

A photograph of three men in ancient-style robes walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man in the center is Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is flanked by two other men in dark robes. They are walking towards a sunset over a landscape with a stone wall on the right and a distant town on the horizon. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

Burning Hearts: Recognising the Voice of God

Luke 24:13-35



“ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.”

John 10:27

Historical Location

The walk from Jerusalem to Emmaus was a several-hour journey.

4 possible locations

60 stadia = 11 Km (7 Miles)

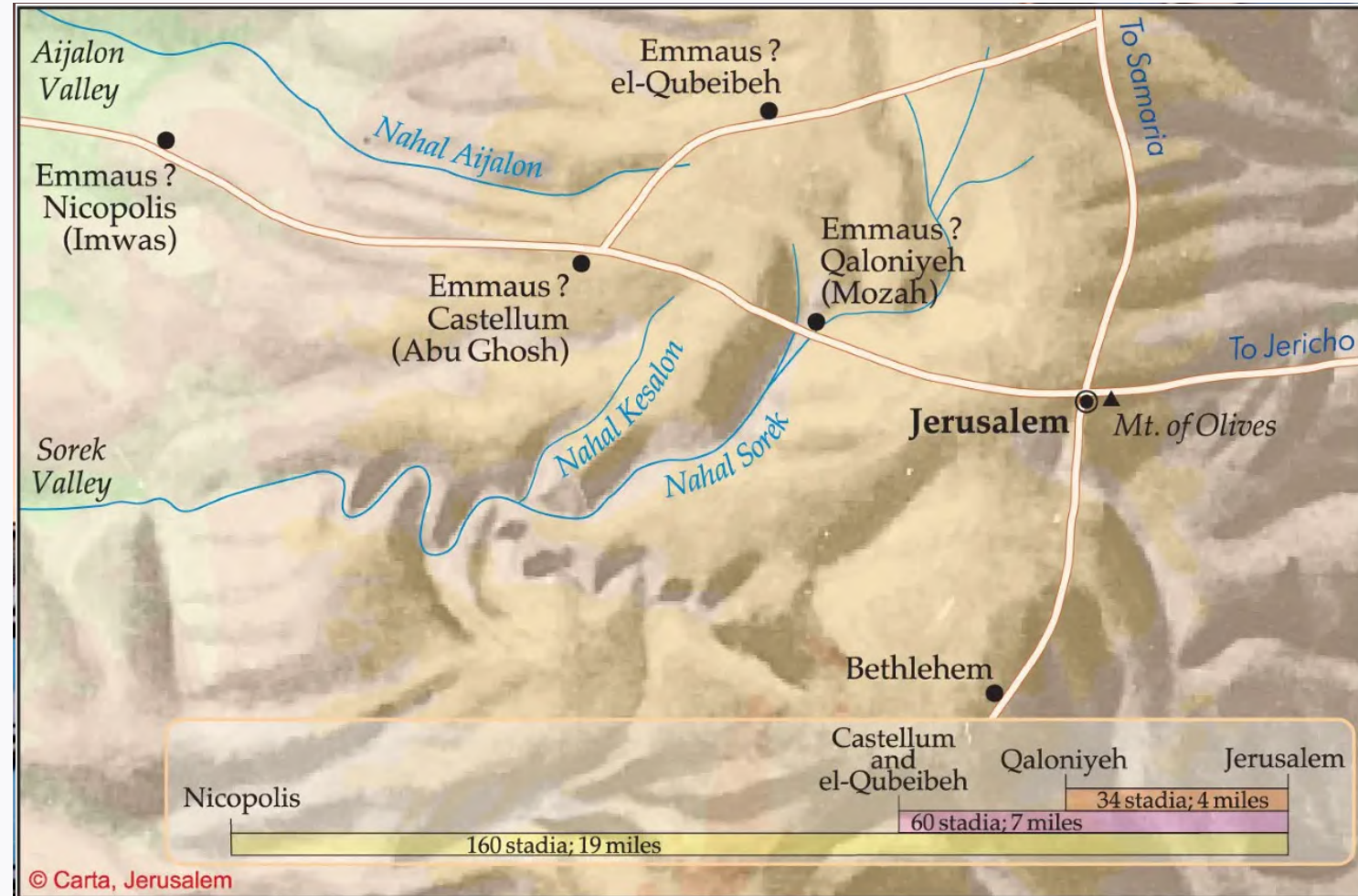
Emmaus Castellum

Emmaus el-Qubeibeh

Emmaus Qaloniyyeh

160 stadia = 30 Km (19 miles)

Emmaus Nicopolis





Jesus Is With Us Even When Unrecognised

Unrecognised Presence

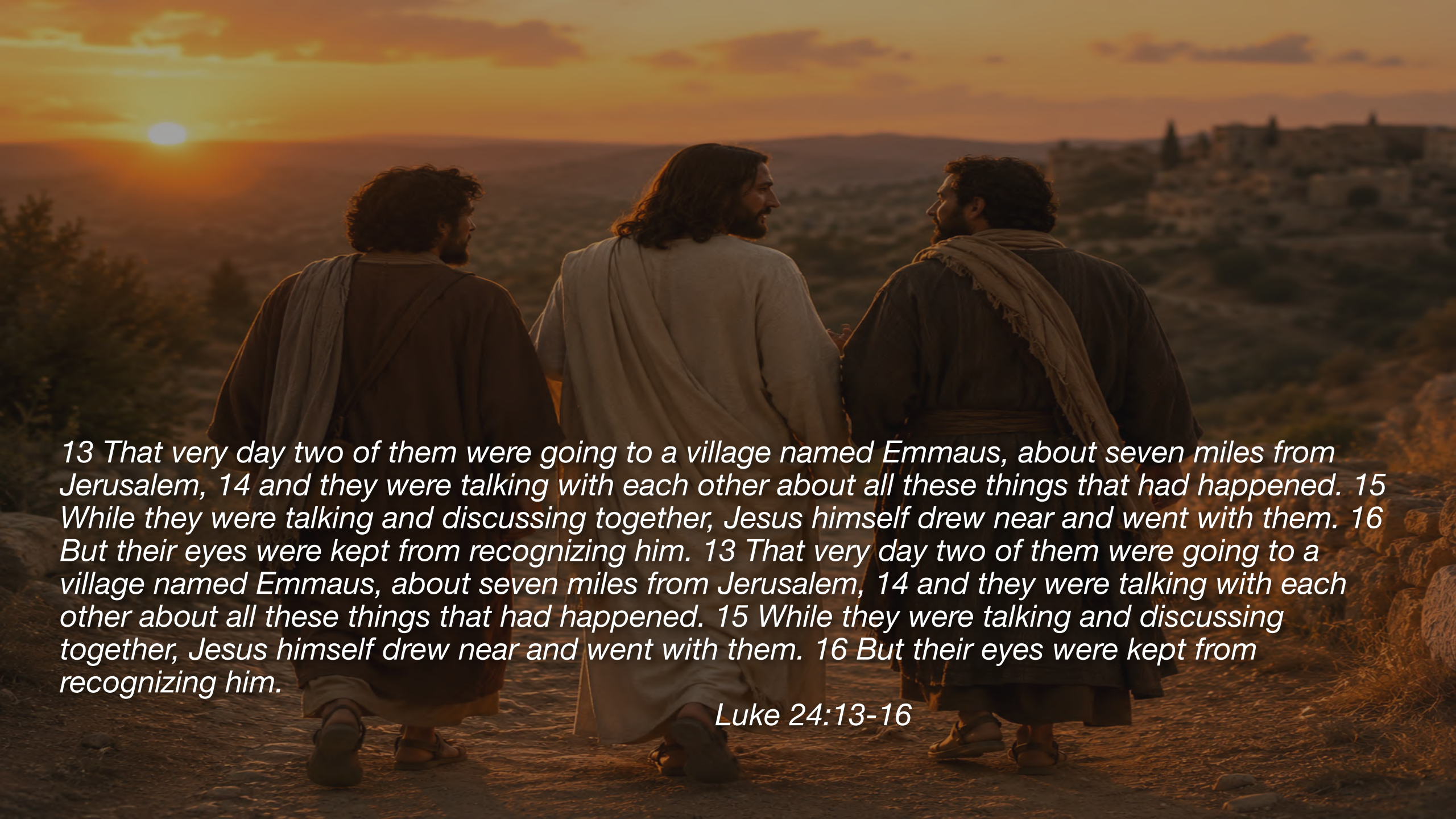
Disciples walked and talked with Jesus without recognising Him, showing God's presence doesn't require awareness.

Spiritual Recognition

Recognition takes time, not immediate certainty or strong emotions.


God Meets Us Where We Are

Jesus joins conversations and patiently leads us toward understanding, in our current situation.

A cinematic photograph of three men walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man in the center is Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is flanked by two other men in dark robes. They are walking towards a sunset over a landscape with a distant town. The sky is filled with warm, golden light from the setting sun.

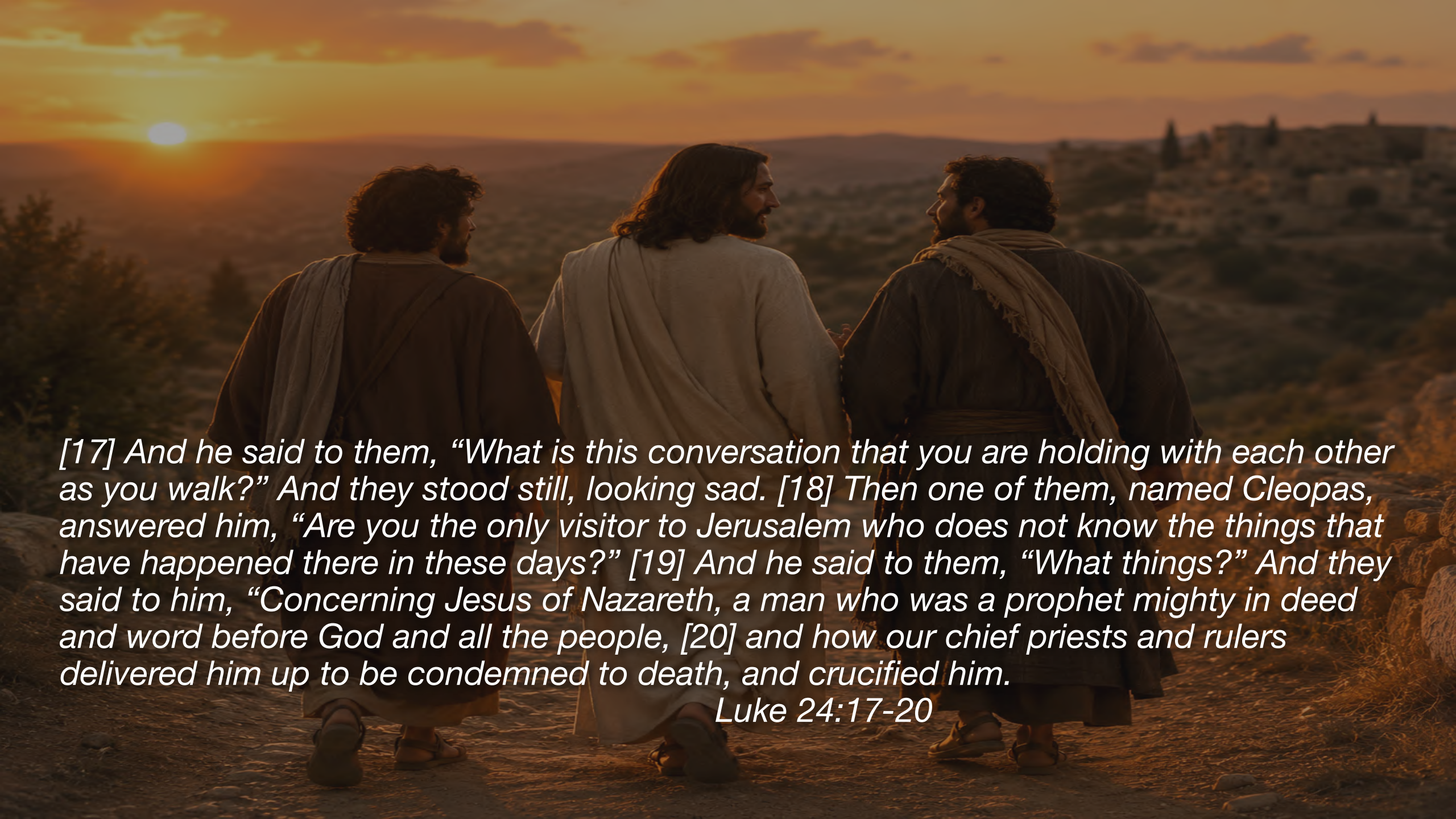
13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him. 13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. 15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

Luke 24:13-16



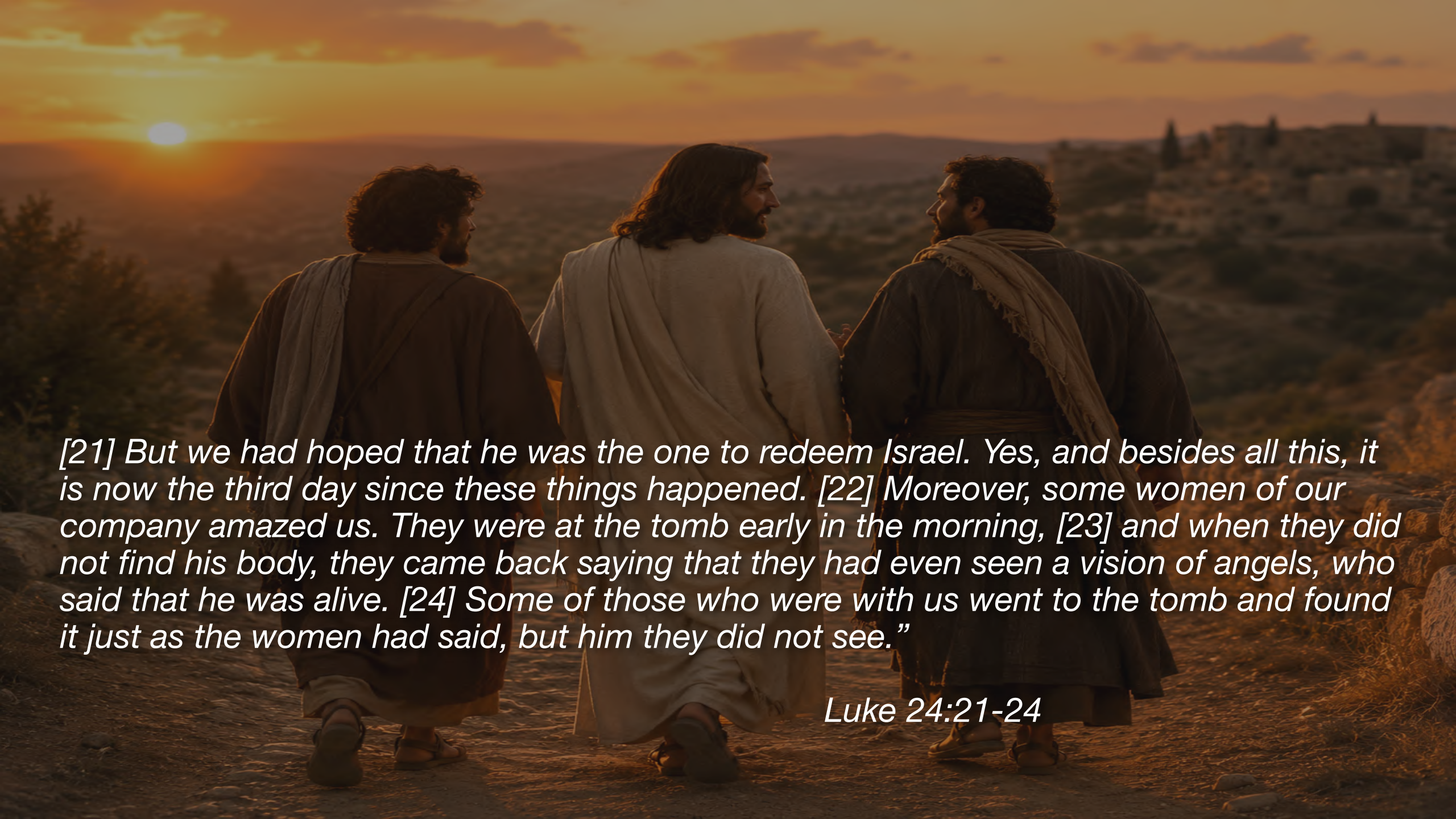
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Luke 24:13-16

A cinematic photograph of three men in ancient-style clothing walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man in the center has long hair and a beard, wearing a light-colored robe. The two men on either side have shorter hair and beards, wearing darker robes with shawls draped over their shoulders. They are looking towards a sunset over a hazy landscape with distant hills and a city skyline. The sky is filled with warm, golden light from the setting sun.

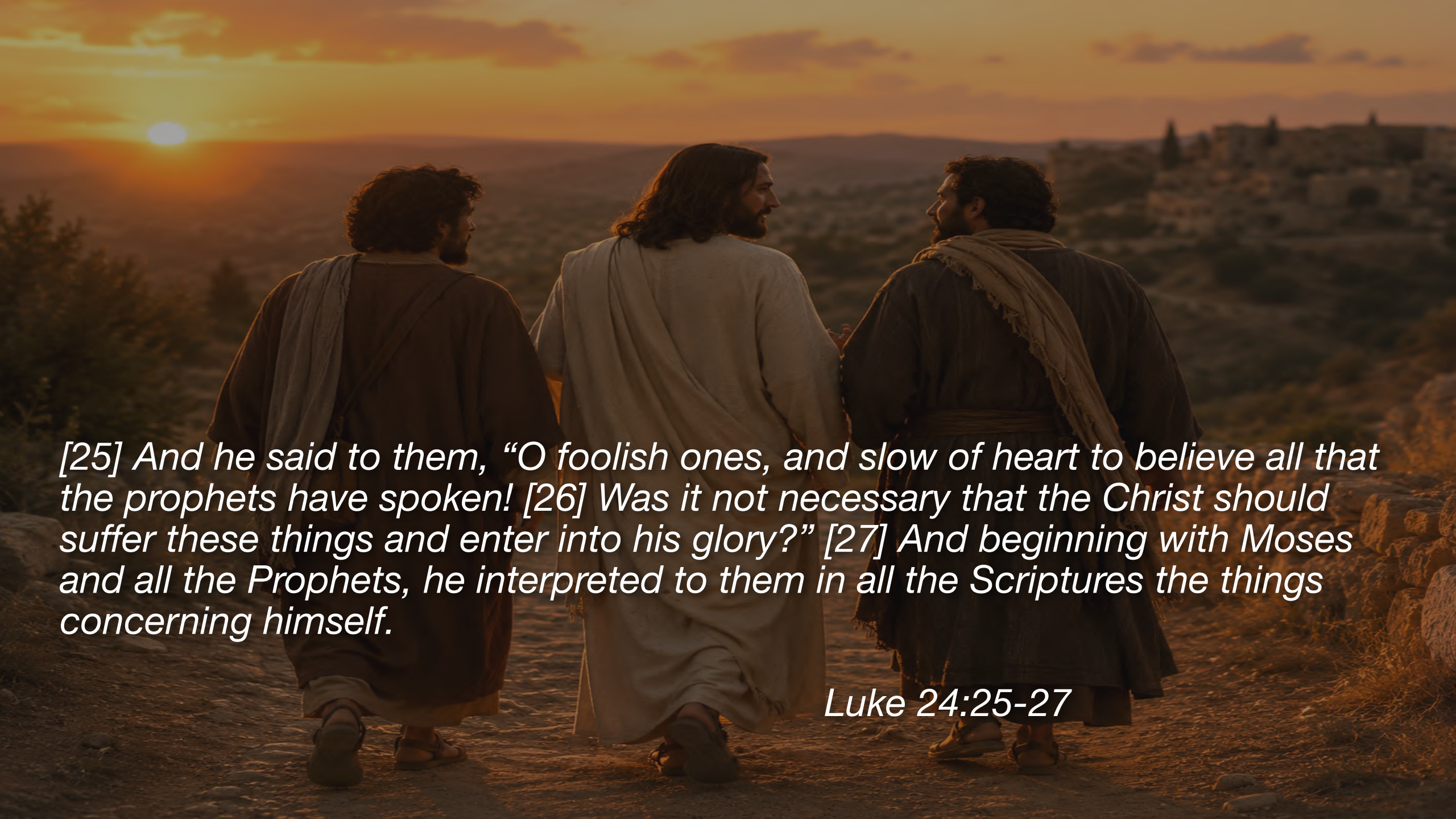
[17] And he said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. [18] Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” [19] And he said to them, “What things?” And they said to him, “Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, [20] and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

Luke 24:17-20

A cinematic photograph of three men in traditional robes walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man in the center is Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is flanked by two other men in darker robes. They are walking towards a sunset over a hazy landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the scene. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

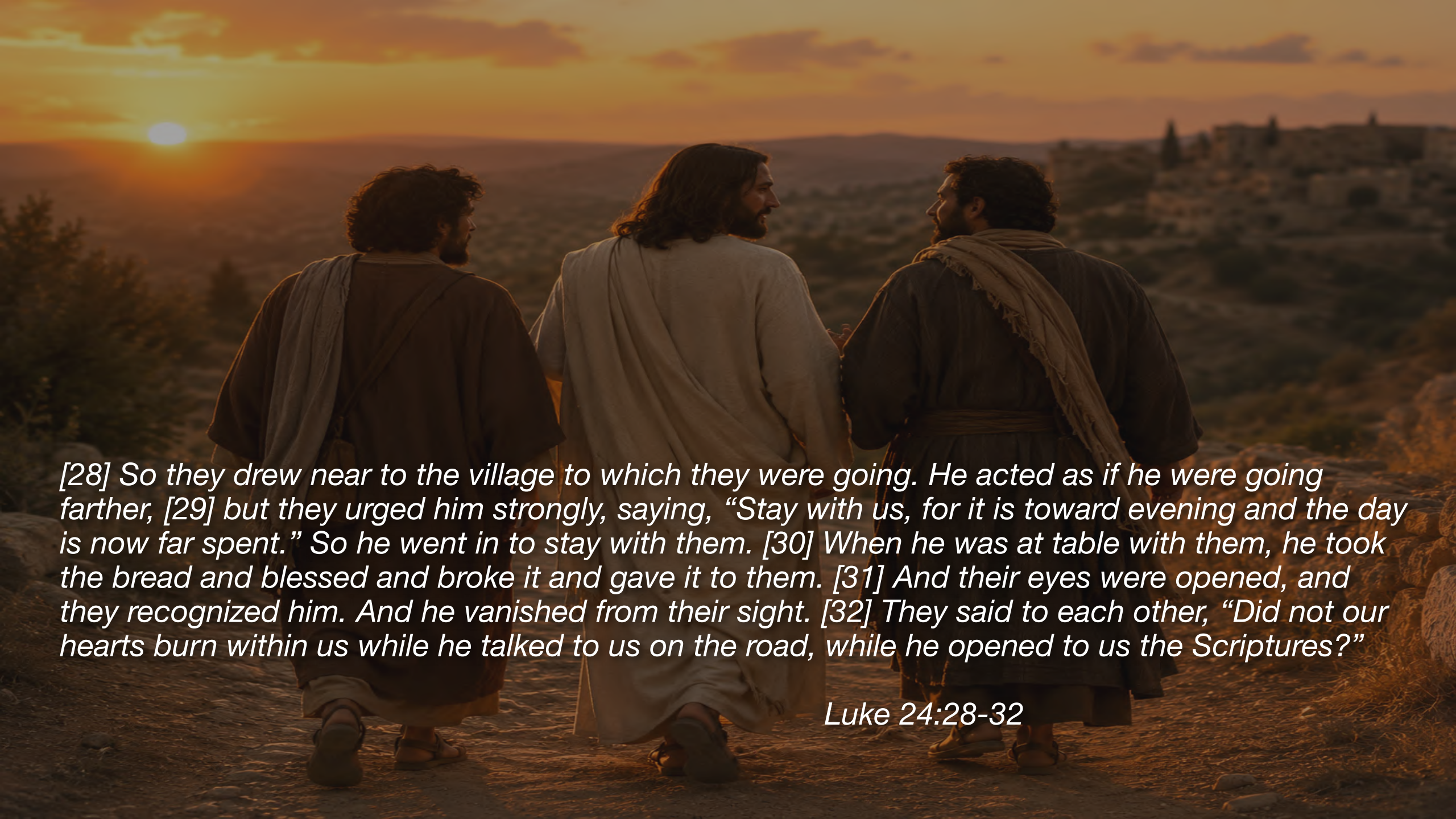
[21] But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things happened. [22] Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, [23] and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. [24] Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.”

Luke 24:21-24

A photograph of three men in ancient-style robes walking away from the viewer on a dirt path. The man in the center is Jesus, with long hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is flanked by two other men in darker robes. They are walking towards a sunset over a hilly landscape. The sky is filled with warm, golden light, and the sun is a bright orb on the horizon. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

[25] And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! [26] Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” [27] And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

Luke 24:25-27



[28] So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, [29] but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. [30] When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. [31] And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. [32] They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Luke 24:28-32

Conversational

Through ordinary dialogue, walking alongside and engaging in discussion with them.

Exegetical

Explains Scripture, interpreting Moses and the Prophets in light of Himself as foundational for discerning God's voice.

Sacramental

Through the breaking of bread, linking worship to spiritual insight and understanding.

Prophetic


Reveals hidden truth when the disciples' eyes are opened.

Inward

Inwardly, producing burning hearts as an internal response of conviction and spiritual recognition.



Five Ways Jesus Speaks on the Road to Emmaus

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*“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.
Luke 24:27*

God Speaks Through Scripture First



Primacy of Scripture

Scripture is the clearest and most reliable way through which God communicates with us.

Scripture Illuminates Christ

Jesus interprets Scripture to reveal redemption, showing the Bible is fundamentally about Him.

Testing Experiences

Subjective spiritual experiences must be tested against objective Scripture to ensure truth and avoid deception.

Living Testimony of Scripture

The Bible is God's living testimony that ignites our faith and guides us in our daily lives.

A photograph of three men in traditional robes walking away from the camera on a dirt path. The scene is set at sunset, with a warm, golden light illuminating the sky and the figures. The man in the center is slightly ahead of the other two. The background shows a hazy landscape with some distant structures.

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

2 Timothy 3:16

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”

Psalm 119:105

Prophecy

Burning Hearts



Luke 24:32

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?”

Jeremiah 20:9

*If I say, “I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,”
there is in my heart as it were a burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.*

Prophecy

Prompting of the Holy Spirit



Acts 2:17-18

17 “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

18 even on my male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

Prophecy

strengthens, encourages, comforts



Luke 24:32

*3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their **upbuilding and encouragement and consolation**. 4 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies **builds up the church**.*

1 Kings 19:12

*12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of **a low whisper**.*

His voice is a gentle whisper

Prophecy is ...



- **Usually subtle**
- **Often easy to dismiss**
- **Meant to build others up**
- **Not always loud.**
- **Not always dramatic.**

Prophecy is ...

1 Corinthians 14:3

3 On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their upbuilding and encouragement and consolation.

A Spirit-prompted word

That reveals God's heart

And builds someone up

2 Corinthians 1:24

24 Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, for you stand firm in your faith.



Prophecy is ...
not equal to Scripture



Test Everything

2 Timothy 3:16 says *Scripture is God-breathed.*

1 Thessalonians 5:20–21

20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.

1 Corinthians 14:29

29 Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,

Recognition Is a Process



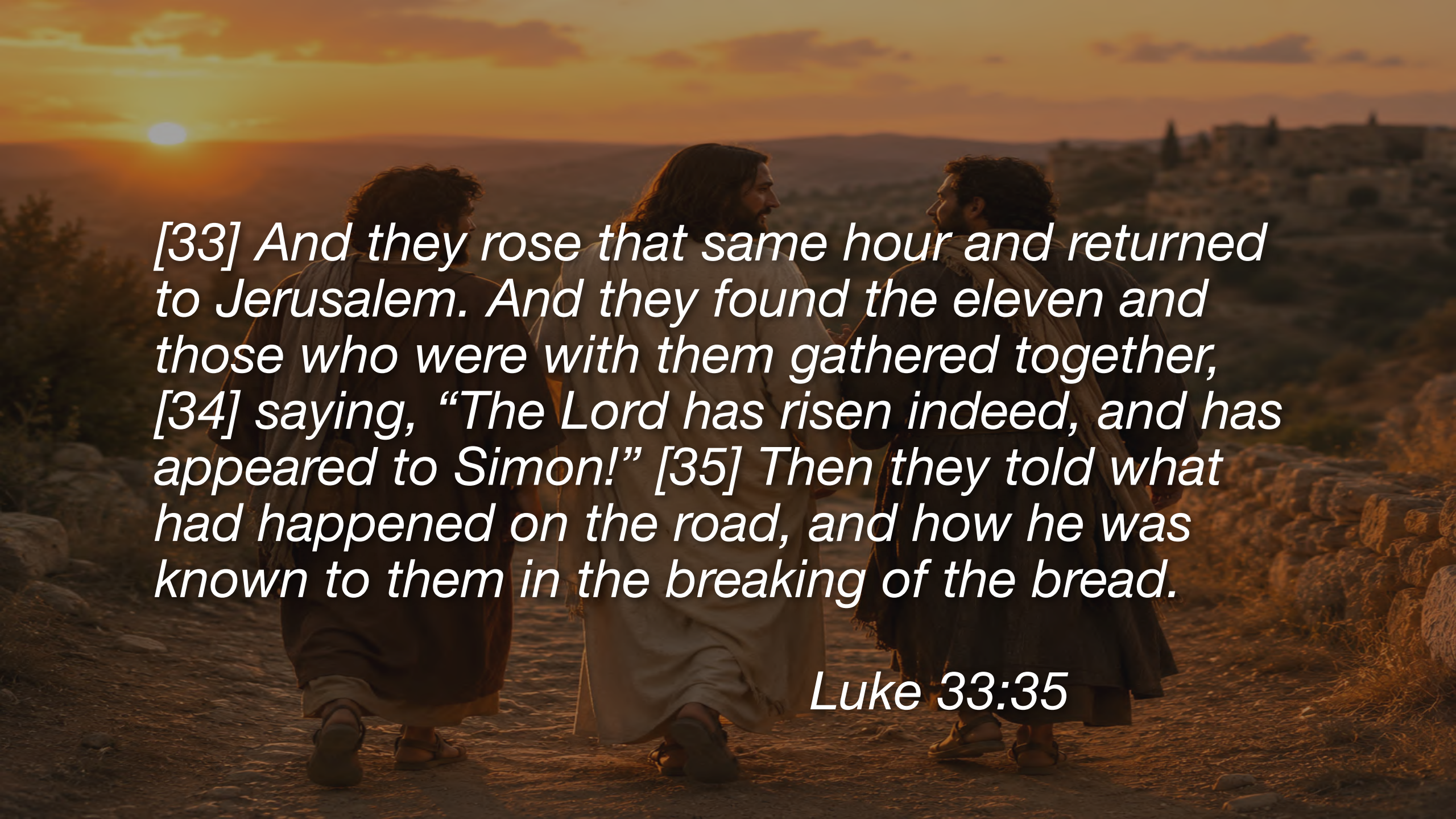
- **They walk**
- **They listen**
- **Their hearts burn**
- **Then their eyes are opened**

Luke 24:31

“Then their eyes were opened and they recognised him.”

1 Corinthians 13:12

12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

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[33] And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, [34] saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!” [35] Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Luke 33:35

After listening, there's action



They reflect.

They talk.

They process.

Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go”

1 Peter 5:7

7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

After listening, there's action



They reflect.

They talk.

They process.

Proverbs 3:5-6

*5 Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.*

*6 In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.*

Blocks to Hearing God



Psychological Barriers

Feelings of unworthiness and disappointment can prevent us from recognising God's voice effectively.

Theological Barriers

Certain doctrinal beliefs may limit understanding, suggesting God only speaks through Scripture and not supernaturally.

Blocks to Hearing God



Exodus 3:4

[4] When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Numbers 22:28

[28] Then the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey, and she said to Balaam, “What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?”

Hebrews 13:2

2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Blocks to Hearing God



Psychological Barriers

Theological Barriers

Experiential Differences

Personality and context influence how we hear God.

Philippians 4:6

*6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And **the peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Blocks to Hearing God



Psychological Barriers

Theological Barriers

Experiential Differences

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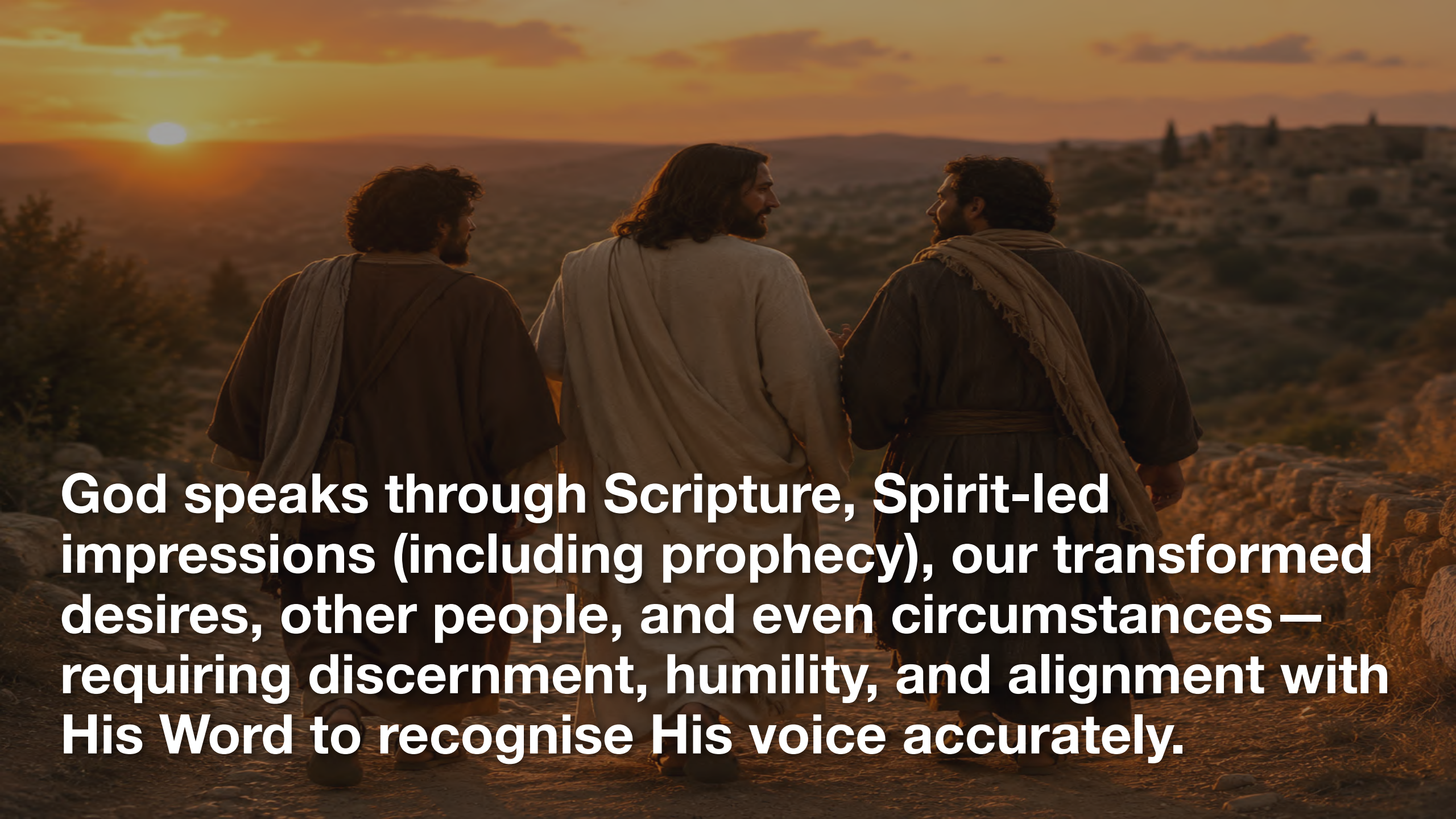
Psalm 46:10

“Be still, and know that I am God.

Psalm 95:1

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!



God speaks through Scripture, Spirit-led impressions (including prophecy), our transformed desires, other people, and even circumstances — requiring discernment, humility, and alignment with His Word to recognise His voice accurately.