




The image features a minimalist abstract design on a light beige background. It includes several overlapping circles in muted colors: a large dusty rose circle on the right, a medium slate blue circle on the left, a small dark charcoal circle at the bottom center, and a partial mustard yellow circle at the bottom left. In the top left corner, there is a hand-drawn scribble of dark brown lines. On the right edge, there are two dark brown, jagged, brush-stroke-like marks. The text is presented in a clean, white, sans-serif font.

HARD
TO HEAR

**HARDER
TO IGNORE**



What is a
Woe?



“Woe” in Scripture is a term of **lament**, warning, or judgment that occurs throughout both the Old and New Testaments. It conveys a deep sense of **sorrow**, distress, or impending doom.

In biblical contexts, “woe” bridges two main emphases: a profound lament over the seriousness of **sin** and the grave warning of God’s righteous judgment upon unrighteousness.

¹³"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to." ^[14]

¹⁵"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are."

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV



¹⁶"Woe to you, blind guides! You say, 'If anyone swears by the temple, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gold of the temple is bound by that oath.' ¹⁷You blind fools! Which is greater: the gold, or the temple that makes the gold sacred?

¹⁸You also say, 'If anyone swears by the altar, it means nothing; but anyone who swears by the gift on the altar is bound by that oath.' ¹⁹You blind men! Which is greater: the gift, or the altar that makes the gift sacred? ²⁰Therefore, anyone who swears by the altar swears by it and by everything on it. ²¹And

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV



anyone who swears by the temple swears by it and by the one who dwells in it. ²²And anyone who swears by heaven swears by God's throne and by the one who sits on it."

²³"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. ²⁴You blind guides! You strain out a gnat but swallow a camel."

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV



²⁵"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ²⁶Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

²⁷"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. ²⁸In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV



²⁹"Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You build tombs for the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous. ³⁰And you say, 'If we had lived in the days of our ancestors, we would not have taken part with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.' ³¹So you testify against yourselves that you are the descendants of those who murdered the prophets. ³²Go ahead, then, and complete what your ancestors started!"

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV



³³"You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?

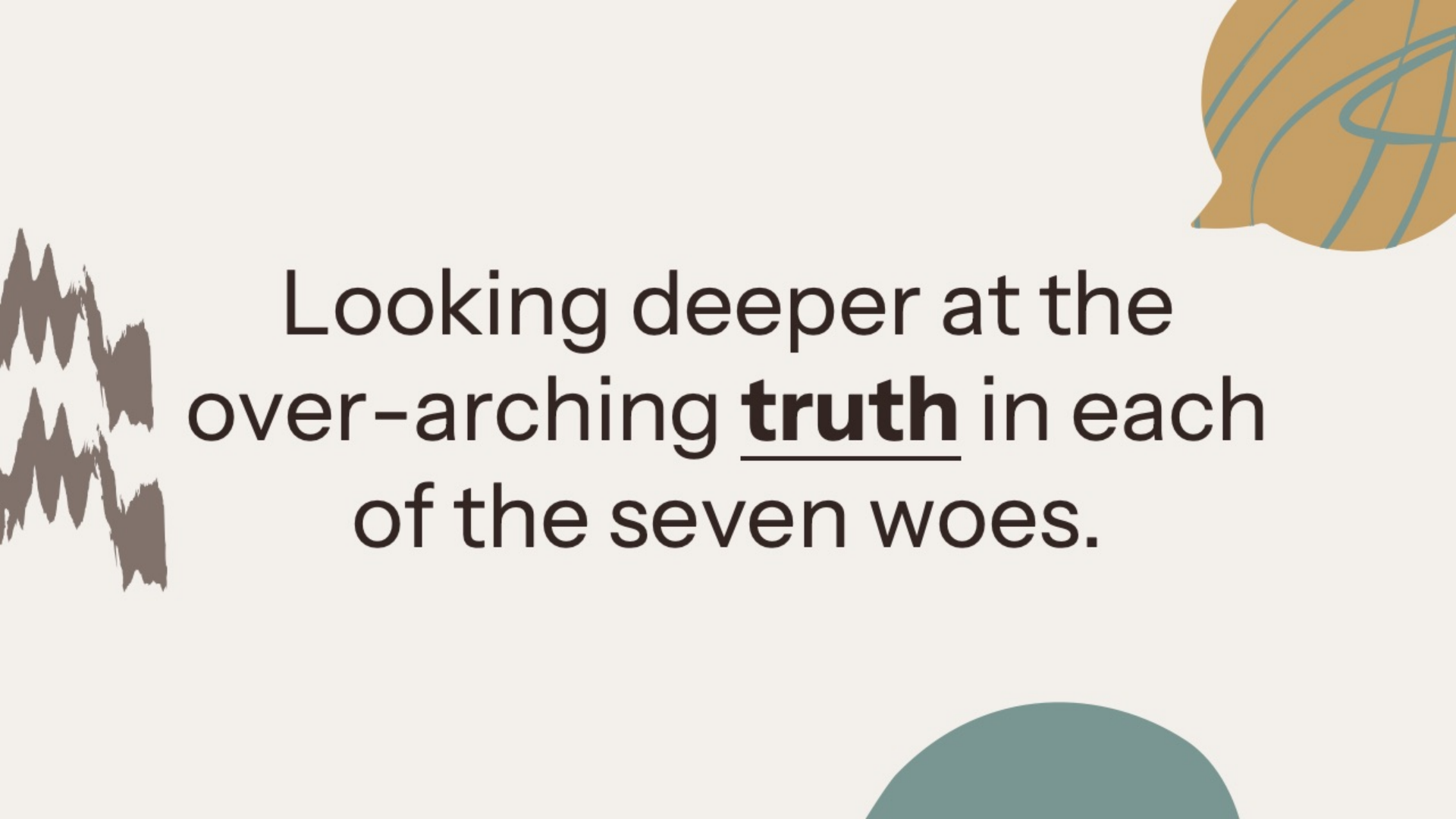
³⁴Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.

³⁵And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar.

³⁶Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation."

Matthew 23:13-36 NIV





Looking deeper at the
over-arching **truth** in each
of the seven woes.



WOE

1

Matthew 23:14

Preventing people from
entering God's Kingdom





WOE

2

Matthew 23:15



Converting people away
from God and to **yourself**




1 Corinthians

11:1

NIV

¹Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.





WOE

3

Matthew 23:16-22

Leading people to obey man-made traditions **over** God's principles



³⁴But I tell you, do not swear an oath at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; ³⁵or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. ³⁶And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. ³⁷All you need to say is simply 'Yes' or 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one.

Matthew 5:34-37 NIV



WOE

4

Matthew 23:23-24

Fixating on the “minors” while
disregarding the “majors”



Micah

6:8

NIV

8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy

and to walk humbly with your God.






WOE

5

Matthew 23:25-26

Protecting your appearance
while corrupting your **character**



⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

1 Samuel

16:7

NIV





WOE


6

Matthew 23:27-28



Pretending to be alive, but
there is still death underneath





WOE

7

Matthew 23:29-36

Declaring to have learned from
history while repeating it yourselves



1 Corinthians

10:12

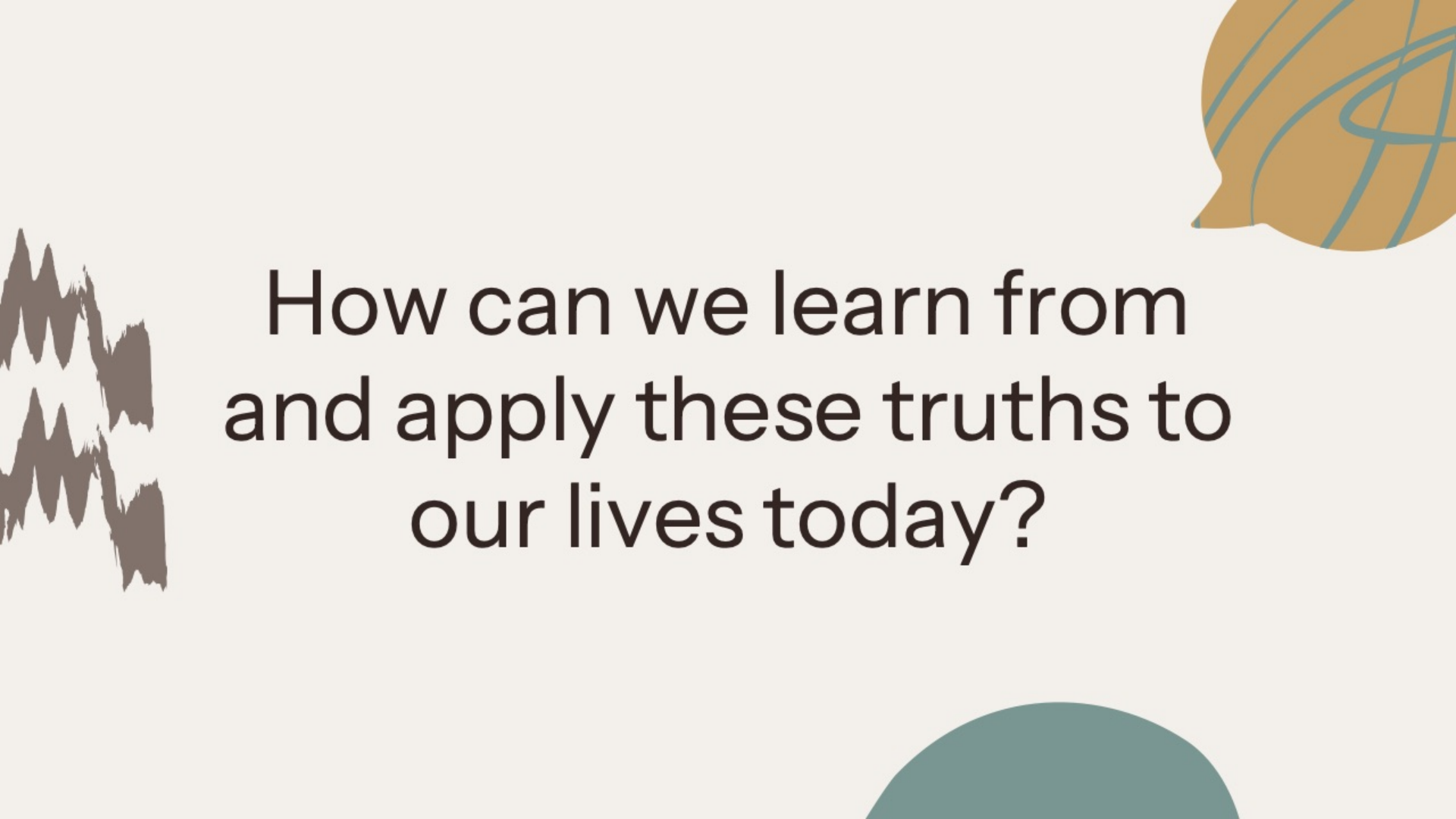
NIV

¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!





Self-righteousness
and **self**-reliance
always leads to
self-destruction.



How can we learn from
and apply these truths to
our lives today?

How can we learn from and apply
these truths to our lives today?

The Pharisees looked at the
outward appearance.

Jesus looks at the heart.



How can we learn from and apply
these truths to our lives today?

The Pharisees emphasized
religious **rules** and stipulations.

Jesus emphasized
God's principles.



How can we learn from and apply
these truths to our lives today?

The Pharisees were
concerned with reputation.

Jesus is concerned
with character.



How can we learn from and apply
these truths to our lives today?

The Pharisees were
marked by using others.

Jesus is marked by
sacrificial service.



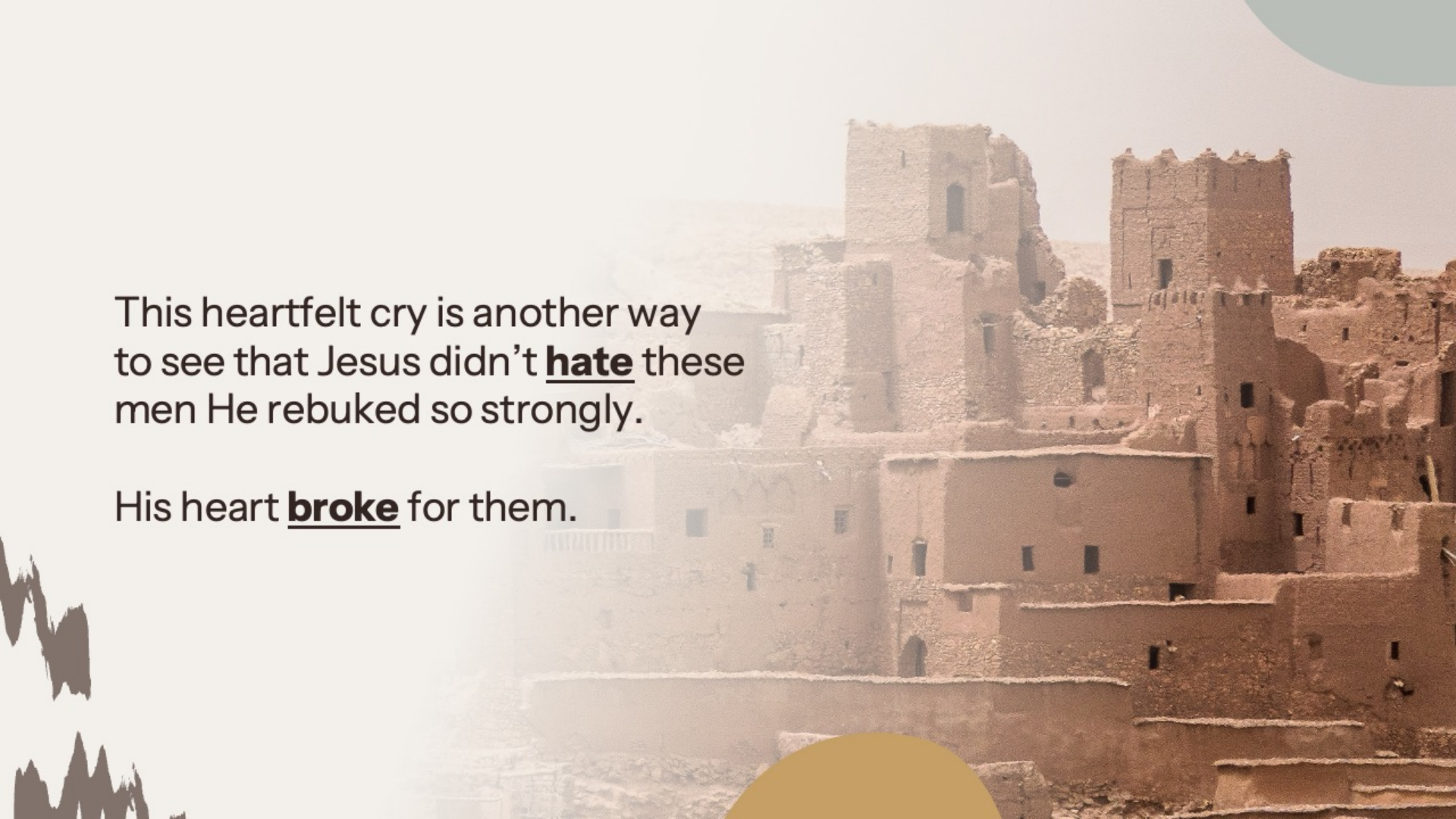
³⁷"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing."

Matthew

23:37

NIV



The background of the slide features a photograph of ancient, multi-story stone ruins, possibly Mayan or Aztec, with numerous rectangular windows and doorways. The structures are built from reddish-brown stone and are partially obscured by a light, hazy atmosphere. In the top right corner, there is a teal-colored circular graphic element. In the bottom left corner, there is a dark, jagged, mountain-like silhouette. In the bottom center, there is a large, solid yellow circular graphic element.

This heartfelt cry is another way
to see that Jesus didn't **hate** these
men He rebuked so strongly.

His heart **broke** for them.