

**The Blessings of
“the Unexpected Cross”**

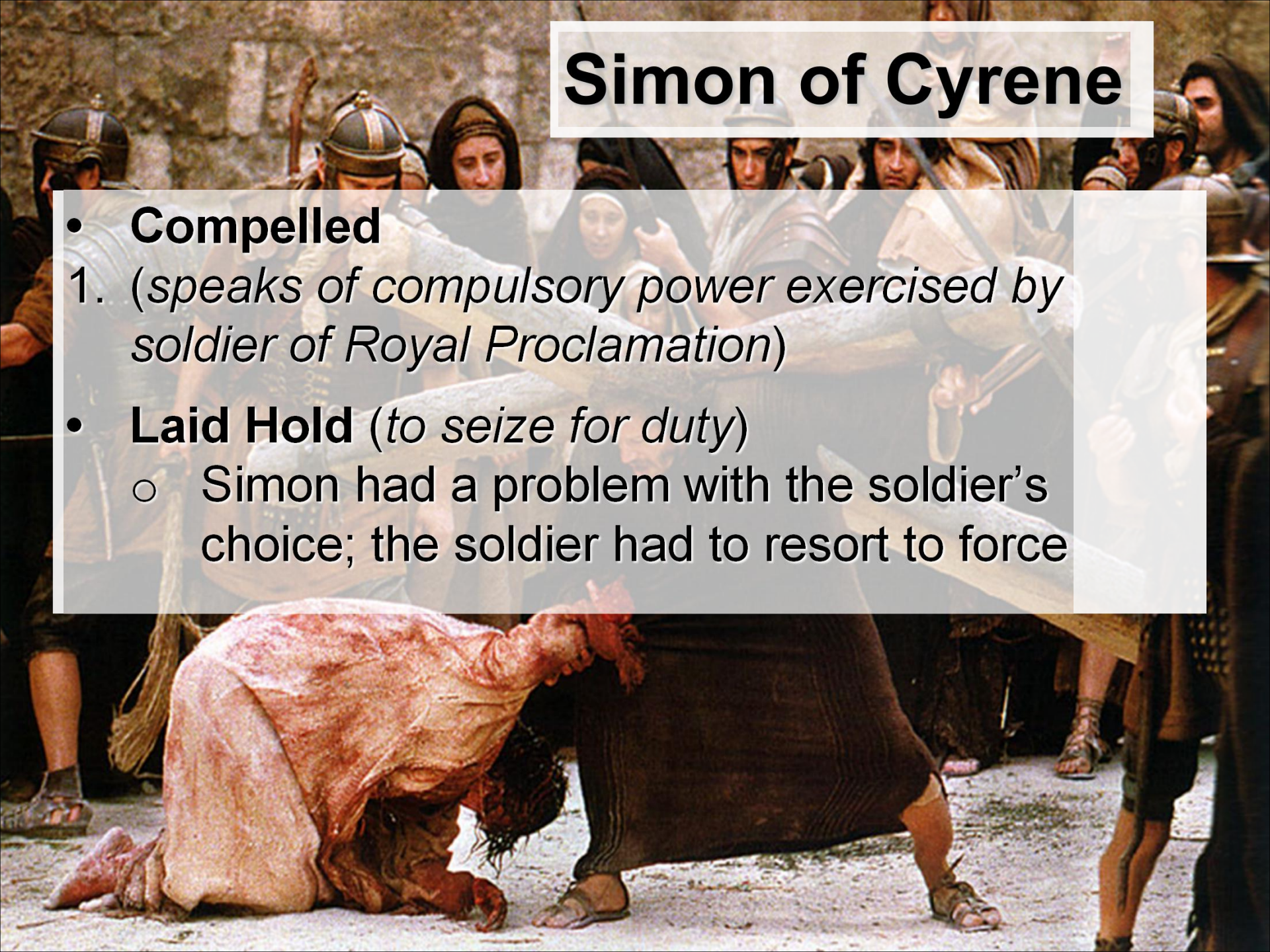
Part 2

Luke 23:26, 33

APRIL 22, 2017

Simon of Cyrene

- **Compelled**
 1. *(speaks of compulsory power exercised by soldier of Royal Proclamation)*
- **Laid Hold** *(to seize for duty)*
 - Simon had a problem with the soldier's choice; the soldier had to resort to force



Simon's Cross



1. It was...

- **Unexpected**

- It Interrupted His Routine

- **Powerful**

- It Made a Difference

4 Things the Cross Did for Simon



#1- It Brought Him Into Presence Of Jesus

- He was so close he could hear His Voice

#2- It Made Him Follow In...

...the Steps of the Savior.

#3- Made Him Part Of Greatest Work...

...In The World

#4- The Cross Changed His Family Forever

Simon's Cross

1. It was...

○ Unexpected

- It Interrupted His Routine

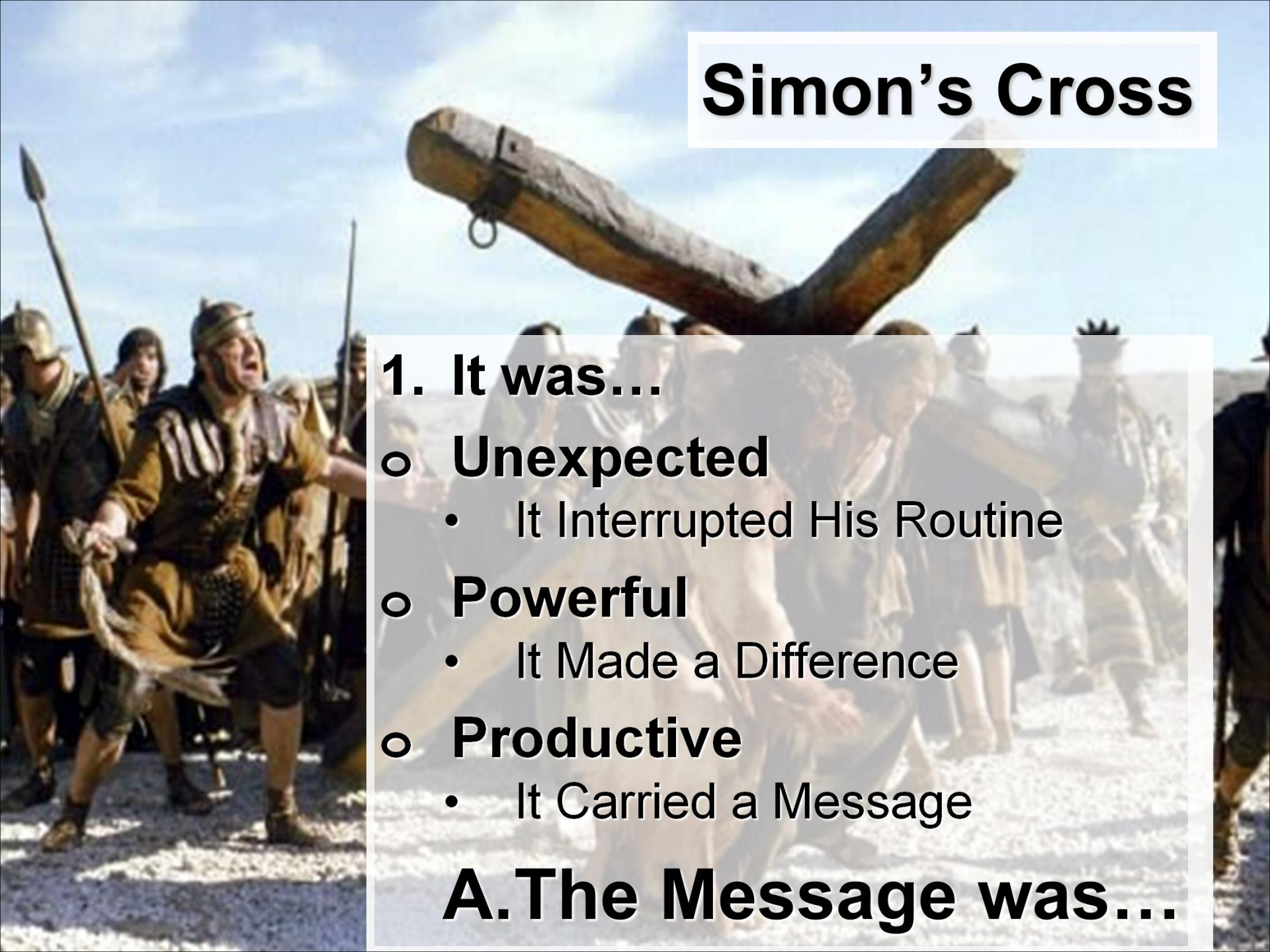
○ Powerful

- It Made a Difference

○ Productive

- It Carried a Message

A. The Message was...



Jesus Carried the Cross First

Before Simon was Involved, Jesus had Already Taken Up Cross

o **Isa 53:3-4** – Jesus was a Man of Sorrows

- **Borne**= *to carry inside*
- **Carried**= *take personal*

o **Cor 10:13**, No Temptation

- **Taken**= *to seize/ remove w- force/ violence*



Jesus Carried the Cross First

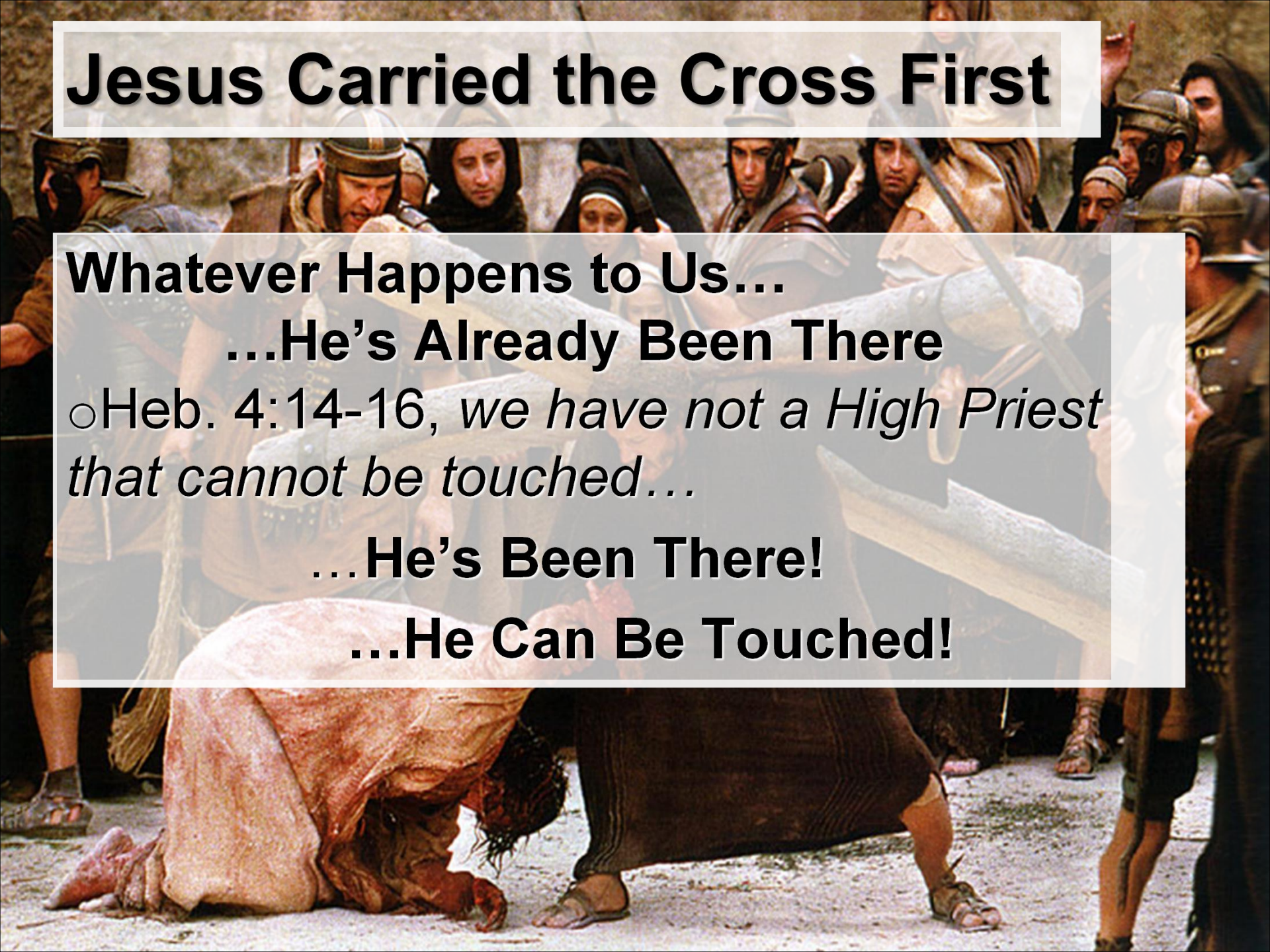
Whatever Happens to Us...

...He's Already Been There

○ Heb. 4:14-16, *we have not a High Priest that cannot be touched...*

...He's Been There!

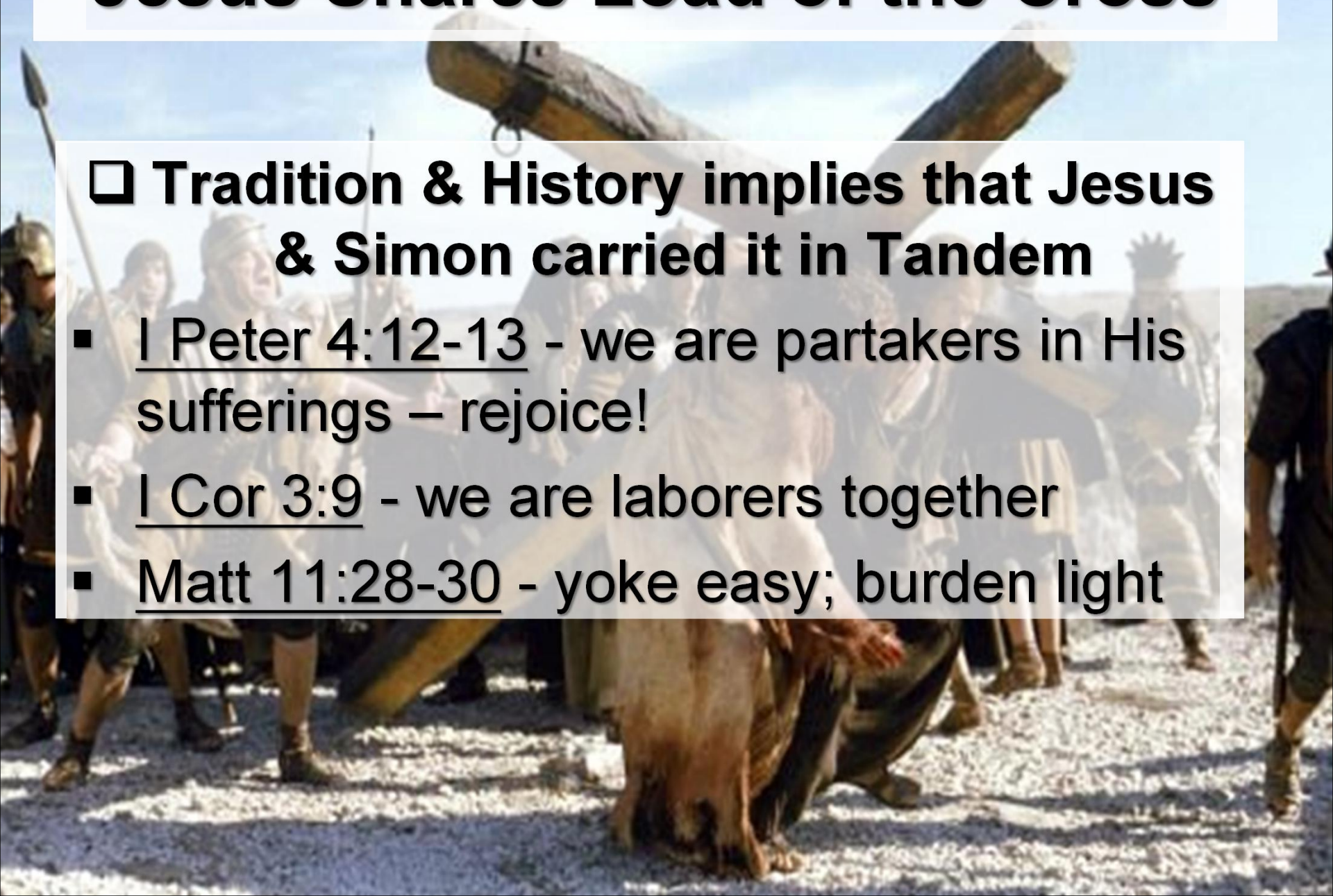
...He Can Be Touched!



Jesus Shares Load of the Cross

☐ Tradition & History implies that Jesus & Simon carried it in Tandem

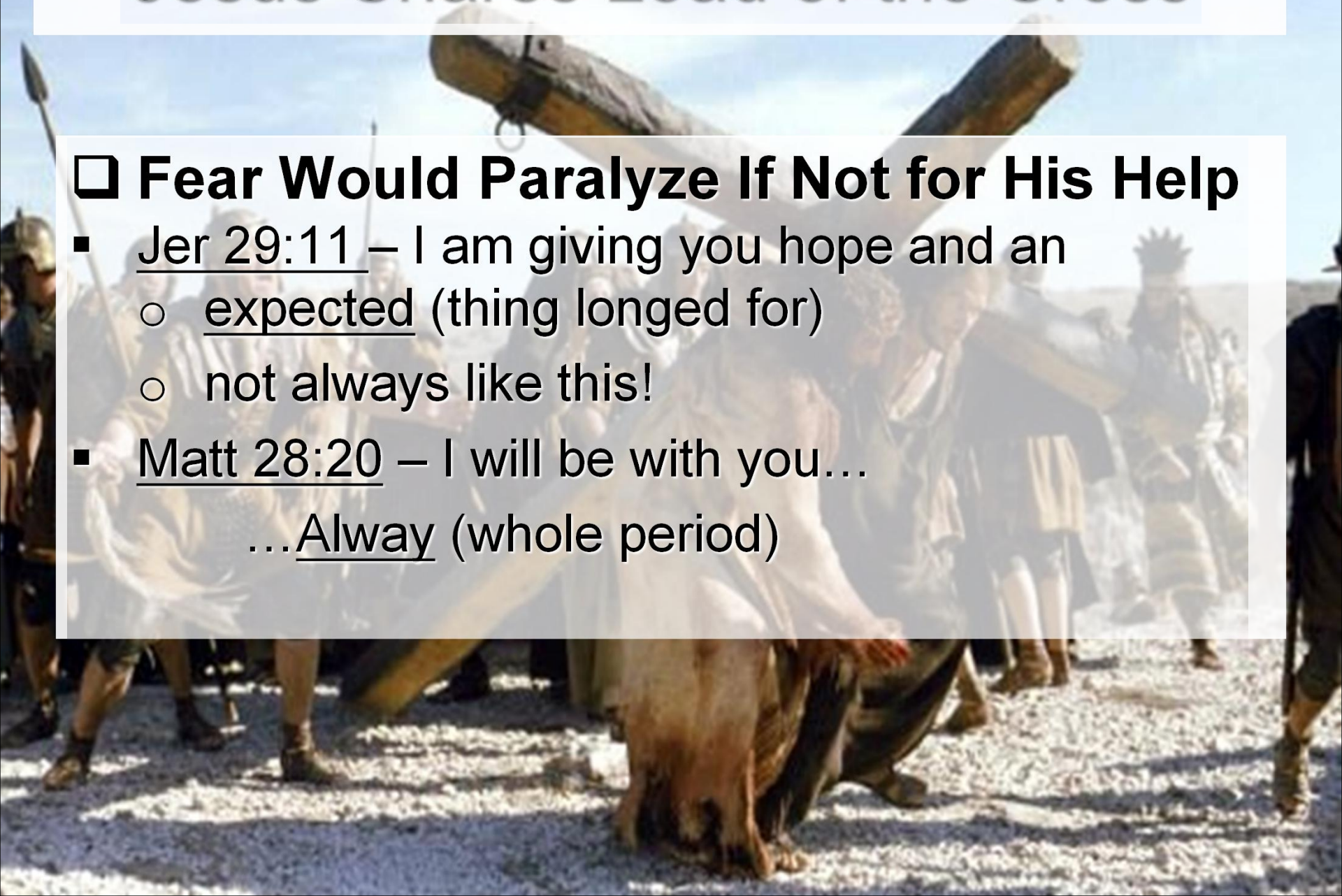
- I Peter 4:12-13 - we are partakers in His sufferings – rejoice!
- I Cor 3:9 - we are laborers together
- Matt 11:28-30 - yoke easy; burden light



Jesus Shares Load of the Cross

☐ Fear Would Paralyze If Not for His Help

- Jer 29:11 – I am giving you hope and an
 - expected (thing longed for)
 - not always like this!
- Matt 28:20 – I will be with you...
...Alway (whole period)



Jesus Preps Us to Carry Cross

❑ Why Simon?

○ Why Not Roman Soldier?

- this was Religious Problem
- they were Already in Too Deep

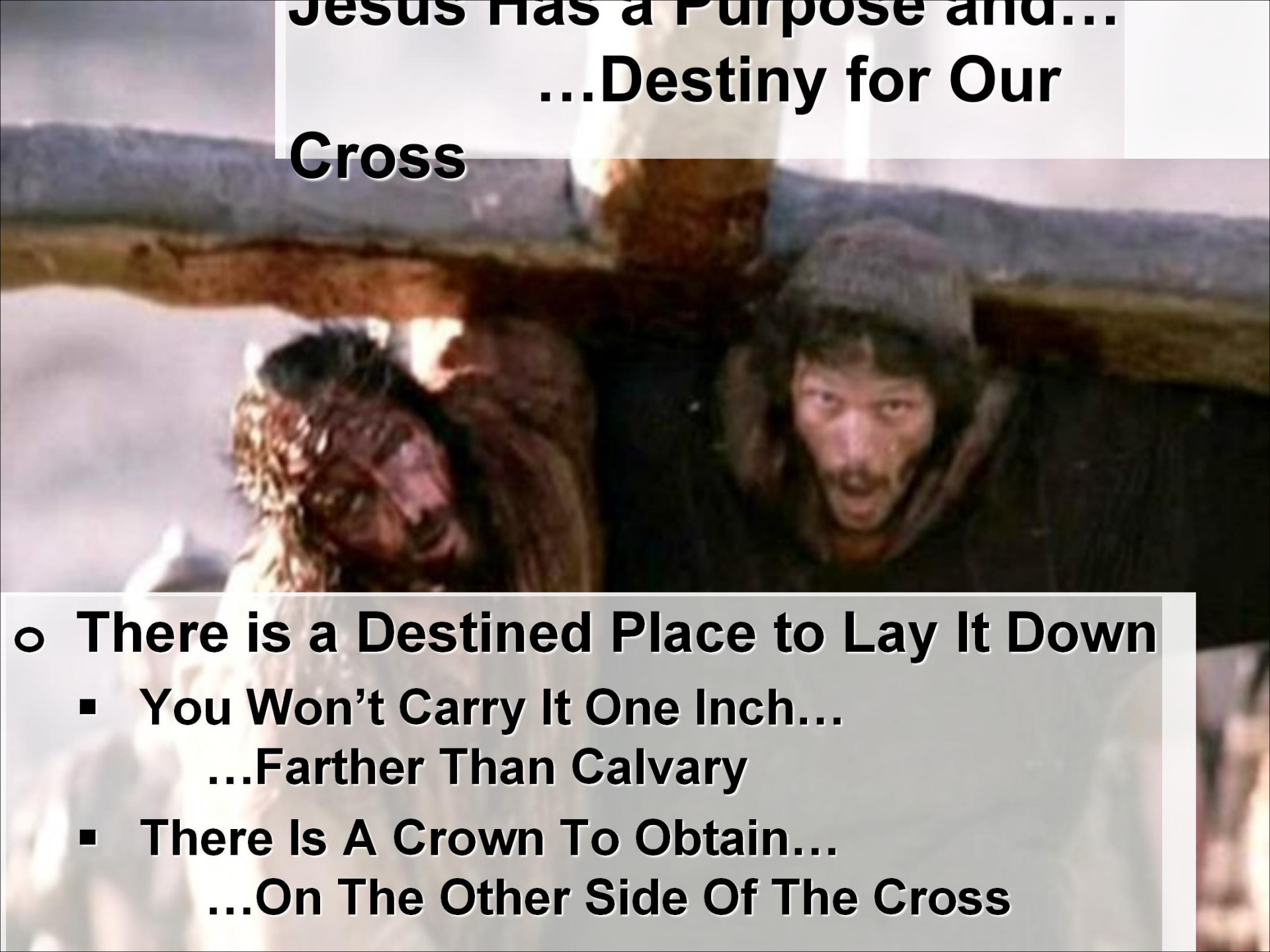
○ Why Not a Disciple?

- Still Scattered

Jesus Preps Us to Carry Cross

☐ God Prepared You Through Hardships ...for the Cross You Now Carry

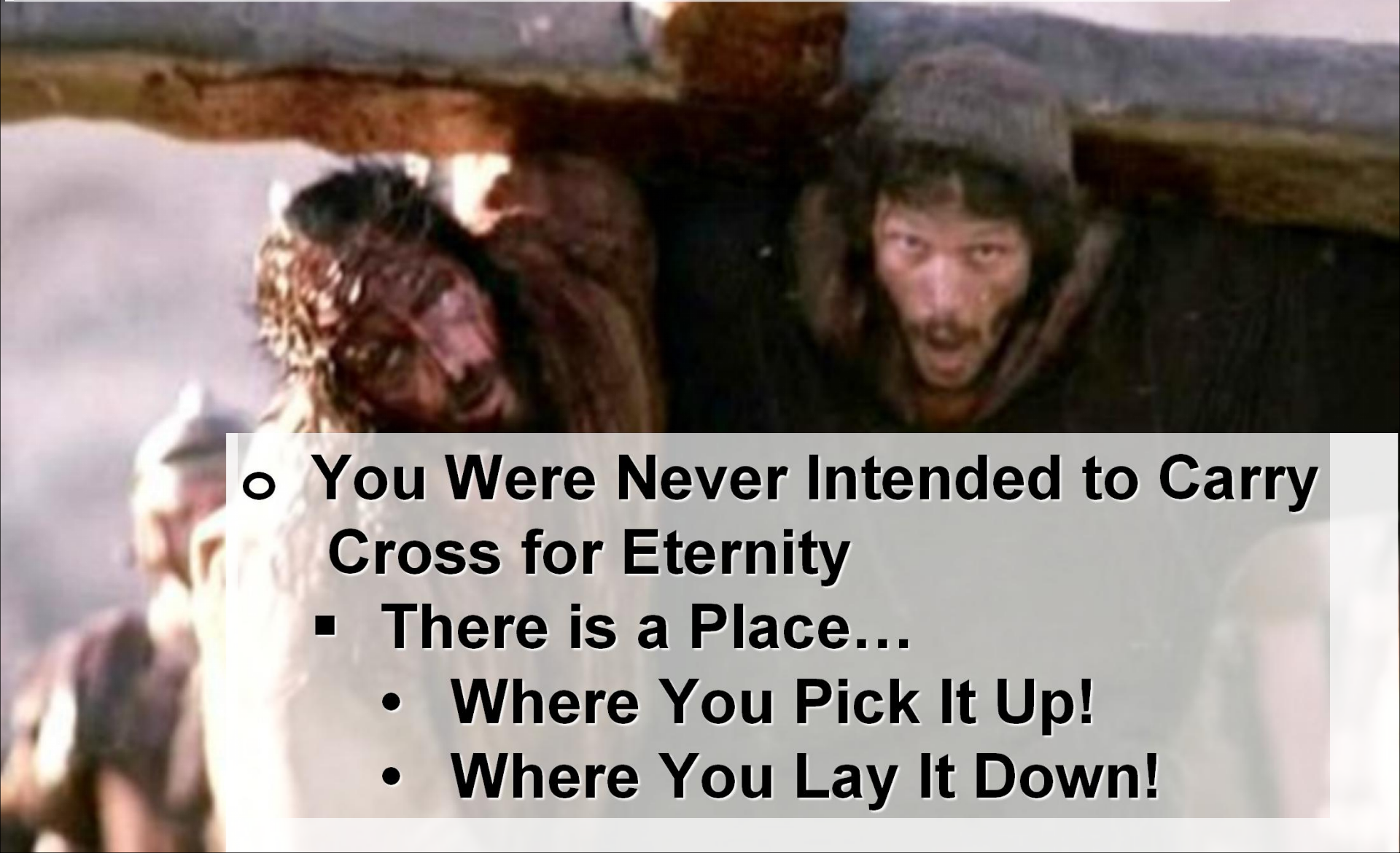
- Romans 8:28,
*-all things “are not for good” individual,
but all things “work together” ...*
- **God has a Plan!**
- I Sam 17 – Lion/ Bear Prep for Goliath –
Battle’s not mine!



**Jesus Has a Purpose and...
...Destiny for Our
Cross**

- **There is a Destined Place to Lay It Down**
 - **You Won't Carry It One Inch...
...Farther Than Calvary**
 - **There Is A Crown To Obtain...
...On The Other Side Of The Cross**

Jesus has a Purpose and... ...Destiny for Our Cross

- 
- **You Were Never Intended to Carry Cross for Eternity**
 - **There is a Place...**
 - **Where You Pick It Up!**
 - **Where You Lay It Down!**

Jesus Uses Our Cross as... ...an Example

- Simon was Affected
 - Went from Resentment...
...to Responsibility(Acts 13:1)
- Simon's Wife was Affected
 - Became a "Mother of the Church"
 - Romans 16:13
 - Greet Rufus /His Mother/ Mine

Jesus Uses Our Cross as... ...an Example

- **Simon's Sons were Affected**
 - Alexander and Rufus(Mark 15:21)
 - Names Where Not Mentioned Unless ...Well-known
 - They Became Pillars in the church
 - Romans 16:13
 - Greet Rufus /his Mother/ Mine
 - Rufus became Bishop of Spain
 - Alexander was martyred for Christ

NOTE OF ENCOURAGEMENT

That Cross Didn't Have...

...Simon's Name on it

....Jesus Carried It 1st