Engaging In The Work Of The Lord

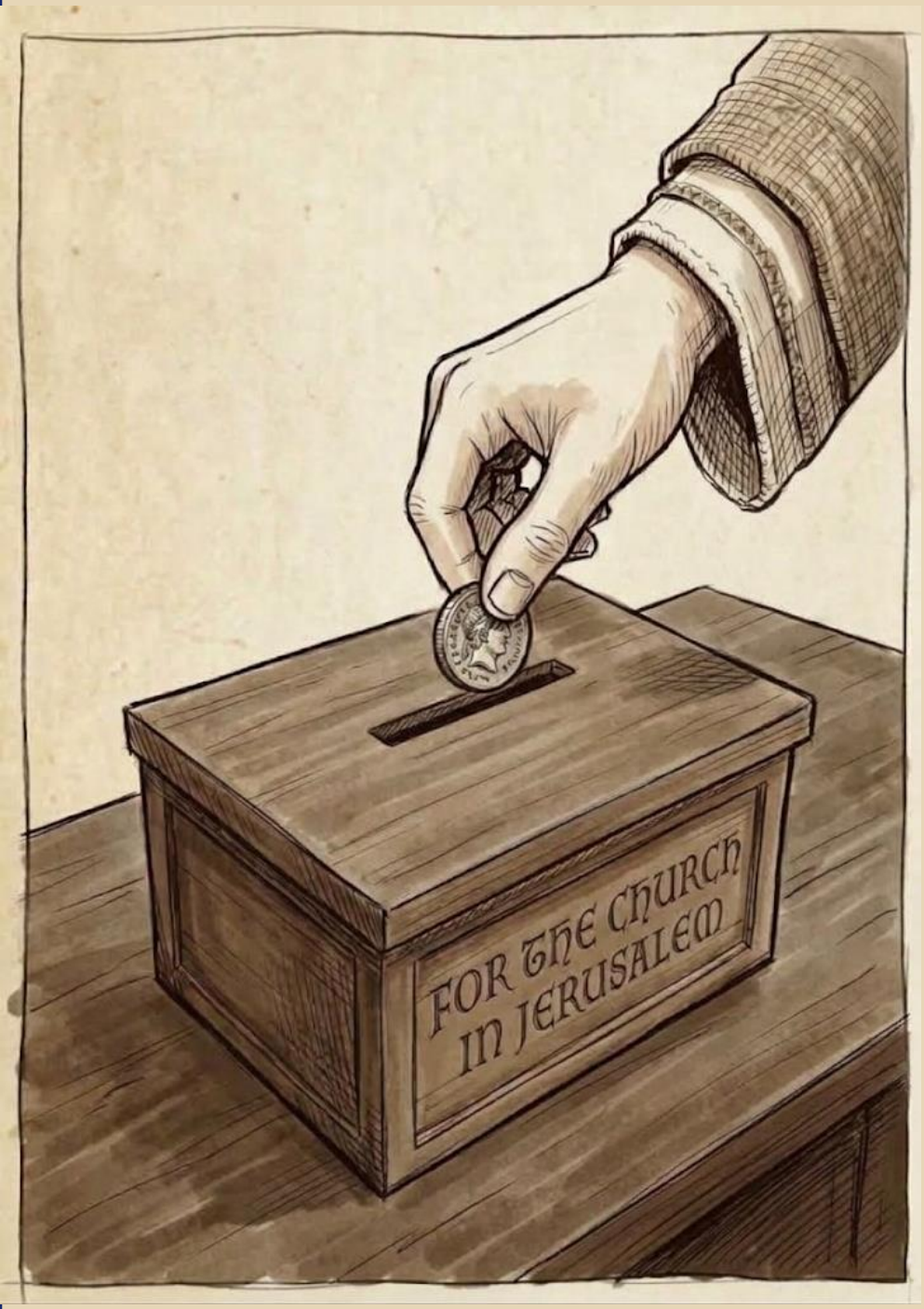


Paul's Concern for the work of the Lord



1 Cor 15:58 - "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding **in the work of the Lord**, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 Cor 16:10 - "When Timothy comes, see that you put him at ease among you, for **he is doing the work of the Lord, as I am."**



Why was the collection important?

It was meant to:

1. Provide practical help by alleviating the poverty
2. Demonstrate unity and care within the body of Christ
3. Serve to demonstrate Christ's love to non-Christians



Paul's instructions for the collection

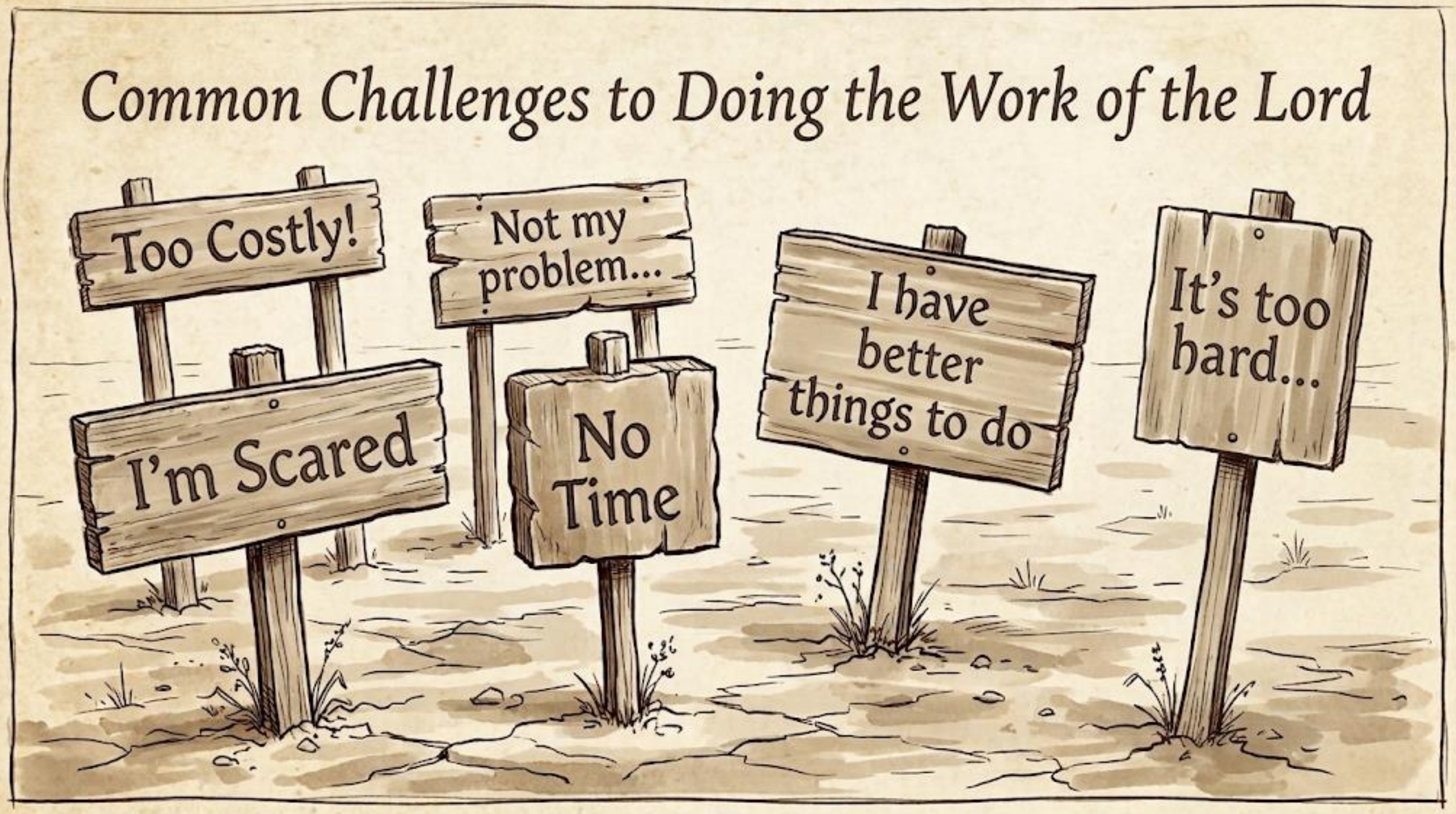
"On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper, so that there will be no collecting when I come."

- 1 Cor 16:2

How should we engage?

On the first day of every week (Sunday)	As our act of worship
each of you is to put something aside and store it up	Intentionally and regularly making space and time in our lives, offering our talents for God's use
as he may prosper,	Engage with the things that God has already given us, to the degree he has blessed us
so that there will be no collecting when I come.	Do it in a timely manner… don't procrastinate.

Common Challenges to Doing the Work of the Lord



Paul’s Challenges

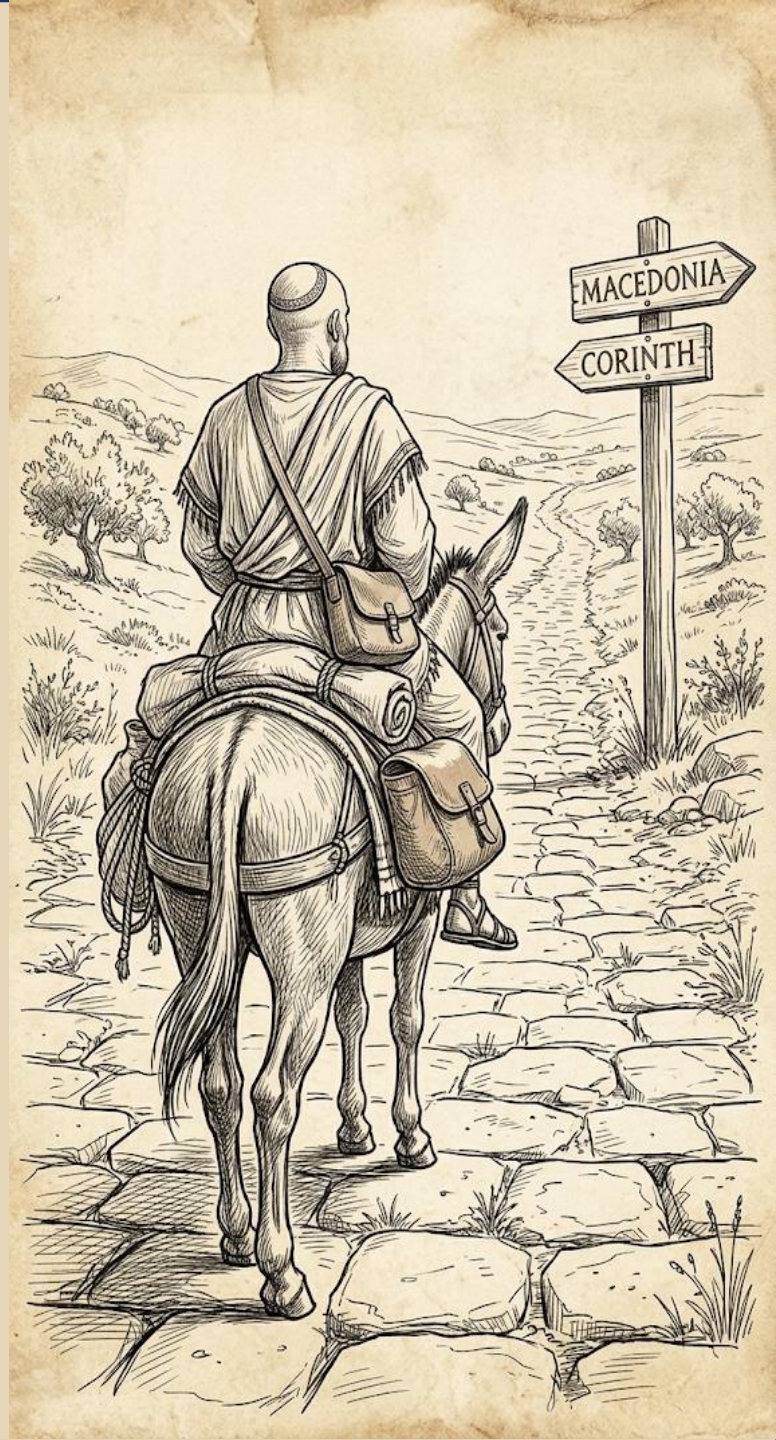


24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.
25 Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; 26 on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; 27 in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.

- 2 Cor 11:24-27

Paul's Determination to do the work of the Lord

5 I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for
I intend to pass through Macedonia, 6 and perhaps I
will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that
you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. 7 For
I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope
to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits.
8 But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, 9 for a
wide door for effective work has opened to me, and
there are many adversaries. - 1 Cor 16:5-9



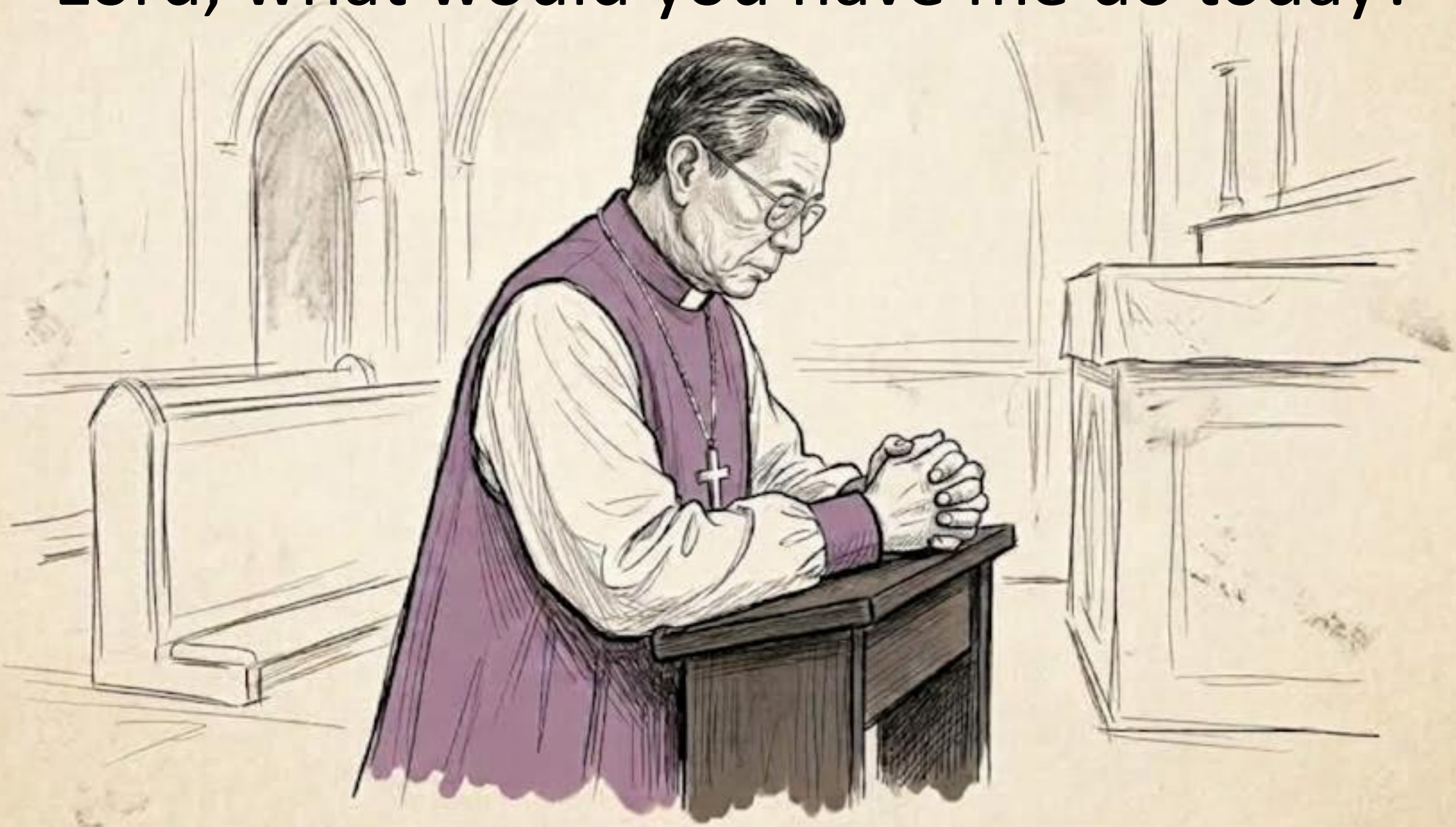
Paul's Deepest Desire

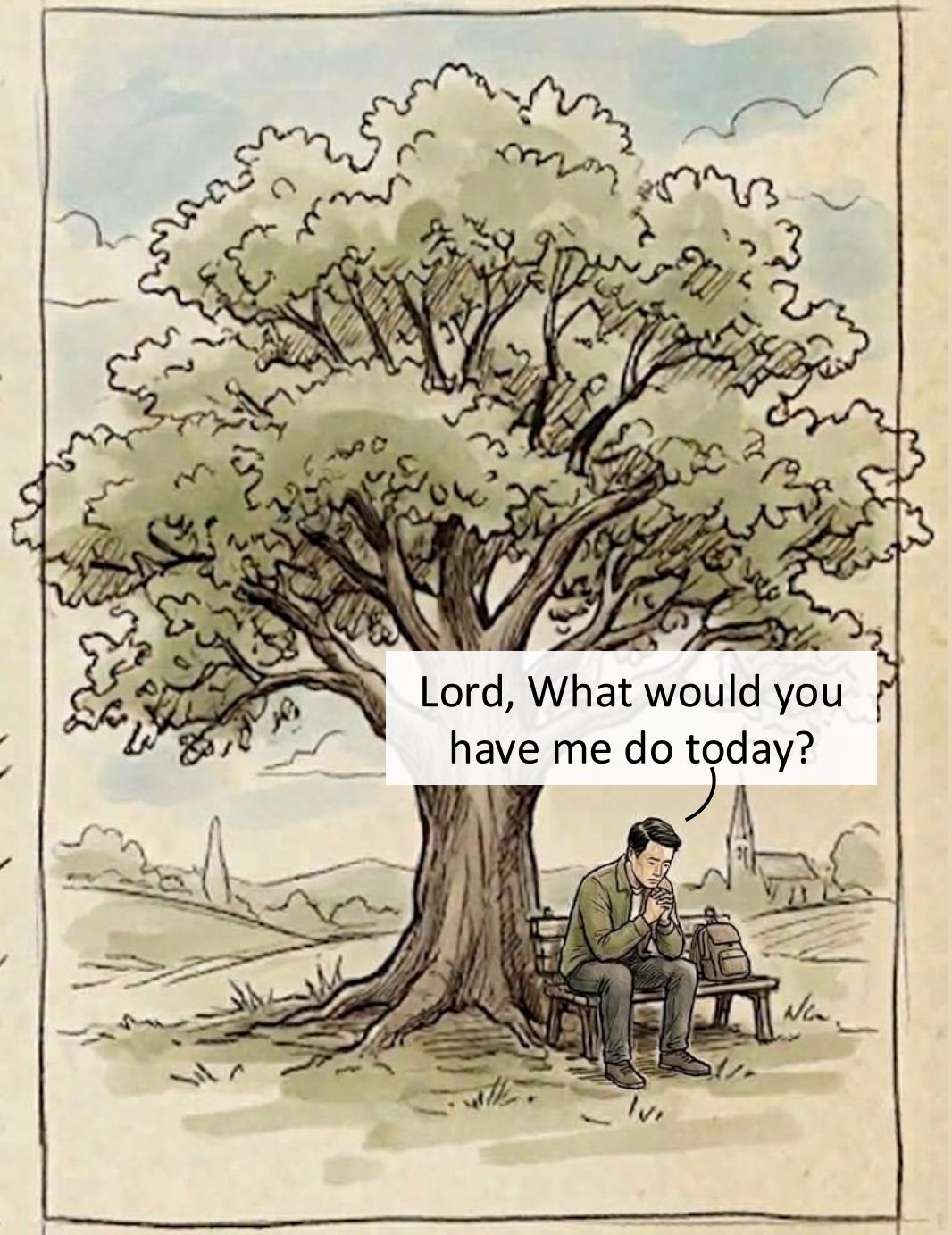
"7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him…"

- Phil 3:7-9



“Lord, what would you have me do today?”





An Invitation:

- To engage in the work of the Lord
- To know the surpassing worth of Our Lord