





# SHOULD WE RETHINK 'WINNING'?





# TRIUMPH OF LOVE

*Surprising  
Lessons in*

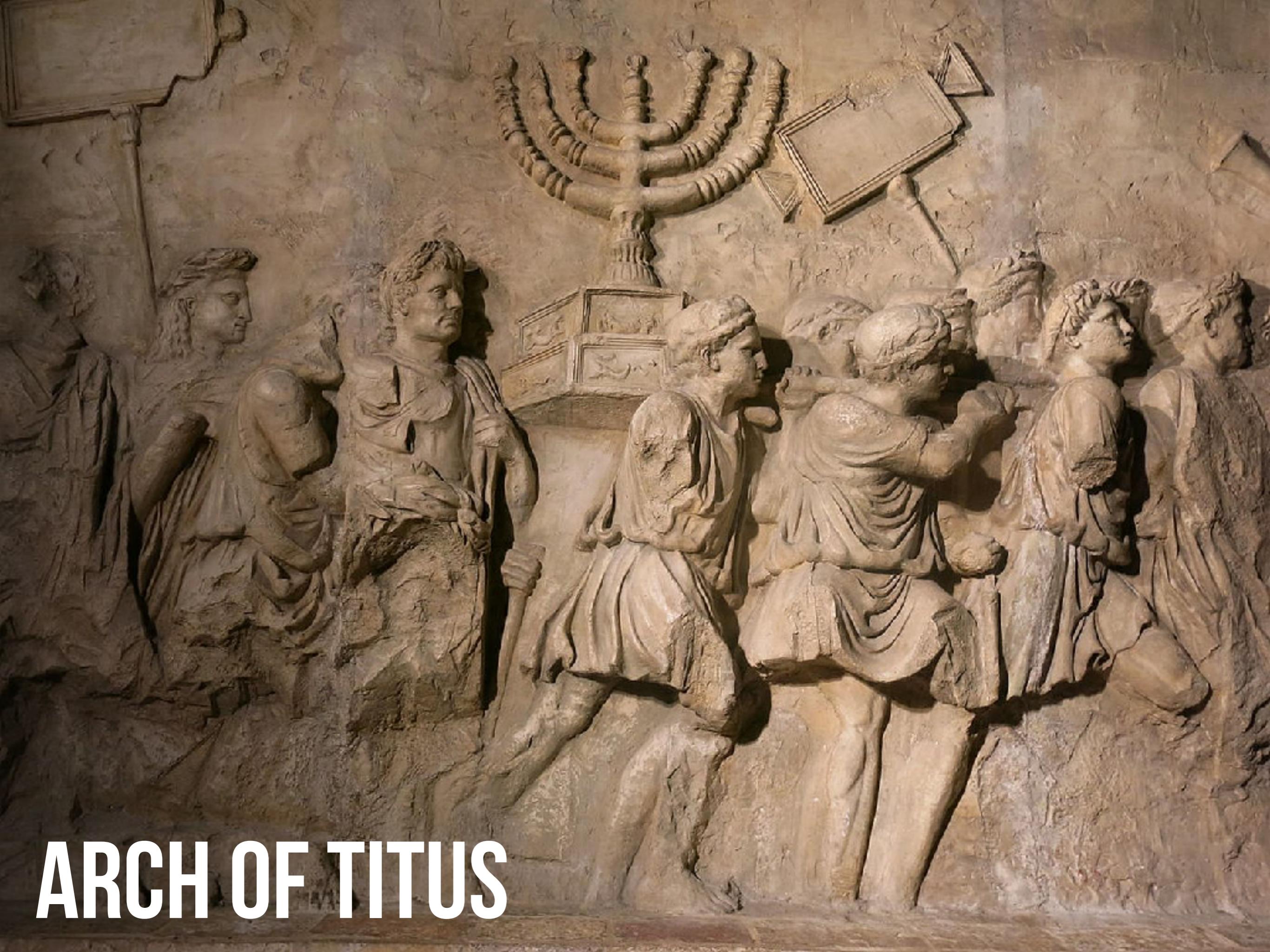
**VICTORY & DEFEAT**

What's a  
*Triumphal  
Procession?*









# ARCH OF TITUS

...the triumphal procession demonstrated Rome's prowess as the victor not only by parading the spoils of war, but also by leading in triumph the most important leaders and intimidating warriors of the enemy, now presented as conquered slaves.

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... to be led as a prisoner in such a triumphal procession signaled one's utter defeat ... The role of those led in triumph was to reveal the glory of the one who had conquered them, ultimately through their public execution and death.

— Scott Hafemann

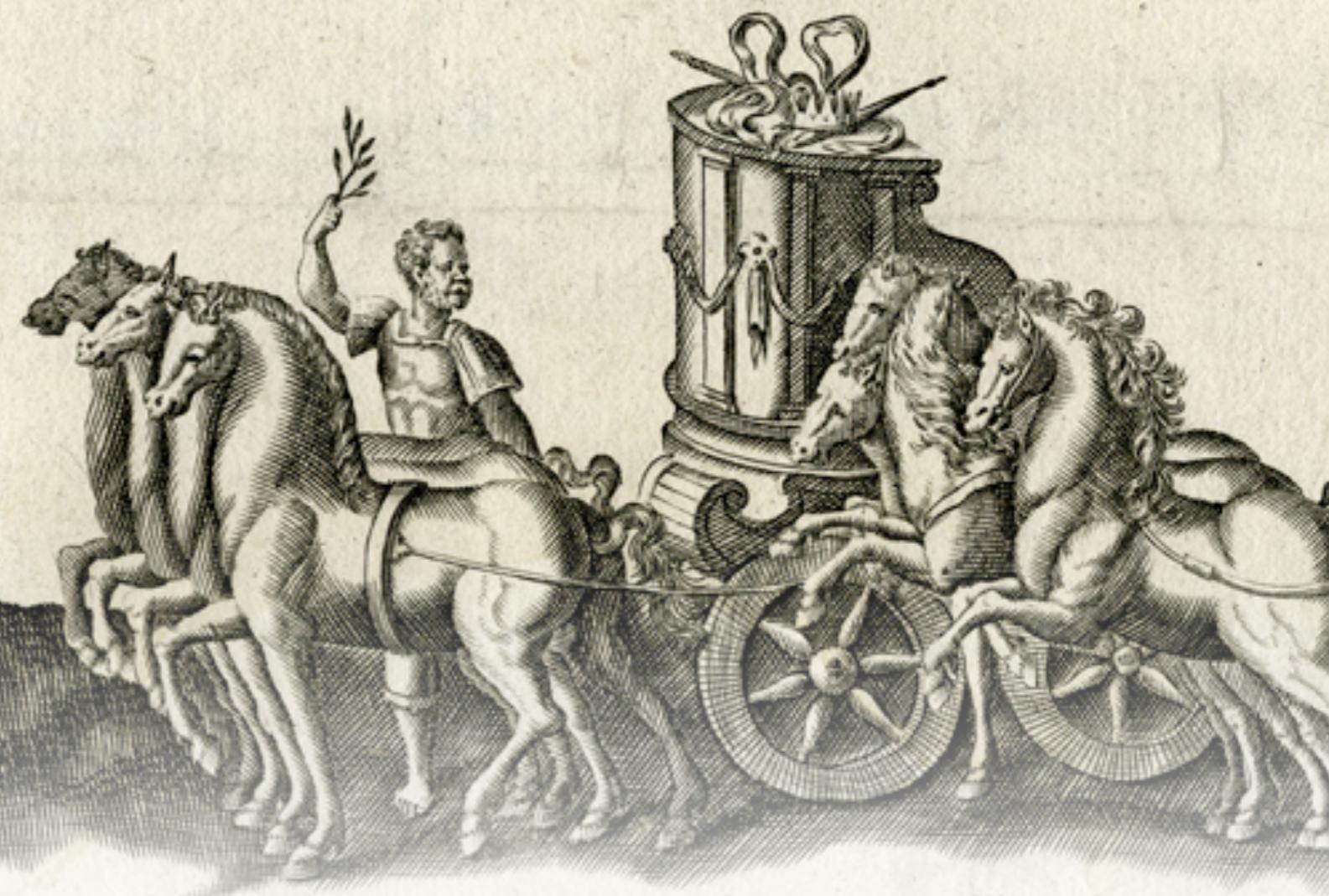
VICTARVM



THE CONQUERED

*triumphali*

CVRRVS. ARMA. DIA:  
DEMATA. CORONAE.  
RE GVM AVT DVCVM  
CAPTORVM



THE CROWNS OF CAPTURED KI

CORONÆ A PROVINCIIS  
IMPERATORI TRIVM:  
PHANTI DONATÆ

GENTES BELLO  
CAPTÆ



**CAPTIVES**

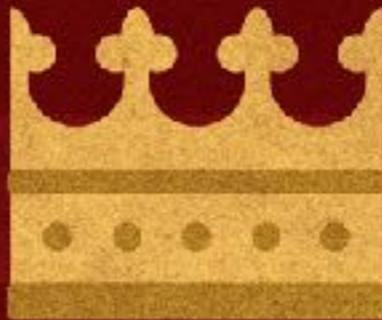


**REGAL OFFICIALS**

# “TRIUMPHALISM”

*b : smug or boastful pride in the success or dominance of one's nation or ideology over others*

MERRIAM-WEBSTER



TRIUMPHALISM?

1

# He Leads the Powers

~• IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | COL. 2:15 •~

*“He disarmed the rulers and  
authorities and put them to open shame,  
by triumphing over them in him”*



1

# *He Leads the Powers*

~• IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | COL. 2:15 •~

## *Dark Rulers*

EPH. 6:12; 1 COR. 2:7-8



1

# *He Leads the Powers*

~• IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | COL. 2:15 •~

## *Freedom!*

ISA. 52:7; HEB.2:4; JOHN 12:31



“These powers, angry at his challenge to their sovereignty, stripped him naked, held him up to public contempt, and celebrated a triumph over him ...”



“on the contrary, on the cross God was stripping them naked, was holding them up to public contempt, and leading them in his own triumphal procession—in Christ, the crucified Messiah. When the ‘powers’ had done their worst, crucifying the Lord of glory incognito on the charge of blasphemy and rebellion, they had overreached themselves. He, neither blasphemer nor rebel, was in fact their rightful sovereign. They thereby exposed themselves for what they were—usurpers of the authority which was properly his. The cross therefore becomes the source of hope for all who had been held captive under their rule, enslaved in fear”



Christ breaks the last hold that the ‘powers’ had over his people, by dying on their behalf.

1

# *He Leads the Powers*

~• IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | COL. 2:15 •~

## *How to Win?*

PHIL. 2:5-11; MATT. 16:24-25



2

# He Leads Paul & Me!

~• IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | 2 COR. 2:14 •~

*“But thanks be to God, who in Christ  
always leads us in triumphal procession,  
and through us spreads the fragrance of  
the knowledge of him everywhere.”*



# *Wait...What?*

**Paul isn't leading it, he's being  
led, like a prisoner of war?**

# *Avoid at All Costs?*

1. SHAME
2. SUFFERING
3. SUBMISSION



...it means to lead captives in a triumphal procession. Many interpreters, however, could not understand why Paul would picture himself as a defeated captive. Consequently they have tried to make the meaning of the verb fit an interpretation more in keeping with the triumphal sweep of the gospel. Calvin, for example, knew the common meaning of the phrase but contended that it did not fit his understanding of what Paul could have meant.

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He asked: How could Paul praise God for leading him as a vanquished and dishonored prisoner? How could he liken himself as an apostle to one chained and marched in disgrace to his death before the conqueror? Such incongruity led Calvin to argue on theological rather than lexical grounds that Paul must have meant “to triumph with.”

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...but we must allow the first century meaning of the word to guide our interpretation before trying to make it match what we think Paul ought to be saying.

— David Garland

# He Leads Paul & Me!

2

~ • IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | 2 COR. 2:14 • ~

## *Enemies* SPARED BY MERCY



# He Leads Paul & Me!

2

~ • IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | 2 COR. 2:14 • ~

## Prisoners CAPTURED BY LOVE



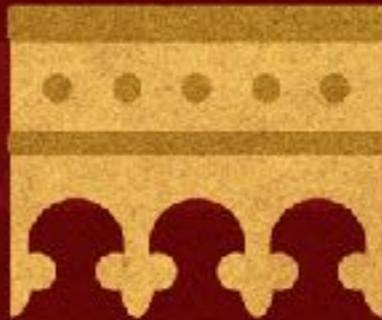
# He Leads Paul & Me!

2

~ • IN TRIUMPHAL PROCESSION | 2 COR. 2:14 • ~

Slaves  
OBEYING BY GRATITUDE





*“Paul’s critics regard him as inferior and weak. He concedes his weakness but will not concede that he is inferior.”*

*- David Garland*

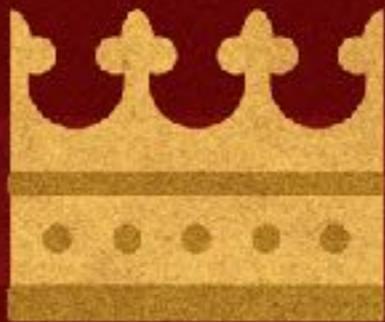
# Spreading the *Fragrance* of Christ

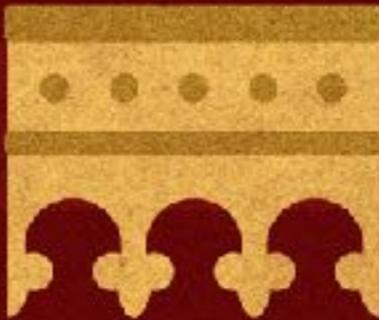


*It shouldn't  
be this hard.*

*What am I  
doing wrong?*

*What if God is  
glorified most in us  
when we suffer?*





*“God creates out of nothing.  
Therefore until a man is nothing,  
God can make nothing out of him.”*

*- Martin Luther*

# *Romans Celebrated The Triumph of...*

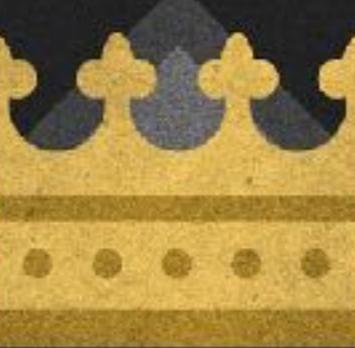
- POWER OVER WEAKNESS
- HONOR OVER SHAME
- LIFE OVER DEATH
- JOY OVER SUFFERING
- VICTORY OVER SURRENDER



*We Celebrate*  
*The Triumph of...*

- POWER THROUGH WEAKNESS
- HONOR THROUGH SHAME
- LIFE THROUGH DEATH
- JOY THROUGH SUFFERING
- VICTORY THROUGH SURRENDER





# FORGOTTEN PROMISES

*Passages  
That Don't*

**MAKE IT TO OUR WALLS**

I have said these things to  
you, that in me you may  
have peace...But take  
heart; I have overcome the  
world.

..... JOHN 16:33 .....

...In the world you will have  
tribulation...

JOHN 16:33

Indeed, all who desire to live  
a godly life in Christ Jesus  
will be persecuted

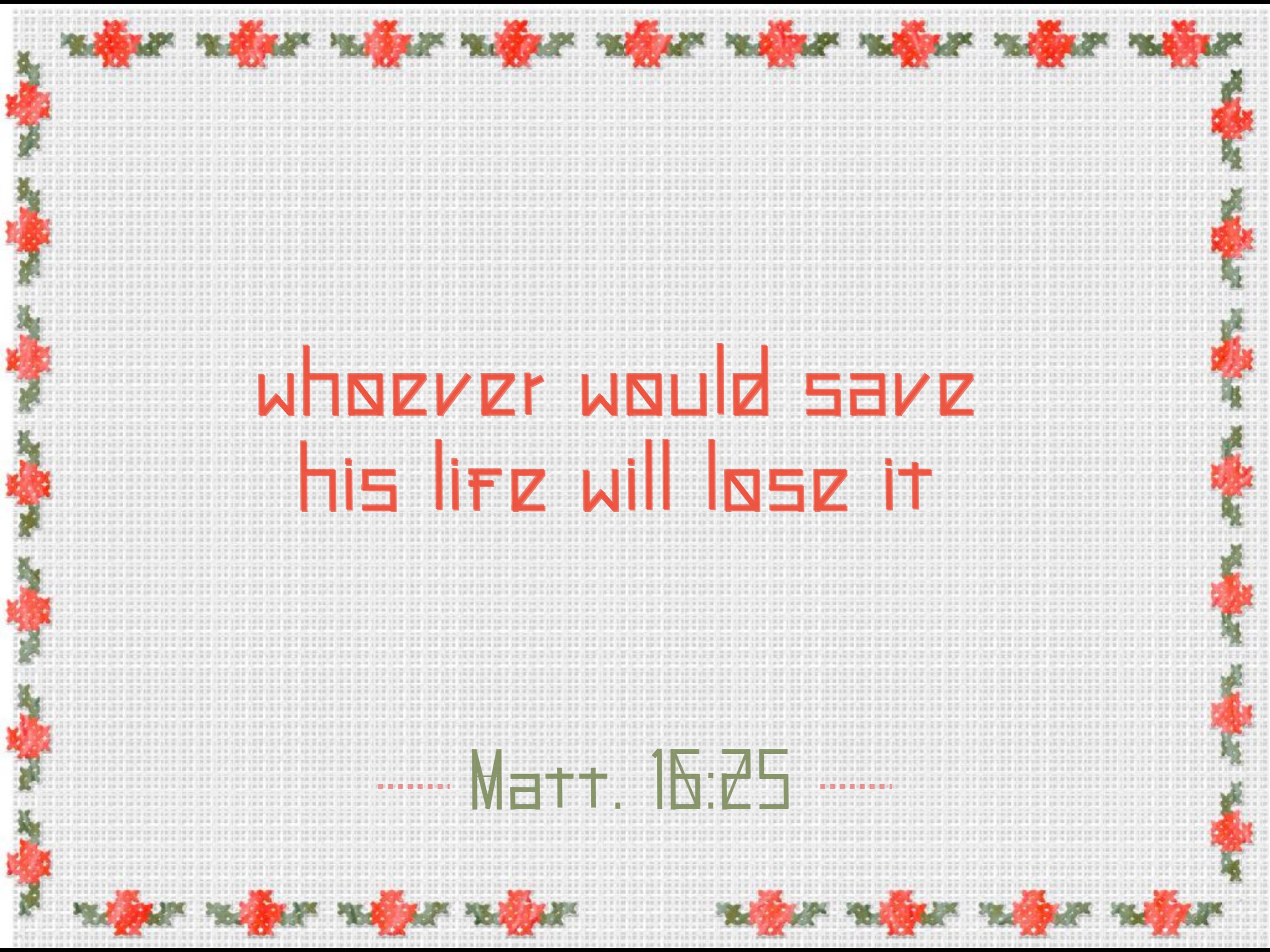
..... 2 TIM. 3:12 .....

For it has been granted to you  
that for the sake of Christ you  
should not only believe in him but  
also suffer for his sake, engaged  
in the same conflict that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

..... PHP. 1:29 .....

That I may know him and the  
power of his resurrection,  
and may share his sufferings,  
becoming like him in his death.

..... PHP. 3:10 .....



whoever would save  
his life will lose it

..... Matt. 16:25 .....

whoever loses his life for  
my sake will find it

..... Matt. 16:25 .....

