

Sermon Summary

This week's sermon was on Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60, on the martyrdom of Stephen. Stephen was so Christ-like, he was the first to die for Jesus, AND he died in the same way as Jesus - forgiving his enemies. This is even more impressive, when you remember that Stephen was a young man (in his 30's) who was Hellenistic (vs. Hebraic).

This shows us that the younger generation can love Jesus just as much as the older generation; second-culture people can love Jesus just as much as those of traditional culture. We are both co-owners of the Church, and we must each do our part to help the Church be healthy and Christ-honoring.

Discussion questions

1. Stephen said that many Jews missed what God was saying to them, even though they were very religious, because they were stubborn and hard-hearted.

What is your heart like towards God these days?

What helps you to break out of your resistance, and stay humble and teachable before God?

2. Have you ever experienced culture gap / generation gap at church? Share what happened, and how it made you feel.

3. What are some unique ways that your generation (gen Alpha, Gen Z) can bless Emmanuel Church and contribute to the kingdom of God? How would *you* like to try that out, personally?

***Following are the Sermon Slides
for Reference**

Who Owns the Church?

A blurred photograph of a church interior. The central focus is a large, ornate altar with a cross on top. The altar is flanked by two large, arched stained glass windows. The background shows the interior of a church with a high ceiling and other architectural details. The overall lighting is warm and golden, suggesting an interior space with natural light filtering through the windows. The text "Who Owns the Church?" is overlaid at the top in a white, serif font.

**Have you ever felt a culture/
generation gap with your parents?**

What about at Emmanuel?

**Silent
Generation**

1925-1945

Great Depression

Dust Bowl

WWII

McCarthyism

Boomers

1946-1964

Vietnam

Woodstock

Civil Rights Movement

Kennedy Assassination

Watergate

Space Exploration

Gen X

1965-1978

Fall of Berlin Wall

Challenger Disaster

AIDS

MTV

Iranian Hostage Crisis

Desert Storm

**Millennials
or Gen Y**

1979-1995

9/11

Columbine

Google

Social Media

Video Games

Y2K

Gen Z

1996-2010

Current age: 30-14

COVID-19

Sandy Hook

Marriage Equality

1st Black President

Rise of Populism

**Gen
Alpha**

2010-2024

Current age: 14-0

Birth of iPad;
Virtual Reality; AI

BLM

Brexit

Trump presidency

K-pop

#MeToo

LGBTQIA+

Mental Health
crisis

Which generation owns / runs this church?

Hellenists vs. Hebrews

Hellenistic Jews vs. Hebraic Jews

Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas



Stephen, Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas
Στέφανος Φίλιππος Πρόχορος, Νικάνωρ Τίμον παρμενάς Νικόλαος



Stephen



Acts 6:8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.



Acts 6:9 Opposition arose,...



Acts 6:10 But they could not stand up against the wisdom
the Spirit gave him as he spoke.



Acts 6:11 Then they secretly persuaded some men to say,
“We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against
Moses and against God.”



Acts 6:12 ...They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin.



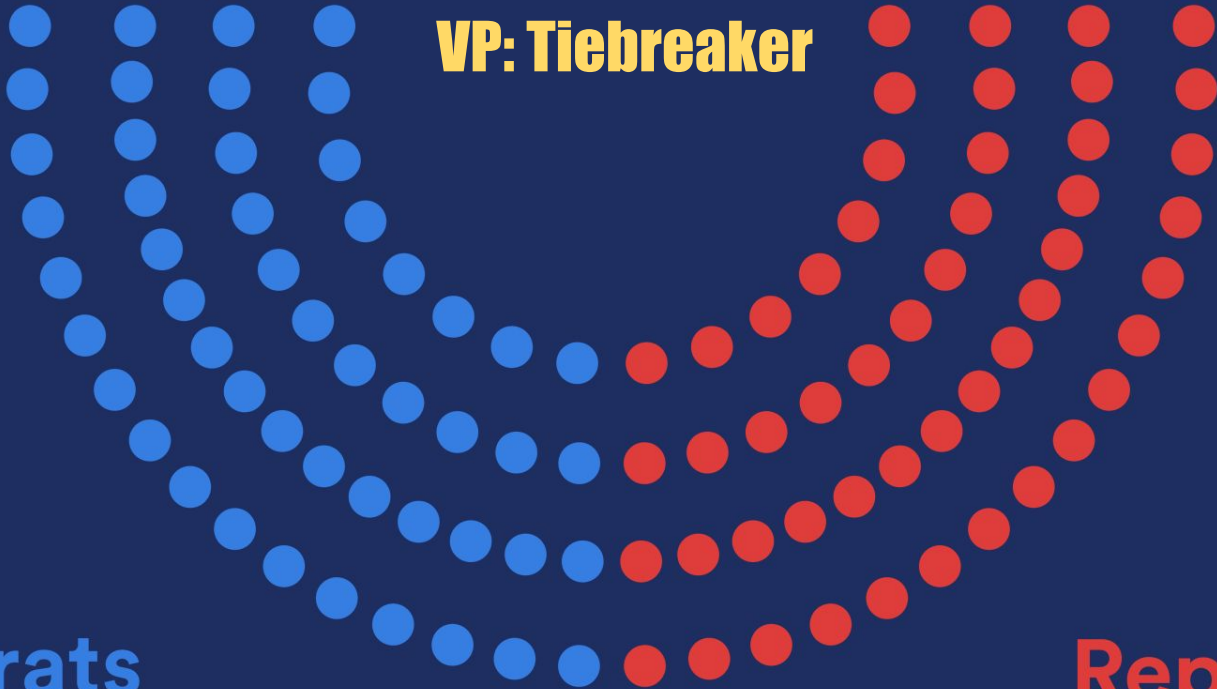
What is the Sanhedrin?

3-in-1

Police + court + congress

US Senate

VP: Tiebreaker



50

Democrats

50

Republicans

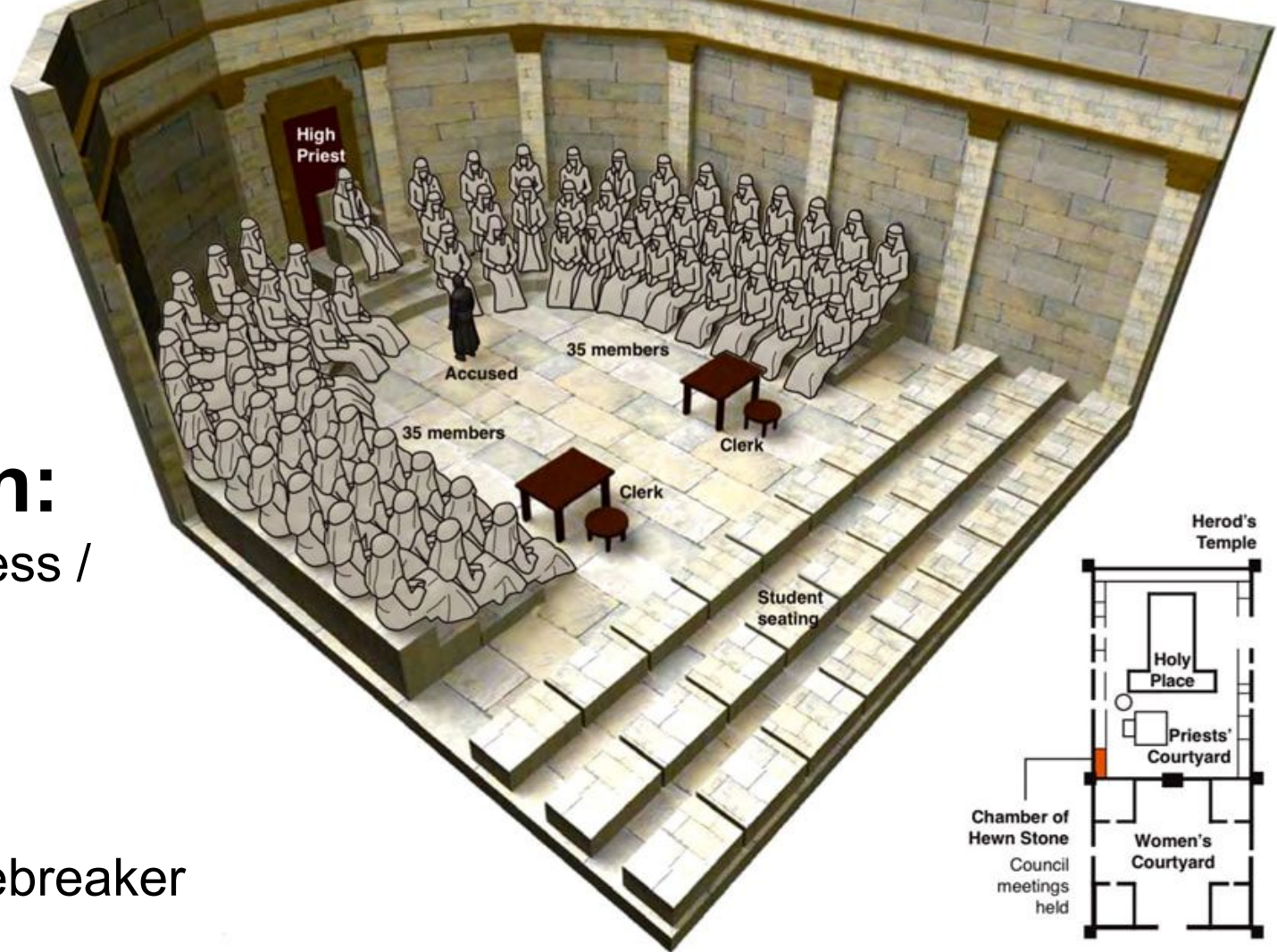
Sanhedrin:

Biblical Congress /
Supreme Court

35 Sadducees

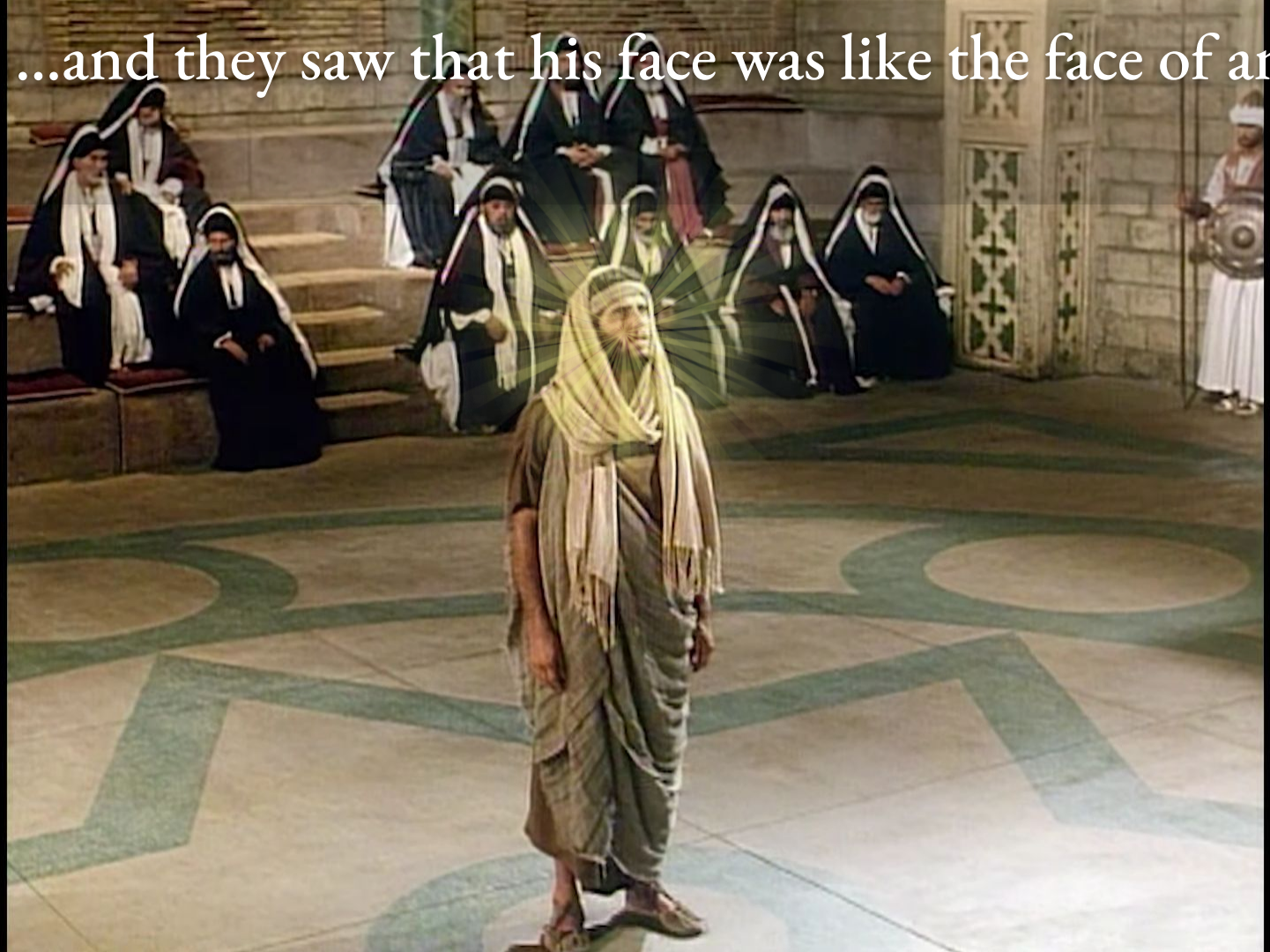
35 Pharisees

High Priest = tiebreaker





Acts 6:15 ...and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.











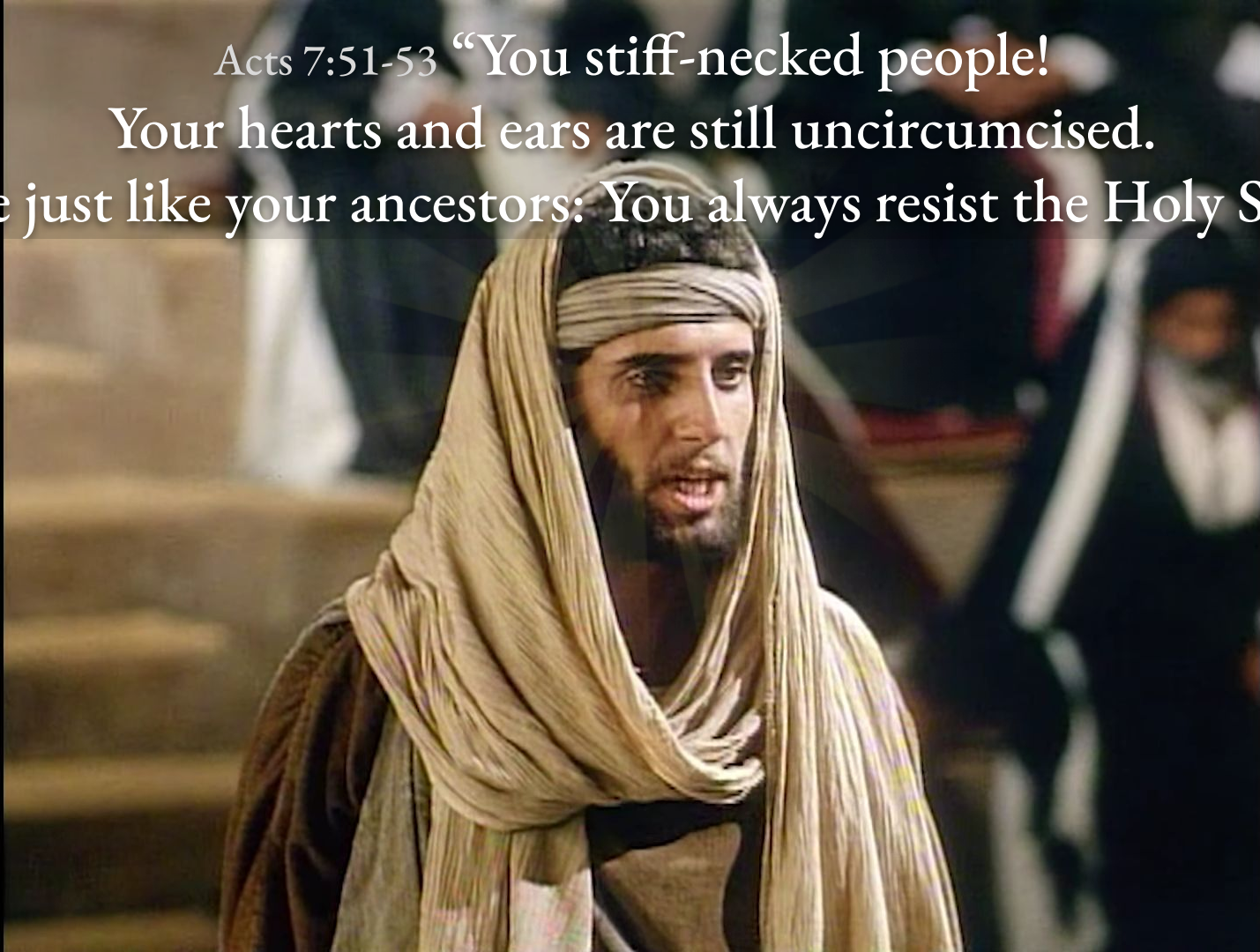
You did it again...



Acts 7:51-53 “You stiff-necked people!

Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised.

You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit!...



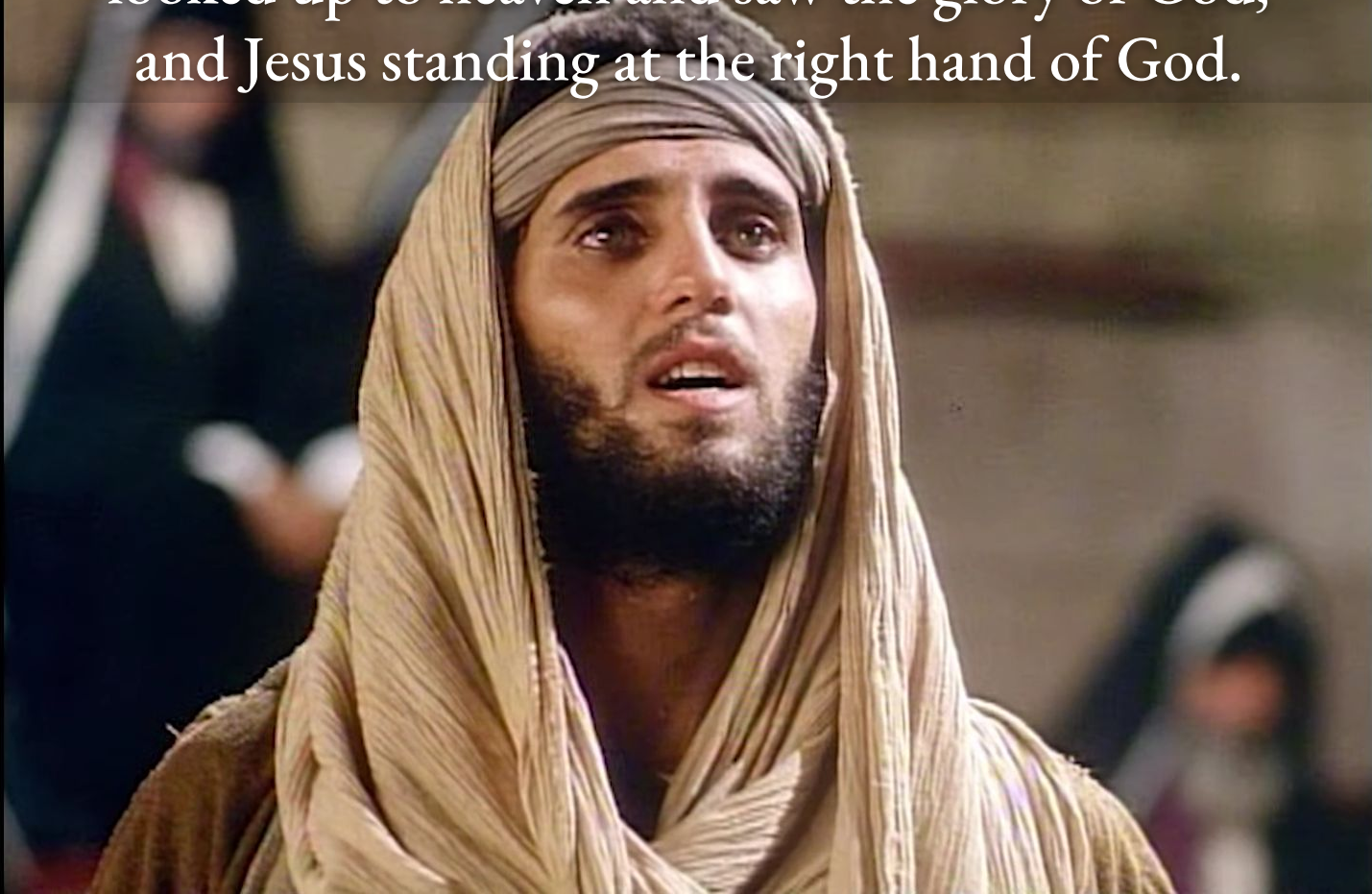




Acts 7:54 When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him.



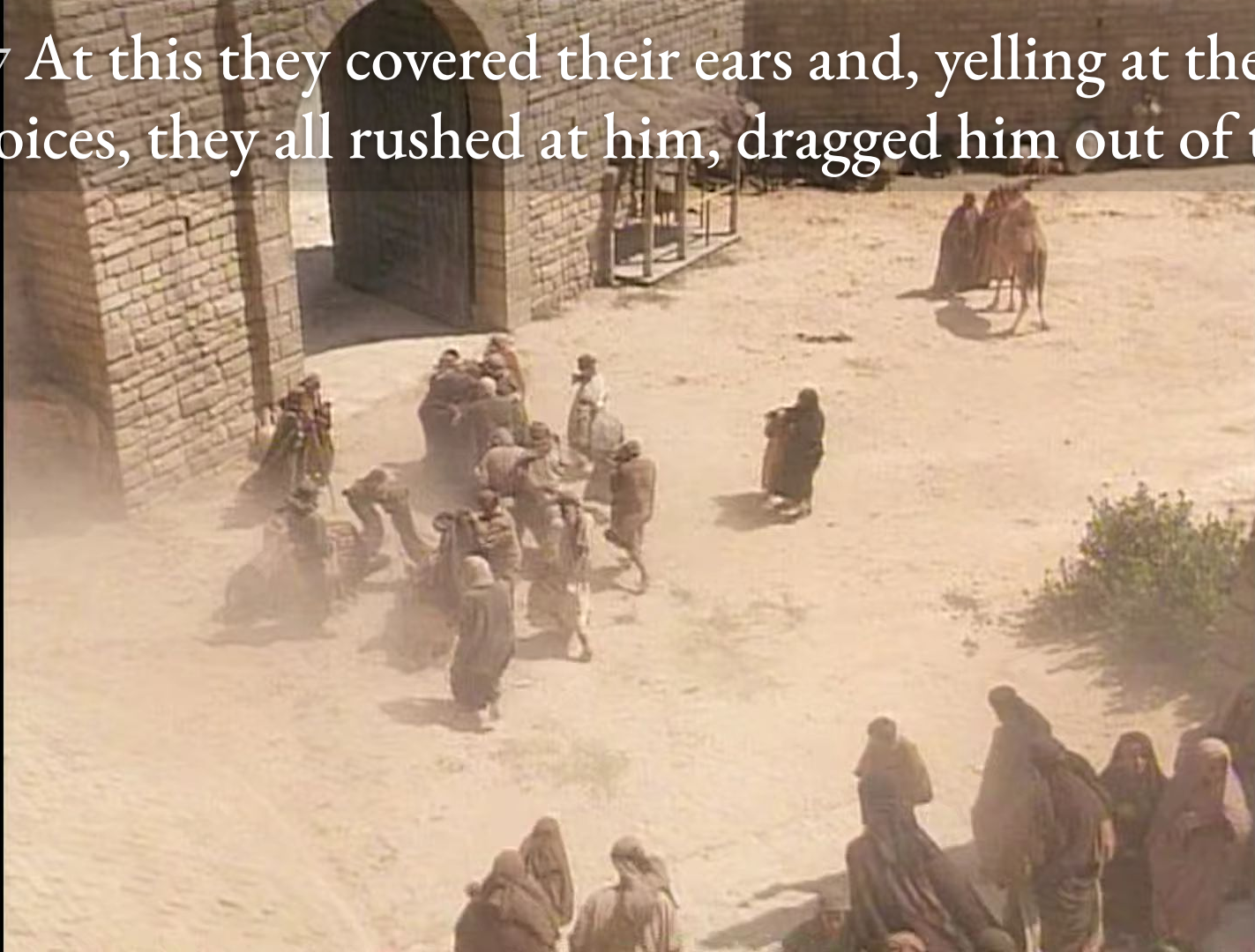
Acts 7:55 But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.



Acts 7:56 “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”



Acts 7:57 At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, dragged him out of the city



Acts 7:58 and began to stone him...

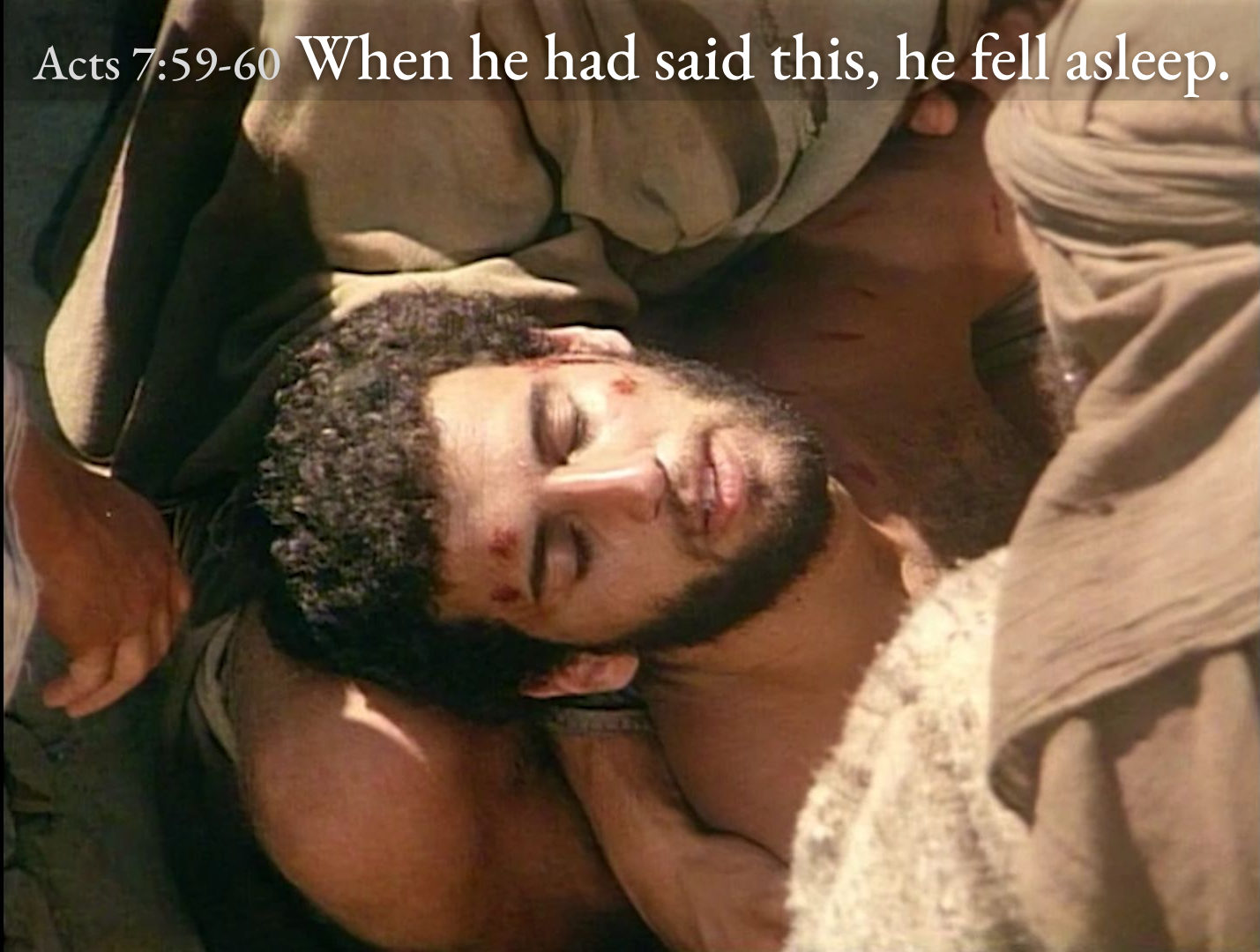




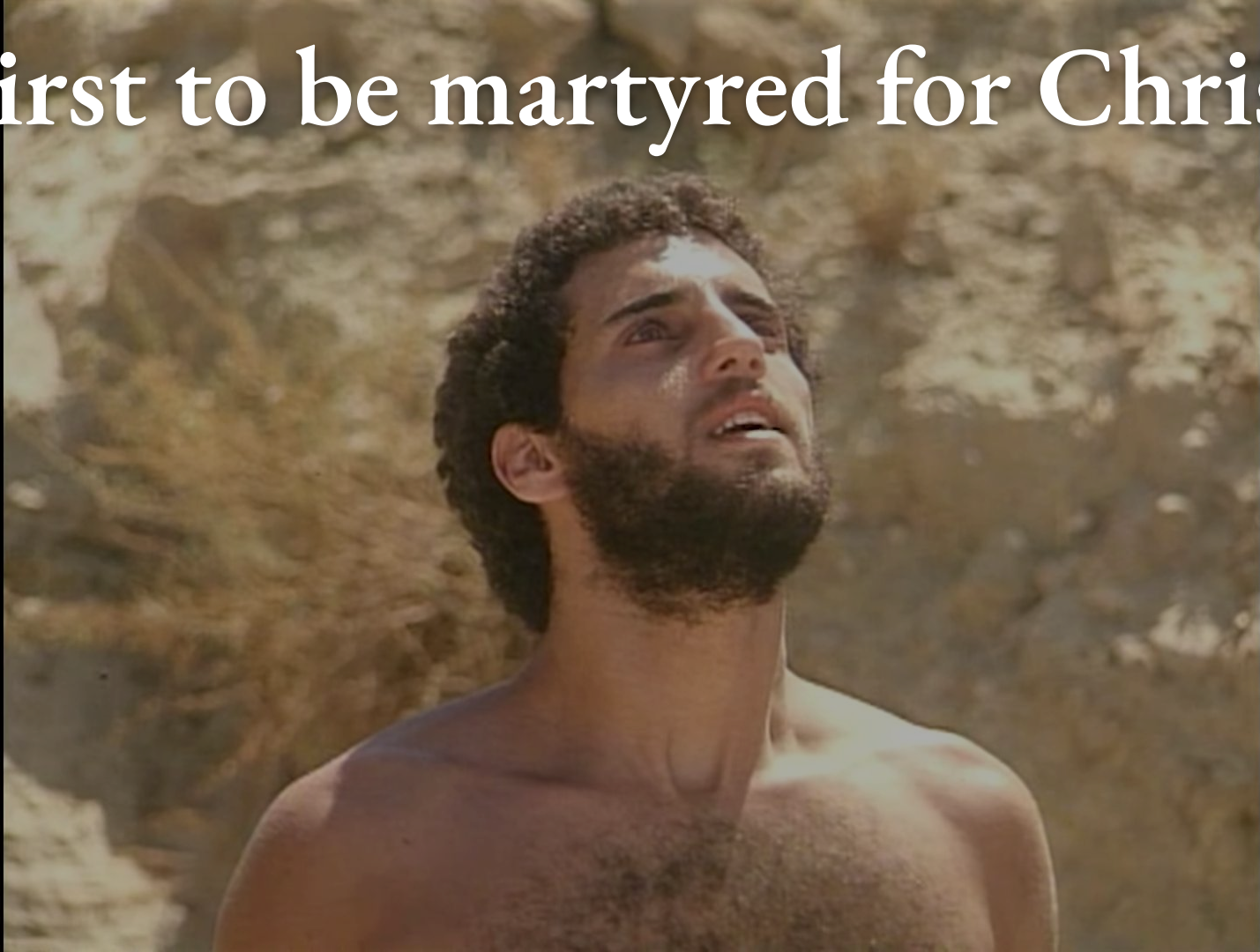
Acts 7:59-60 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed,
...“Lord, do not hold this sin against them.”



Acts 7:59-60 When he had said this, he fell asleep.



First to be martyred for Christ



Does it remind you of anything?

Acts 6:12 ...They seized Stephen and brought him before the
Sanhedrin.



Mark 14:55 The chief priests and **the whole Sanhedrin**
were looking for evidence against Jesus...



Acts 6:13-14 They produced **false witnesses**, who testified, “This fellow never stops speaking against **this holy place** and against the law...



Matthew 26:60-61 ... many **false witnesses** came forward...and declared, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy **the temple of God** and rebuild it in three days.’”



Acts 6:15 ...the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that
his face was like the face of an angel.



Matthew 17:2 There he was transfigured before them.
His face shone like the sun,...



Acts 7:56 “...I see heaven open and **the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.**”



Matt. 26:64 “From now on you will see **the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One**”



Acts 7:58 dragged him **out of the city** and began to stone him...



Hebrews 13:12 And so Jesus also suffered **outside the city** gate to make the people holy through his own blood.



Acts 7:58 ...began to **stone** him...



Mark 15:24 And they **crucified** him...



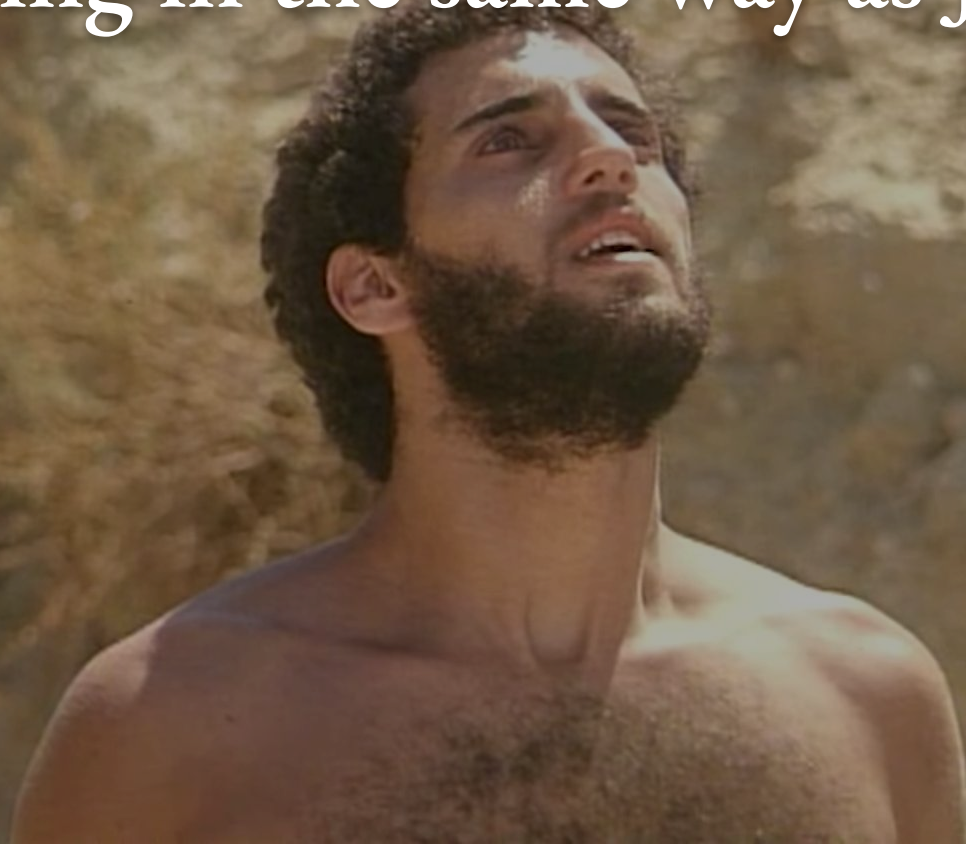
Acts 7:59-60 “...Lord, **do not hold this sin against them.**”



“Father, **Forgive them**, for they do not know what they’re doing”(Luke 23:34)



No one else in the Bible is described
as dying in the same way as Jesus.



The Faith of the 'Second gen'



The unique ways that the second gen.
believers contributed to the Church:

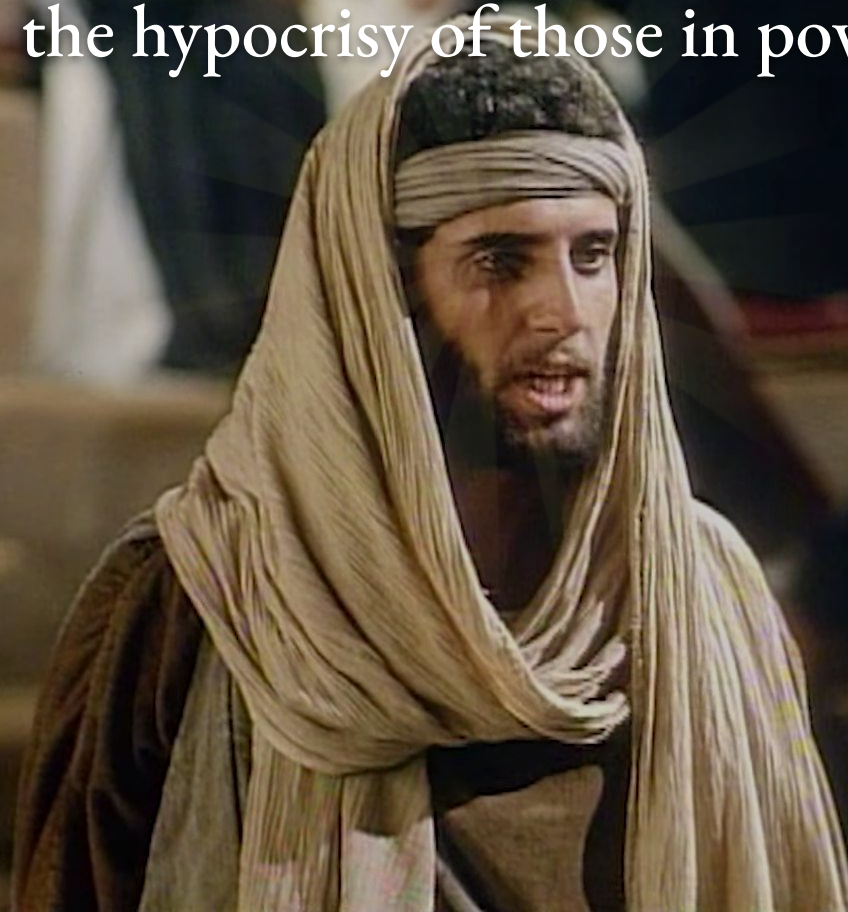
Example #1:

The second gen. helped the Church take care of
Other second gen. believers in need



Example #2:

The second gen. boldly exposed
the hypocrisy of those in power



Example #3:

The second gen. believers reached out
to races often despised by first gen.



What about you?

The second gen. believers at Emmanuel can...

- Help the church take care of second gen. believers'
- Challenge hypocrisy
- reach out to other races with the gospel

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All Generations!

**Silent
Generation**

Boomers

Gen X

**Millennials
or Gen Y**

Gen Z

**Gen
Alpha**