

Title: Easter's first assignment, The God who seeks out failures, Grace, Is it Enough? (Part #4)
Big Idea: It's not how one falls that matters; what matters is whether one gets back up.
Goal: True character is measured in not whether I fall, but whether I get up.
Text: Mark 16:7

Introduction:

One of the jobs of a parent, usually it's the dad, is to get you kids riding on a bike. As parents, we watch our kids graduate from three wheels (tricycles and big wheels) to two wheels (bike with training wheels to bikes without). Typically, kids do fine with tricycles, big wheels and bicycles with training wheels. But there comes a time when the training wheels must come off and the child needs to ride on their own. There is that moment of excitement and fear. I would coach my kids and tell them, "Now you are going to fall. WHEN you do, I want you to get back up and ride at least once more." "If you need to quit, then you can do it, but only after you ride one more time." I would then get them out in the middle of the street, line them up. Grab the back of the seat and push telling them to peddle and to keep the front wheel straight. The first few times, I would never let go, but just run beside them. Get their comfort level up and their confidence going. After a few rounds up and down the block, I would warn them, "Ok, now I am going to let go and run beside you." Once again excitement and fear would rise up. I would get them pointed in the right direction, make sure not cars were coming and then say, "Ready, let's go..." After a few steps, I would let go. Their hands would shake and with it the front tire. Often times, they would not be able to keep the front wheel straight and it would turn in on itself forcing the bike to the ground. With the crash came the loudest cry. I would pick them up, check them out. In their face, I see anger. "Why did you let go? It hurts so bad. You look and see a scratch. I want to go inside. I would say, "Fine, but you have to ride once more." "No, I can't...the pain...I don't

ever want to ride again.” “We agreed that when you fell, you would try one more time before quitting.” But I can’t Daddy. I will only fall again. I don’t want to ride anymore. I just want to go home. I want my mommy.”

We have all felt that way before. Our best efforts come crashing in. Even though we had good intentions, they were not enough to sustain us, to carry us to make everything work out. **We find ourselves knocked down, if not knocked out, and we want to quit.**

*In 1993, I entered a doctoral program for preaching. It was a practical degree and I had some encouragement from a professor of mine, Dr. Haddon Robinson. Some of you may hear him on the radio in this area. The first three years were manageable. Class work. Readings. Projects. Papers. Trips to Boston and would leave me with lots of work. In one sense, it was all familiar work. I get the school thing. Give me an assignment, a book or a test and I can figure it out. But then came the dissertation part. Though I had written numerous papers before, I had never written a book. Each Thursday afternoon and all day Friday, for a year, I wrote in the Newark library. I compiled my findings and turned in my first 125 pages. I even had a friend of mine reread it before I sent it in. About two weeks later, I received my paper back with lots of comments, but one in particular shook me. **“This work is poorly written and structured. I recommend you START OVER incorporating the comments included.”** I wanted to quit and almost did. I gave it my best, but in the end I only got what I interpreted a failure.*

Failure puts in a place where we don’t want to be. It affects that way we process information. It steers our emotions. It deflates our dreams and aspirations.

What does failure do to us? What impact does failure have in our life?

1. Tries to define us.

Failure takes that incident and tries to label us with it. Literally, we begin to view ourselves through that incident. In our mind we take on the adjectives and attributes of that situation. Could be the first time we try to swing a golf club to the first time we try to share Jesus with someone. If we fail in that endeavor, we tend to view ourselves through that failure.

2. Induces Fear

How can you go down that road again? Why would we ever try to swing the bat again or ride a bike again? The fear of failure comes in and convinces us that ANY attempt we try will only end up in ashes.

3. Causes Inaction or Paralysis

All forward progress is stops. We are convinced now that the efforts will not work so we give up ever trying.

4. Creates self-pity, excuses and hopelessness

People ask us why we don't play football, pray out loud, sign up for drama, turn our name in for a job.

6. Failure tries to make us all quitters.

In the end, we simply **QUIT**. Failure tries to make us all **QUITTERS**. Failure in a career. Failure in school. Failure in a marriage. Failure in faith.

THIS MORNING I WANT US TO TALK ABOUT PERHAPS THE MOST FAMOUS FAILURES IN THE BIBLICAL RECORD, THAT OF PETER. Now I don't want us to get into a self-help conversation this morning. There are plenty of books out there on how to properly handle and interpret failure. **My favorite is John Maxwell's, "Failing Forward."** That is **NOT** the

course I want us to take this morning. These type of books have a value in helping us think, but they often lack **THE SPIRITUAL DYNAMIC TO FAILURE. RATHER, I WANT YOU TO SEE THAT EASTER’S FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO HELP US HANDLE FAILURE.**

Easter’s first priority:

Open up your Bibles to the 16th chapter of the Gospel of Mark. As you do, I want us to contemplate what was Jesus’ PRIORITY on that first Easter morning. Many times on Easter, sermons on crafted on the reasons for the resurrection, the benefits of the resurrection to us today, its theological effects and the victory over sin and death. All pertinent topics and in time I am sure we will cover these together in the future. This morning, I want us to focus on a more relational side of Easter story. SIMPLY, WHAT WAS JESUS’ PRIORITY THAT MORNING? WHEN HE AWAKENED FROM “DEATH”, WHAT WAS HIS FIRST ASSIGNMENT? WHOM WAS HE SEEKING AND WHY? WHAT WAS EASTER’S FIRST PRIORITY? In order to answer this question, we’ll turn to Mark’s gospel.

History tells us that John Mark, “Mark” is the first gospel written and that Mark’s primary source for his material was **the Apostle Peter.**¹ A few facts about Mark:

1) His mother was Mary whose home is mentioned in Acts as a place in Jerusalem where the believer met (Acts 12:12),

2) Historians suggest that perhaps the **Garden of Gethsemane** was owned and tended by his family. The common, though most likely errant, belief that John Mark was the “young man” who escaped capture by the Romans at the arrest of Jesus (Mark 14:51-52) rests upon the assumption that According to this view, John Mark perhaps would have been stationed at the garden as a guard during the night watch.

3) We know from the book of Acts that John Mark was the nephew to Barnabus and that he traveled with Paul and Barnabus on their first missionary journey.

¹ From the testimony of Papias (Eus. *Hist. Eccl.* 3.39.16) we learn that common ecclesial tradition recognized Mark as the “interpreter” of Peter who recorded the words of the apostle as the foundation for a written gospel (cf. also Iren. *Haer.* 3.1.1). The initial evidence for this association appears in 1 Pet 5:13 where John Mark (again listed only as Mark) is mentioned by the author of the letter as “my son.”

So when John Mark felt led with to write his account, he decided to go to the one person who knew Jesus the most, Peter. I can almost see the glimmer in Peter's eye's at times as 1) he recounted the first time he met Jesus. The excitement in his voice when 2) he spoke about the man in the tombs being delivered from demonic possession and having dignity restored, 3) the boldness in His teachings, 4) the incredible healings and then 5) you can see the tears in Peter's eyes when he got to the resurrection. The women comes to the tomb. None of the disciples had the courage, or the belief. In they tomb, they meet an angel who said these powerful words. **By the way, the cross you see behind me is the one standing on the spot of our new church building.**

Mark 16:1 ¶ When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body.

Mark 16:2 Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb

Mark 16:3 and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

Mark 16:4 ¶ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away.

Mark 16:5 As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

Mark 16:6 ¶ "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.

Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

Why does Jesus want with Peter? Why the emphasis on him? Is he in trouble? Is this a moment where he is going to be principal's office? Why would Jesus want to spend any time with the one person who publicly disowned? Peter failed. Go build the kingdom on somebody you can rely on Jesus.

PREVIEW:

- 1. HOW DID PETER FAIL AND ASK HOW DO WE FAIL?**
- 2. WHAT DID FAILURE DO FOR PETER AND WHAT DOES IT DO FOR US?**
- 3. HOW DO HE GET RESTORED AND HOW DO WE GET RESTORED?**

Background about Peter

1. Peter was a fisherman by trade.

He shared the trade with his brother, Andrew, first in a small town in northern Galilee called Bethsaida (John 1:44) and later Capernaum (Mark 1:21, 29). He must have understood weather patterns and feeding habits of fish. Jesus uses Peter's work to shape his call. "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men" (Mark 1:17). Just a Peter was probably taught by his dad about the types of fish, the different times of day when they eat and what bait to use, He now says, "Let me use that same strategy to fish for souls." When Jesus called both Peter and Andrew, Mark tells us "at once they LEFT THEIR NETS and followed him" (Mark 1:18). A net to a fisherman is somewhat synonymous to a computer to a programmer or a mikada drill to a construction worker.

2. Peter's original name was Simon.

Name changes in the Bible are very significant. They often signify a covenant and they often give a glimpse of God's work in a person. His nickname was a perpetual remind to Peter about who he should be. When he stumbled into the old habits, Jesus would often call him, "Simon". When he did what he was supposed to, he would call him "Peter." When Peter displayed characteristics that were unbecoming of himself and God's call, Jesus would call him, "Simon."

Luke 5:4 ¶ When he had finished speaking, he said to **Simon**, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."

Luke 5:5 ¶ **Simon** answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Luke 5:8 ¶ When **Simon** Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!"

Luke 5:10 and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. ¶ Then Jesus said to **Simon**, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men."

Luke 22:31 ¶ "**Simon, Simon**, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, **Simon**, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

Mark 14:37 ¶ Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “**Simon**,” he said to Peter, “are you asleep? Could you not keep watch for one hour?”

John 21:16 ¶ Again Jesus said, “**Simon** son of John, do you truly love me?” ¶ He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” ¶ Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.”

John calls him “Simon Peter”.

3. Peter was married.

Scripture mentions Peter’s house (Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38) and the fact he was married. Jesus heals Peter’s mother-in-law (Mark 1:30; Luke 4:38) and Paul mentions Peter’s wife when defending his rights to marry and take a wife on his travels in the same way the other Apostles do. “*Don’t we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord’s brothers and Cephas?*” (1 Cor 9:5). This may indicate that Peter did not have children or that his children has already grown as he traveled with his wife. I have often wondered how Peter juggled the two worlds of ministry and matrimony.

4. Peter was the leader

In every gospel list of disciples, the same twelve men are named and order is strikingly similar (Matt 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:14-16 and Acts 1:13). Some see the entire list of closeness to Jesus. Each list all start with **Peter**, next list **James**, **John** and **Andrew**, and each lists ends with **Judas**. In fact, in **Matthew’s** list, Peter is identified as the leader: “*Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter.*” The word “first” is the Greek “protos” which often does not mean first in a list, but chief among many. Peter lives up to visible role.

Other than Jesus, his name is mentioned more than anyone else in the Gospels.

No one speaks as often as Peter does and no one is spoken to by Jesus as often as Peter.

No disciple is rebuked by so frequently by Jesus as Peter and no disciple but Peter rebukes Jesus (Matt 16:22).

No one else confesses Christ more boldly or acknowledged His lordship more clearly than Peter.

No one is praised by Christ the way Peter way.

No one was ever accused of speaking on behalf of Satan like Peter (Matt 16:23).

Yet, it is probably Peter's is probably best known of his public and forceful denial of Jesus the night he was arrested.

5. Peter failed.

When leaders fall, especially church leaders it makes the headlines. Peter's denial is listed in all four gospels (Matt 26:58, 69-75; Mark 14:54, 66-72; Luke 22:54-62 and John 18:15-18, 25-27). His denial takes up a significant portion of the portion of Biblical material of his life. His denial begins during the Last Supper. Jesus told them all, *"This very night you will ALL fall away on account of me"* (Matt 26:31). Peter replies, *"Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death"* (Luke 22:33). Jesus answered, *"I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."* (Luke 22:34).

To his credit, Peter, and John, for that matter are the only two disciples who appear in the narrative during Jesus' trial and crucifixion. Mark tells us that he punctuated his denials with cursing (Mark 14:71). **Peter failed...His calling...he was the leader.** He tries to fulfill it by force by cutting of the ear of the high priest. Rather than rallying the troops, he hides in the dark. **Peter failed to keep His own words... Peter failed his friends. Peter failed his beliefs and convictions. Peter failed...the Lord.**

How did Peter fail?

1. Overestimated his own ability.

Matt. 26:31 Then Jesus told them, “This very night you will **ALL** fall away on account of me.

Peter was eager, aggressive, bold and outspoken. Confident of his own capabilities he tells Jesus in front of **EVERYBODY** that he would **NEVER** deny Christ. Peter replied, “Even if **ALL** fall away on account of you, I **NEVER WILL.**” (Matt 26:33 and Mark 14:29). Beware of absolute statements. But he replied, “*Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death*” (Luke 22:33). Peter arrogantly insisted that he would never stumble. Essentially, he tells Jesus: “*I may have my faults, but being wrong ain't one of them.*” “*Jesus, you got other things to worry about. I am NOT one of them.*”

I like what John MacArthur says about such blind self-assurance, “*Some people get so caught up in their own confidence and abilities that they look at the Trinity for a possible vacancy.*” We may not be as bold as Peter, but often times we too cross the line. May I say that much of life is learning that the limitations of our own abilities. We may celebrate athletes in their glory, businessmen in their riches, or politicians in their elections, but I tell you there are many battles in life your abilities will **NOT** take you. *Relationships...Character...God...*

Unkown to Peter, the seeds of his own downfall were planted and in a few hours he would see the fruit. Dwight Moody: “*When a man thinks he has got a good deal of strength, and is self-confident, you may look for his downfall. It may be years before it comes to light, but it is ALREADY commenced.*”

Yet, despite his protests, before the night was over, he denied Jesus, he cursed him, he failed. His ego was deflated. His self-confident annihilated. He pride suffered greatly.

2. Underestimated his opposition.

Temptation from a Tempter - Satanic opposition:

Luke 22:31 ¶ “Simon, Simon, **Satan** has asked to sift you as wheat.

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

We might have expected Jesus to reassure Peter by saying, *“I’m NOT going to allow Satan to sift you.”* But He didn’t. He essentially lets Peter know that He has given Satan permission to put Peter to the test. Like in the case of Job, Jesus is essence saying, *“I am going to allow Satan to shake the very foundations of your life, until there is nothing left.”* *“I am giving him permission to access your life.”*

Peter responds, *“Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”* He dismisses such opposition. *“I have seen demons flee before. I handled them then. I can handle them now. I know what to do.”* However, in this duel, Satan draws first blood. Shocked at his own mortality, he flounders and falls. Later on in life away Peter fails this test, he writes:

1Pet. 5:8 ¶ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

Friends, according to the Bible, we find ourselves the object of a cosmic struggle. We live in a world where is not only temptation, but a TEMPTER. He looks for an “opportune time” to ensnare us. We need the safeguards of fellowship, prayer, church and humility to keep us safe. Blowing off the tempter is neither wise nor prudent. Be wary of your one desires. Peter couldn’t and chances are neither can you or I.

Pressure from the crowd:

Though Peter has the courage to at least follow Jesus during his trial, when confronted, he denies Jesus several times.

Matt. 26:69 ¶ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said.

Matt. 26:70 ¶ But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said.

Matt. 26:71 ¶ Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.”

Matt. 26:72 ¶ He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!”

Matt. 26:73 ¶ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away.”

Matt. 26:74 ¶ Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” ¶ Immediately a rooster crowed.

The crowds presses in on Peter and he recants. Not once, but several times. In order to get them off his back, he must curse. ***“Get off my back...curse you...I don’t know the man!!!”*** Peter presumed he could go into the crowd and stand up for what he believes. He not only stumbles, but out right denies any connection to Jesus. He can’t stand the pressure of the crowds and so he succumbs to their shaping hands. He fails in his faith.

Cardboard testimony

Even though I grew up in church and in a Christian school, there were many times I failed the faith. My shyness was simply my agreement with fear. I cared too much about what people thought. I didn’t have the courage to share Christ’s love. I couldn’t pray out loud, worship openly, or even tell others what was going onside. I stayed back.

In 1985, when God started working in my life, I came across this verse in the Psalms:

Psa. 138:3 When I called, you answered me; you made me **bold** and stouthearted.

Trash story...

Cheat and a people pleaser. Now I am God pleaser

How did Peter get restored?

You can almost see Peter tell Mark. The angel said, “Go tell the disciples AND PETER. Make sure Peter knows I am looking for him. Tell the disciples, but especially Peter. He is looking specifically for Peter. Not to rebuke him, not to scold him, not to recount over and over again his failures, but to restore him.

Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Tell the disciples, but especially Peter. He is looking specifically for Peter. Not to rebuke him, not to scold him, not to recount over and over again his failures, but to restore him.

Easter’s first assignment was to the seeking and restoring of a failure, one who dropped the ball to his calling, who disappointed his friends, who violated his own integrity and character and one who abandoned the faith and the one whom he entrusted his life. That what happened to me. When I gave up on myself, Jesus sought me out. That is my story. In fact it is my “cardboard testimony”.

Jesus went looking for him.

Mark 16:7 But go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

Jesus reinstated his calling and Peter walked into it.

Even after the resurrection, Peter went back fishing. Though he met the risen Lord, he didn’t feel he had a place. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” (John 21:3).

John 21:15 When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you truly love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.”

Luke 22:32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, **strengthen your brothers.**”

What was all this about? Jesus was equipping Peter to strengthen the brethren. **People with natural leadership abilities often tend to be short on compassion, lousy comforters and impatient with others. They don't stop very long to care for the wounded as they pursue their goals. Peter needed to learn compassion through this ordeal so that he could learn that “people go to heaven” not always agendas.**

“Don't trust anyone who doesn't walk with a limp” (Terry Inman).

For the rest of his life, Peter would show compassion to people who were struggling. After being sifted by Satan, Peter was well equipped to empathize with others in their weakness. He could not empathize with those who have succumbed to temptation or fell into sin. He had been there. That experience taught him to be compassionate, tender hearted, gracious, kind, and comforting to others who have also failed.

1Pet. 5:8 ¶ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1Pet. 5:9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

1Pet. 5:10 ¶ And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, **after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.**

Peter understood human weakness and he understood it well. He had been at the bottom. His own weakness and had his own life thrown in his face.

From this event Peter goes forth stronger than ever. He leads 3,000 to Jesus on the day of Pentecost to the Lord. Where he succumbs to the pressure of the crowd and denies Jesus on the night of his trial, he now can stand boldly before the very religious leaders and the High Priest who brought up charges against Jesus and says, **“We must obey God rather than men.”** When the controversy over the Gentiles, the non-Jews, is before the church and the debate goes on, Peter stands up and addresses the crowd: “Brothers, you

know that God made the choice to include them like he did us. He made no distinction between us and them and neither should we” (Acts 15:7-11).

Early church tradition says Peter probably died at the time of the Great Fire of Rome of the year 64. This “dies imperii” (regal day anniversary) was an important one, exactly ten years after Nero acceded to the throne, and it was ‘as usual’ accompanied by much bloodshed. Traditionally, Roman authorities sentenced him to death by crucifixion. According to the apocryphal Acts of Peter, he was crucified head down.

GRACE IS ENOUGH!!!

Is Grace enough for failure like Peter? for wrong expectations like the thief on the cross? For loss like Mary? And for doubt like Thomas? In every situation, the answer is a resound, “Yes”. Unbelief is the only foe that seems to sideline the effects of grace. What did Failure do for Peter and what does it do for us?



Grace
it is
enough!



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BOOK REPORT

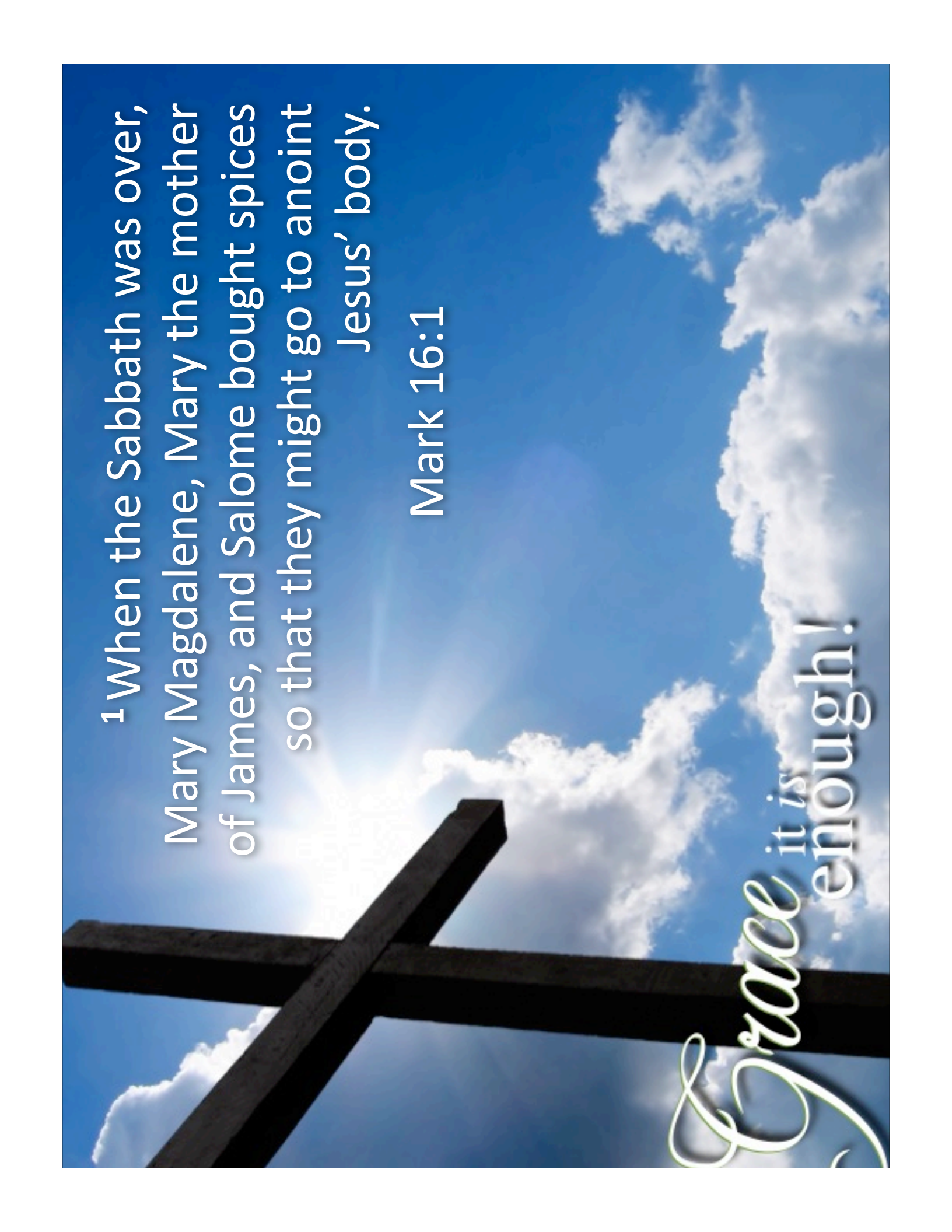
SEE ME
AFTER CLASS!

good.

I liked it a lot and stu
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What impact does FAILURE have in our life?


1. Tries to define us.
2. Induces Fear
3. Causes Inaction or Paralysis
4. Creates self-pity, excuses and hopelessness.
5. Convinces us to quit.

A large wooden cross is positioned in the lower-left foreground, extending diagonally across the frame. The background is a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and uplifting.

¹When the Sabbath was over,
Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother
of James, and Salome bought spices
so that they might go to anoint
Jesus' body.

Mark 16:1

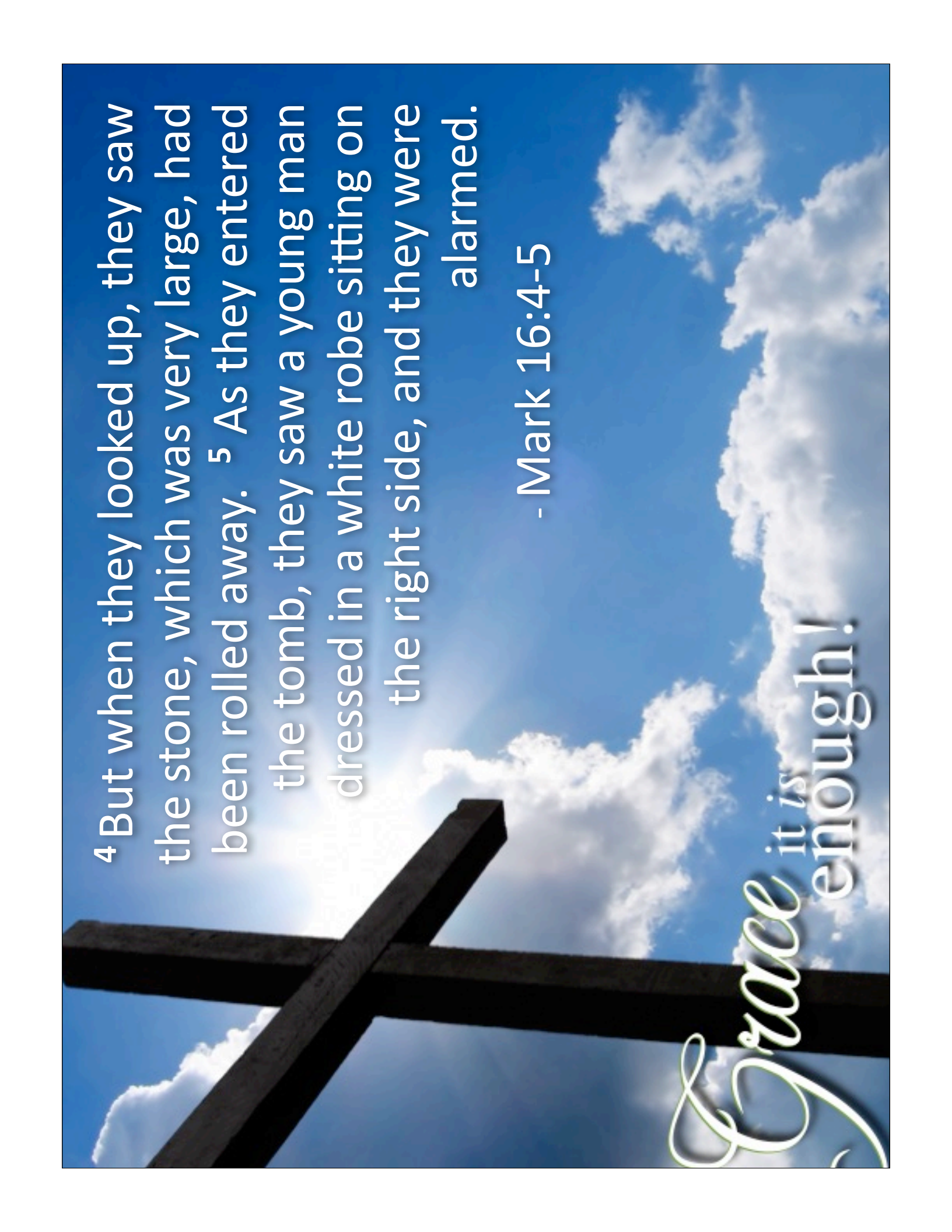
Grace it is
enough!



²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their ways to the tomb ³ and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

- Mark 16:2-3

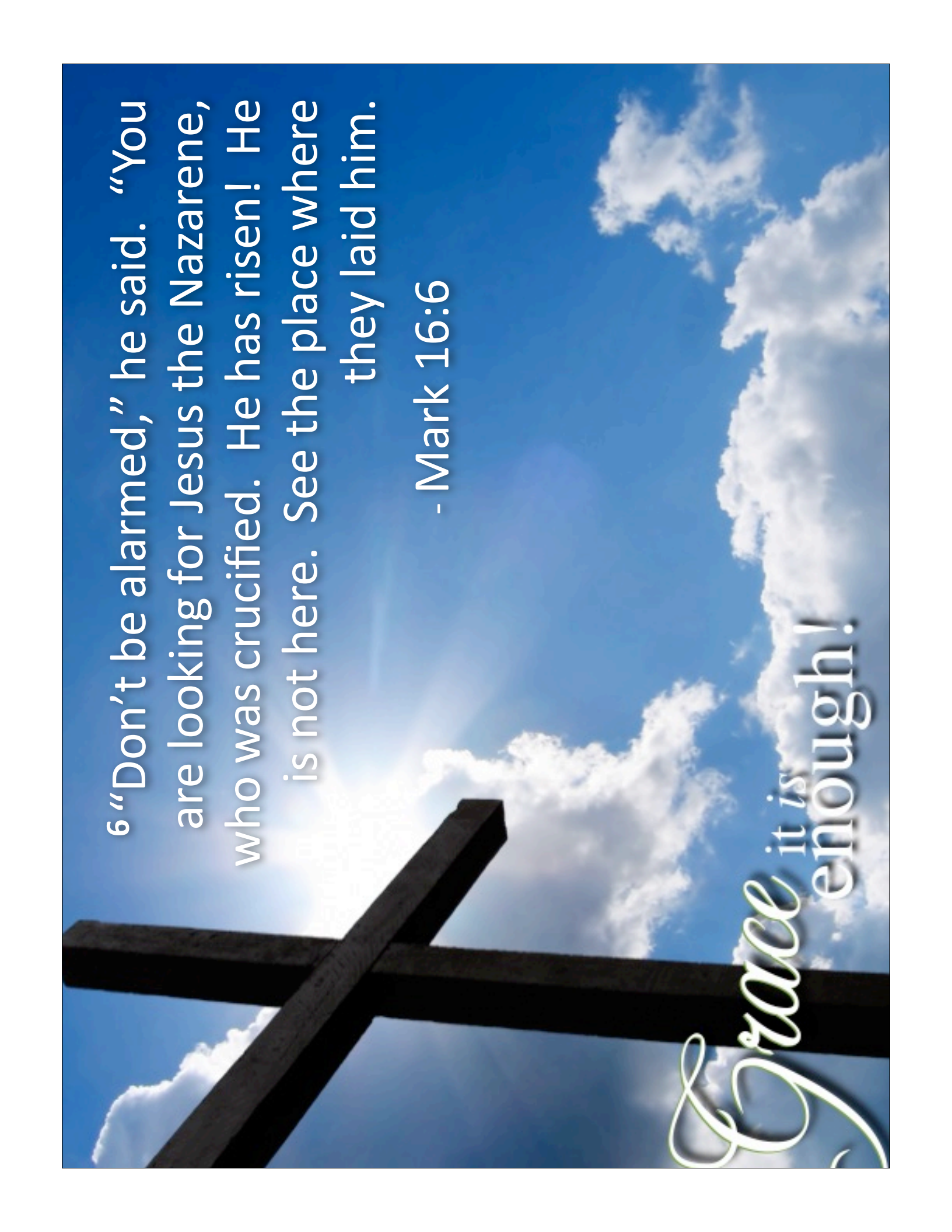
Grace it is enough!

A large wooden cross is positioned in the lower-left foreground, extending diagonally across the frame. The background is a bright blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is peaceful and uplifting.

⁴But when they looked up, they saw the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

- Mark 16:4-5


Grace it is
enough!

A large wooden cross is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the image, extending towards the center. The background is a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and uplifting.

6 “Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You
are looking for Jesus the Nazarene,
who was crucified. He has risen! He
is not here. See the place where
they laid him.

- Mark 16:6

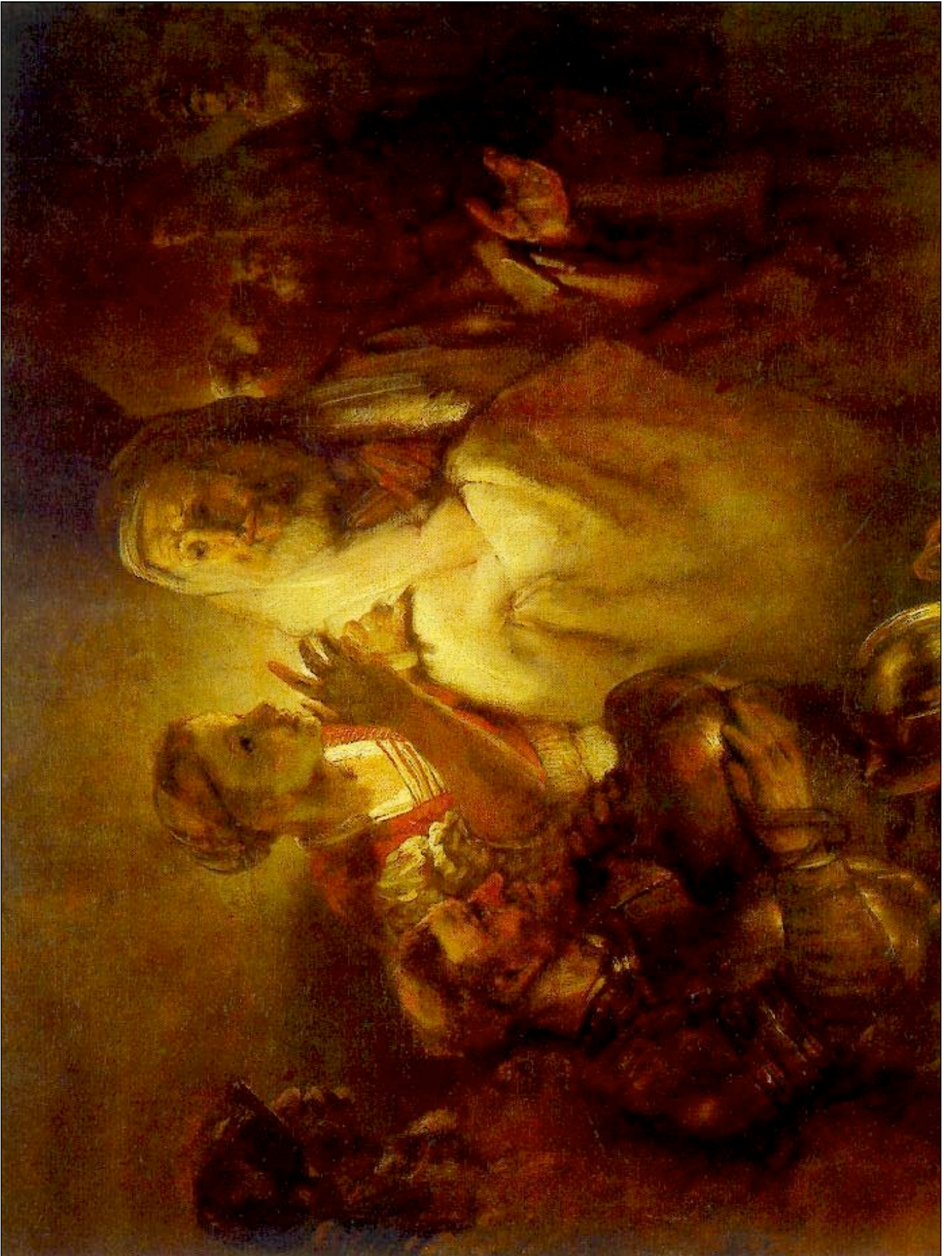
Grace it is
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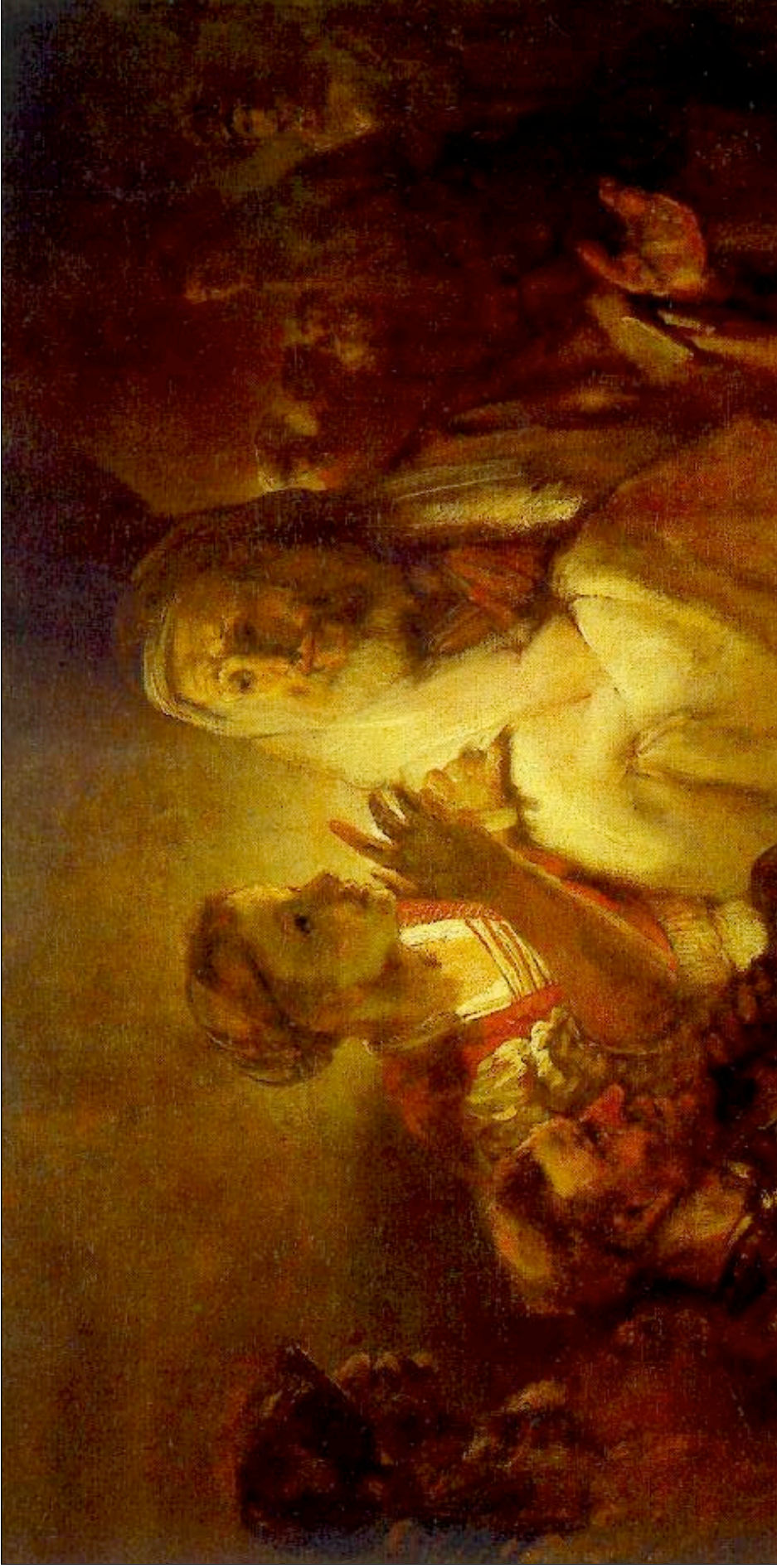


⁷ But go, tell his disciples **AND PETER**,
‘He is going ahead of you into
Galilee. There you will see him,
just as he told you.’”

- Mark 16:7

Grace it is
enough!





1. Peter was a fisherman by trade.





2. Peter original name was Simon.



3. Peter was married.

A painting depicting a scene with Jesus and Peter. Jesus, on the left, is shown with a long white beard and hair, wearing a white robe, and holding a large fish. Peter, on the right, is shown with a white beard and hair, wearing a white robe, and holding a large fish. The background is dark and textured, suggesting an outdoor setting. The overall style is classical, with a focus on the figures and their interaction with the fish.

4. Peter was the leader.



5. Peter failed.



Success

Failure

EXIT NOW

How did Peter fail?

1. Overestimated his own abilities
2. Underestimated his opposition
 - Temptation **EXIT NOW** from a Tempter

31 “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat.

32 But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.”

33 But he replied, “Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death.”

Luke 20:31-33

Grace it is
enough!



³¹“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to
sift you as wheat.

Luke 20:31

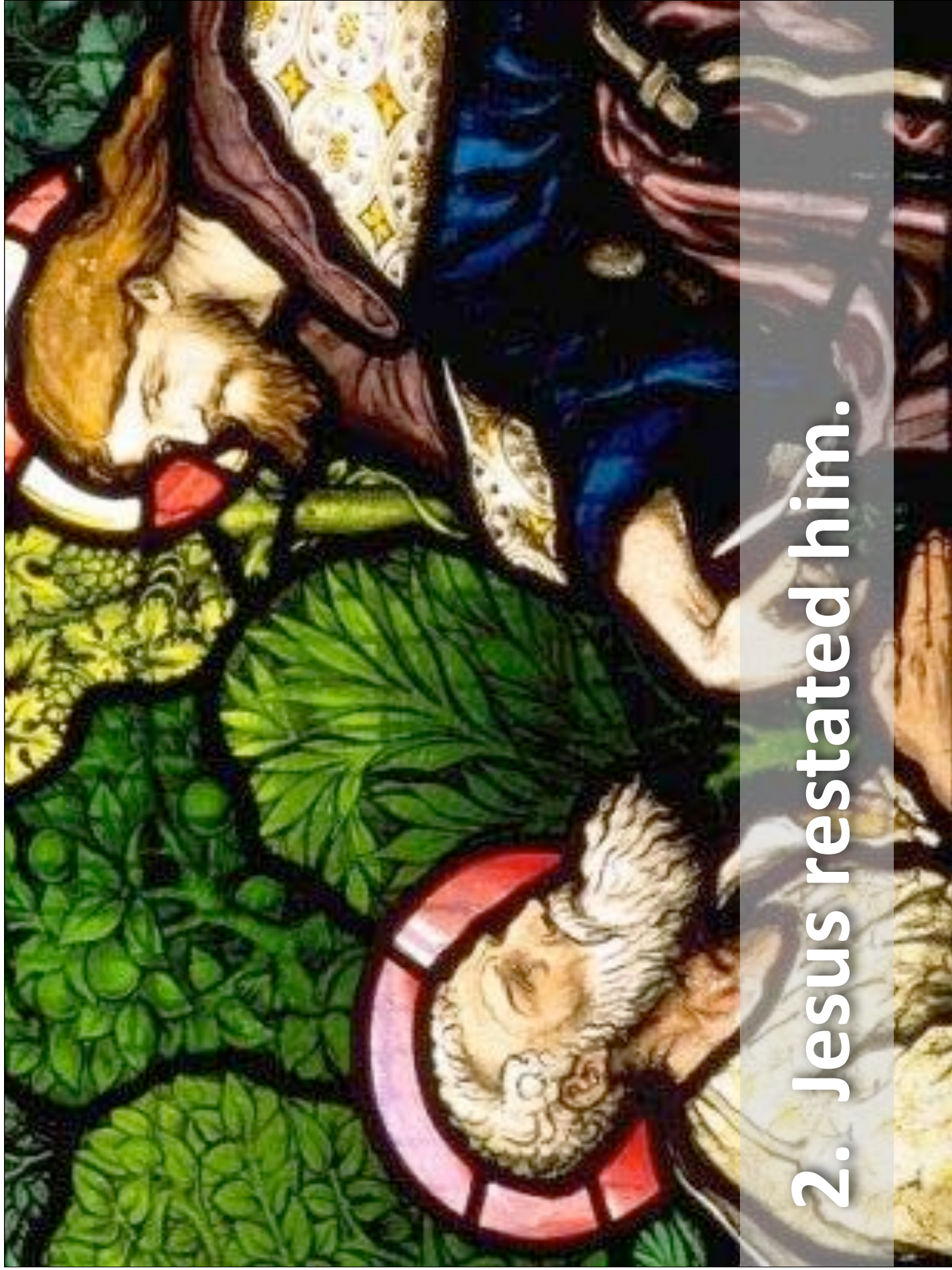
Grace it is
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How did Peter fail?

1. Overestimated his own abilities
2. Underestimated his opposition
 - Temptation from a Tempter
 - Pressure from the crowd



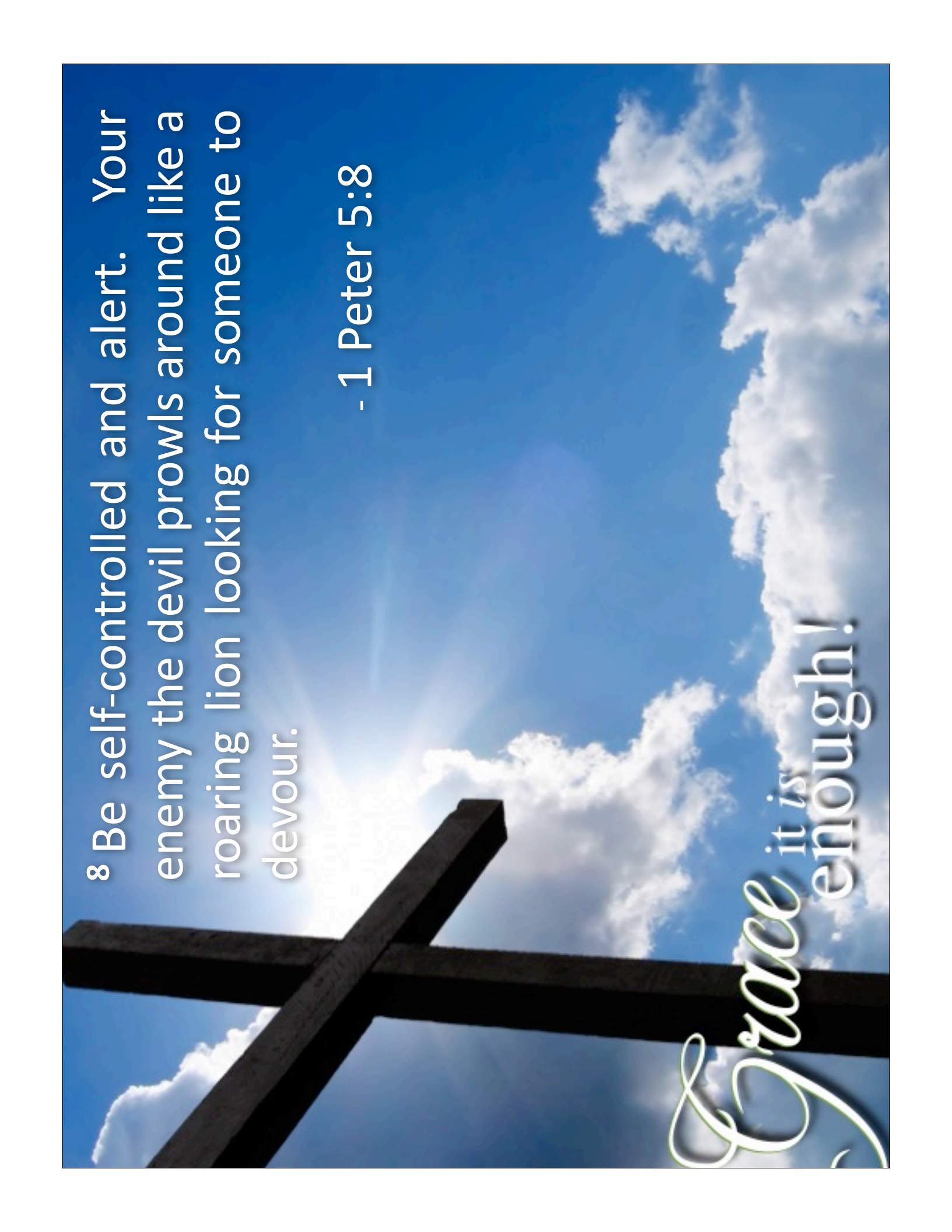
1. Jesus went looking for him.



2. Jesus restated him.



3. Jesus used failure to change him.



⁸ Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.


- 1 Peter 5:8

Grace it is enough!

9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of suffering.

- 1 Peter 5:9

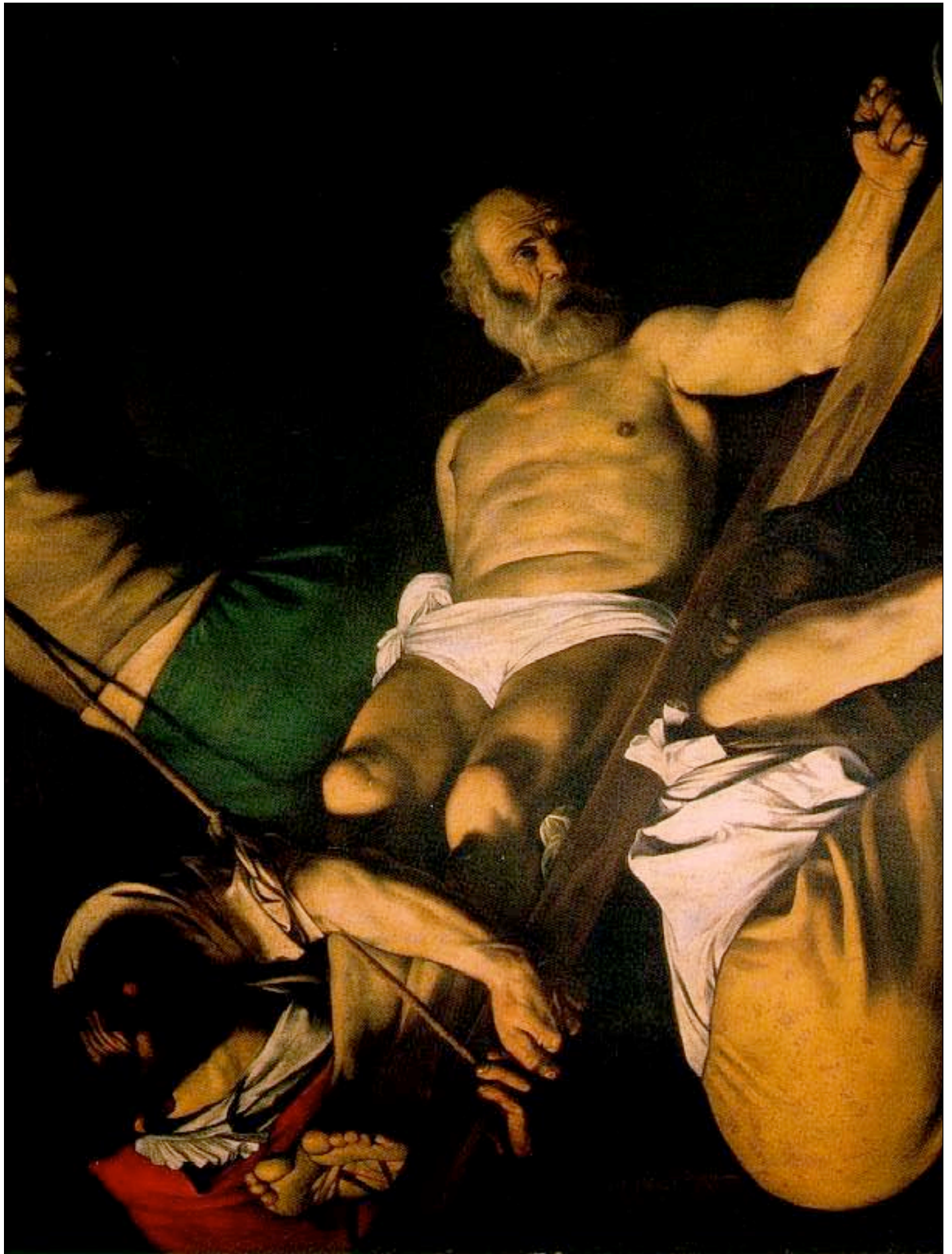
Grace it is enough!

A large wooden cross is positioned in the lower-left foreground, set against a bright blue sky filled with scattered white clouds. The cross is made of dark wood and is seen from a low angle, looking up.

¹⁰ And the God of all GRACE who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while will Himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.

- 1 Peter 5:10

Grace it is enough!





Grace
it is
enough!

