

# Fire Upon the Earth

Luke 12:49-59

Francesco Ungaro

What does a heart  
on **fire** for God look  
like?

49 “I came to cast fire on the earth,  
and would that it were already kindled!

50 I have a baptism to be baptized with,  
and how great is my distress  
until it is accomplished!

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.1/6)

51 Do you think that I have come  
to give peace on earth?

No, I tell you, but rather division.

52 For from now on in one house  
there will be five divided,  
three against two and two against three.

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.2/6)

53 They will be divided,  
father against son and son against father,  
  
mother against daughter  
and daughter against mother,  
  
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law  
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.3/6)

54 He also said to the crowds,  
“When you see a cloud rising in the west,  
you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’  
And so it happens.

55 And when you see the south wind blowing,  
you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’  
and it happens.

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.4/6)

56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

57 “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.5/6)

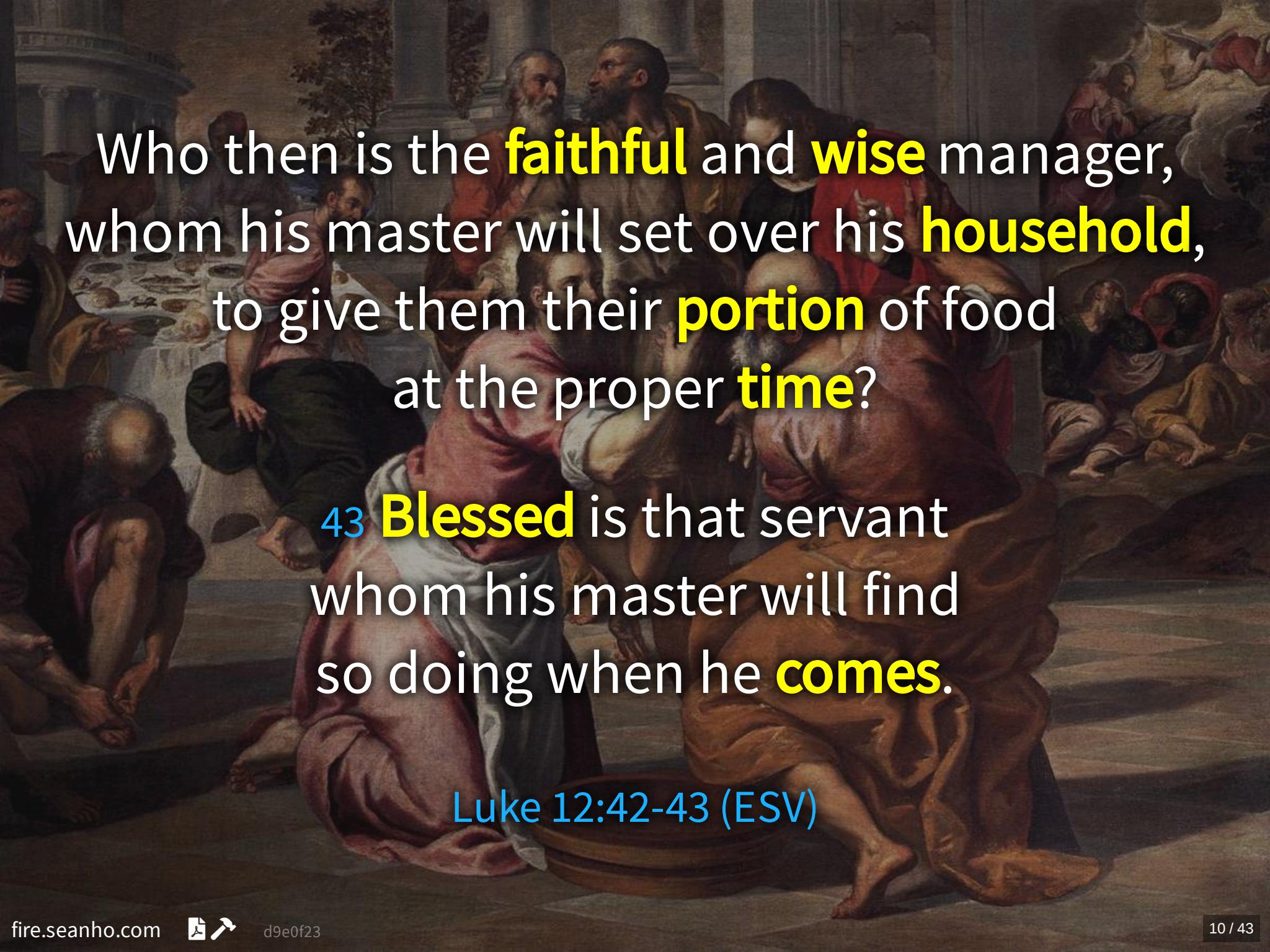
58 As you go with your accuser before the magistrate, make an effort to settle with him on the way, lest he drag you to the judge, and the judge hand you over to the officer, and the officer put you in prison.

59 I tell you, you will never get out until you have paid the very last penny.”

Luke 12:49-59 (ESV) (p.6/6)

# Luke 12: Priorities of the Kingdom of God

- Not Man's **Affirmation** (v1-12)
- Not Building **Wealth** (v13-21)
- Not Health/**Security** (v22-34)
- Faithful **Stewardship** (v35-48)
- **Fire** Upon the Earth (v49-59)

A painting depicting a scene from a gospel. In the center, Jesus is seated, gesturing with his hands as if speaking. He is surrounded by a large crowd of people, some of whom are kneeling or sitting on the floor, looking up at him. The setting appears to be an indoor space with architectural elements like columns and a balcony in the background.

Who then is the **faithful** and **wise** manager,  
whom his master will set over his **household**,  
to give them their **portion** of food  
at the proper **time**?

43 **Blessed** is that servant  
whom his master will find  
so doing when he **comes**.

Luke 12:42-43 (ESV)

# Fire Upon the Earth (Lk12)

---

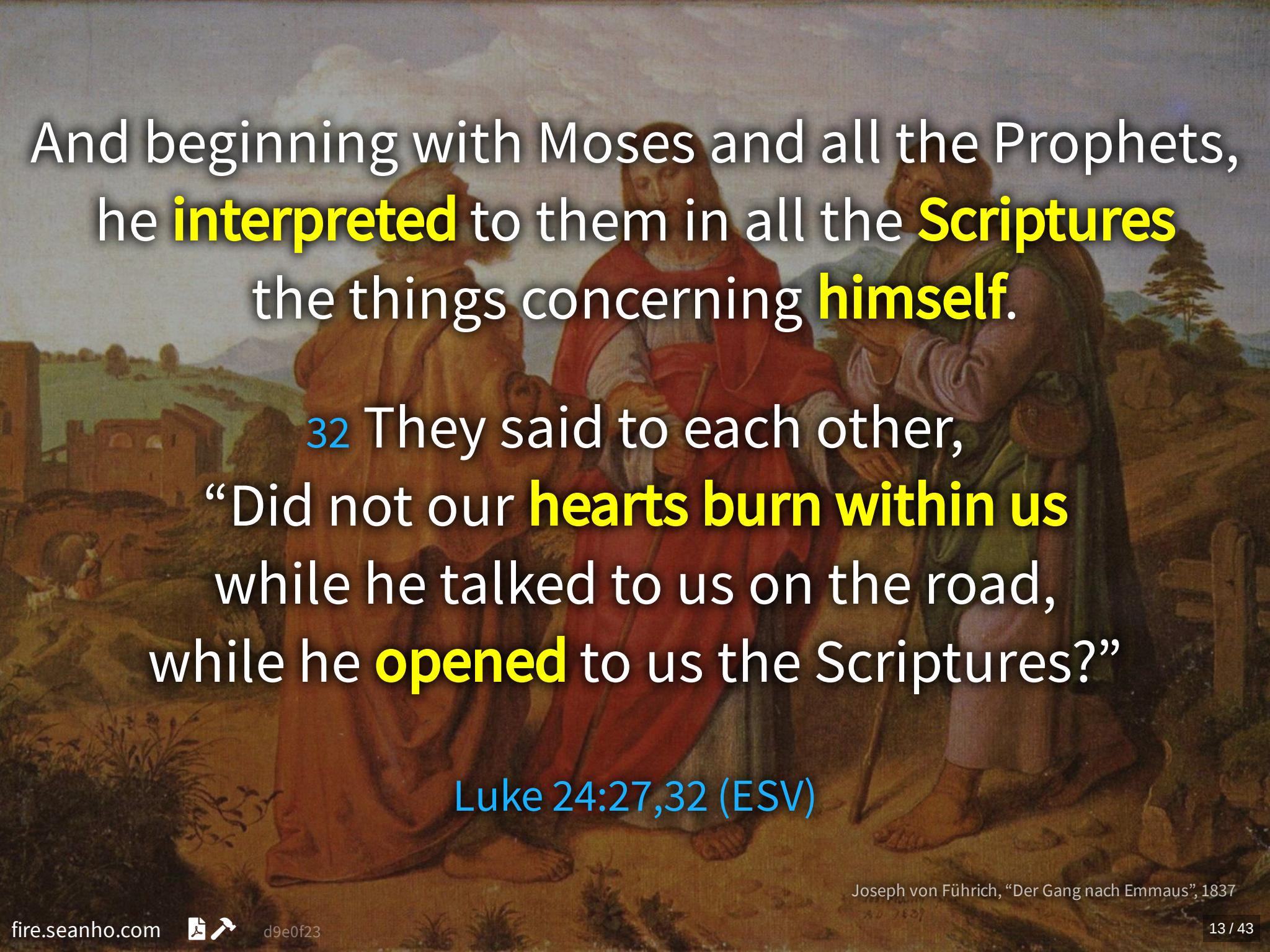
1. Kindle the **Flame** (v49-50)
2. Love God Over **Family** (v51-53)
3. **Plan** for Christ's Return (v54-56)
4. Pursue **Mercy**, Not Vengeance  
(v57-59)

A close-up photograph of a campfire. Large logs are visible, with one prominent log on the right showing dark charred wood and bright orange flames licking at its edges. The background is filled with more flames and smoke.

“I came to **cast fire** on the earth,  
and would that it were already **kindled!**

Luke 12:49 (ESV)

Janko Ferlič



And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets,  
he **interpreted** to them in all the **Scriptures**  
the things concerning **himself**.

32 They said to each other,  
“Did not our **hearts burn within us**  
while he talked to us on the road,  
while he **opened** to us the Scriptures?”

Luke 24:27,32 (ESV)

Joseph von Führich, “Der Gang nach Emmaus”, 1837

“I came to **cast fire** on the earth,  
and would that it were already **kindled!**

I have a **baptism** to be baptized with,  
and how great is my **distress**  
until it is accomplished!

Luke 12:49-50 (ESV)

I am **hard pressed** between the two.

My desire is to **depart** and be with Christ,  
for that is far **better**.

24 But to **remain** in the flesh  
is more necessary on **your account**.

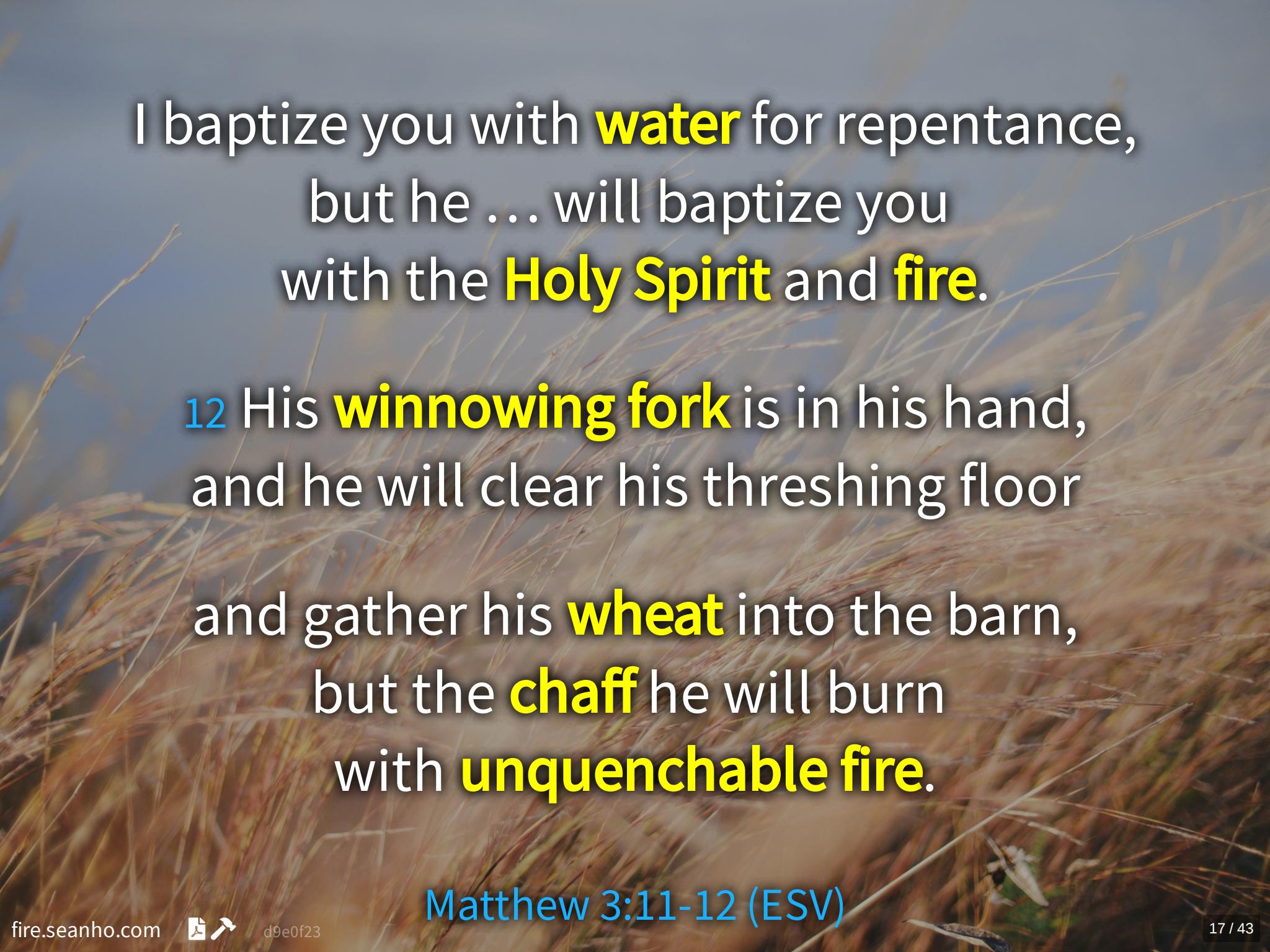
Philippians 1:23-24 (ESV)

Milada Vigerova



I have a **baptism** to be baptized with,  
and how great is my **distress**  
until it is accomplished!

Luke 12:50 (ESV)



I baptize you with **water** for repentance,  
but he ... will baptize you  
with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**.

12 His **winnowing fork** is in his hand,  
and he will clear his threshing floor  
and gather his **wheat** into the barn,  
but the **chaff** he will burn  
with **unquenchable fire**.

Matthew 3:11-12 (ESV)



Let us offer to God acceptable **worship**,  
with **reverence** and awe,  
**29** for our God is a **consuming fire**.

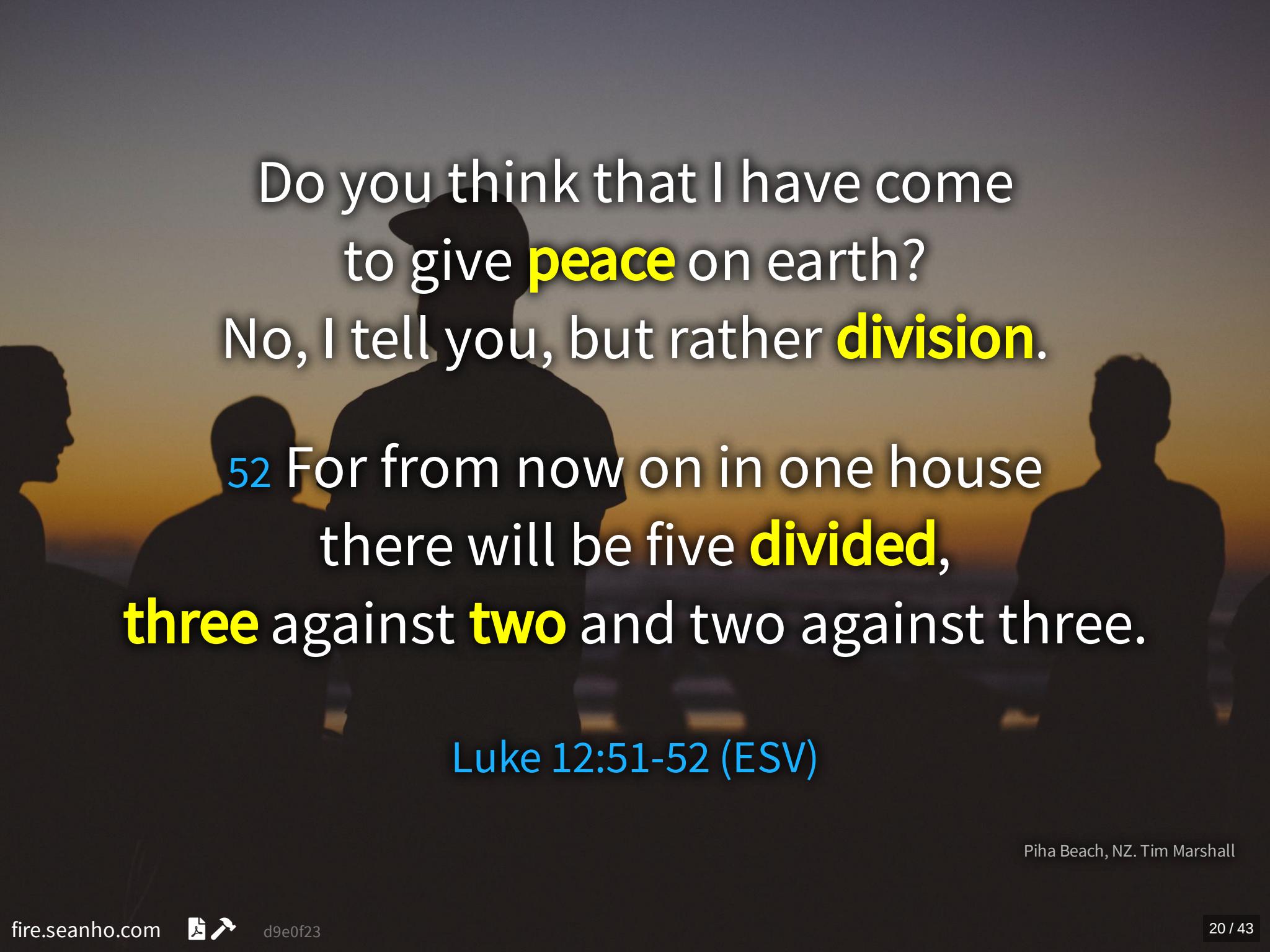
Hebrews 12:28-29 (cf Dt4:24) (ESV)

Samuel Ferrara

# Fire Upon the Earth (Lk12)

---

1. Kindle the Flame (v49-50)
2. **Love God Over Family** (v51-53)
3. Plan for Christ's Return (v54-56)
4. Pursue Mercy, Not Vengeance (v57-59)

A photograph showing silhouettes of several people standing outdoors at sunset. The sky is a warm orange and yellow, and the figures are dark against the bright background.

Do you think that I have come  
to give **peace** on earth?  
No, I tell you, but rather **division**.

52 For from now on in one house  
there will be five **divided**,  
**three** against **two** and two against three.

Luke 12:51-52 (ESV)

Piha Beach, NZ. Tim Marshall



And suddenly there was with the angel  
a multitude of the **heavenly host**  
praising God and saying,

14 “**Glory** to God in the highest,  
and on earth **peace** among those  
with whom he is **pleased!**”

Luke 2:13-14 (ESV)

Govert Flinck, “Aankondiging aan de herders”, 1639



Behold, this child is appointed for  
the **fall** and **rising** of many in Israel,  
and for a **sign** that is **opposed** –  
35 and a **sword** will pierce through  
your own **soul** also –  
so that **thoughts** from many hearts  
may be **revealed**.

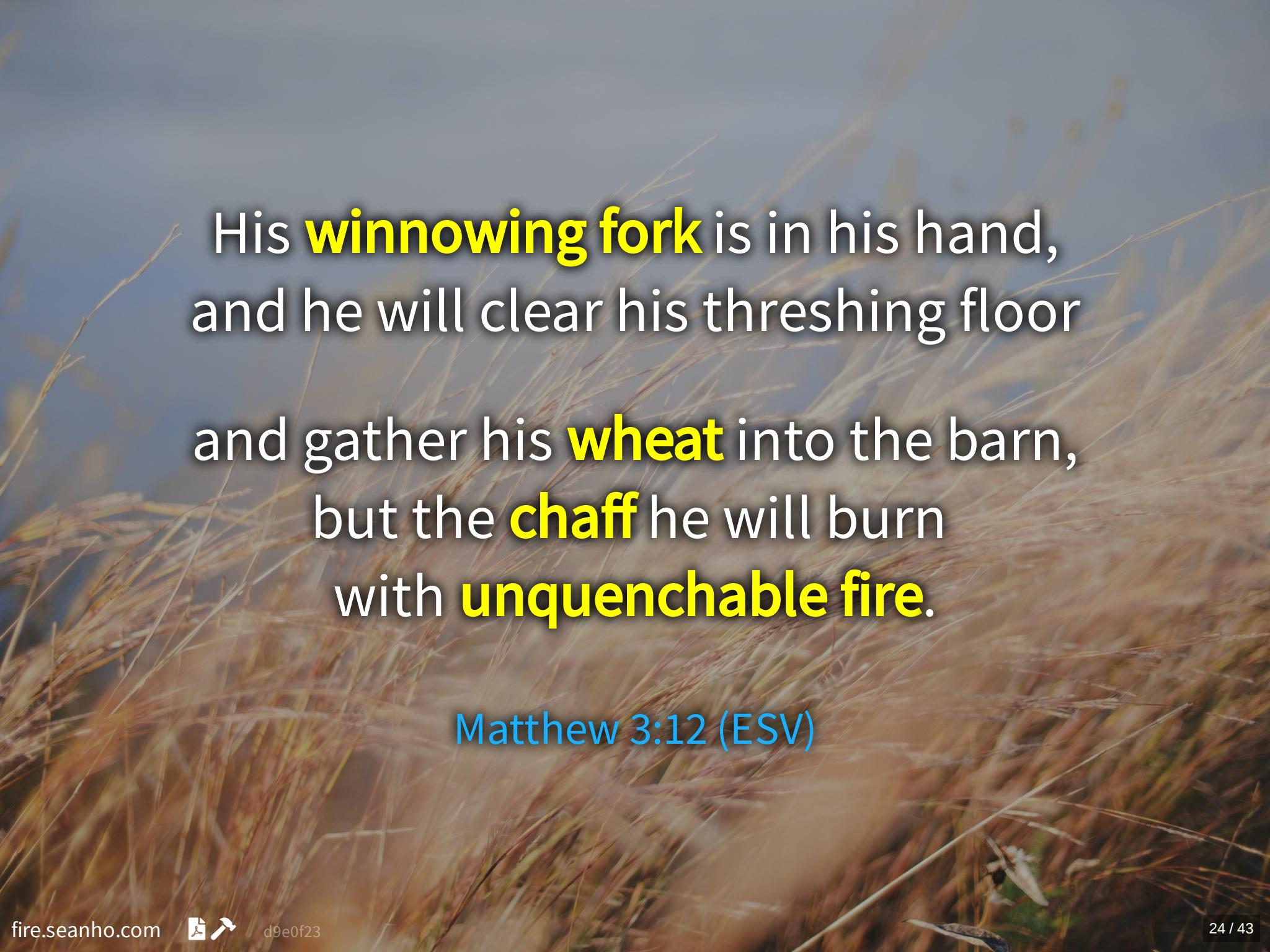
Luke 2:34-35 (ESV)

Rembrandt, "Simeon's Song of Praise", 1631

They will be **divided**,  
**father** against son and **son** against father,  
**mother** against daughter  
and **daughter** against mother,  
**mother-in-law** against her daughter-in-law  
and **daughter-in-law** against mother-in-law.

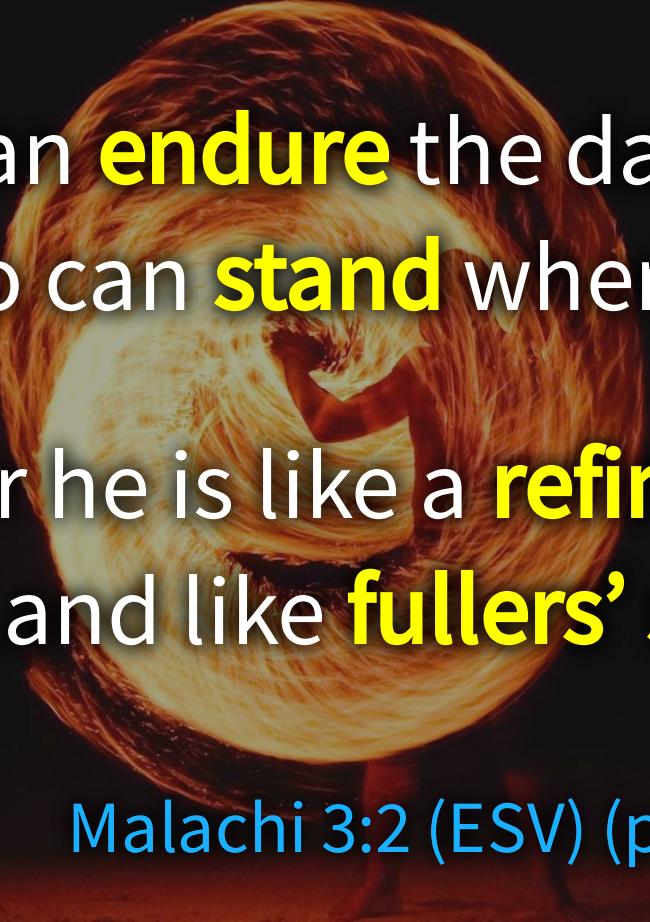
Luke 12:53 (ESV)

Great Smoky Mountains, USA. Jordan Whitt



His **winnowing fork** is in his hand,  
and he will clear his threshing floor  
and gather his **wheat** into the barn,  
but the **chaff** he will burn  
with **unquenchable fire.**

Matthew 3:12 (ESV)



But who can **endure** the day of his **coming**,  
and who can **stand** when he **appears**?

For he is like a **refiner's fire**  
and like **fullers' soap**.

Malachi 3:2 (ESV) (p.1/3)

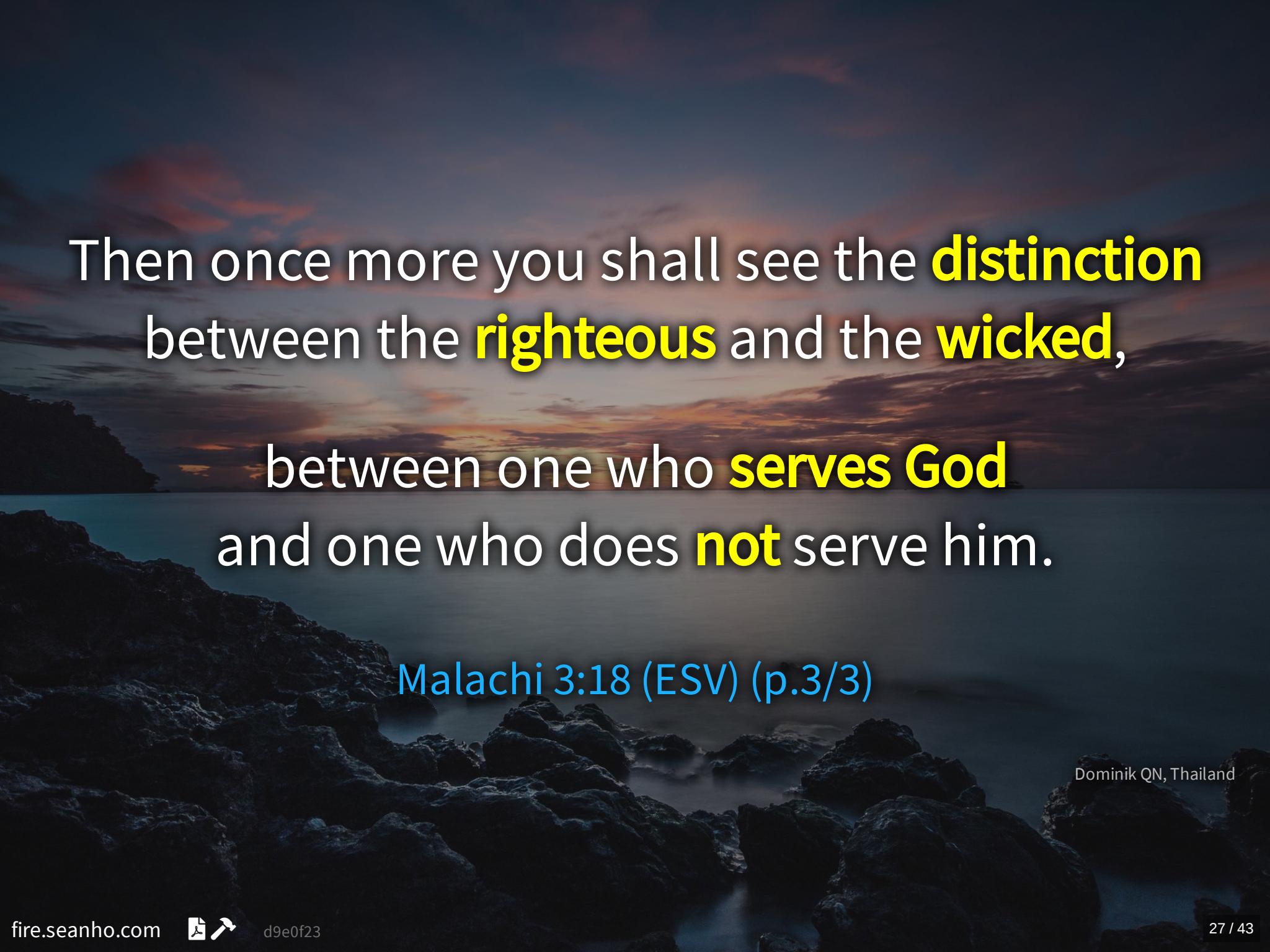
Peter John Maridable

You have said, ‘It is **vain** to serve God.  
What is the **profit** of our keeping his **charge**  
or of walking as in **mourning**  
before the Lord of hosts?’

15 And now we call the **arrogant blessed**.  
Evildoers not only **prosper**  
but they put God to the **test** and they **escape**’

Malachi 3:14-15 (ESV) (p.2/3)

Alex Jones



Then once more you shall see the **distinction**  
between the **righteous** and the **wicked**,  
between one who **serves God**  
and one who does **not** serve him.

Malachi 3:18 (ESV) (p.3/3)

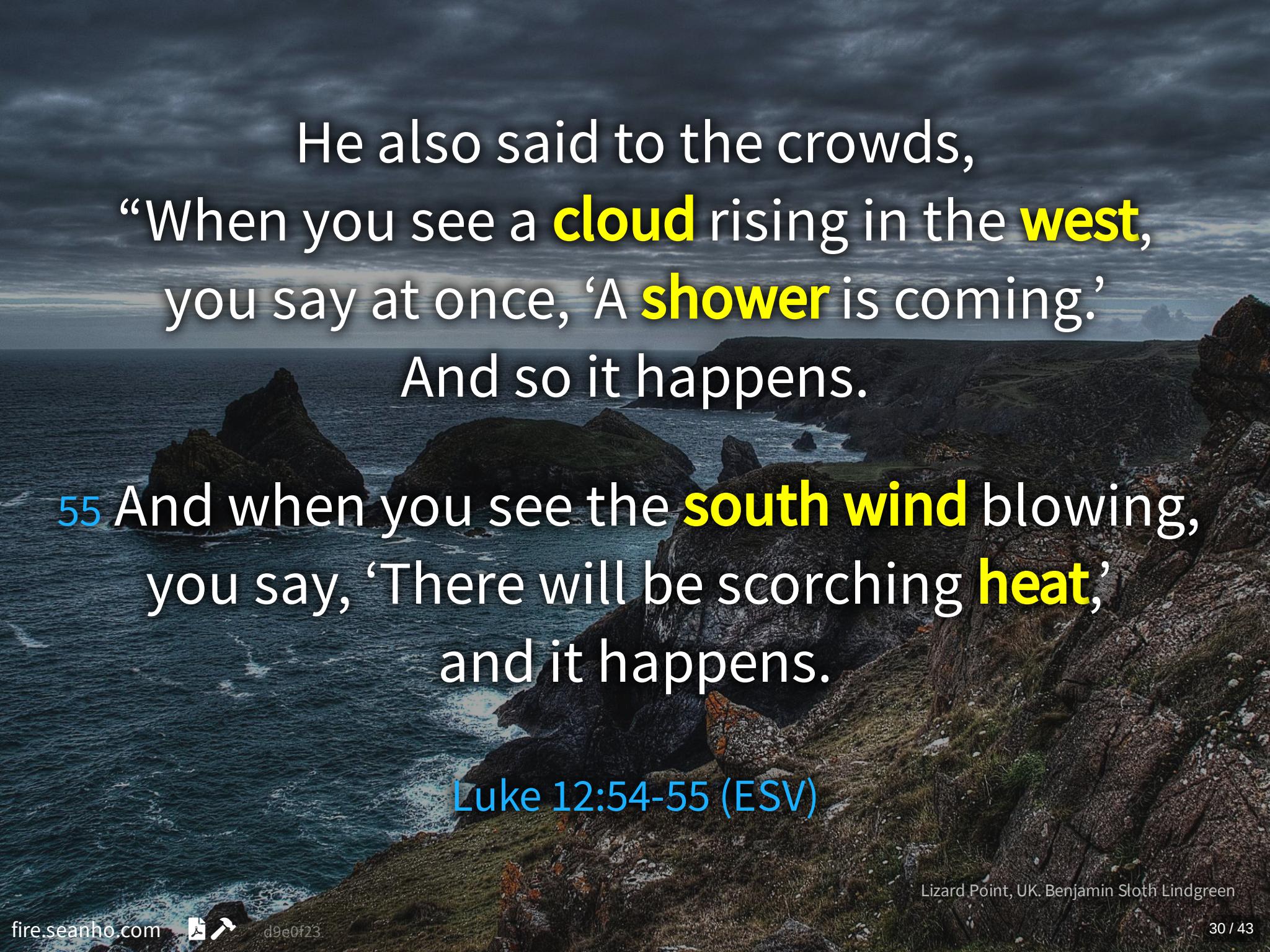
Dominik QN, Thailand

Am I **willing** to let  
God's fire **divide** my  
**family?**

# Fire Upon the Earth (Lk12)

---

1. Kindle the Flame (v49-50)
2. Love God Over Family (v51-53)
3. **Plan for Christ's Return** (v54-56)
4. Pursue Mercy, Not Vengeance (v57-59)



He also said to the crowds,  
“When you see a **cloud** rising in the **west**,  
you say at once, ‘A **shower** is coming.’  
And so it happens.

55 And when you see the **south wind** blowing,  
you say, ‘There will be scorching **heat**,’  
and it happens.

Luke 12:54-55 (ESV)

Lizard Point, UK. Benjamin Sloth Lindgreen

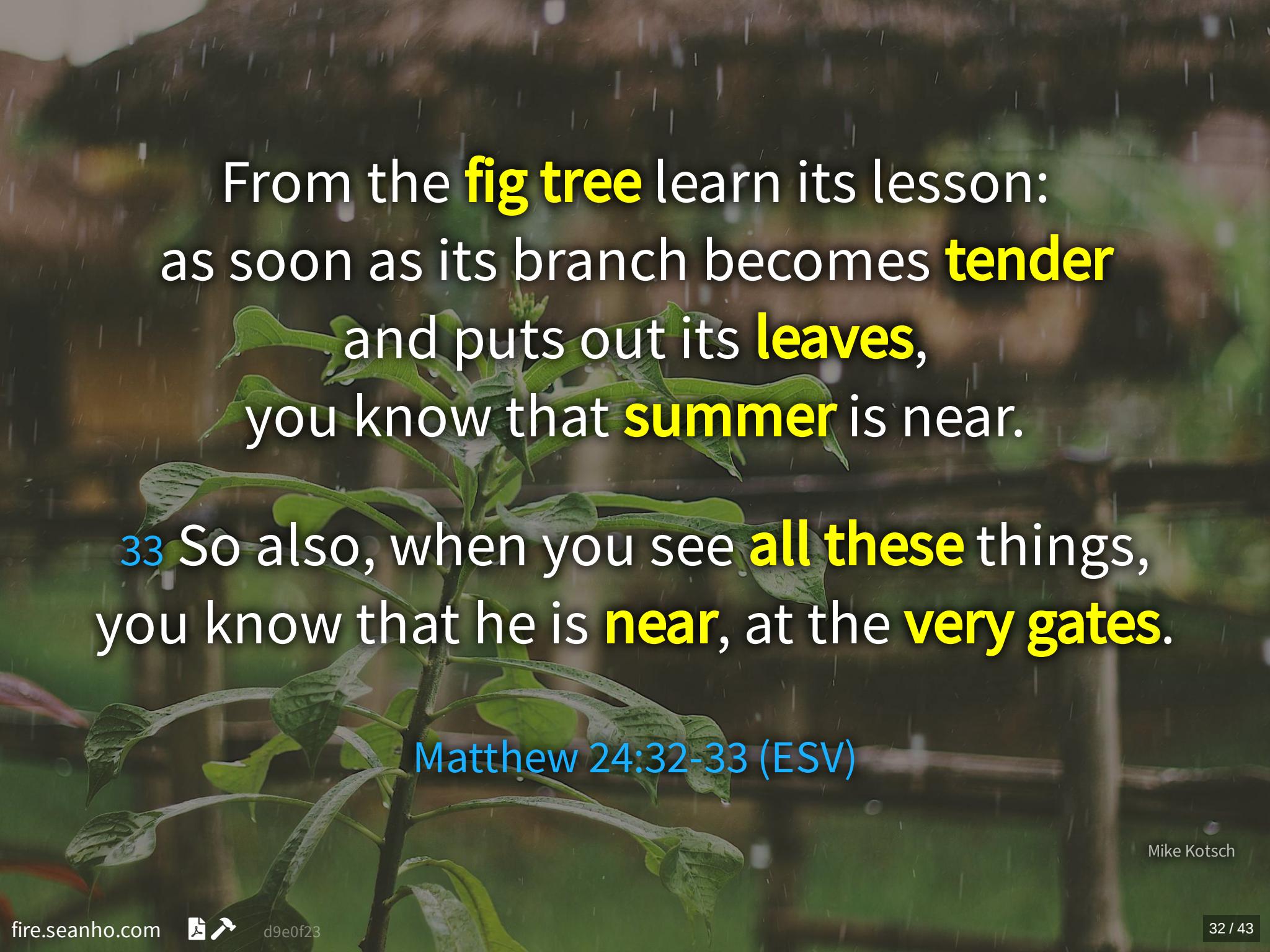


You **hypocrites!**

You know how to **interpret**  
the appearance of **earth and sky**,

but why do you not know  
how to interpret the **present time?**

Luke 12:56 (ESV)



From the **fig tree** learn its lesson:  
as soon as its branch becomes **tender**  
and puts out its **leaves**,  
you know that **summer** is near.

33 So also, when you see **all these** things,  
you know that he is **near**, at the **very gates**.

Matthew 24:32-33 (ESV)

Mike Kotsch

Stay dressed for **action**  
and keep your **lamps** burning,

36 and be like men who are **waiting**  
for their master to come home  
from the wedding **feast**,

so that they may **open** the door to him  
at once when he **comes** and knocks.

Luke 12:35-36 (ESV)

**Do I make my *plans* with the  
imminence of Christ's *return*?**

# Fire Upon the Earth (Lk12)

---

1. Kindle the Flame (v49-50)
2. Love God Over Family (v51-53)
3. Plan for Christ's Return (v54-56)
4. **Pursue Mercy, Not Vengeance**  
(v57-59)

A photograph of a person sitting at a light-colored wooden table, viewed from above. The person's hands are visible, one holding a pen over some papers. Several pieces of paper are scattered on the table, including what looks like a newspaper or magazine with a crossword puzzle. The lighting is warm and focused on the hands and the papers.

“And why do you not **judge**  
for yourselves what is **right**?

Luke 12:56 (ESV)

Helsinki, Finland. Thomas Drouault

As you go with your **accuser**  
before the **magistrate**,  
make an effort to **settle** with him on the way,

Luke 12:58 (ESV)

Wesley Tingey

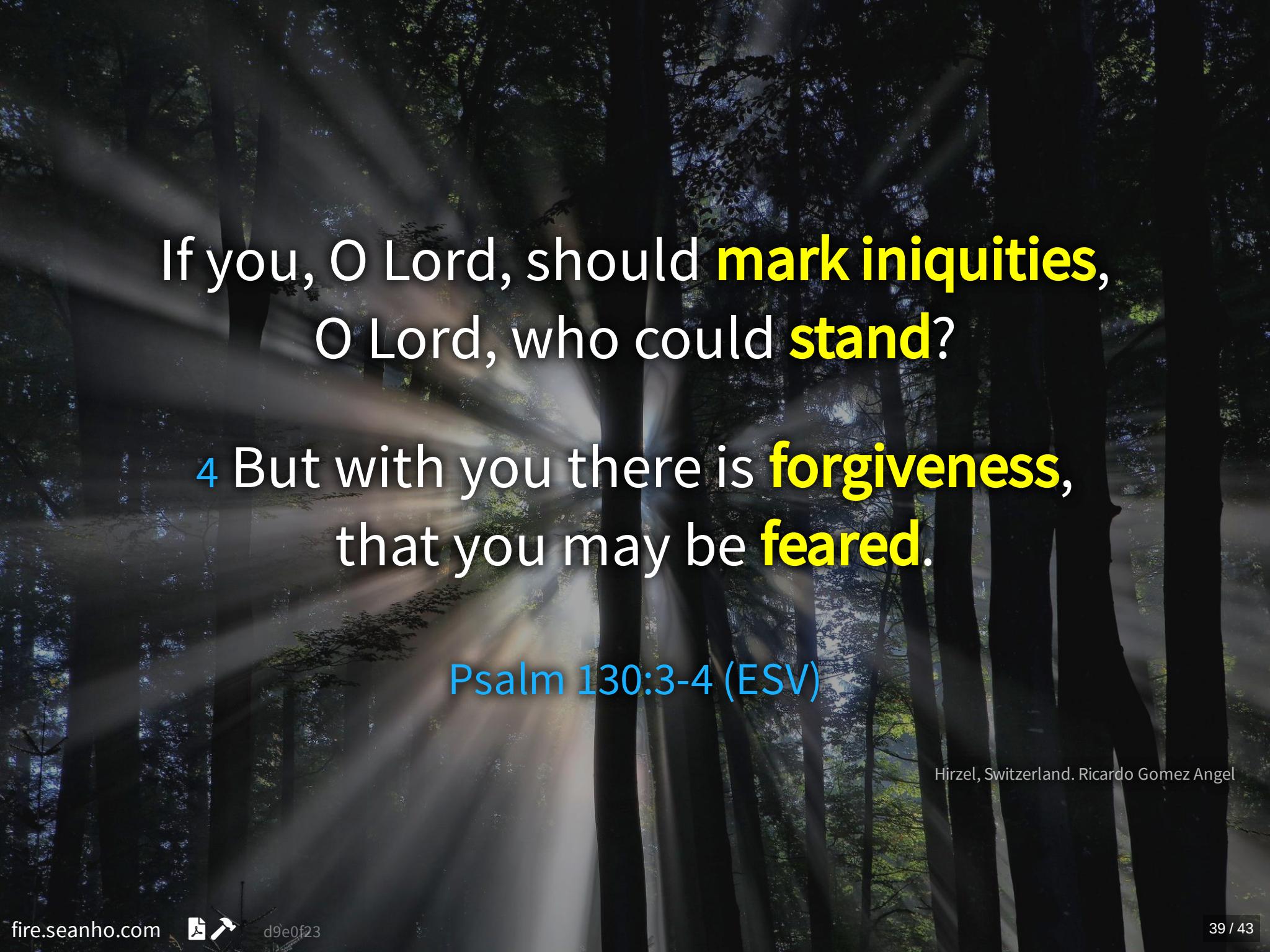


d9e0f23

lest he drag you to the **judge**,  
and the judge hand you over to the **officer**,  
and the officer put you in **prison**.

59 I tell you, you will never get out  
until you have paid the very last **penny**.”

Luke 12:58-59 (ESV)



If you, O Lord, should **mark iniquities**,  
O Lord, who could **stand**?

4 But with you there is **forgiveness**,  
that you may be **feared**.

Psalm 130:3-4 (ESV)

Hirzel, Switzerland. Ricardo Gomez Angel



So **speak** and so **act** as those who are to be **judged** under the **law of liberty**.

13 For judgment is **without mercy** to one who has **shown no mercy**.

Mercy **triumphs** over judgment!

James 2:12-13 (ESV)

Nancy, France. Rémi Walle

Do I care more  
about **winning** than  
**showing mercy?**

I baptize you with **water** for repentance,  
but he ... will baptize you  
with the **Holy Spirit** and **fire**.

12 His **winnowing fork** is in his hand,  
and he will clear his threshing floor  
and gather his **wheat** into the barn,  
but the **chaff** he will burn  
with **unquenchable fire**.

Matthew 3:11-12 (ESV)

