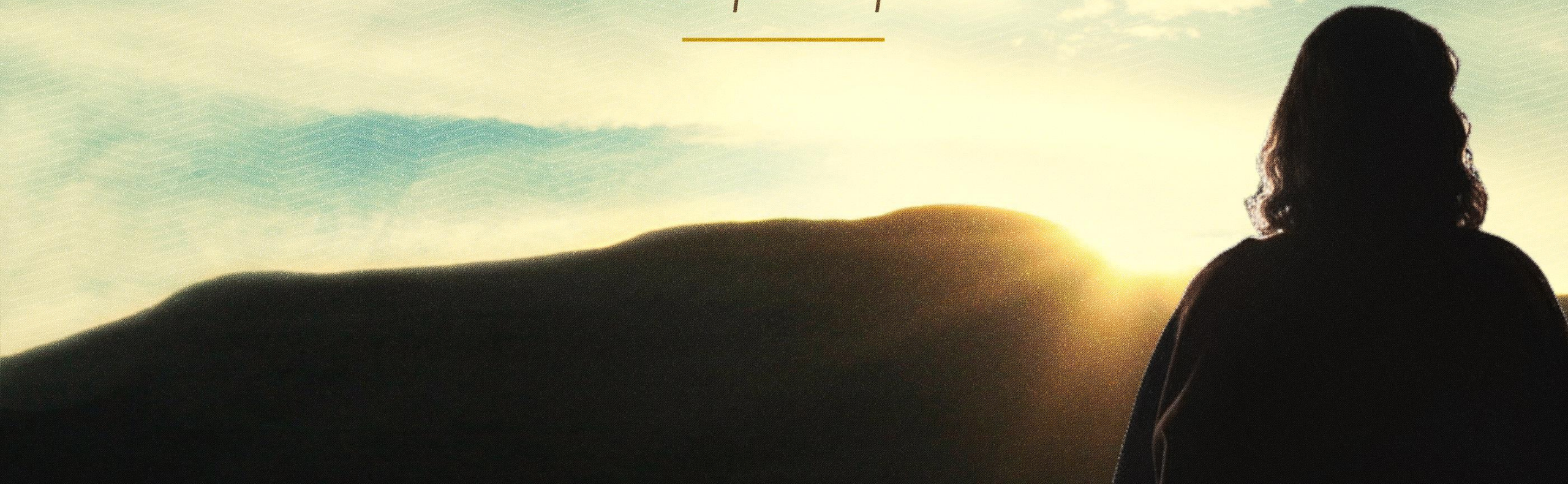


KNOWING JESUS

the Gospel of John

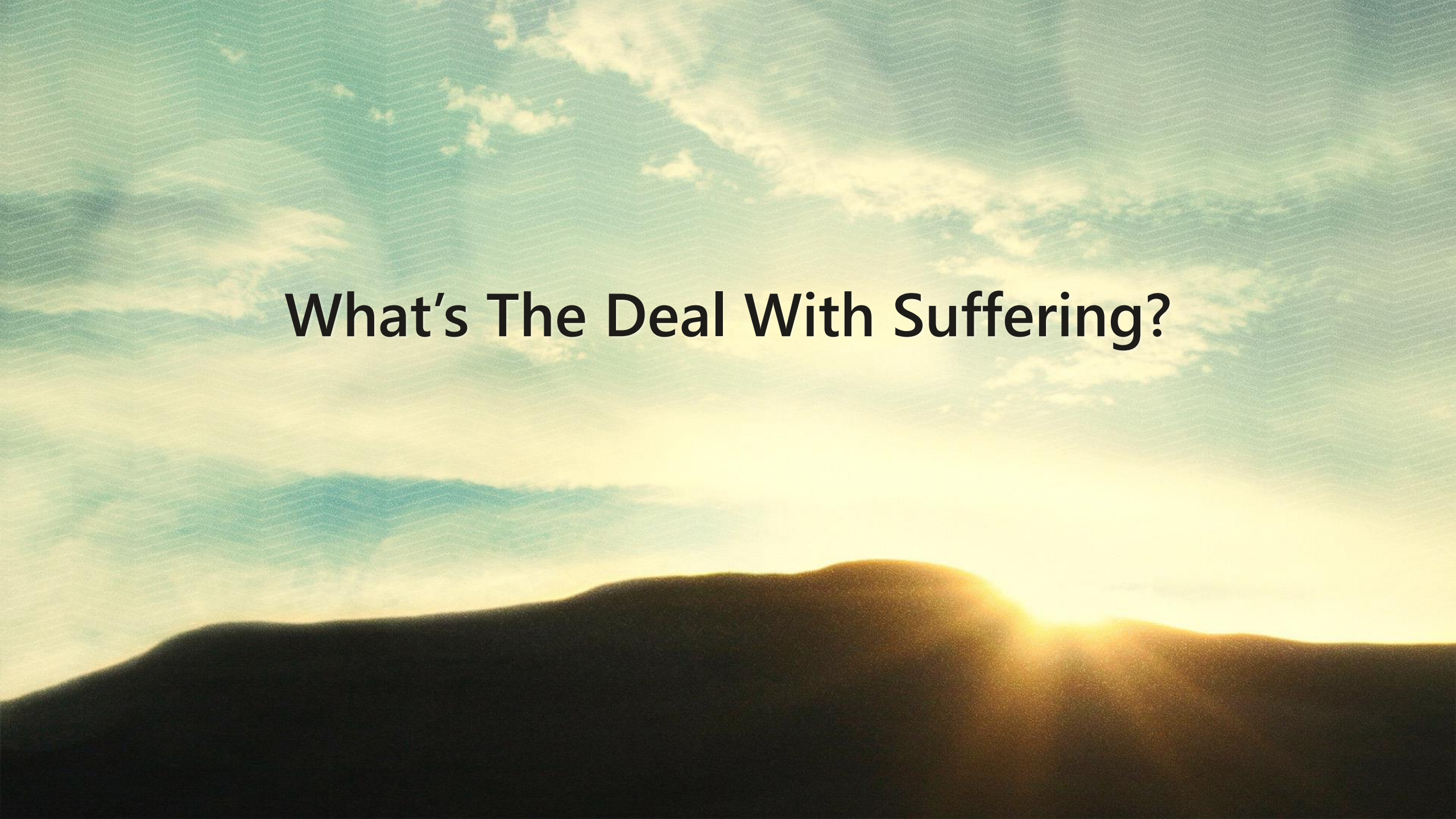


KNOWING JESUS

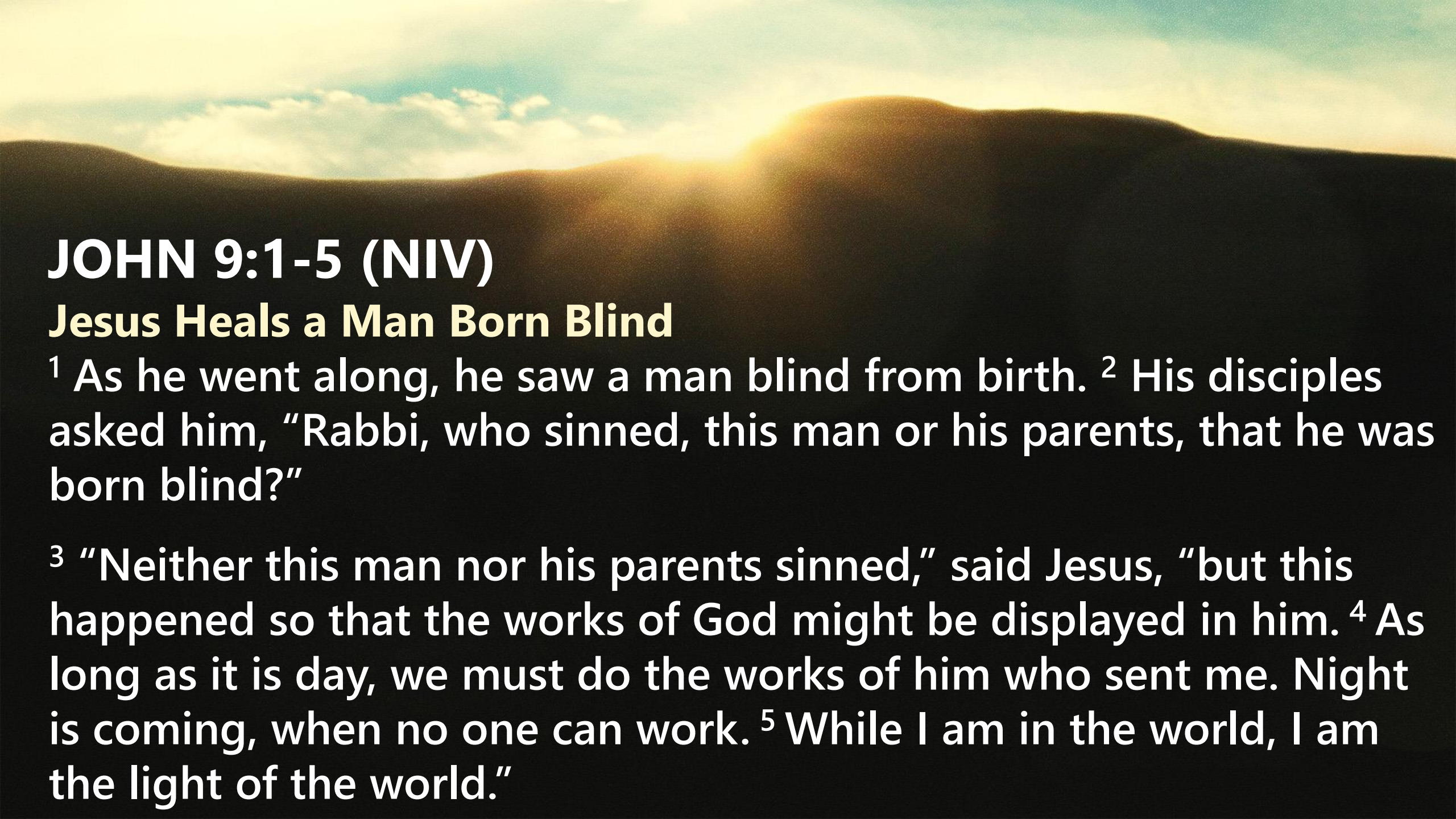
the Gospel of John

Blind Spots



The background of the image is a landscape during a sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds in shades of light blue and white. A bright, glowing sun is positioned on the right side of the horizon, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the clouds. The foreground consists of dark, silhouetted hills or mountains that stretch across the bottom of the frame.

What's The Deal With Suffering?



JOHN 9:1-5 (NIV)

Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind

¹ As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"

³ "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

TOXIC THEOLOGY



TOXIC THEOLOGY

- Sin = Suffering



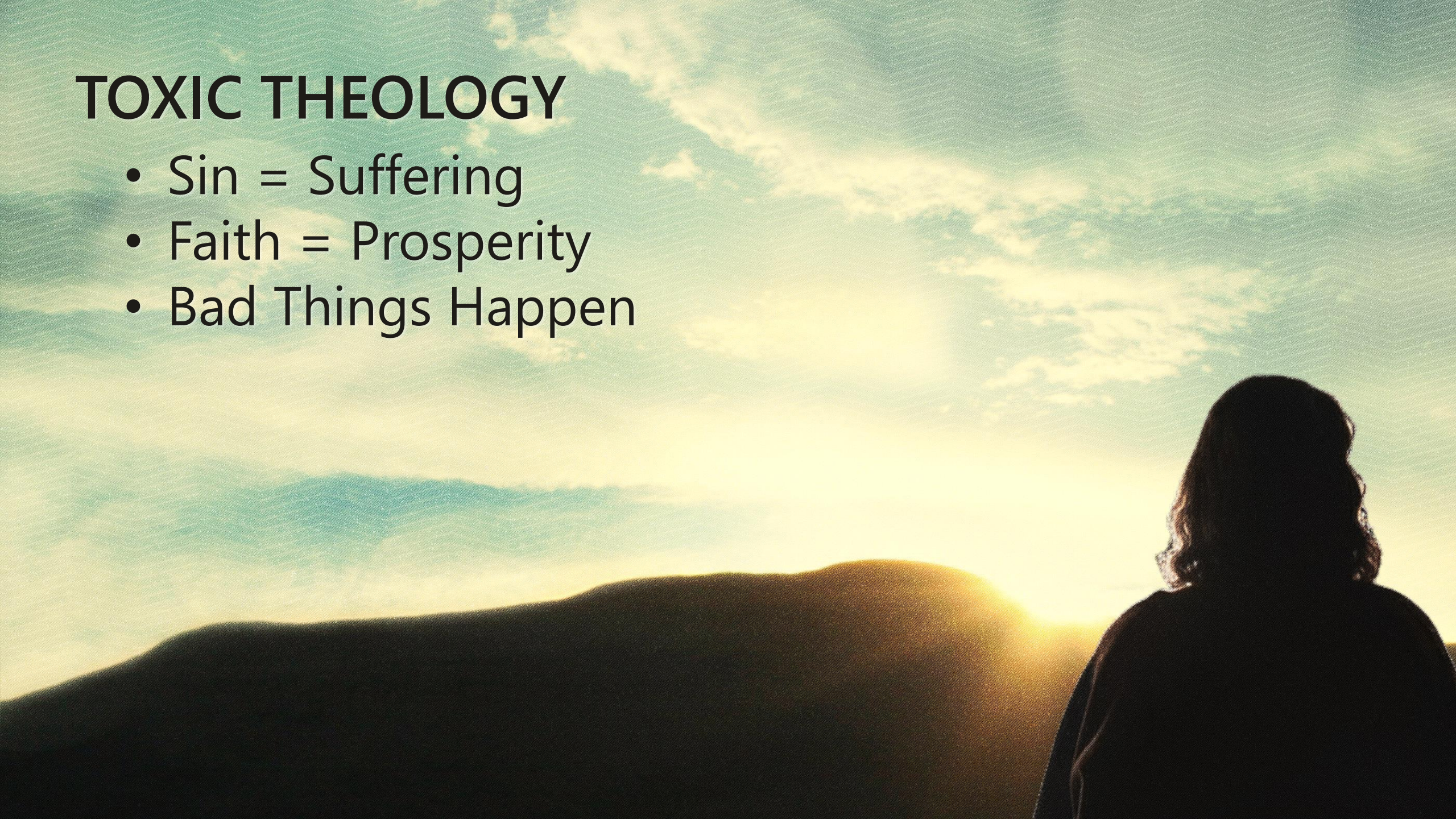
TOXIC THEOLOGY

- Sin = Suffering
- Faith = Prosperity



TOXIC THEOLOGY

- Sin = Suffering
- Faith = Prosperity
- Bad Things Happen



REALITY



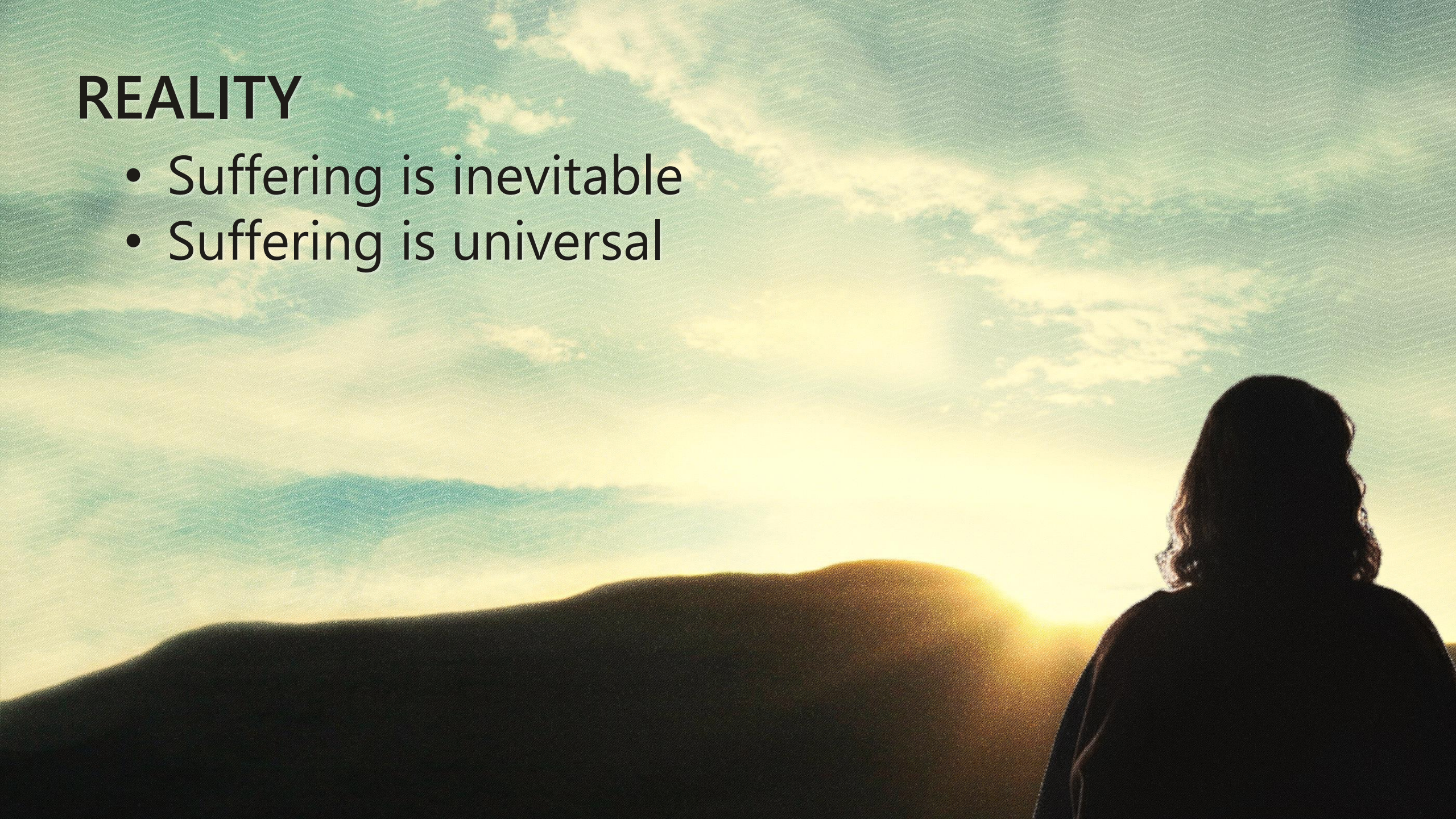
REALITY

- Suffering is inevitable



REALITY

- Suffering is inevitable
- Suffering is universal

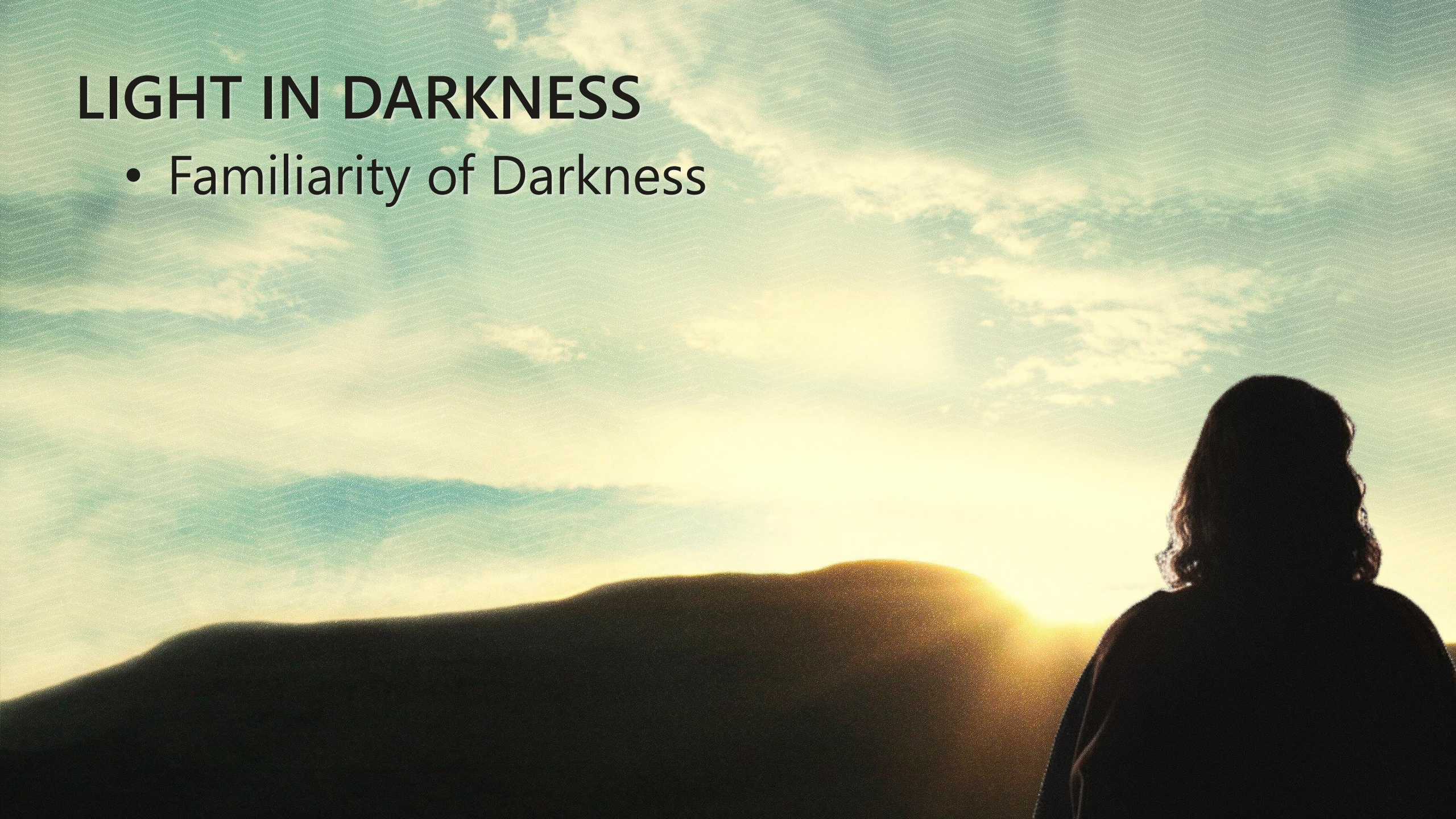


LIGHT IN DARKNESS



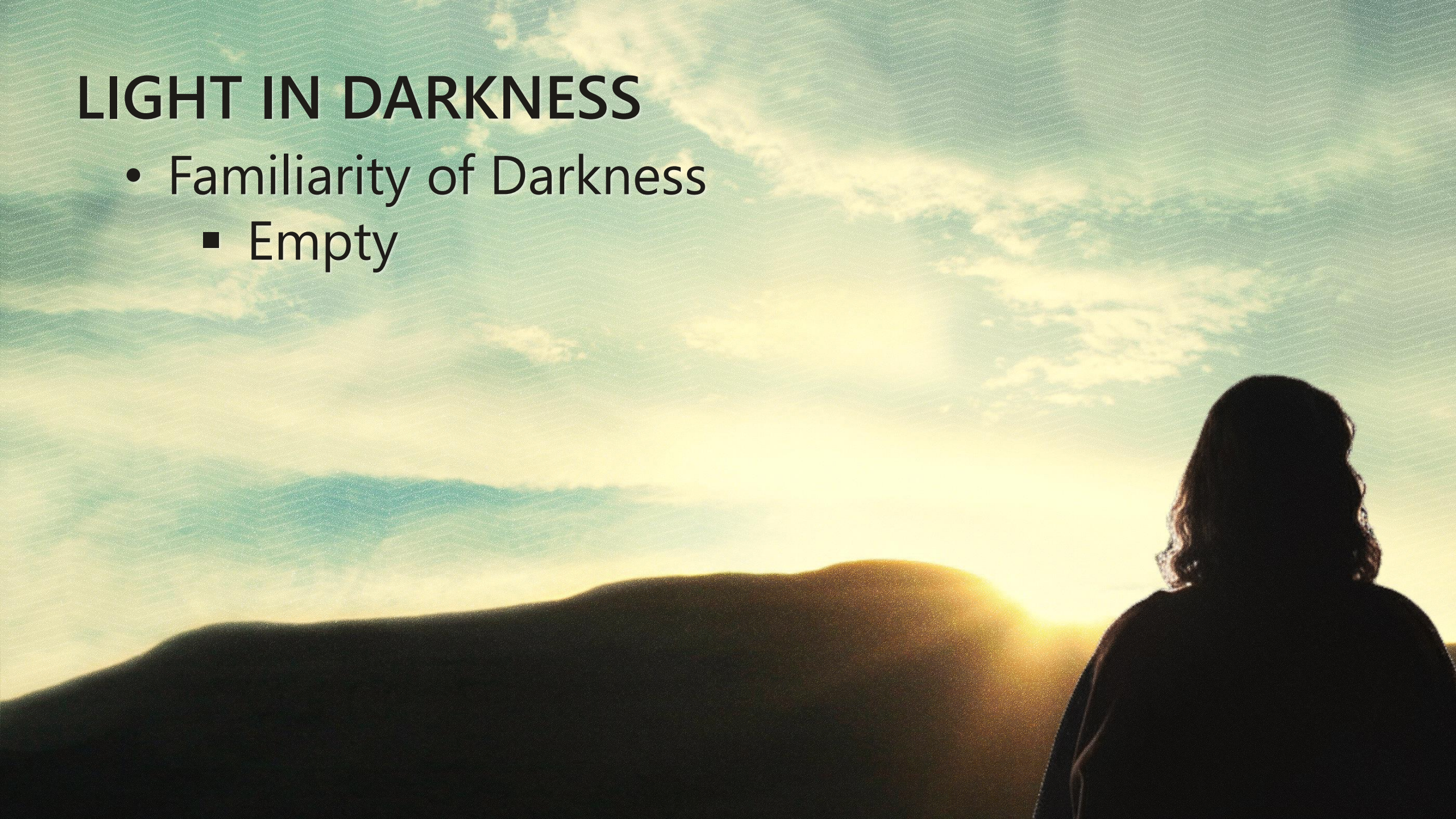
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness



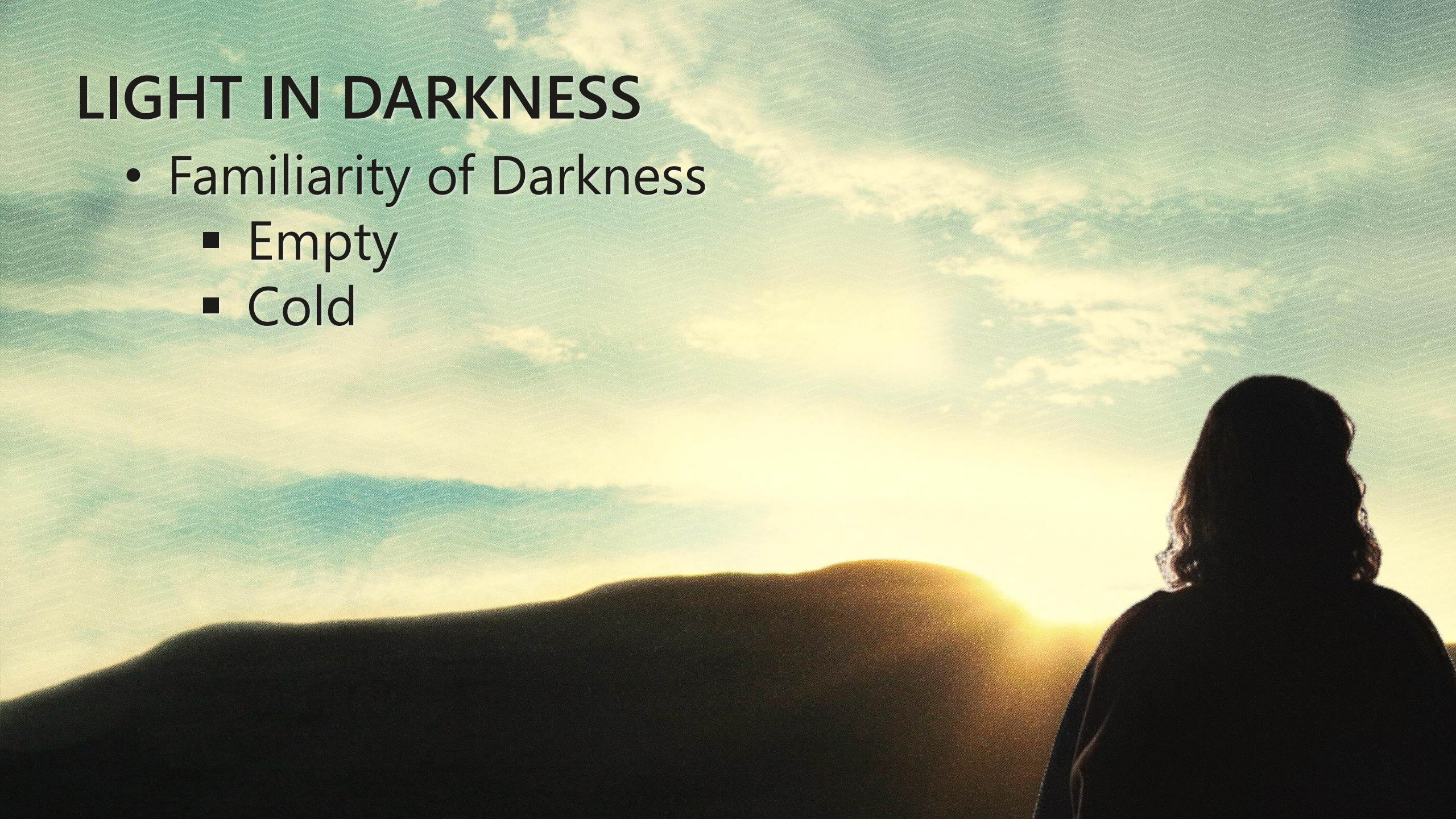
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
 - Empty



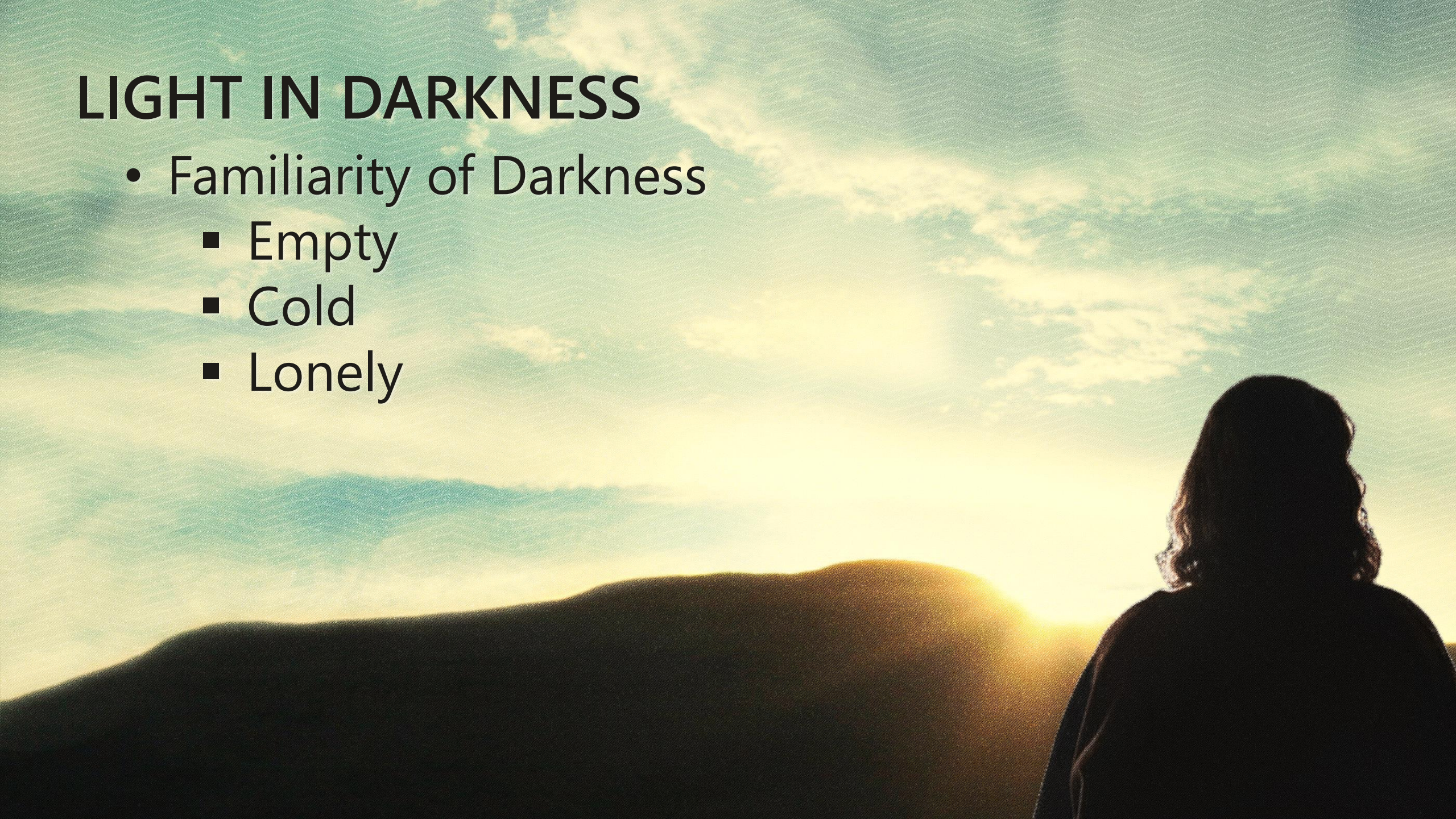
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
 - Empty
 - Cold



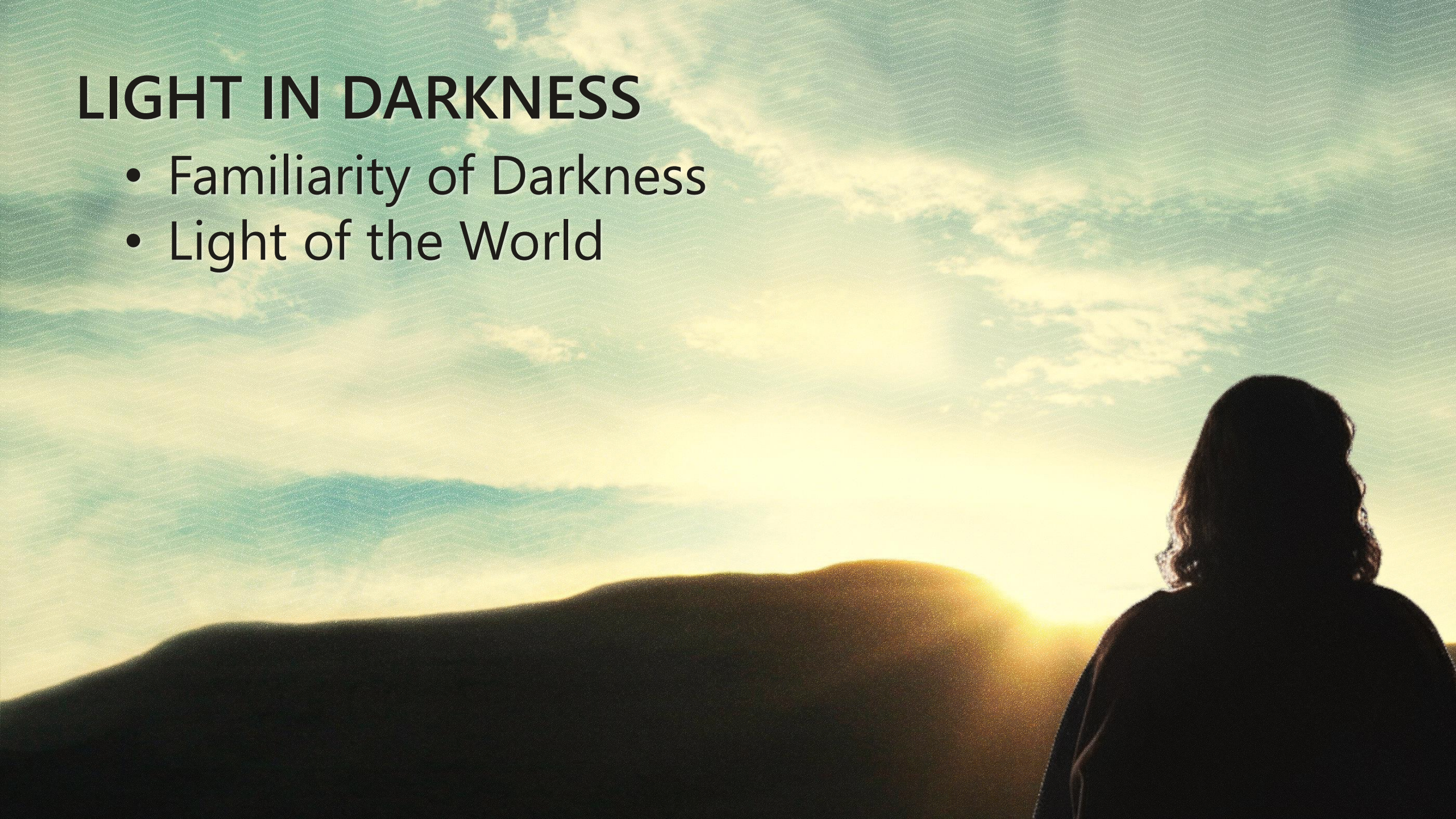
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
 - Empty
 - Cold
 - Lonely



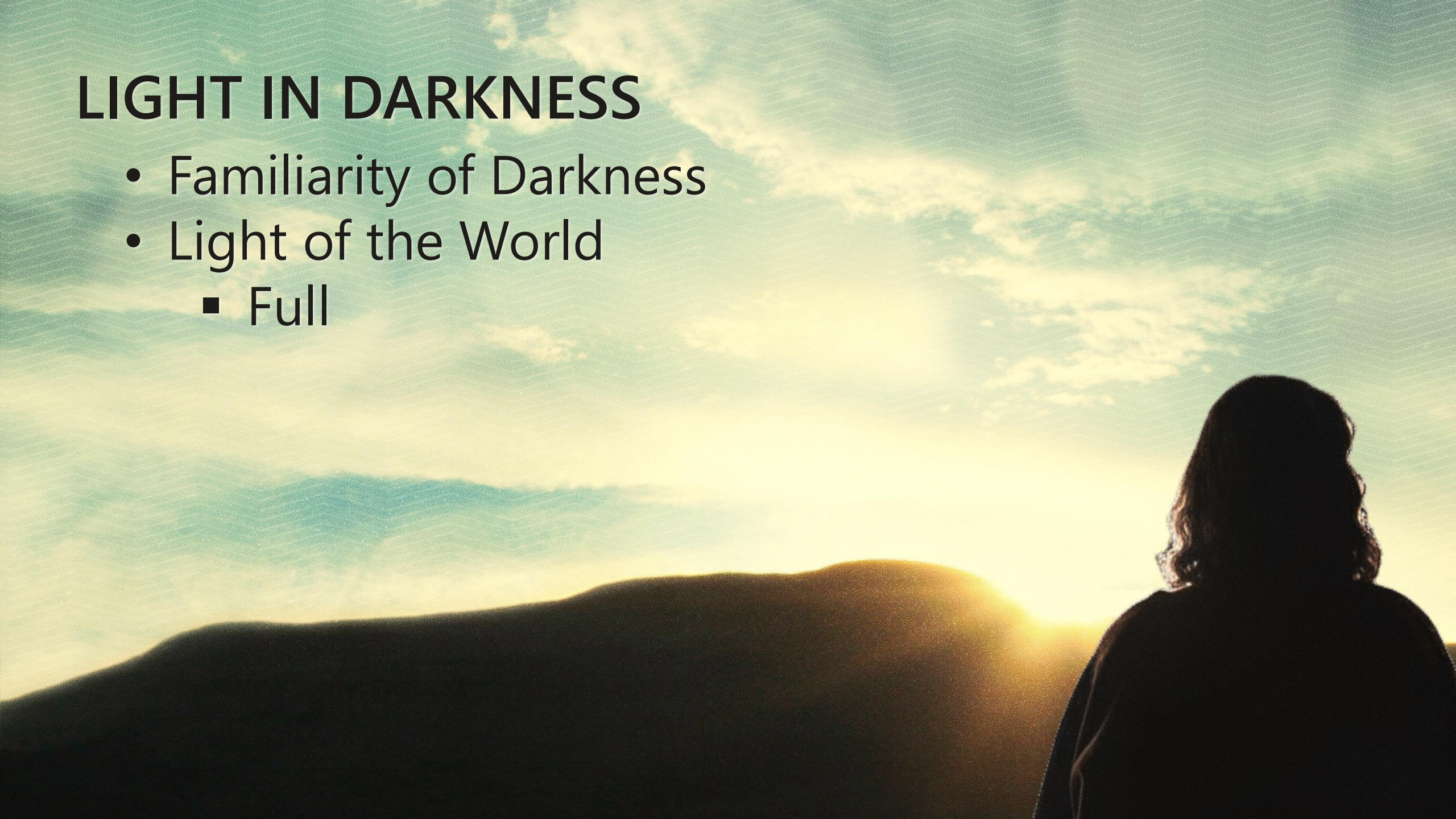
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
- Light of the World



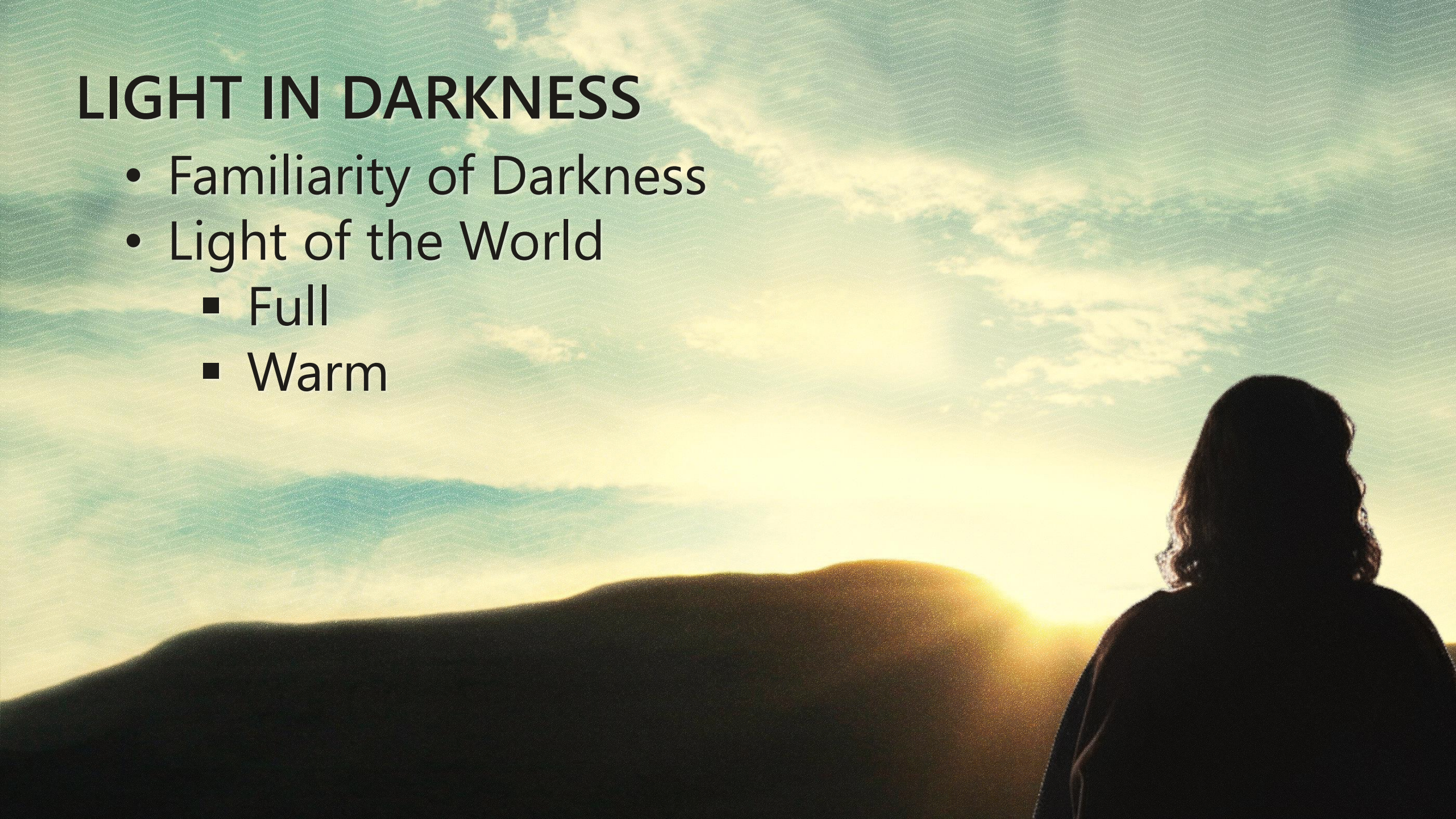
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
- Light of the World
 - Full



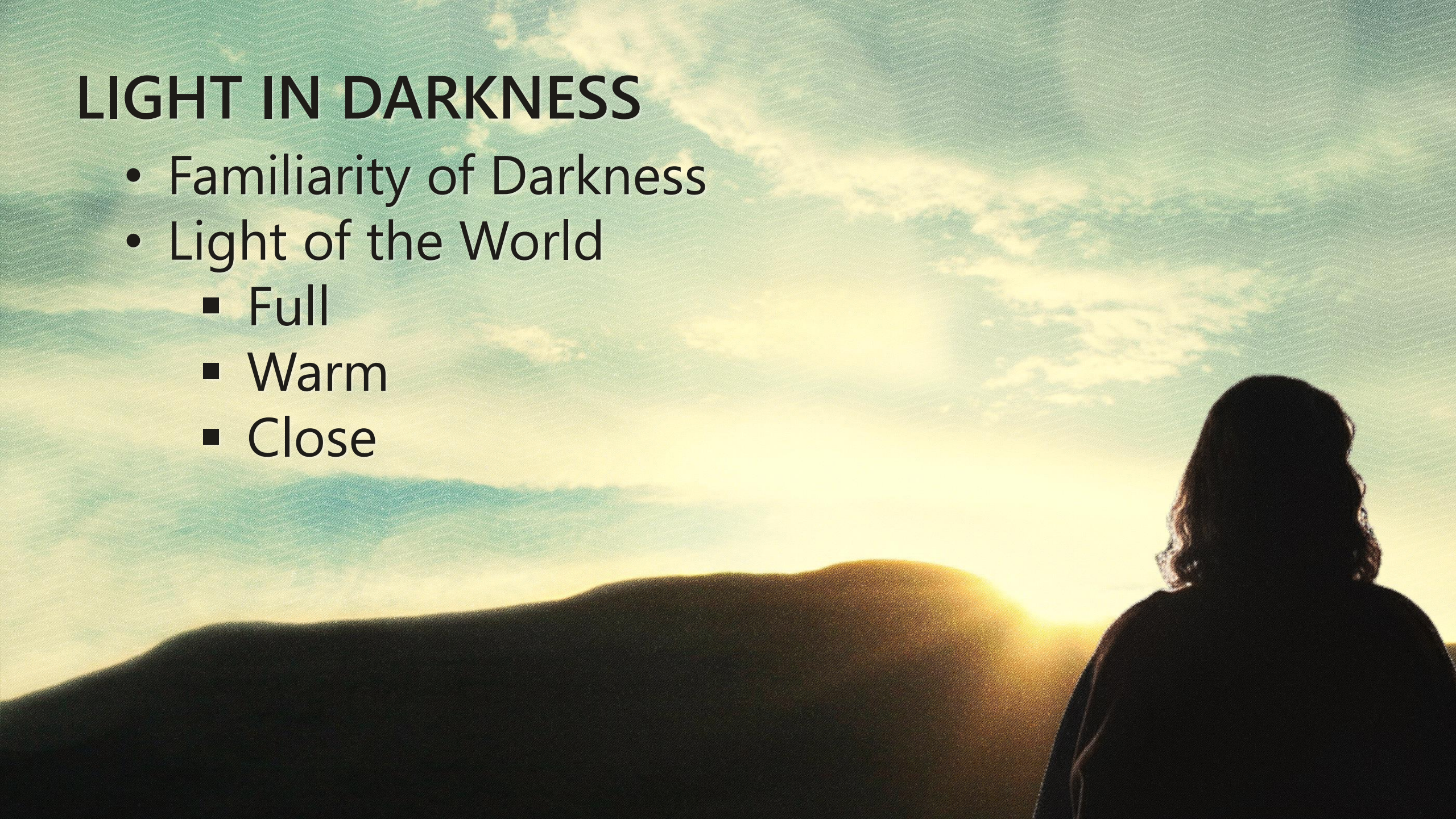
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

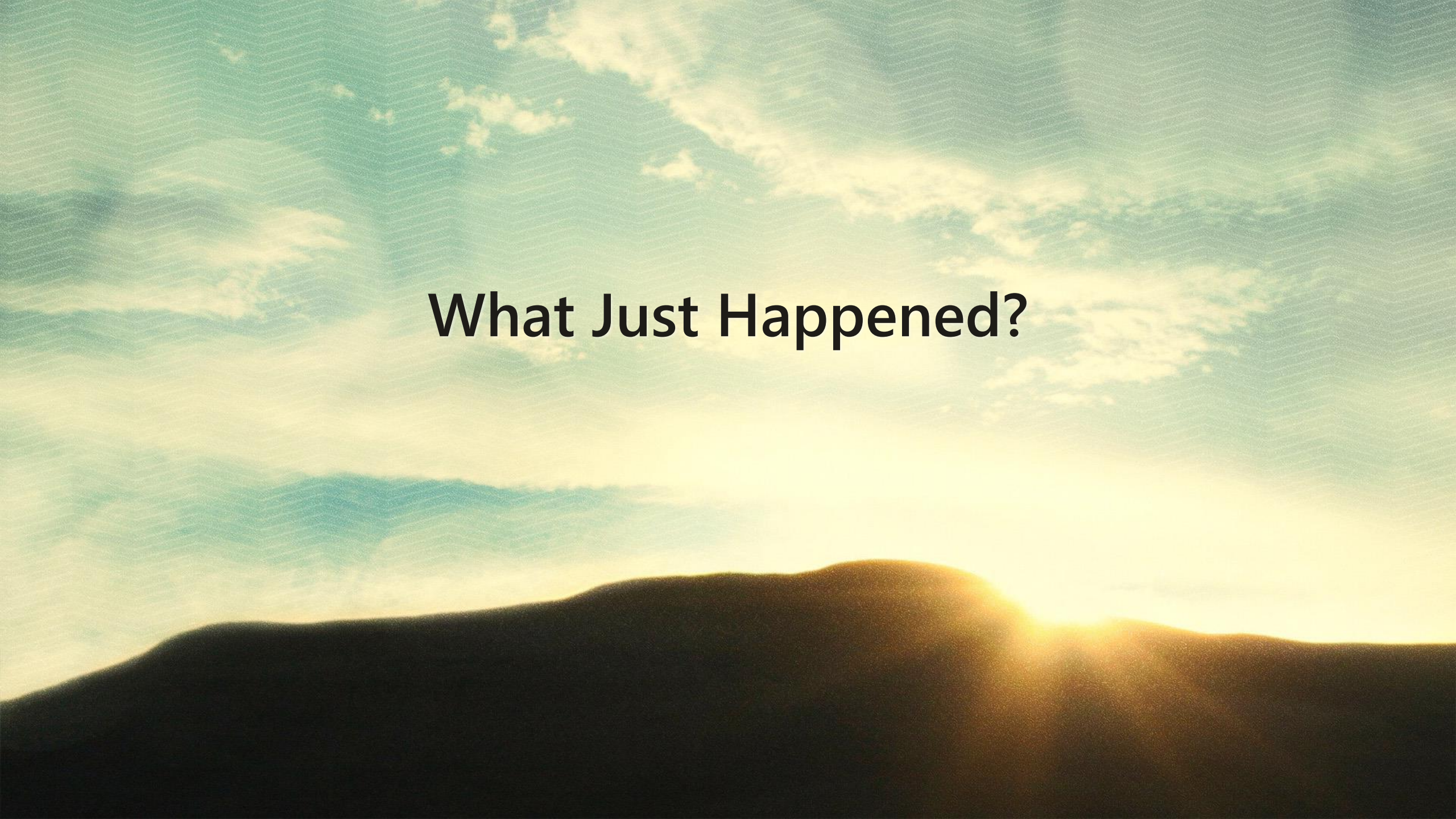
- Familiarity of Darkness
- Light of the World
 - Full
 - Warm



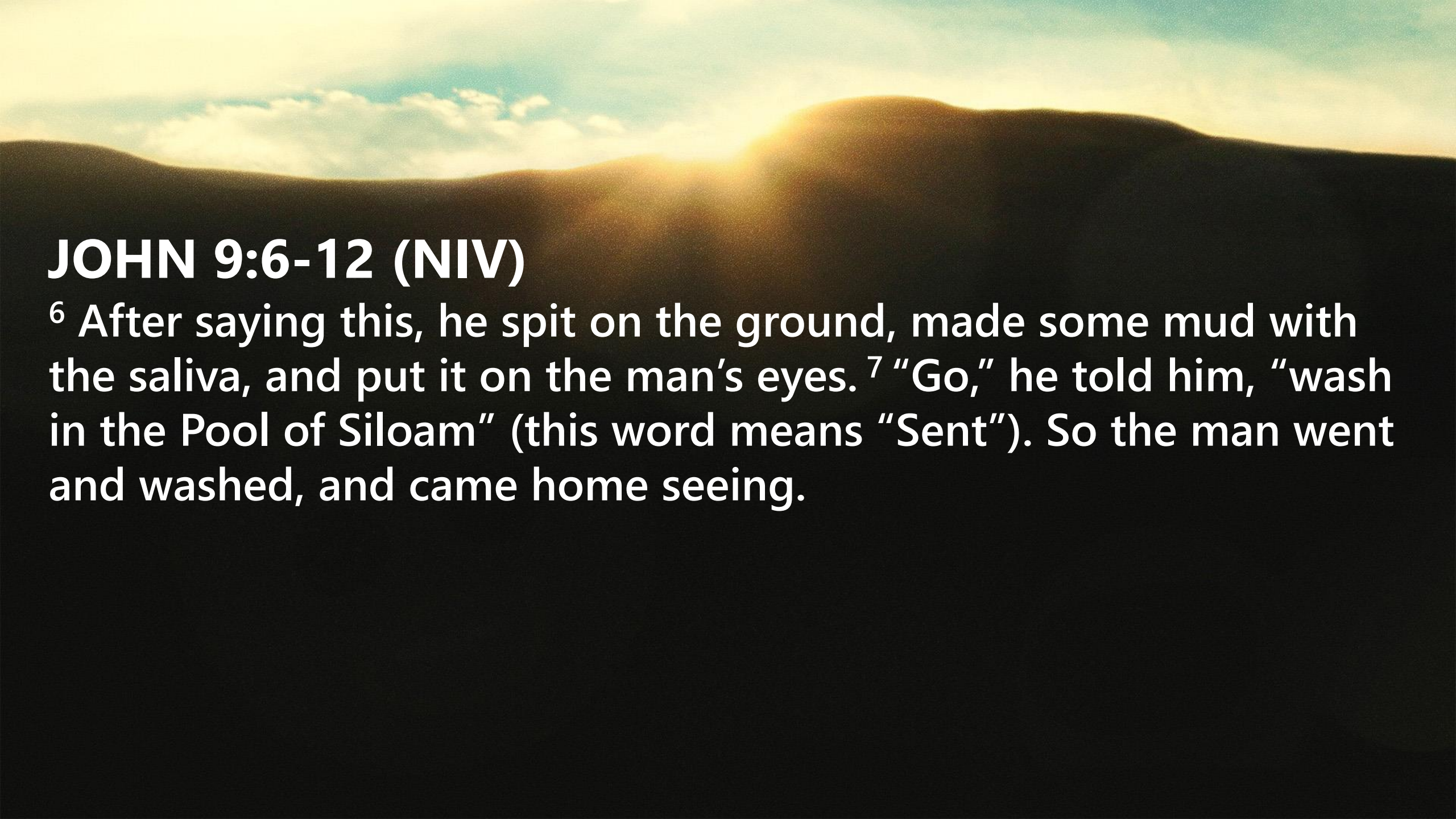
LIGHT IN DARKNESS

- Familiarity of Darkness
- Light of the World
 - Full
 - Warm
 - Close



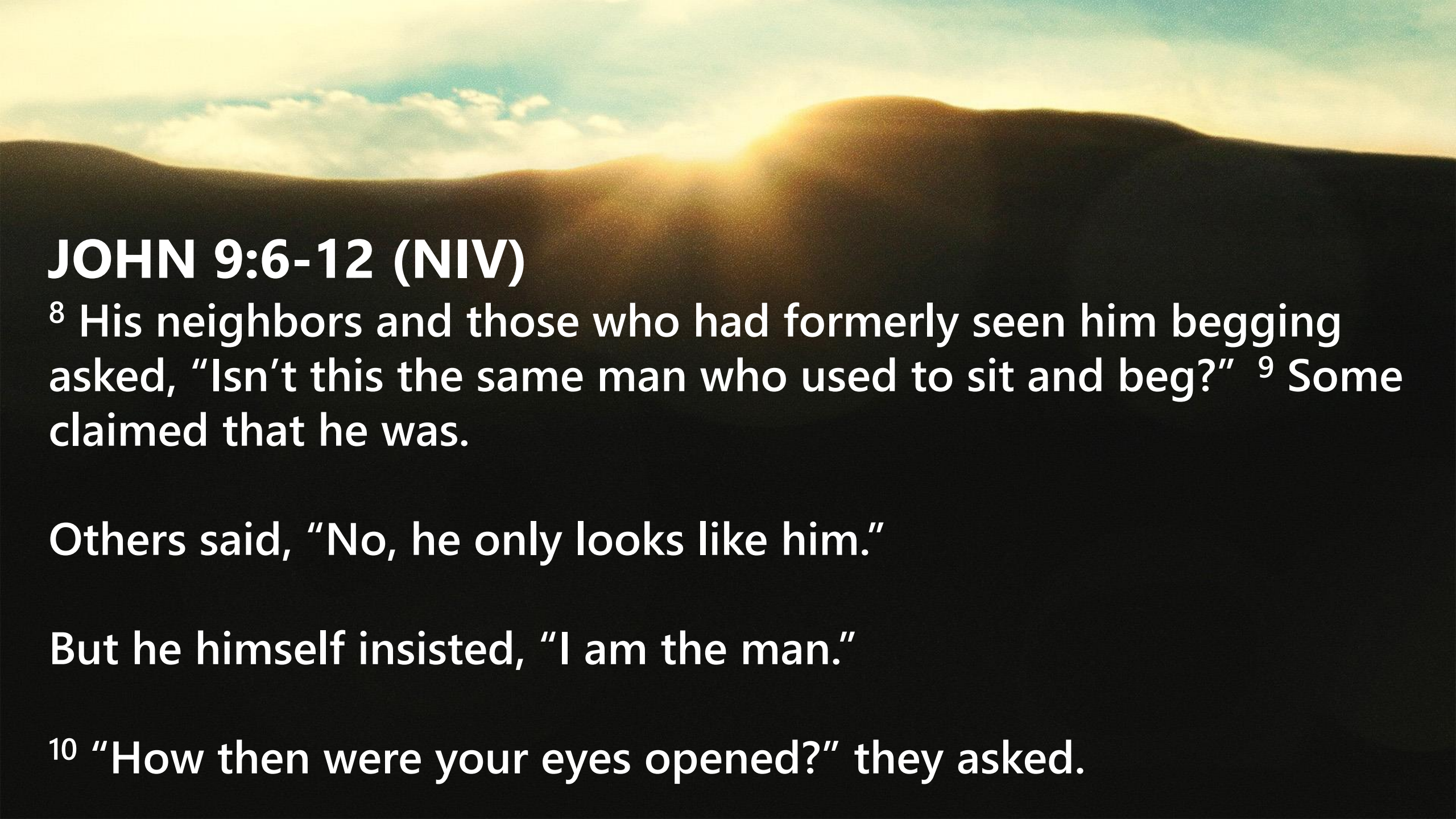


What Just Happened?

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky. The sky has some light clouds.

JOHN 9:6-12 (NIV)

⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷ "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means "Sent"). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky. The sky is filled with soft, wispy clouds, and the overall color palette is dominated by warm yellows, oranges, and blues.

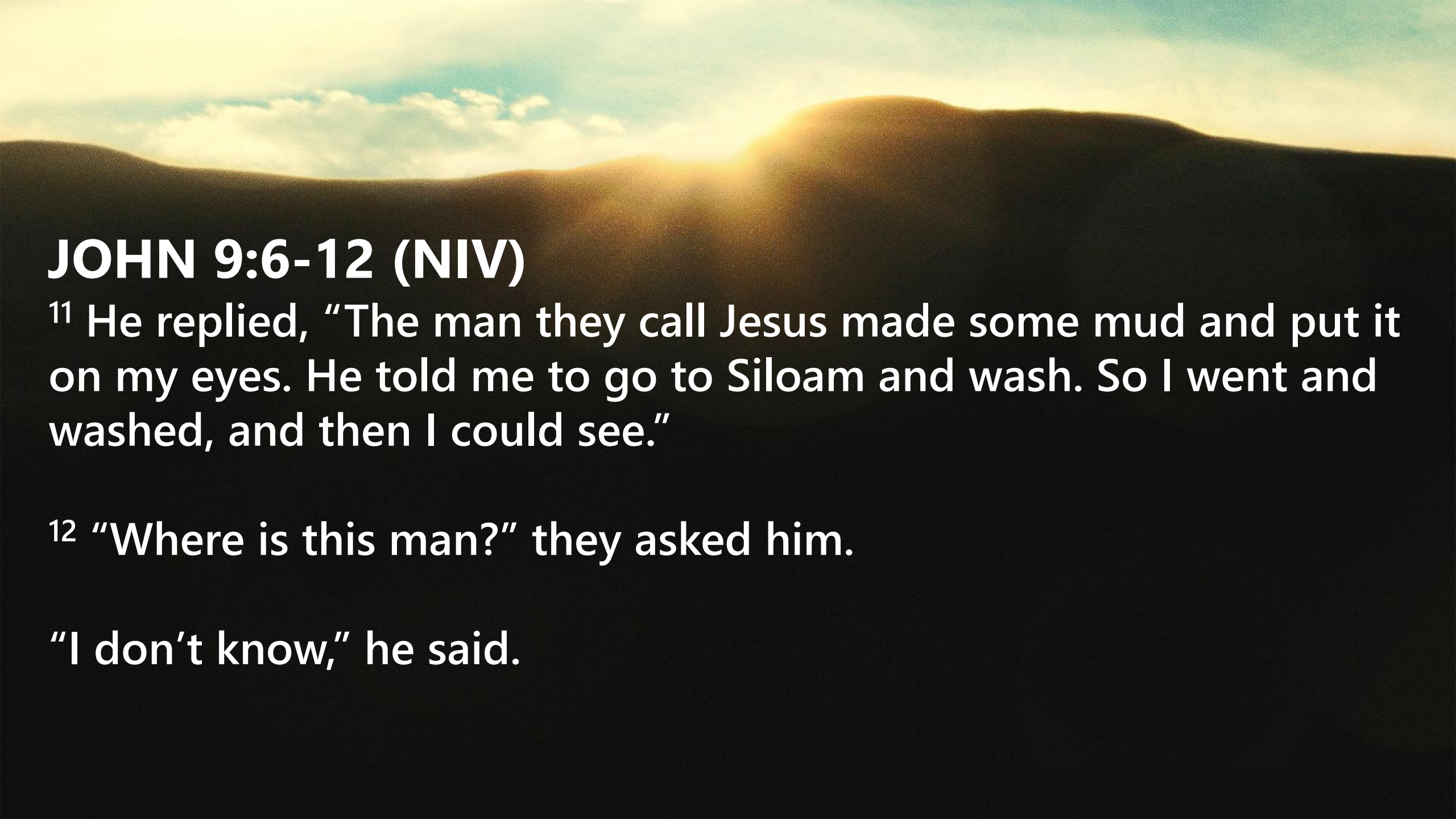
JOHN 9:6-12 (NIV)

⁸ His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some claimed that he was.

Others said, "No, he only looks like him."

But he himself insisted, "I am the man."

¹⁰ "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked.

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue, with some clouds visible.

JOHN 9:6-12 (NIV)

¹¹ He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see."

¹² "Where is this man?" they asked him.

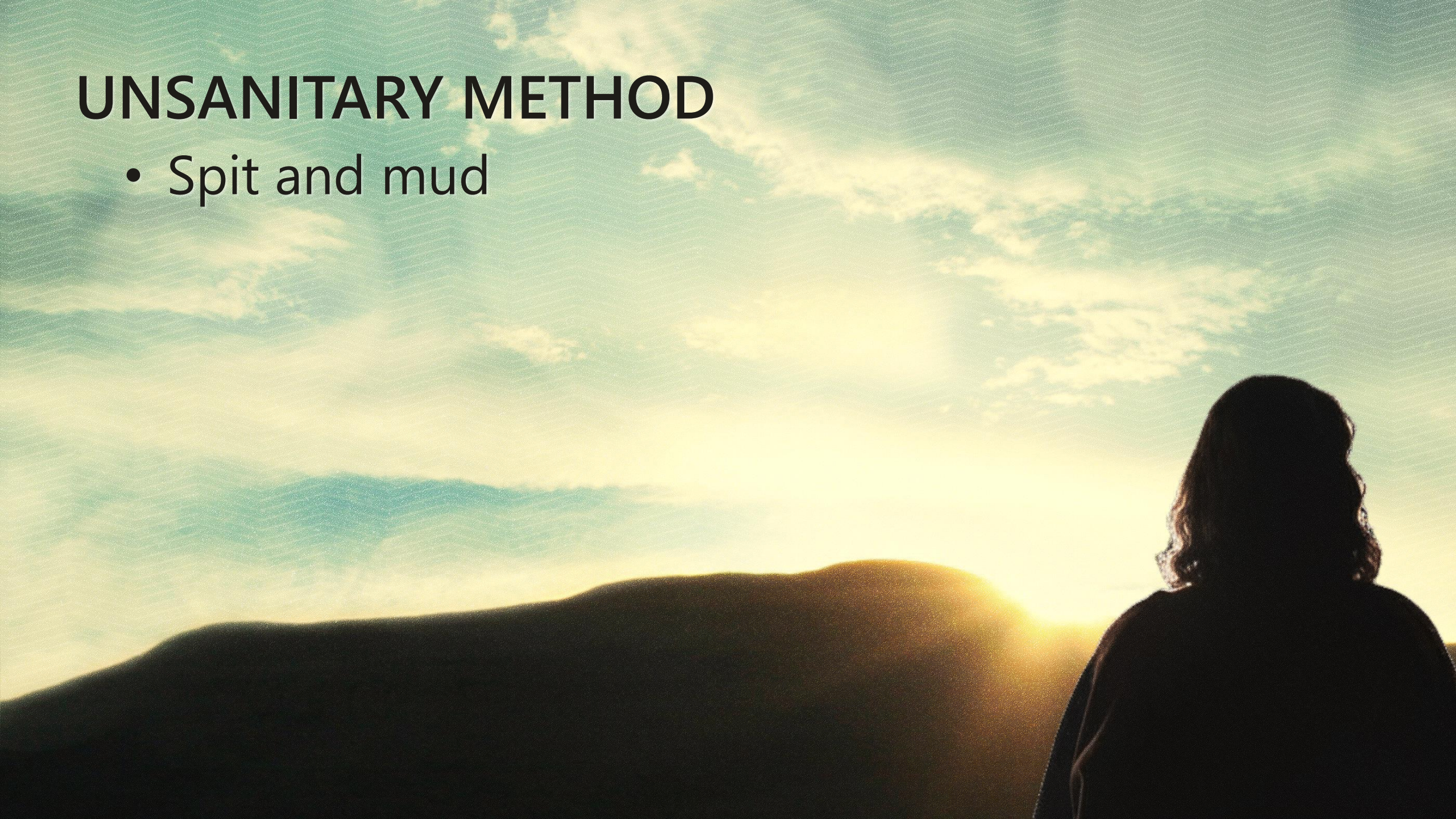
"I don't know," he said.

UNSANITARY METHOD



UNSANITARY METHOD

- Spit and mud



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

- Washing

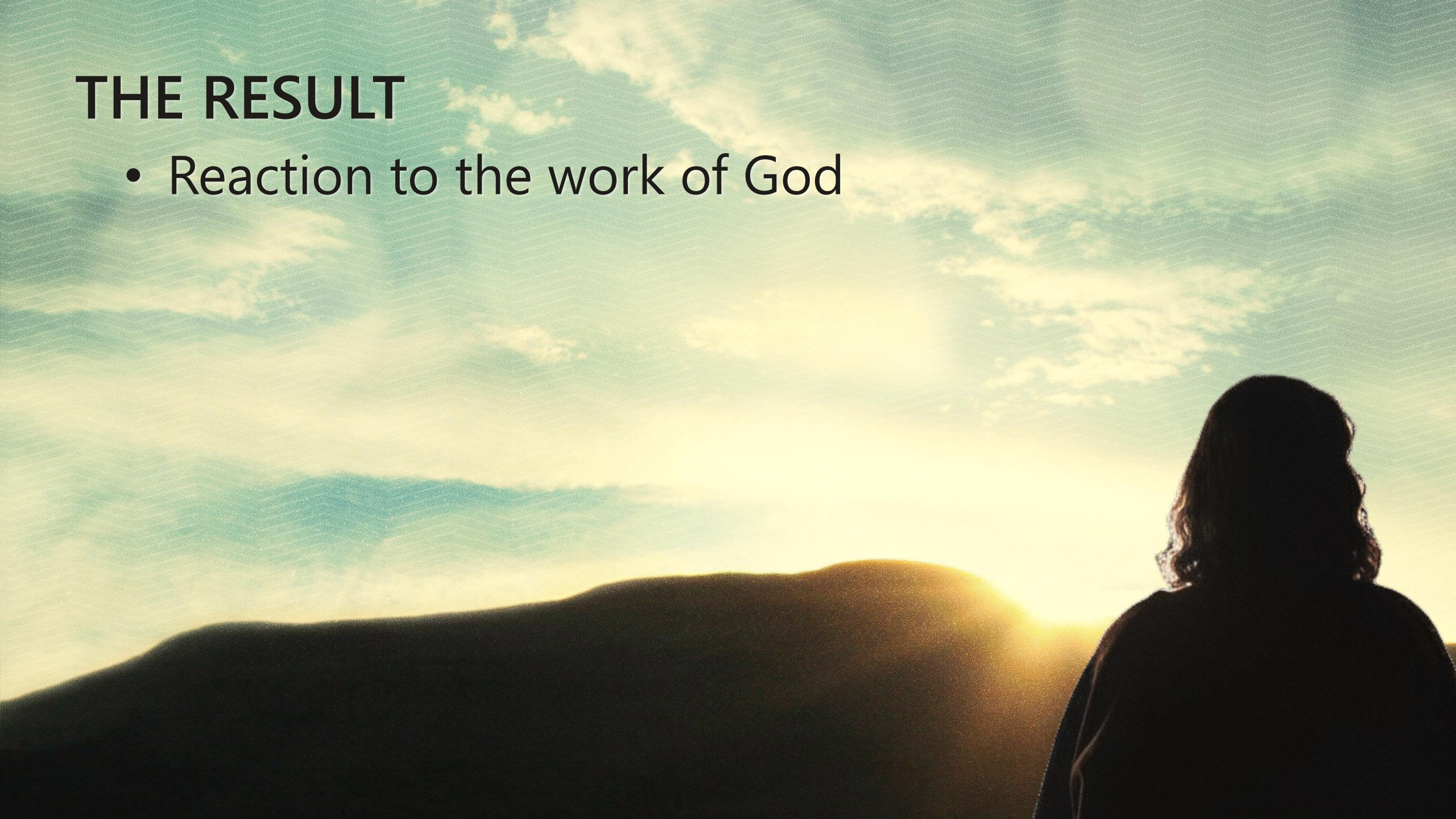


THE RESULT

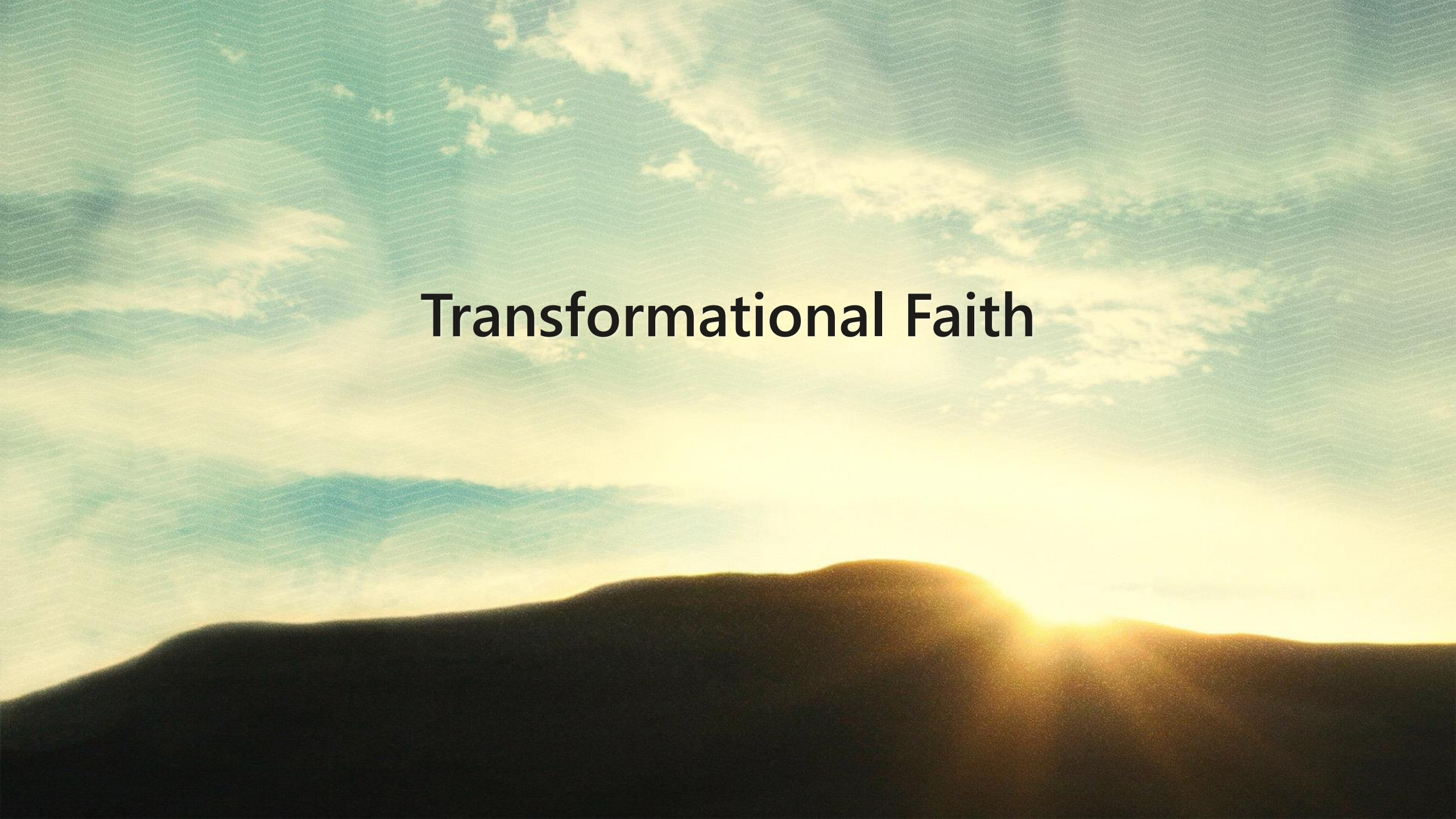


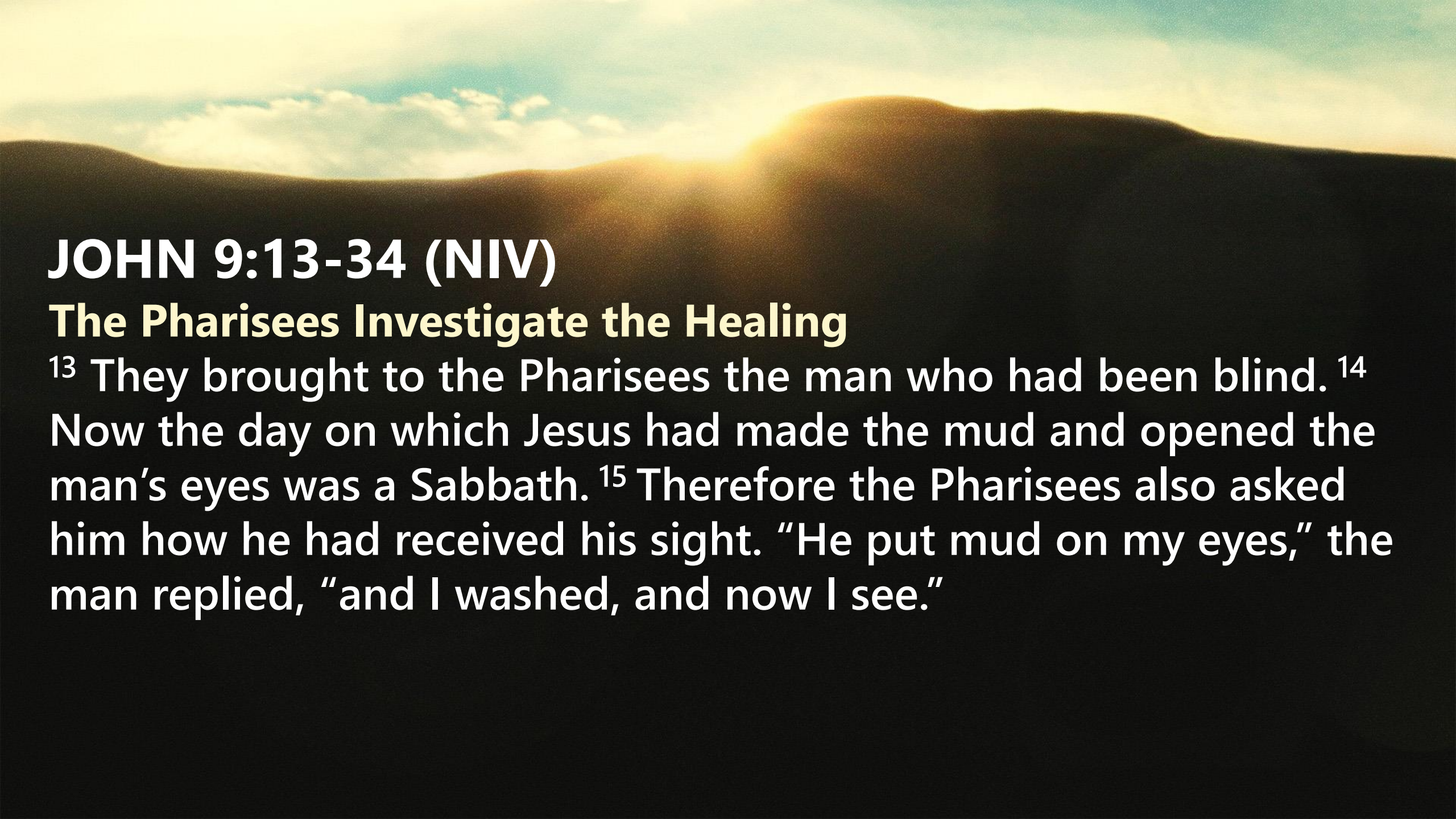
THE RESULT

- Reaction to the work of God



Transformational Faith

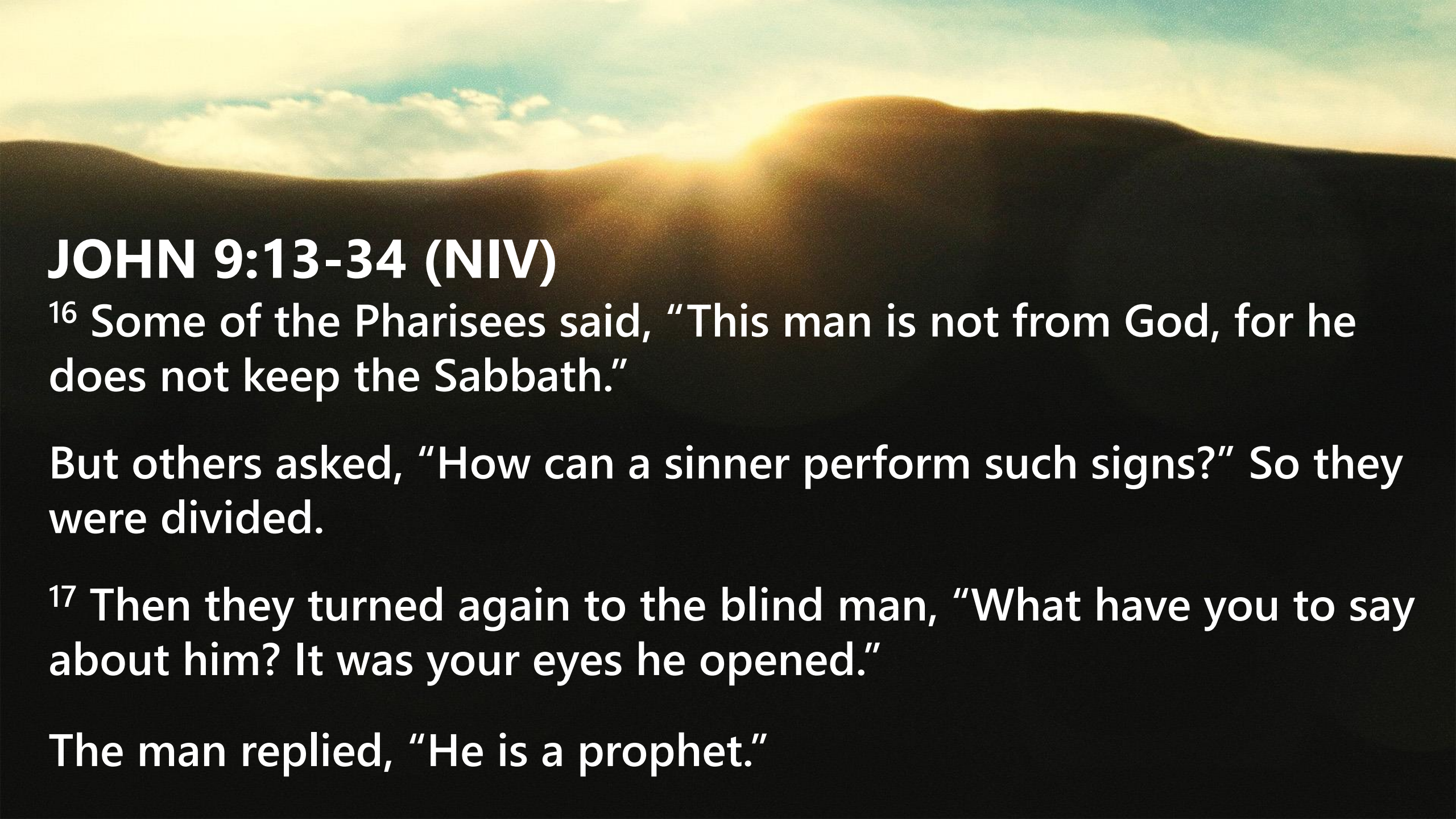




JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

The Pharisees Investigate the Healing

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see."



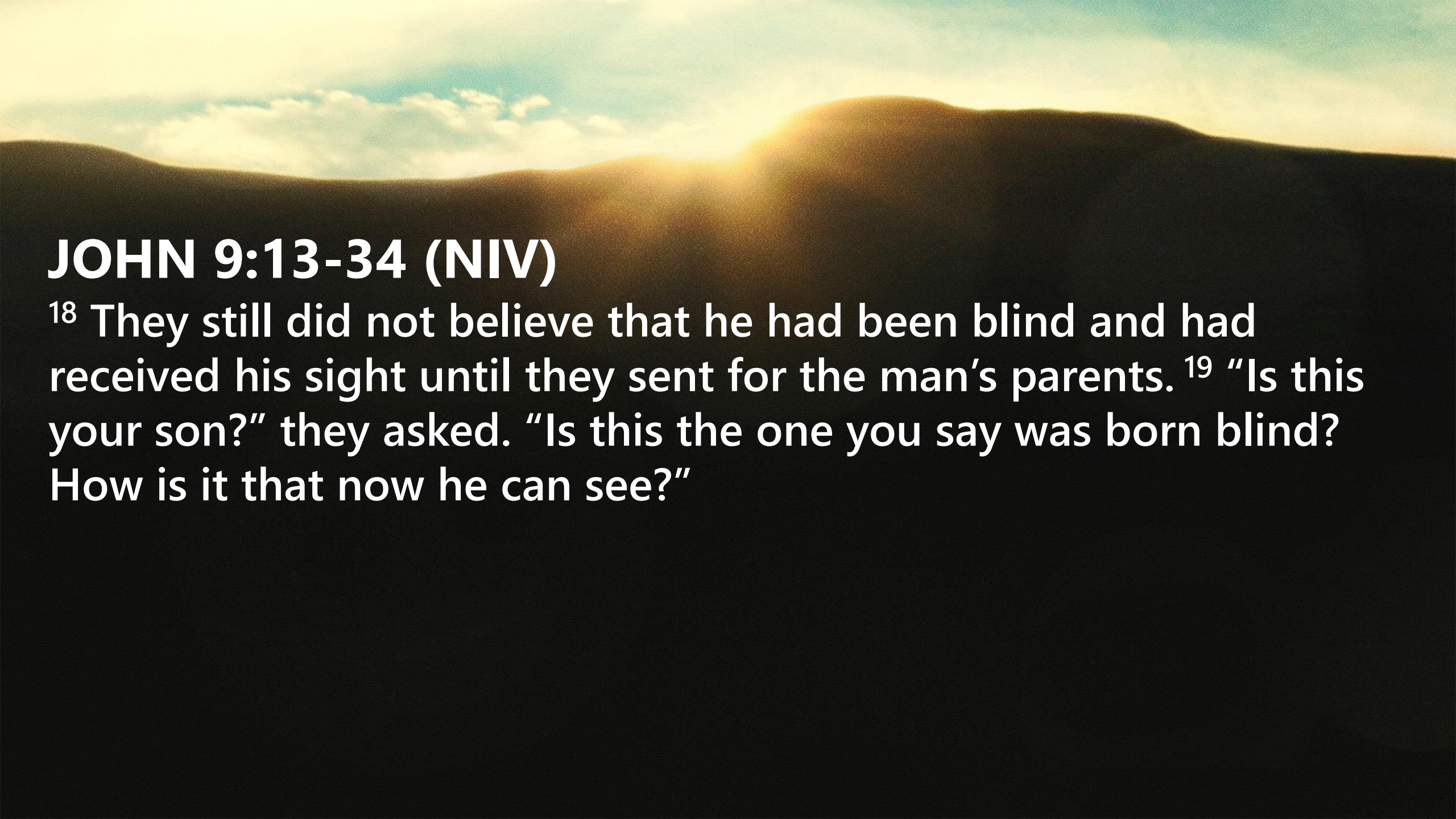
JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath."

But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided.

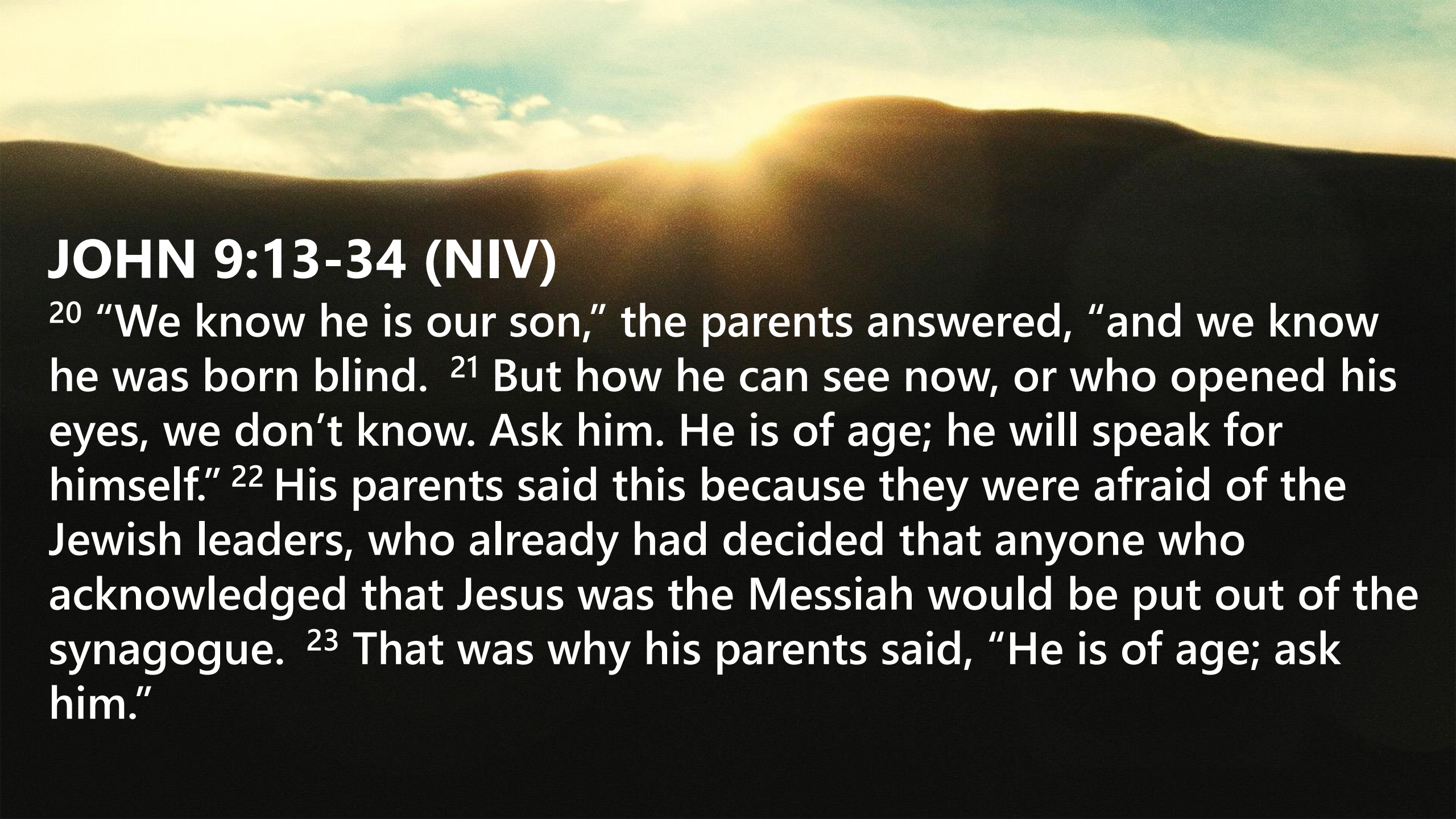
¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened."

The man replied, "He is a prophet."

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky. The sky has some light clouds.

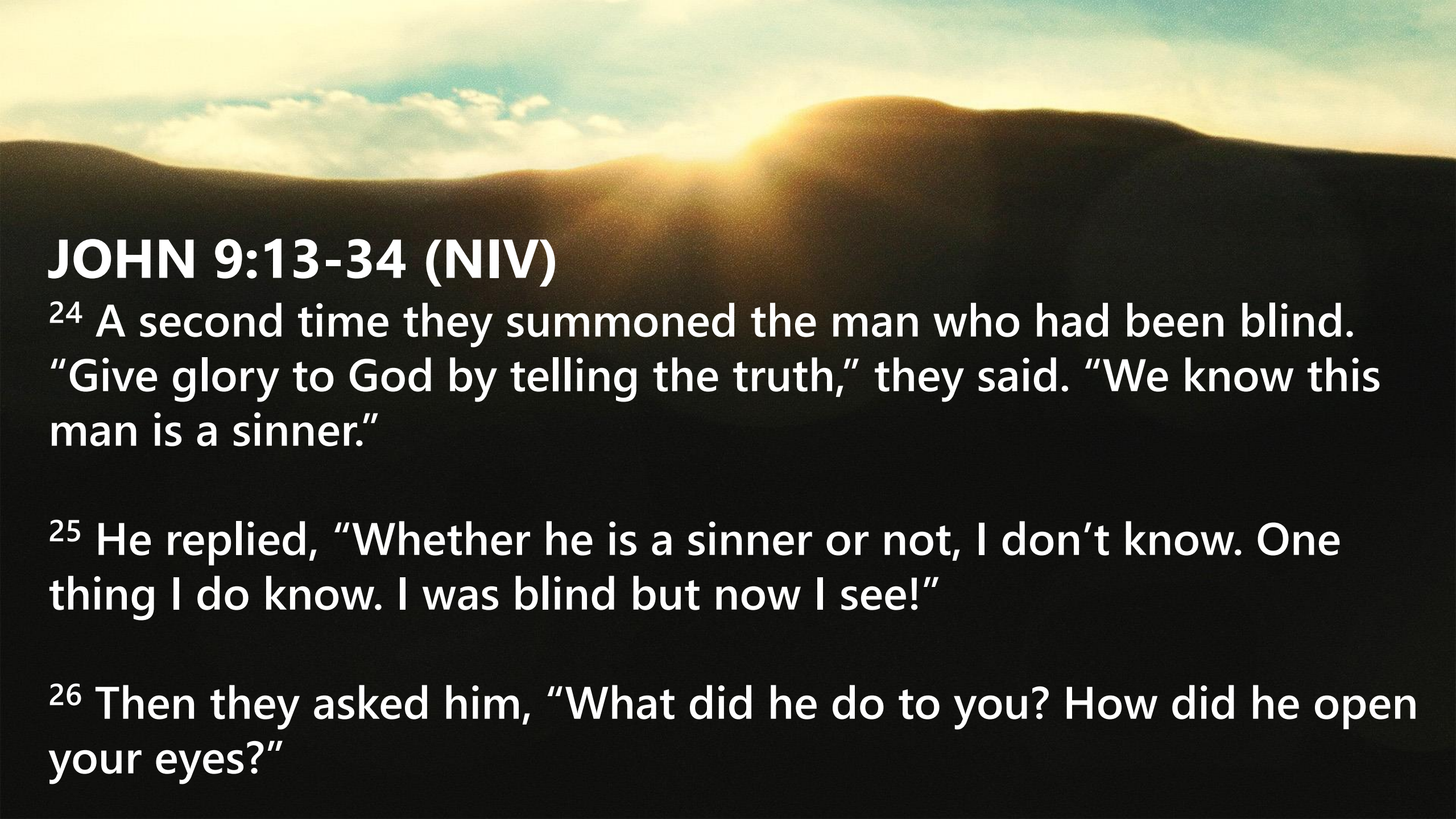
JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

¹⁸ They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. ¹⁹ "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"



JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

²⁰ "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. ²¹ But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

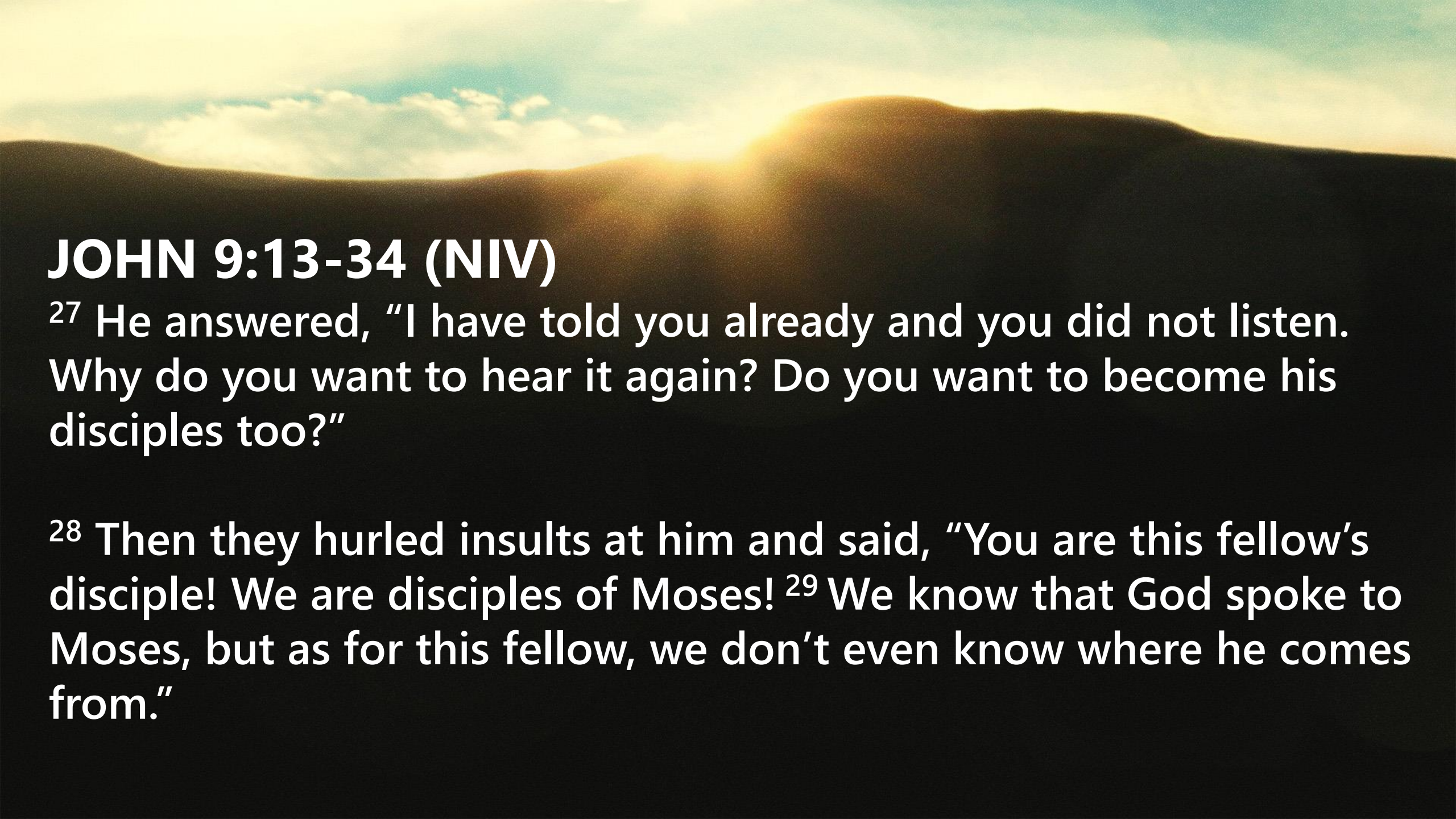
A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow. The hills are silhouetted against the bright sky, and there are some clouds visible. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

²⁴ A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner."

²⁵ He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!"

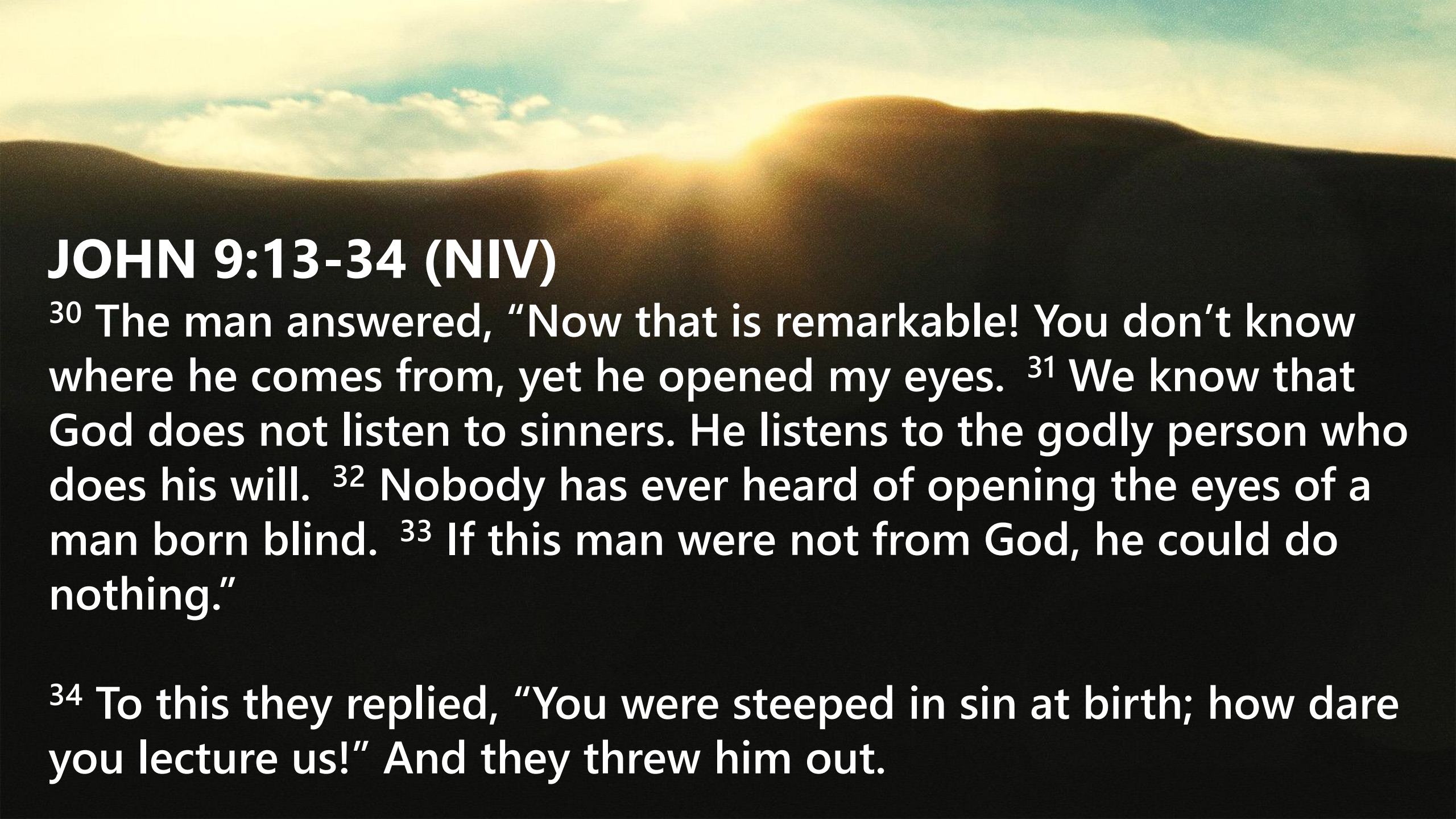
²⁶ Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"



JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

²⁷ He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?"

²⁸ Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! ²⁹ We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."



JOHN 9:13-34 (NIV)

³⁰ The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. ³² Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."

³⁴ To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

BROKEN RULES



BROKEN RULES

- Sabbath Legalism



BROKEN RULES

- Sabbath Legalism
 - Closed mindset



BROKEN RULES

- Sabbath Legalism
 - Closed mindset
 - Open mindset



WITTY WISDOM



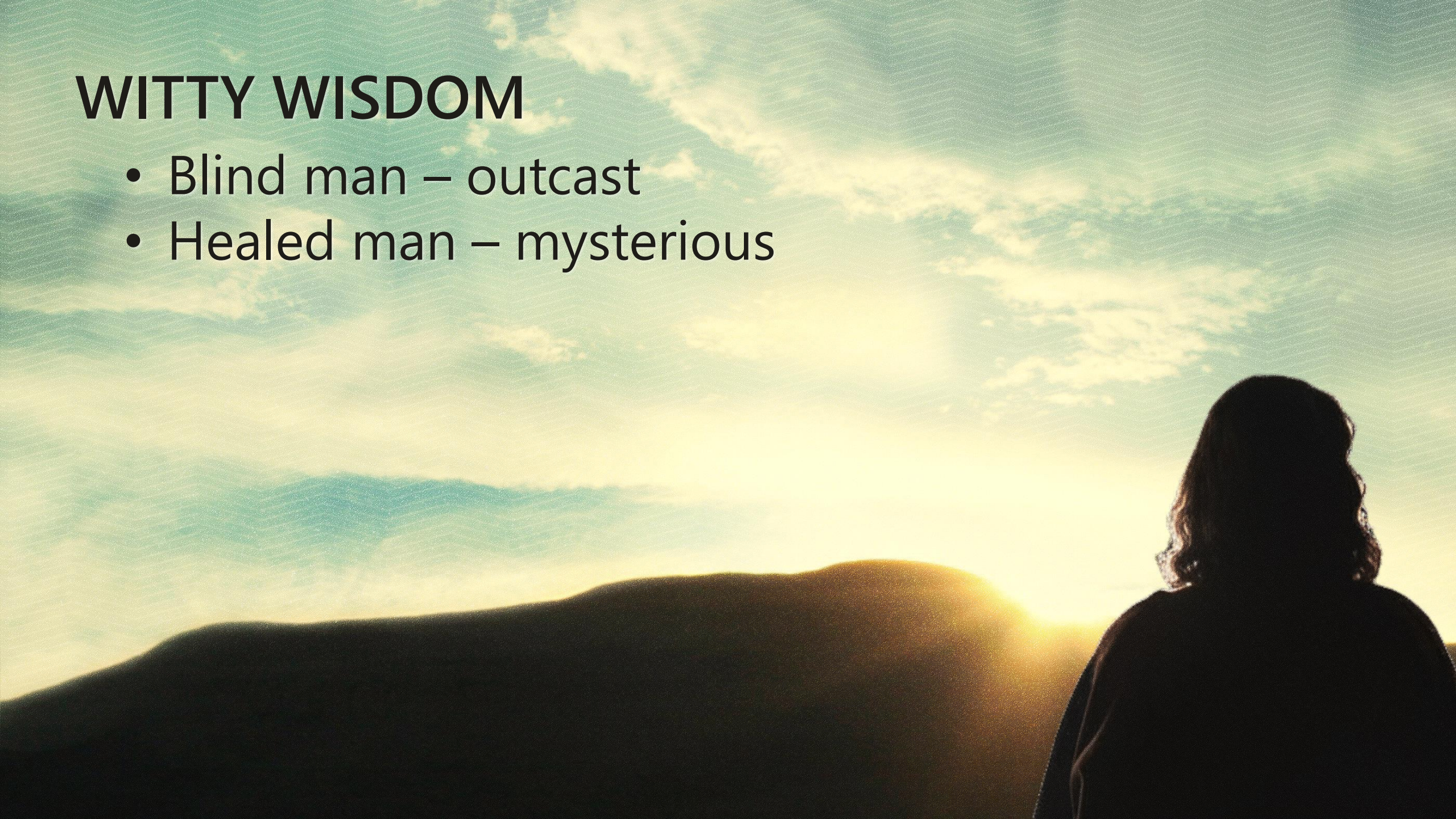
WITTY WISDOM

- Blind man – outcast



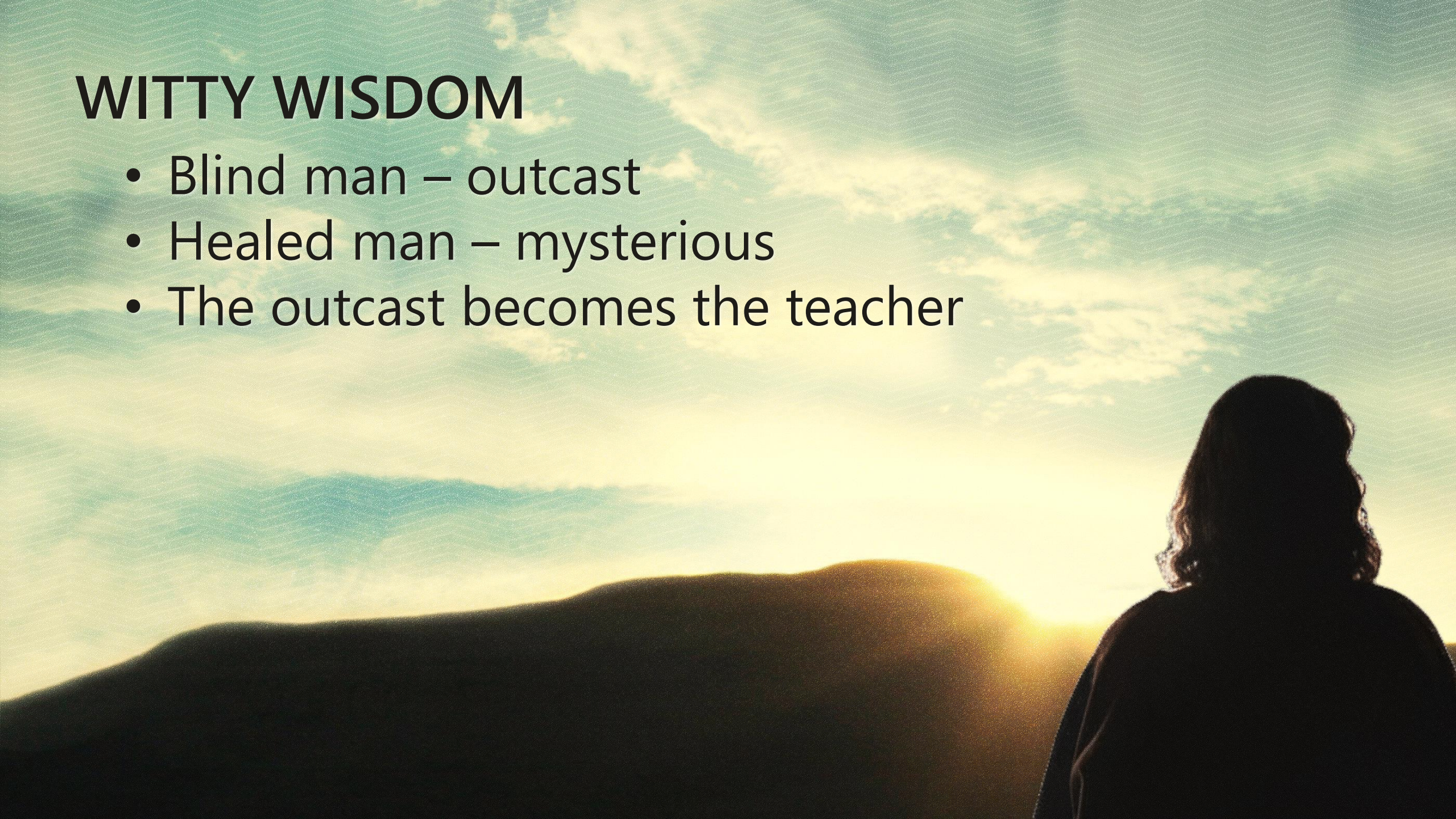
WITTY WISDOM

- Blind man – outcast
- Healed man – mysterious

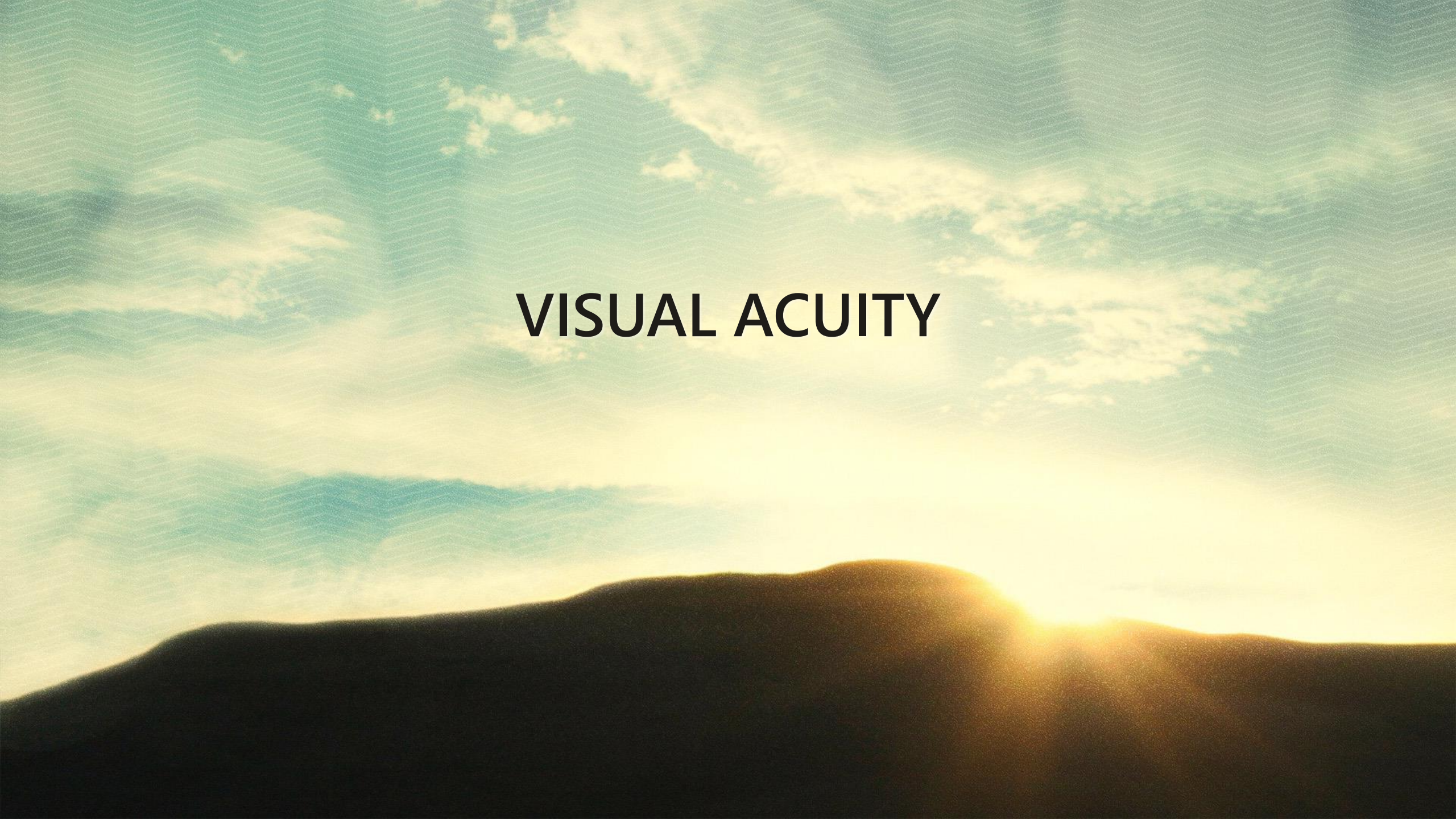


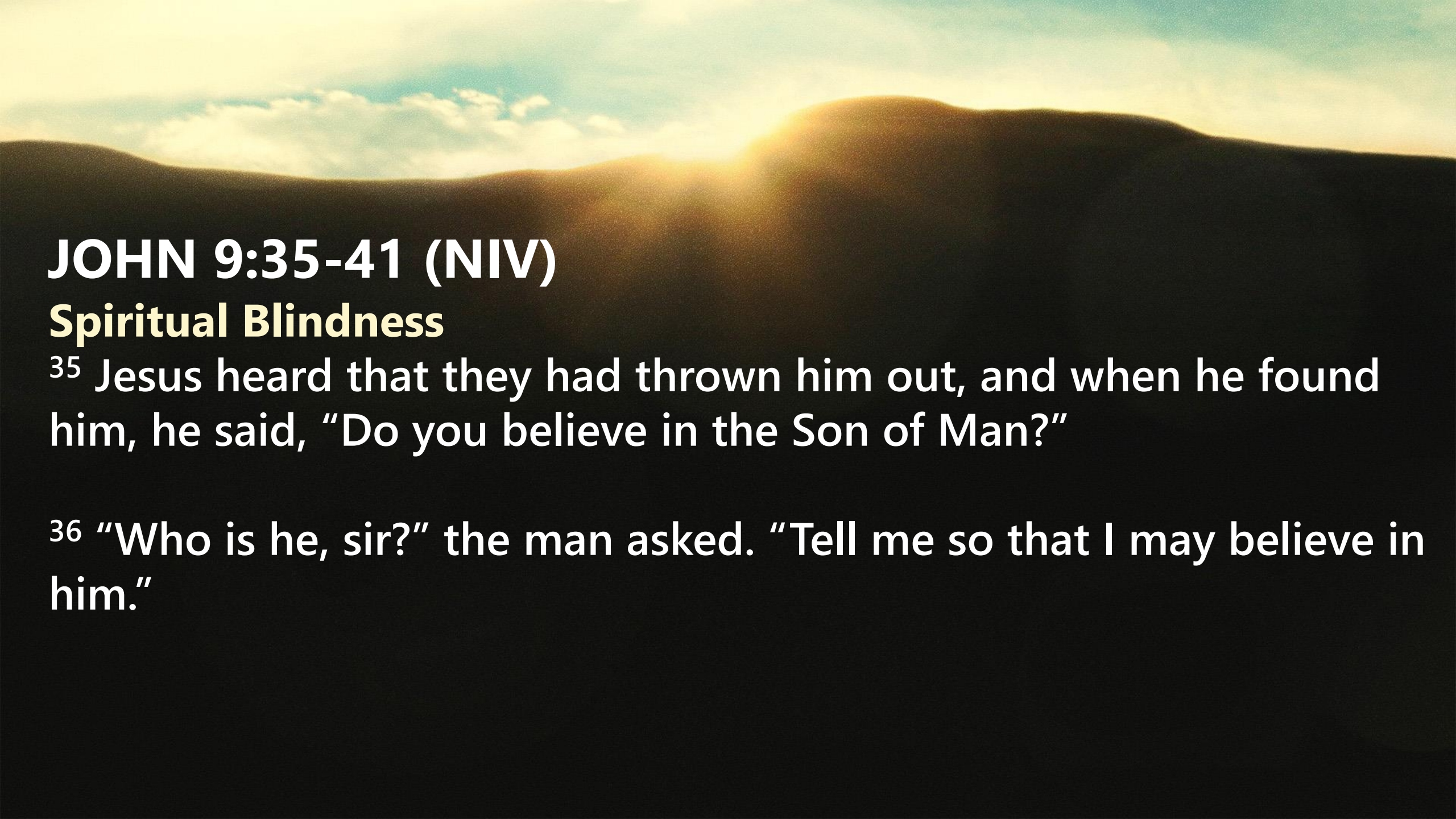
WITTY WISDOM

- Blind man – outcast
- Healed man – mysterious
- The outcast becomes the teacher



VISUAL ACUITY



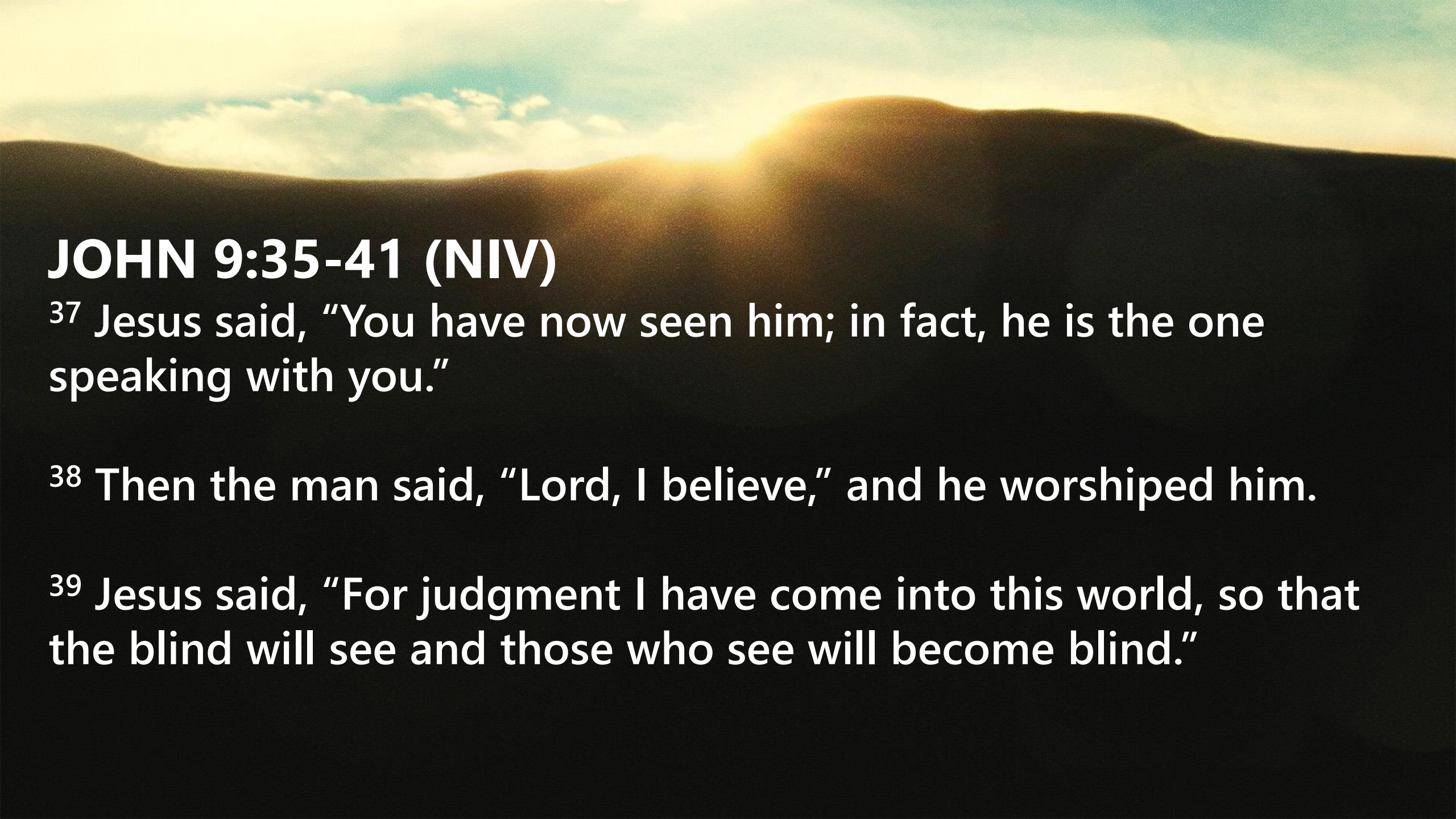


JOHN 9:35-41 (NIV)

Spiritual Blindness

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

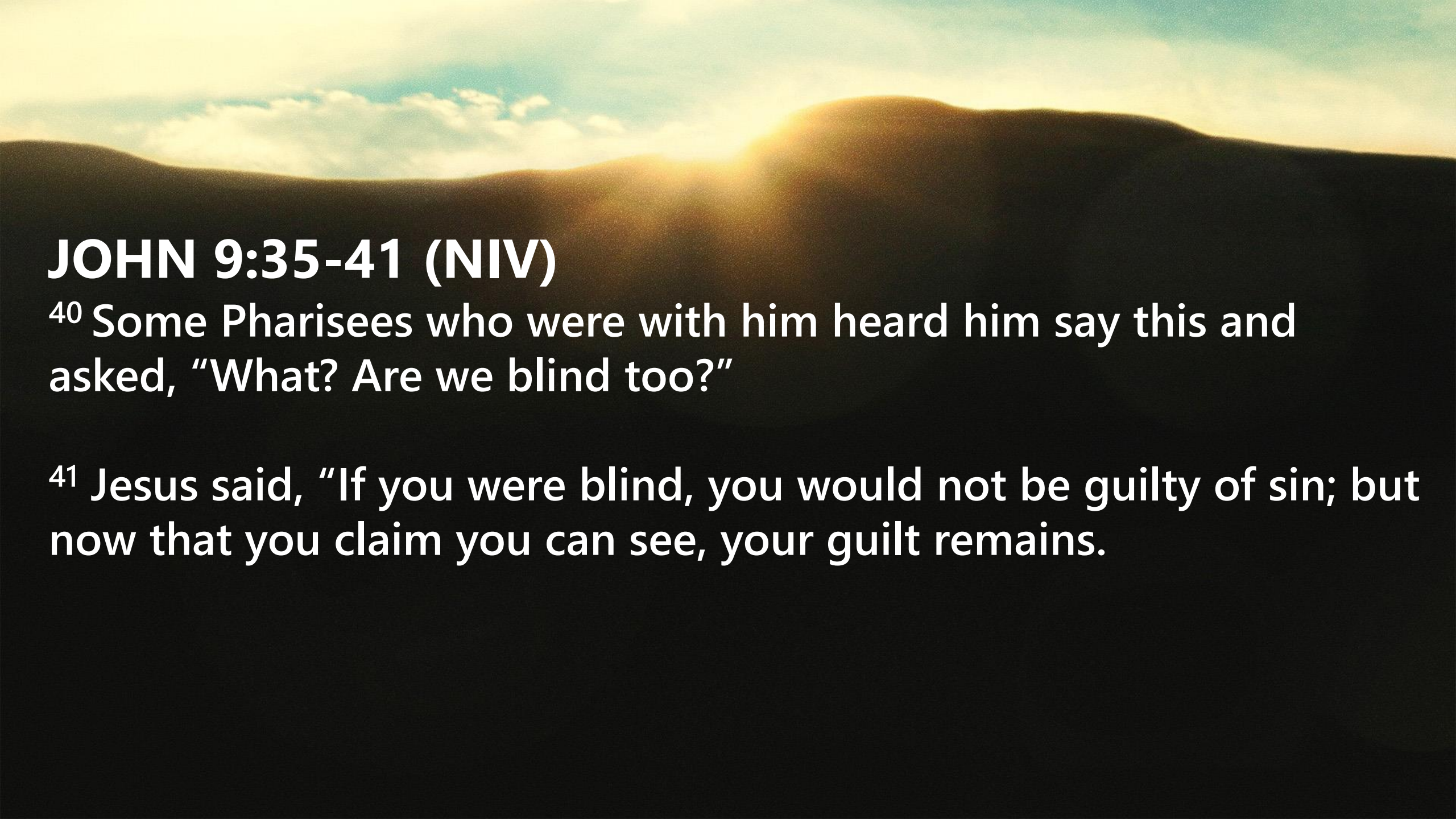
A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the scene. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue.

JOHN 9:35-41 (NIV)

³⁷ Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

³⁸ Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.

³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."

A landscape photograph showing rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the hills. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and blue. The hills are dark and silhouetted against the bright sky.

JOHN 9:35-41 (NIV)

⁴⁰ Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"

⁴¹ Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

JESUS REVEALED



FULL VISION



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing



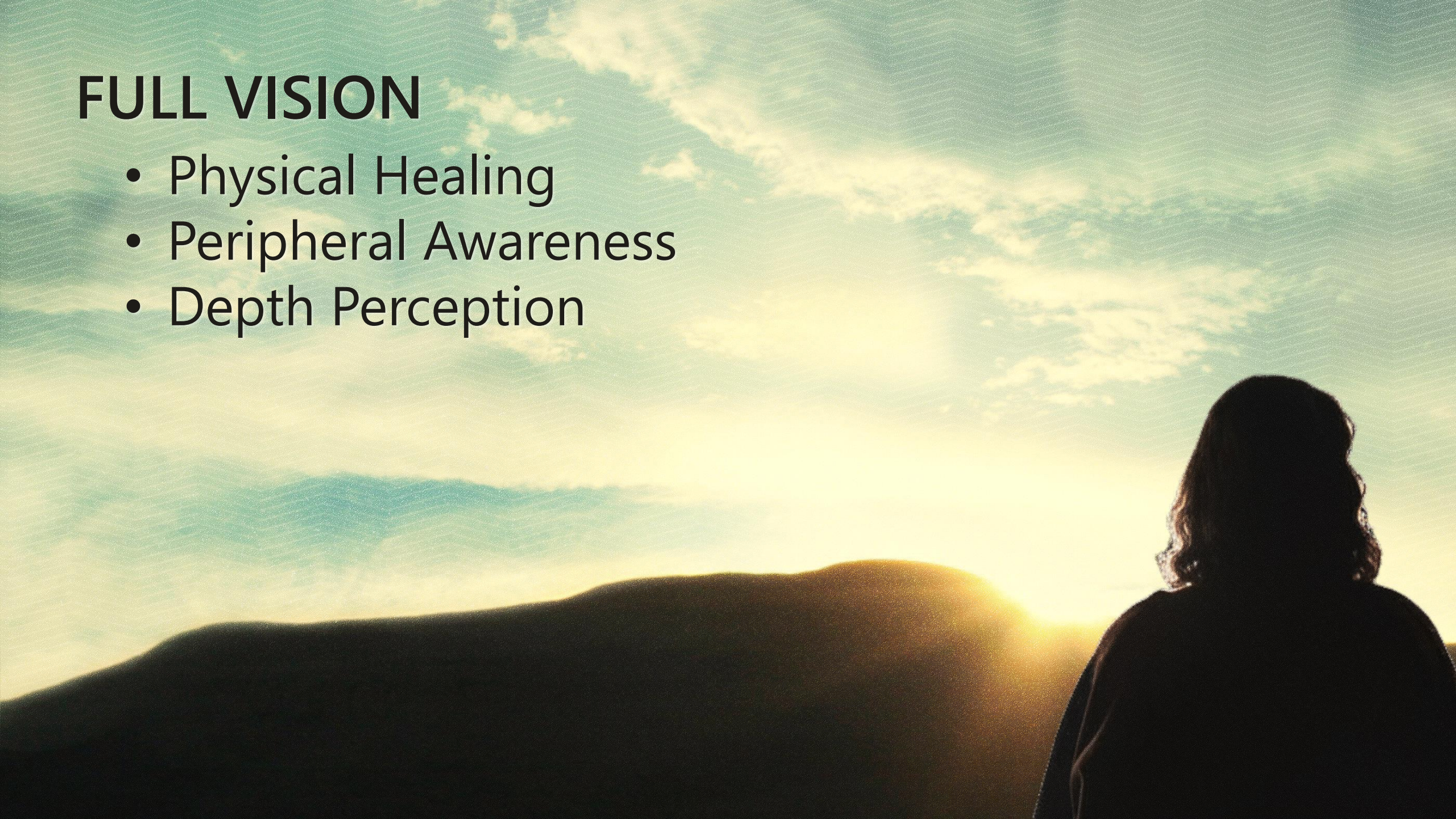
FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness
- Depth Perception



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness
- Depth Perception
- Colour Vision



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness
- Depth Perception
- Colour Vision
- Eye Coordination



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness
- Depth Perception
- Colour Vision
- Eye Coordination
- Cognitive Perception



FULL VISION

- Physical Healing
- Peripheral Awareness
- Depth Perception
- Colour Vision
- Eye Coordination
- Cognitive Perception
- Spiritual Vision



SPIRITUAL IMPARIMENT



SPIRITUAL IMPAIRMENT

- Sight to the blind



SPIRITUAL IMPARIMENT

- Sight to the blind
- Revealing blindness



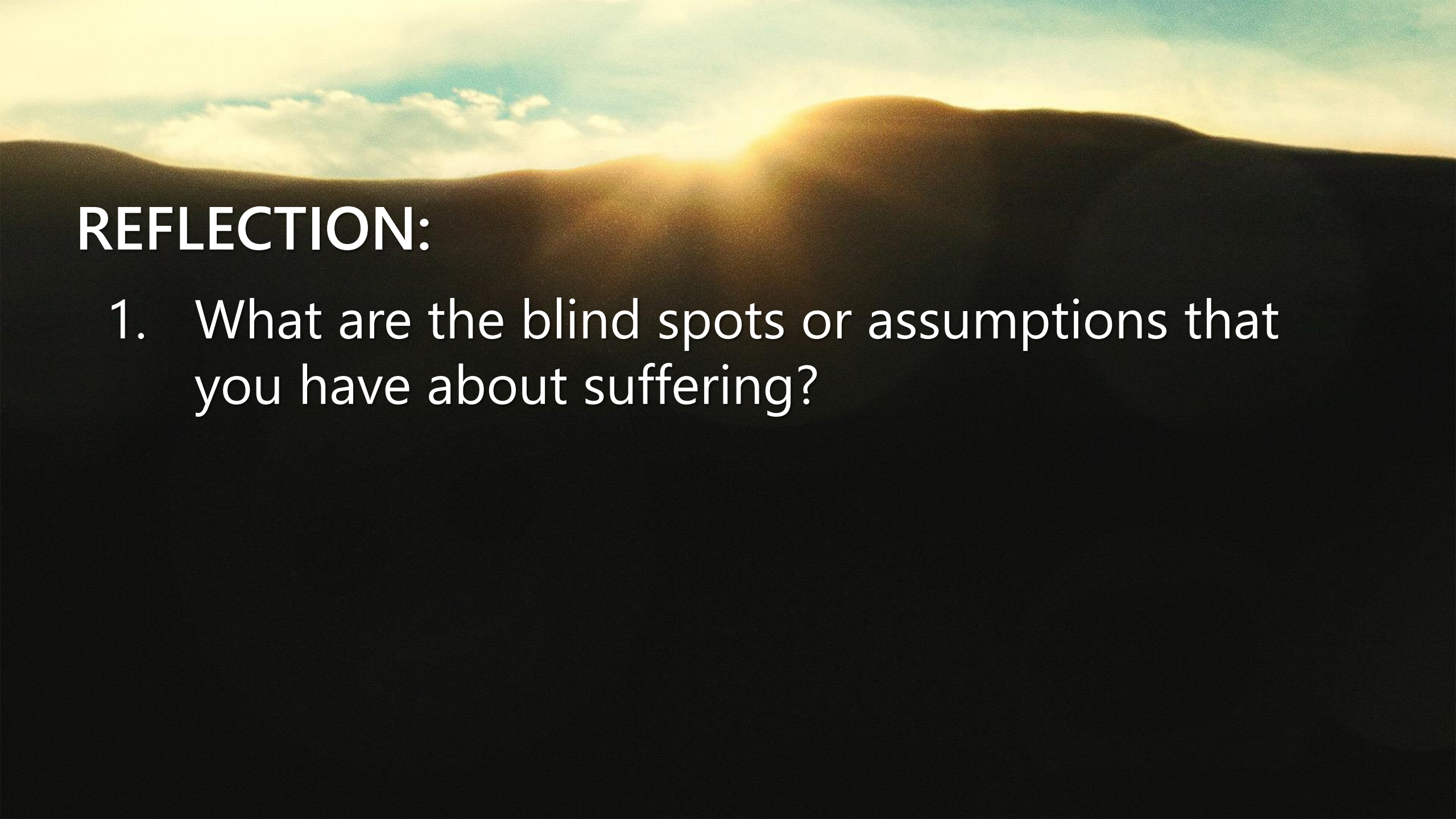
SPIRITUAL IMPARIMENT

- Sight to the blind
- Revealing blindness
- Source of light



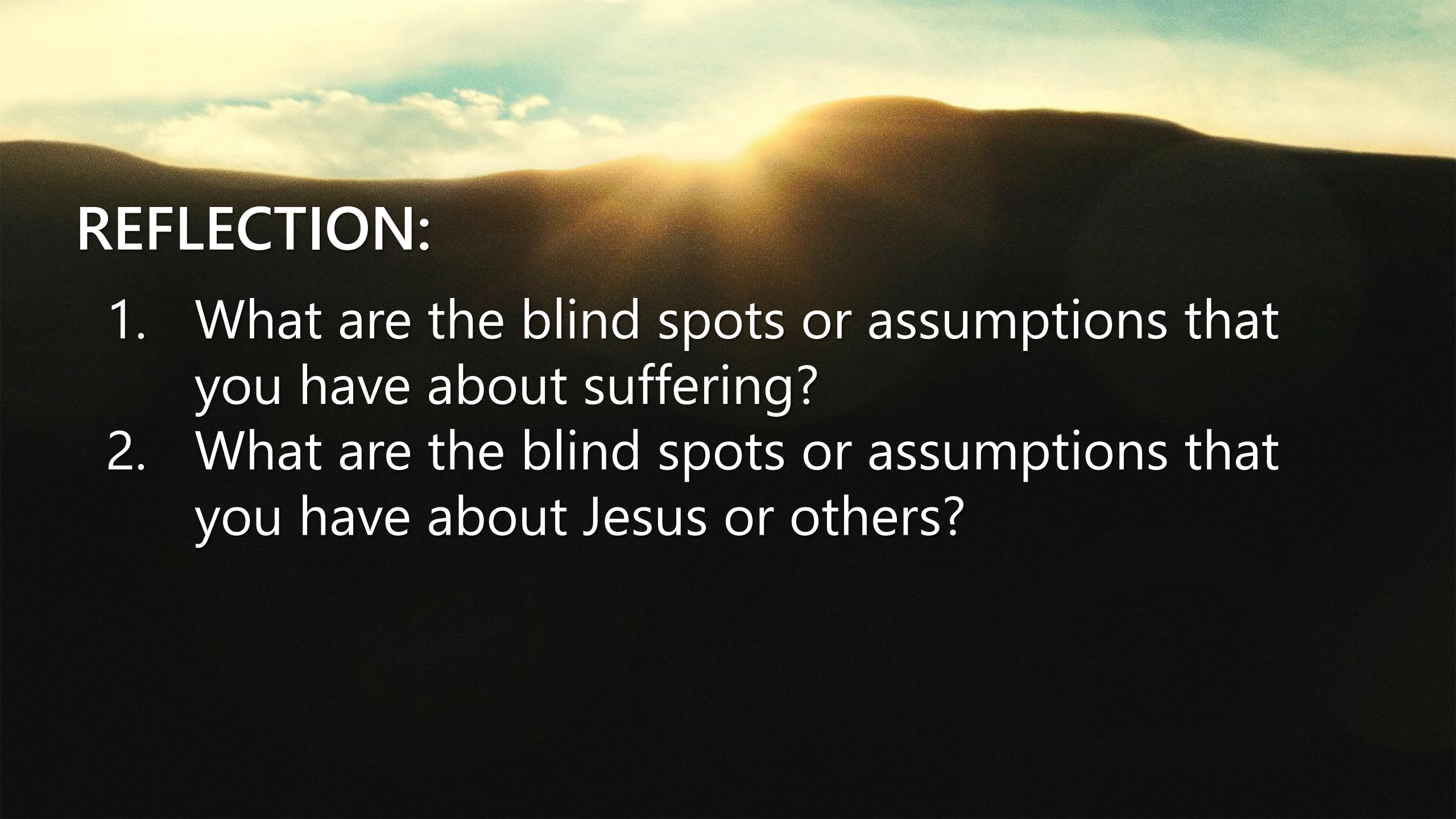
A landscape photograph featuring rolling hills under a sunset sky. The sun is positioned behind a hill in the center-right, creating a bright glow and lens flare. The sky is a mix of orange, yellow, and light blue. The foreground and the lower parts of the hills are in deep shadow, appearing dark. The word 'REFLECTION:' is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

REFLECTION:



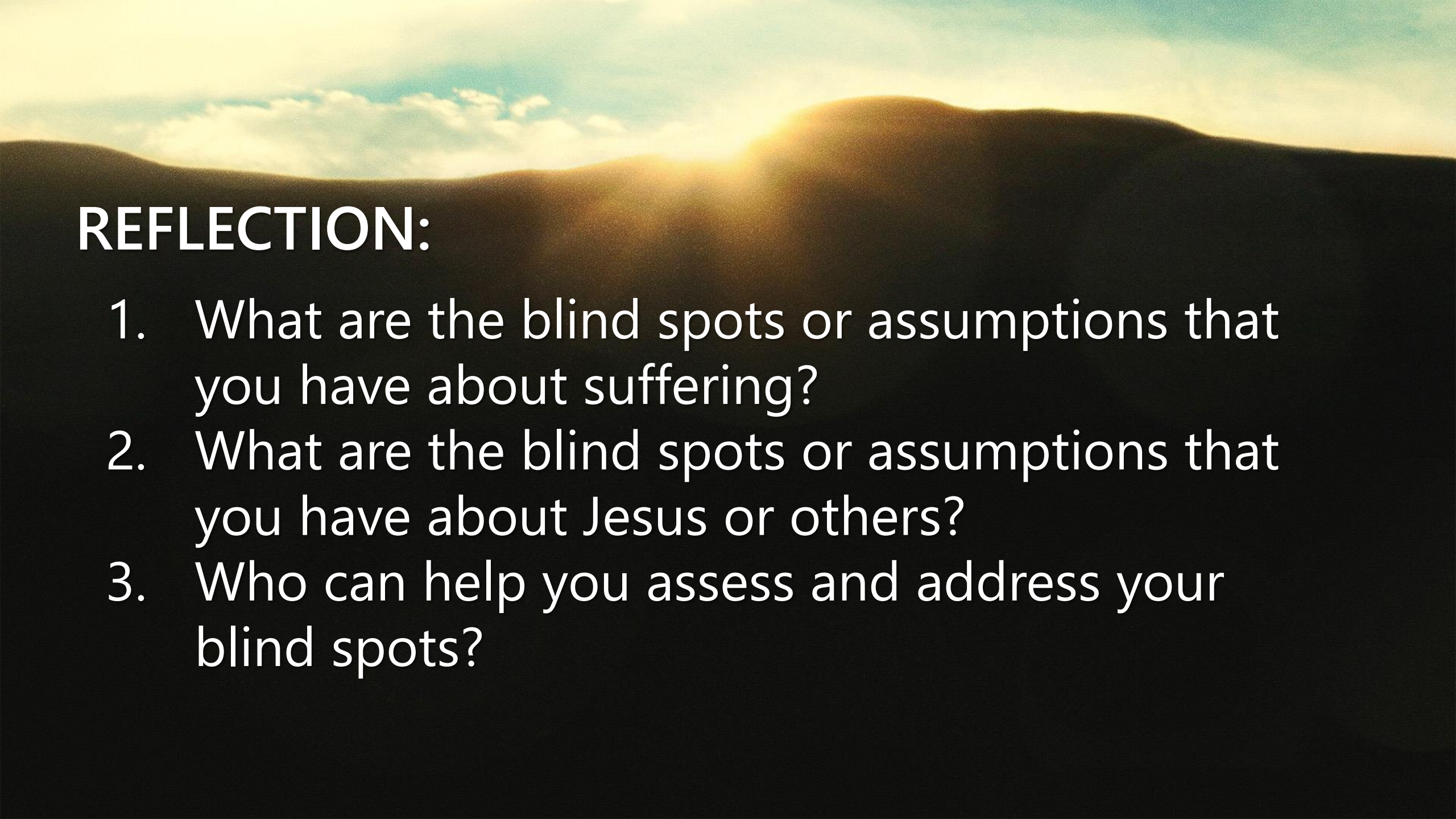
REFLECTION:

1. What are the blind spots or assumptions that you have about suffering?



REFLECTION:

1. What are the blind spots or assumptions that you have about suffering?
2. What are the blind spots or assumptions that you have about Jesus or others?



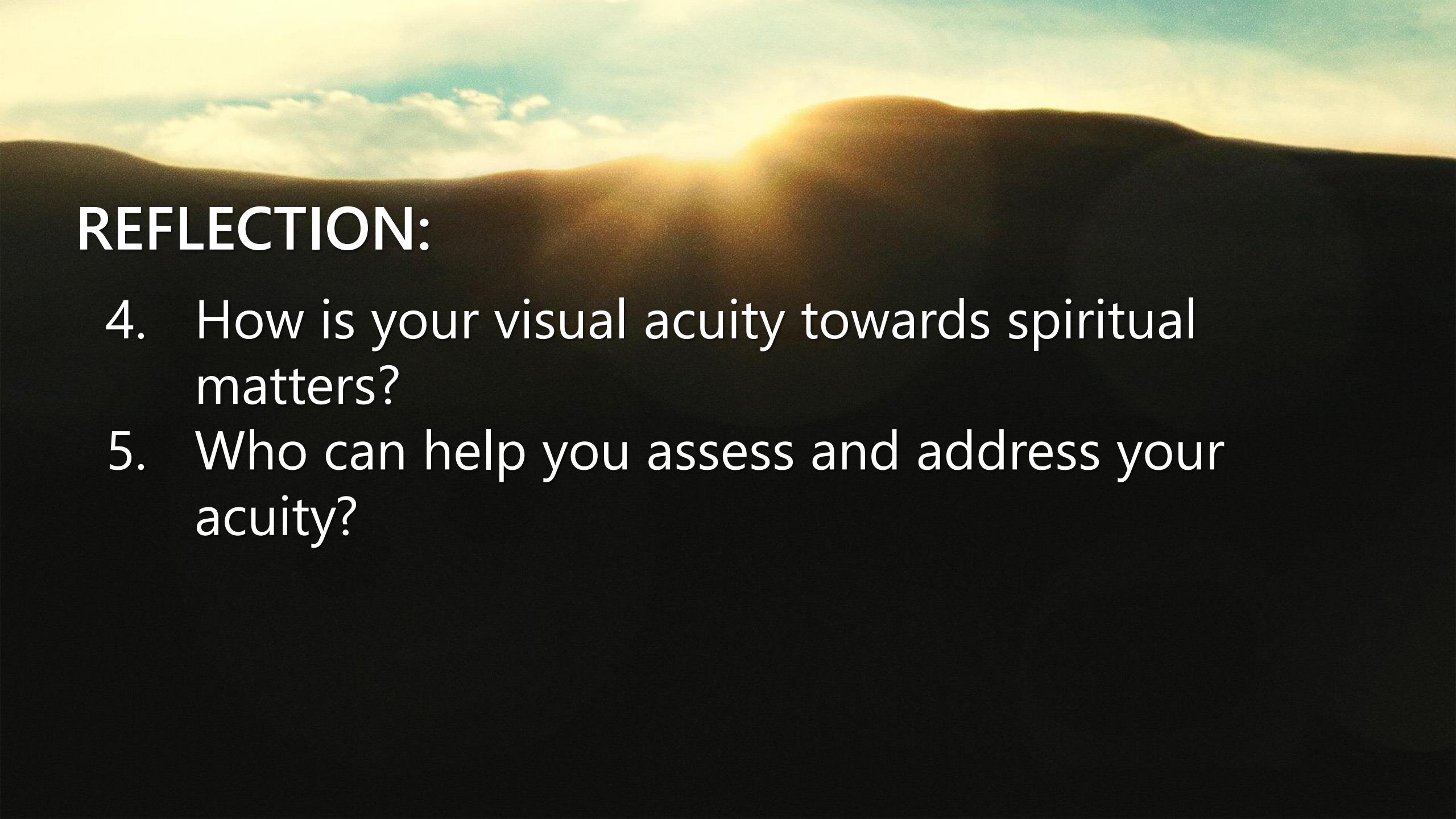
REFLECTION:

1. What are the blind spots or assumptions that you have about suffering?
2. What are the blind spots or assumptions that you have about Jesus or others?
3. Who can help you assess and address your blind spots?



REFLECTION:

4. How is your visual acuity towards spiritual matters?



REFLECTION:

4. How is your visual acuity towards spiritual matters?
5. Who can help you assess and address your acuity?





