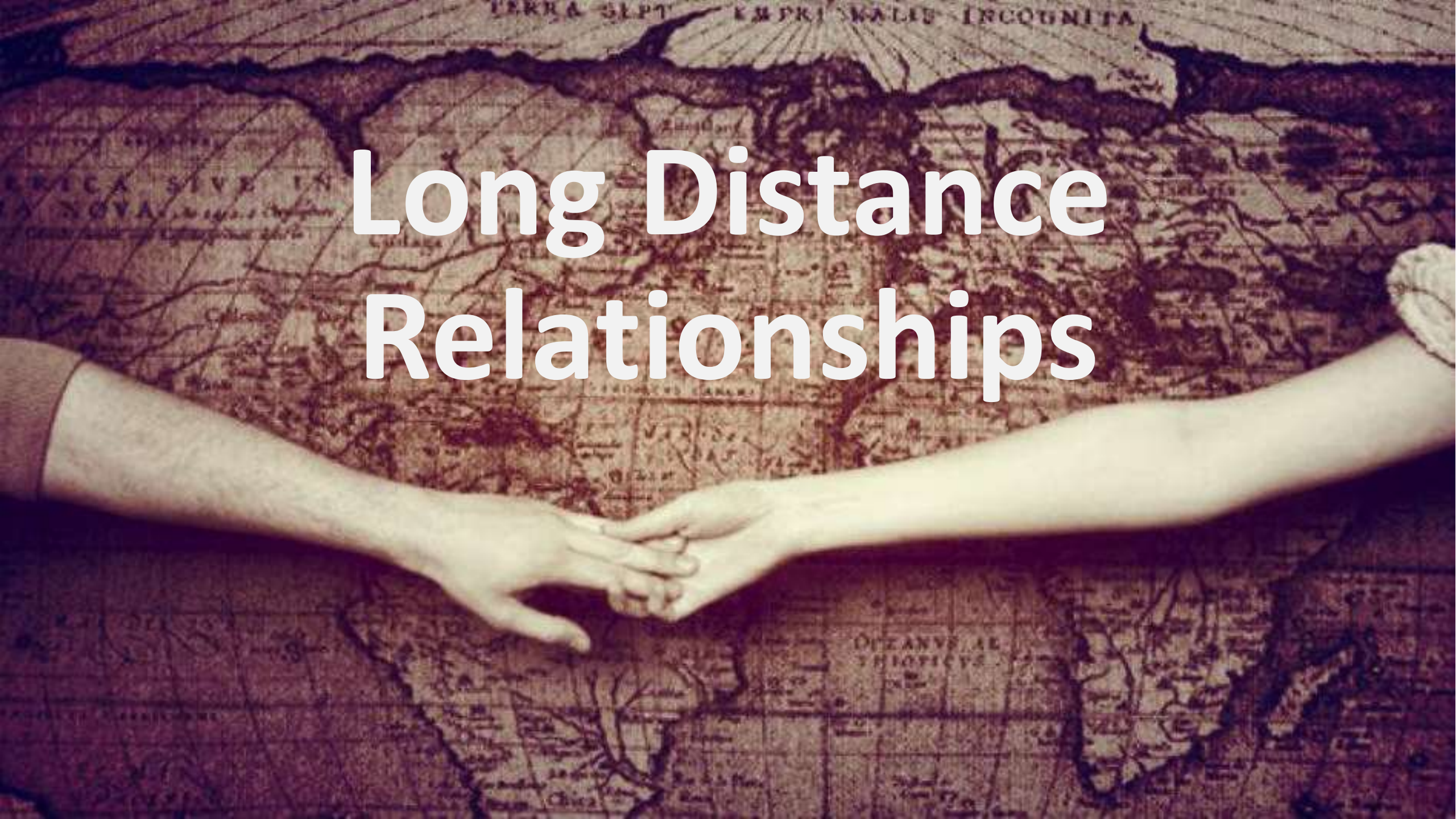
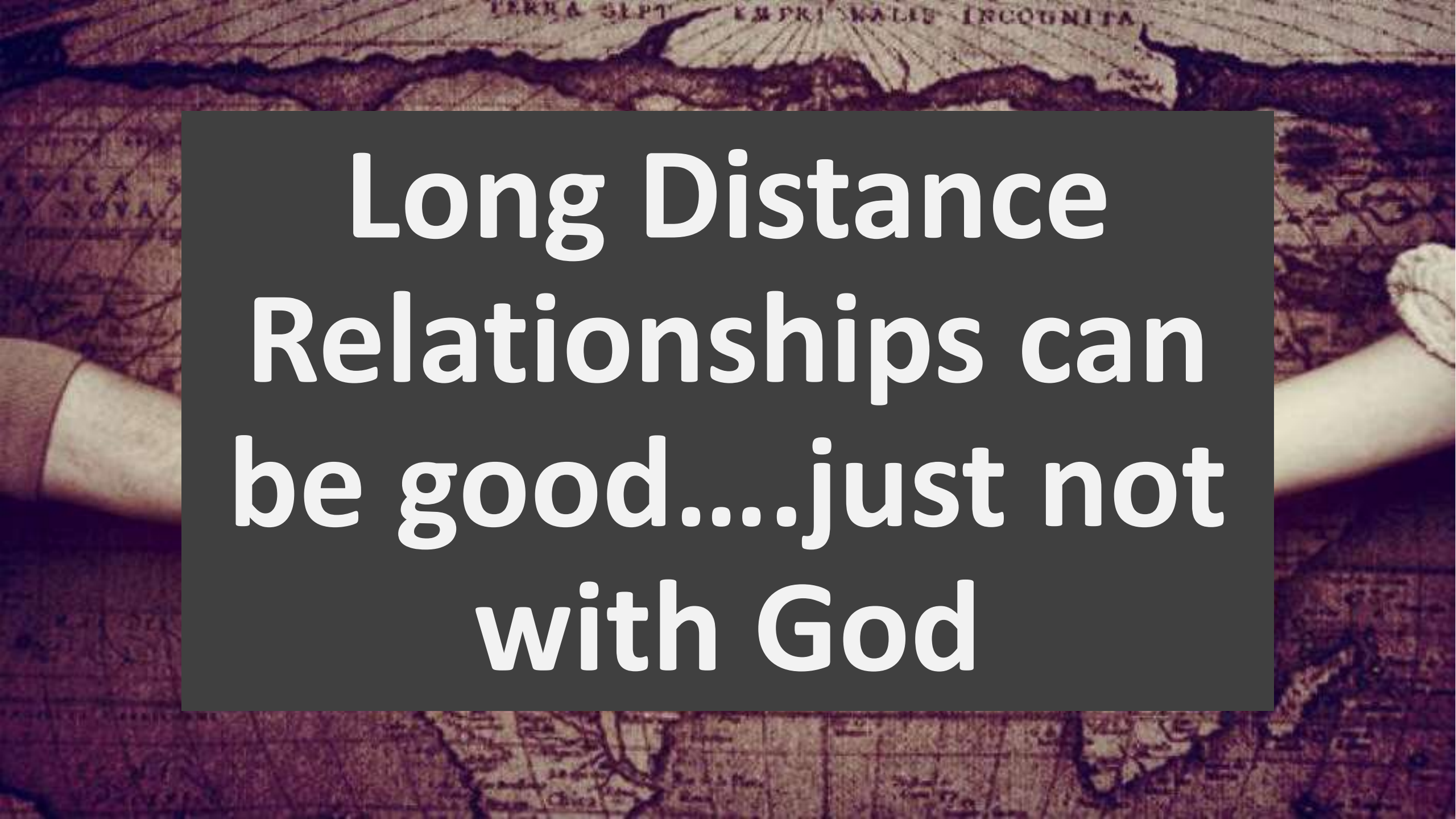


Long Distance Relationships





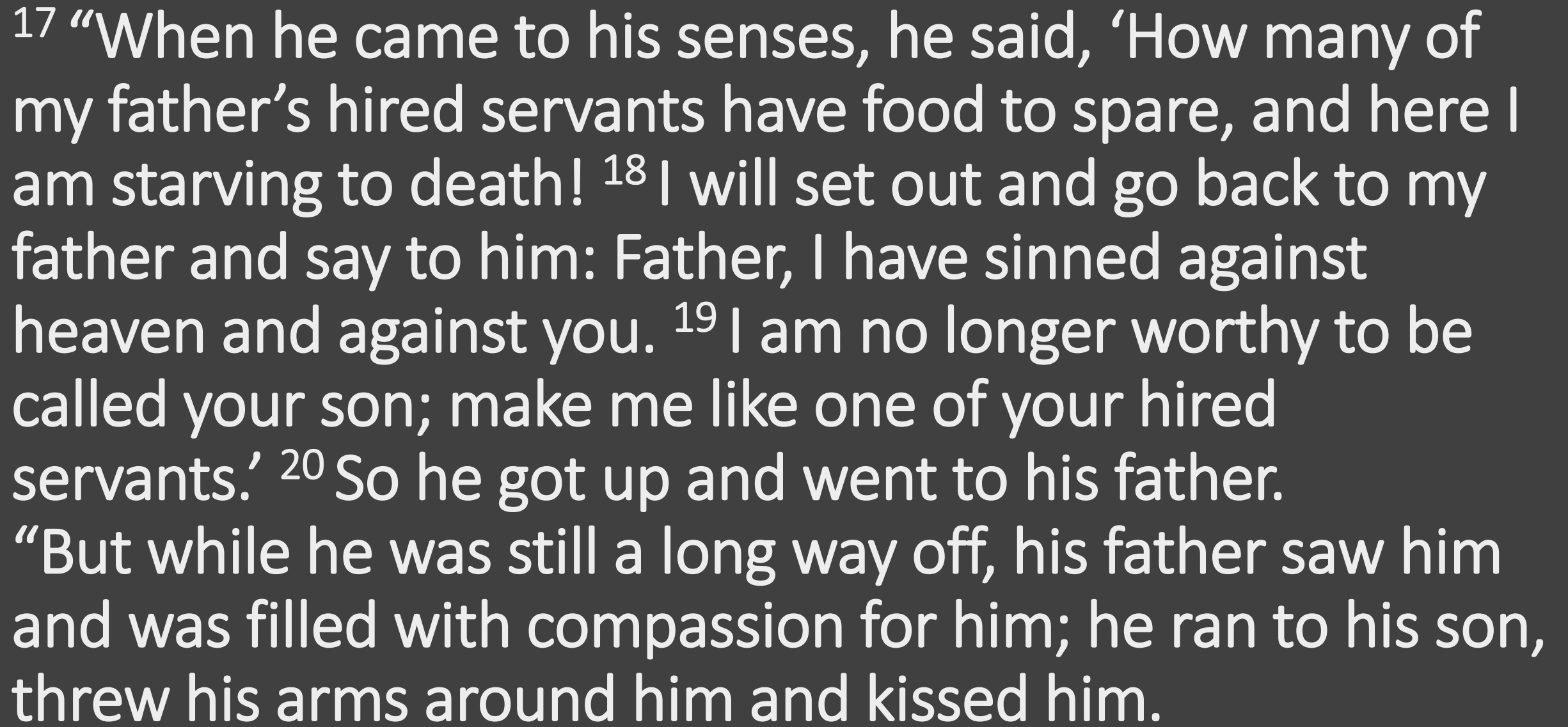
The background of the image is a close-up of an antique map, likely from the 17th or 18th century. The map is made of parchment or aged paper, showing a grid of latitude and longitude lines. Various geographical names are visible, including "TERRA SEPTENTRIONALIS INCOGNITA" at the top and "AFRICA SEPTENTRIONALIS" on the left. A hand, wearing a simple brown leather strap as a wristband, holds a quill pen across the right side of the map. The lighting is warm, highlighting the textures of the map and the hand.

**Long Distance
Relationships can
be good....just not
with God**

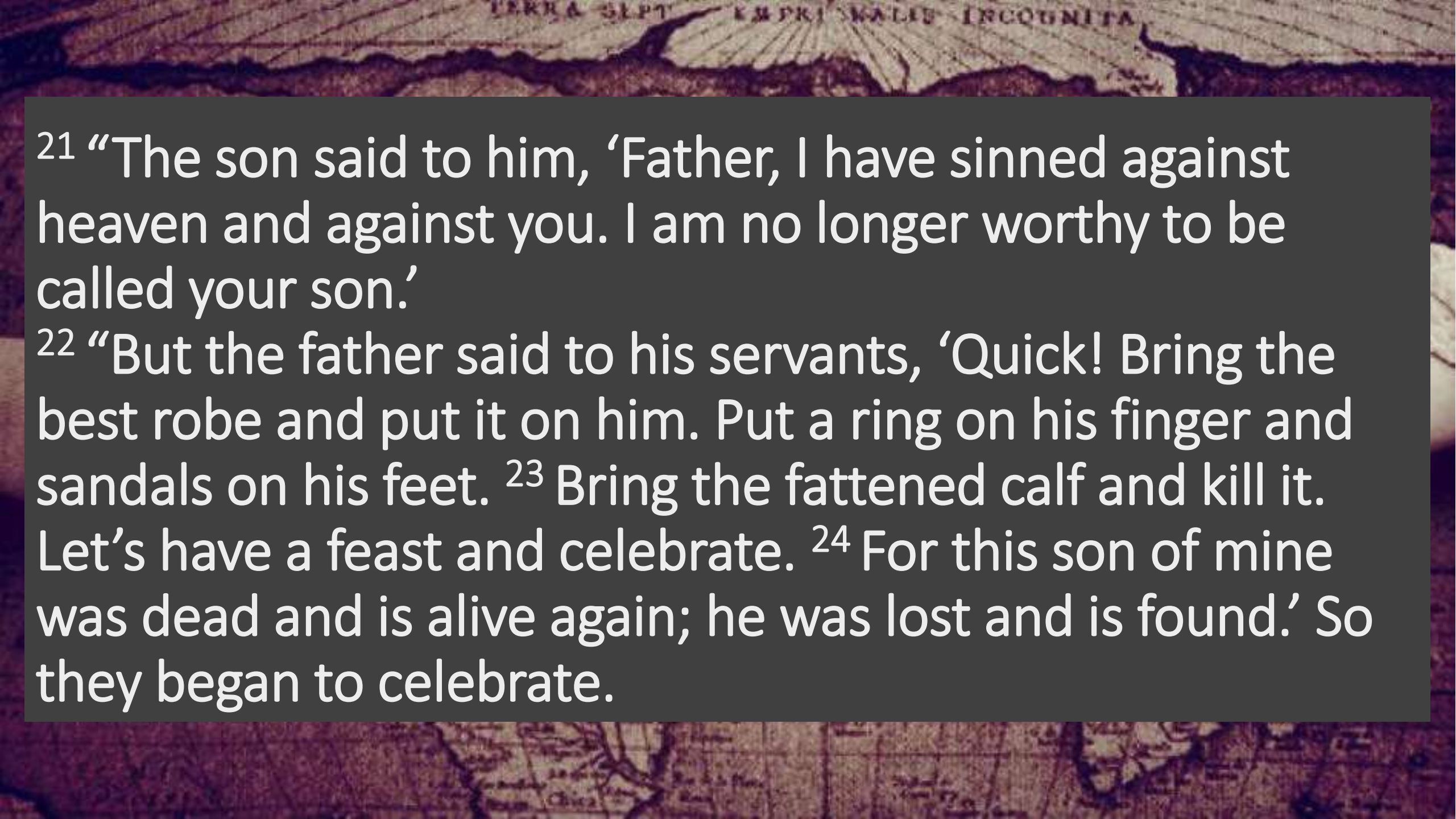
Luke 15:11-32

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

¹³ “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. ¹⁴ After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶ He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

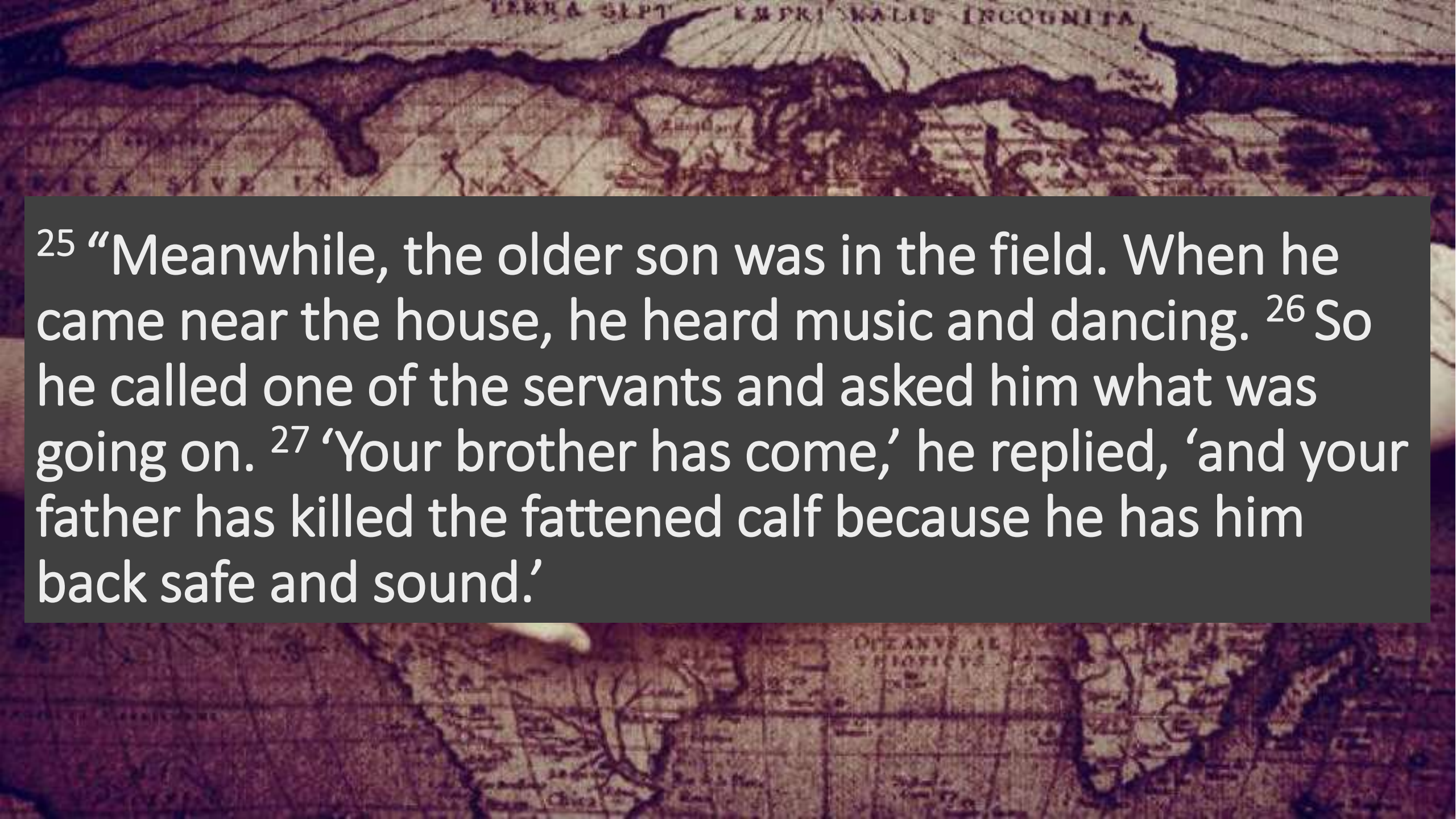


¹⁷ “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸ I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me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

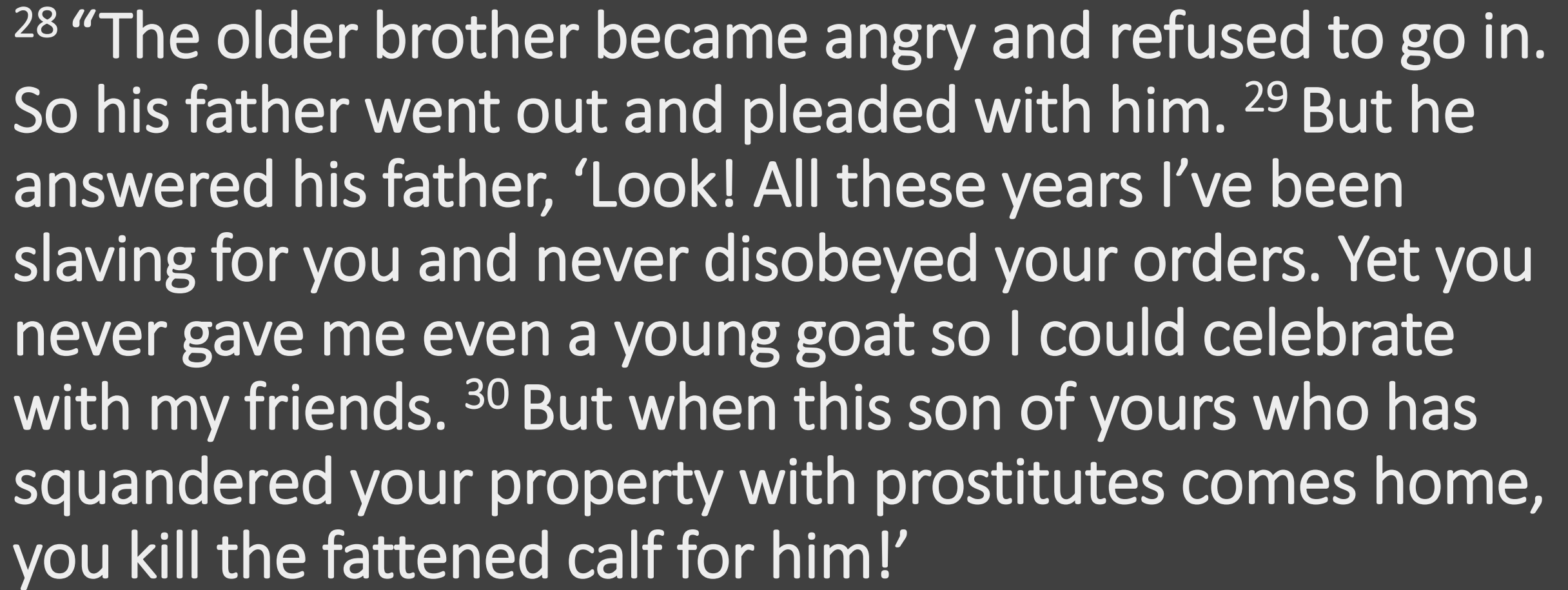


²¹ “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

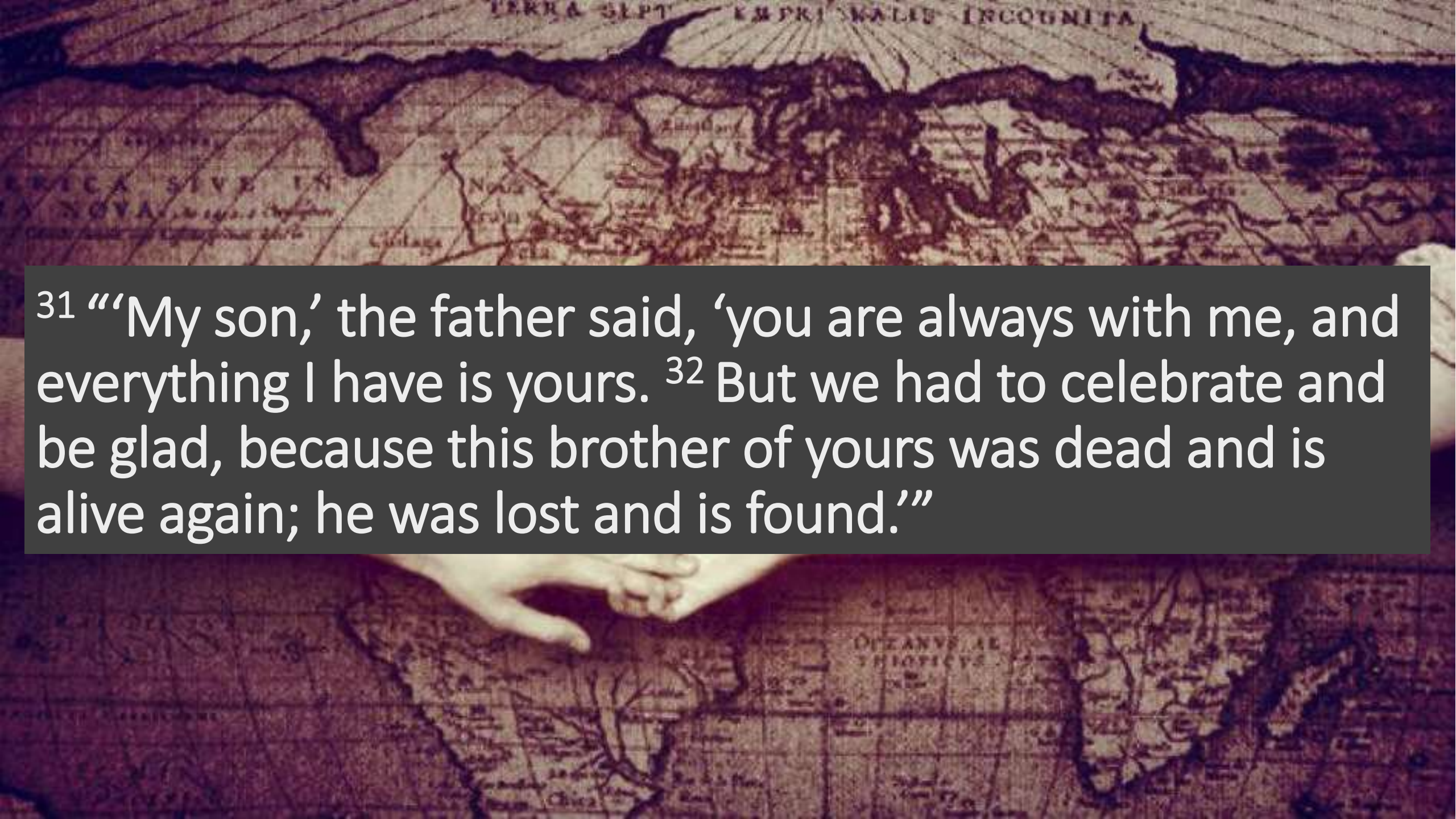
²² “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began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



²⁵ “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. ²⁷ ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’



28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 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. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

The background of the image is a historical map of the Americas, likely from the 16th or 17th century. The map is rendered in a sepia or brownish tone. At the top, the text "TERRA SEPTENTRIONALIS INCOGNITA" is visible. The map shows the outlines of North and South America with various geographical features and labels. A hand is visible at the bottom of the image, pointing towards the southern part of the continent. The text is overlaid on a dark grey rectangular background.

³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. ³² 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.’”

1. The Lost

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

¹³ “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.

Asōtōs - properly *unsavedness*



1. The Lost

Lost in their present condition

Ephesians 4:17-19

¹⁷ So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. ¹⁸ They are darkened in their understanding and **separated** from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. ¹⁹ Having lost all **sensitivity**, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, and they are full of greed.

1. The Lost

Lost in their eternal condition

Luke 8:13

¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. **They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.**

Revelation 22:19

¹⁹ And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, **God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City,** which are described in this scroll.

1. The Lost

Lost in their eternal condition

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9

⁸ He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ **They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might**

1. The Lost

Lost in their eternal condition

Revelation 21:8

⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

2. The Confused

²⁸ “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’ ³¹ “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.’

2. The Confused

Confused with the promise of Grace

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through faith—
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—

⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast

Charis — the divine influence upon the heart, and its
reflection in the life

2. The Confused

Confused with the fullness of the promise

Ezekiel 35:26-27

²⁵ I will **sprinkle** clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶ I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Joel 2:28-29

²⁸ “And afterward, I will **pour** out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. ²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. ³⁰ I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth

2. The Confused

Confused with their eternal positioning

Matthew 7:13-14; 21-23

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, **and only a few find it.**

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, **‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**

2. The Confused

Confused with their eternal positioning

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

¹² If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, ¹³ their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. ¹⁴ If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If it is burned up, the builder **will suffer loss but yet will be saved**—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

3. The Sons & Daughters

²² “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. ²³ Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

3. The Sons & Daughters

Embrace and Thrive within Grace

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸ A person is not a Jew who is one only outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. ²⁹ No, a person is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a person's praise is not from other people, but from God.

3. The Sons & Daughters

Embrace and Thrive with the Full Promise

John 14:12-14

¹² Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

3. The Sons & Daughters

Embrace and Thrive with the Full Promise

Mark 16:15-18

¹⁵ He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶ Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; ¹⁸ they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

3. The Sons & Daughters

Embrace and Store for their Eternity

Hidden Manna (Revelation 2:17)

New name written on a stone (Revelation 2:17)

Eat of the fruit of the Tree of Life (Revelation 22)

Mansions (John 14:2-3)

Crown of Life (Revelation 2:10)

Crown of Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)

Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:1-4)

Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)

Incarnate Crown (1 Corinthians 9:24-25)

**WHERE DO YOU STAND
IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD?**

