

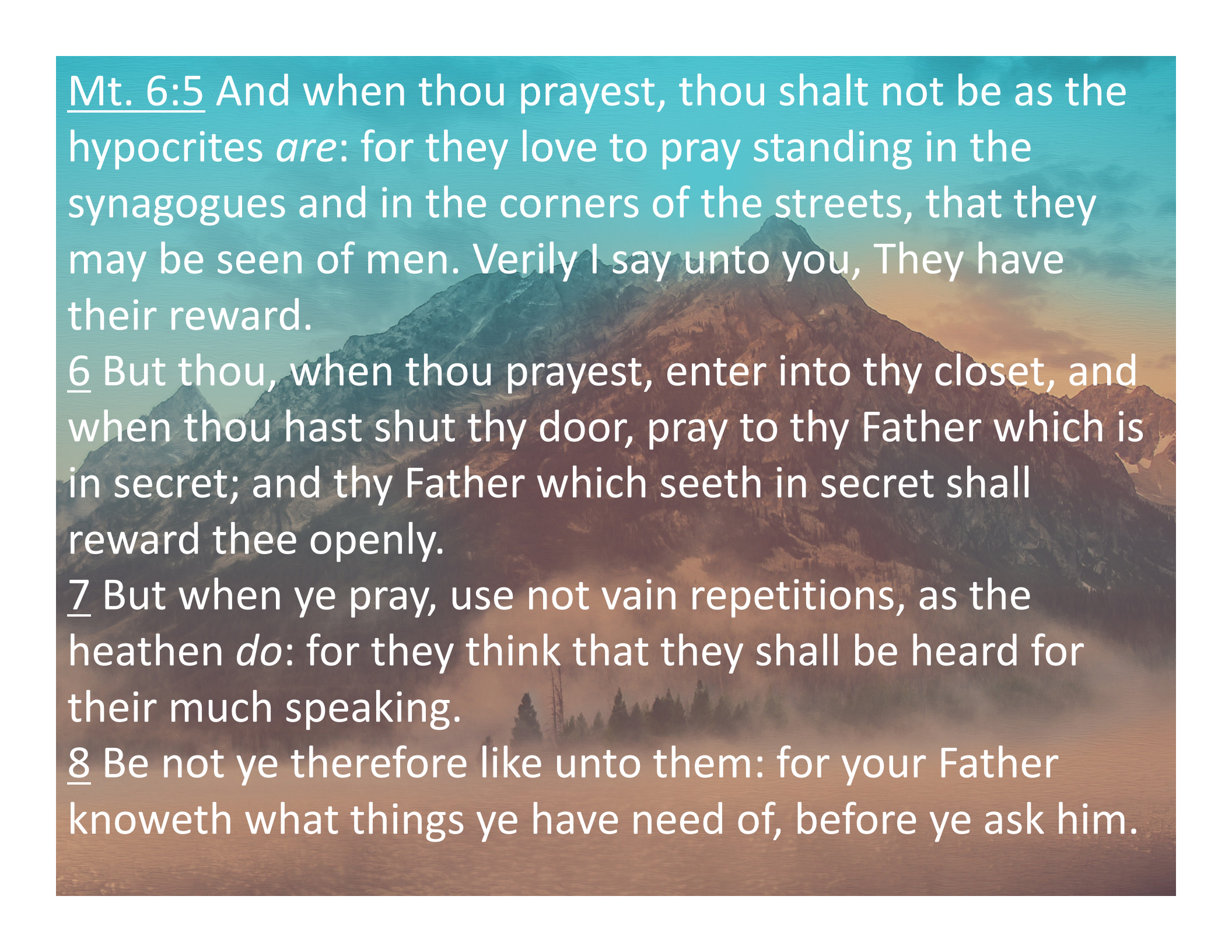


THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Mt. 6:5-8

*“The Principles of Prayer”*



A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains under a sunset sky. The foreground shows a calm lake reflecting the warm colors of the setting sun. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

Mt. 6:5 And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

7 But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.



## Review

Back in December we began the exegesis of this great sermon preached by the Lord Jesus Christ.

### I. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BLESSINGS, 5:1-16

A. The Setting, 5:1-2

B. The Sayings, 5:3-12

C. The Sequel, 5:13-16

### II. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BELIEFS, 5:17-20

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B. A Personal Application of God's Law, 5:19-20



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B. The Question of Invoking Law, 5:25-26

C. The Question of Indulging Lust, 5:27-32

D. The Question of Inappropriate Language, 5:33-37

E. The Question of Ineffable Love, 5:38-48

### IV. THE DISCIPLE AND HIS BURDENS, 6:1-34

A. Burdens Connected with Worship, 6:1-18

1. The Duties of Life, 6:1-4

a. Heralding One's Good Works, 6:1-2

(1) The Penalty, 6:1

(2) The Practice, 6:2

b. Hiding One's Good Works, 6:3-4

(1) The Private Activity, 6:3

(2) The Public Acknowledgment, 6:4



Early in the “Sermon on the Mount” the Lord Jesus emphasized His concern regarding “righteousness.”

Mt. 5:20 For I say unto you, That **except your righteousness shall exceed *the righteousness* of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.**

- The Lord Jesus is not negating the Law of Moses; He is clarifying the truth of its intent.
- Through all of chapter six, the shift in emphasis moves from the intent of the Law to the motivation of religious rites.



- The Lord Jesus exposes the shallow selfishness of those engaged for selfish purposes.
- Last week we considered the proper and improper way of giving. Tonight, we consider the proper and improper way of praying.

## 2. The Devotions of Life, 6:5-15

### (1) The Parody of Prayer, 6:5

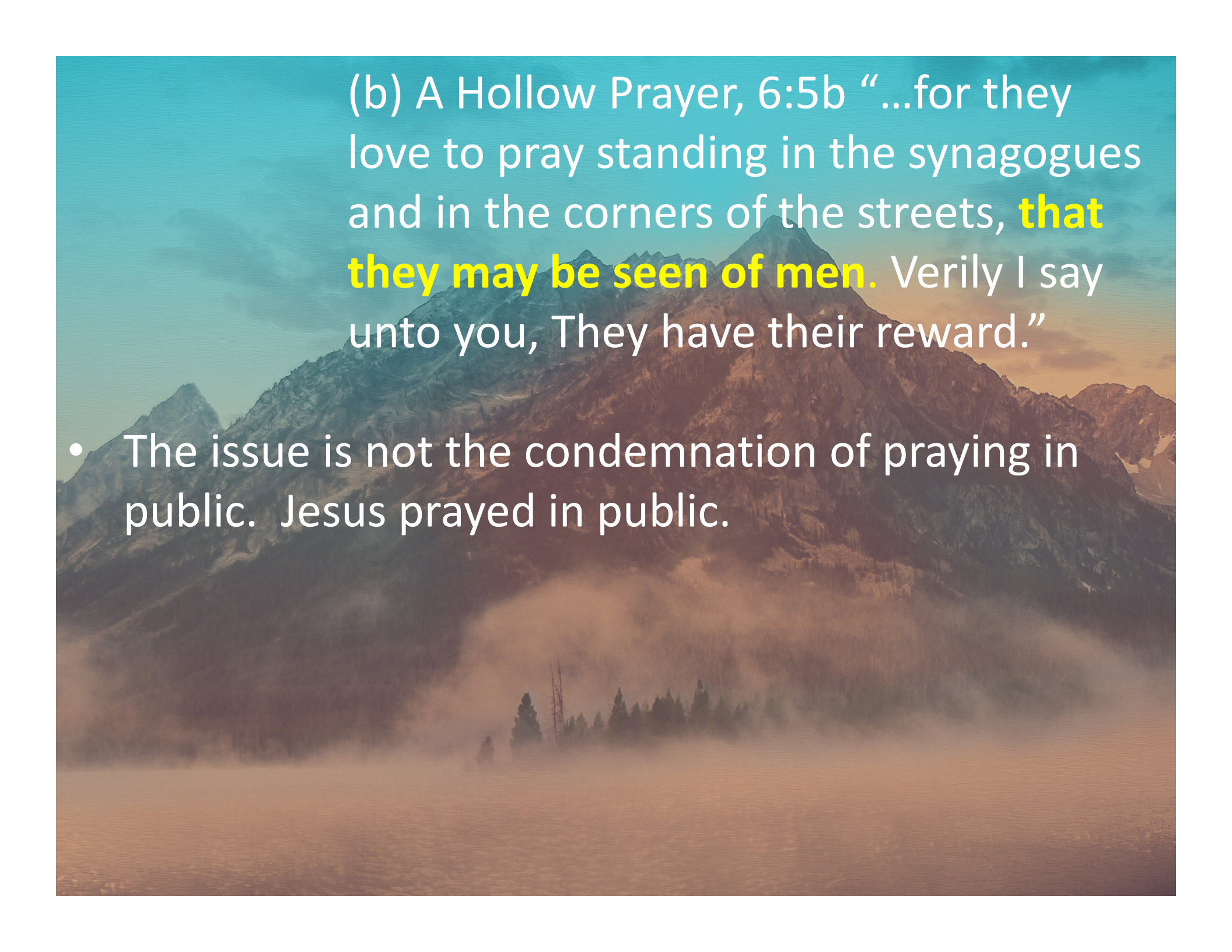
(a) A Hypocritical Prayer, 6:5a “And **when** thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites *are*...”



- Jesus assumed that His disciples would "pray," as He assumed they would give alms (v. 2) and fast (v. 16).
- Jesus warned against hypocritical, self-glorifying worship.

Mt. 23:14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and **for a pretence make long prayer**: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation. ...  
24 Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

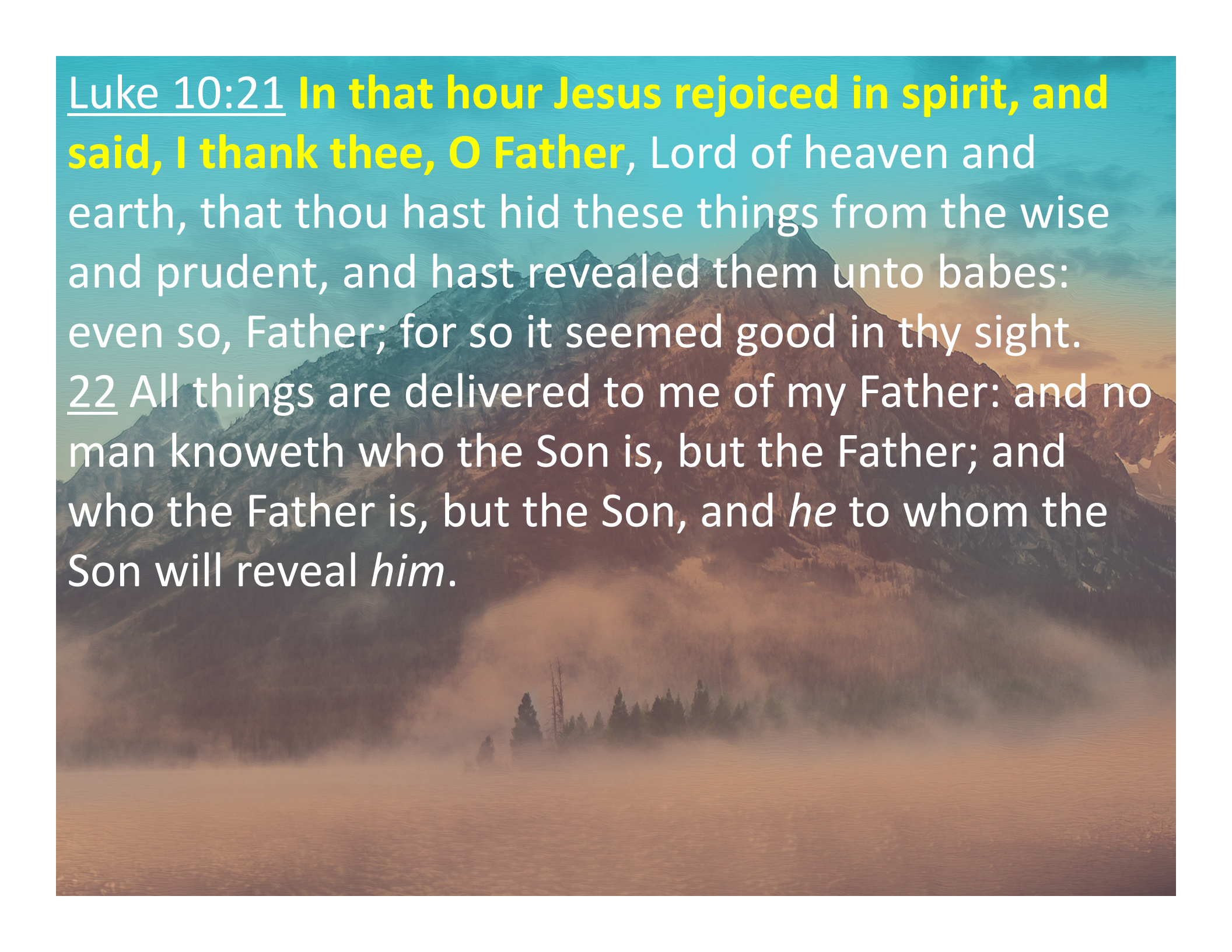


A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, some with patches of snow. In the foreground, there is a calm lake reflecting the sky. The sky is a mix of light blue and soft orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

(b) A Hollow Prayer, 6:5b “...for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, **that they may be seen of men.** Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”

- The issue is not the condemnation of praying in public. Jesus prayed in public.

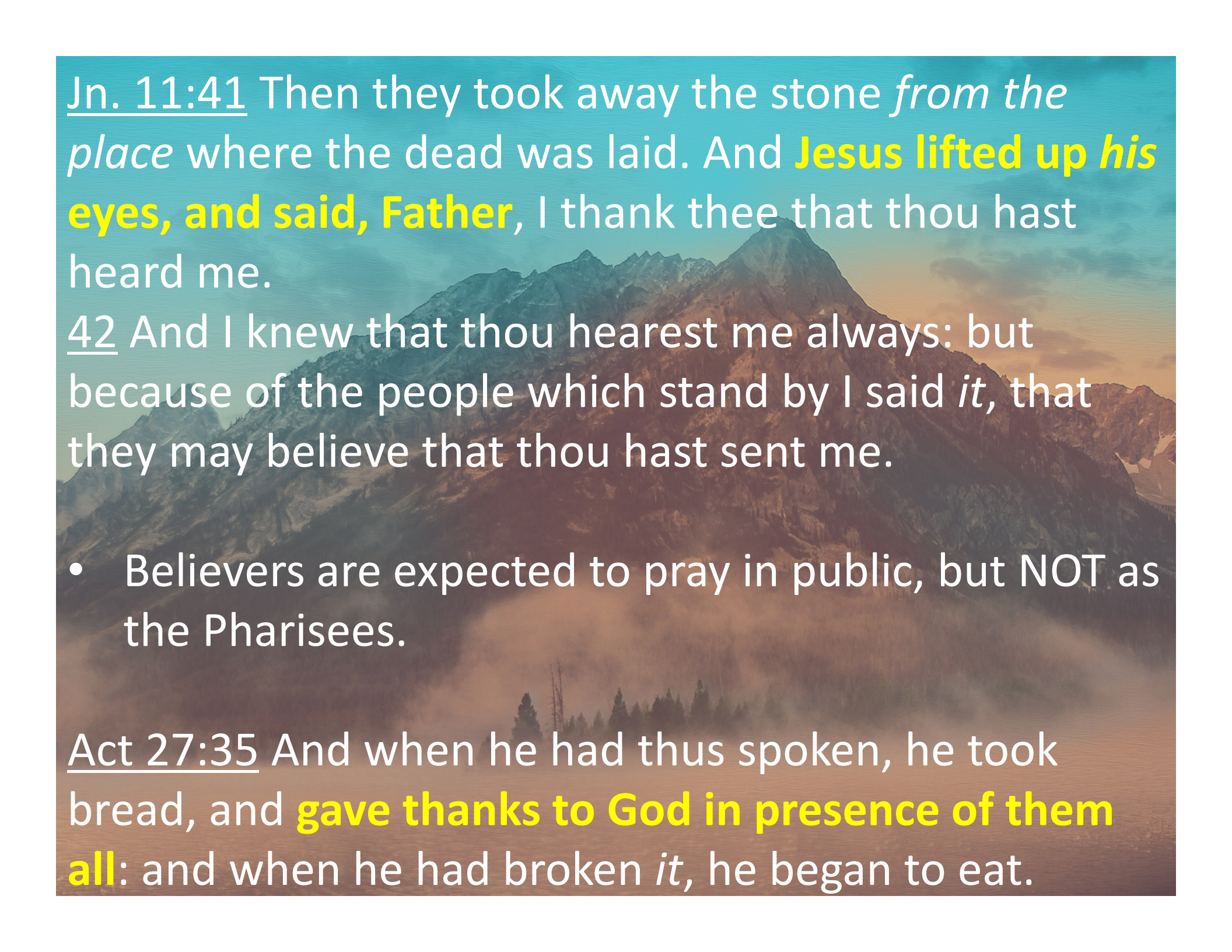


A scenic landscape featuring a large mountain range in the background, partially shrouded in mist. In the foreground, a calm lake reflects the surrounding environment, with a line of evergreen trees along the shore. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The text is overlaid on this background.

Luke 10:21 **In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father,** Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

22 All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and *he* to whom the Son will reveal *him*.





Jn. 11:41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead was laid. And **Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father**, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said *it*, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

- Believers are expected to pray in public, but NOT as the Pharisees.

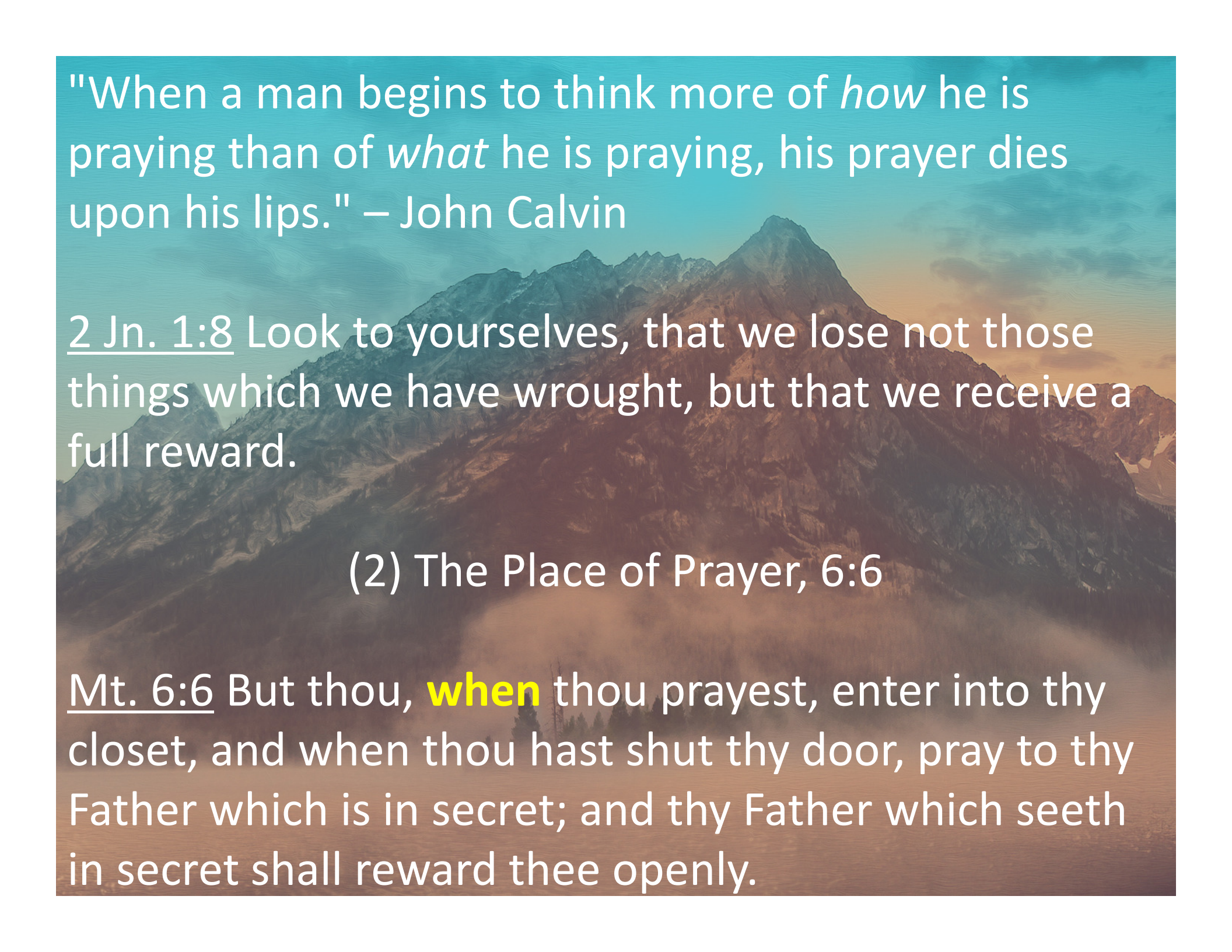
Act 27:35 And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and **gave thanks to God in presence of them all**: and when he had broken *it*, he began to eat.



1 Tim. 2:8 **I will therefore that men pray every where,** lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

- The synagogues and streets were public places where Pharisees could practice their righteousness with an audience.
- The emphasis is not on standing, as opposed to some other posture, but on praying in a conspicuous place.
- The motive for hypocritical praying is “...that they may be seen of men...”
- The consequences of the hypocrisy = “...Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.”





"When a man begins to think more of *how* he is praying than of *what* he is praying, his prayer dies upon his lips." – John Calvin

2 Jn. 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

(2) The Place of Prayer, 6:6

Mt. 6:6 But thou, **when** thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.



- Any private setting will do.

**Original Word:** ταμείον

**Transliteration:** tameion

**Definition:** an inner chamber

**Usage:** a store-chamber, secret chamber, closet; a granary, barn.

<https://biblehub.com/greek/5009.htm>

- A person may pray privately as he or she walks along the street, while driving, or is in a room full of people. Jesus was not discouraging public praying, but praying in order to be seen and admired for doing it.



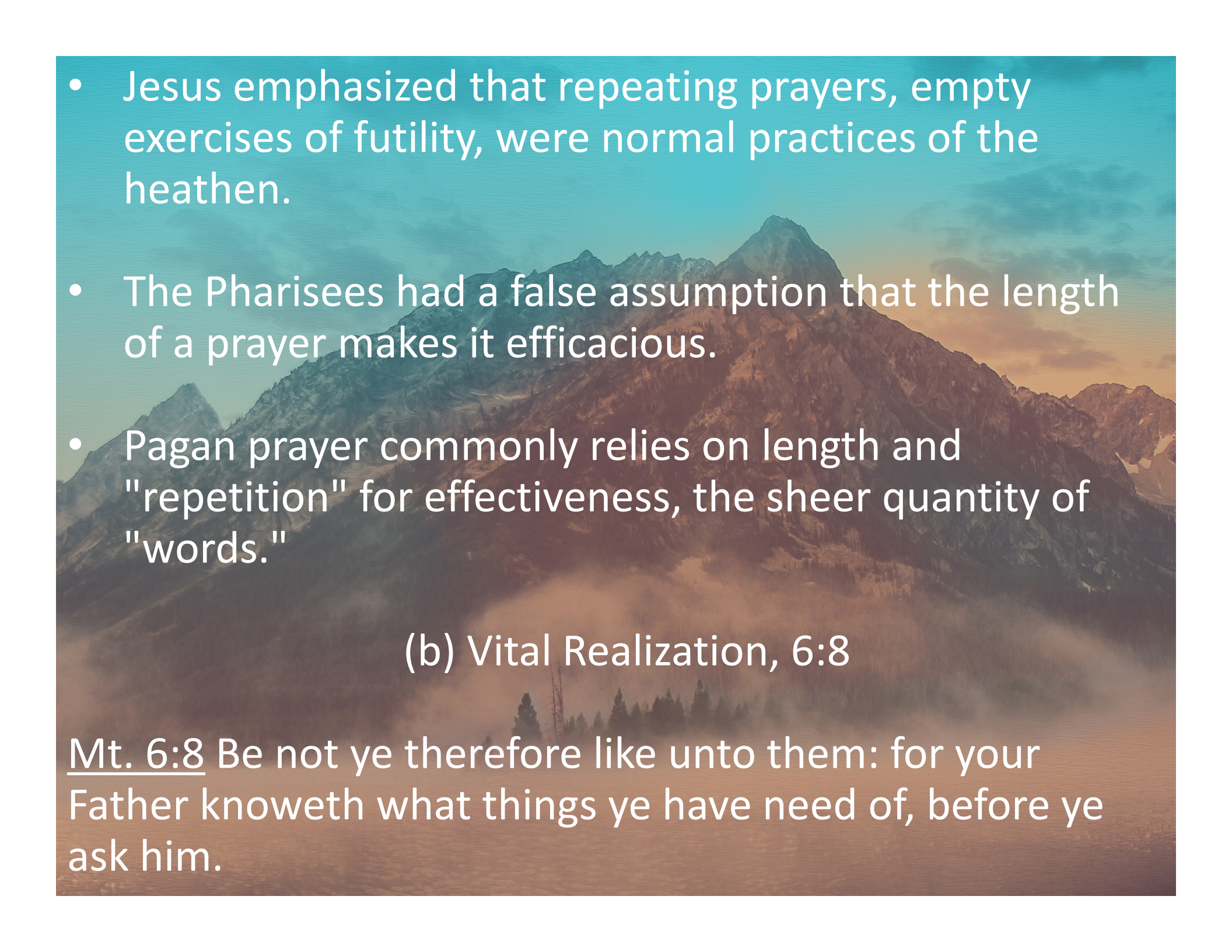
- The impetus of the “prayer closet” is to focus upon the proper principle of prayer, intimate fellowship with the Father, individually and privately.
- As for rewards, leave them to the discretion of the Father.

### (3) The Principle of Prayer, 6:7-8

#### (a) Vain Repetition, 6:7

Mt. 6:7 But **when** ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen *do*: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.



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- Jesus emphasized that repeating prayers, empty exercises of futility, were normal practices of the heathen.
  - The Pharisees had a false assumption that the length of a prayer makes it efficacious.
  - Pagan prayer commonly relies on length and "repetition" for effectiveness, the sheer quantity of "words."

(b) Vital Realization, 6:8

Mt. 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.



- Do not “worship” like the heathen! – “Be not ye therefore like unto them...”

1 Kings 18:27 And it came to pass **at noon**, that Elijah mocked them, and said, Cry aloud: for he *is* a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked.

28 And **they cried aloud, and cut themselves** after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.

29 And it came to pass, **when midday was past, and they prophesied until the *time* of the offering of the *evening* sacrifice, that *there was* neither voice, nor any to answer, nor any that regarded.**



- No type of prayer is necessary as to inform God what is needed: “...for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.
- If God knows the needs before prayer is made, then why pray?

1. Pray in obedience to God’s command.

Jeremiah 33:3 - **Call unto me, and I will answer thee**, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.

Mt. 7:7 **A**sk, and it shall be given you; **S**eek, and ye shall find; **k**nock, and it shall be opened unto you:



1 Thessalonians 5:17 - **Pray without ceasing.**

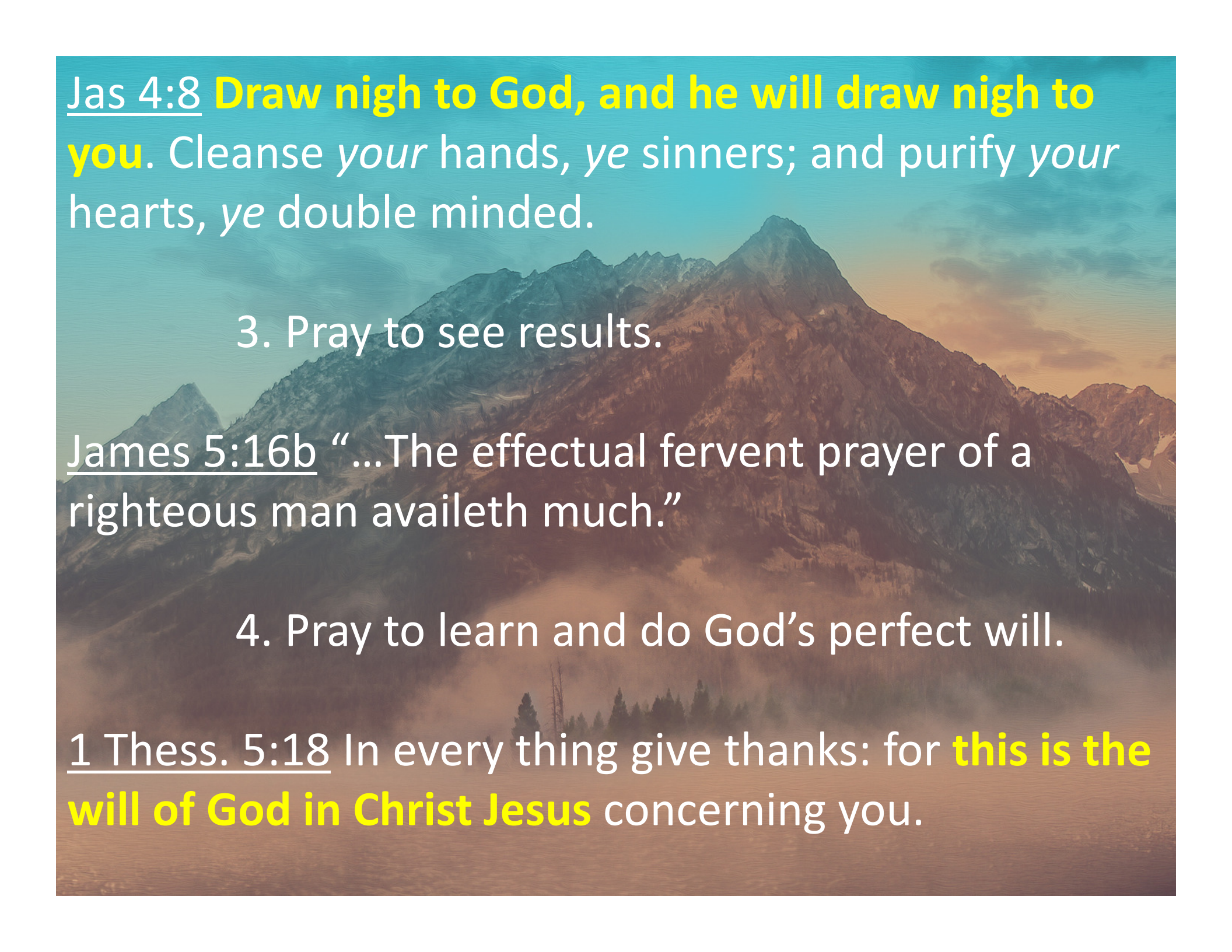
2. Pray to enjoy fellowship with Almighty God.

Heb. 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are*, yet without sin.

16 **Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.





Jas 4:8 **Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.** Cleanse *your* hands, ye sinners; and purify *your* hearts, ye double minded.

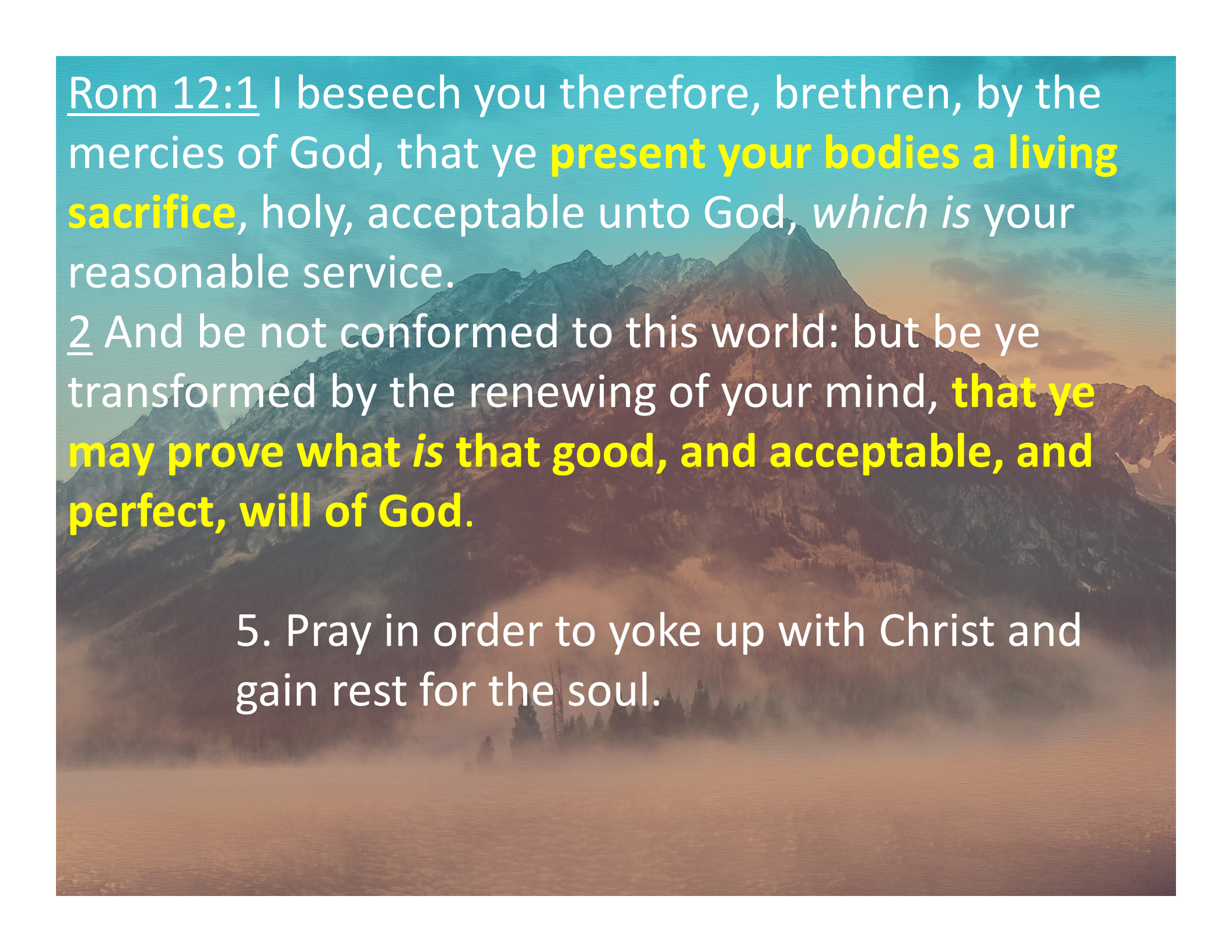
3. Pray to see results.

James 5:16b “...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.”

4. Pray to learn and do God’s perfect will.

1 Thess. 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for **this is the will of God in Christ Jesus** concerning you.



A scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the background, some with patches of snow. In the foreground, there is a calm body of water, possibly a lake, with a line of trees along the shore. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

5. Pray in order to yoke up with Christ and gain rest for the soul.





Mt. 11:28 **Come unto me**, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 **Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me**; for I am meek and lowly in heart: **and ye shall find rest unto your souls.**

30 For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

Psa. 34:6 **This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him**, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psa. 34:17 - *The righteous* cry, and **the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles.**

Psa 142:2 **I poured out my complaint before him**; I shewed before him my trouble.



## Conclusion

Phil. 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but **in every thing by prayer** and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.