



# Joseph

## life in a canyon



**when you can't see ahead, look up.**

4 After burying his father, Joseph returned to Egypt, together with his brothers and all the others who had gone with him to bury his father. 15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" 16 So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 17 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father."

When their message came to him, Joseph wept.<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said. <sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. <sup>21</sup> So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

Genesis 50:17-21



TYNDALE OLD TESTAMENT  
COMMENTARIES

TOTC

GENESIS



DEREK KIDNER

To leave the righting of  
wrongs to God

To see God at work even  
when evil arises

To respond to  
mistreatment not just  
with forgiveness  
but with affection and  
kindness.



Verse 19:

“Am I in the place of God?”



Verse 19:

“Am I in the place of God?”

Choosing to become  
our own moral authority



“Eat from that tree and you will be  
as God knowing good from evil”

Genesis 3:5





Verse 19:

“Am I in the place of God?”

Choosing to worry  
excessively

“Why do you worry so excessively about what you will eat or about what you’ll put on or about your health?” “Only your Father in heaven knows exactly what you need, and only your Father in heaven has the ultimate power to *give* you what you need.”

Matthew 6:25



Verse 19:

“Am I in the place of God?”

Choosing to hold a grudge

“Vengeance is mine; I will repay,  
saith the Lord.” Romans 12:19



The background of the image is a dark, grainy photograph of a stone tablet, likely the Ten Commandments. The tablet is covered in ancient Hebrew text, which is mostly illegible due to the low resolution and high contrast. The text is arranged in several horizontal lines across the surface of the stone.

Verse 20:

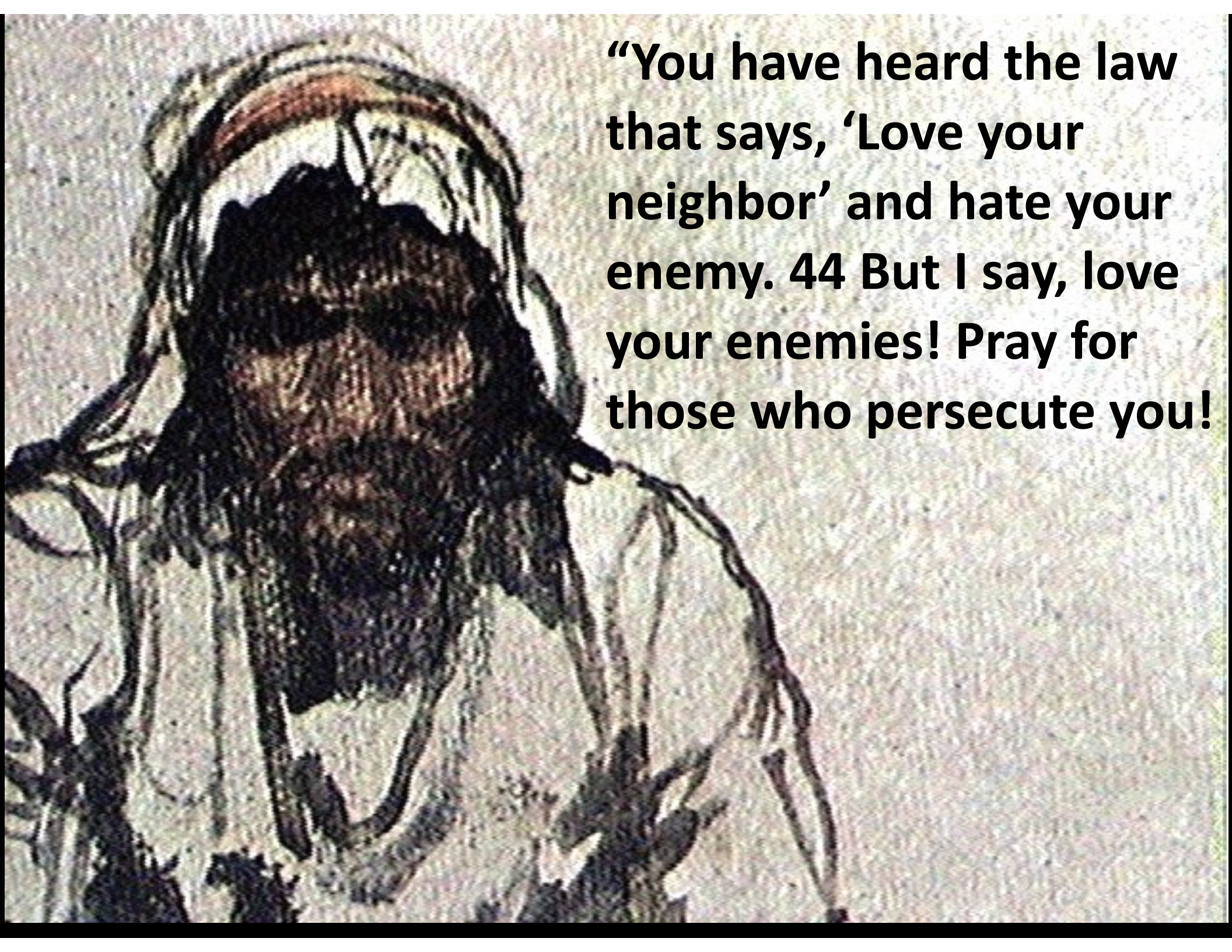
“You meant it for evil, but  
God meant it for good,”



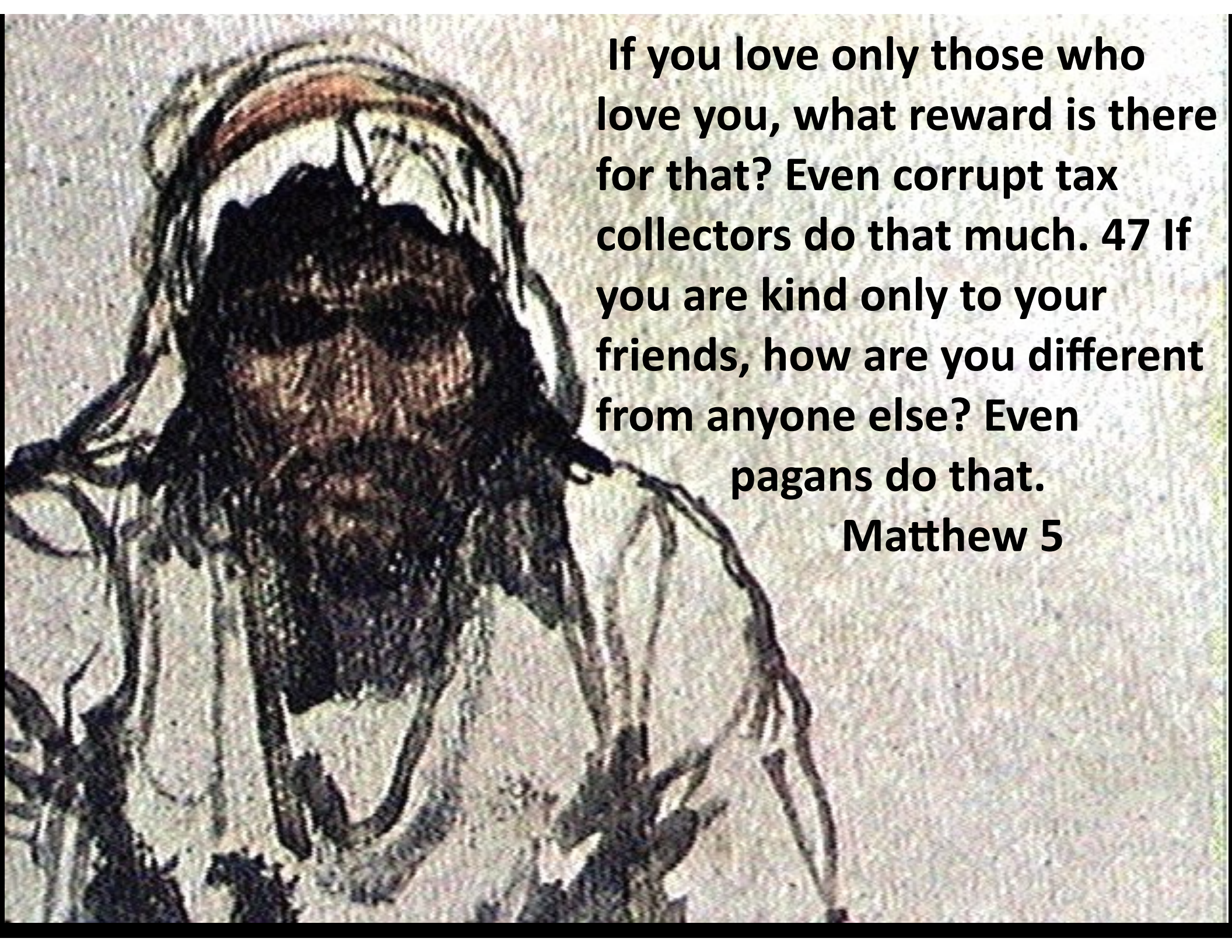


Verse 21:

“ ‘So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.’ And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.”



**“You have heard the law that says, ‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy. 44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you!**



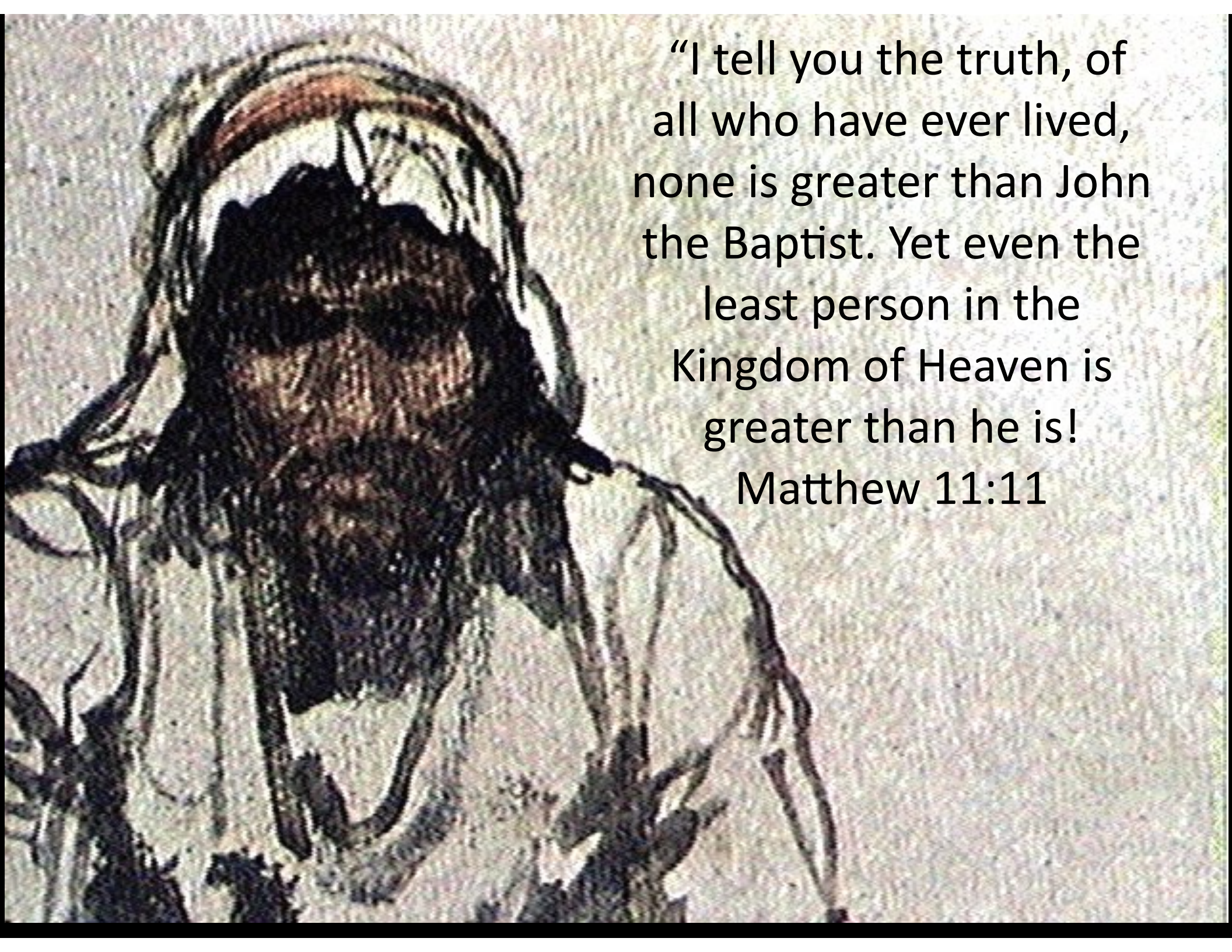
**If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. 47 If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.**

**Matthew 5**

14 Bless those who persecute you. Don't curse them; pray that God will bless them. ..17 Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. 18 Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Romans 12:14,17,18







“I tell you the truth, of all who have ever lived, none is greater than John the Baptist. Yet even the least person in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he is!

Matthew 11:11







