

# Mark

## Jesus Announces the Good News

<sup>14</sup> After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. <sup>15</sup> “The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”

## Jesus Calls His First Disciples

<sup>16</sup> As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup> “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” <sup>18</sup> At once they left their nets and followed him.

An aerial photograph of a large, circular, tiered structure, possibly a stadium or arena, with a central building and surrounding landscape. The image is overlaid with a blue gradient and white text.

**The kingdom of God has come near.**

**What is a kingdom in Jesus' day?**

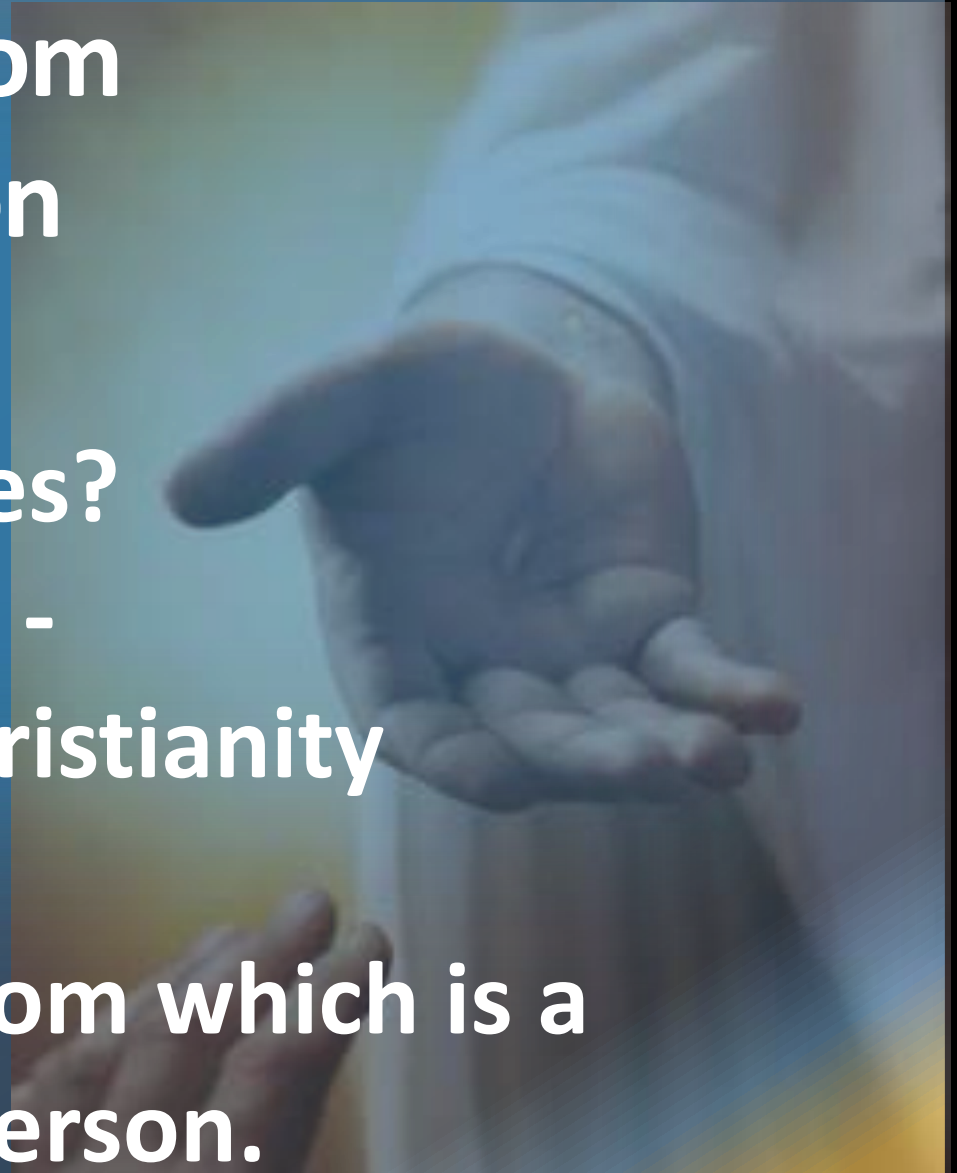
**He did not say, "I will produce all those structures if you follow me." He said, "I am those things. I'm it."**

**A kingdom is a person.**

**Not an ordinary kingdom  
Not an ordinary religion**

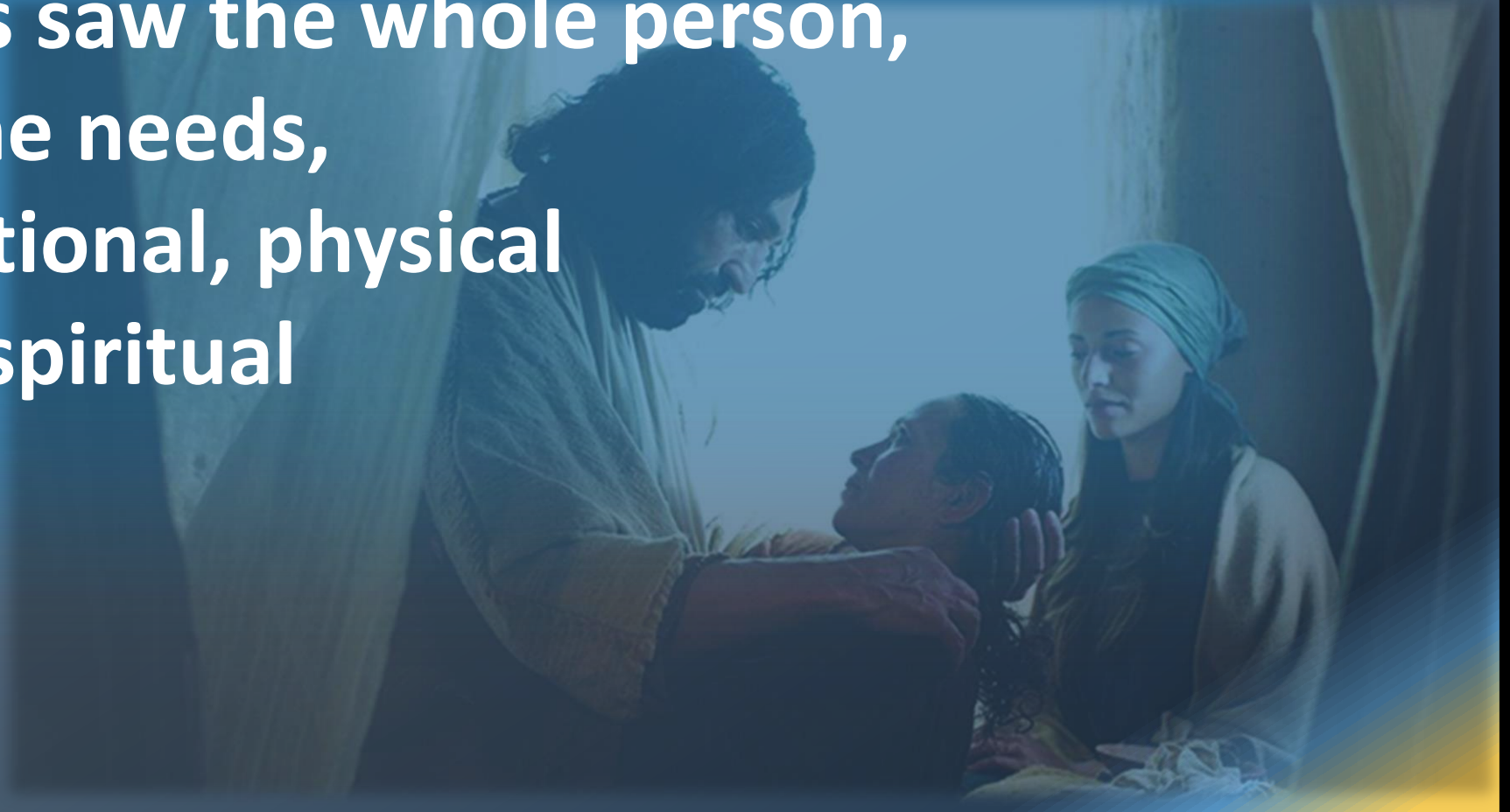
**Who knows? Who cares?  
Live lightly - Live rightly -  
Live in relationship - Christianity**

**We are living in a kingdom which is a  
relationship with one person.**



# A Kingdom of Relationships

Jesus saw the whole person,  
all the needs,  
emotional, physical  
and spiritual



# Living in a Kingdom of Relationships

Our mutual ministry, sharing our resources with Daycare and School

Individually - we are a grouping of relationships. We represent everyone we touch: children, friends, co-workers, neighbors.



# Broken Relationships

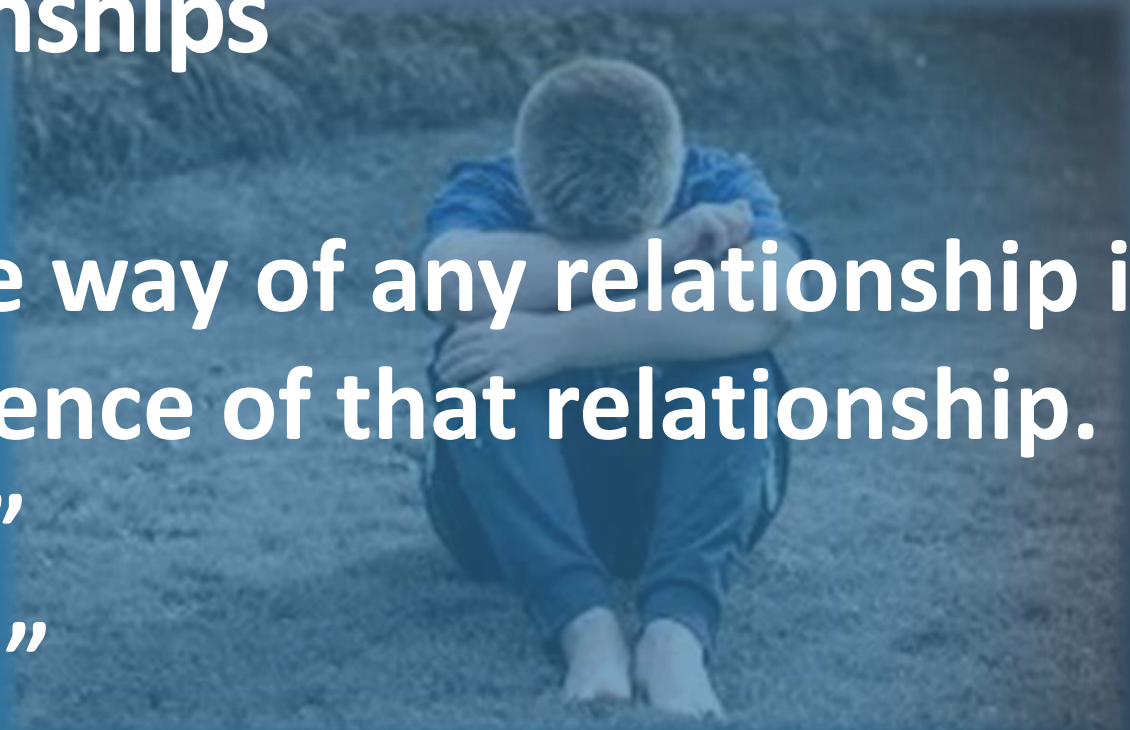
What gets in the way of any relationship is the prior experience of that relationship.

“You never ...”

“You always...”

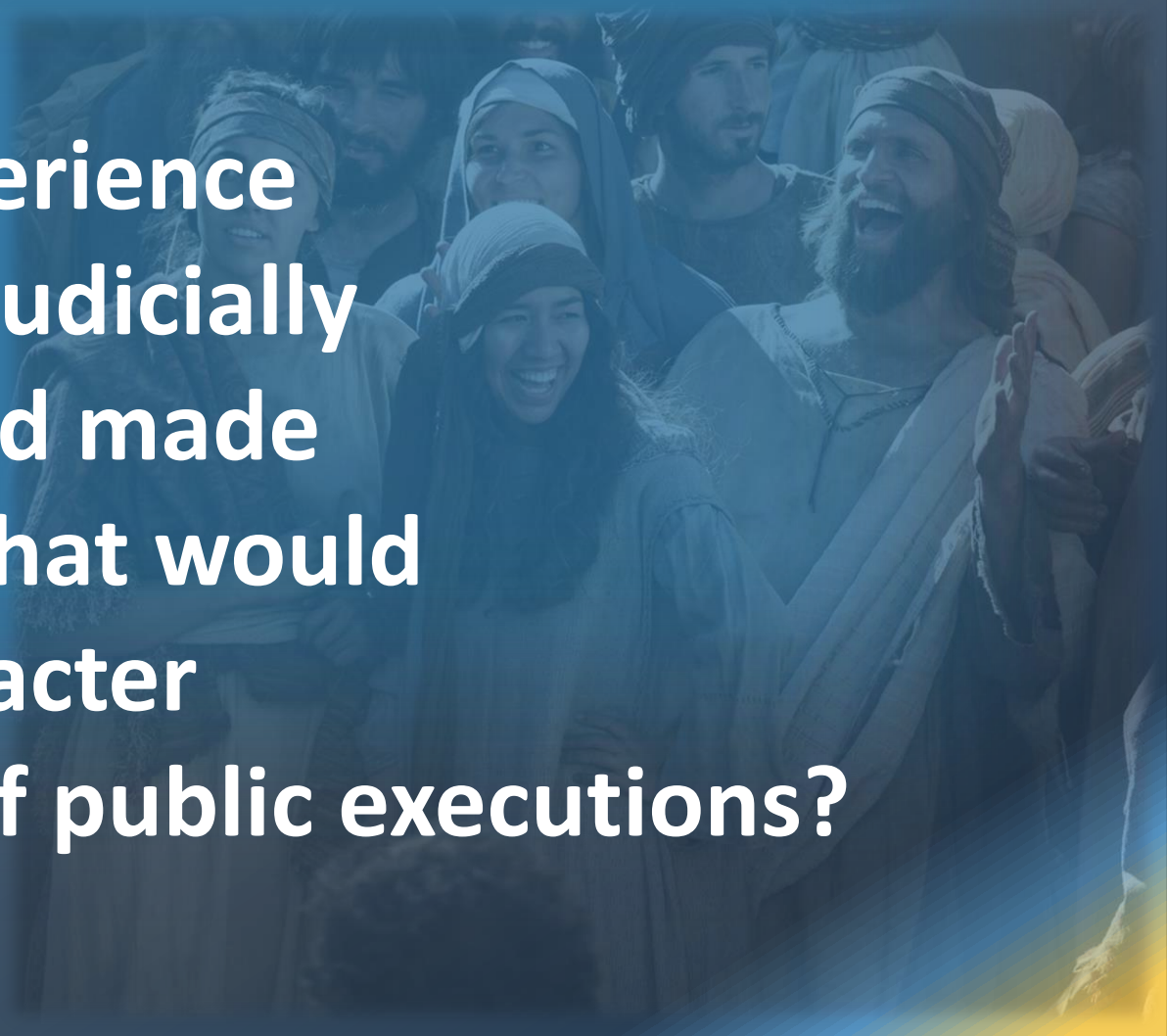
“There’s no point in trying”

We should learn from experience —  
except in relationships!



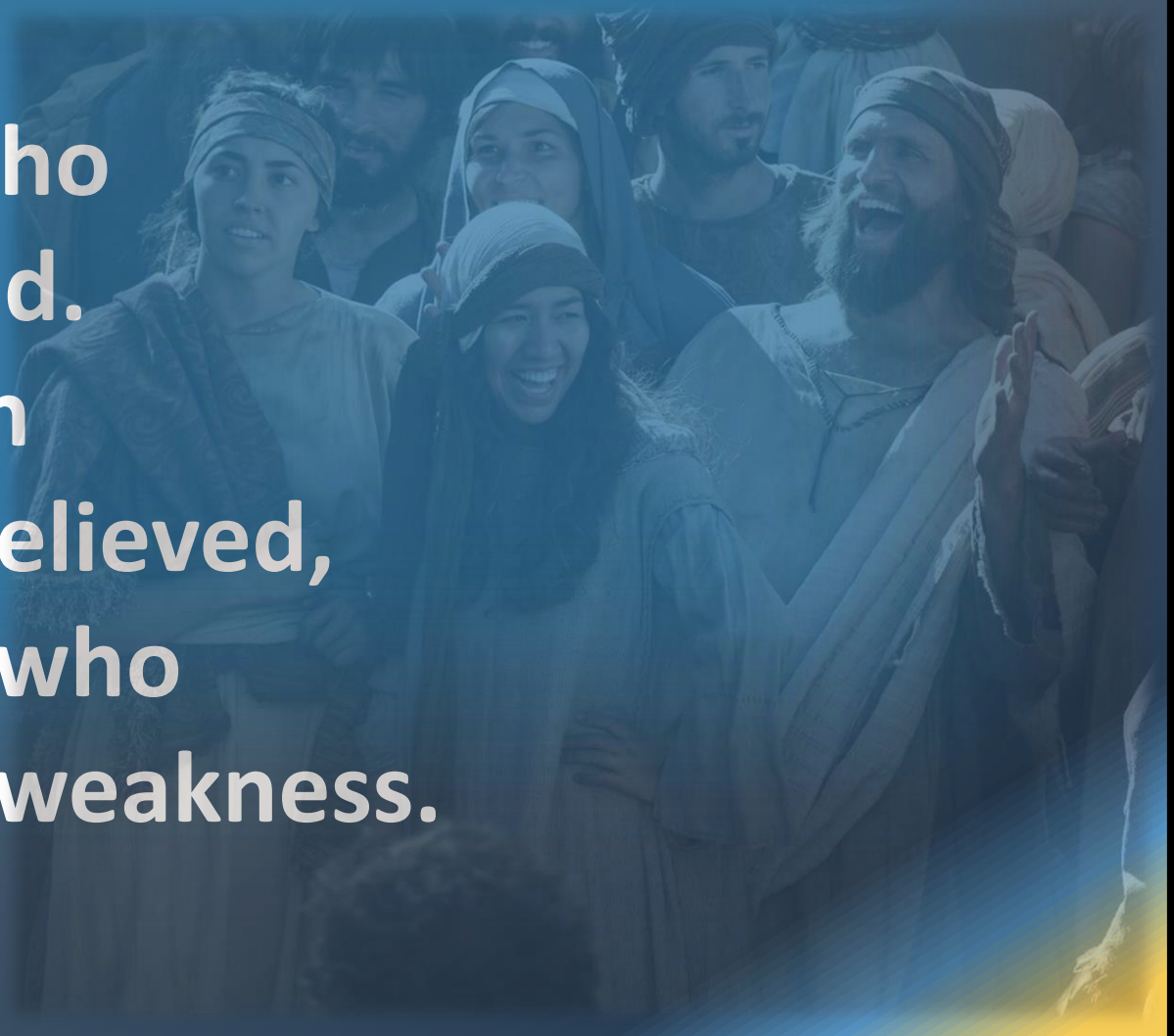
**He saved others, let him save himself**

**They had the experience of seeing people judicially crushed, killed and made an example of. What would it do to your character to live in an age of public executions?**



**He saved others, let him save himself**

**This is a person who  
saw what Jesus did.  
Here was a person  
who could have believed,  
but chose not to, who  
chose to mock at weakness.**





**That's not our cruel world...**

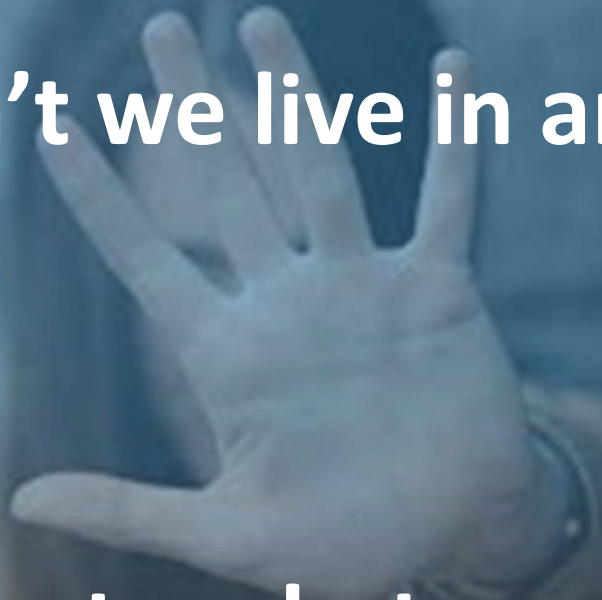
**but are we like that?**

**Don't we live in an age of disengagement?**

**If you don't like masks  
and social distancing**

**... it is a poor second**

**to what we already do in our hearts.**



**That's not our cruel world...  
but are we like that?**

**Many new companies have an eye for a  
global commercial harvest.**

**What do we see?  
Do we see people to love?**

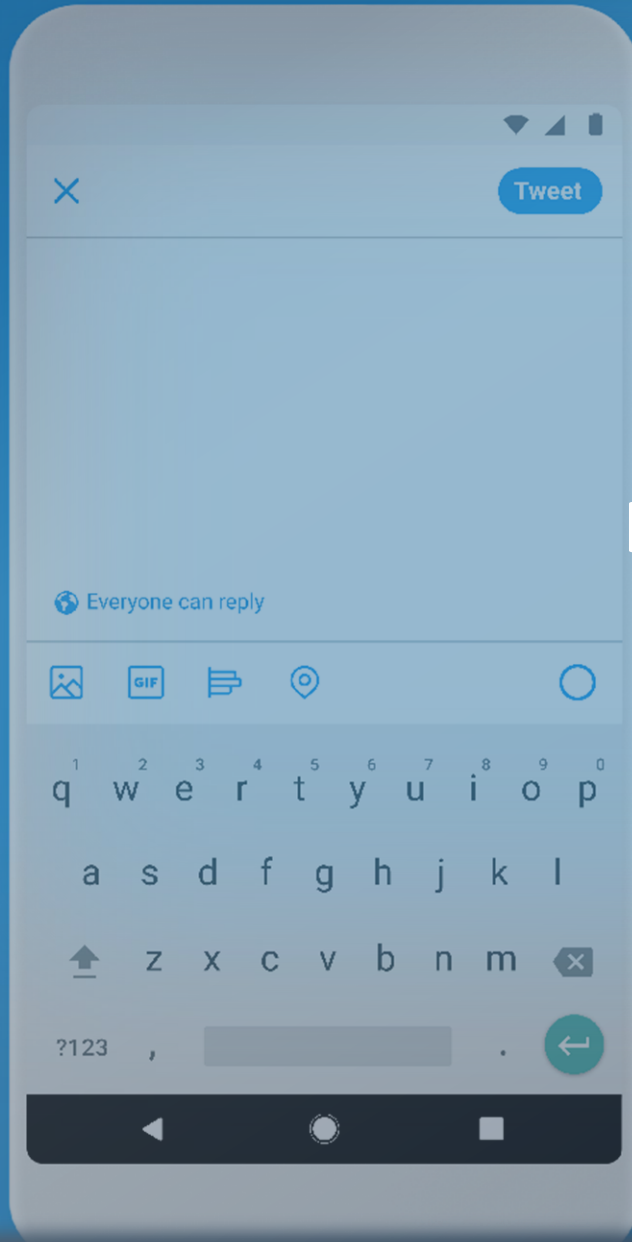




# Giving Up on Love

Disagree, complain, and  
run back into a safe space.

Argue, criticize,  
try to burn others  
and win.



# About Moms and Faithfulness

Your inheritance from your parents  
Faithful Persistence

1960s (when I was born)  
2020s (where I live now)



# Kingdom, Relationships and Love

Faithful persistence

Show up in person.

We are the kingdom of God.  
We are as poor and helpless as Jesus  
was in the face of our cruel and  
hardened world. But we have all the  
power he had to be a kingdom.

# Kingdom, Relationships and Love

Jesus was here for the harvest. (In fact, the harvest ran after him!)

How do we pour love and peace over pain and hardness and false perceptions of God and Jesus? How do we talk to people who don't want to hear and won't engage?

# Kingdom, Relationships and Love

Gossip, complaining, asking for advice and affirmation about doing the wrong thing are **opportunities**. “God, here is pain and hardness I cannot meet with any resources of my own. Here is sin that has created an armor I cannot pierce. Help!”

# Mark 10: 24-27

<sup>24</sup> The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! <sup>25</sup> It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” <sup>26</sup> The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” <sup>27</sup> Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” <sup>28</sup> Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” <sup>29</sup> “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel <sup>30</sup> will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. <sup>31</sup> But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”



# Kingdom, Relationships and Love

Don't be weary of doing good.

Don't learn  
from experience.

A spring isn't  
an argument.

The source is a mystery.

