

A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a landscape with a tent and a boat.

Worshiping God

Part 3 of Magi★cal Christmas

Matthew 2:11


A blue-toned night sky with a bright starburst at the top center. A vertical beam of light shines down from the starburst towards a tent in the foreground. The tent is dark and silhouetted against the lighter blue sky. The overall scene is serene and spiritual.

Coming to God – December 7

Finding Great Joy in God – December 14

Worshiping God – December 21

Giving to God – December 28

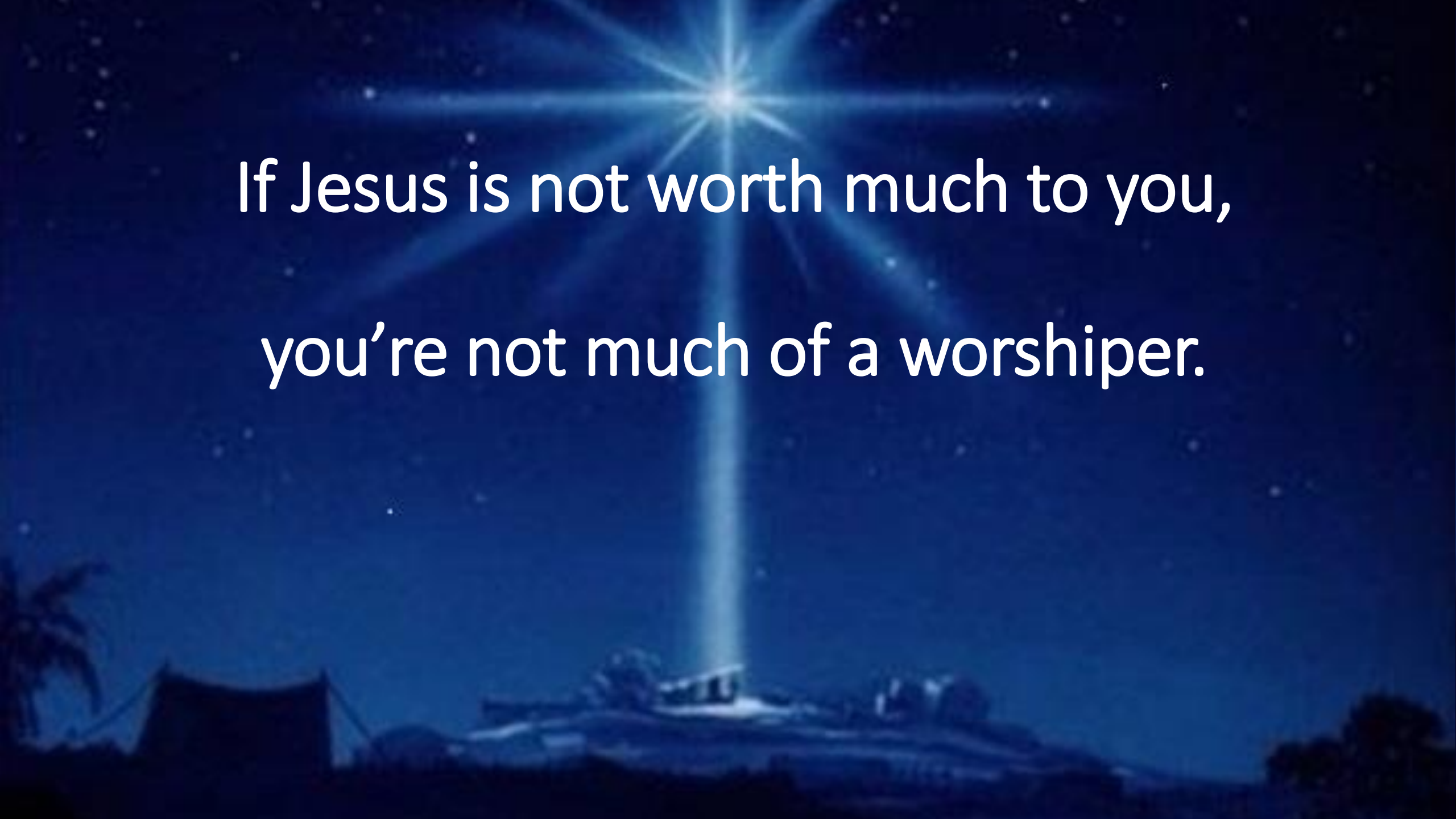
A night sky with a bright star and a beam of light shining down on a landscape with a tent and a boat.

*¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.
¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother,
and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their
treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.*

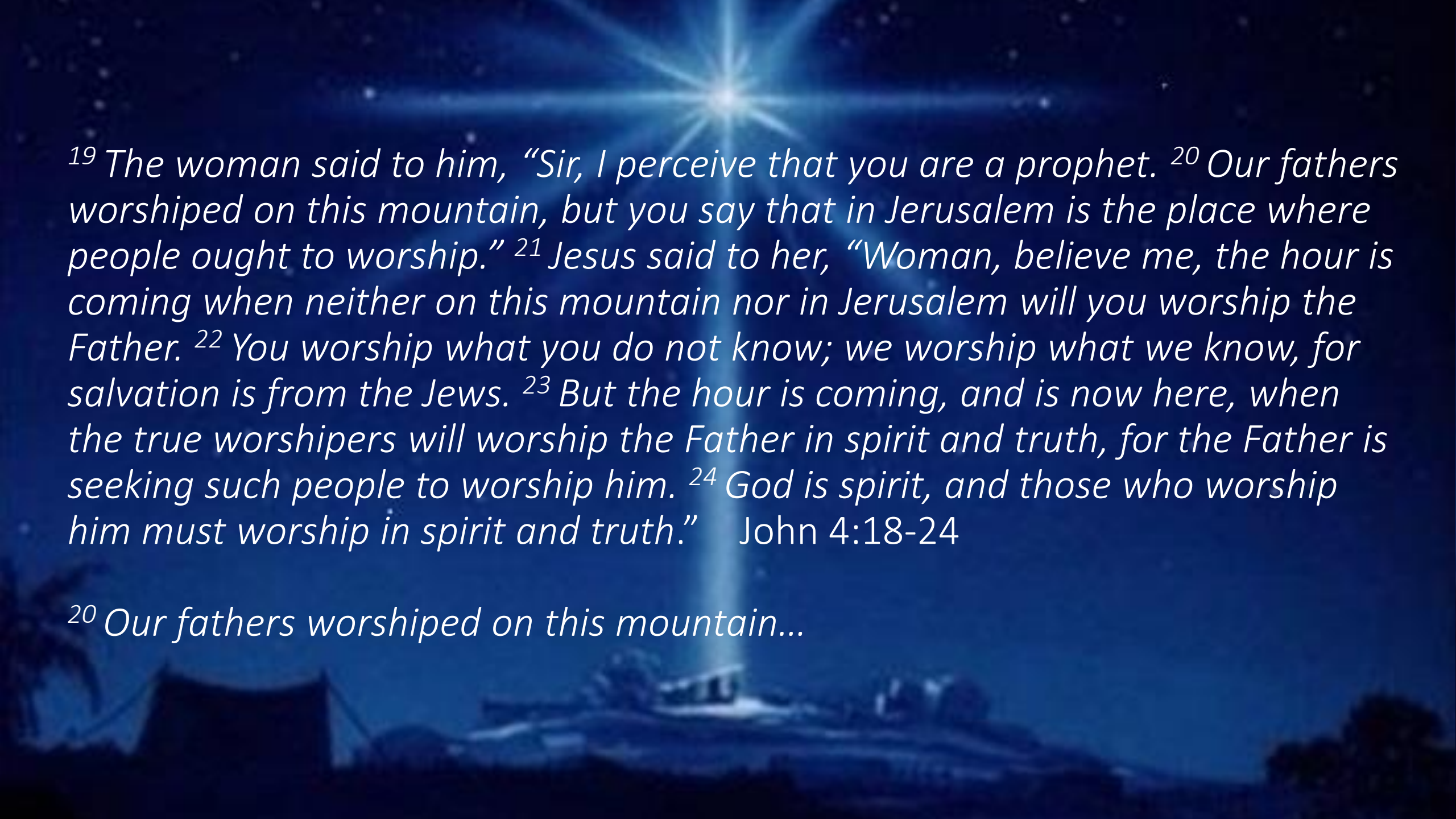
Matthew 2:10-11

Worship – to give honor or ascribe worth.



A night sky with a bright starburst in the upper center, casting a beam of light down towards a landscape. The landscape is dark, with a tent visible on the left and some structures in the center. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the starburst providing the primary light source.

If Jesus is not worth much to you,
you're not much of a worshiper.



19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:18-24

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain...

People always have worshipped something or someone
and they always will.

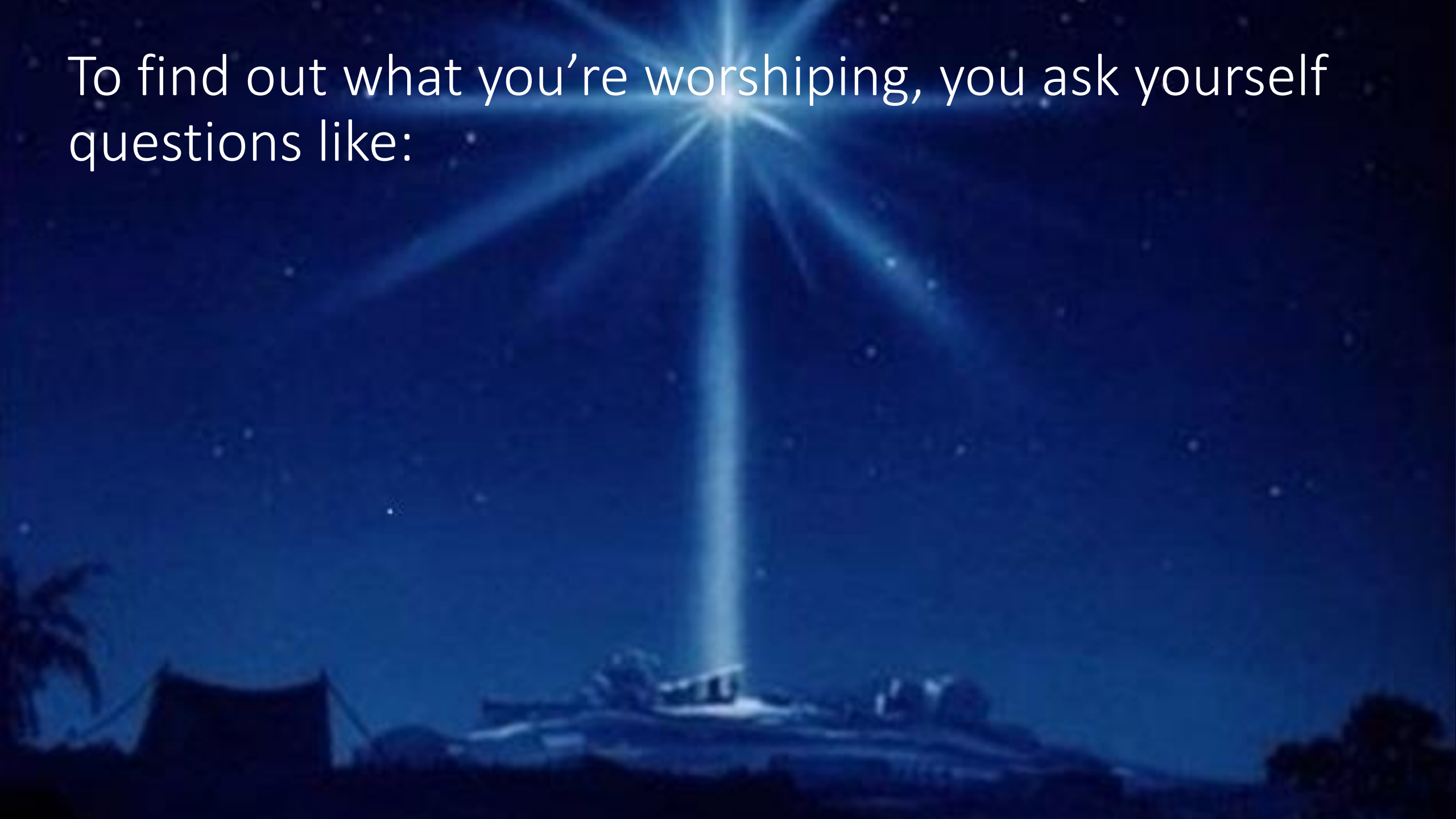




People always have worshipped something or someone
and they always will.

*...they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and
served the creature rather than the Creator...Romans 1:25*

To find out what you're worshiping, you ask yourself questions like:





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What are you building your life around?

What is the one thing that you would say you can't live without?

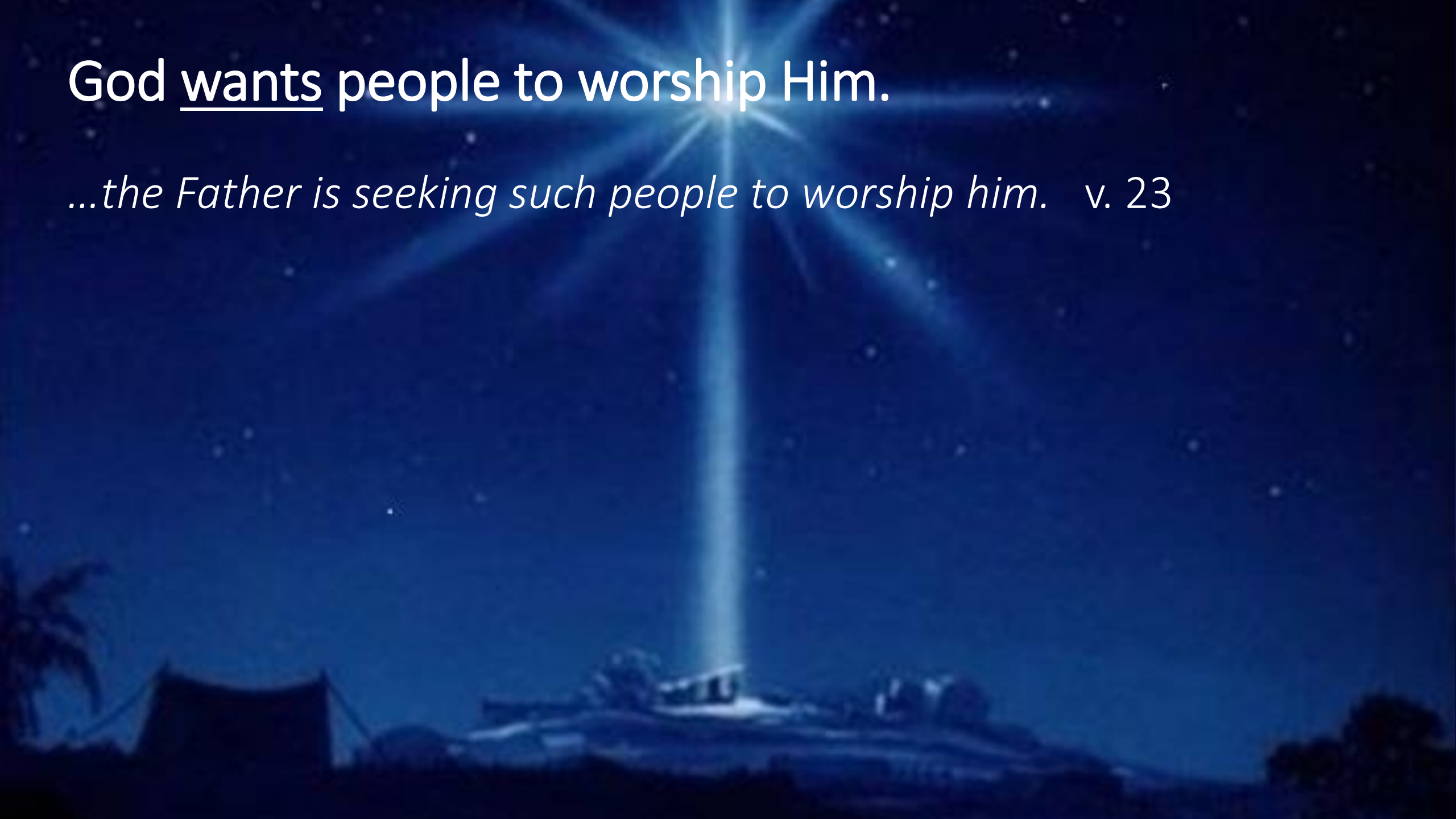
What upsets you the most when it's threatened?

God wants people to worship Him.



God wants people to worship Him.

...the Father is seeking such people to worship him. v. 23



How?



In spirit and truth.



In spirit and truth.

...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” v. 23-24

Some people miss the truth part.



A night scene with a dark blue sky filled with stars. A bright light source at the top center casts a wide, multi-pointed starburst pattern. A vertical beam of light descends from this source, illuminating a tent-like structure on the ground. The tent is dark, but the beam highlights its top and the surrounding area. The overall mood is mysterious and spiritual.

Some people miss the truth part.

²² You worship what you do not know... v. 22

Some people miss the spirit part.



Some people miss the spirit part.

...we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. v. 22

⁷ You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

*⁸ “This people honors me with their lips,
but their heart is far from me;*

*⁹ in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”*

Matthew 15:7-9

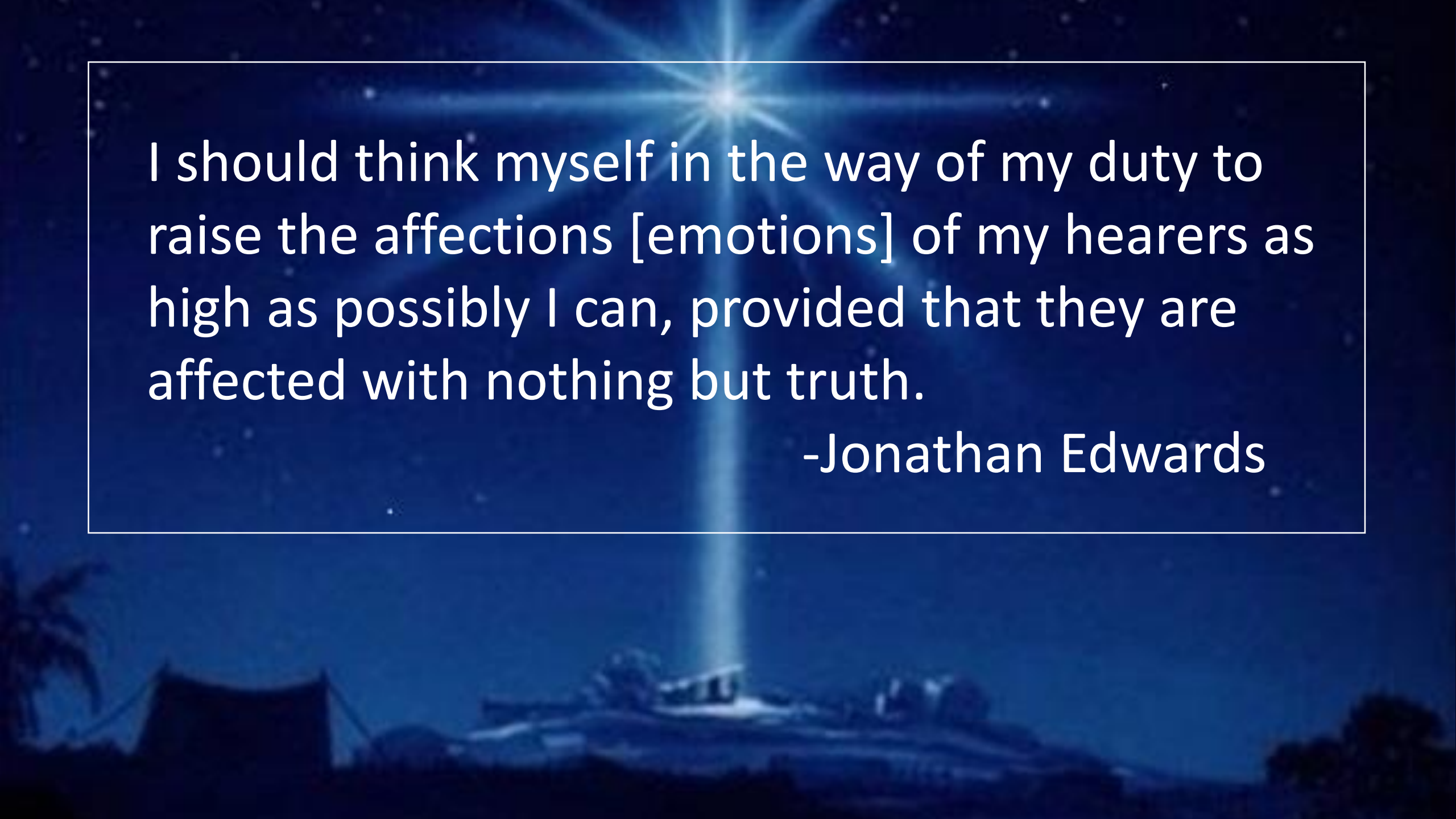
True worship happens when both your heart and your head are focused on the God of the Bible.



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⁴ “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. Deuteronomy 6:4-6

The background is a dark blue, monochromatic image. At the top center, there is a bright, multi-pointed starburst light source, possibly representing a star or a flare. A vertical beam of light descends from this source towards the center of the image. In the lower portion of the image, there are silhouettes of what appear to be tents or structures, suggesting a campsite or a field at night. The overall atmosphere is serene and contemplative.

I should think myself in the way of my duty to raise the affections [emotions] of my hearers as high as possibly I can, provided that they are affected with nothing but truth.

-Jonathan Edwards

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²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. John 4:21"

 **PASSION**2015
A GATHERING OF 18-25 YEAR OLDS & THEIR LEADERS



ATLANTA

Phillips Arena, January 2-4, 2015

UPDATE REGISTRATION



PRICING

SCHEDULE



ATLANTA

Philips Arena, January 2-4, 2015

UPDATE REGISTRATION



PRICING

SCHEDULE

SOLD OUT

Why do we have problems worshiping like we should?



We're too busy worshiping other things.



A night sky with a bright starburst at the top center, casting a vertical beam of light down to a landscape. The landscape is dark, with a tent on the left and a boat on the water in the center. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the starburst providing the main light source.

We're too busy worshiping other things.

Claiming to be wise, they became fools ²³ and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man, birds, four-footed animals, and reptiles. Romans 1:22-23

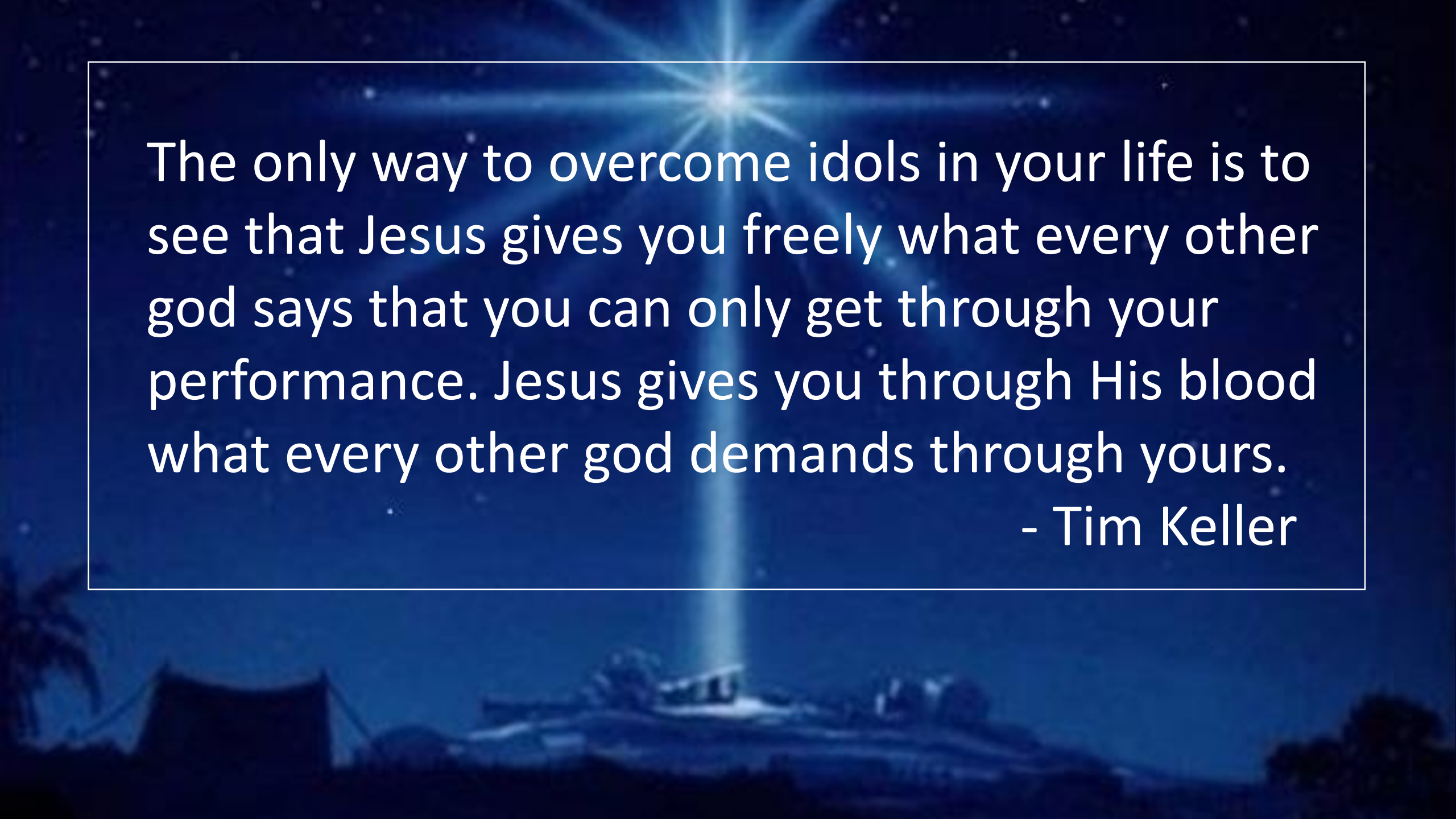
We're too busy worshiping other things.

²⁶ And they took the bull that was given them, and they prepared it and called upon the name of Baal from morning until noon, saying, "O Baal, answer us!" But there was no voice, and no one answered. And they limped around the altar that they had made. ²⁷ And at noon Elijah mocked them, saying, "Cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened." ²⁸ And they cried aloud and cut themselves after their custom with swords and lances, until the blood gushed out upon them. ²⁹ And as midday passed, they raved on until the time of the offering of the oblation, but there was no voice. No one answered; no one paid attention.

1 Kings 18:26-29

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A night scene with a bright starburst light shining down on a tent. The background is dark blue with a starburst light at the top center, casting a beam of light down towards a tent in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this scene.

The only way to overcome idols in your life is to see that Jesus gives you freely what every other god says that you can only get through your performance. Jesus gives you through His blood what every other god demands through yours.

- Tim Keller

Some of us think we're too good to need to worship.



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²⁰ He did not waver in unbelief at God's promise, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, ²¹ because he was fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform. ²² Therefore, it was credited to him for righteousness. ²³ Now it was credited to him was not written for Abraham alone, ²⁴ but also for us. It will be credited to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. ²⁵ He was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Romans 4:20-25

Some of us think we're too bad to get to worship.



A night scene with a dark blue sky filled with stars. A bright light source, possibly the sun or moon, is positioned at the top center, casting a wide, glowing beam of light down towards the ground. The beam illuminates a small, dark structure, likely a tent or a small building, which is situated on a hillside. The overall atmosphere is serene and spiritual.

Some of us think we're too bad to get to worship.

and raised for our justification. v. 25

No, you're not too bad to *get* to worship, and you're not too good to *need* to worship.

The truth is, you're more sinful and wretched than you ever dared believe, and, at the same time, you're more loved and accepted than you ever dared hope.

You're too blessed to do anything but worship the One who has blessed you so much.

We're too blessed to do anything but worship the One who has blessed us so much!

