

LOVING GOD

Spiritual Disciplines

SIF

Suzhou International Fellowship



brate



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On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

...

Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."

John 2:1-11



6 Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 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.

... 9 she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' 10 In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

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.



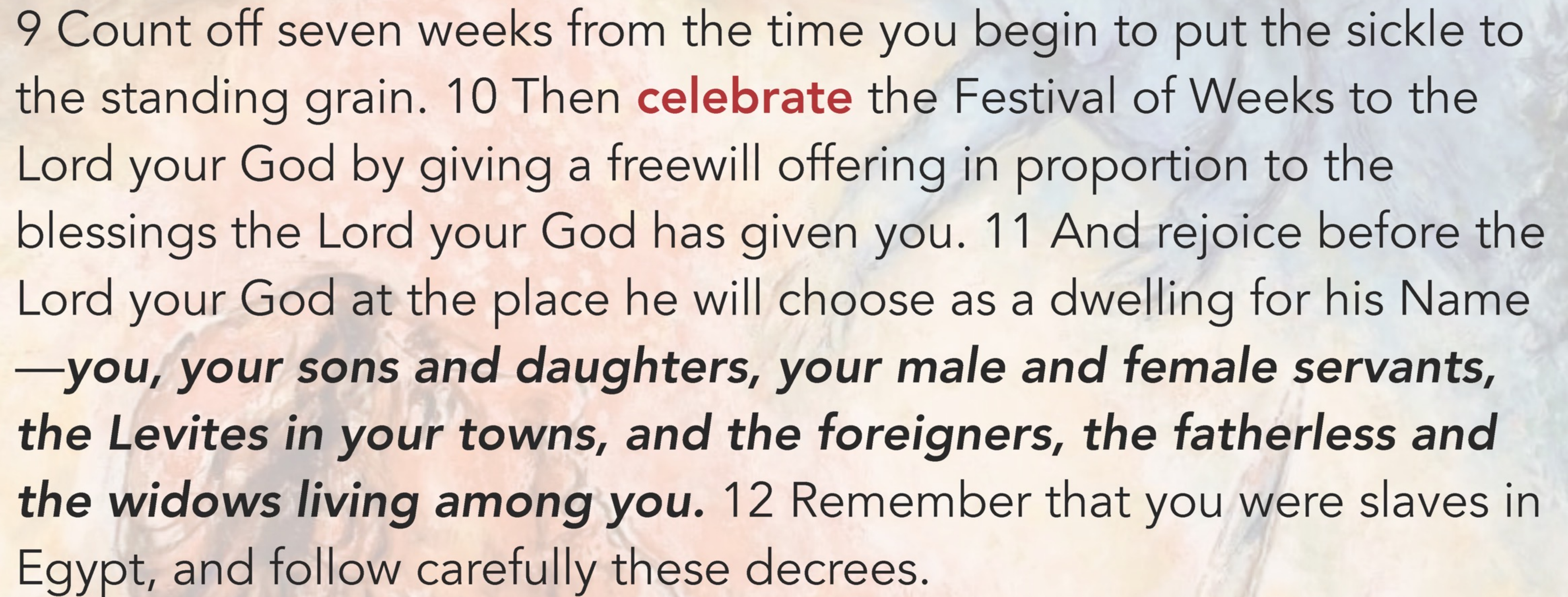
“‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Luke 15:31-32

Observe the month of Aviv and **celebrate** the Passover of the Lord your God, because in the month of Aviv he brought you out of Egypt by night.

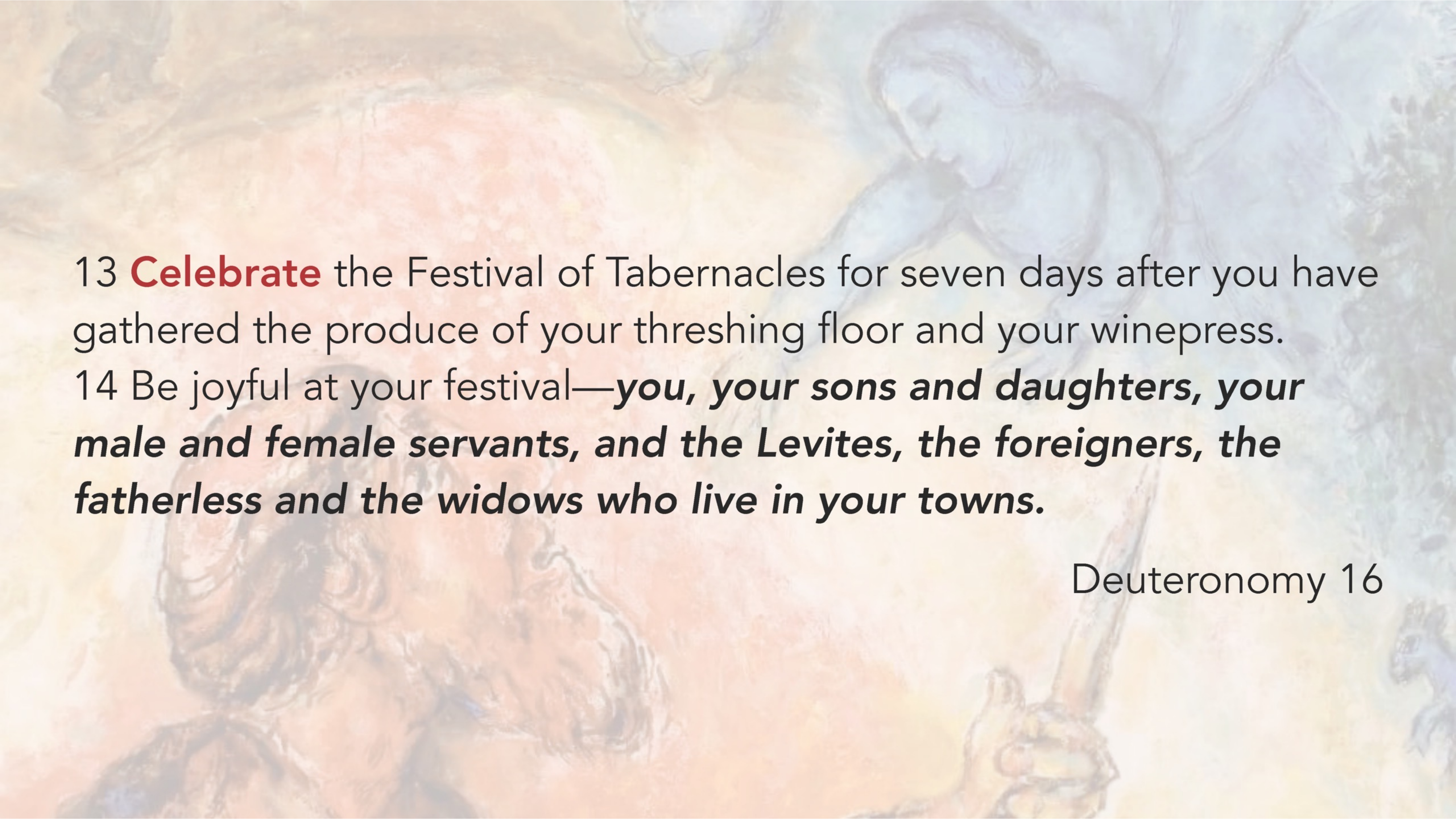
Deuteronomy 16:1





9 Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. 10 Then **celebrate** the Festival of Weeks to the Lord your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the Lord your God has given you. 11 And rejoice before the Lord your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name —*you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, the Levites in your towns, and the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows living among you.* 12 Remember that you were slaves in Egypt, and follow carefully these decrees.

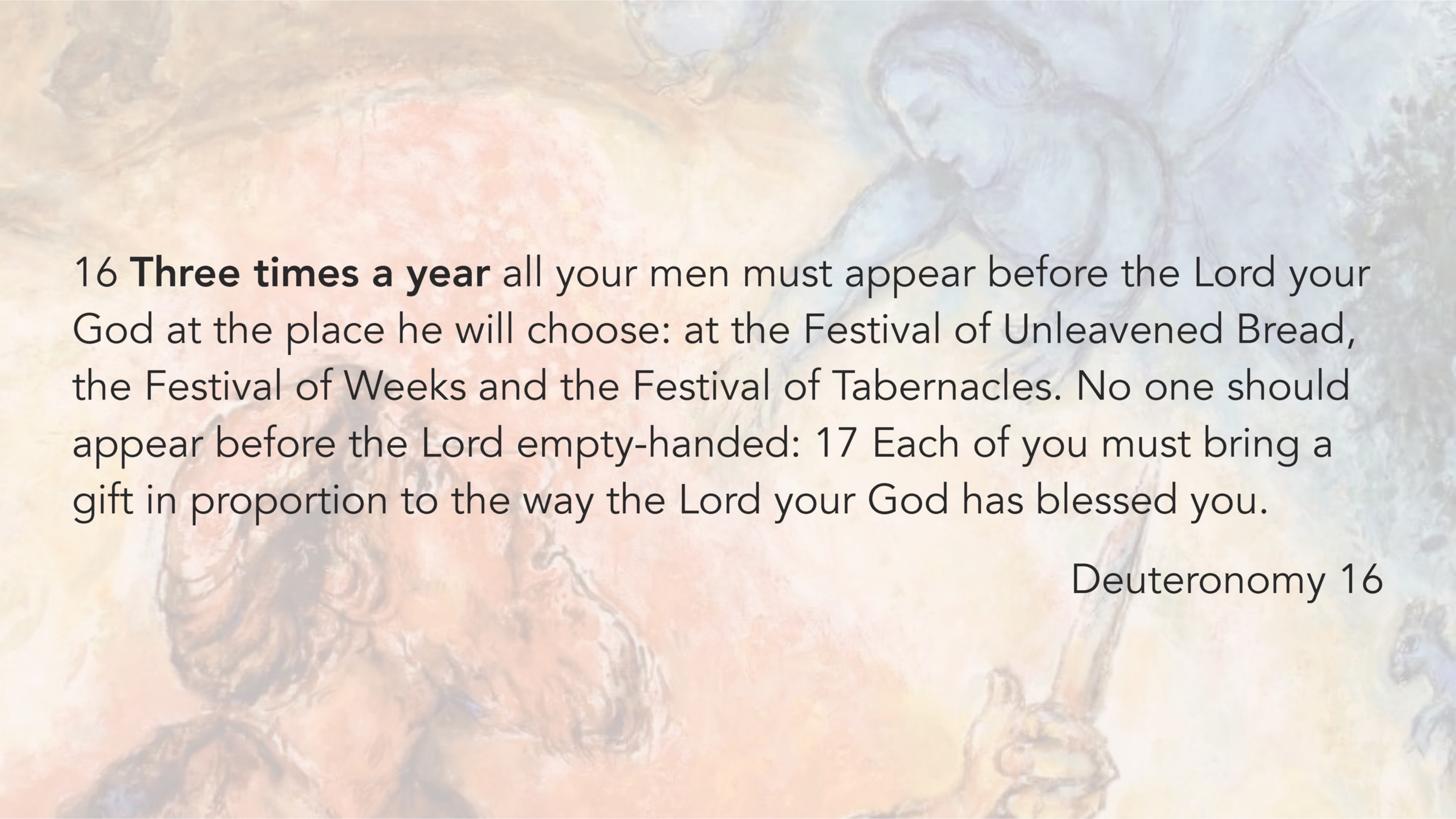
Deuteronomy 16



13 **Celebrate** the Festival of Tabernacles for seven days after you have gathered the produce of your threshing floor and your winepress.

14 Be joyful at your festival—***you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, and the Levites, the foreigners, the fatherless and the widows who live in your towns.***

Deuteronomy 16

A faded, artistic illustration in the background. On the left, a man with a beard and long hair is shown in profile, looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with long hair is shown from the chest up, looking down. The overall style is soft and painterly, with a color palette of muted blues, greys, and warm tones.

16 Three times a year all your men must appear before the Lord your God at the place he will choose: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks and the Festival of Tabernacles. No one should appear before the Lord empty-handed: 17 Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 16

A painting with a warm, orange-toned background. In the foreground, a man's face is shown in profile, looking upwards. In the background, a woman in a blue dress is kneeling, holding a hand. The overall mood is one of reverence or celebration.

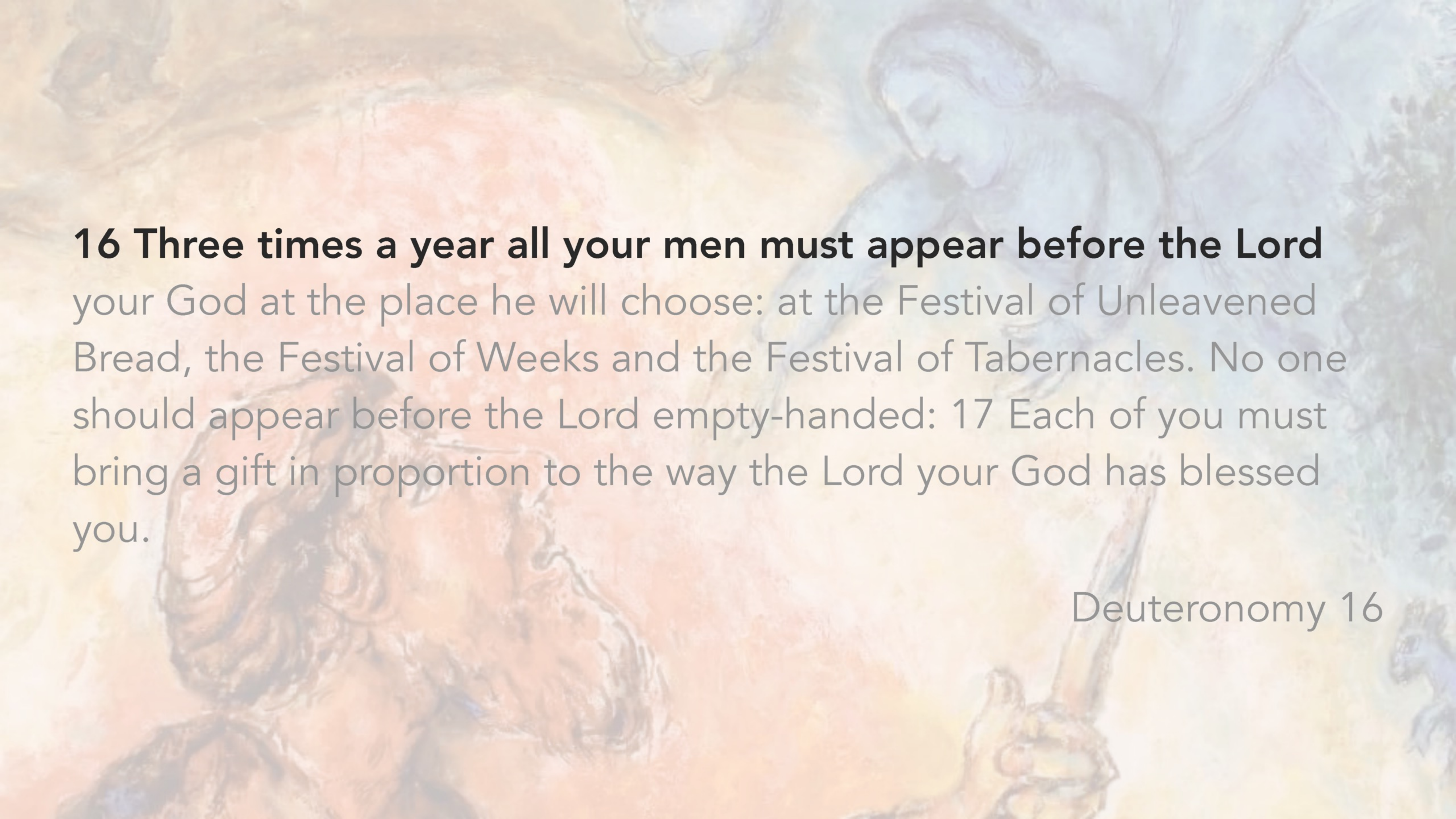
1. Celebration should be a **habit**

2. Celebration often **involves the table**

3. Celebration is **communal**

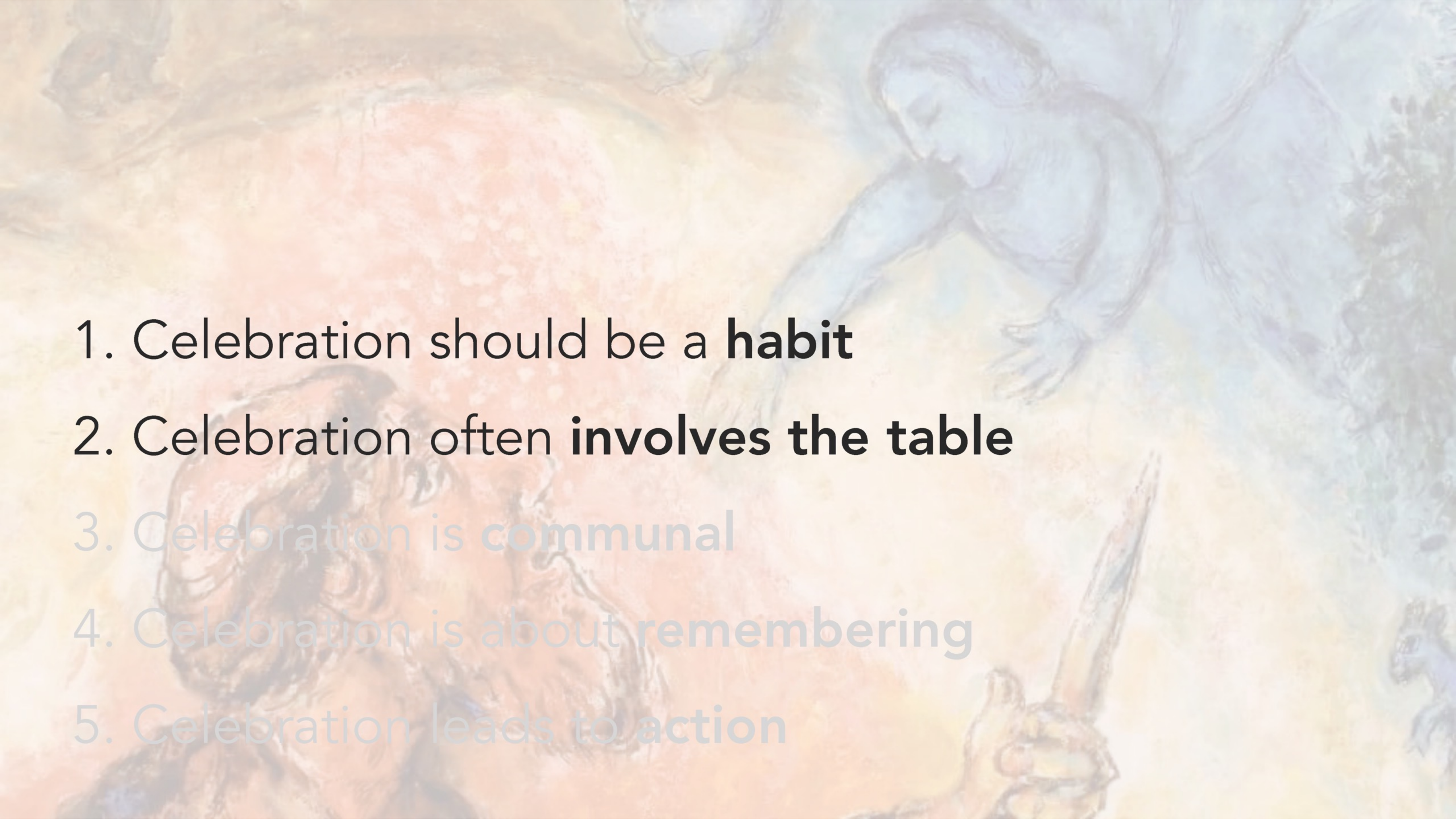
4. Celebration is about **remembering**

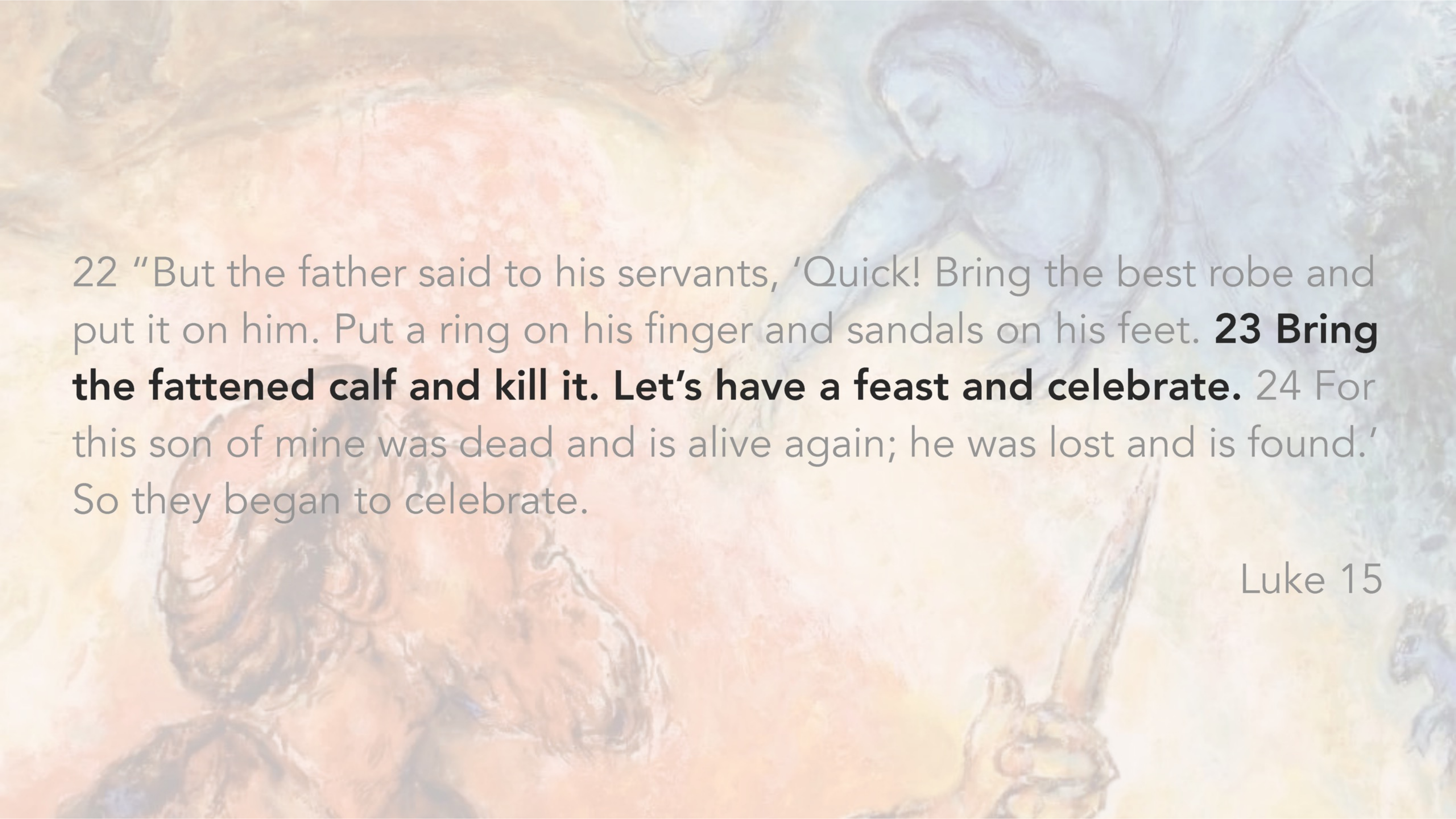
5. Celebration leads to **action**



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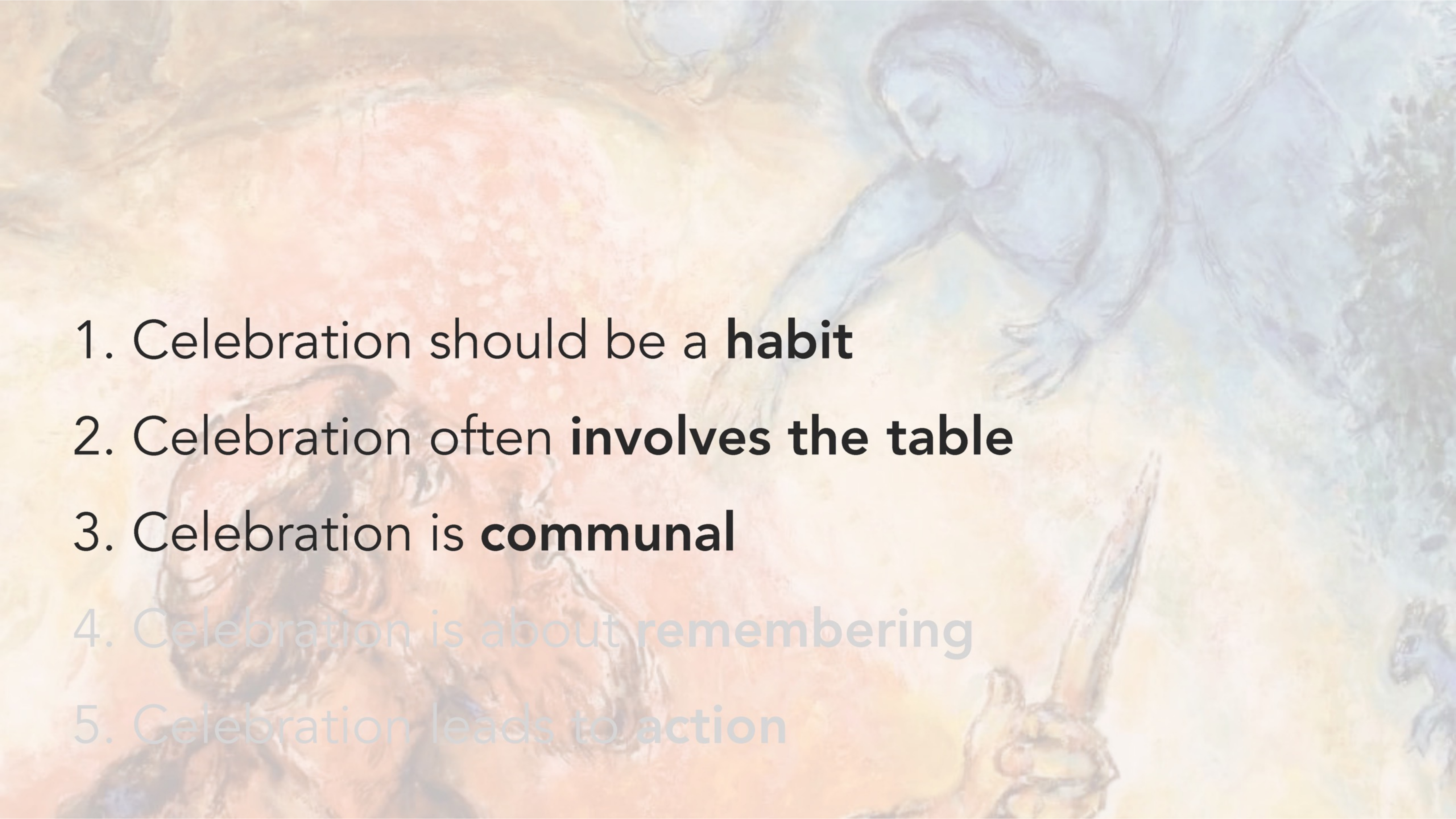
Deuteronomy 16

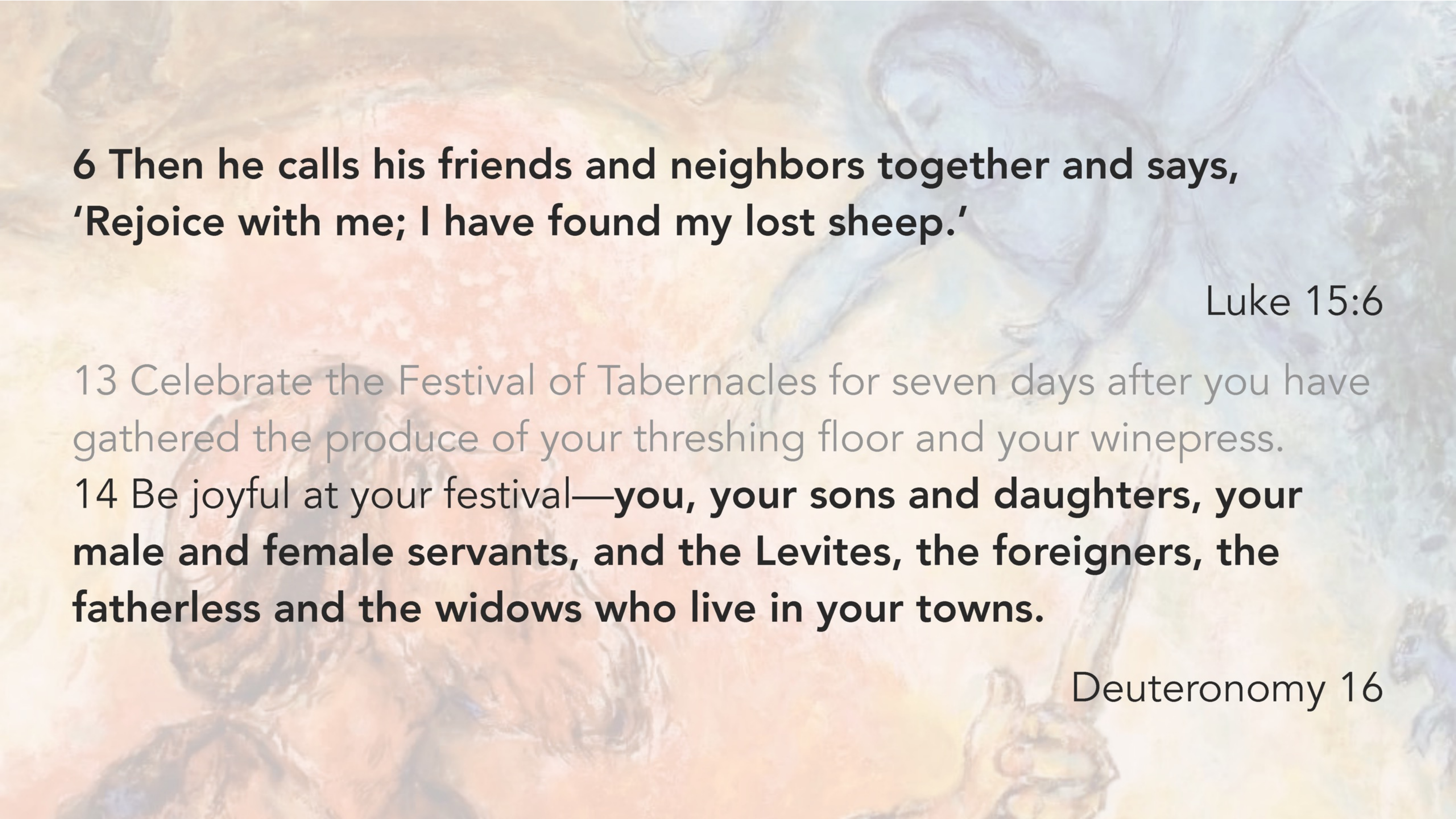
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Luke 15

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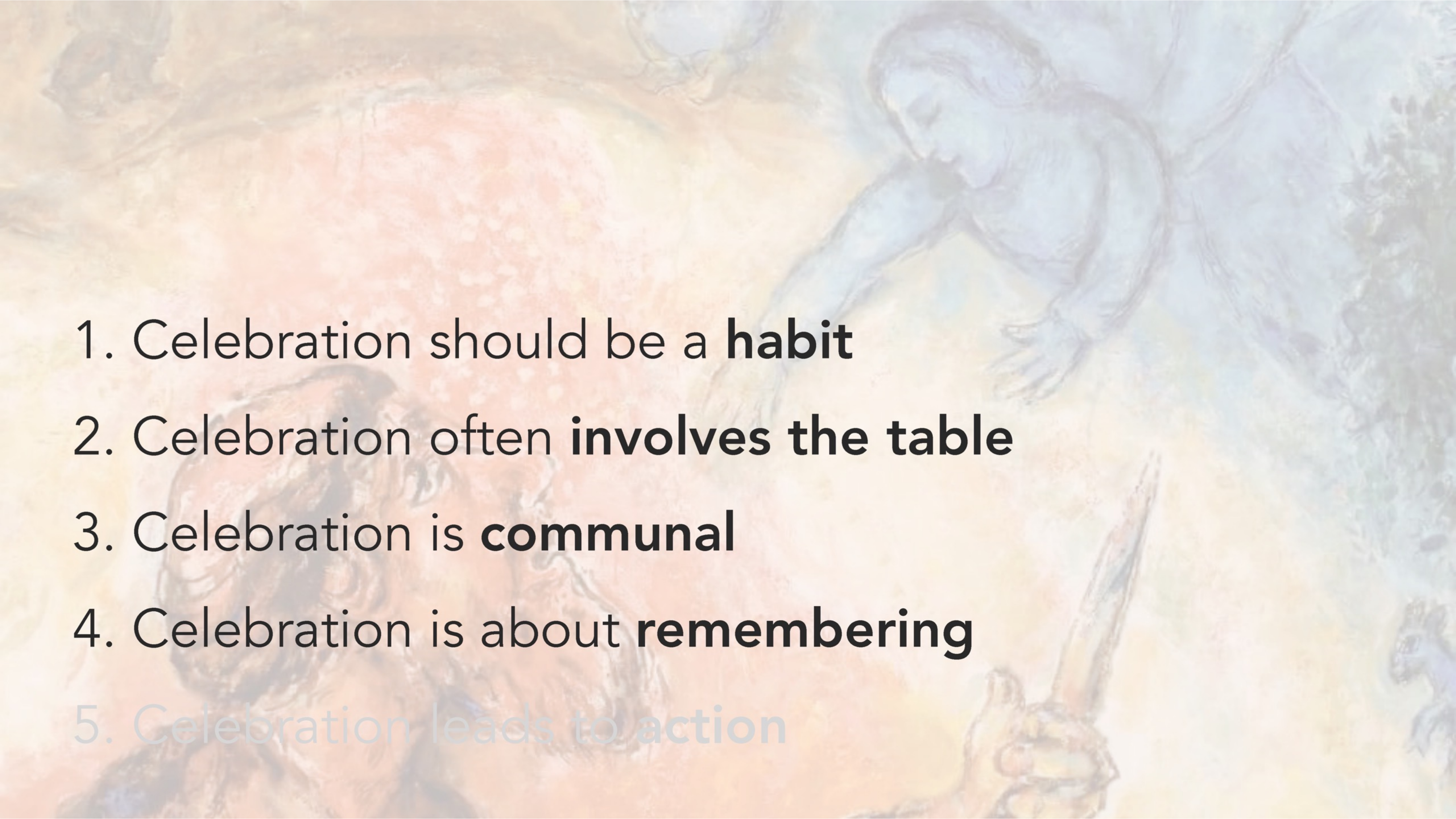
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'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.'**

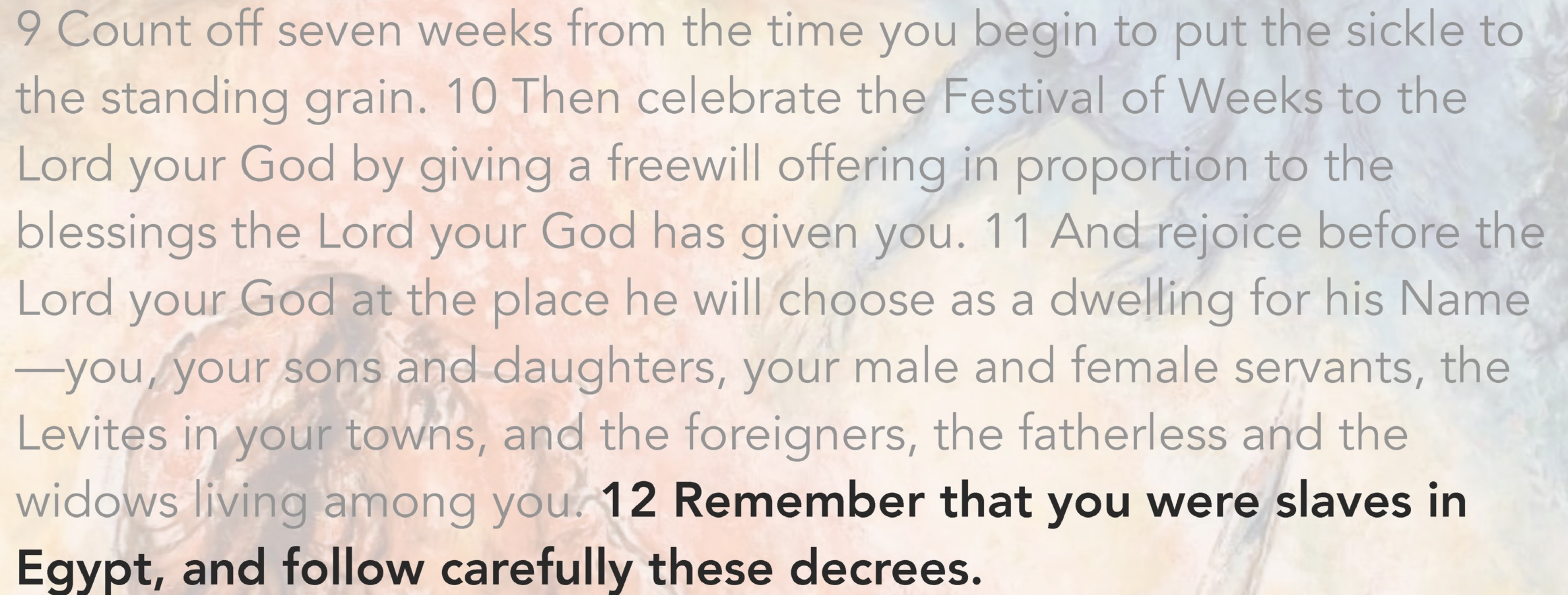
Luke 15:6

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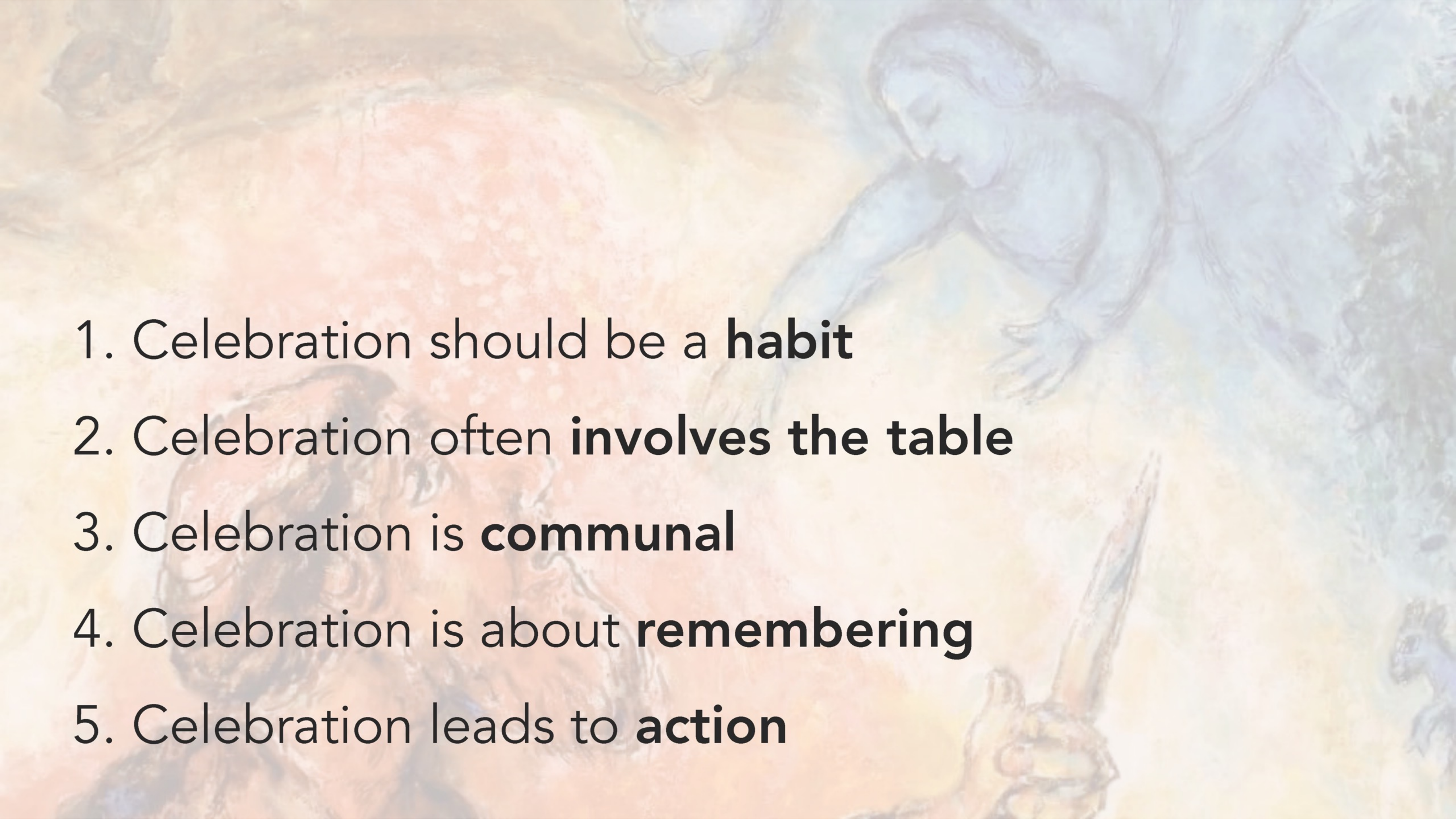
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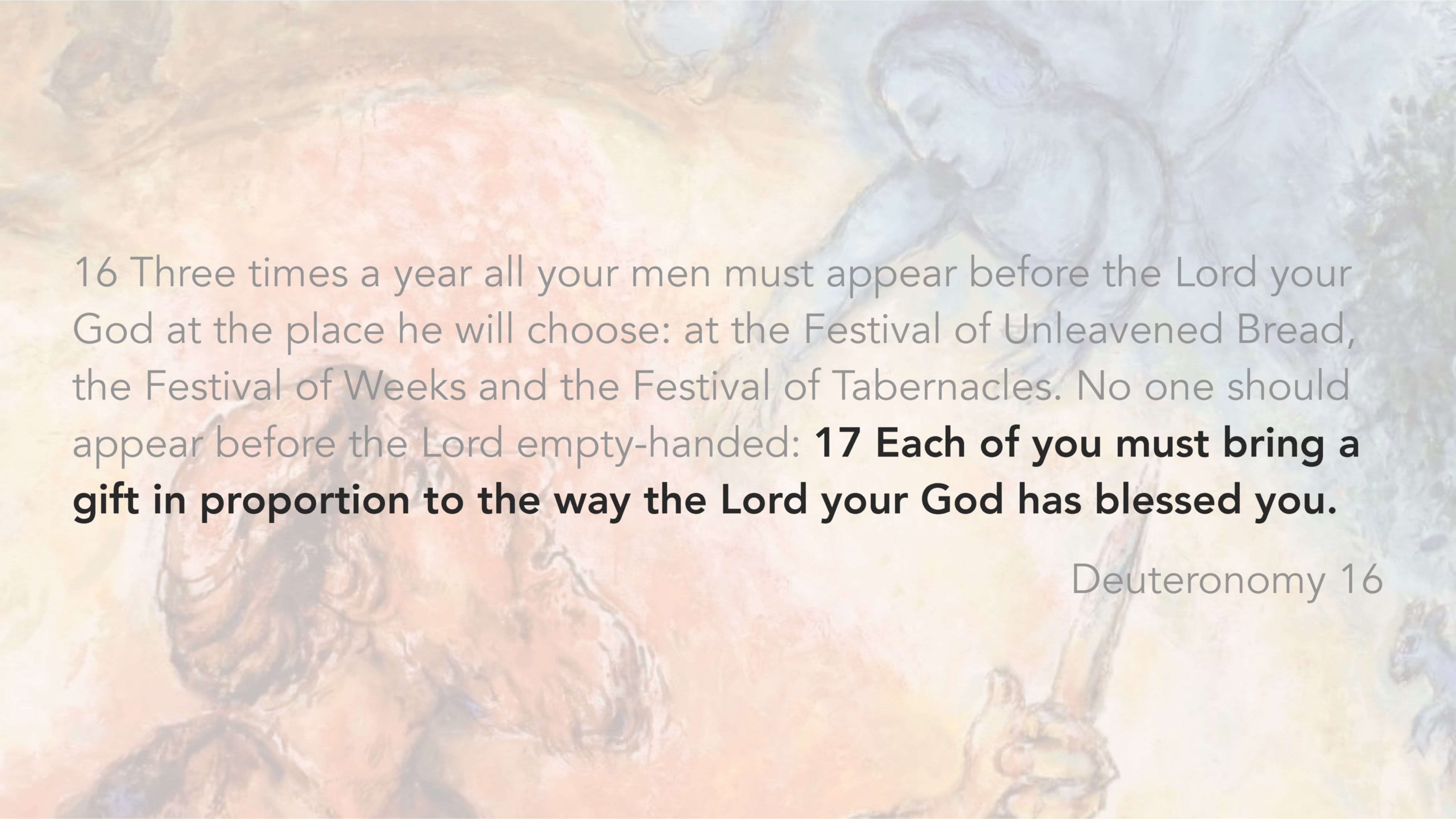
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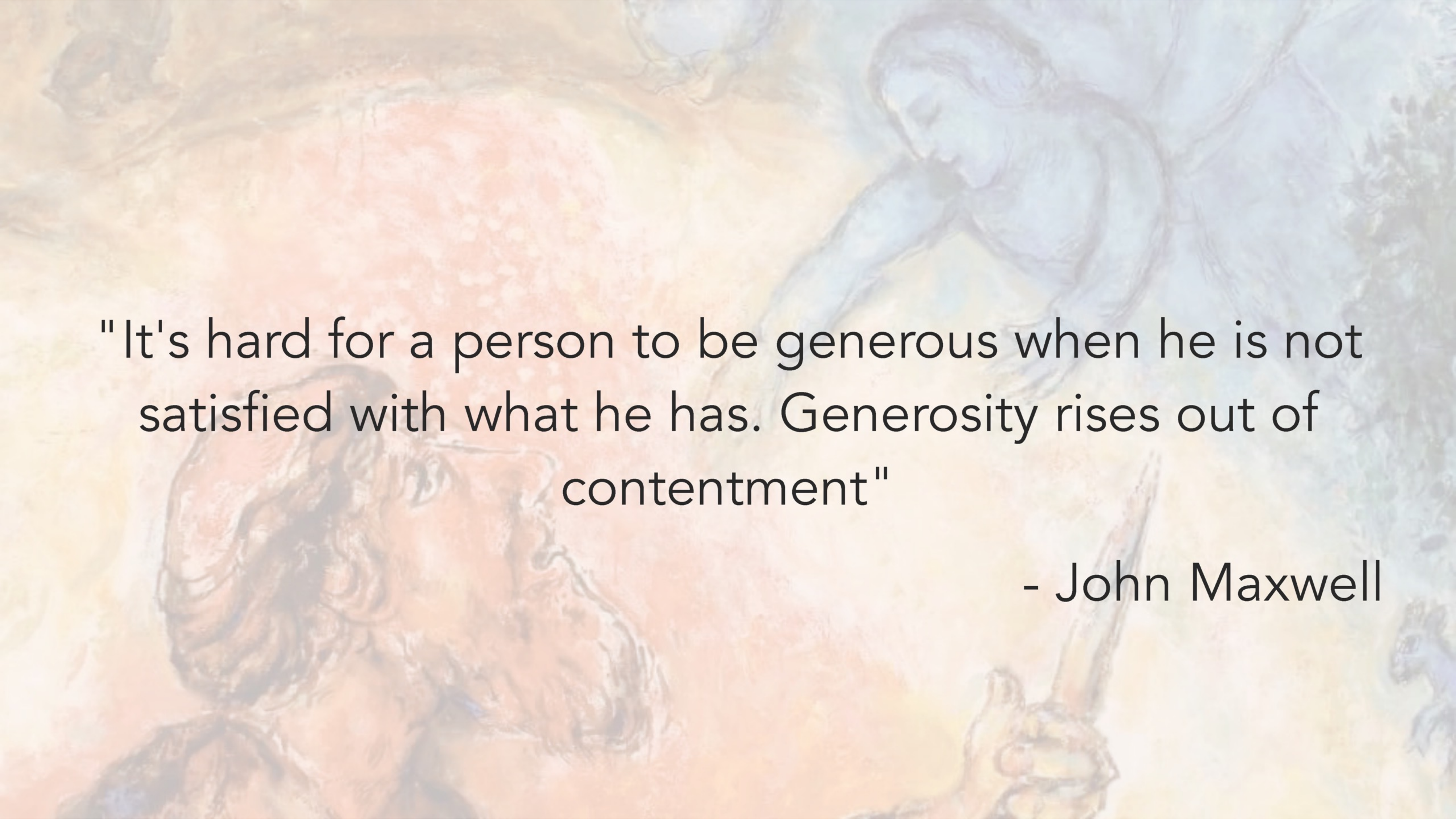
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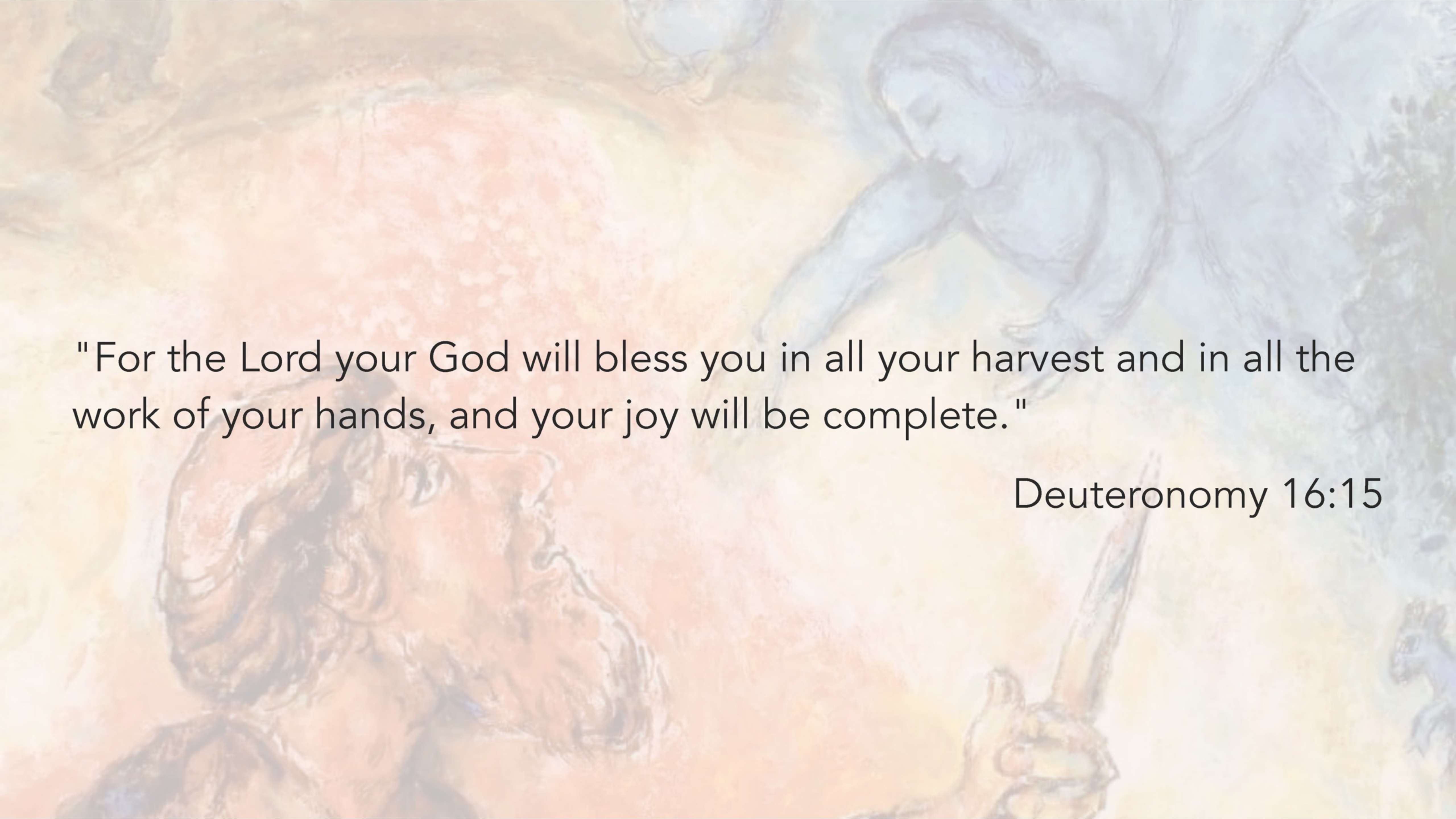
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Deuteronomy 16



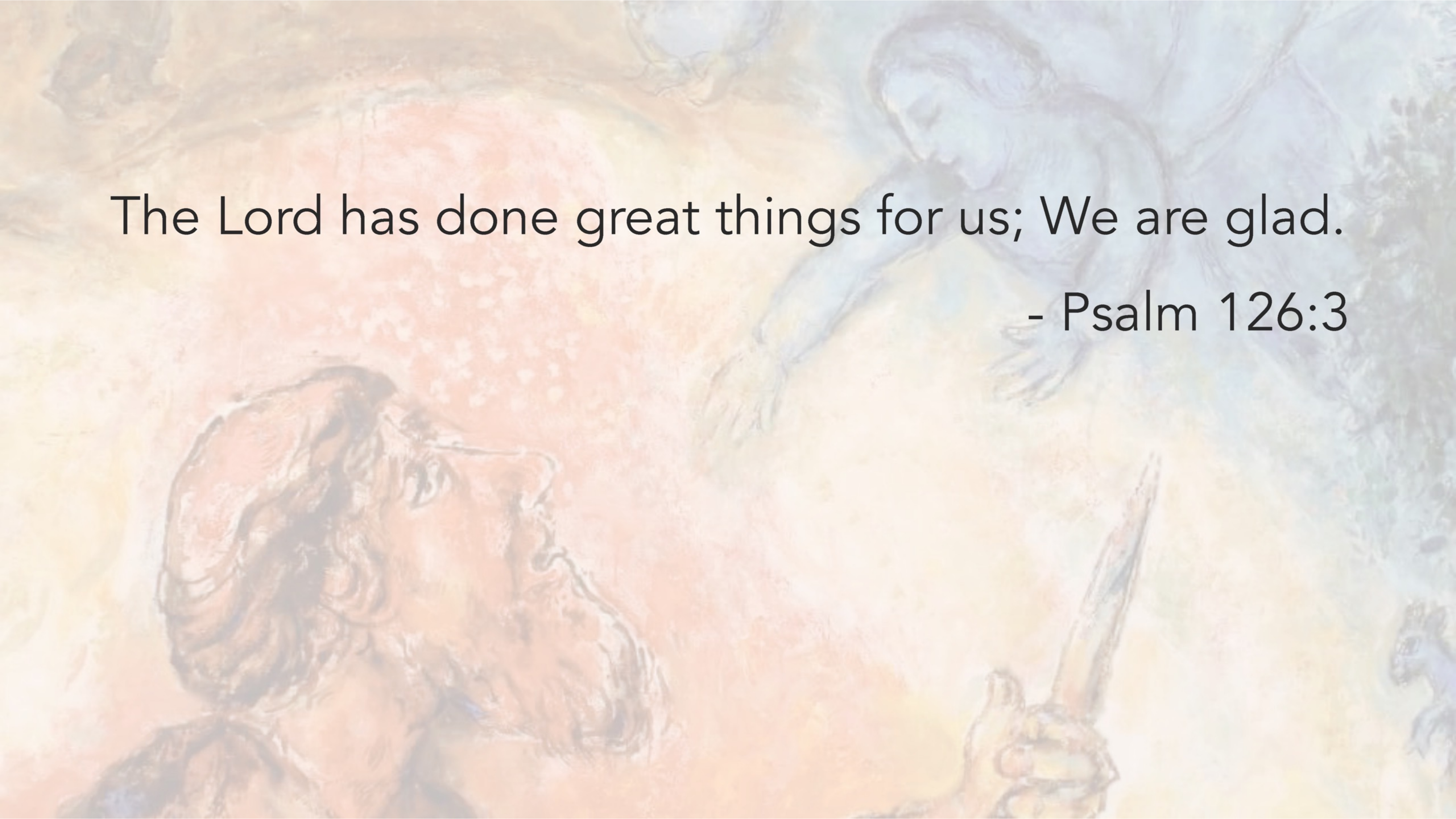
"It's hard for a person to be generous when he is not satisfied with what he has. Generosity rises out of contentment"

- John Maxwell



"For the Lord your God will bless you in all your harvest and in all the work of your hands, and your joy will be complete."

Deuteronomy 16:15

A painting with a soft, painterly style. In the foreground, a man with a full, dark beard and long, wavy hair is shown in profile, looking upwards. He is wearing a dark, textured garment. In the background, a woman with long, dark hair is depicted in a blue dress, looking down. The background is a warm, textured wash of orange and yellow tones. The overall mood is contemplative and serene.

The Lord has done great things for us; We are glad.

- Psalm 126:3



The Lord has done great things for us; We are glad.

- Psalm 126:3

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.

- Philippians 4:4