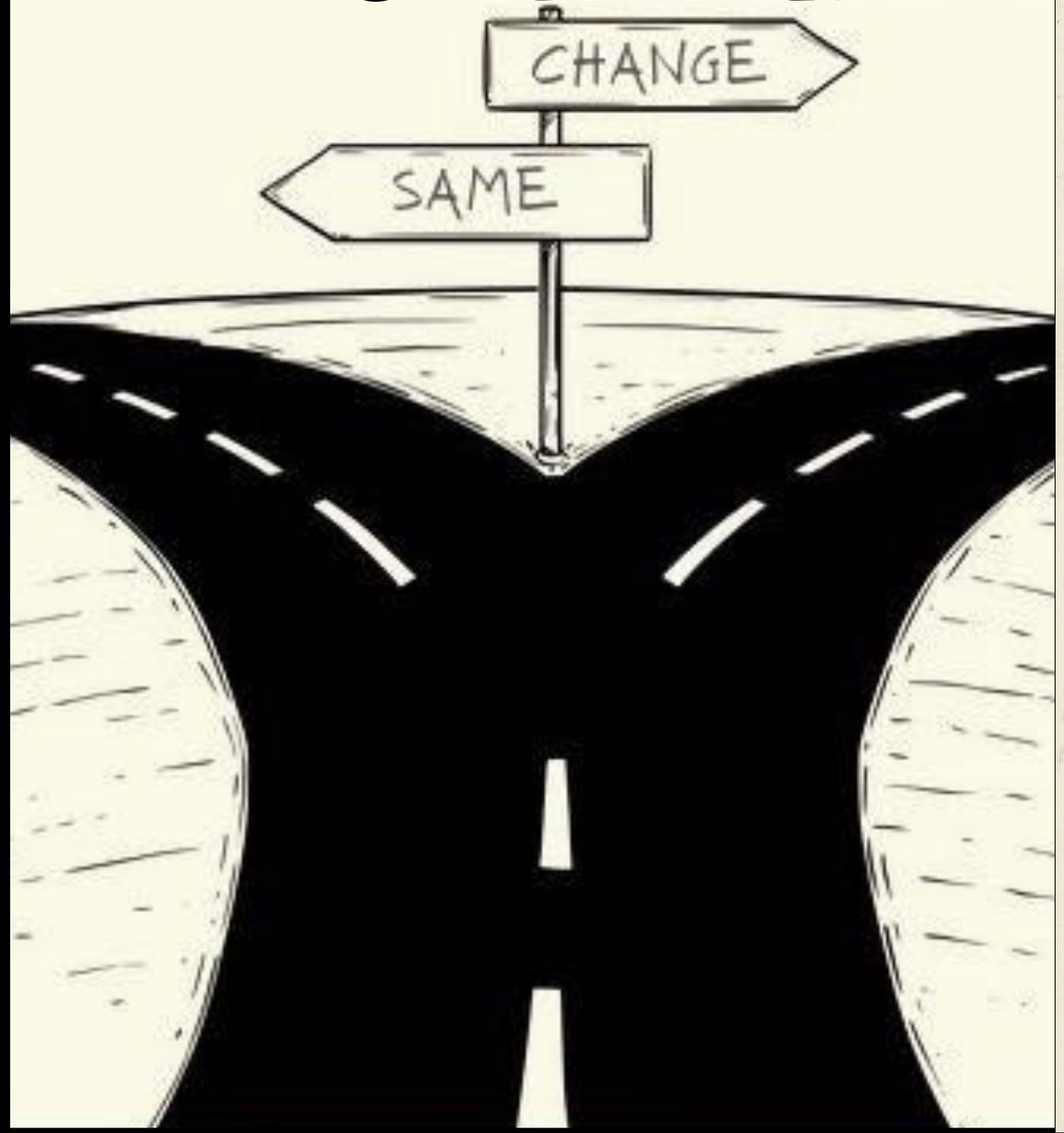

IS CHANGE POSSIBLE?

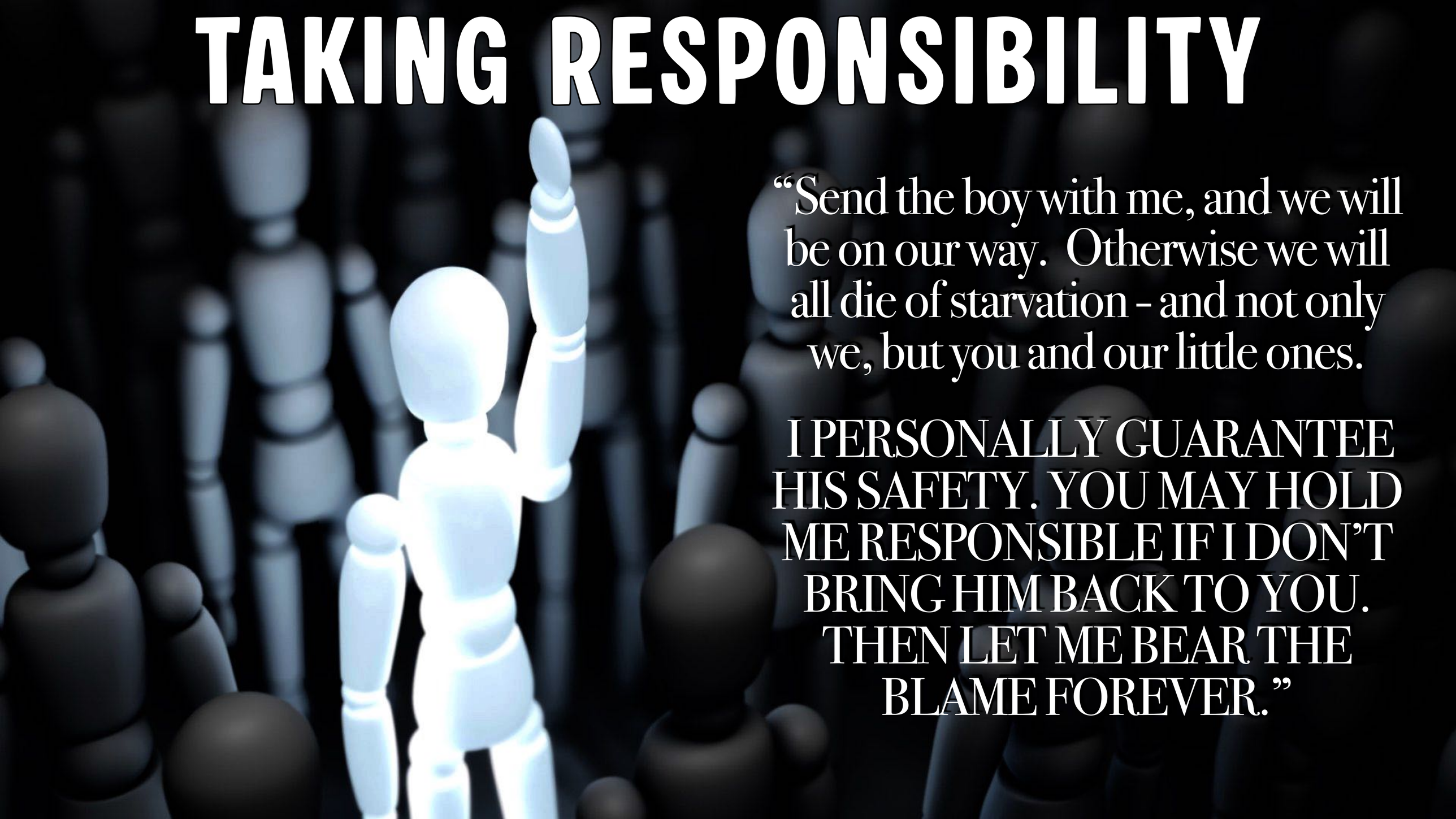
CAN I REALLY CHANGE?



Ephesians 4:22-24

Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God – truly righteous and holy.

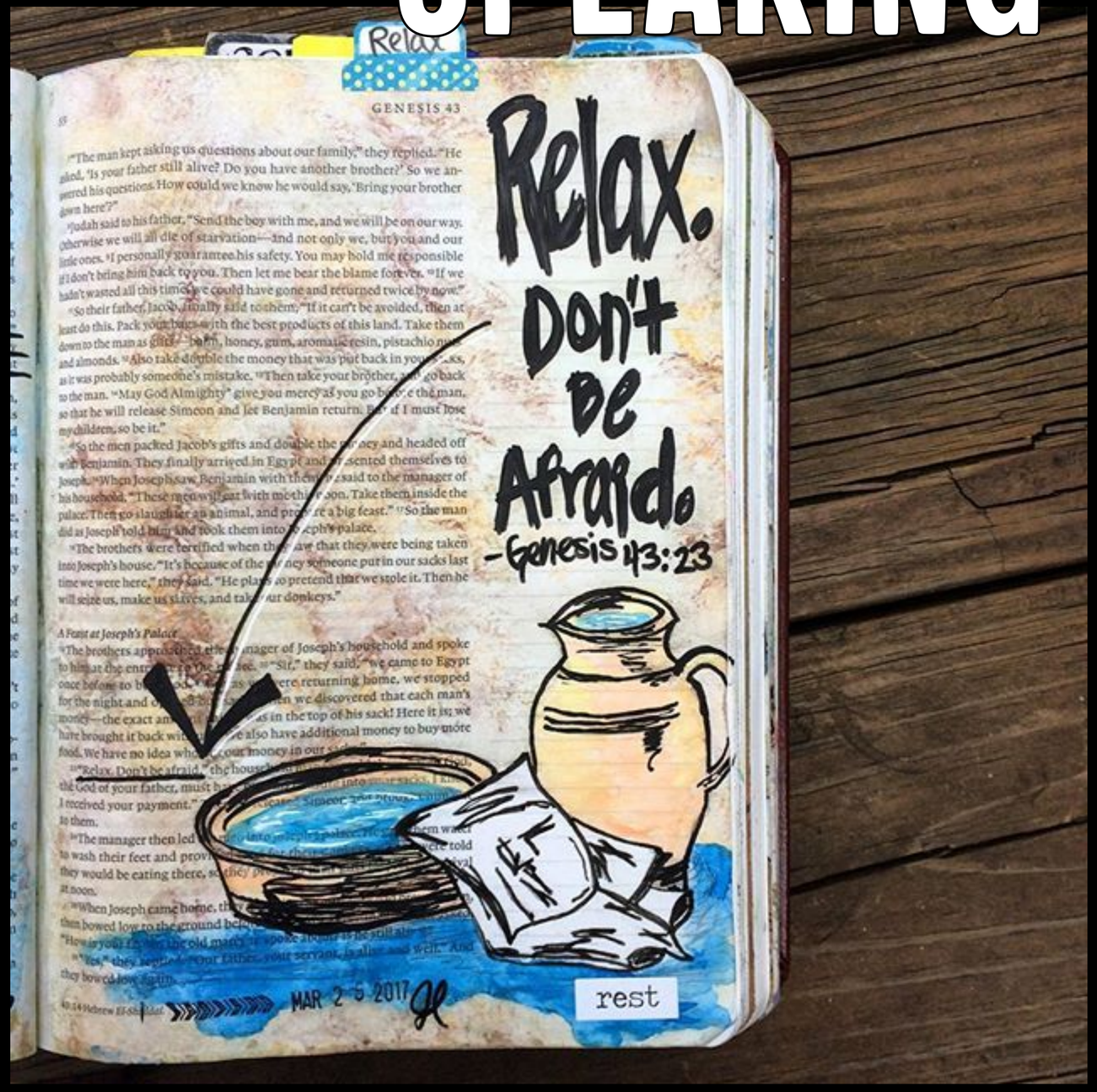
TAKING RESPONSIBILITY



"Send the boy with me, and we will be on our way. Otherwise we will all die of starvation – and not only we, but you and our little ones.

I PERSONALLY GUARANTEE HIS SAFETY. YOU MAY HOLD ME RESPONSIBLE IF I DON'T BRING HIM BACK TO YOU. THEN LET ME BEAR THE BLAME FOREVER."

SPEAKING HONESTLY



THE BROTHERS APPROACHED THE MANAGER OF JOSEPH'S HOUSE-HOLD AND SPOKE TO HIM AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE PALACE.

"Sir," they said, "We came to Egypt once before to buy food. But as we were returning home, we stopped for the night and opened our sacks. Then we discovered that each man's money - the exact amount paid - was in the top of his sack! Here it is; we have brought it back with us. We also have additional money to buy more food. We have no idea who put our money in our sacks."

FACING JEALOUSY



Joseph told each of his brothers where to sit, and to their amazement, he seated them according to age, from oldest to youngest.

And Joseph filled their plates with food from his own table, GIVING BENJAMIN FIVE TIMES AS MUCH AS HE GAVE THE OTHERS.

So they feasted and drank freely with him.

A TEST OF LOYALTY



They all quickly took their sacks from the backs of their donkeys and opened them. 13 The palace manager searched the brothers' sacks, from the oldest to the youngest. And the cup was found in Benjamin's sack!

WHEN THE BROTHERS SAW THIS, THEY TORE THEIR CLOTHING IN DESPAIR. THEN THEY LOADED THEIR DONKEYS AGAIN AND RETURNED TO THE CITY.

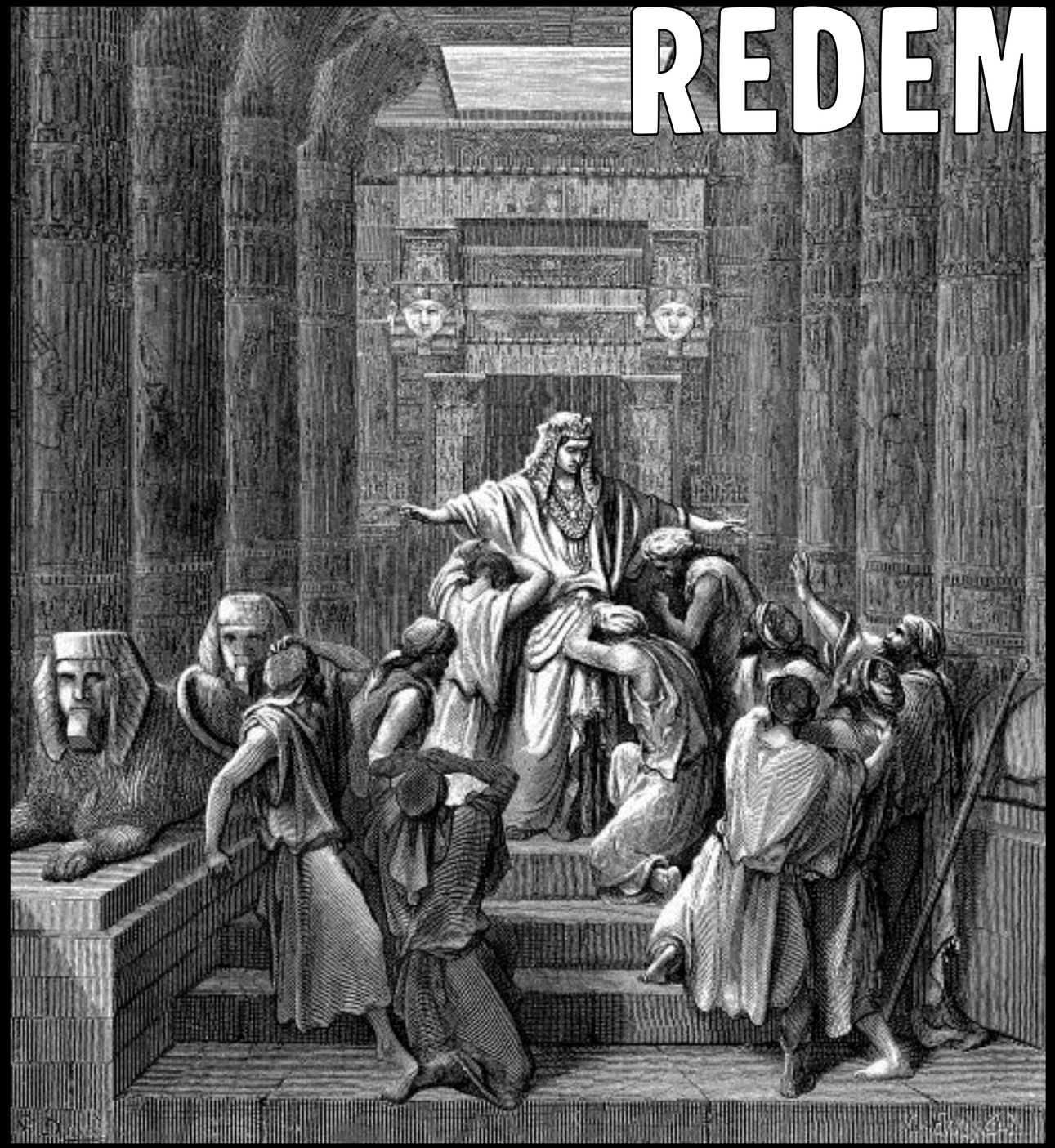
SELF-SACRIFICE



"SO PLEASE, MY LORD, LET ME STAY HERE AS A SLAVE INSTEAD OF THE BOY, AND LET THE BOY RETURN WITH HIS BROTHERS.

For how can I return to my father if the boy is not with me? I couldn't bear to see the anguish this would cause my father!"

REDEMPTION



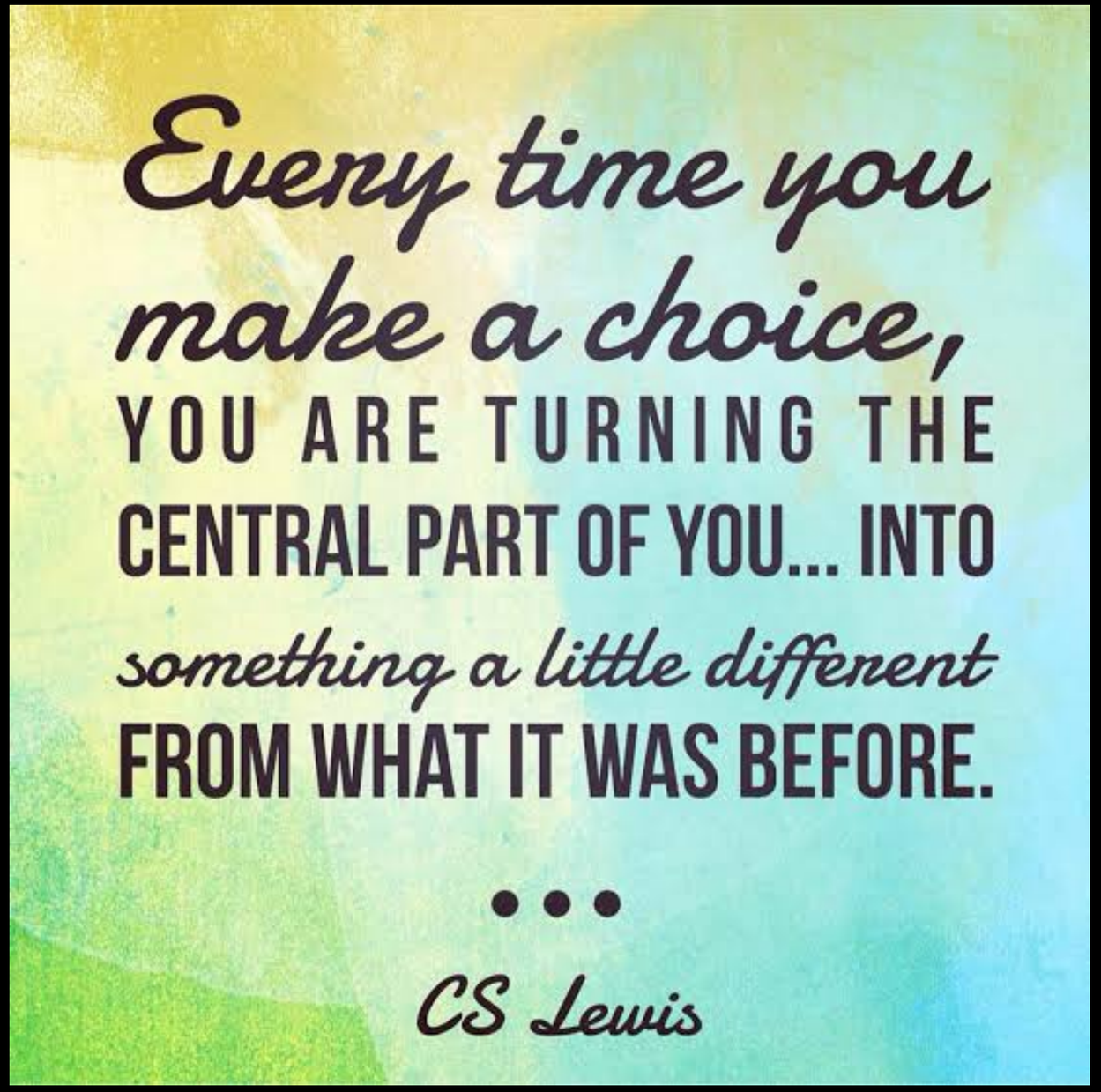
I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt.

BUT DON'T BE UPSET, AND DON'T BE ANGRY WITH YOURSELVES FOR SELLING ME TO THIS PLACE. IT WAS GOD WHO SENT ME HERE AHEAD OF YOU TO PRESERVE YOUR LIVES…

So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

TAKE IT HOME:


REPENTANCE IS A
RECOGNITION OF SIN,
FOLLOWED BY A
HEARTFELT SORROW,
CULMINATING IN A
CHANGE OF BEHAVIOR.
[2 CORINTHIANS 7:9-10]


Every time you
make a choice,
YOU ARE TURNING THE
CENTRAL PART OF YOU... INTO
something a little different
FROM WHAT IT WAS BEFORE.
• • •
CS Lewis