

2023



# Ordinary Time

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30





*What does summer mean for you?*

**28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. **30** For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

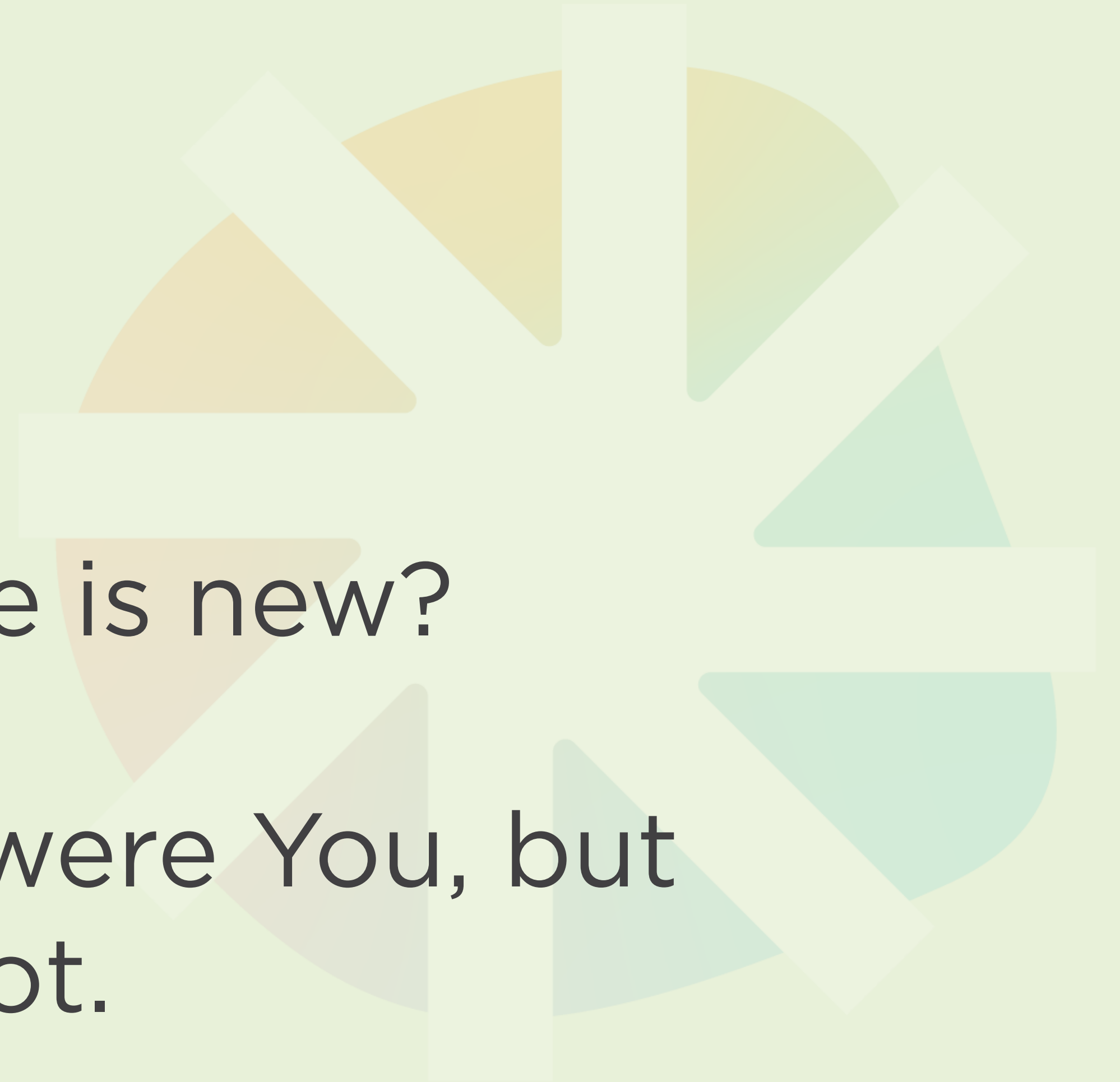
**Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30)**

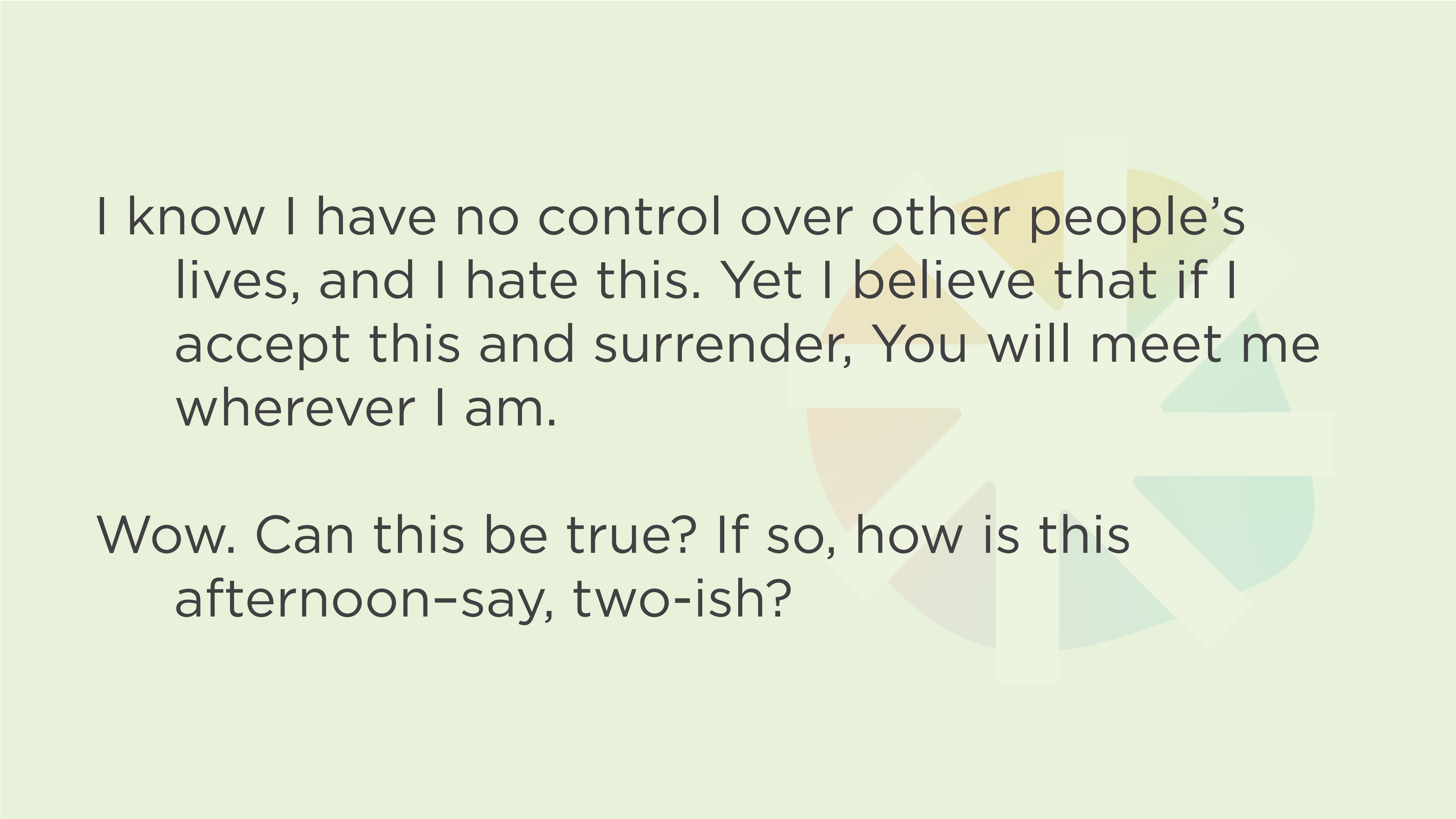
Hi, God.

I am just a mess.

It is all hopeless. What else is new?

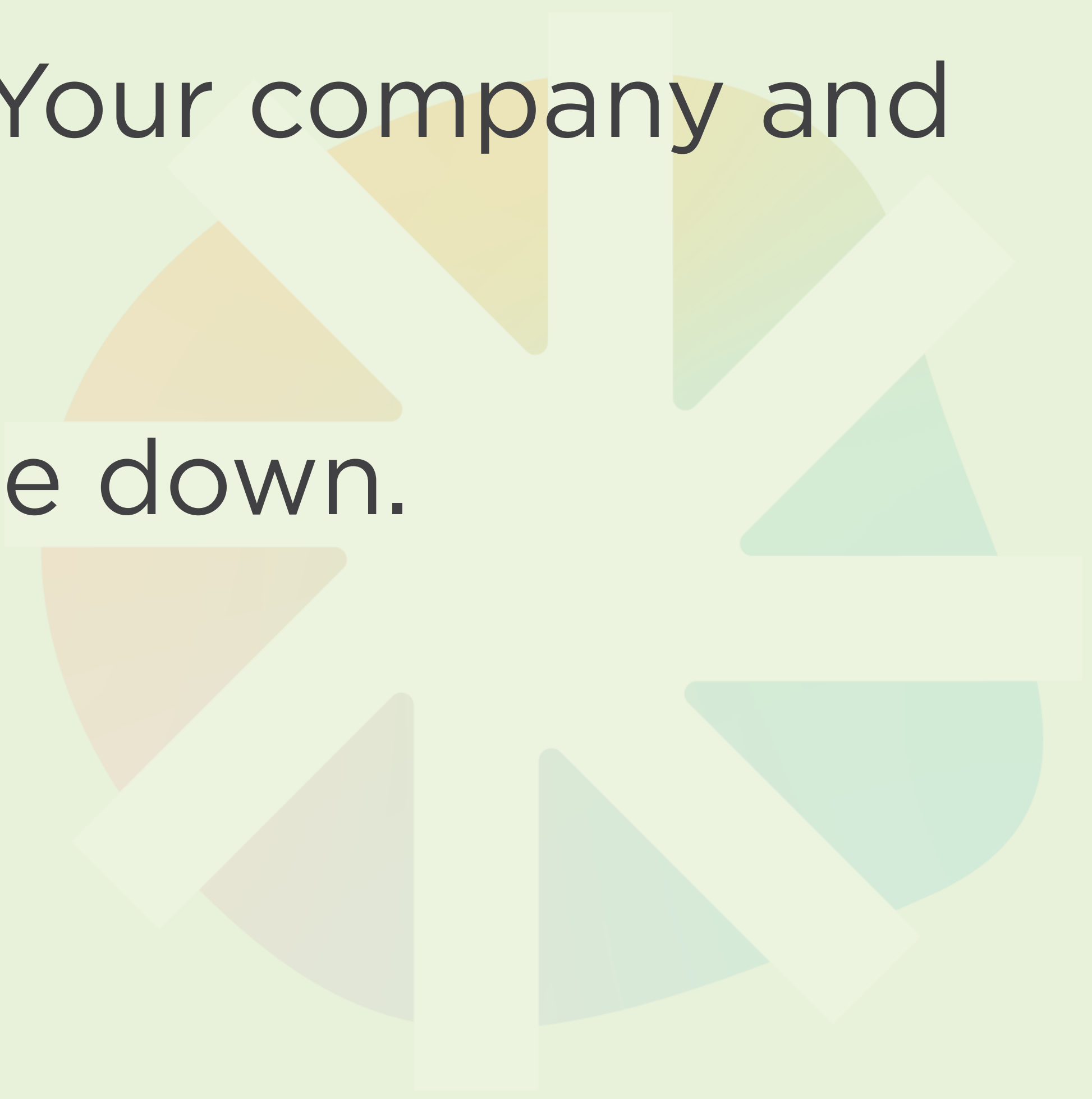
I would be sick of me, if I were You, but  
miraculously You are not.





I know I have no control over other people's lives, and I hate this. Yet I believe that if I accept this and surrender, You will meet me wherever I am.

Wow. Can this be true? If so, how is this afternoon—say, two-ish?



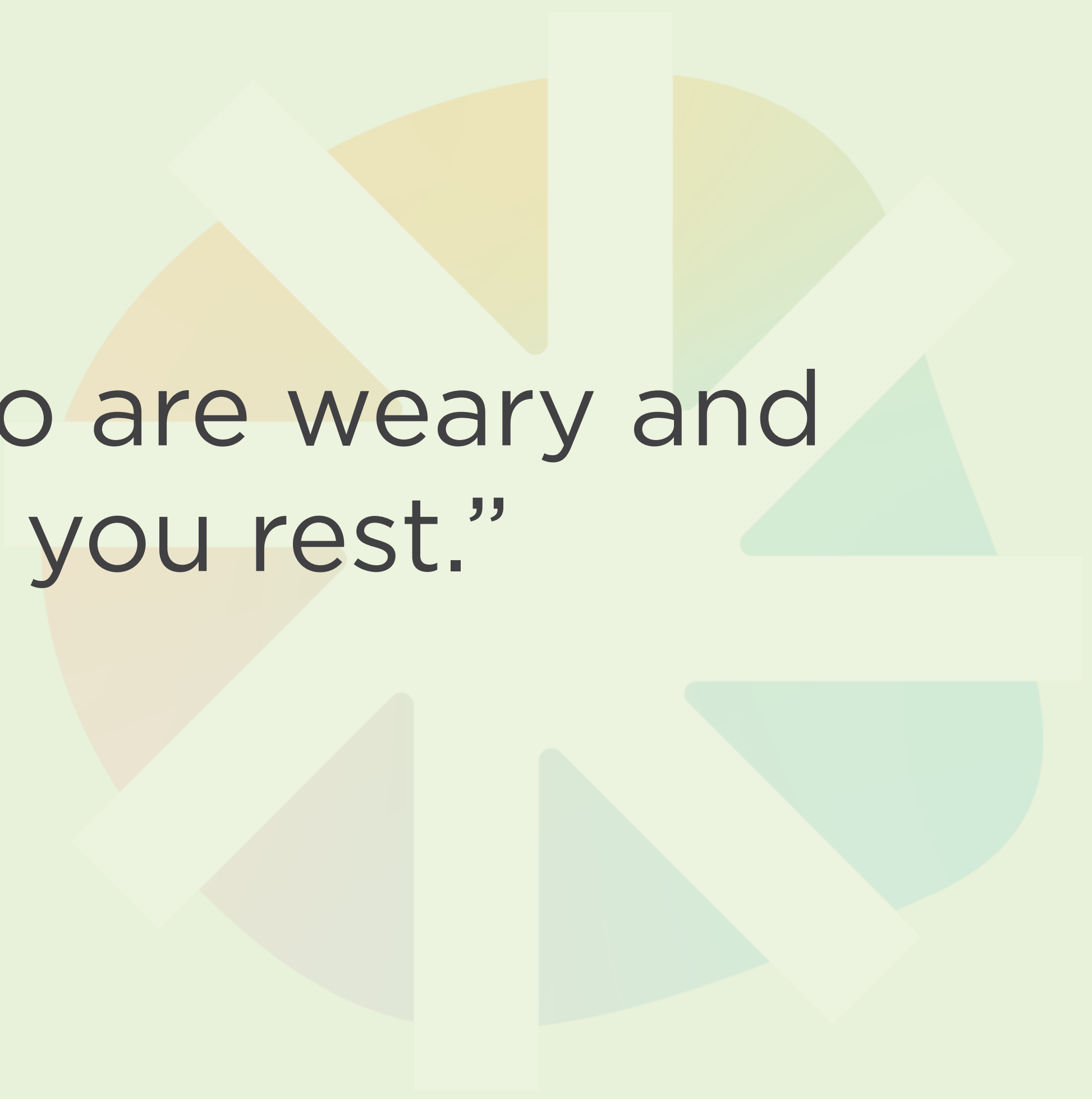
Thank You in advance for Your company and  
blessings.

You have never once let me down.

Amen.

**-Anne Lamott**

*(from Help Thanks Wow: The Three Essential Prayers)*



“Come to me, all you who are weary and  
burdened, and I will give you rest.”

**Jesus**

# Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

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**16** “To what can I compare this generation? They are like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling out to others:

**17** ““We played the pipe for you,  
and you did not dance;  
we sang a dirge,  
and you did not mourn.’

**Matthew 11:16-17**

**18** For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon.' **19** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' But wisdom is proved right by her deeds."

**Matthew 11:18-19**

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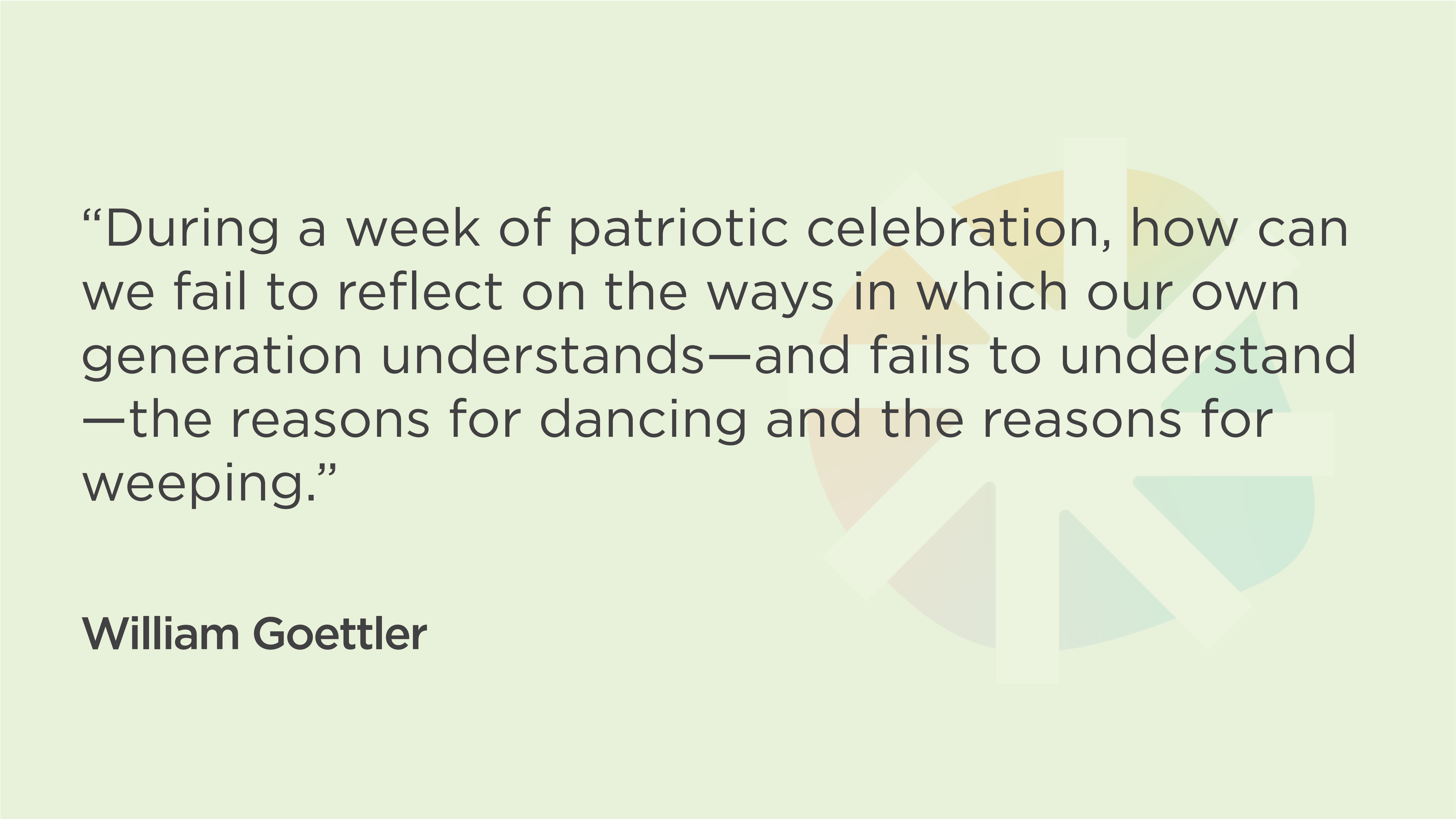
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**Matthew 11:18-19**

“John came ‘neither eating nor drinking’ (v. 18), and they did not care for his style at all. He was too old school for their taste—too stern and demanding. So they played the flute, and said, ‘Come on, John, lighten up. Lay off the hellfire and dance to our tune.’ Then Jesus came and he was ready to dance—dance as they had never dreamed! Every meal was a party, as long as everyone was invited. Then they wailed about the company Jesus kept and called him ‘glutton’ and ‘drunkard’ (v. 19).”

**Lance Pape**



“During a week of patriotic celebration, how can we fail to reflect on the ways in which our own generation understands—and fails to understand—the reasons for dancing and the reasons for weeping.”

**William Goettler**



# Four Perspectives on Celebrating Rich Villodas



# Conservative Christians





Conservative Christians  
Progressive Christians





Conservative Christians  
Progressive Christians  
Immigrant Christians




Conservative Christians  
Progressive Christians  
Immigrant Christians  
Indifferent Christians



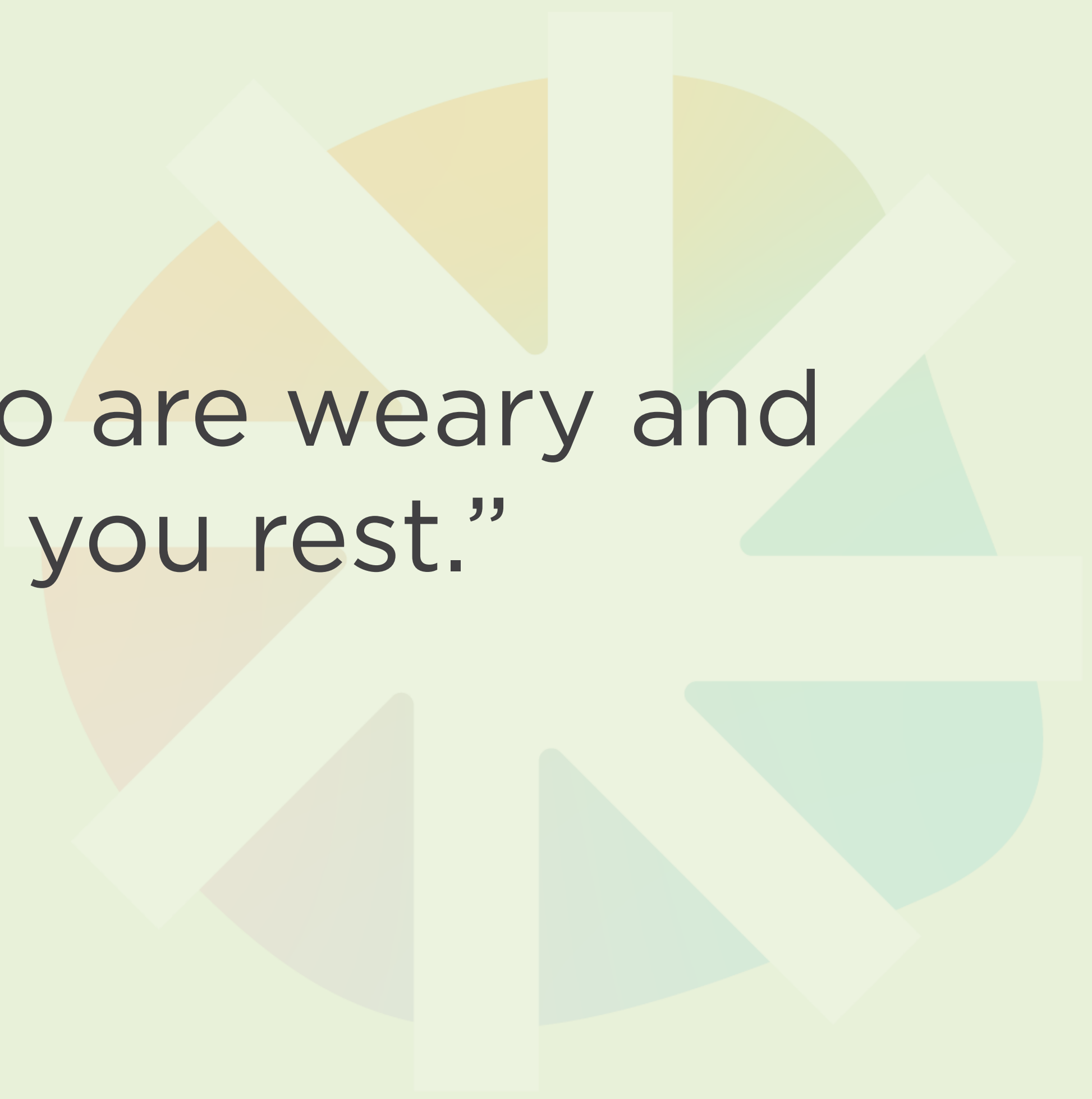
“We need non-dualistic Christians who are able to see both the gifts of American life and the deeply troubling legacy of American oppression.”

**Rich Villodas**



“I love America more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, I insist on criticizing her perpetually.”

**James Baldwin**



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

**Jesus**

# Salt & Gold Collection: Foot Washing Series



salt + gold





salt + gold





*salt + gold*





salt + gold



salt + gold



salt + gold





salt + gold





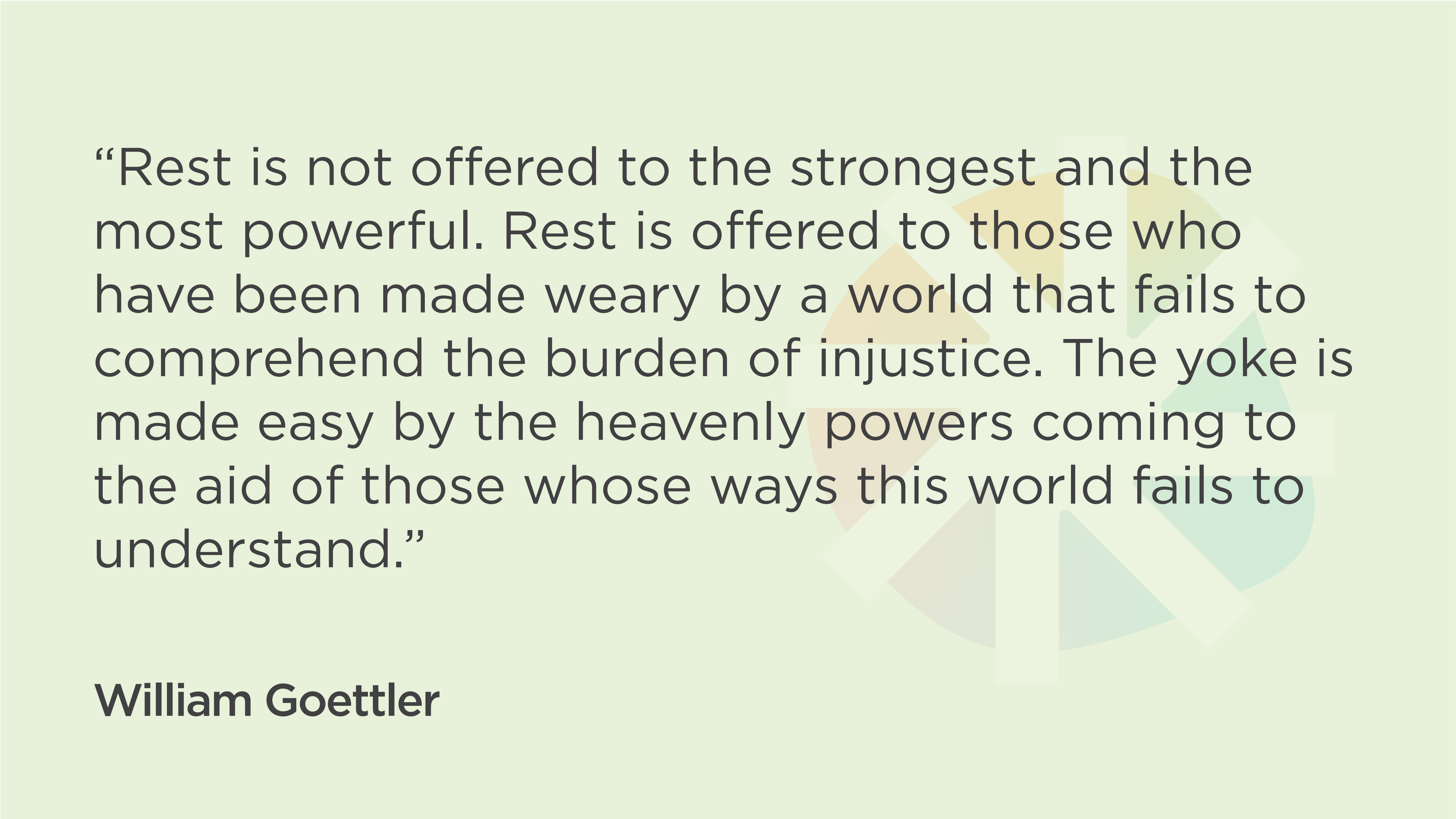


salt + gold



salt + gold





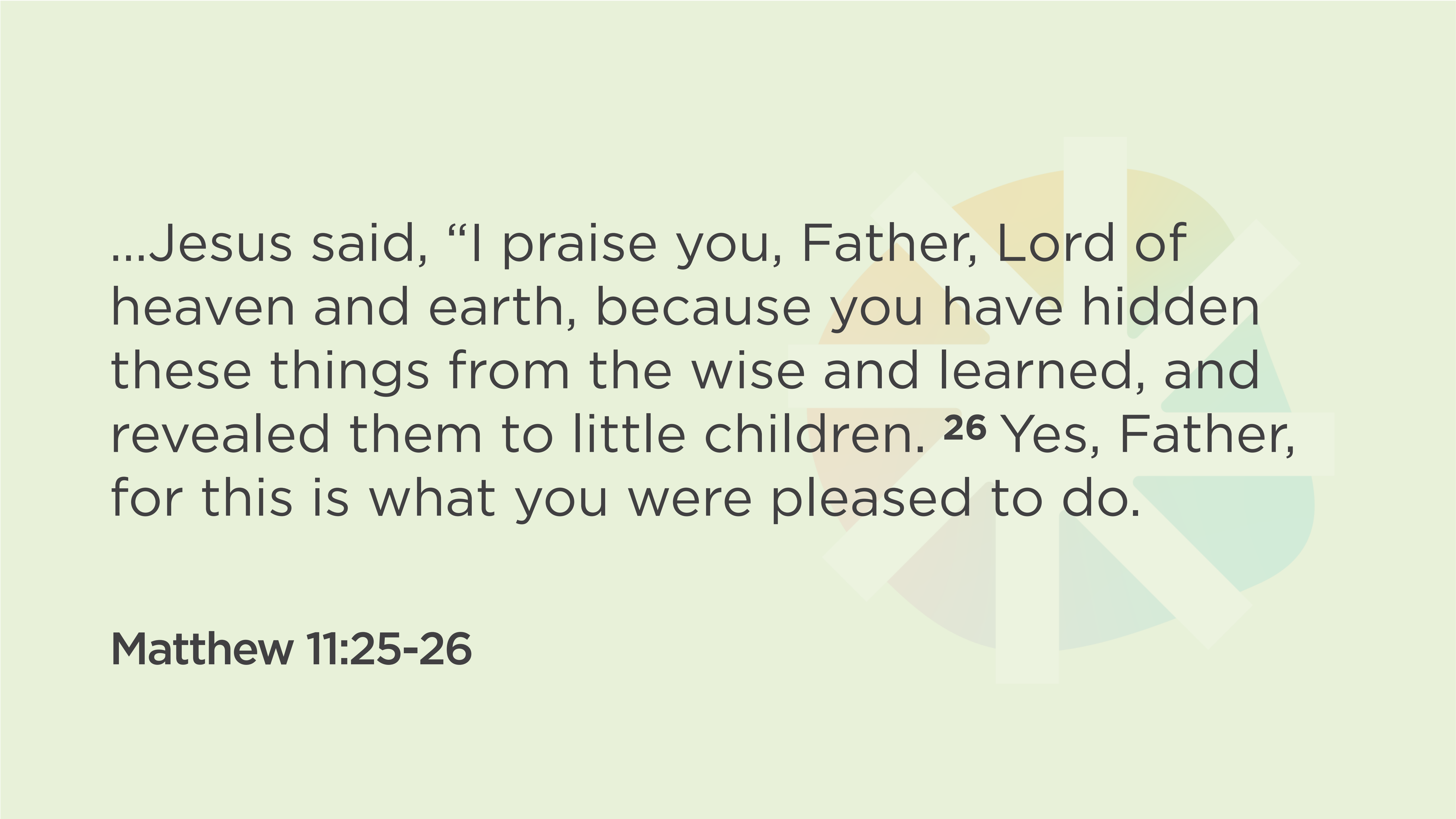
“Rest is not offered to the strongest and the most powerful. Rest is offered to those who have been made weary by a world that fails to comprehend the burden of injustice. The yoke is made easy by the heavenly powers coming to the aid of those whose ways this world fails to understand.”

**William Goettler**



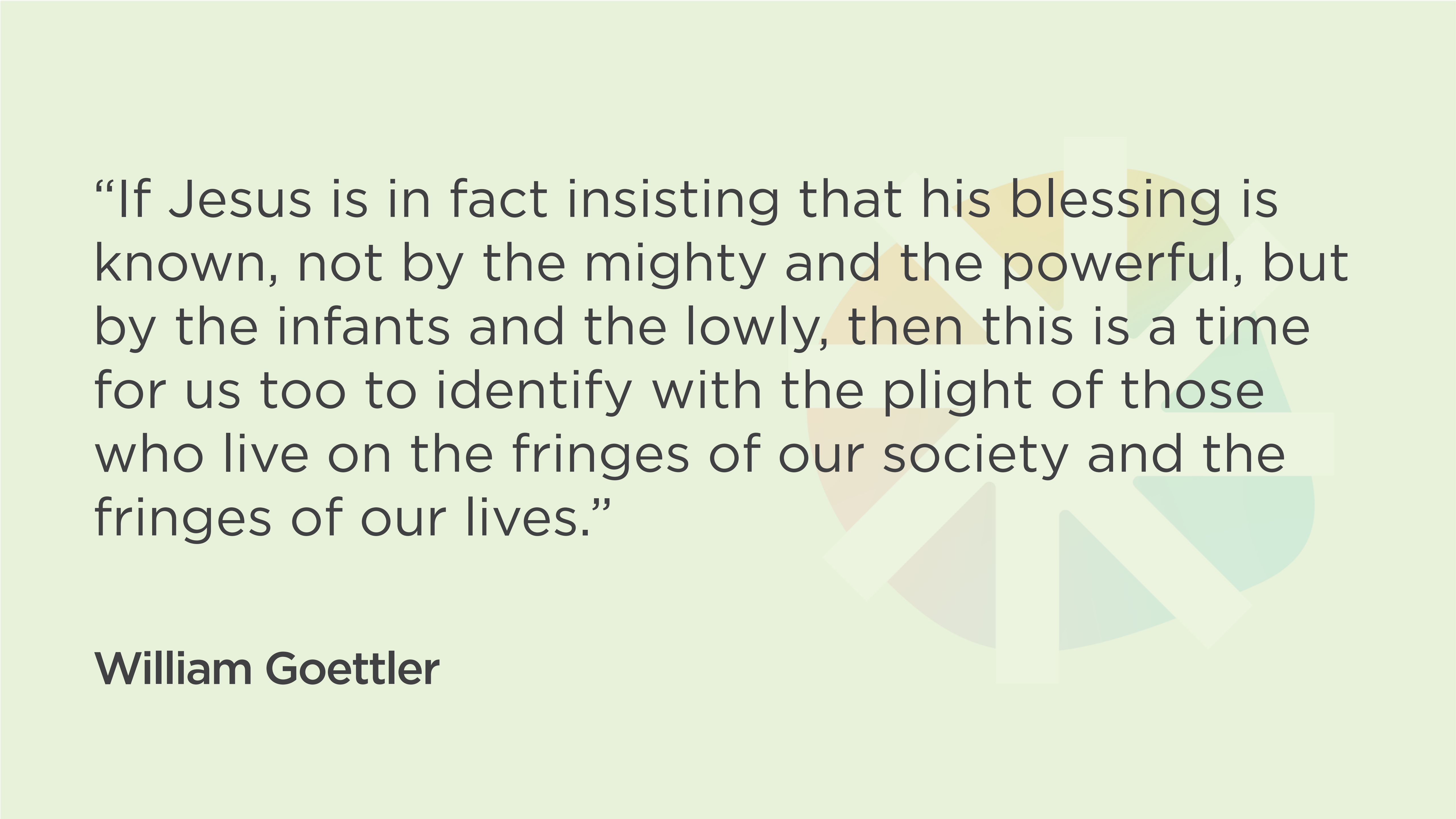
“...a friend of tax collectors and sinners.”

**Matthew 11:19**



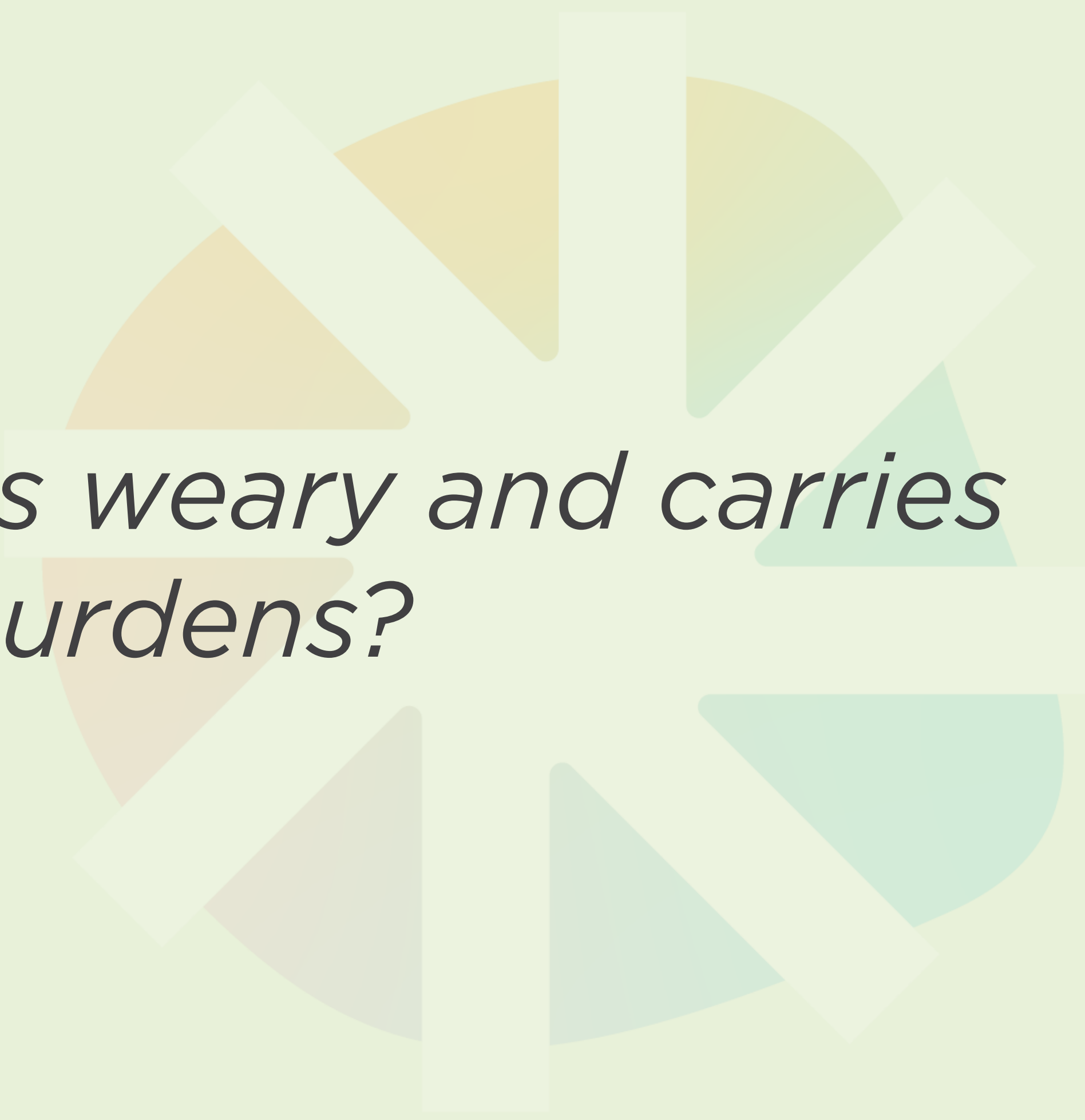
...Jesus said, “I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this is what you were pleased to do.

**Matthew 11:25-26**



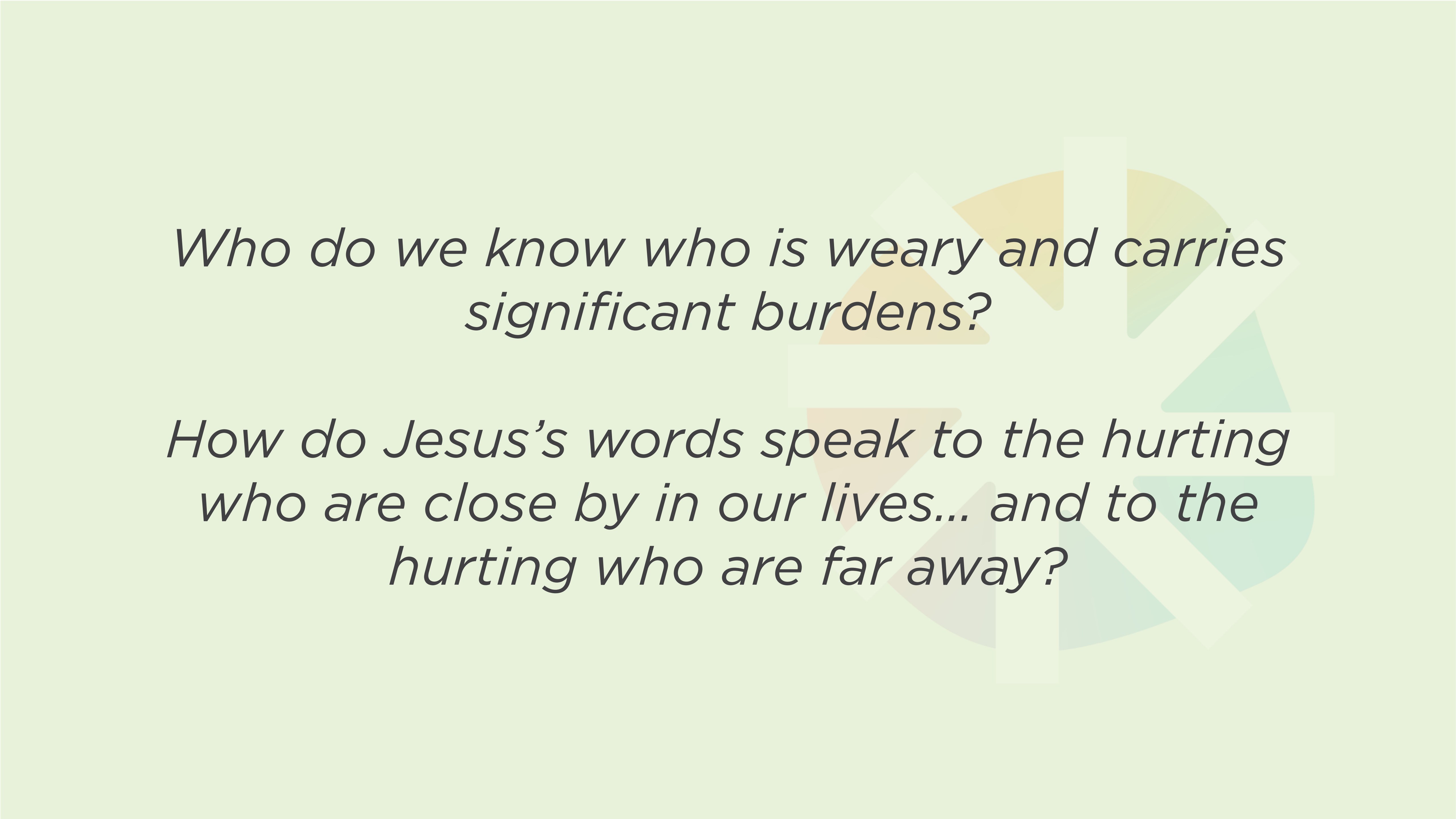
“If Jesus is in fact insisting that his blessing is known, not by the mighty and the powerful, but by the infants and the lowly, then this is a time for us too to identify with the plight of those who live on the fringes of our society and the fringes of our lives.”

**William Goettler**



*Who do we know who is weary and carries significant burdens?*





*Who do we know who is weary and carries significant burdens?*

*How do Jesus's words speak to the hurting who are close by in our lives... and to the hurting who are far away?*

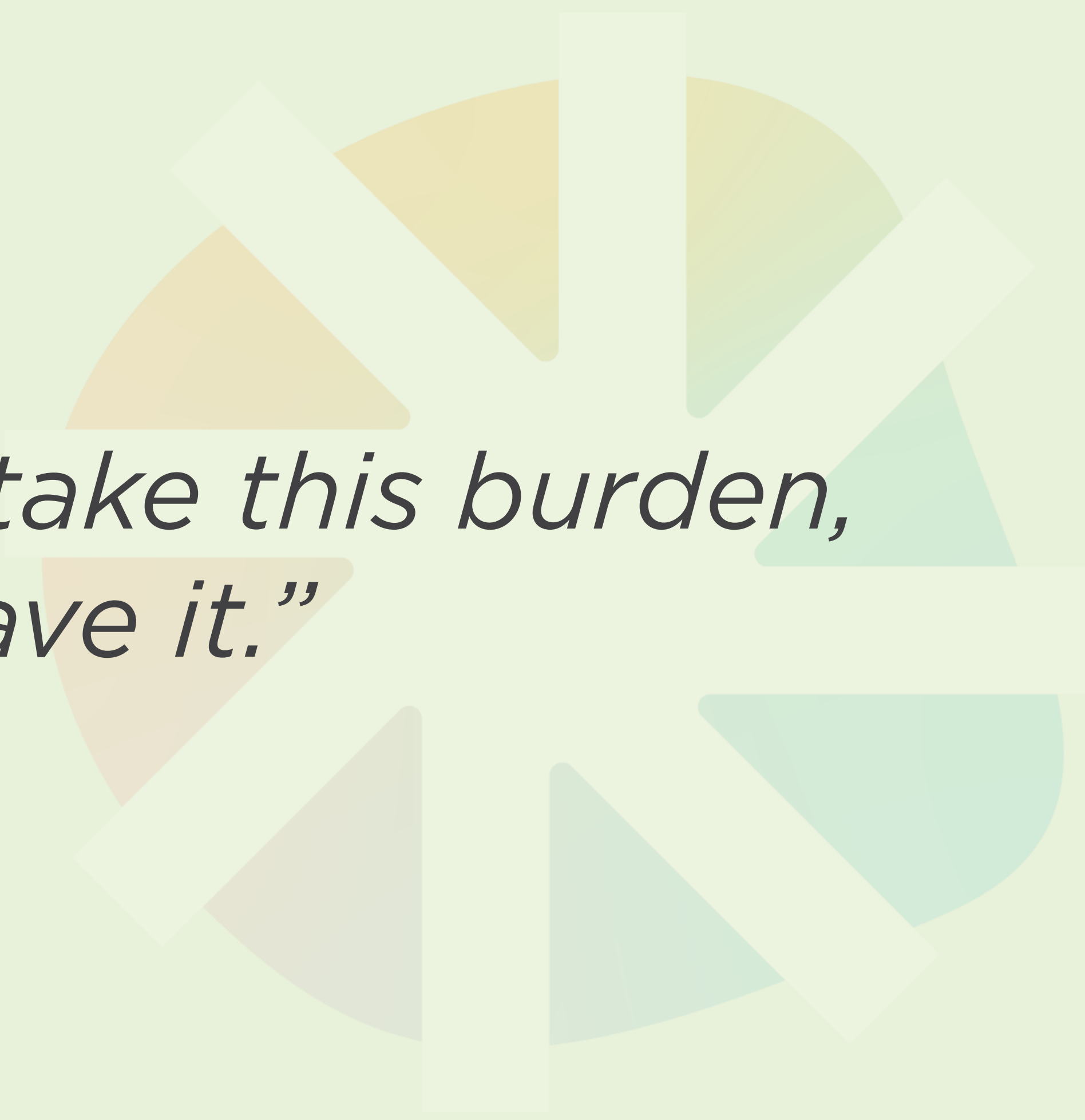
*Who do we know who is weary and carries significant burdens?*

*How do Jesus's words speak to the hurting who are close by in our lives... and to the hurting who are far away?*

*How are we engaged with those whose struggles are profound and whose needs are overwhelming?*

<sup>3</sup> Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, <sup>4</sup> who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. <sup>5</sup> For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

**2 Corinthians 1:3-5**



*“Jesus, if you would take this burden,  
you can have it.”*