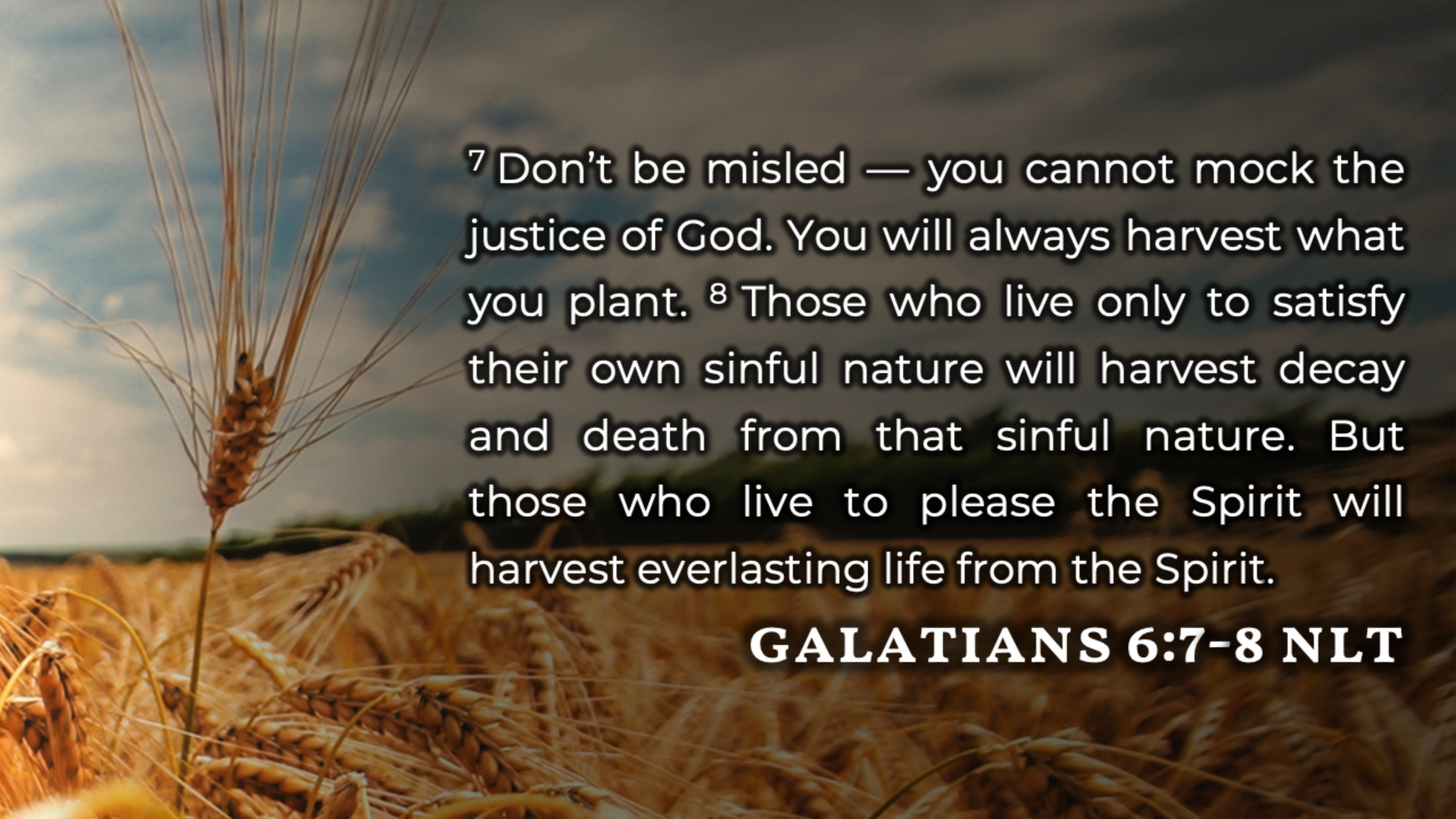





**WEEDS**  
OR  
**WHEAT**



<sup>7</sup> Don't be misled — you cannot mock the justice of God. You will always harvest what you plant. <sup>8</sup> Those who live only to satisfy their own sinful nature will harvest decay and death from that sinful nature. But those who live to please the Spirit will harvest everlasting life from the Spirit.

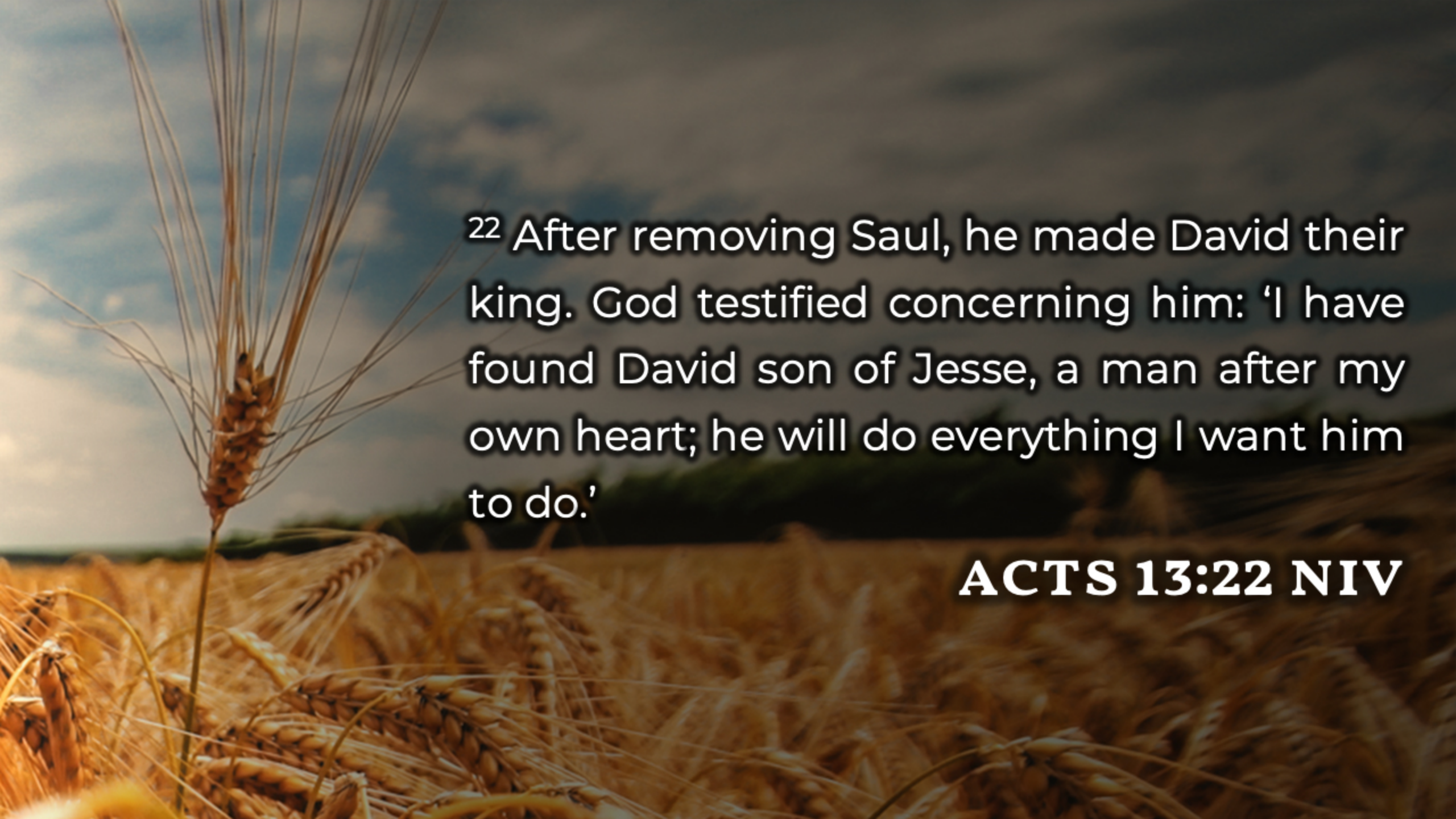
**GALATIANS 6:7-8 NLT**



GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW.

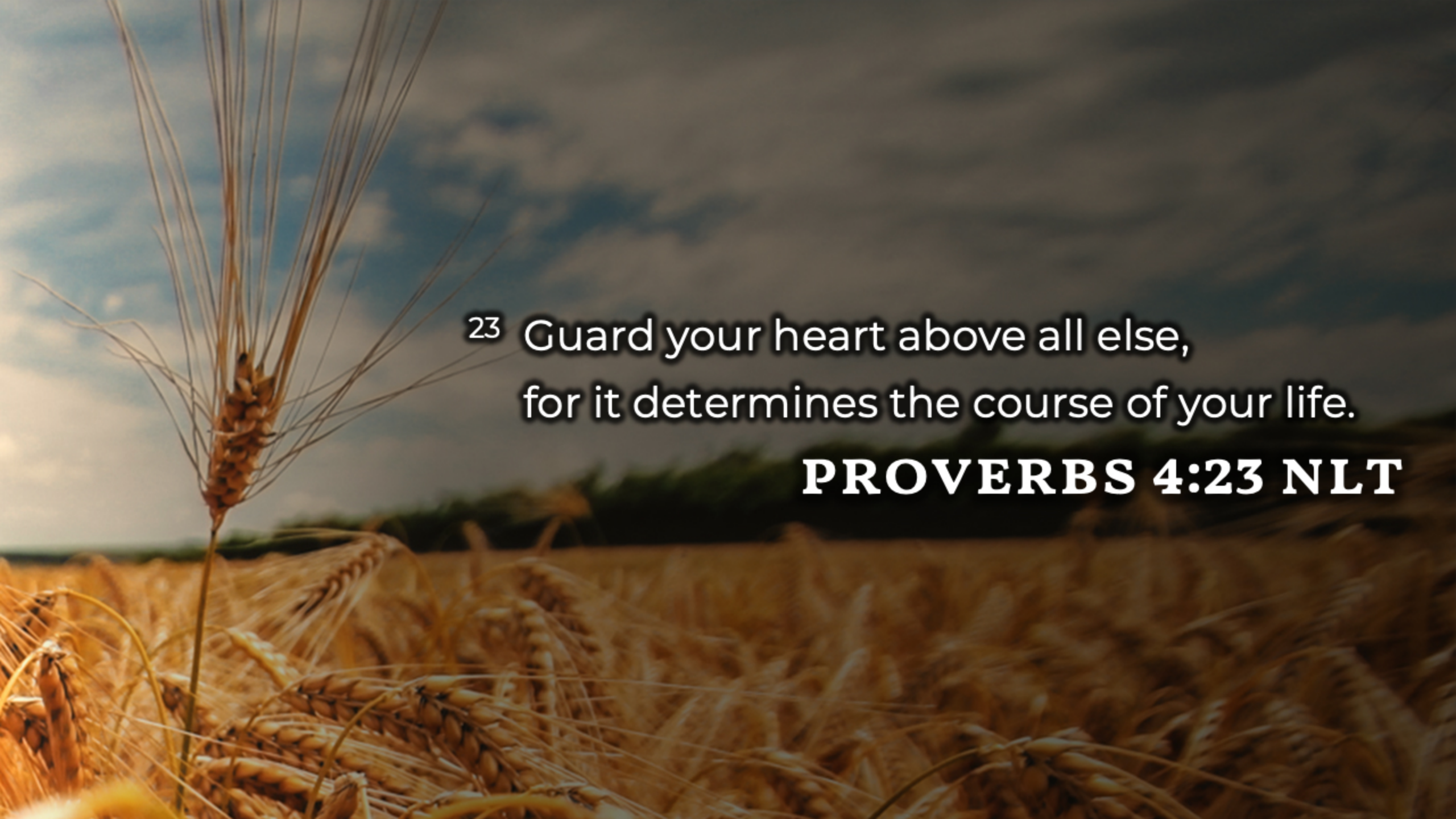


GOD WANTS YOU TO GROW.  
GOD HELPS YOU TO GROW.



<sup>22</sup> After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

**ACTS 13:22 NIV**

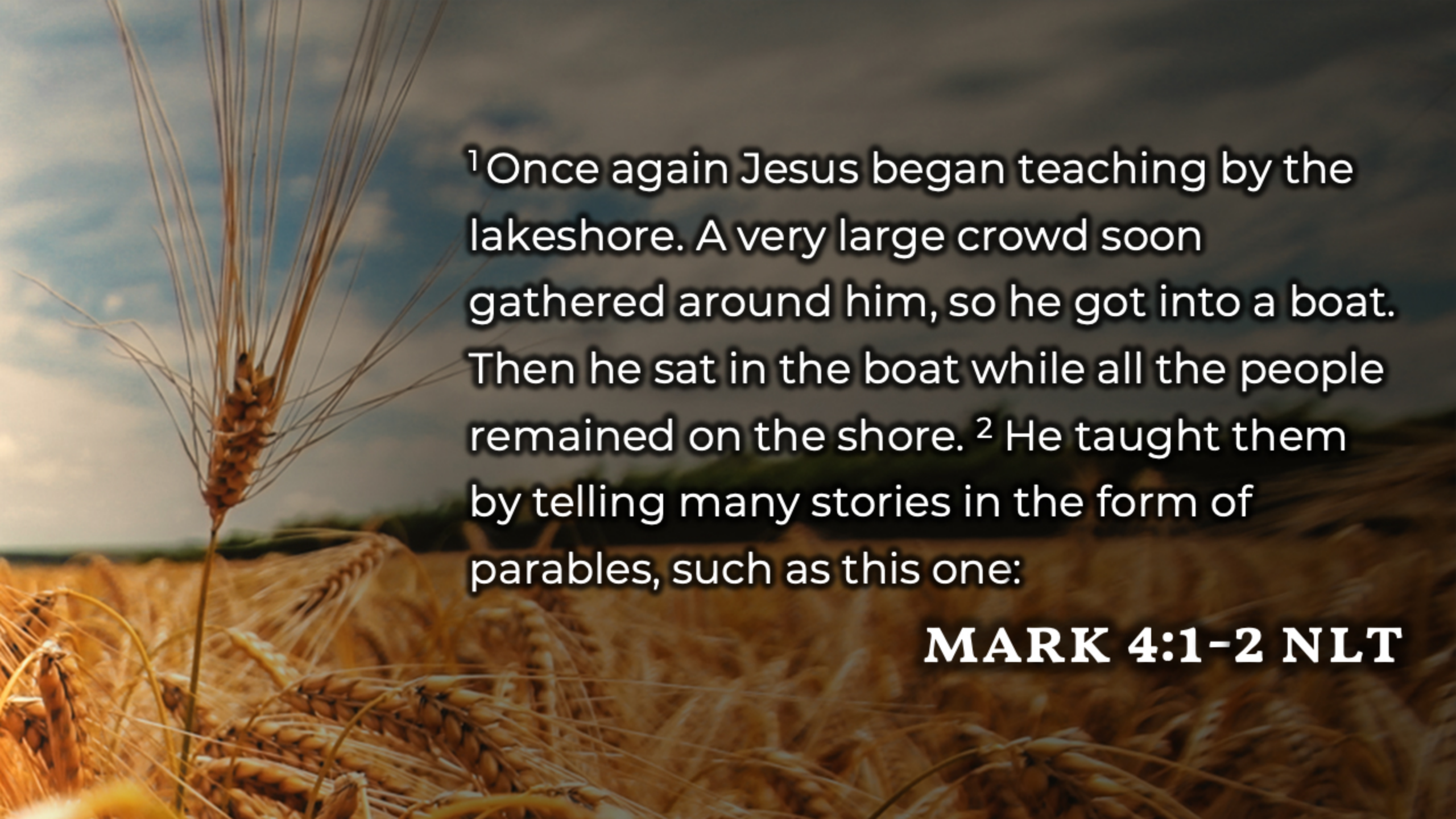


<sup>23</sup> Guard your heart above all else,  
for it determines the course of your life.

**PROVERBS 4:23 NLT**



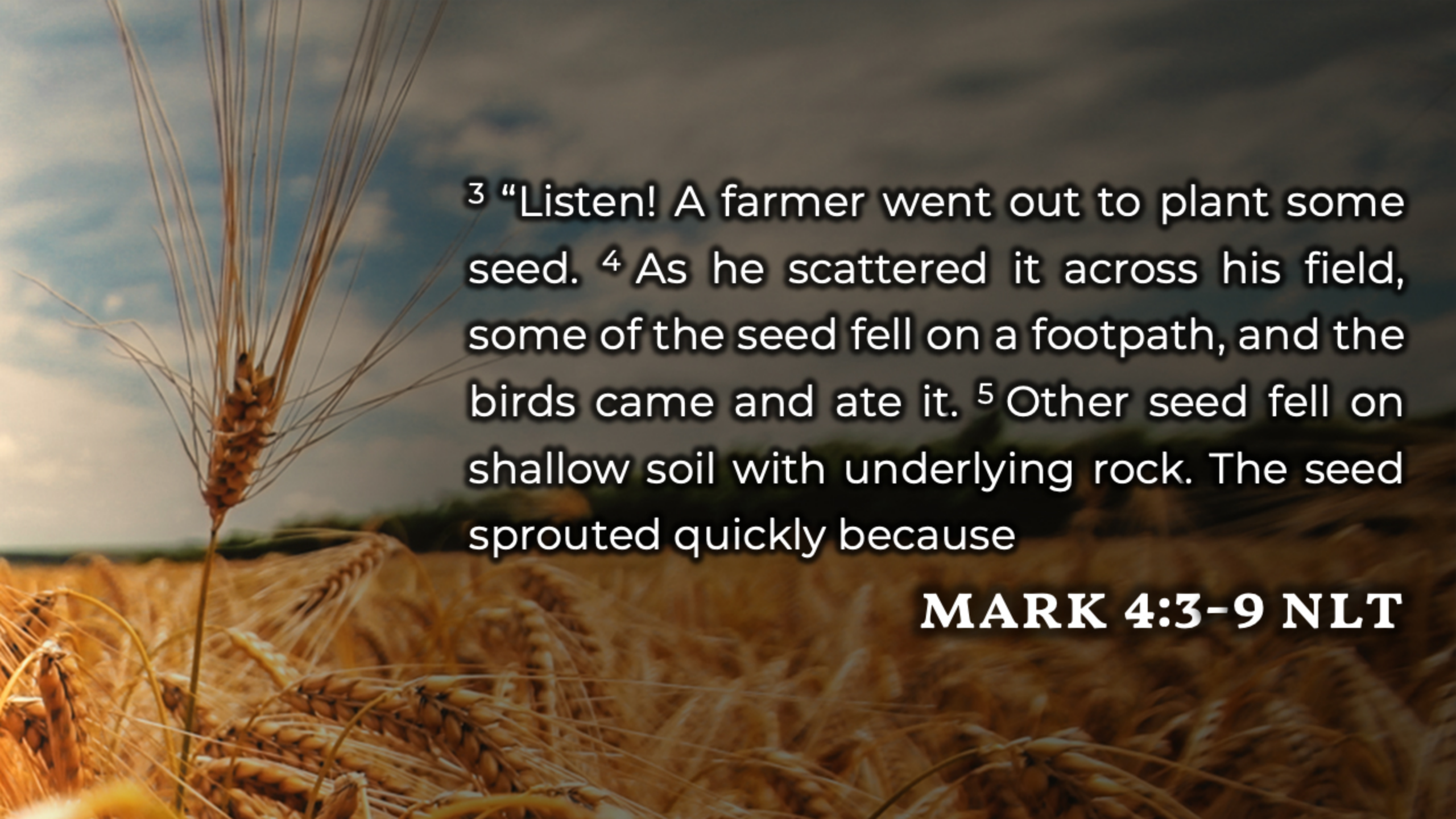
I. YOUR HEART DETERMINES  
YOUR HARVEST.



<sup>1</sup>Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. <sup>2</sup> He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

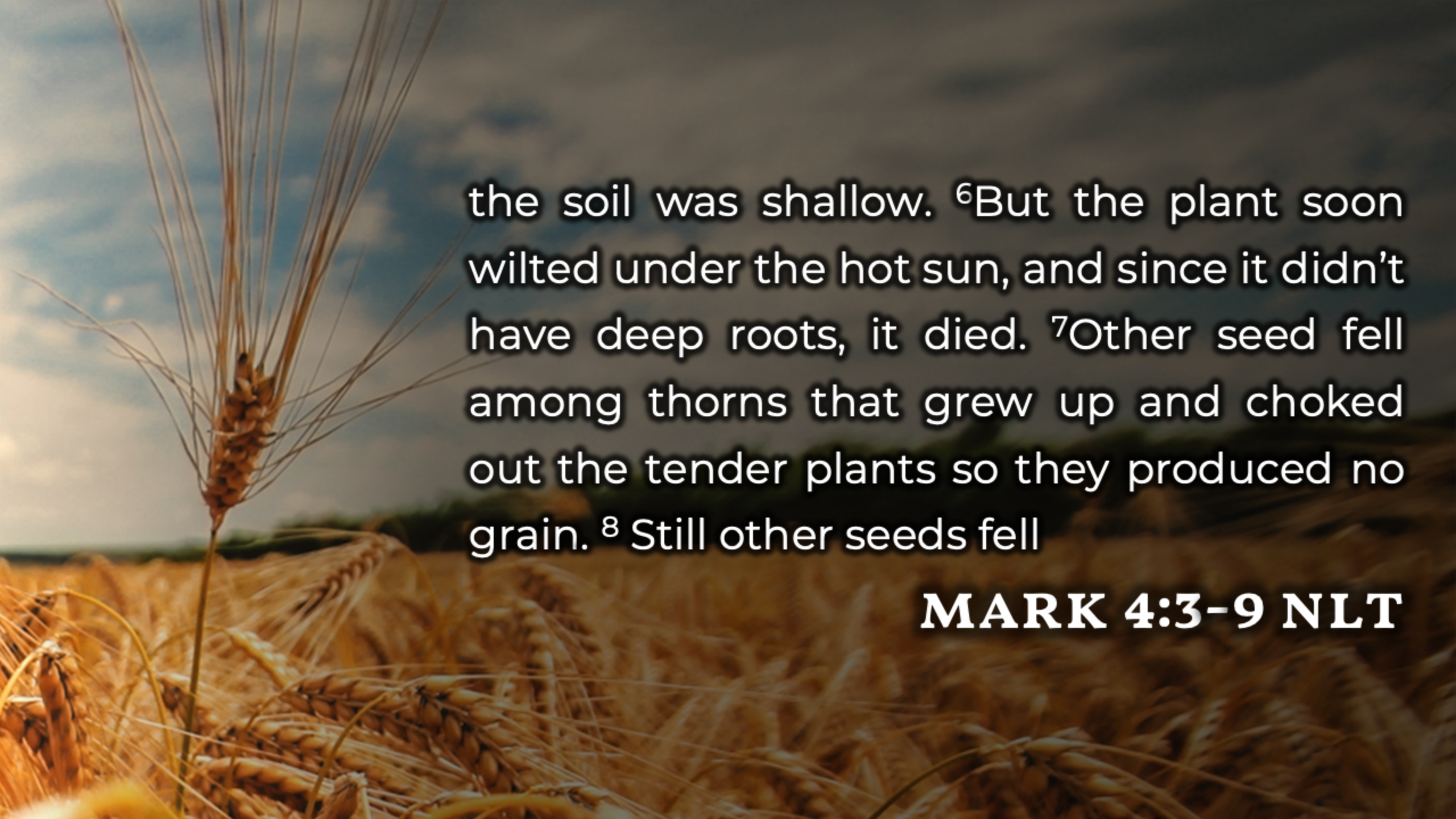
**MARK 4:1-2 NLT**





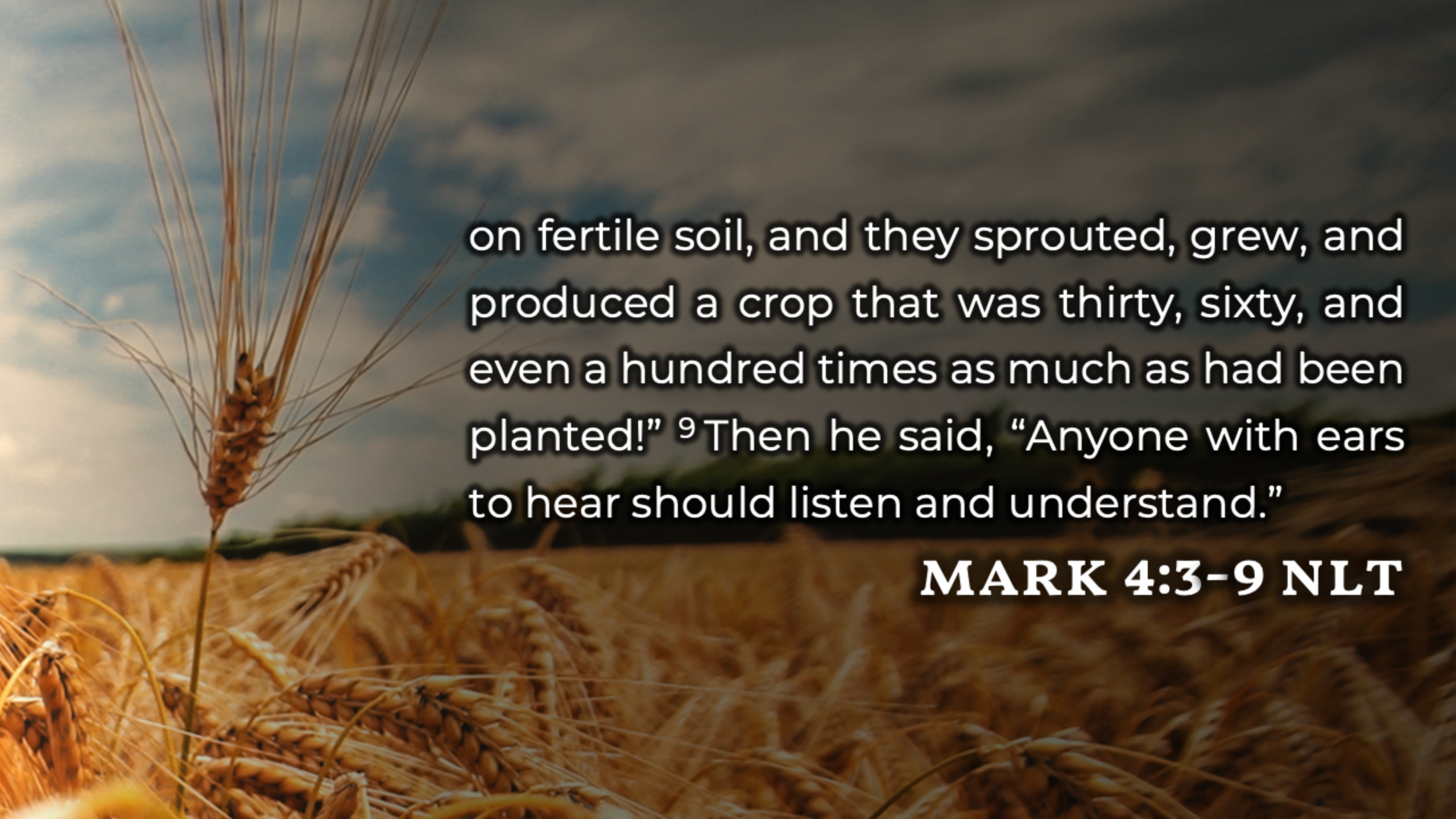
<sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. <sup>4</sup> As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because

**MARK 4:3-9 NLT**



the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seeds fell

**MARK 4:3-9 NLT**



on fertile soil, and they sprouted, grew, and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”<sup>9</sup> Then he said, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

**MARK 4:3-9 NLT**



# FOUR TYPES OF SOIL:

A close-up photograph of a wheat field. The foreground is filled with golden wheat stalks, some in sharp focus and others blurred. The background shows a vast field of wheat stretching to the horizon under a bright, slightly overcast sky. The overall tone is warm and natural.

FOUR TYPES OF SOIL:

FOOTPATH

THORNY

SHALLOW

FERTILE



FOUR OUTCOMES OF THE SEED:



**FOUR OUTCOMES OF THE SEED:**

**FOOTPATH**

Birds came and ate it.

**THORNY**

Grew well but choked out.

**SHALLOW**

Sprouted quickly and wilted.

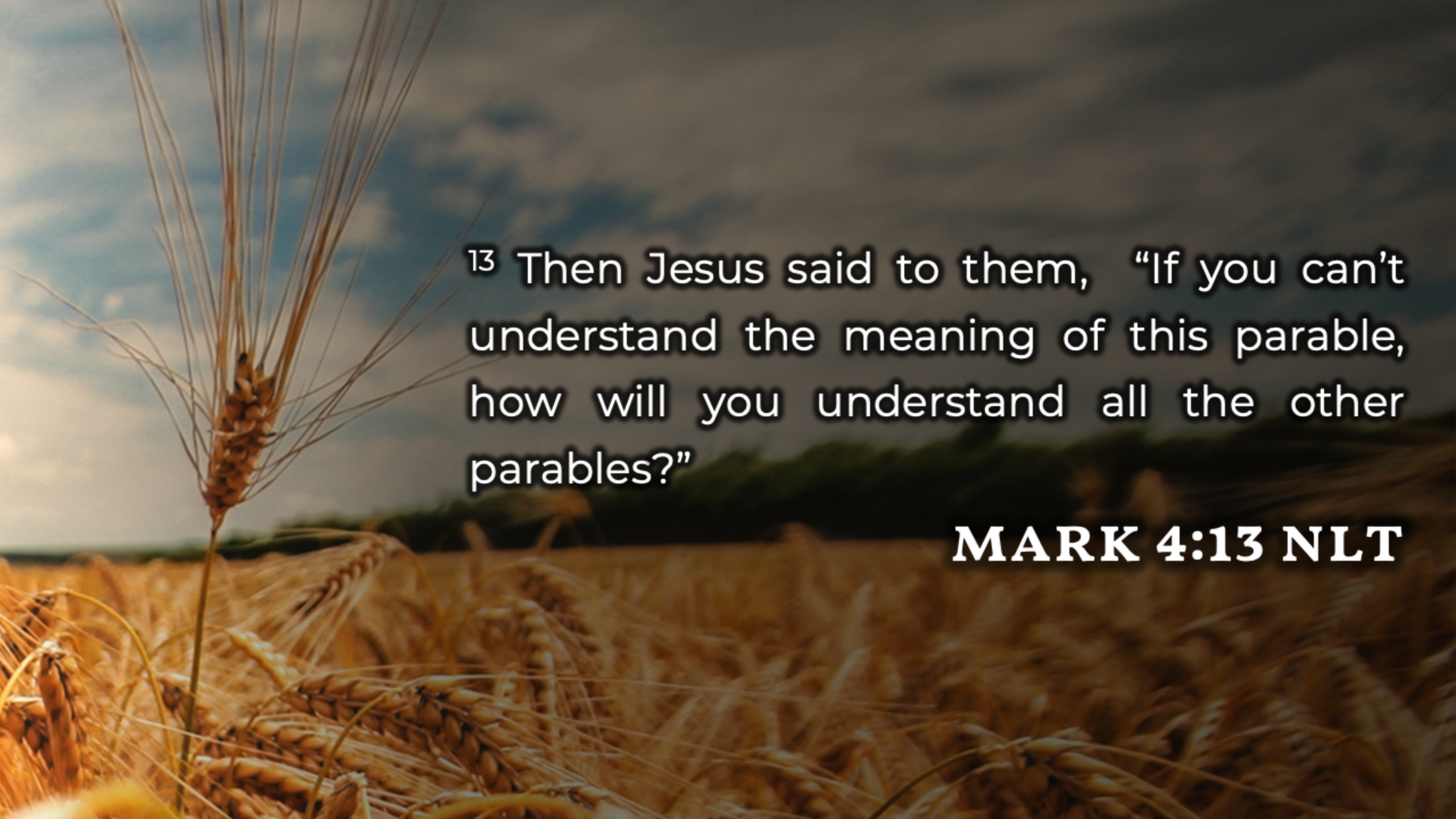
**FERTILE**

Produced 30, 60, 100 × harvest.




II. APPLYING THE PARABLE OF  
THE SOWER.





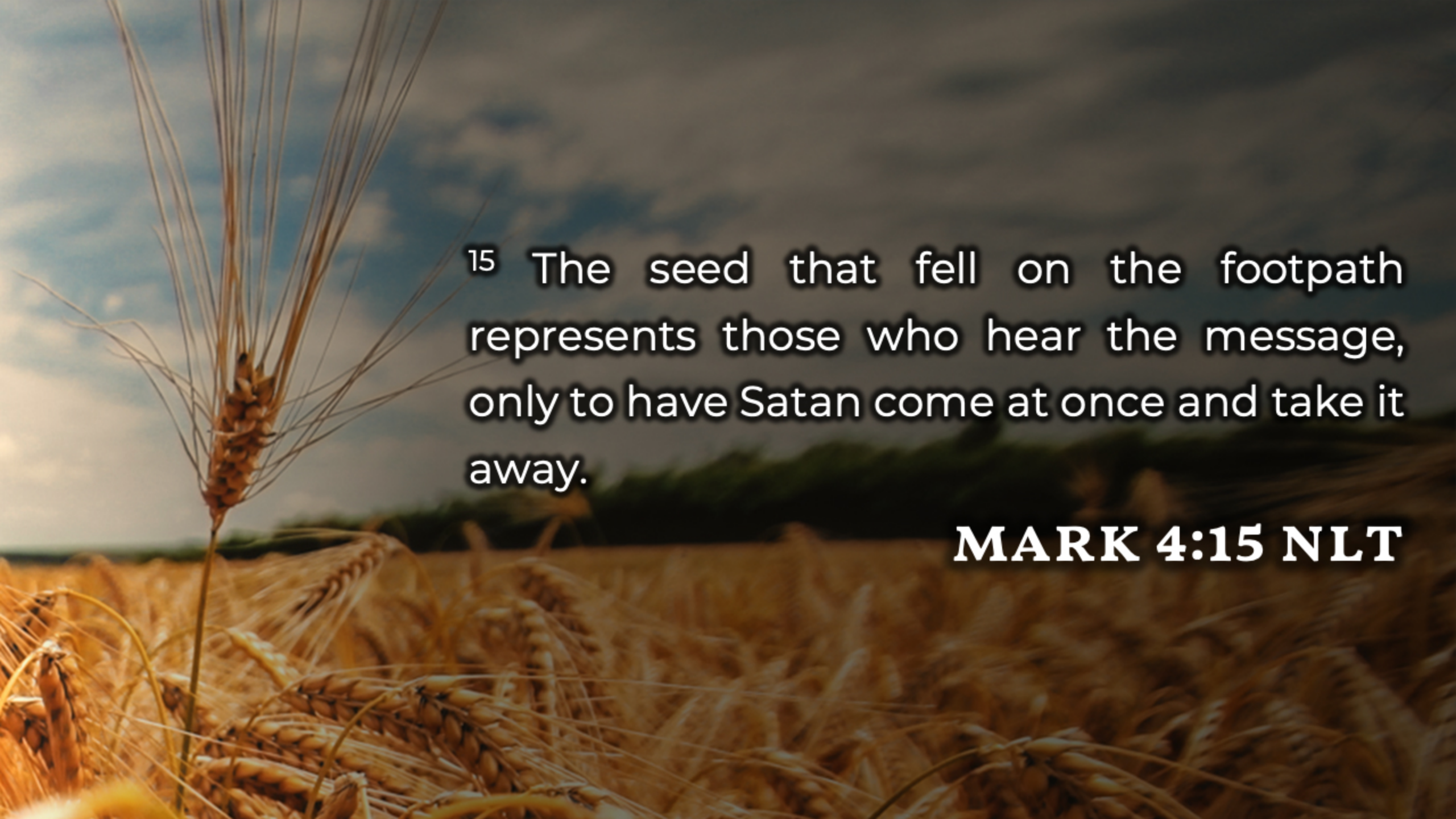
<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to them, “If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?”

**MARK 4:13 NLT**



<sup>14</sup> The farmer plants seed by taking God's word to others.

**MARK 4:14 NLT**



<sup>15</sup> The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message, only to have Satan come at once and take it away.

**MARK 4:15 NLT**



THE HARD HEART  
FOOTPATH SOIL

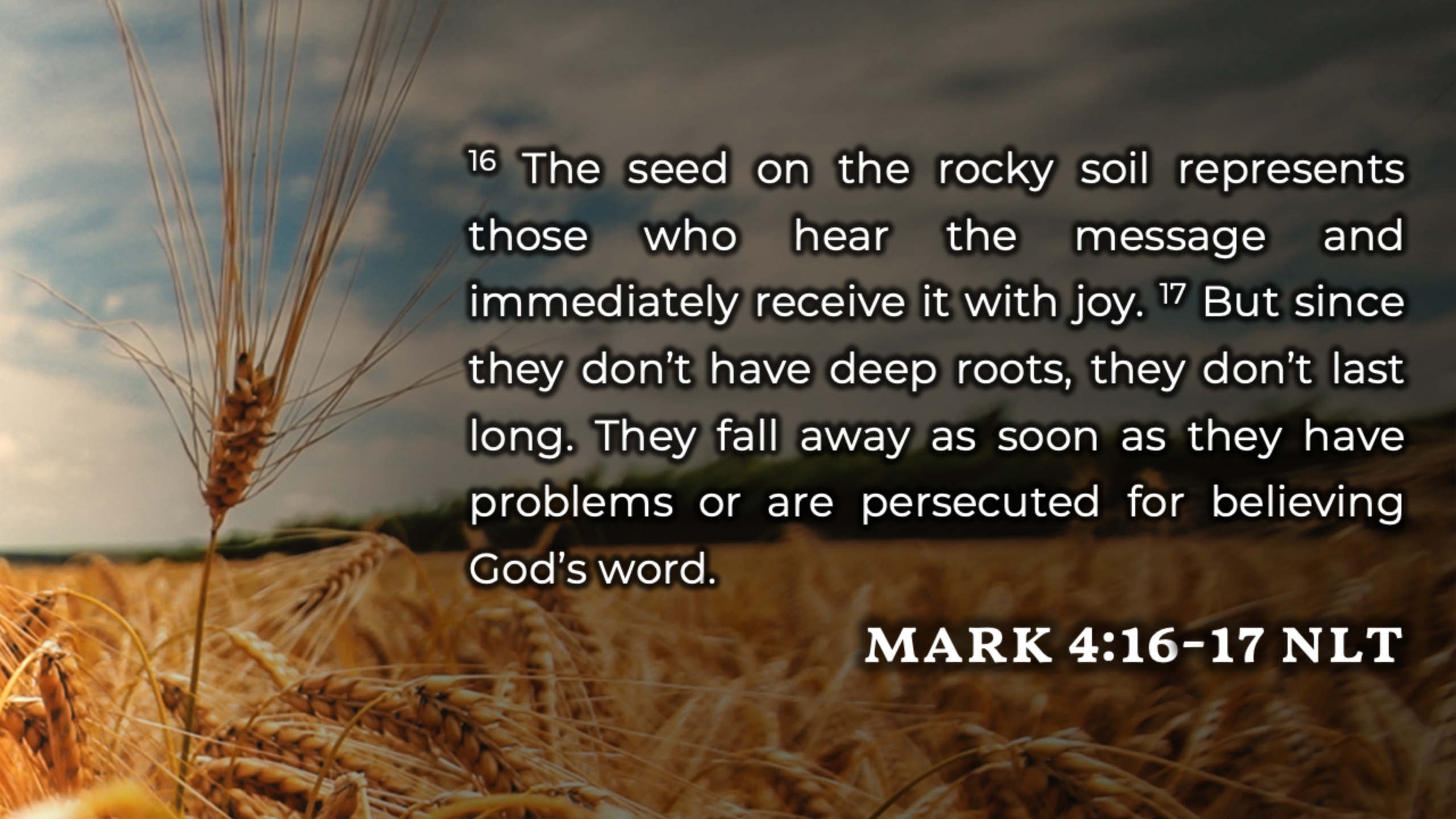
The background of the image is a close-up, low-angle shot of a field of golden wheat. The wheat stalks are in sharp focus in the foreground, with their long awns extending upwards. The background shows a vast field of similar wheat stretching towards a horizon under a bright, slightly overcast sky with soft, white clouds. The overall color palette is warm, dominated by the golden-brown of the wheat and the pale blue and white of the sky.

# THE HARD HEART

## FOOTPATH SOIL

The soil was beaten as hard as pavement by feet, hooves and wheels.

Busyness, distraction, sophistication, distortion, deep hurt, betrayal, unforgiveness.



<sup>16</sup> The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. <sup>17</sup> But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word.

**MARK 4:16-17 NLT**



**THE SHALLOW HEART**

**ROCKY SOIL**

The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of a field of golden wheat. The wheat stalks are in various stages of maturity, with some showing their long, thin awns. The sky in the background is a pale, overcast blue with soft, white clouds. The overall tone is warm and natural, typical of a late summer or early autumn harvest scene.

# THE SHALLOW HEART

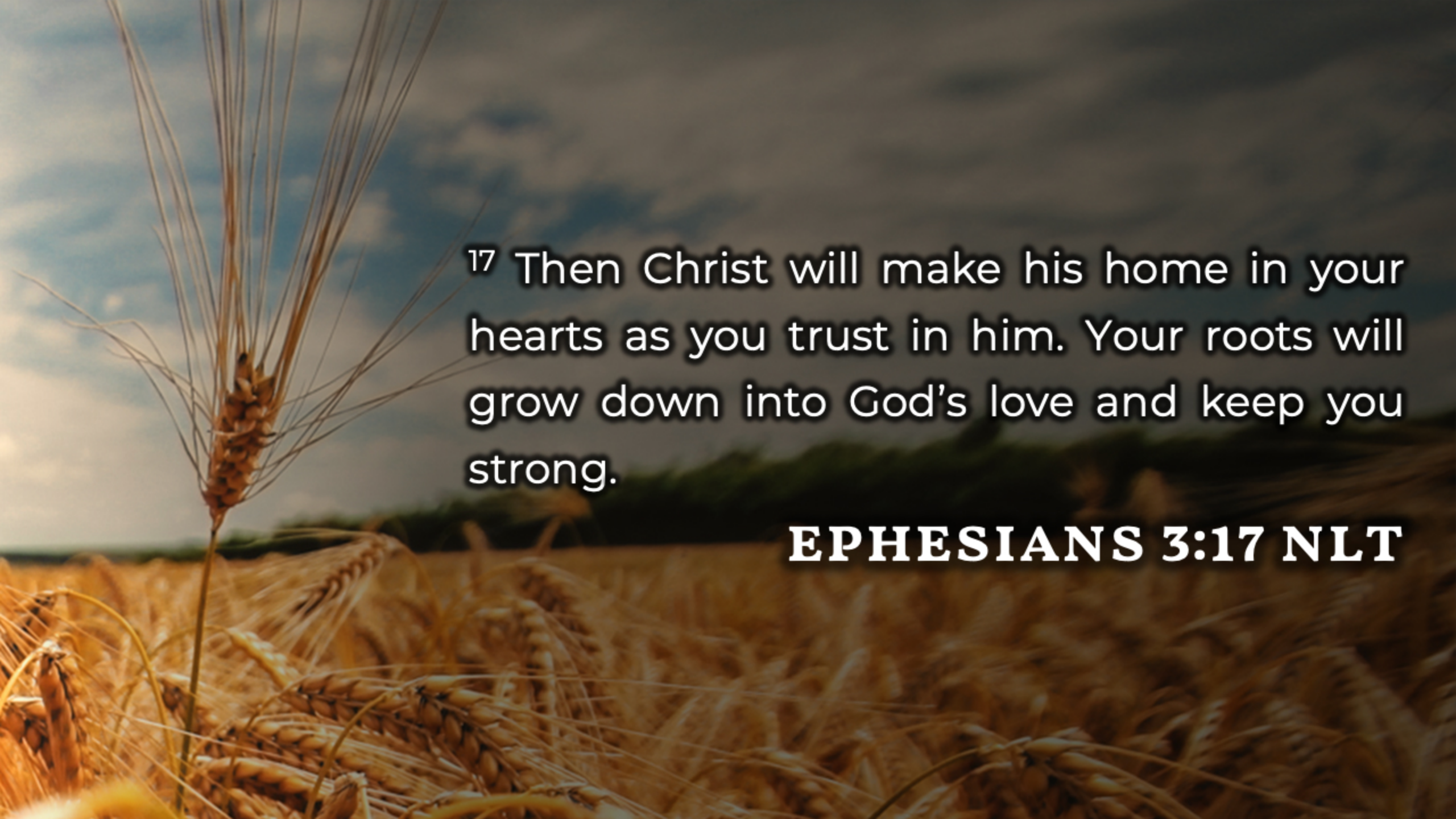
## ROCKY SOIL

No depth in life, thought or spirituality.

There is little or no growth or fruit from their "faith".

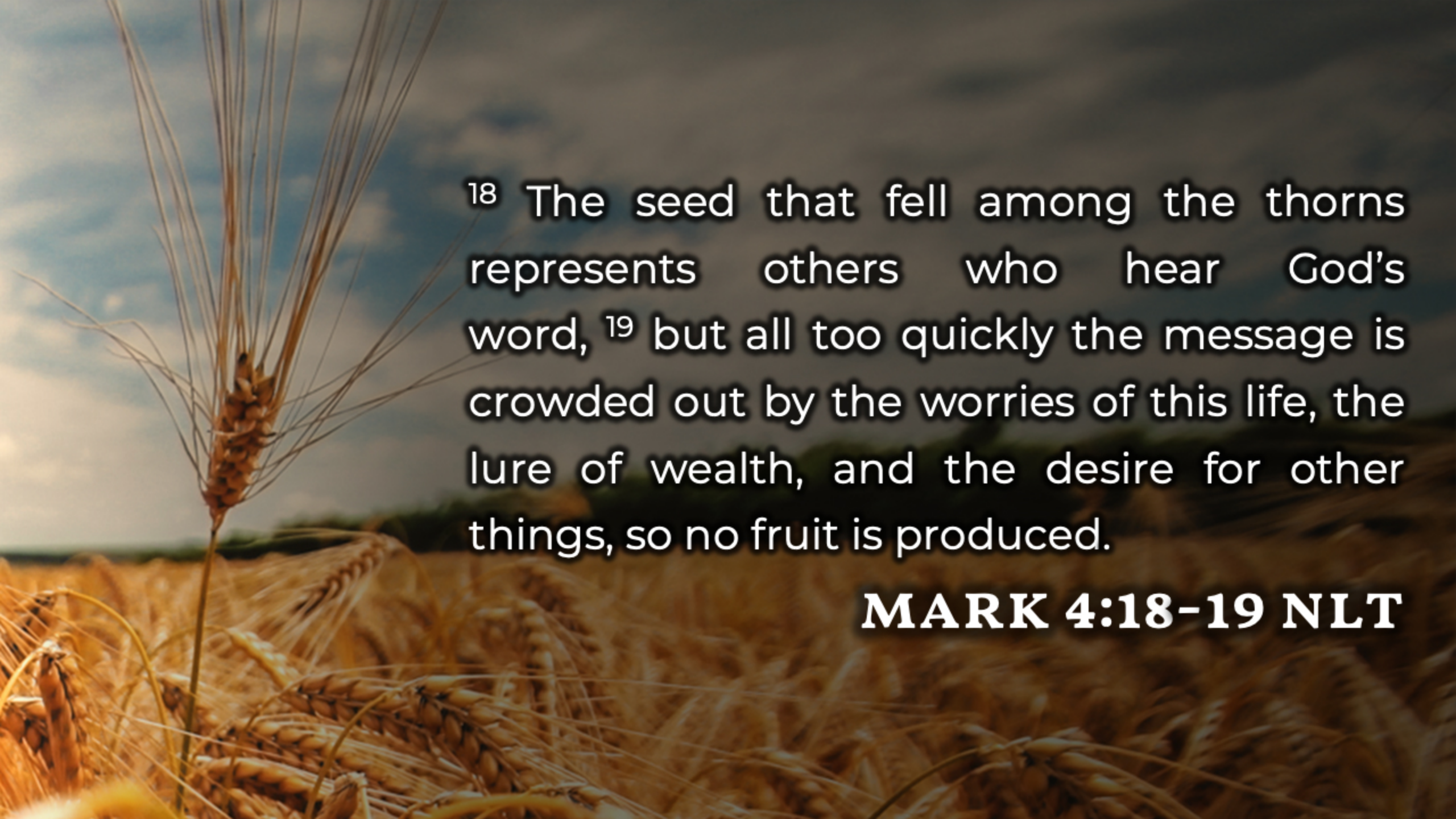
Life amounts to your newest toy, the sports page, an Instagram page, or the latest gossip.





<sup>17</sup> Then Christ will make his home in your hearts as you trust in him. Your roots will grow down into God's love and keep you strong.

**EPHESIANS 3:17 NLT**



<sup>18</sup> The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, <sup>19</sup> but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced.

**MARK 4:18-19 NLT**



**THE DIVIDED HEART**  
**THORNY SOIL**



# THE DIVIDED HEART

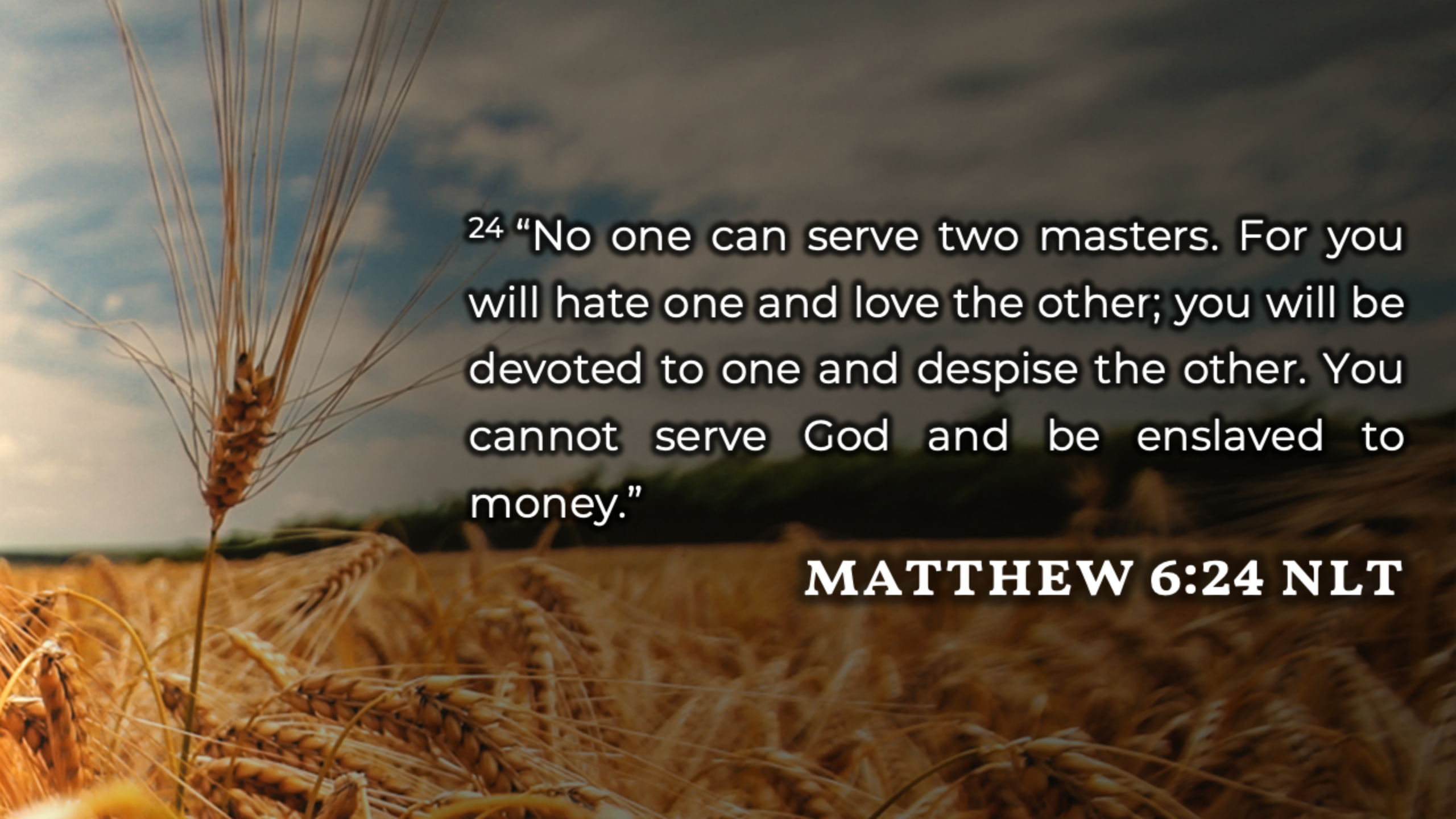
## THORNY SOIL

The thorny soil is violent  
and aggressive.

It asks, "What do you  
truly love?"

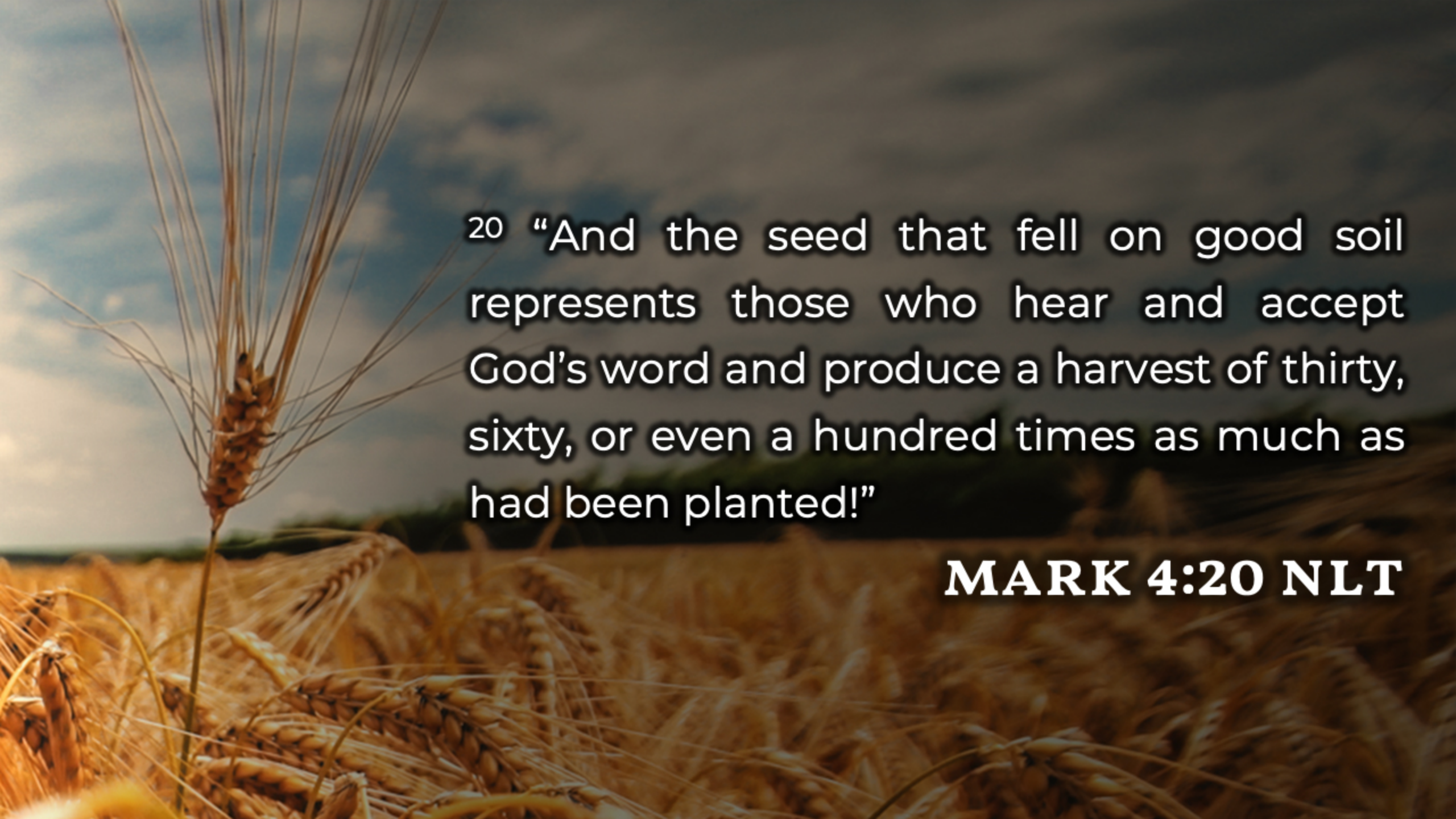
It chokes out the purposes  
and plans of God.

No fruit is produced.



<sup>24</sup> “No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.”

**MATTHEW 6:24 NLT**



<sup>20</sup> “And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear and accept God’s word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

**MARK 4:20 NLT**



THE FRUITFUL HEART  
GOOD SOIL



# THE FRUITFUL HEART

## GOOD SOIL

A harvest of character  
and integrity.

A harvest of purposeful  
good works.

A harvest of healthy life-  
giving relationships.

A harvest of growth 30,  
60, 100 x.

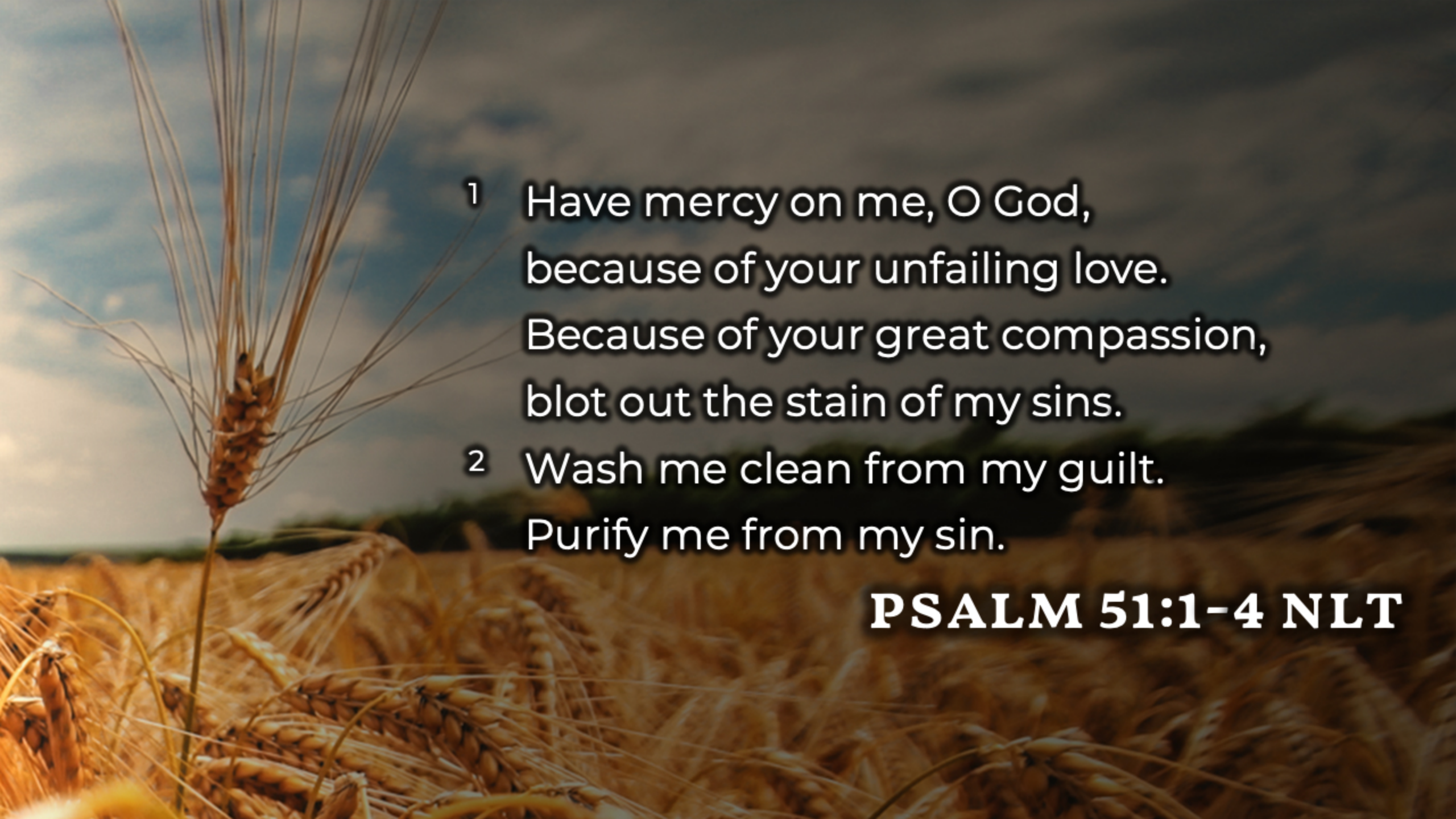




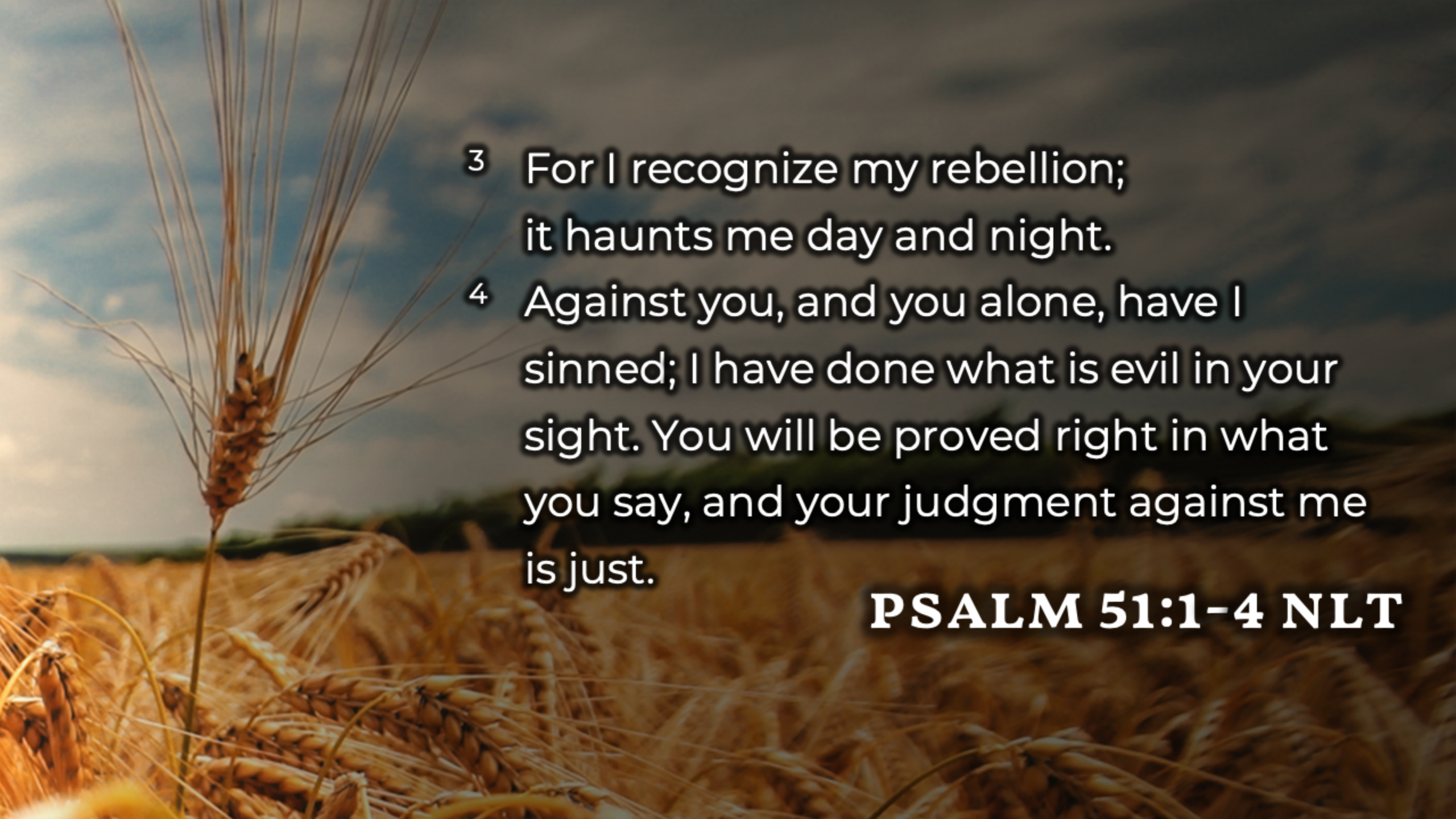
II. HOW DO I BECOME GOOD SOIL?



THE KEY TO HAVING GOOD SOIL  
ISN'T PERFECTION IT IS REPENTANCE.

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.  
Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.
  - <sup>2</sup> Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.


**PSALM 51:1-4 NLT**



3 For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.

4 Against you, and you alone, have I  
sinned; I have done what is evil in your  
sight. You will be proved right in what  
you say, and your judgment against me  
is just.

**PSALM 51:1-4 NLT**

A close-up photograph of a golden wheat stalk in a field under a cloudy sky. The wheat is in sharp focus, showing the texture of the grain and the long, thin awns. The background is a soft-focus field of wheat stretching to a distant horizon under a sky with scattered white clouds.

<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.

**PSALM 51:10 NLT**