



Sermon

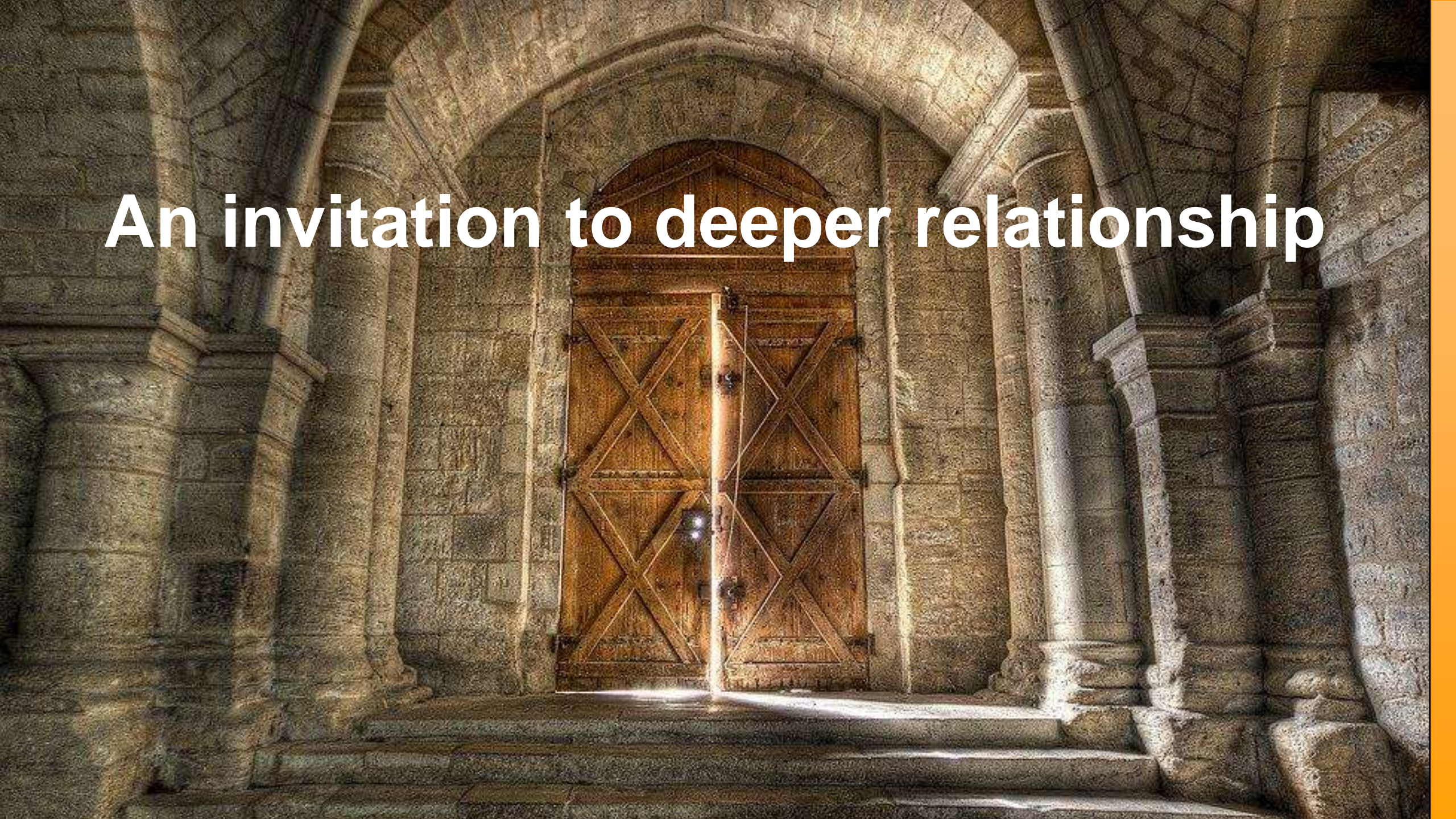






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The Gospel According to
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19 So then
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20 And they
the Lord working
with signs followi

An invitation to deeper relationship



An invitation to deeper relationship: **meticulous planner**

“In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.”

(Luke 1:5)

An invitation to deeper relationship: meticulous planner

“Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord’s commands and decrees blamelessly. But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old.”

(Luke 1:6)

An invitation to deeper relationship: **meticulous planner**

“Once when Zechariah’s division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense.”

(Luke 1:8-9)

An invitation to deeper relationship: meticulous planner

“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah...Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord...’”
(Luke 1:11-15a)

An invitation to deeper relationship: **meticulous planner**

“He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

(Luke 1:16-7)



Luke 1: 5-17
An invitation to deeper relationship:
meticulous planner

An invitation to deeper relationship: meticulous planner

“at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:6-8)



An invitation to deeper relationship: **meticulous planner**


“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.”

(John 3:16-17)

An invitation to deeper relationship:
graciously powerful

**“the angel said to him: ‘Do not be afraid,
Zechariah; your prayer has been heard.
Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
and you are to call him John...’”**

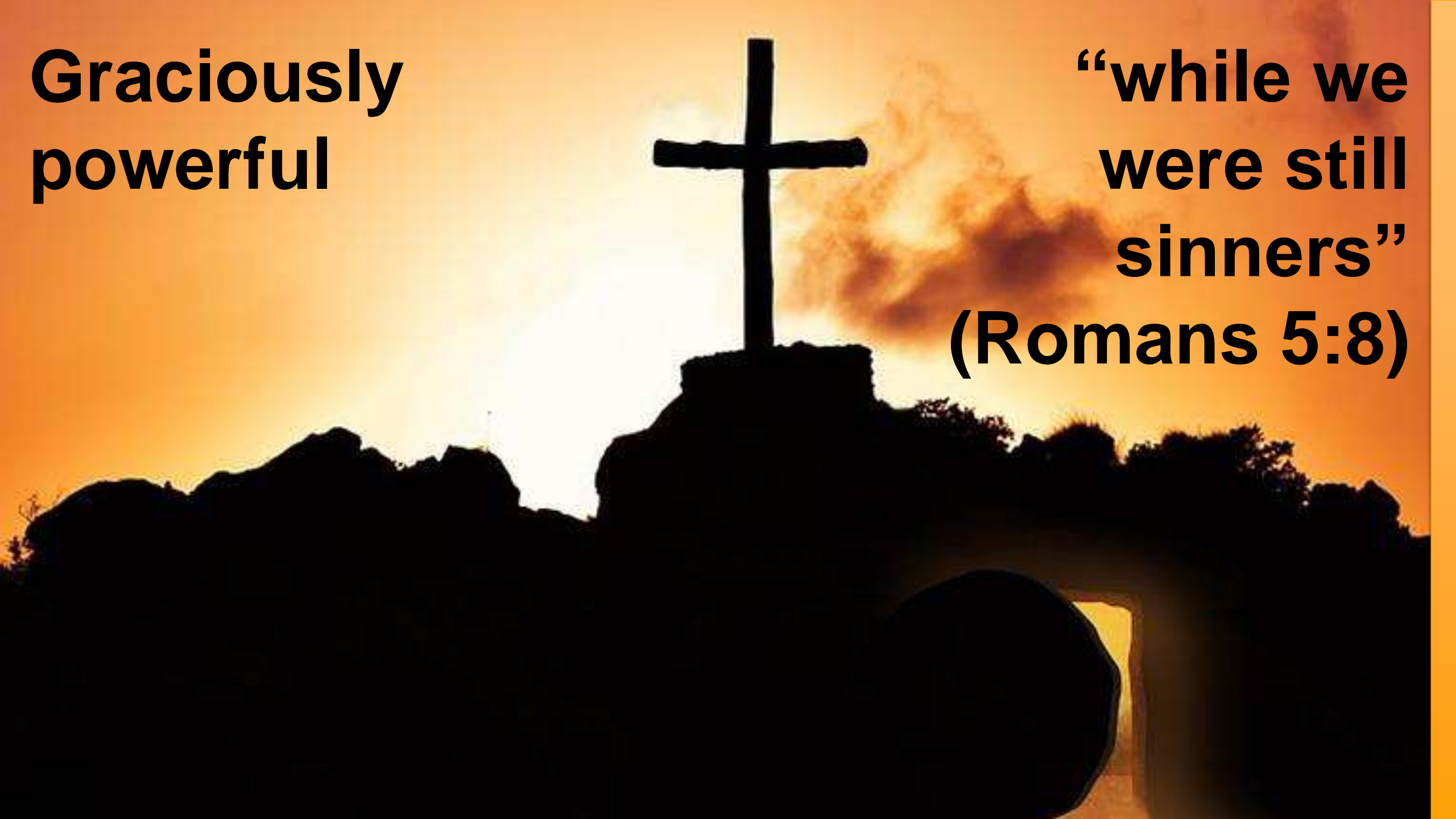
(Luke 1:13)

A woman wearing a green headscarf and a light-colored robe sits on the left, facing right. A man with a long grey beard, wearing a white cap and a light-colored robe, sits on the right, facing left. They are in a rustic, dimly lit room with a large earthenware jar in the background. In the foreground, there are several small bowls containing food, including flatbread and dark berries. The text "An invitation to deeper relationship: graciously powerful" is overlaid in the center, with "powerful" in red.

An invitation to
deeper
relationship:
graciously
powerful

**Graciously
powerful**

**“while we
were still
sinners”
(Romans 5:8)**



**“No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.”**
(In Christ Alone by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend)



An invitation to deeper relationship
meticulous planner



An invitation to deeper relationship
graciously powerful

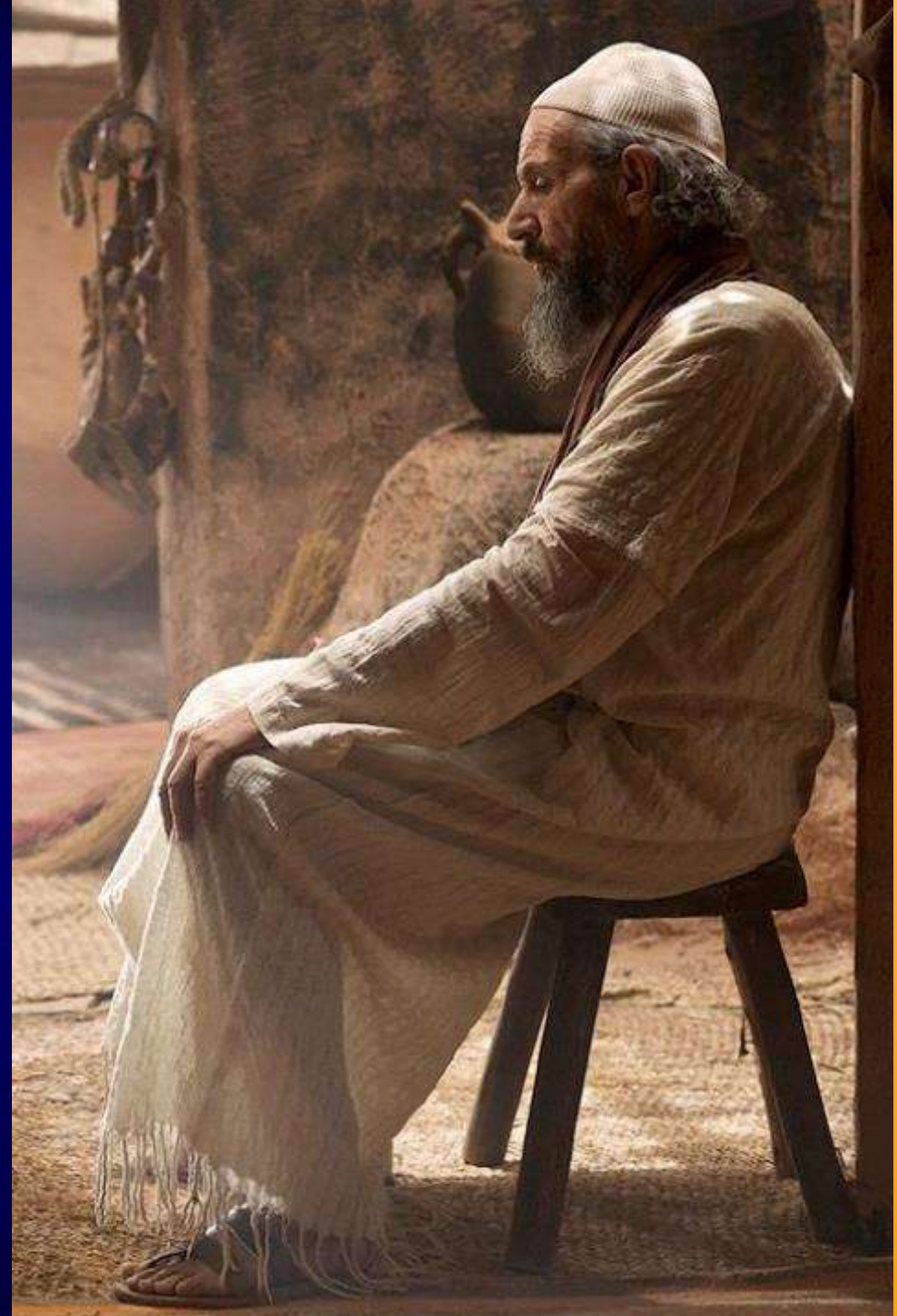
A photograph of a stone archway with a wooden door. The door is made of dark wood with a large 'X' pattern of lighter wood. It is set within a stone archway. The surrounding walls are made of rough-hewn stone. The lighting is dramatic, with a bright light source from the right casting a strong shadow on the door and the wall to its left. The text "An invitation to respond" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font across the upper part of the image.

An invitation to respond

An invitation to respond

**“Zechariah asked the
angel, ‘How can I be
sure of this? I am an old
man and my wife is well
on in years.’”**

(Luke 1:18)





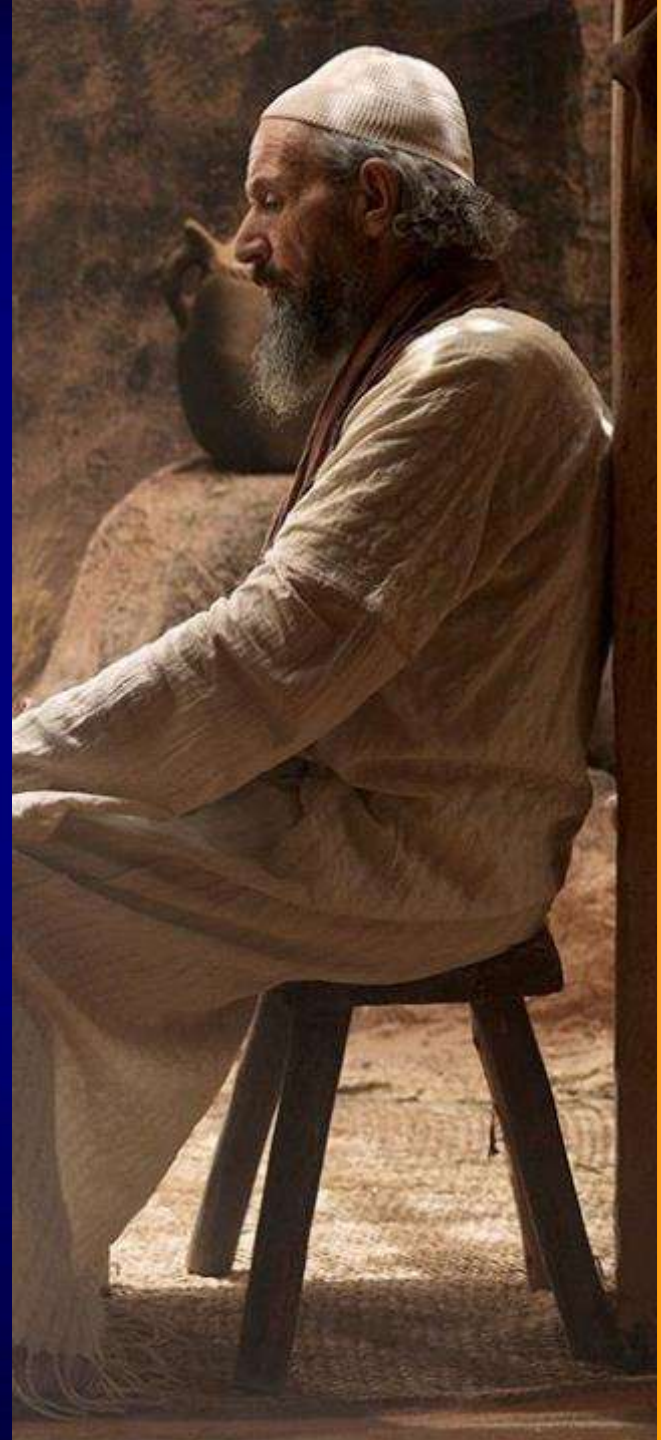
An invitation to respond

“The Lord has done this for me...In these days he has shown his favour and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

(Luke 1:25)



**an
invitation
to
respond**



**an invitation to
deeper relationship**

