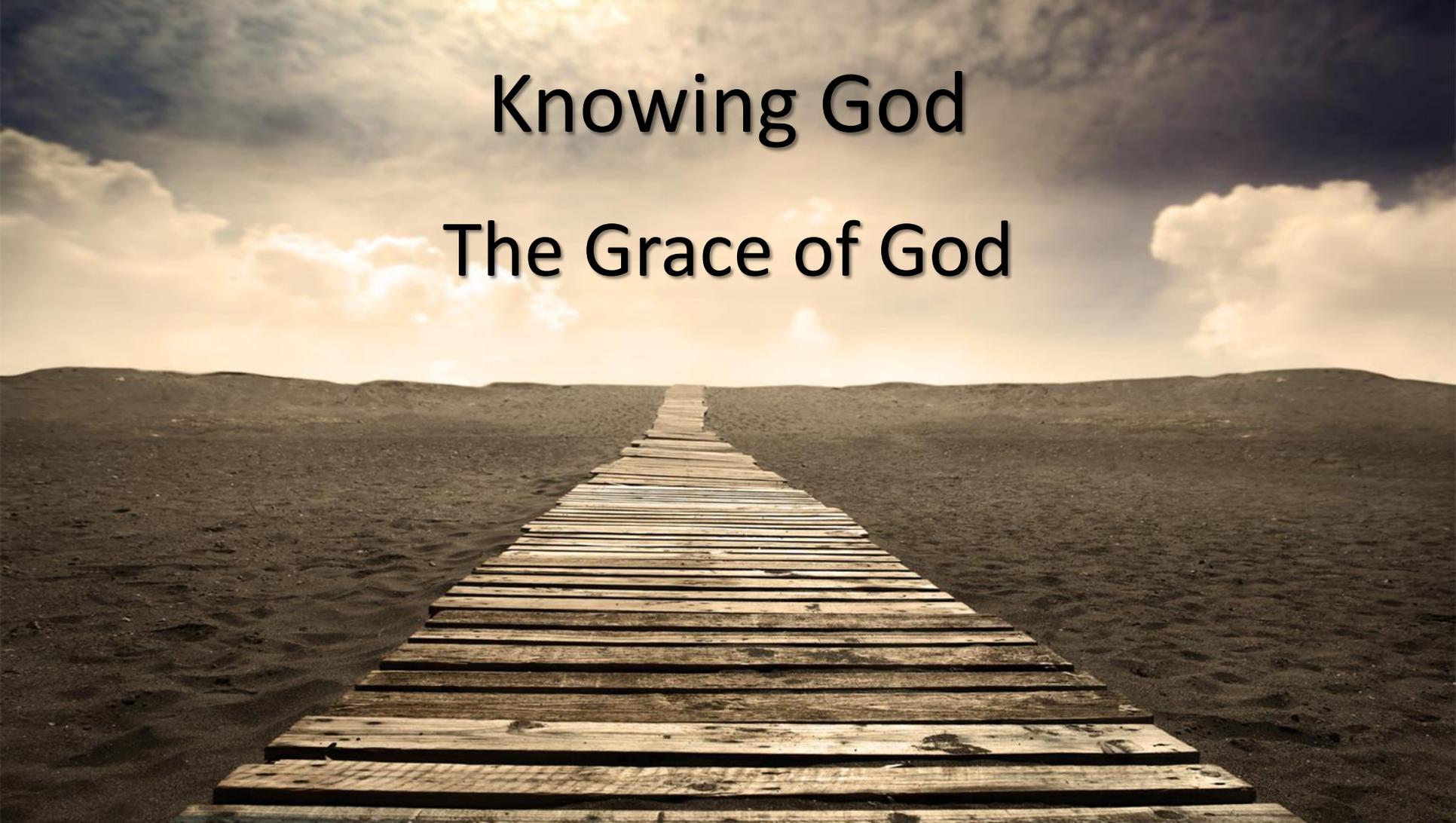




# Knowing God



A long, straight wooden boardwalk made of weathered planks stretches from the foreground into the distance, leading towards a flat horizon. The sky is filled with large, dramatic clouds, with a bright light source breaking through near the horizon, creating a golden glow. The overall scene is desolate and evocative, symbolizing a path or journey.

Knowing God

The Grace of God

# Knowing God

- *God's unmerited favor*



# Knowing God

- *God's unmerited favor*
- *God's enabling power*



# Knowing God

- *God's unmerited favor*
- *God's enabling power*

**All of grace**

# Grace – Who Needs It?



# Grace – Who Needs It?

Luke 15



# A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)



# A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)

## 1. Setting (1-2)



*Luke 15:1-2*

*<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering around to hear him. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. To the left of the boardwalk is dark, wet sand with some footprints. The background is a bright, overexposed area, likely the ocean or a bright sky.

## A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)

1. Setting (1-2)

2. Lost Sheep (3-7)

*Luke 15:3-7*

*<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’*

*Luke 15:3-7*

*<sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.*

# A. Sheep and Coins (1-10)

1. Setting (1-2)
2. Lost Sheep (3-7)
3. Lost Coin (8-10)



*Luke 15:8-10*

*<sup>8</sup> “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Does she not light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?  
<sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)



## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

### 1. Younger Brother (11-24)



A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. The beach is dark sand, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus sky. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

### 1. Younger Brother (11-24)

#### a. Sinned against his father

*Luke 15:11-20a*

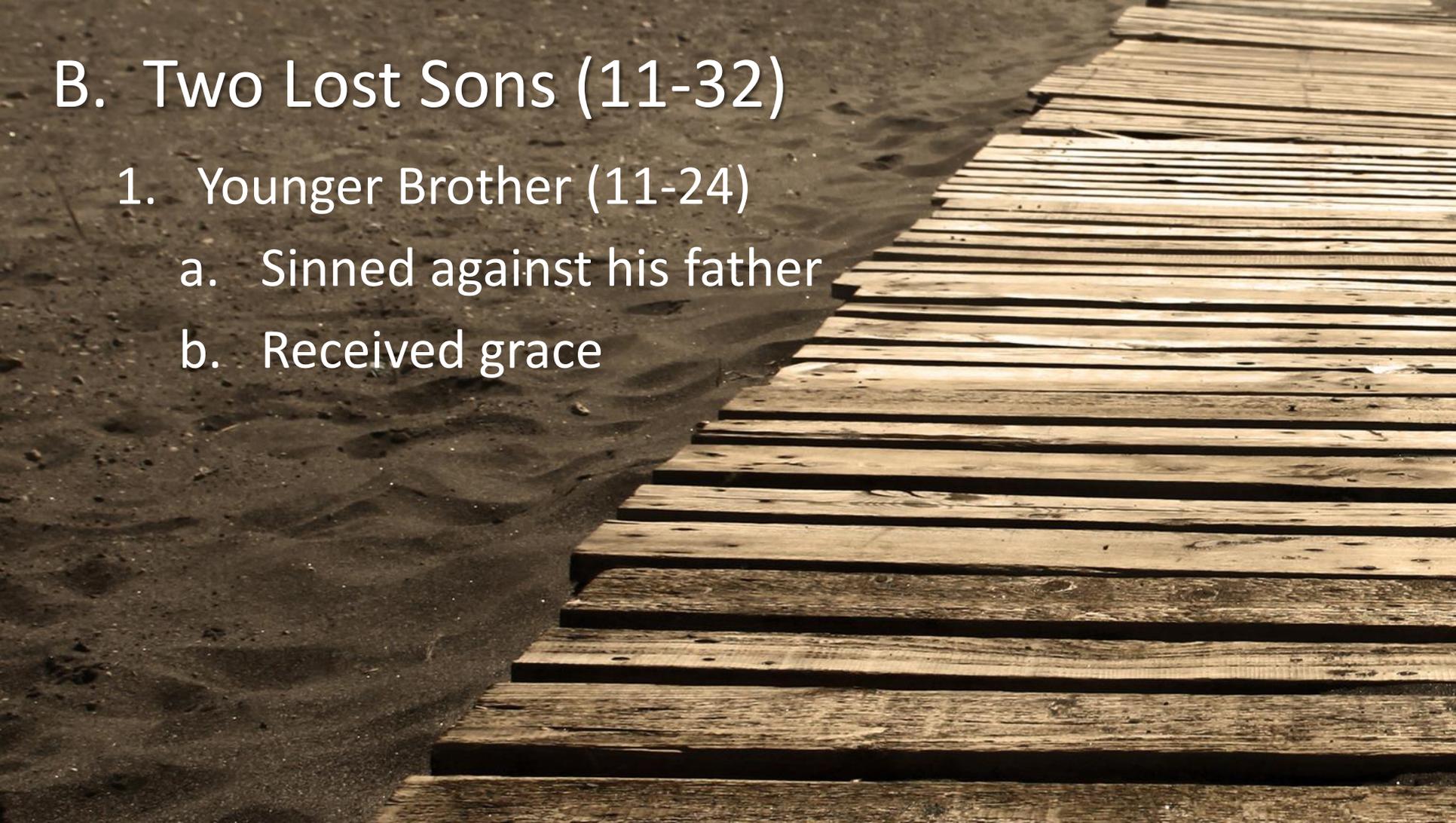
*<sup>11</sup> Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.*

## Luke 15:11-20a

<sup>13</sup> “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. <sup>14</sup> After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. <sup>16</sup> He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

## Luke 15:11-20a

<sup>17</sup> “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! <sup>18</sup> I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.’  
<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.



## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

### 1. Younger Brother (11-24)

- a. Sinned against his father
- b. Received grace

## Luke 15:20-24

*<sup>20</sup> So he got up and went to his father.*

*“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.*

*<sup>21</sup> “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*

## Luke 15:20-24

*<sup>22</sup> “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. <sup>24</sup> For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.*

*Luke 15:24*

*For this son of mine was dead and is alive again;  
he was lost and is found.'*

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. To the left of the boardwalk is dark, wet sand with some footprints. The background is a bright, overexposed area, likely the ocean or sky.

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

1. Younger Brother (11-24)
2. Older Brother (25-32)

## *Luke 15:25-32*

*<sup>25</sup> “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing.*

*<sup>26</sup> So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. <sup>27</sup> ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’*

## Luke 15:25-32

*<sup>28</sup> “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’*

## *Luke 15:25-32*

*<sup>31</sup> “ ‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ ”*

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. The beach is dark sand, and the background is a soft, out-of-focus sky.

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

a. Younger Brother (11-24)

b. Older Brother (25-32)

a. "Served" his father

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. The sand is dark and occupies the left and bottom-left portions of the image. The lighting is bright, creating strong shadows and highlights on the wood.

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

a. Younger Brother (11-24)

b. Older Brother (25-32)

a. "Served" his father

b. Received grace

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

- a. Younger Brother (11-24)
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***v. 27 – your brother has come.***

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***v. 27 – your brother has come.  
v. 30 – this son of yours.***

## B. Two Lost Sons (11-32)

- a. Younger Brother (11-24)
- b. Older Brother (25-32)
  - a. “Served” his father
  - b. Received grace

**v. 27 – *your brother has come.***

**v. 30 – *this son of yours.***

**v. 32 – *this brother of yours.***

## C. Two Ways to Be Lost



A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. To the left of the boardwalk is dark, wet sand with visible footprints. In the background, the ocean waves are crashing against the shore, creating white foam. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

## C. Two Ways to Be Lost

a. Younger Brother – *irreligion*

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk on a beach. The boardwalk is made of weathered wooden planks and runs diagonally from the bottom right towards the top right. To the left of the boardwalk is a dark, sandy beach. In the background, waves are crashing against the shore, creating white foam. The sky is not visible.

## C. Two Ways to Be Lost

a. Younger Brother – *irreligion*

b. Older Brother – *religion*

# D. Two “Righteous” Sinners

*Older Brother ~ Jonah*



***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

Jonah was **angry** because God was gracious to the sinful Ninevites.

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

Jonah was **angry** because God was gracious to the sinful Ninevites.

“Righteous” older brother was **insolent** to his father. *Look!*

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

Jonah was **angry** because God was gracious to the sinful Ninevites.

“Righteous” older brother was **insolent** to his father. *Look!*

“Righteous” Jonah was **insolent** to God. *I told you so!*

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

The father was **gracious** to his sinful younger son.

God was **gracious** to the sinful Ninevites.

The older brother was **angry** because God was gracious to his sinful younger brother.

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“Righteous” older brother was **insolent** to his father. *Look!*

“Righteous” Jonah was **insolent** to God. *I told you so!*

The father responded with **grace** and **patience** to the older son.

***LUKE 15:11-32***

***JONAH***

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The father responded with **grace** and **patience** to the older son.

God responded with **grace** and **patience** to Jonah.

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk made of weathered planks, stretching straight from the foreground into the distance over a dark, sandy beach. The horizon is low, and the sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Grace – Who Needs It?

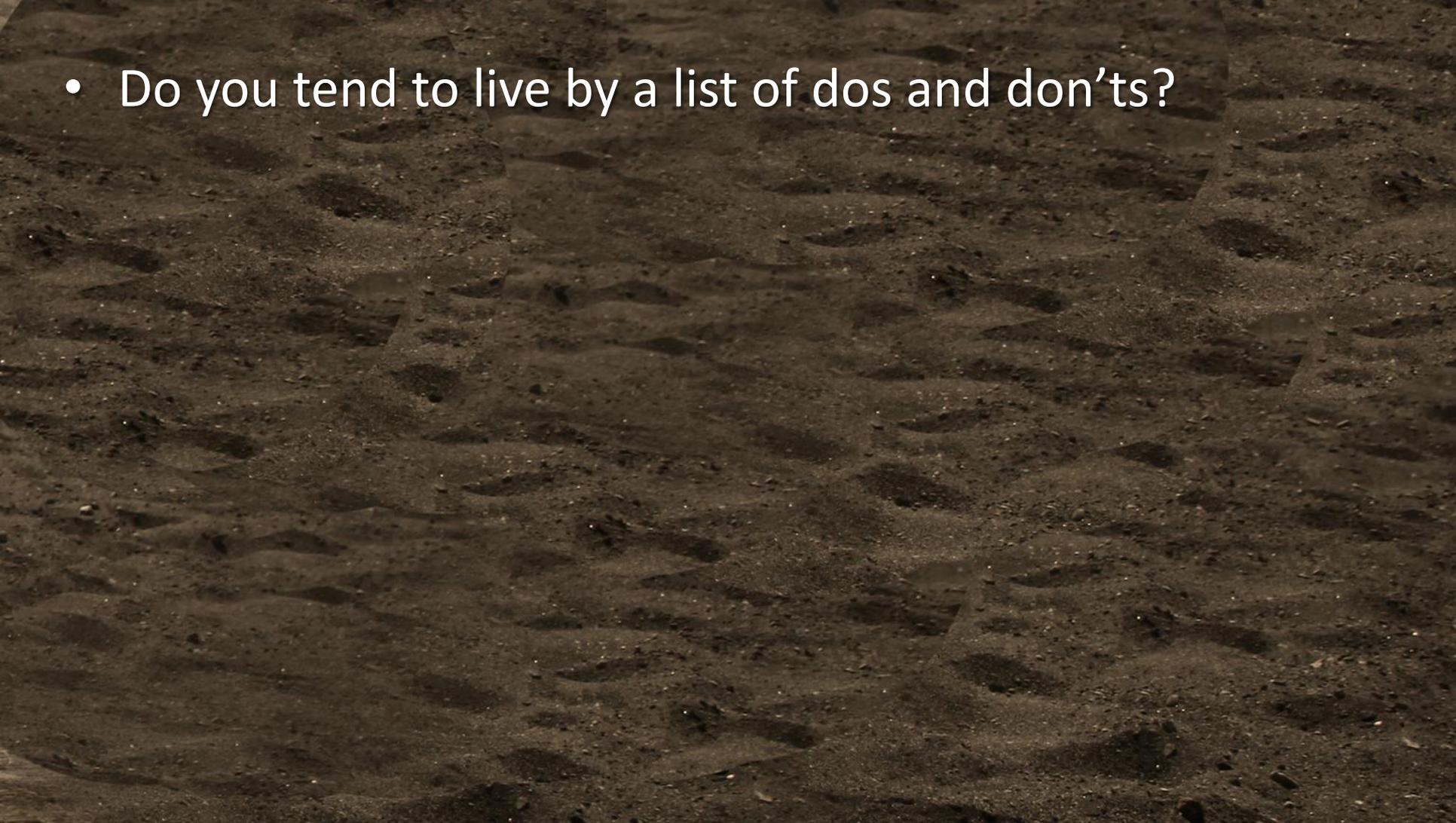
*Personal Reflection*

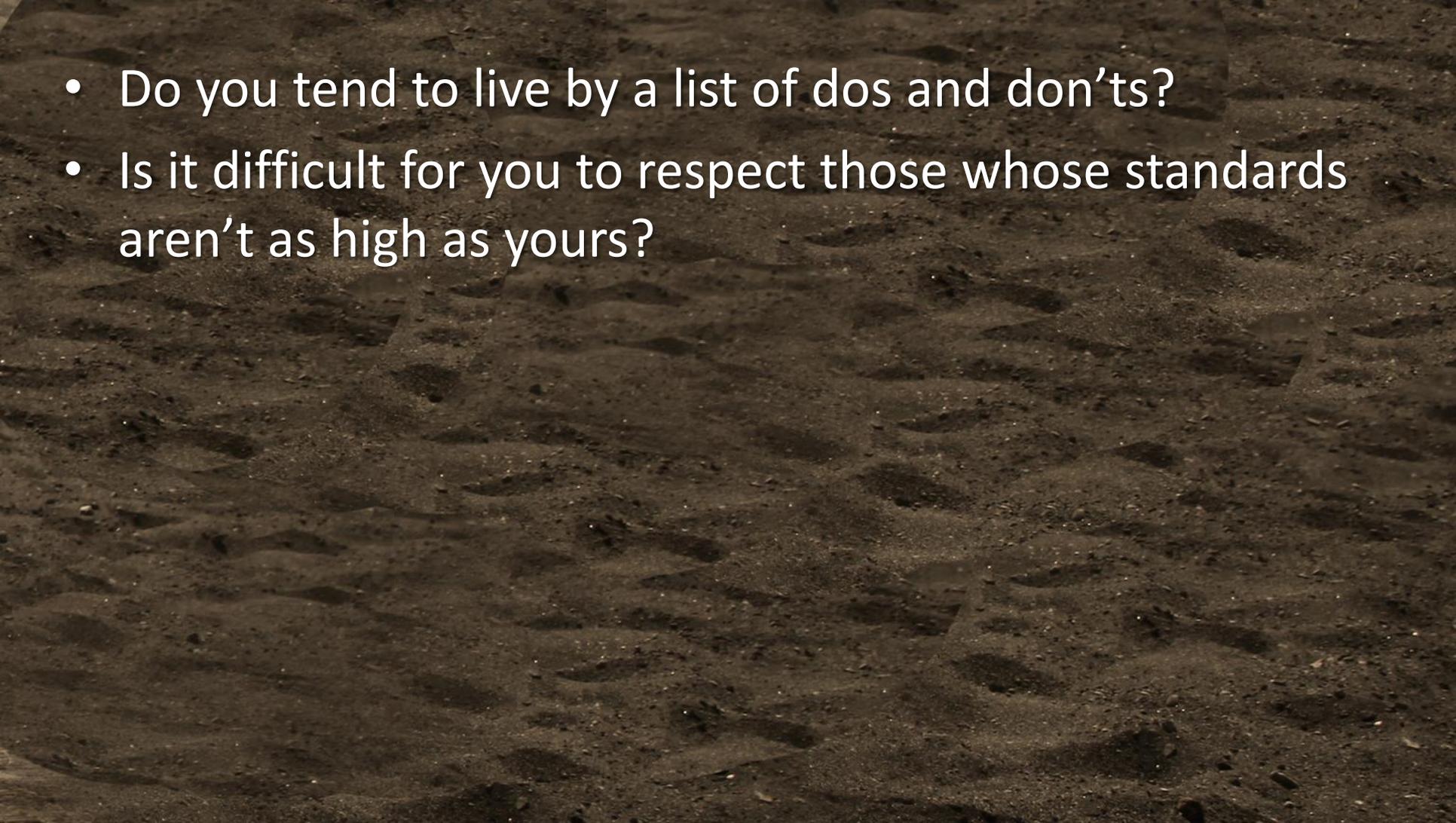
## *Colossians 4:5-6*

*<sup>5</sup> Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity.*

*<sup>6</sup> Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

- Do you tend to live by a list of dos and don'ts?



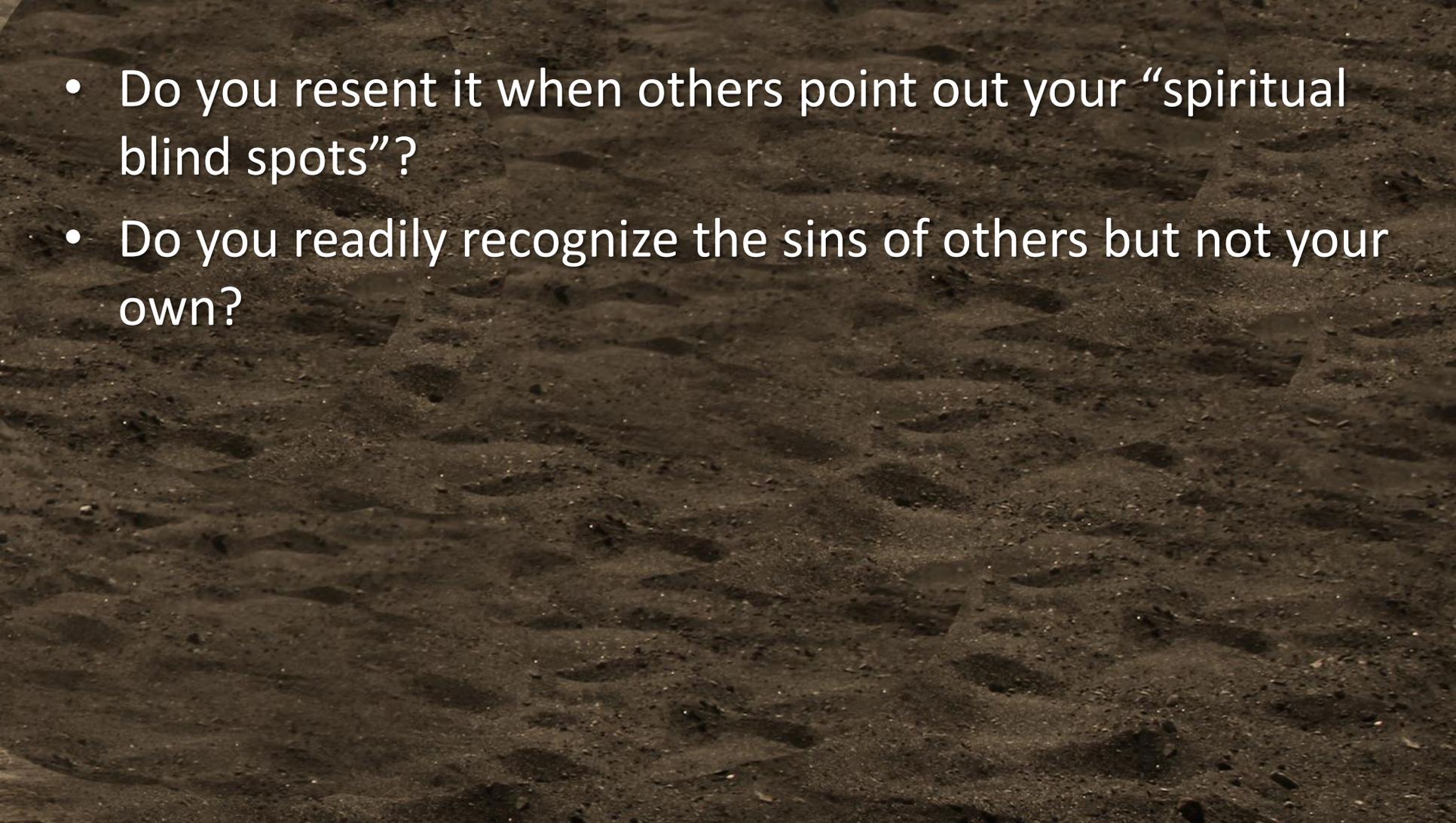
- 
- Do you tend to live by a list of dos and don'ts?
  - Is it difficult for you to respect those whose standards aren't as high as yours?

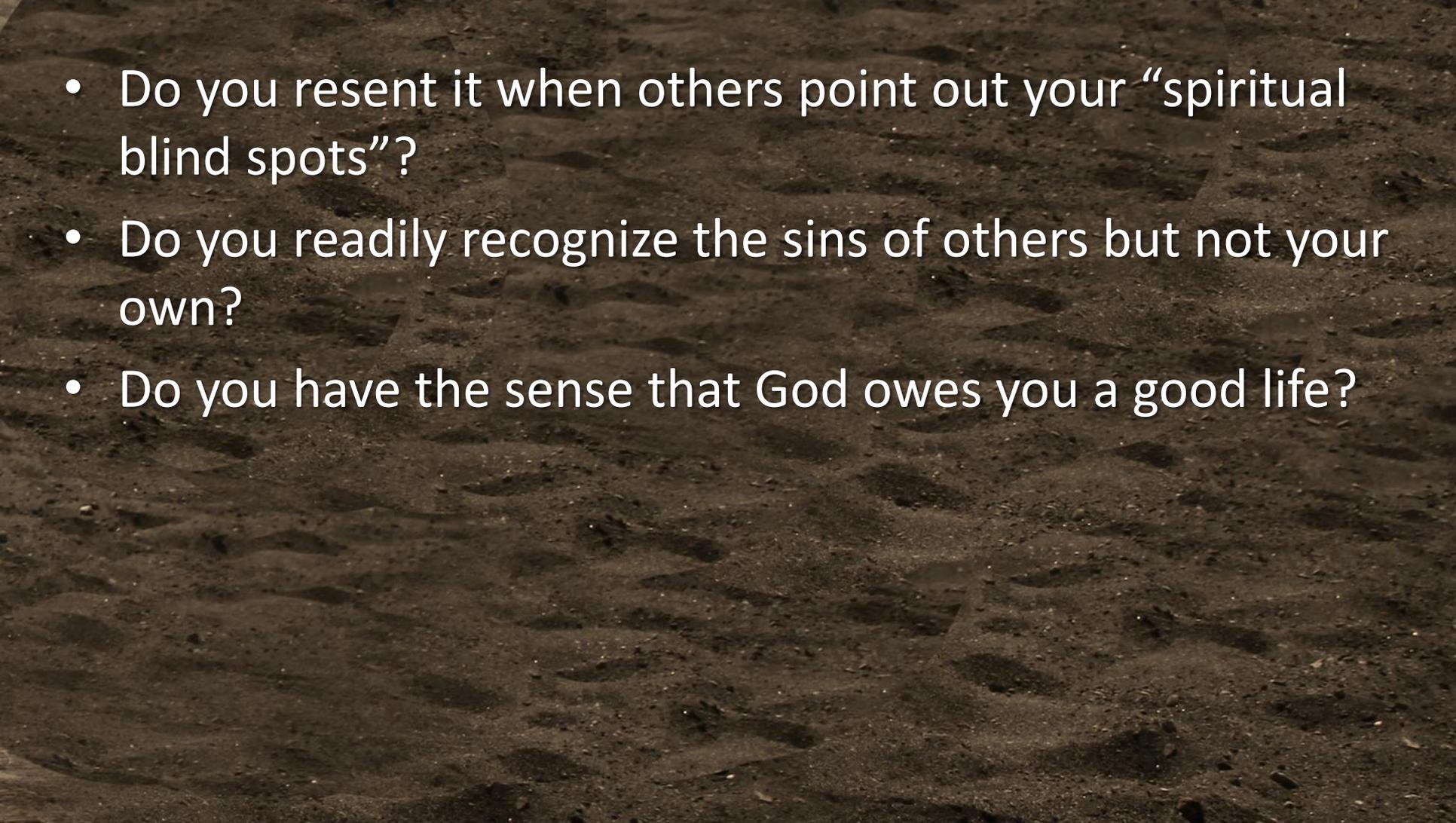
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- Is it difficult for you to respect those whose standards aren't as high as yours?
- Do you assume that practicing spiritual disciplines should result in God's blessing?
- Do you feel you're better than most other people?
- Has it been a long time since you identified a sin and repented of it?

- Do you resent it when others point out your “spiritual blind spots”?

- 
- Do you resent it when others point out your “spiritual blind spots”?
  - Do you readily recognize the sins of others but not your own?

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- Do you readily recognize the sins of others but not your own?
- Do you have the sense that God owes you a good life?
- Do you get angry when difficulties and suffering come into your life?
- Do you seldom think of the cross?

(Bridges and Bevington, *The Bookends of the Christian Life*, 49)

A photograph of a wooden boardwalk made of weathered planks, stretching from the foreground into the distance towards a horizon. The boardwalk is flanked by dark sand. The sky is filled with dramatic, dark clouds, with a bright light source (the sun) breaking through near the horizon, creating a golden glow and long shadows. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

Grace – Who Needs It?

*Personal Reflection*



## *Got Grace?*

- *We will not experience and enjoy God's grace until we come to the place where we recognize our own desperate need.*

## *Got Grace?*

- *We will not experience and enjoy God's grace until we come to the place where we recognize our own desperate need.*
- *We will not be channels of God's grace to others until we recognize our own desperate need, and then regularly revel in the marvelous grace of God.*