

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

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MARK 12:28-34 (ESV)

28 And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” **29** Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

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MARK 12:28-34 (ESV)

³⁰ And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

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MARK 12:28-34 (ESV)

³² And the scribe said to him, “You are right, Teacher. You have truly said that he is one, and there is no other besides him. ³³ And to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength, and to love one's neighbor as oneself, is much more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

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MARK 12:28-34 (ESV)


³⁴ And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And after that no one dared to ask him any more questions.

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JEREMIAH 31:3 (ESV)

³ ... I have loved you with an everlasting love;
therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY



1 JOHN 4:8 (NIV)

**8 Whoever does not love does not know God, because
God is love.**

LOVE THEM ANYWAY



WE LOVE IN TWO DIFFERENT WAYS:
BECAUSE of love, and **IN SPITE** of love.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY



MOST OF THE LOVE WE OFFER IS CONDITIONAL.

We love someone because of...

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

A dense, dark-toned collage of many small, square portraits of people from various ethnicities, ages, and genders, creating a textured background for the text.

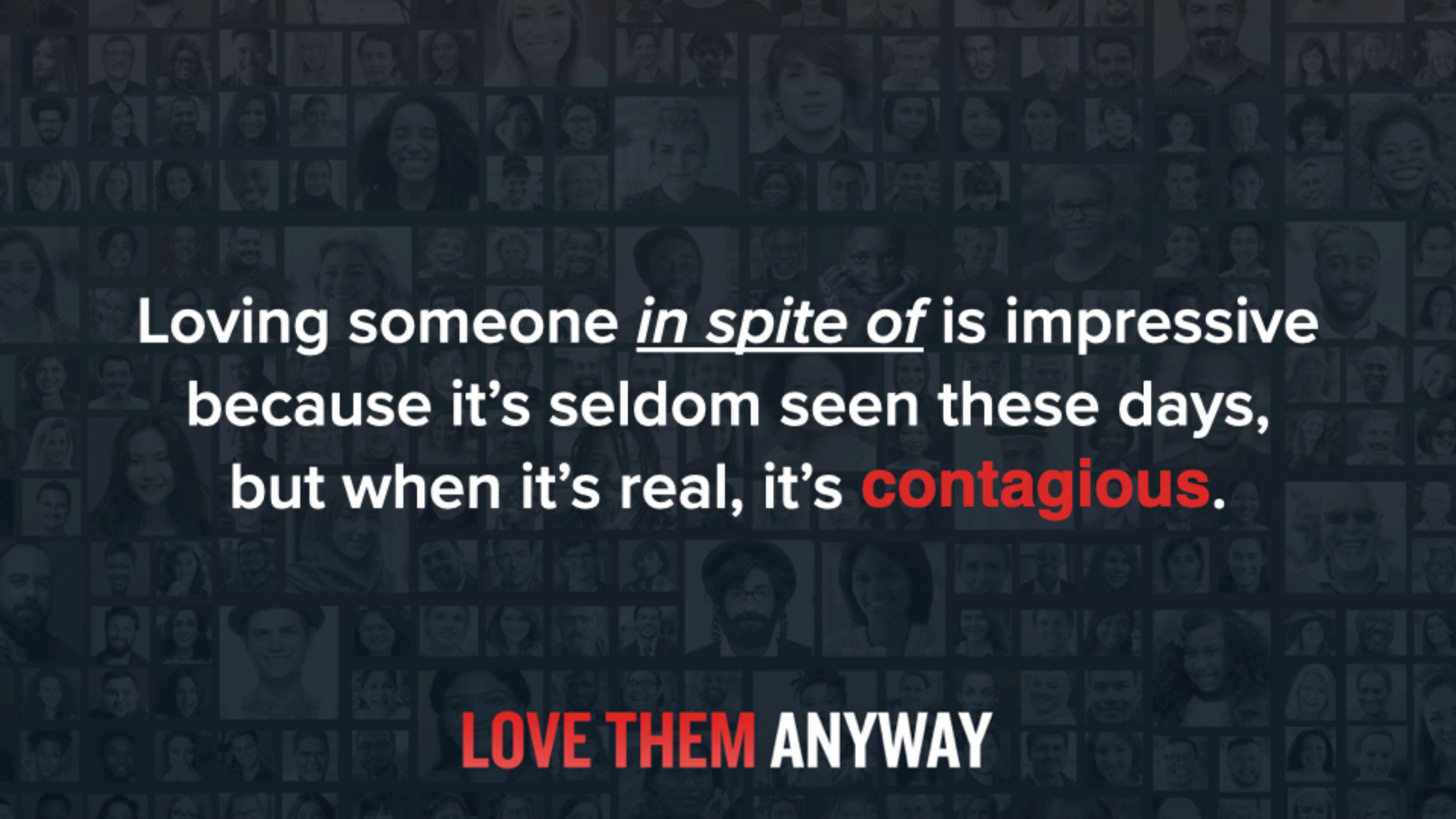
MOST OF THE LOVE WE OFFER IS CONDITIONAL.

We love someone because of...

THE OTHER KIND OF LOVE IS THE EXACT OPPOSITE.

We love someone in spite of...

LOVE THEM ANYWAY



Loving someone *in spite of* is impressive
because it's seldom seen these days,
but when it's real, it's **contagious**.

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ROMANS 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

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2 CORINTHIANS 5:14 (NIV)

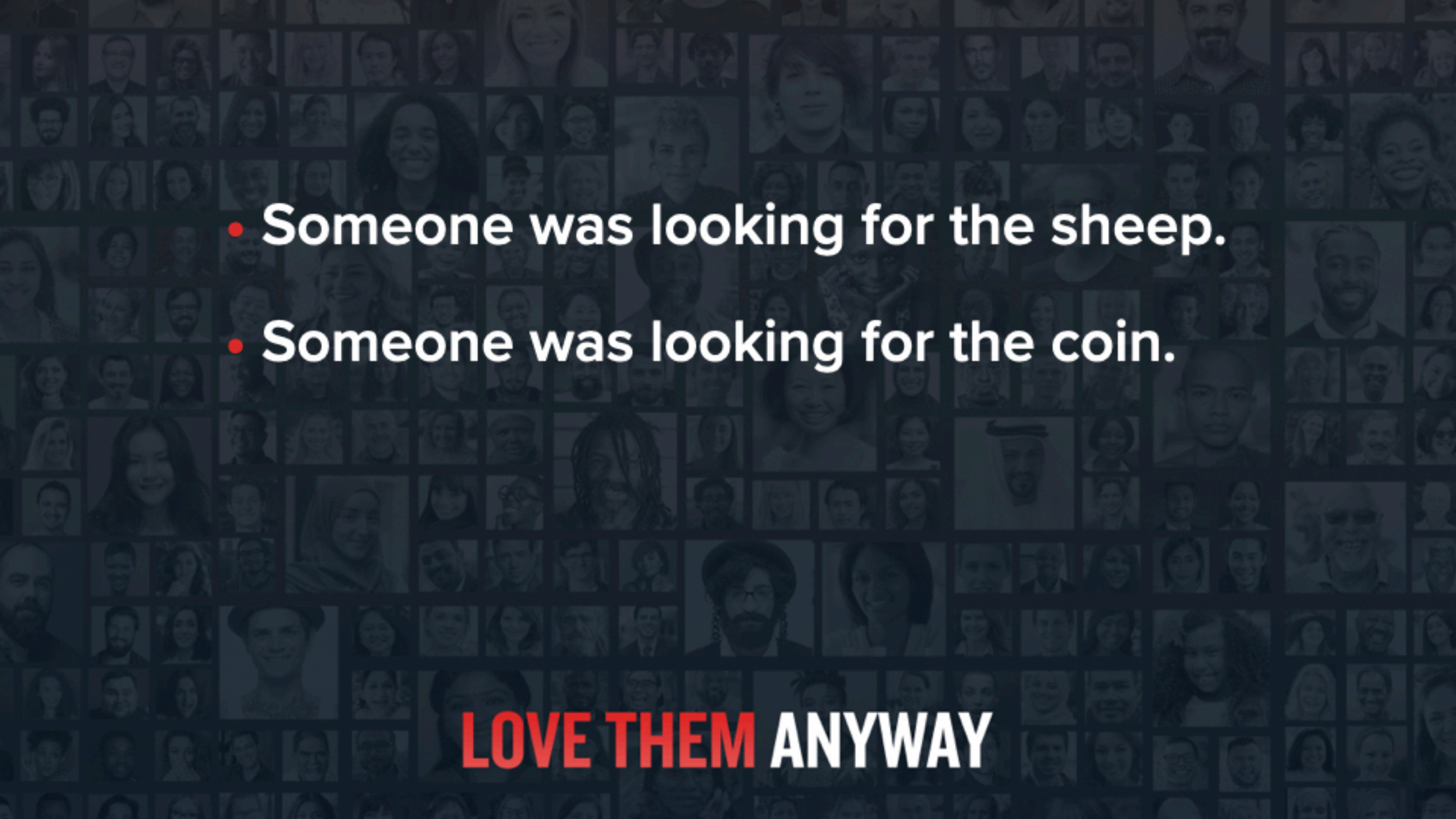
14 For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

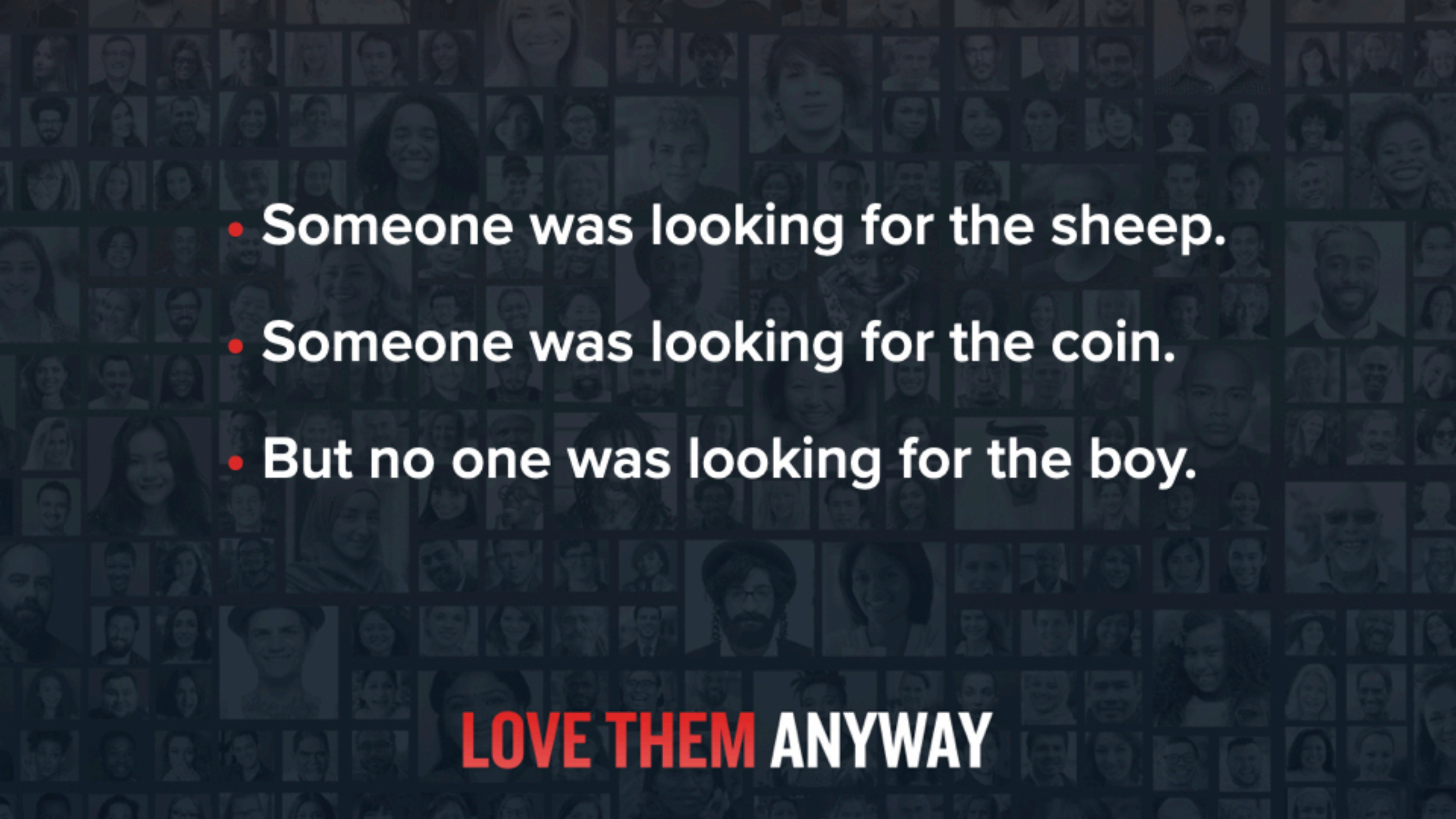


- Someone was looking for the sheep.

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- 
- Someone was looking for the sheep.
 - Someone was looking for the coin.

LOVE THEM ANYWAY

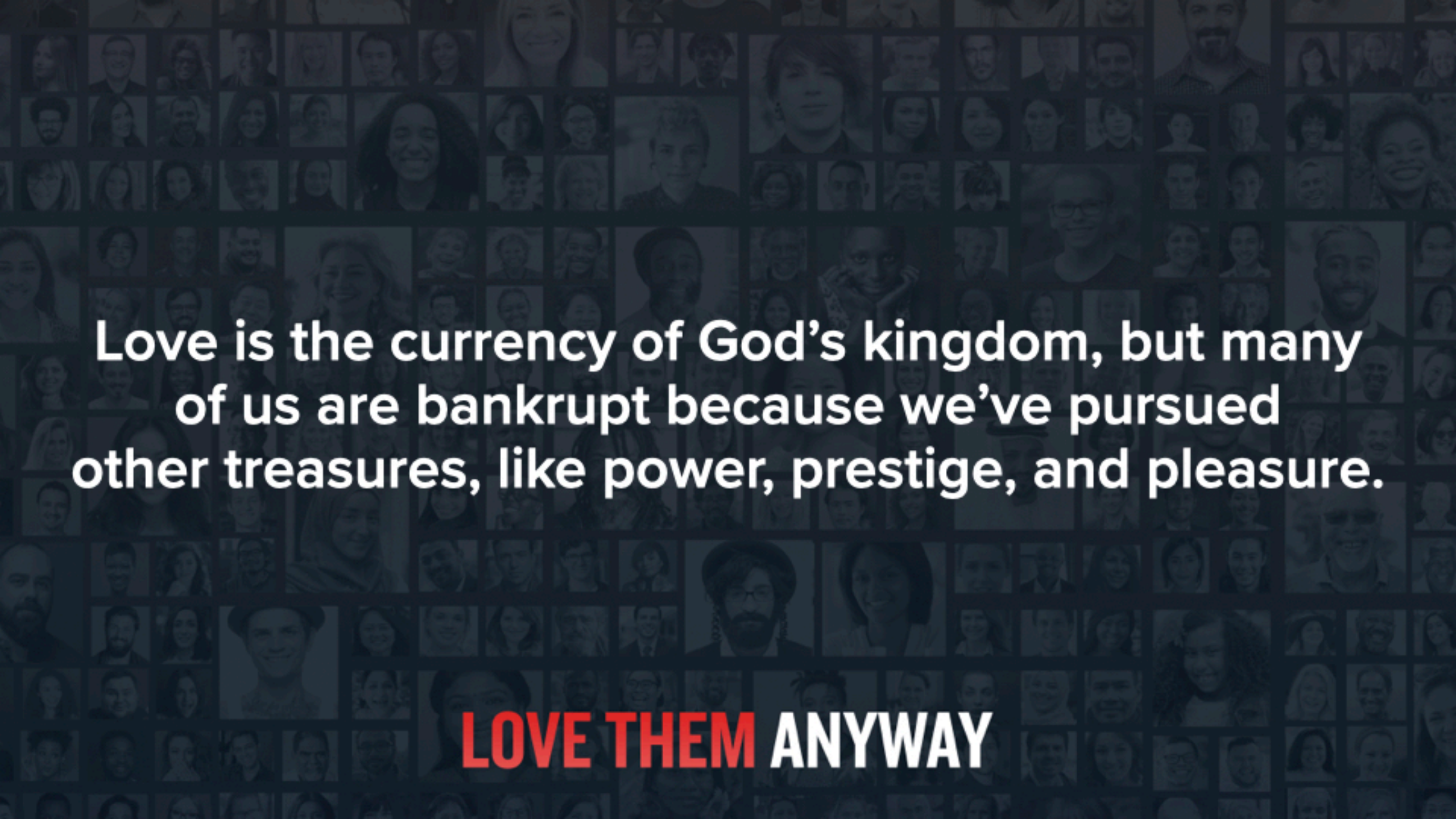
- 
- Someone was looking for the sheep.
 - Someone was looking for the coin.
 - But no one was looking for the boy.

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The elder brother was bankrupt of love.

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Love is the currency of God's kingdom, but many
of us are bankrupt because we've pursued
other treasures, like power, prestige, and pleasure.

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The currency of the kingdom of God isn't prayer,
Bible study, missions, or service; **it's love.**

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1 CORINTHIANS 13:2b (NIV)

2 ...if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

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You can give without loving,
but you cannot love without giving.

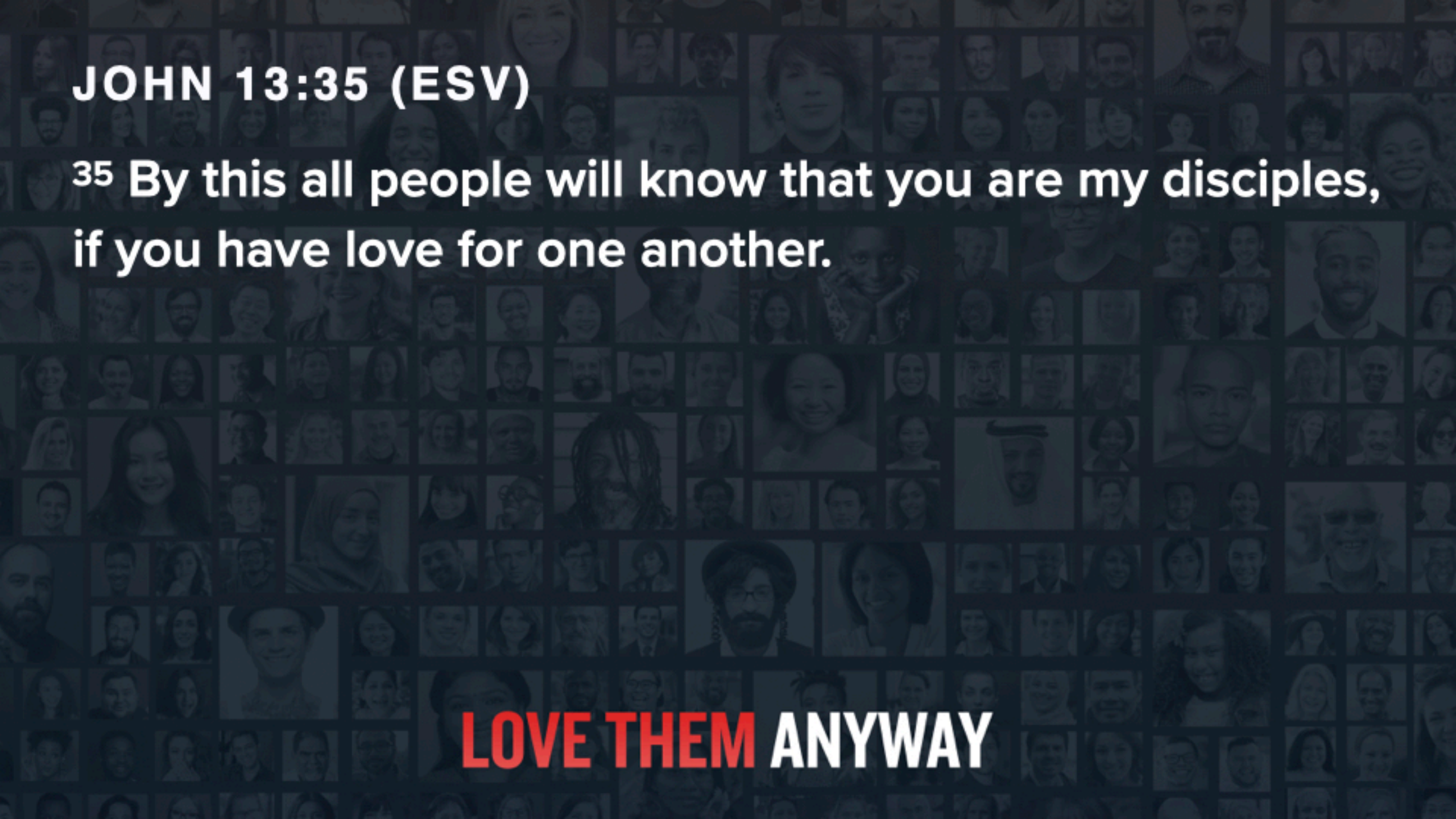
LOVE THEM ANYWAY



God always intended for us to love one another.

The kingdom of heaven is a love culture,
not a cancel culture.

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The background of the entire image is a dense, dark-toned collage of numerous small, square portrait photographs of people from various ethnicities, ages, and genders, all smiling or looking positively. This collage serves as a textured backdrop for the text.

JOHN 13:35 (ESV)

**35 By this all people will know that you are my disciples,
if you have love for one another.**

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

¹ but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. ² Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them.

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst ⁴ they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery.

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

⁵ Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” ⁶ This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground.

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

⁷ And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” ⁸ And once more he bent down and wrote on the ground.

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

⁹ But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him.

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JOHN 8:1-11 (ESV)

¹⁰ Jesus stood up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” ¹¹ She said, “No one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.”

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MARK 12:34 (NIV)

³⁴ ...And when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God."

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