

Developing and Empowering Elders, Deacons and Deaconesses:

# Activating Giants for Ministry

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What do empowered elders look like?  
What do empowered elders do?



























- Every year seven times our current membership is born.
- Most will be born in circumstances ambivalent or hostile to Christianity.
- Most will be exploited by capitalism
- Unaware that God's love is free and never-ending







And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable, “A sower went out to sow his seed.



And as he  
sowed, some  
fell along the  
path and was  
trampled  
underfoot,  
and the birds  
of the air  
devoured it.





And some fell  
on the rock,  
and as it grew  
up, it  
withered  
away, because  
it had no  
moisture.





And some fell  
among thorns,  
and the  
thorns grew  
up with it and  
choked it.





And some fell  
into good soil  
and grew and  
yielded a  
hundredfold.”



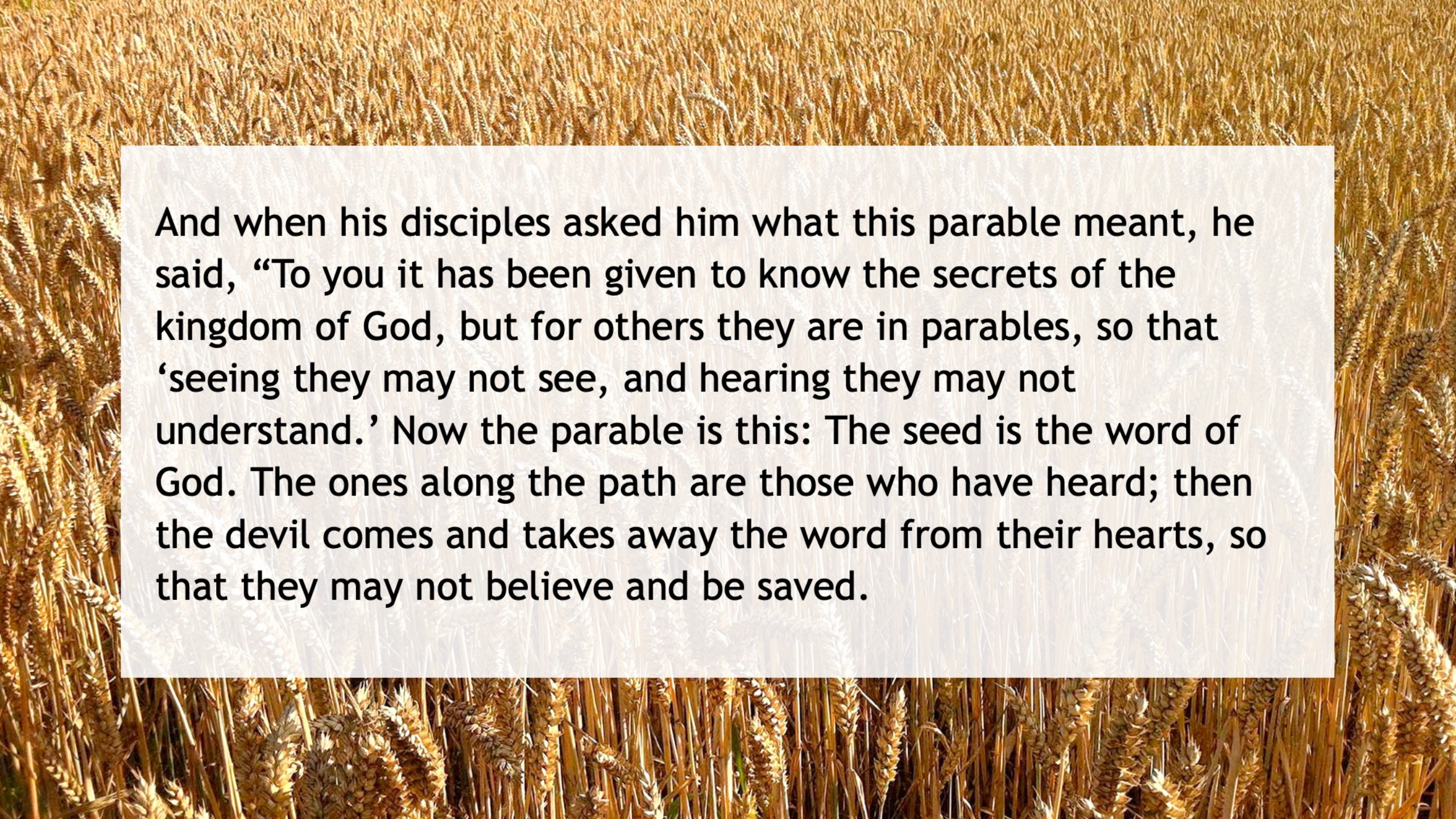


As he said  
these things,  
he called  
out, “He who  
has ears to  
hear, let him  
hear.”

Luke 8:4-15, ESV

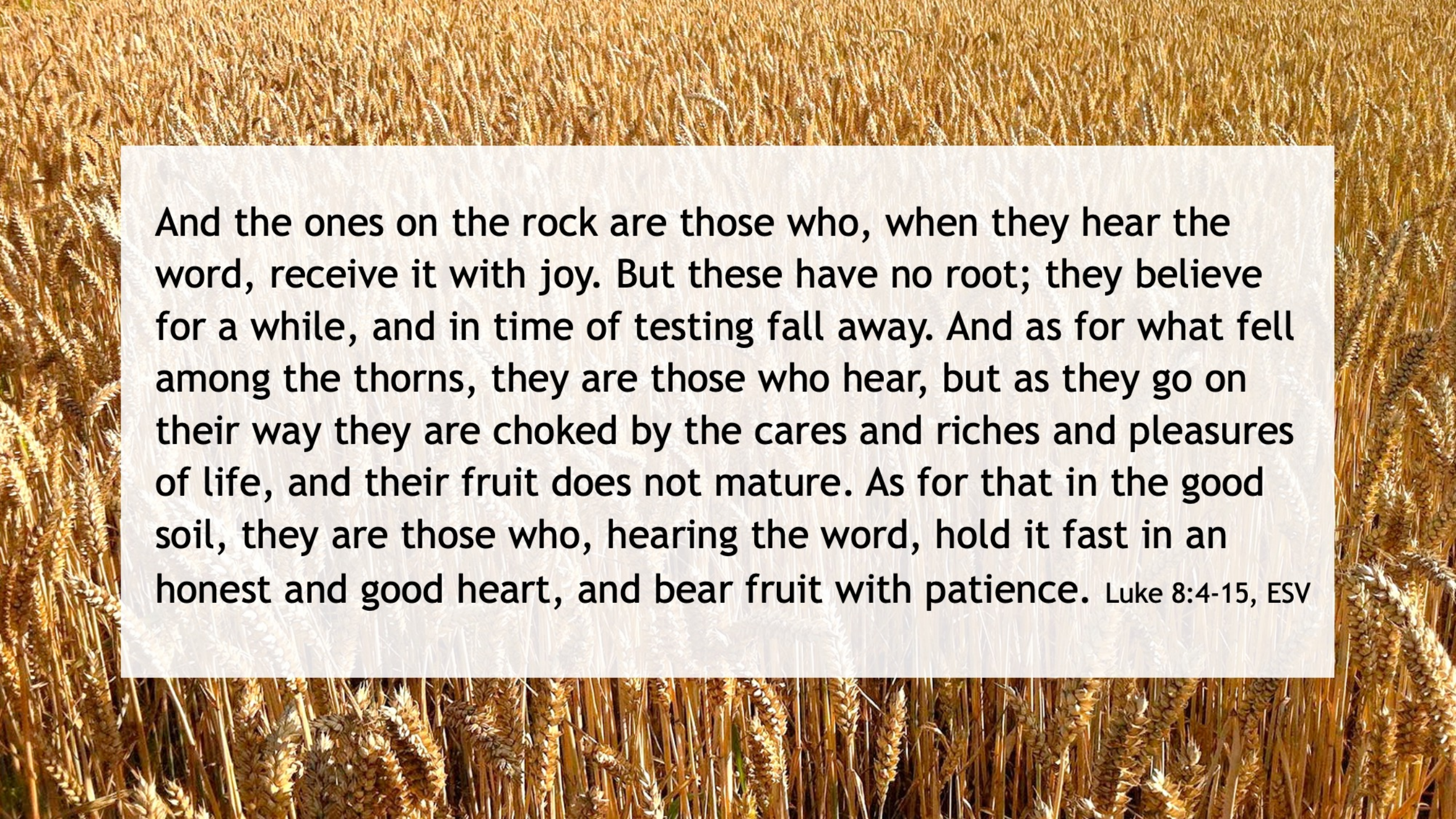






And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that ‘seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.





And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. Luke 8:4-15, ESV

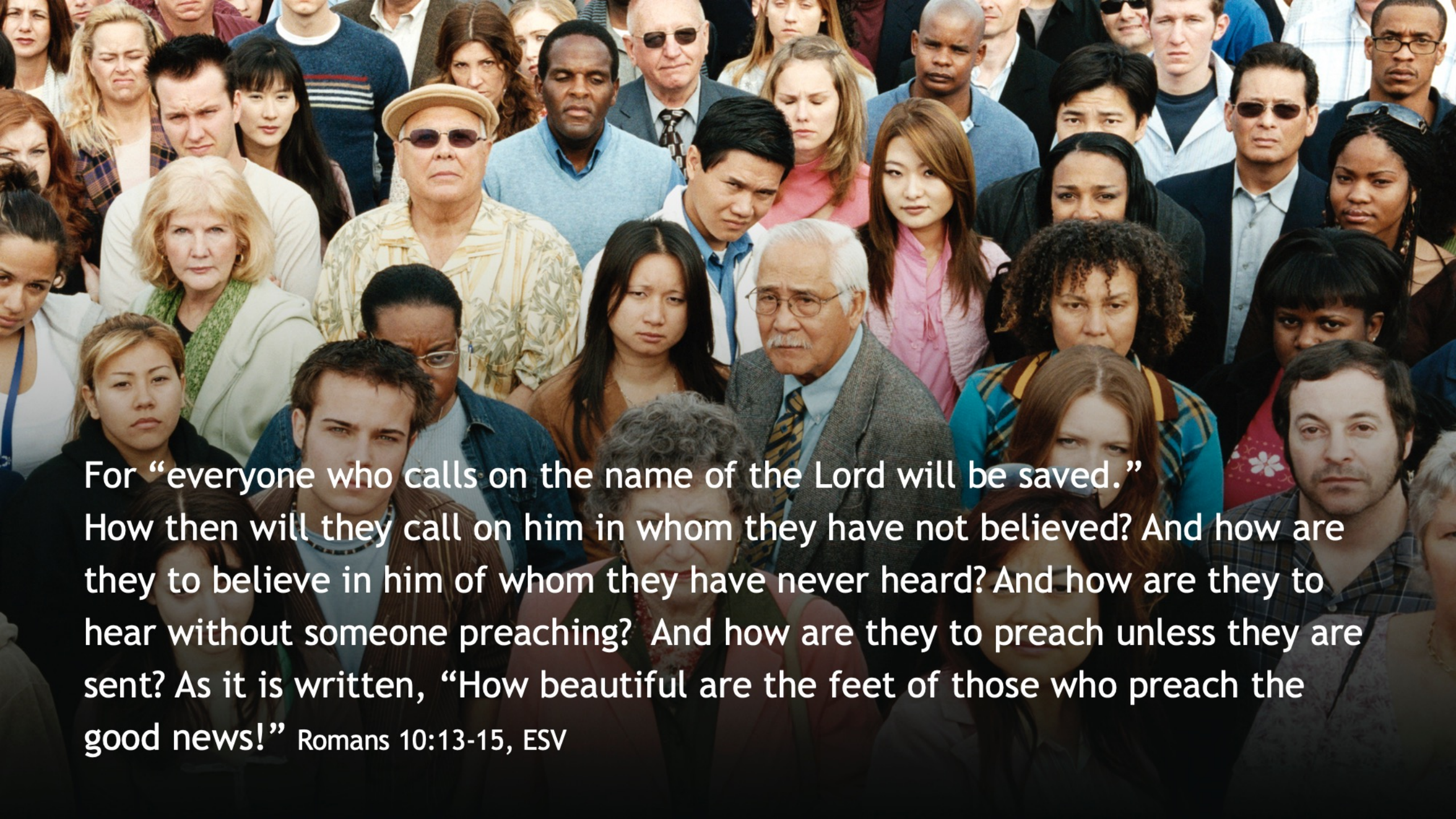


For the wages  
of sin is death,  
but the free  
gift of God is  
eternal life in  
Christ Jesus  
our Lord.

Romans 6:23, ESV







For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”  
How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are  
they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to  
hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are  
sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the  
good news!” Romans 10:13-15, ESV



- Their Jewish brothers and sisters opposed them.
- Rome was ruthless towards anything resembling a rival to Caesar or Roman authority.
- Travel was slow, dangerous, and laborious.
- Communication was limited.
- Short life-expectancy







**WHAT DID THEY HAVE?**





**They had the assurance of a commission by Jesus Himself.**







**They had the assurance of a commission by Jesus Himself.**

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:19-20, ESV





**They were promised the Holy Spirit.**







**They were promised the Holy Spirit.**

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. Acts 1:8, ESV





**They were given the Holy Spirit.**







**They were given the Holy Spirit.**

And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:2-4, ESV





**The Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles!**







## The Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles!

And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. Acts 10:45, ESV



If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13, ESV















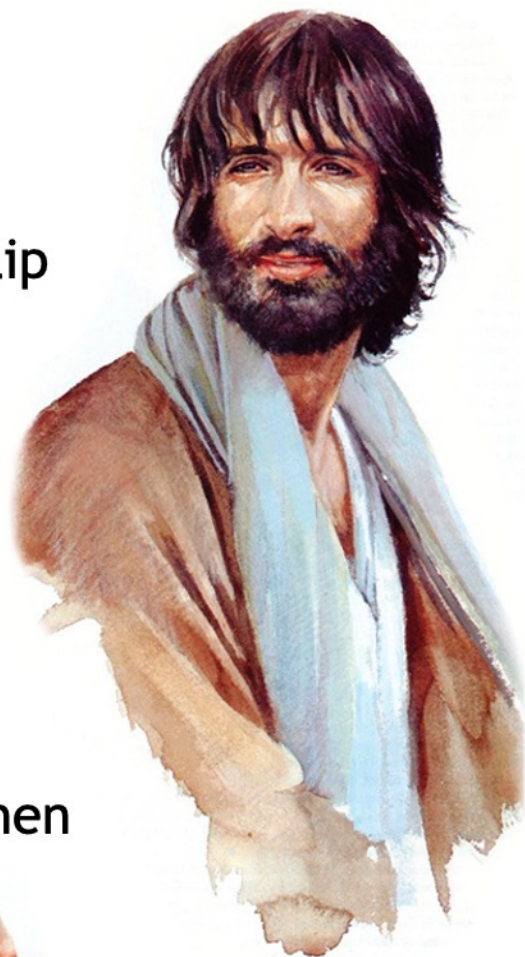
Barnabas



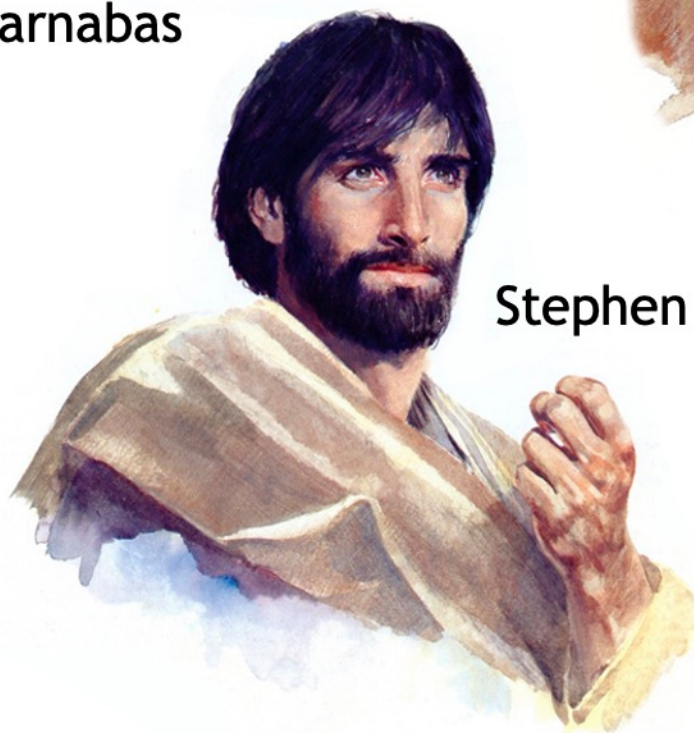


Barnabas

Philip



Stephen

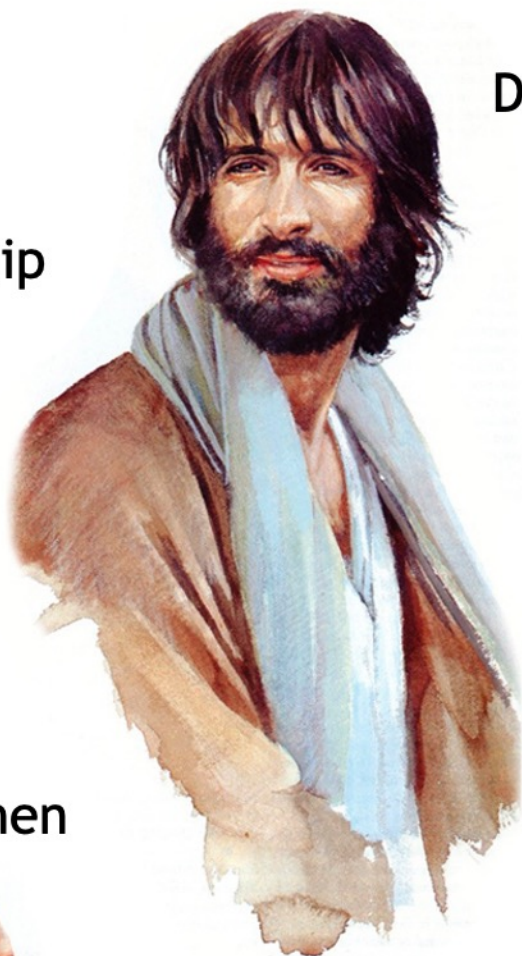






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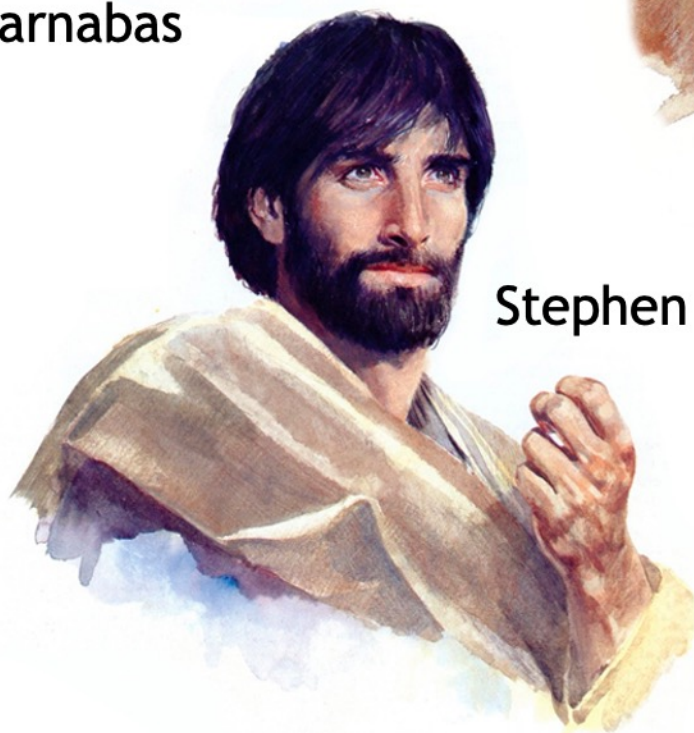
Philip



Dorcas



Stephen

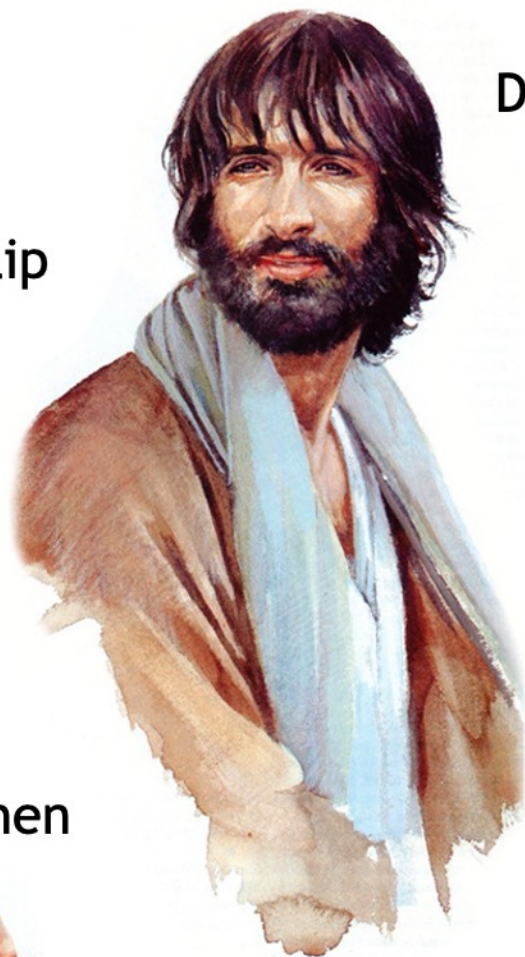






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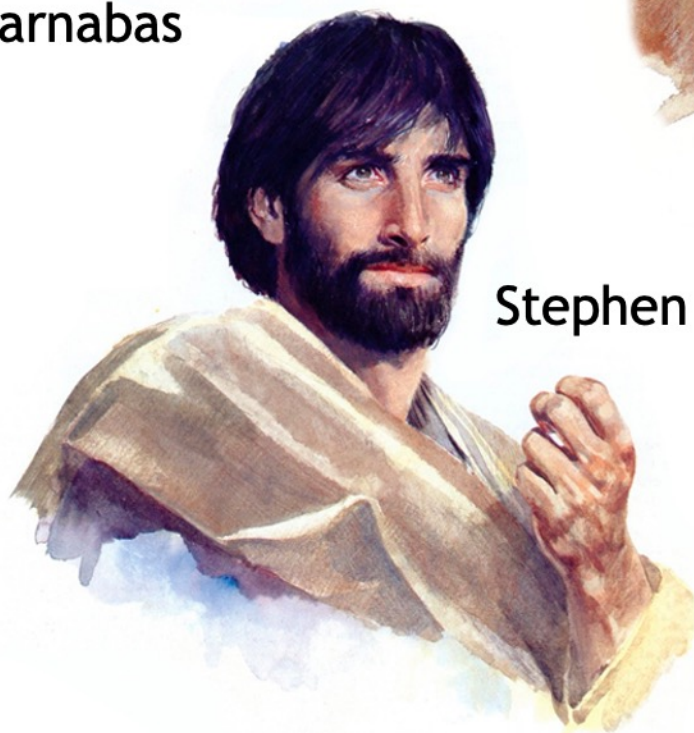
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Dorcas



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Rhoda

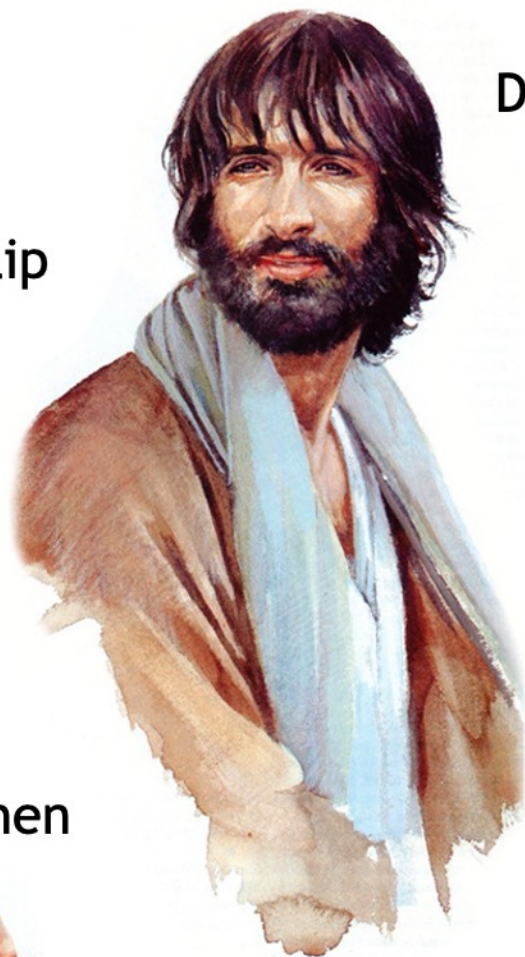






Barnabas

Philip



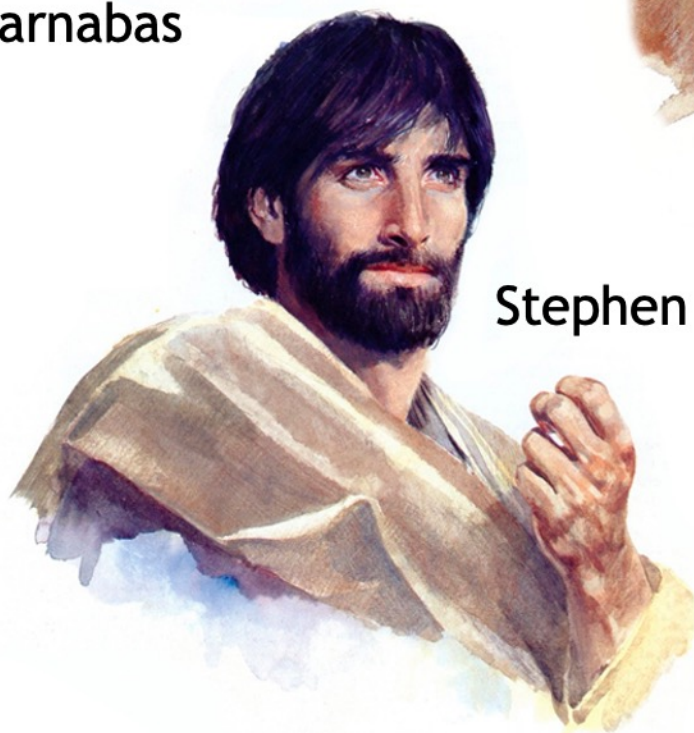
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Lydia



Stephen



Rhoda

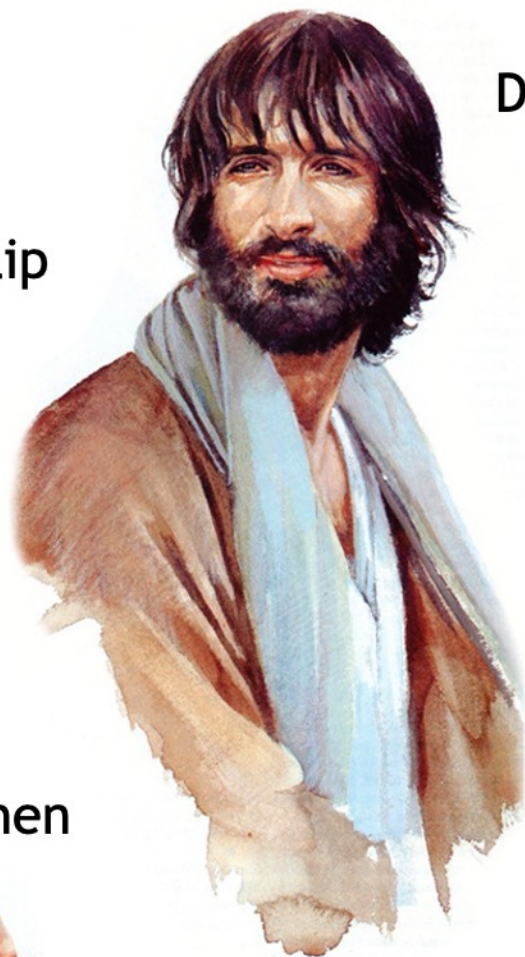






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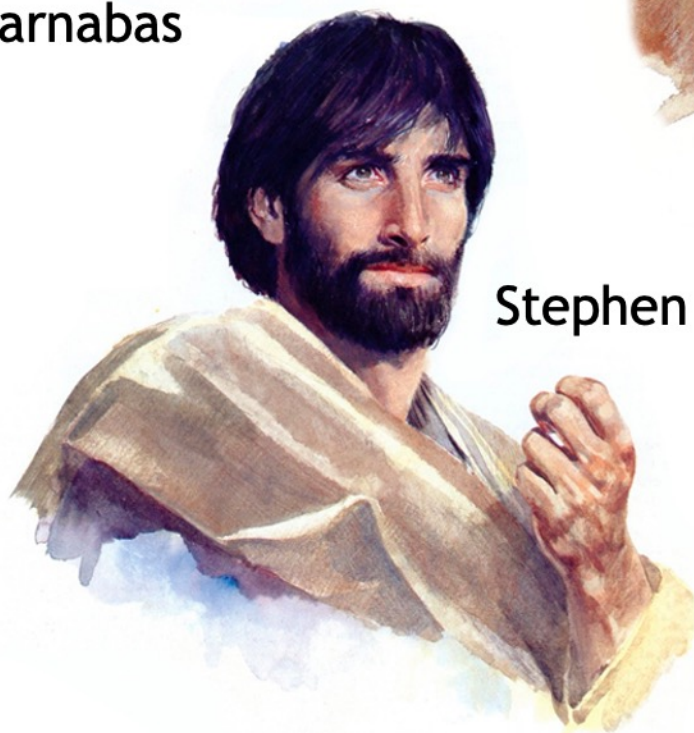
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The Jailer





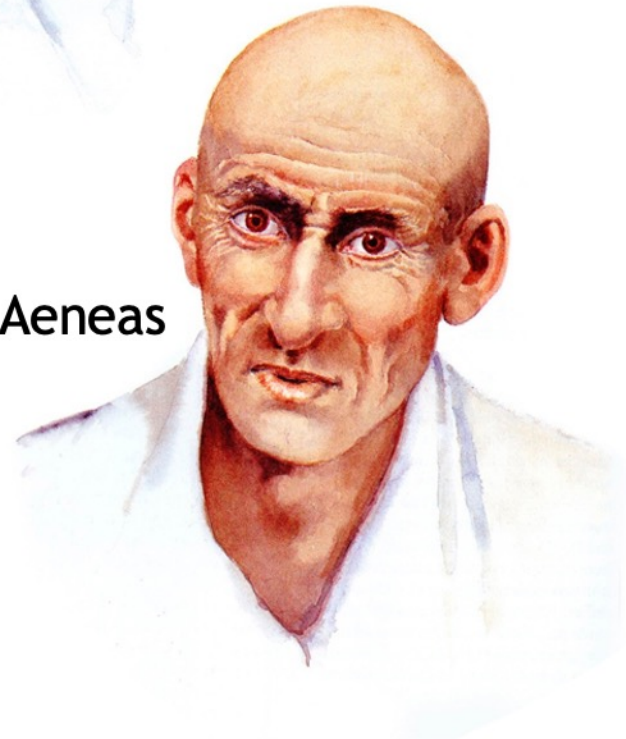
Timothy







Timothy



Aeneas

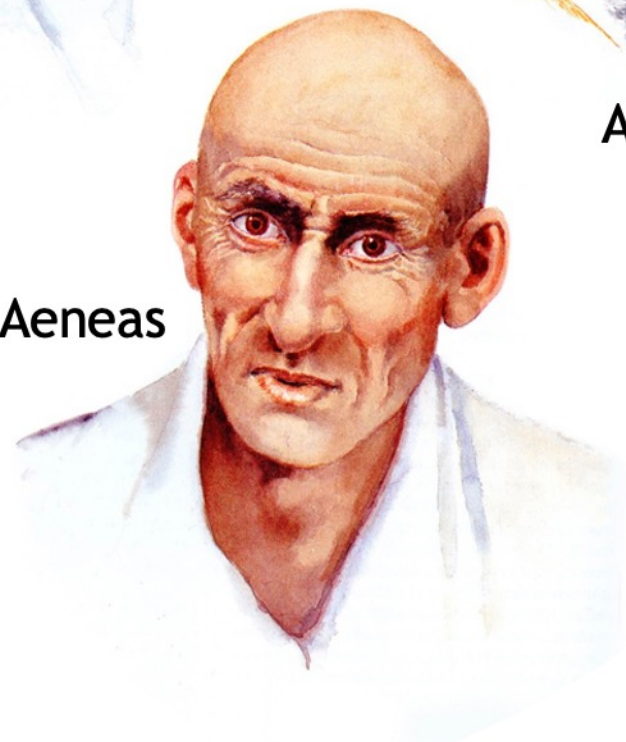




Timothy



Ananias



Aeneas

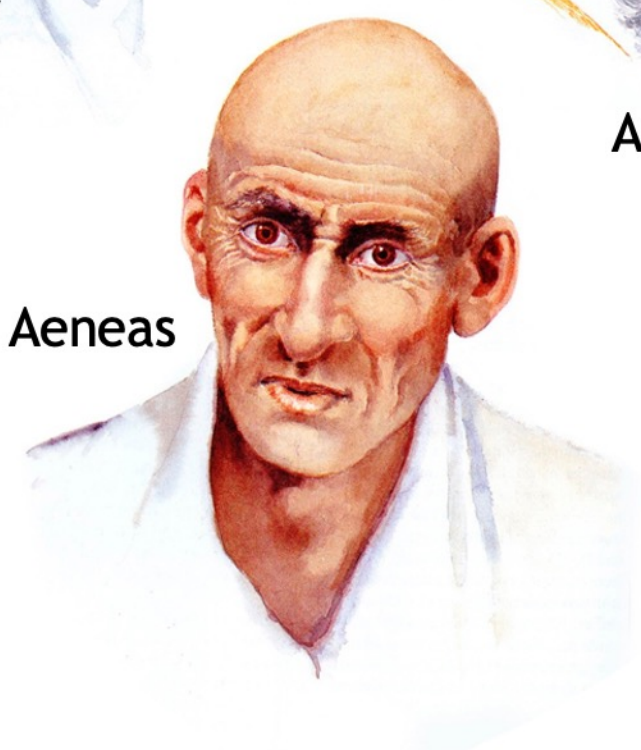


A portrait of Timothy, a young man with dark, curly hair and a light complexion, wearing a white garment.

Timothy

A portrait of Ananias, an older man with a long, grey beard and hair, wearing a white garment with a yellow sash.

Ananias

A portrait of Aeneas, an older man with a bald head and a serious expression, wearing a white garment.

Aeneas

A portrait of Saul, a man with a dark beard and hair, wearing a white garment with a brown sash, pointing his right index finger upwards.

Saul



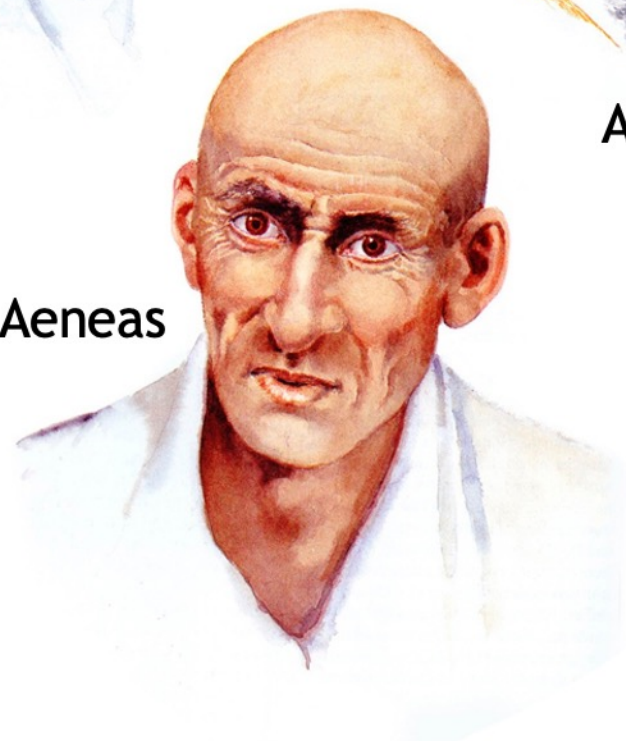
Timothy



Ananias



Aeneas



Saul



Ethiopian  
Eunuch





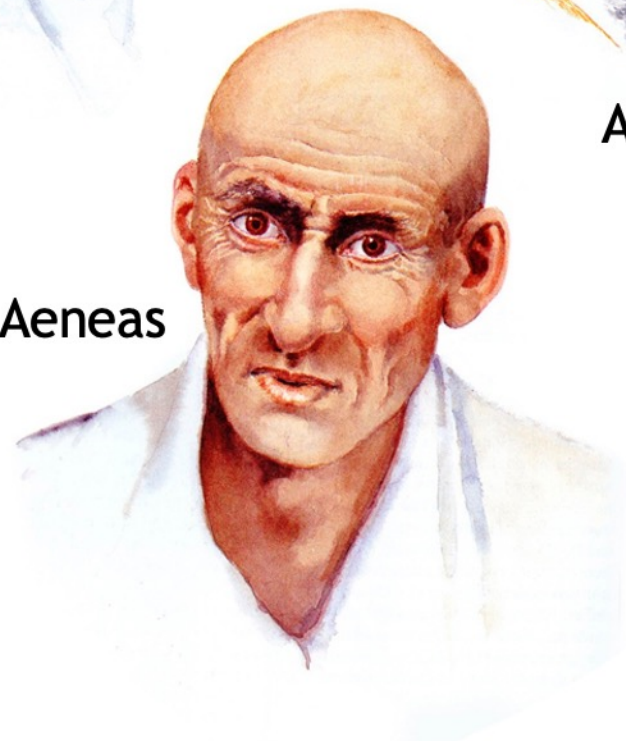
Timothy



Ananias



Aeneas



Saul



Ethiopian  
Eunuch



Lydia



Eutychus







































