven**

**The moment you look back,
you risk walking in circles**

**2. Called but kept looking back:
falter in commitment**

**You don't follow Jesus with a
rearview mirror—you follow Him
with a compass that points
forward to the cross.**

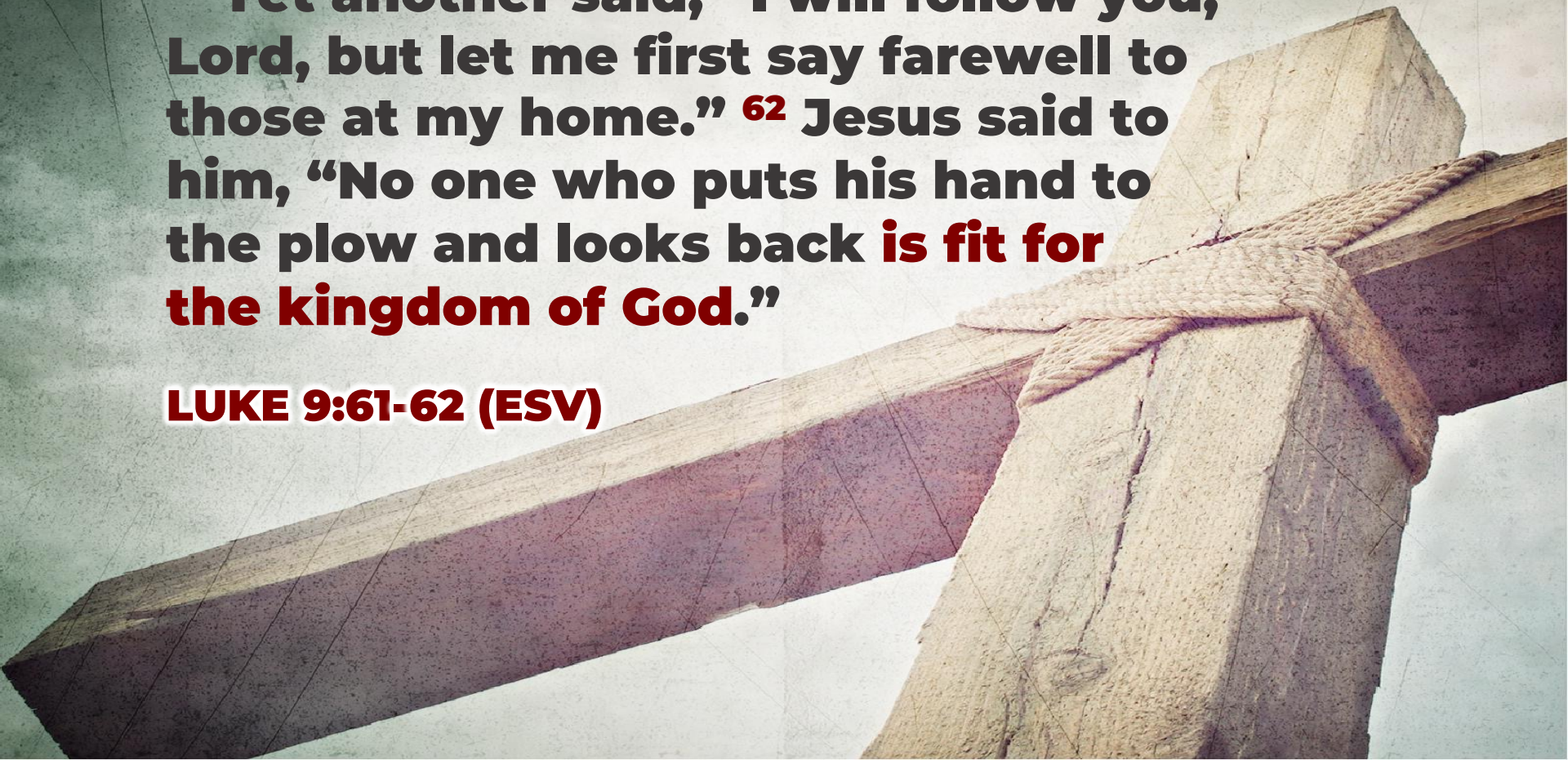
3.

**Called and took up the cross:
fully committed**



61 Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” **62** Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back **is fit for the kingdom of God.**”

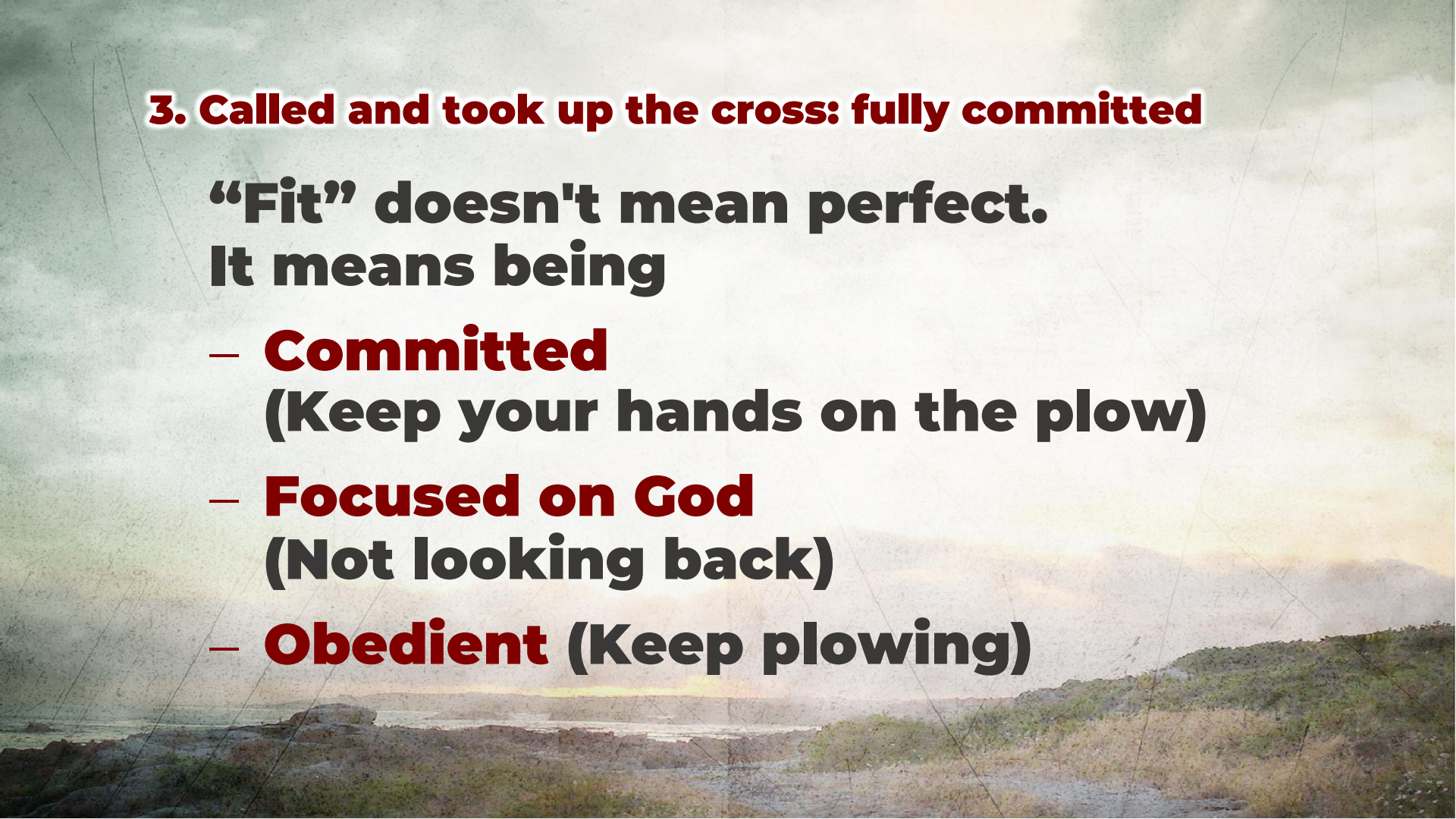
LUKE 9:61-62 (ESV)



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

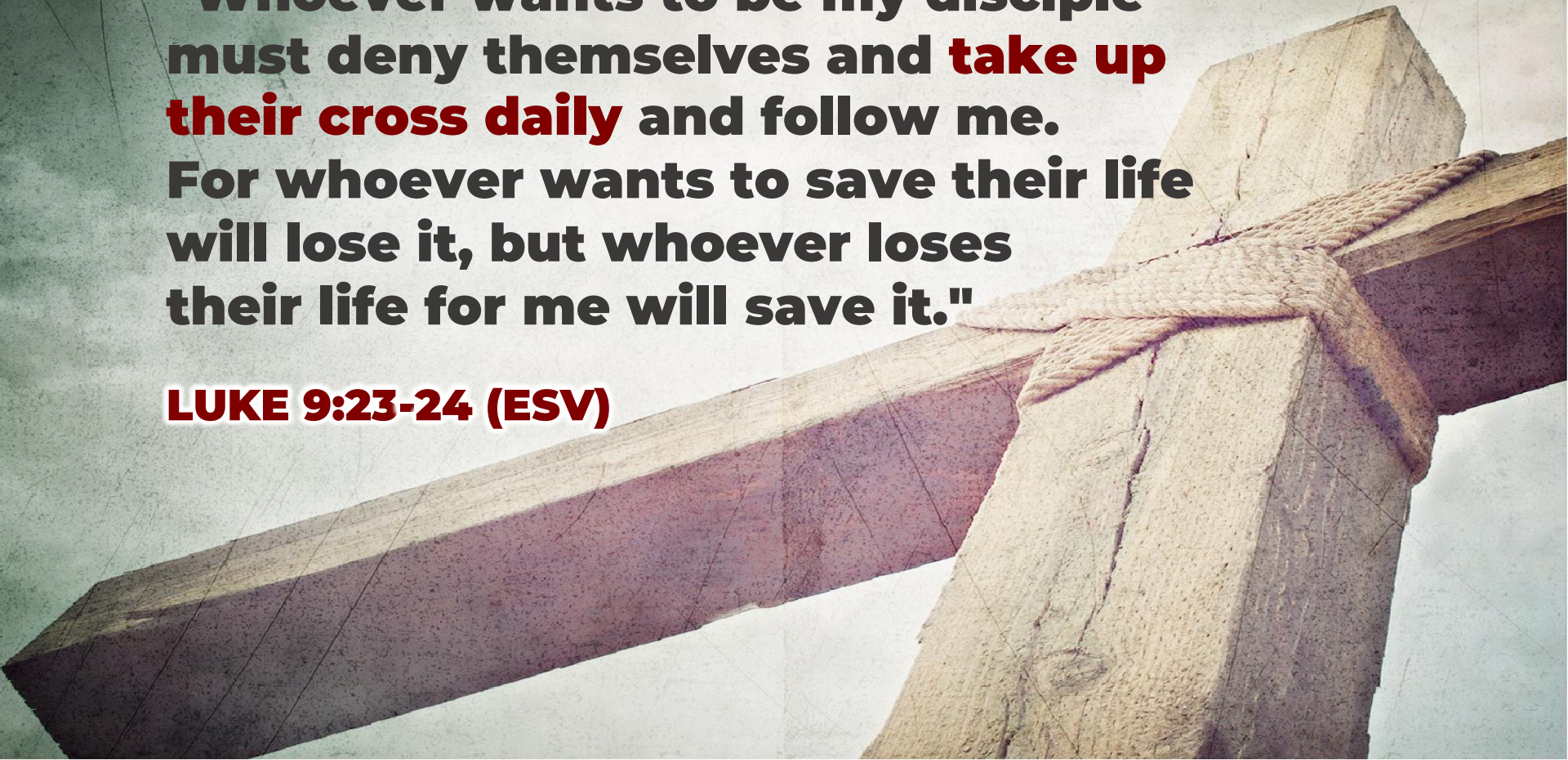
**“Fit” doesn't mean perfect.
It means being**

- Committed**
(Keep your hands on the plow)
- Focused on God**
(Not looking back)
- Obedient (Keep plowing)**



**"Whoever wants to be my disciple
must deny themselves and **take up
their cross daily** and follow me.
For whoever wants to save their life
will lose it, but whoever loses
their life for me will save it."**

LUKE 9:23-24 (ESV)



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

“Discipleship is not a decision you made once—it's a direction you walk every day.”

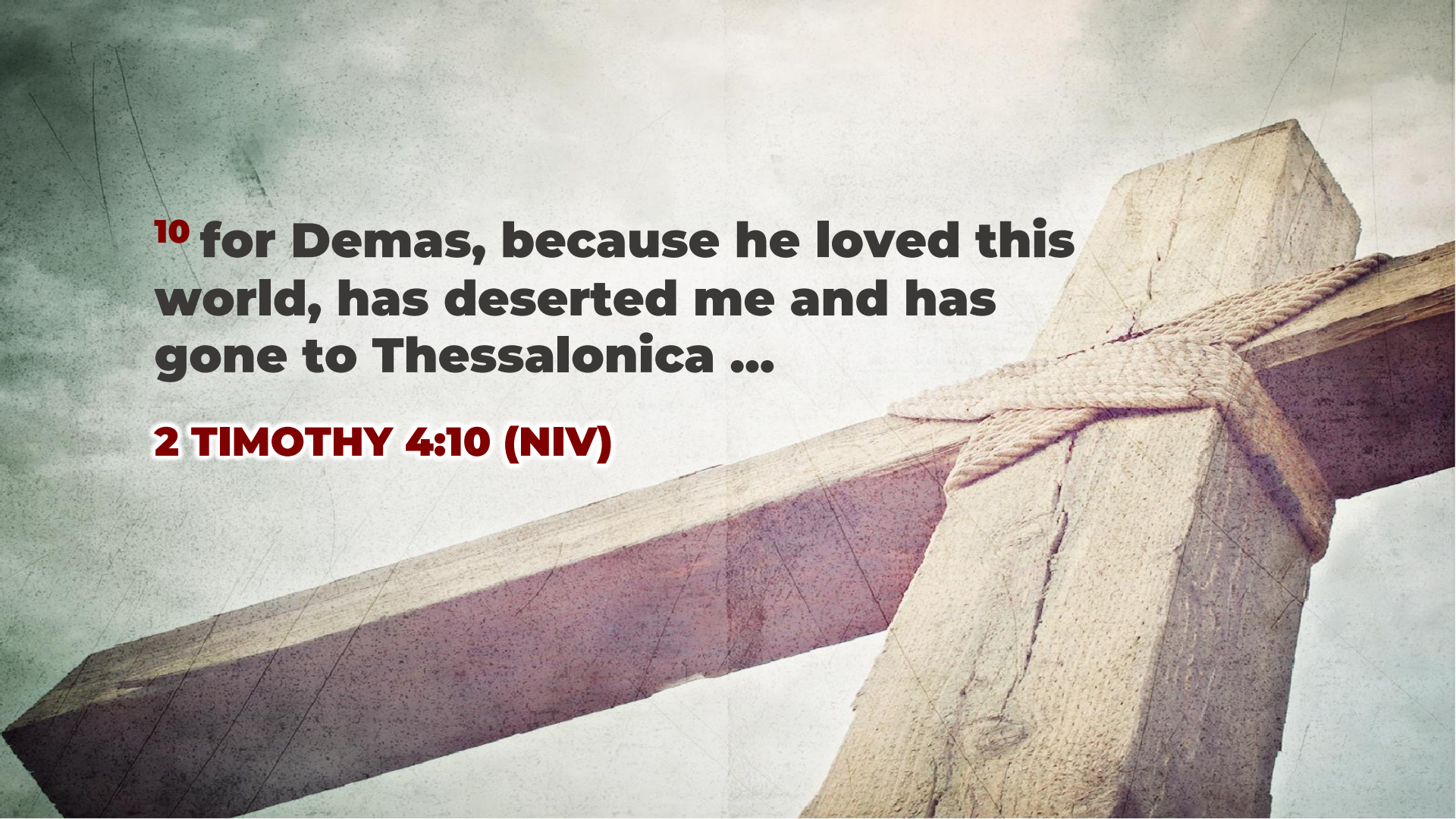
— Dietrich Bonhoeffer said: “When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die.”



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

Grace is costly — It cost God the life of His Son.

Taking up the cross daily demands that the believer dies to self, abandons worldly attachments, and follows Christ completely.

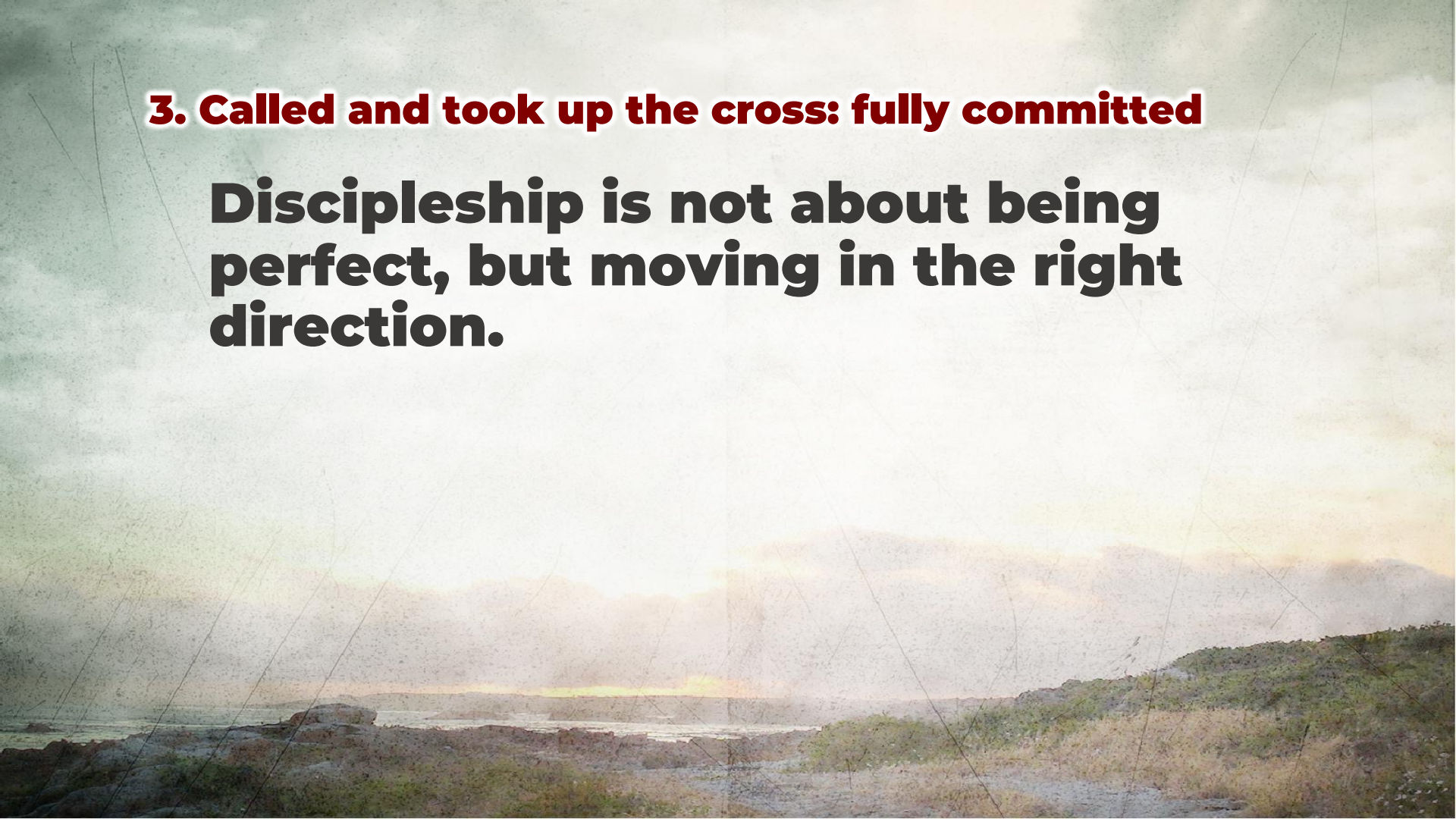
A large, rustic wooden cross is the central visual element, constructed from thick, weathered planks. The cross is set against a background of a cloudy sky, with the clouds appearing in shades of light blue, grey, and white. The lighting is soft, creating a contemplative atmosphere. The cross's horizontal beam extends from the left side of the frame towards the right, while the vertical post rises from the bottom right towards the top right.

10 for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica ...

2 TIMOTHY 4:10 (NIV)

3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

Discipleship is not about being perfect, but moving in the right direction.



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

1. Daily Scripture Engagement

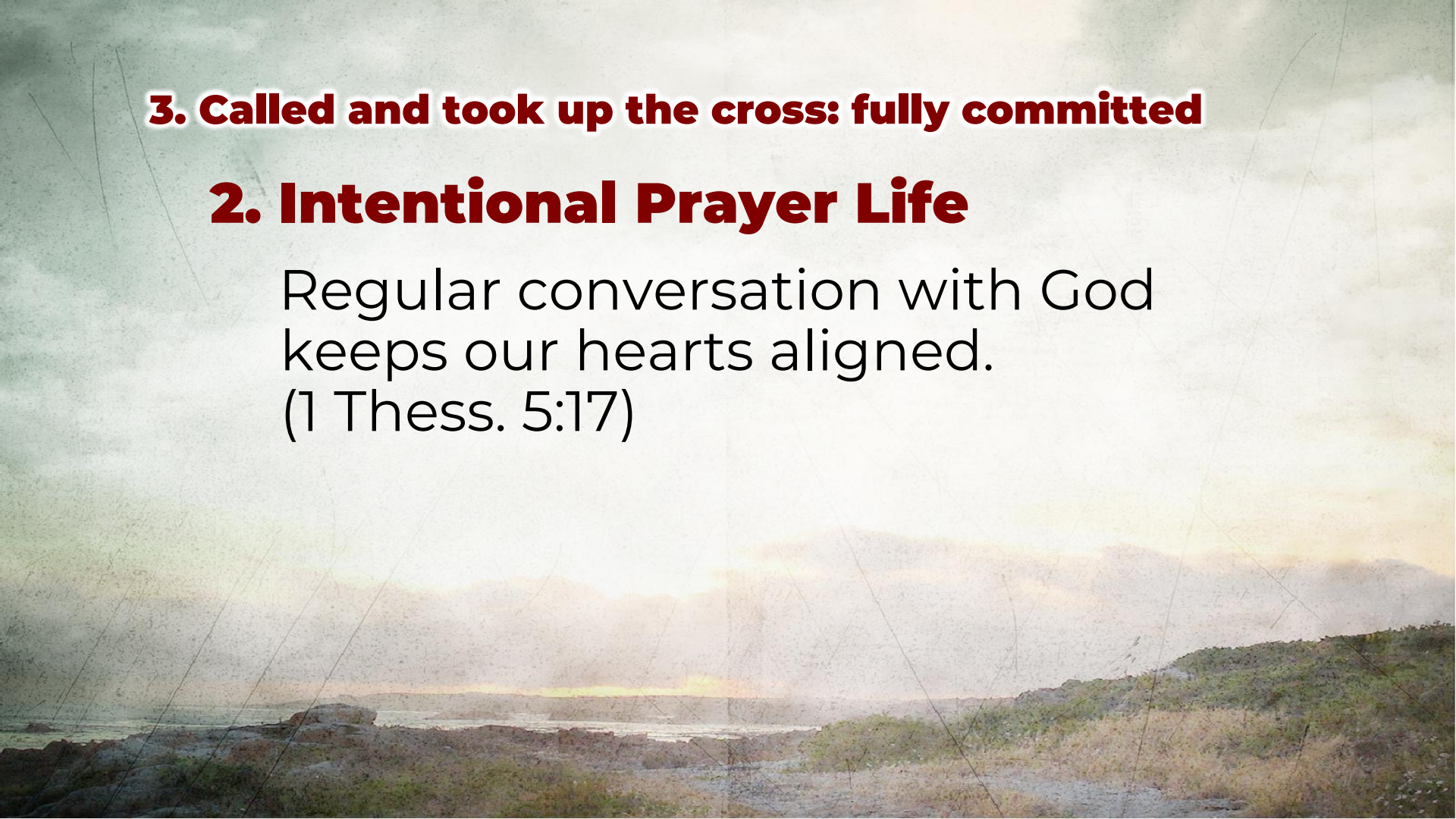
God's Word re-centers our heart
on His truth.
(Psalm 119:105)



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

2. Intentional Prayer Life

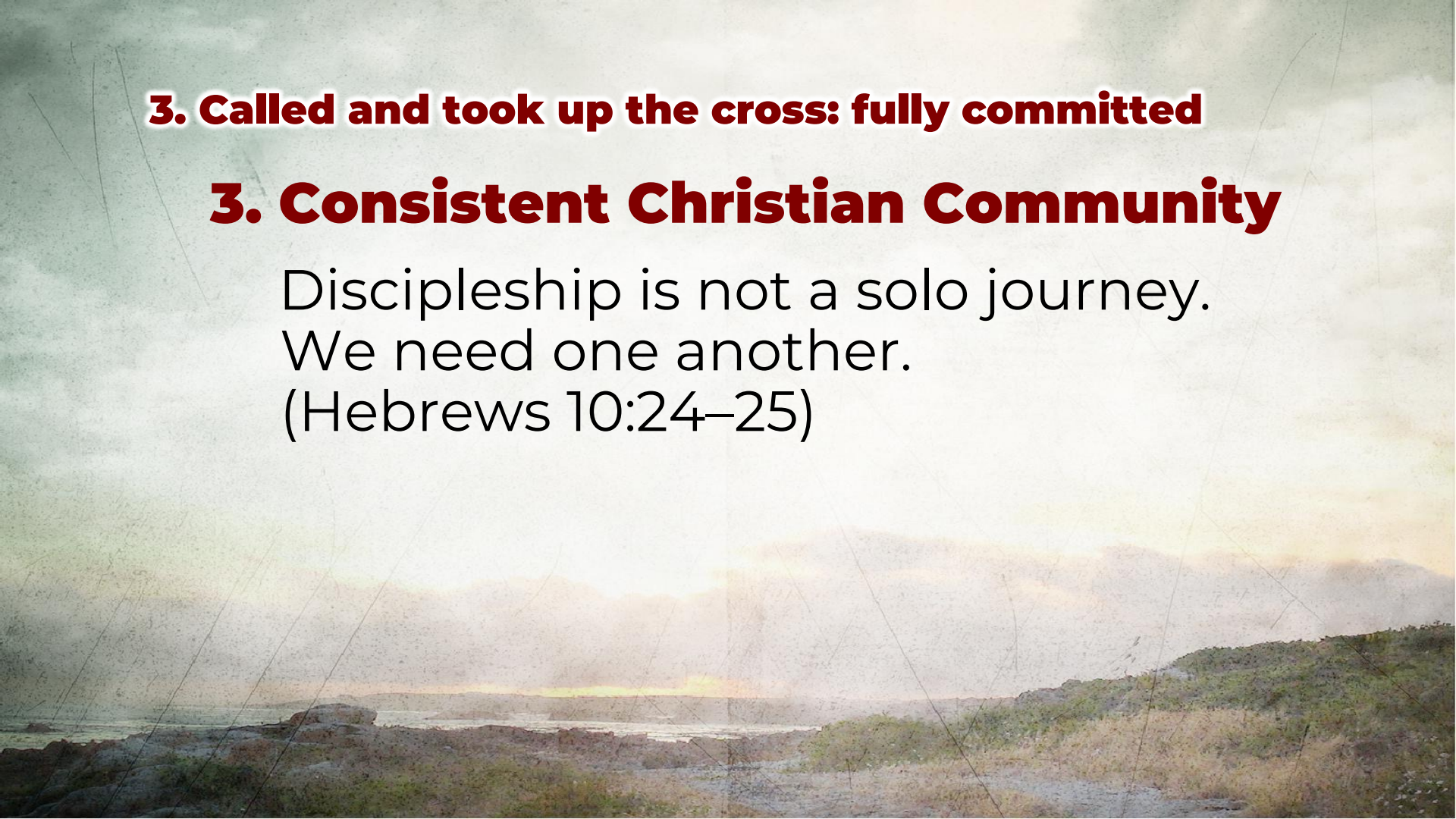
Regular conversation with God
keeps our hearts aligned.
(1 Thess. 5:17)



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

3. Consistent Christian Community

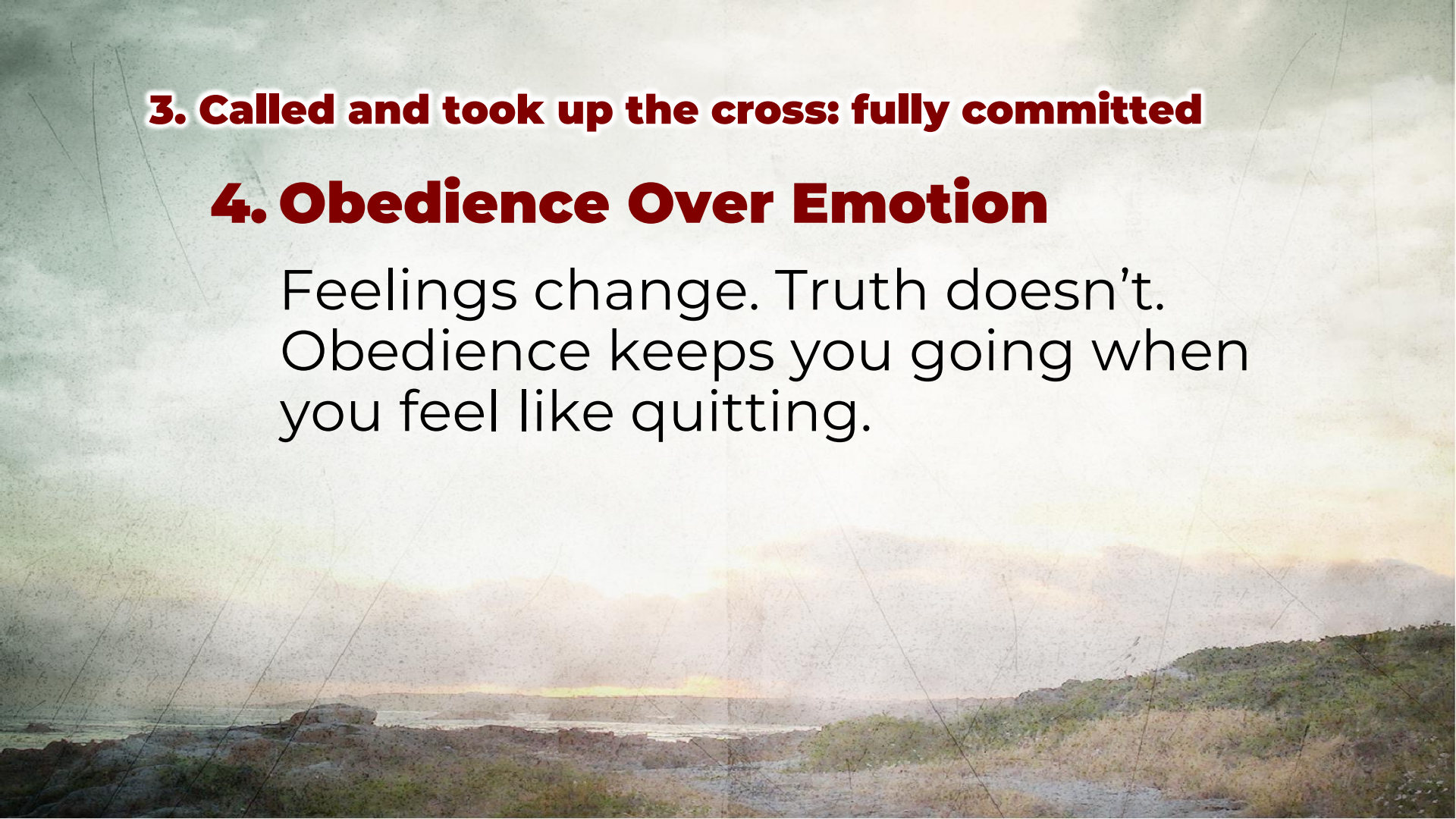
Discipleship is not a solo journey.
We need one another.
(Hebrews 10:24–25)



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

4. Obedience Over Emotion

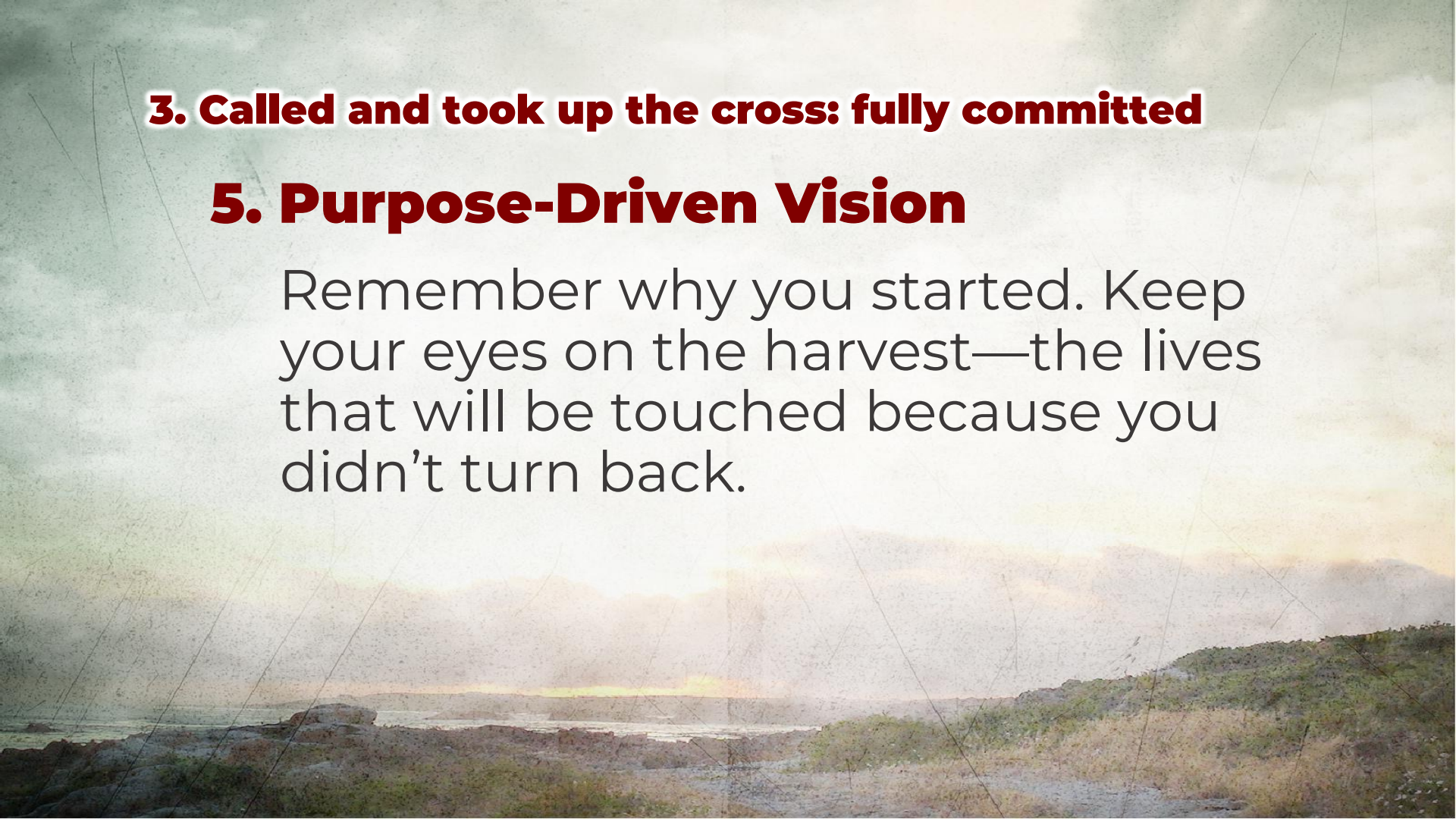
Feelings change. Truth doesn't.
Obedience keeps you going when
you feel like quitting.



3. Called and took up the cross: fully committed

5. Purpose-Driven Vision

Remember why you started. Keep your eyes on the harvest—the lives that will be touched because you didn't turn back.



CONCLUSION

COST OF
DISCIPLESHIP

LUKE 9:61-62

Ps Ivor Peck
22 June 2025



ONE-WAY ONLY

**PLEASE
DO NOT
TURN BACK**