



**#Blessed?**

**Looking Back**

# Recap

**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**  
**Matthew 5:3**

**The Beatitude begins with the  
awareness of our spiritual state**



# Recap

**“Two things I ask of you, Lord;  
do not refuse me before I die:**

**Keep falsehood and lies far from me;  
give me neither **poverty** nor **riches**,  
but give me only my daily bread.**

**Otherwise, I may have too much and  
disown you and say, ‘Who is the Lord?’  
Or I may become poor and steal, and  
so dishonour the name of my God.”**

**Sayings of Agur, Proverbs 30:7-9**

# Recap

The humble will see their God at work and be glad. Let all who seek God's help be encouraged. **For the Lord hears the cries of the needy**; he does not despise his imprisoned people **Psalm 69:32-33**



# Learning to Use Regret

**Roese's (Neal Roese, a professor of marketing at the Kellogg School of Management) work shows that regret is a powerful force in human life. Far from being negative, regret is actually recognized by human brains as a positive influence on future behaviour.**

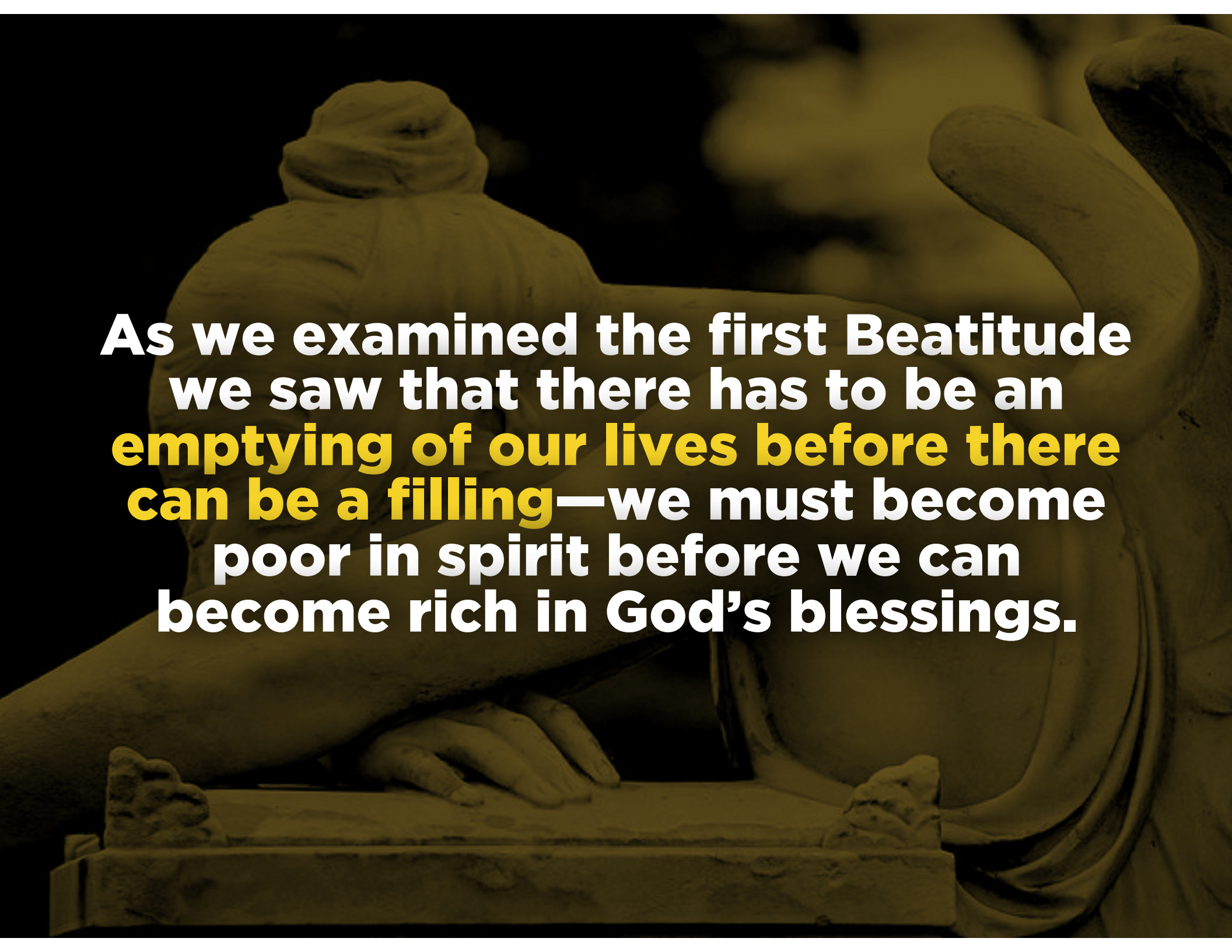
# Learning to Use Regret

In a further study, Roese found that **people ascribed great worth to regret.** Students responded that regret helped them make future decisions more than other negative emotions. Regret scored the highest of all negative emotions in the five functions of emotion—to help in making sense of the world, avoid future behaviours, gain insight, achieve social harmony, and improve approach.





**Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4**



**As we examined the first Beatitude  
we saw that there has to be an  
emptying of our lives before there  
can be a filling—we must become  
poor in spirit before we can  
become rich in God's blessings.**



# **Mourning For What?**

**Some think this is mourning due to one's own bitter experiences in life**

**Others think this is mourning over the sad circumstances in the world (poverty, unemployment, war, disease, etc.)**

**Maybe Jesus had something different in mind**



**EVERY SUFFERING** can be blessed  
because it **hollows out a place in us for**  
**God** and his comfort, which is infinite  
joy. **Peter Kreeft, Back to Virtue**



# **Mourn**

**In the previous beatitude we  
encounter the Kingdom of  
Heaven and its King**

**We realize our spiritual state and  
accept the invitation**

**We become dwellers of the Kingdom**

**Salvation**

# Mourn

The word translated as mourn in Matthew 5:4 (Gr. *πεντηεο*, pentheo) is the **strongest word for mourning in the Greek New Testament.**

The basic meaning of the word is, “to bewail, lament, mourn for”

In Jewish literature the word often means, “**to engage in mourning for one who is dead**, ordinarily with traditional rites, mourn over”



# Mourn

**If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 1 John 1:8**

**Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, Philippians 3:14**

**But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins. 1 Peter 1:9**

**Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. James 4:8**

# Mourn

In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne**; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. And they were calling to one another: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.” At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.

**Isaiah 6:1-4**



# Mourn

**“Woe to me!”** I cried. **“I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” vs 5**

# Comforted

*παρακαλεο*, **parakaleo**: to call to one's side, call for, summon, to address, speak to, (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction

2 to address, speak to (call to, call upon), which may be done in the way of exhortation, entreaty, comfort, instruction, etc.

**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an **appeal** through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **2 Corinthians 5:20****

**We sent Timothy, who is our brother and co-worker in God's service in spreading the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and **encourage you in your faith**, **1 Thessalonians 3:2****



# Comforted

**Blessed are those who mourn, for  
they will be comforted.**

**called for  
instructed  
strengthened  
encouraged  
taught  
begged  
used to preach  
consoled**

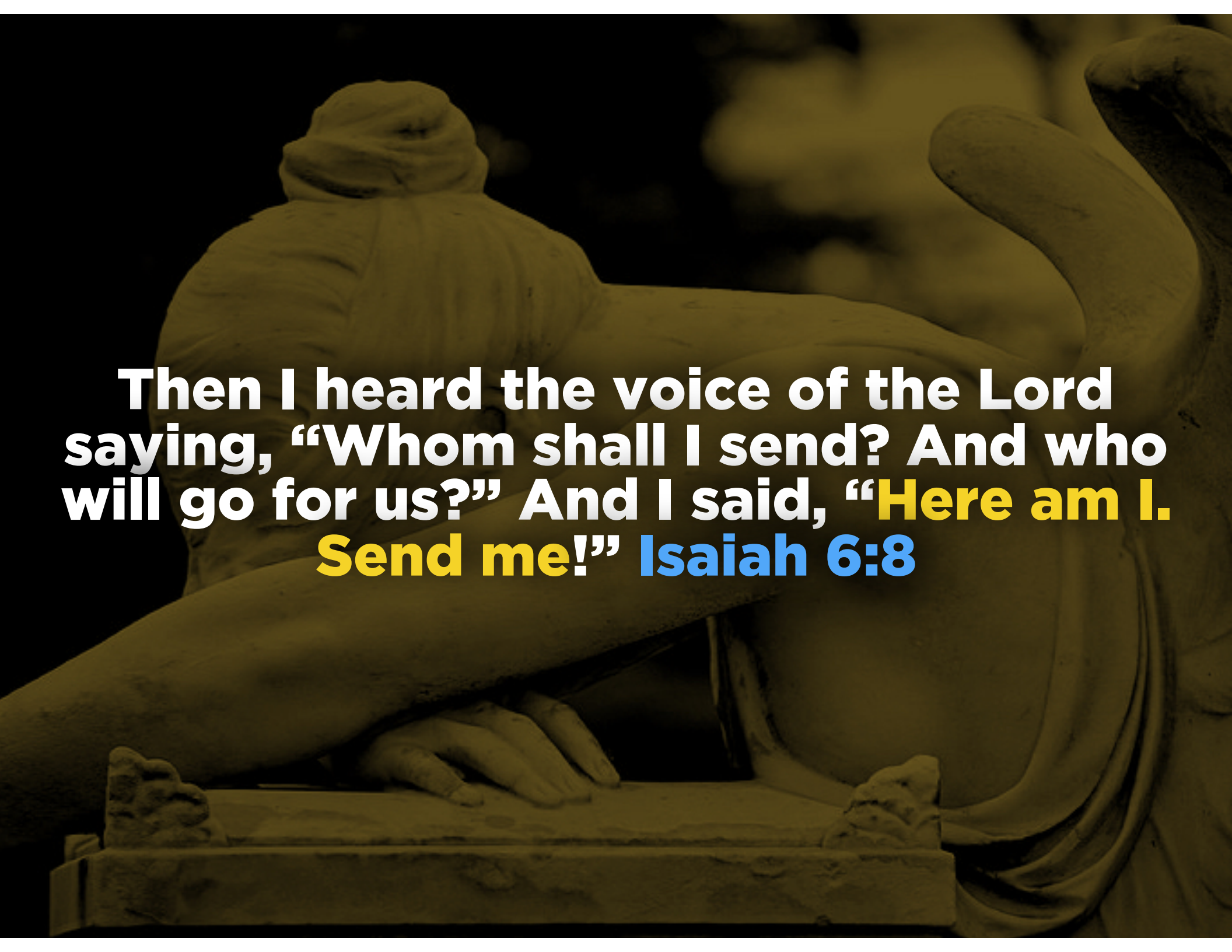
**for they will be called to  
something greater**

# Comforted

**Jesus knew that there is sorrow (the act of mourning) because of our past, He gives us hope for the future**

**Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. With it he touched my mouth and said, “See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.”** **Isaiah 6:6-7**





**Then I heard the voice of the Lord  
saying, “Whom shall I send? And who  
will go for us?” And I said, “**Here am I.  
Send me!**” **Isaiah 6:8****