

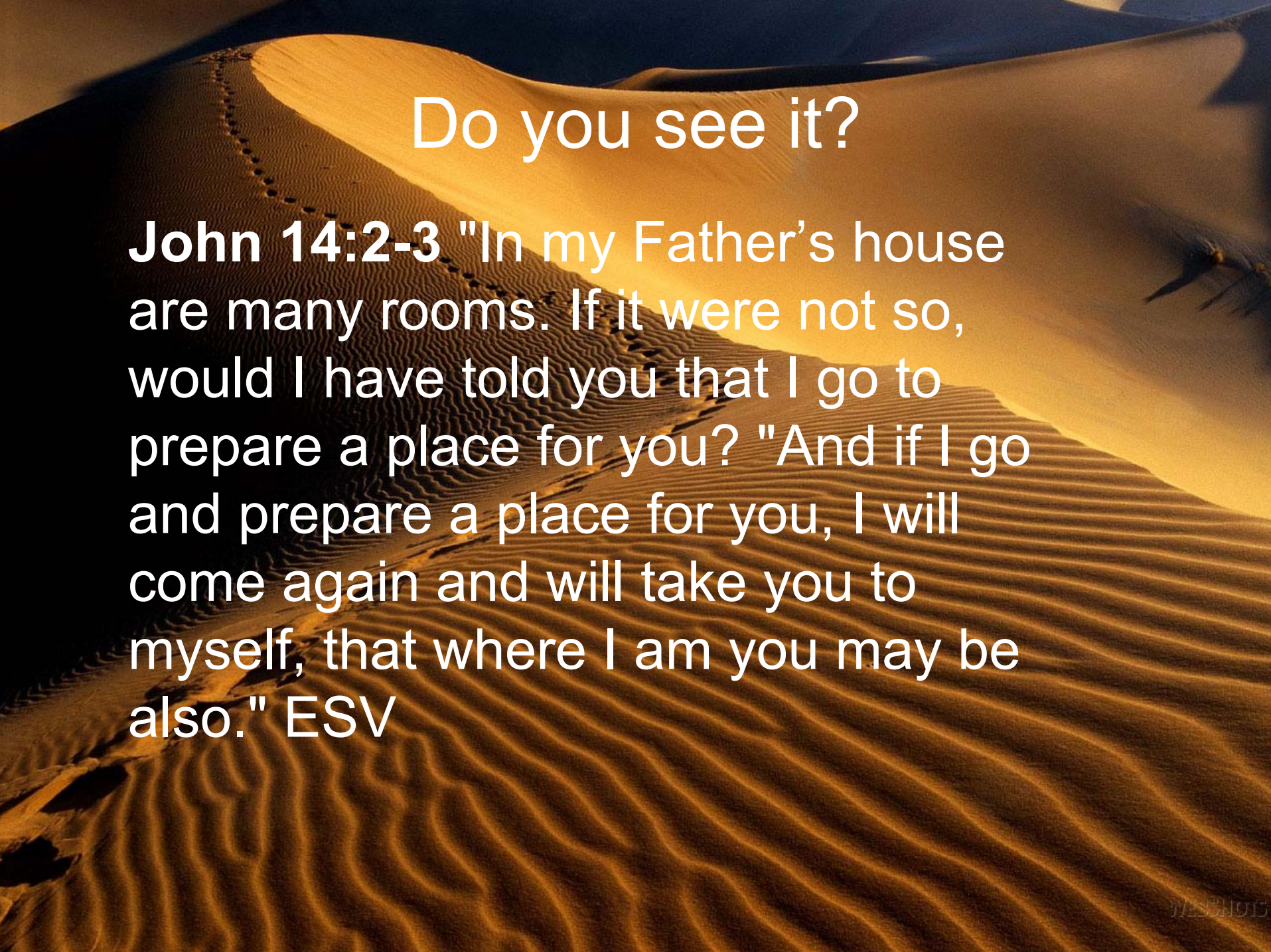


***One of the Realities
of Christmas!***

Ed Riddick, December 31, 2006

What Jesus Wants for Christmas

John 17:20-24 "*Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me* where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." ESV



Do you see it?

John 14:2-3 "In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." ESV

God's Cure for Loneliness

Deuteronomy 31:8 "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." NIV

Joshua 1:5 "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Hebrews 13:5-6 "Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." "So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?"

God's Cure for Loneliness

I. The God Dimension

A. Yes...

Matthew 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"" ESV

God's Cure for Loneliness

I. The God Dimension

A. Yes...

B. No...Look at John 17:20-24 again

"Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world." ESV

John 5:19-20 "So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. "For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel." ESV

God's Cure for Loneliness

I. The God Dimension

A. Yes...

B. No...

John 11:38-42 "Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. "Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." "Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" "So they took away the stone.

And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. "I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.'" ESV

God's Cure for Loneliness

I. The God Dimension

A. Yes...

B. No...

C. How this applies to us

2 Corinthians 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." ESV

1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." ESV

Philippians 2:1 "So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation (fellowship) in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy," ESV

Philippians 3:10 "that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; " NASB95



II. The Human Dimension

A. Psalm 142

B. 2 Timothy 4:9f

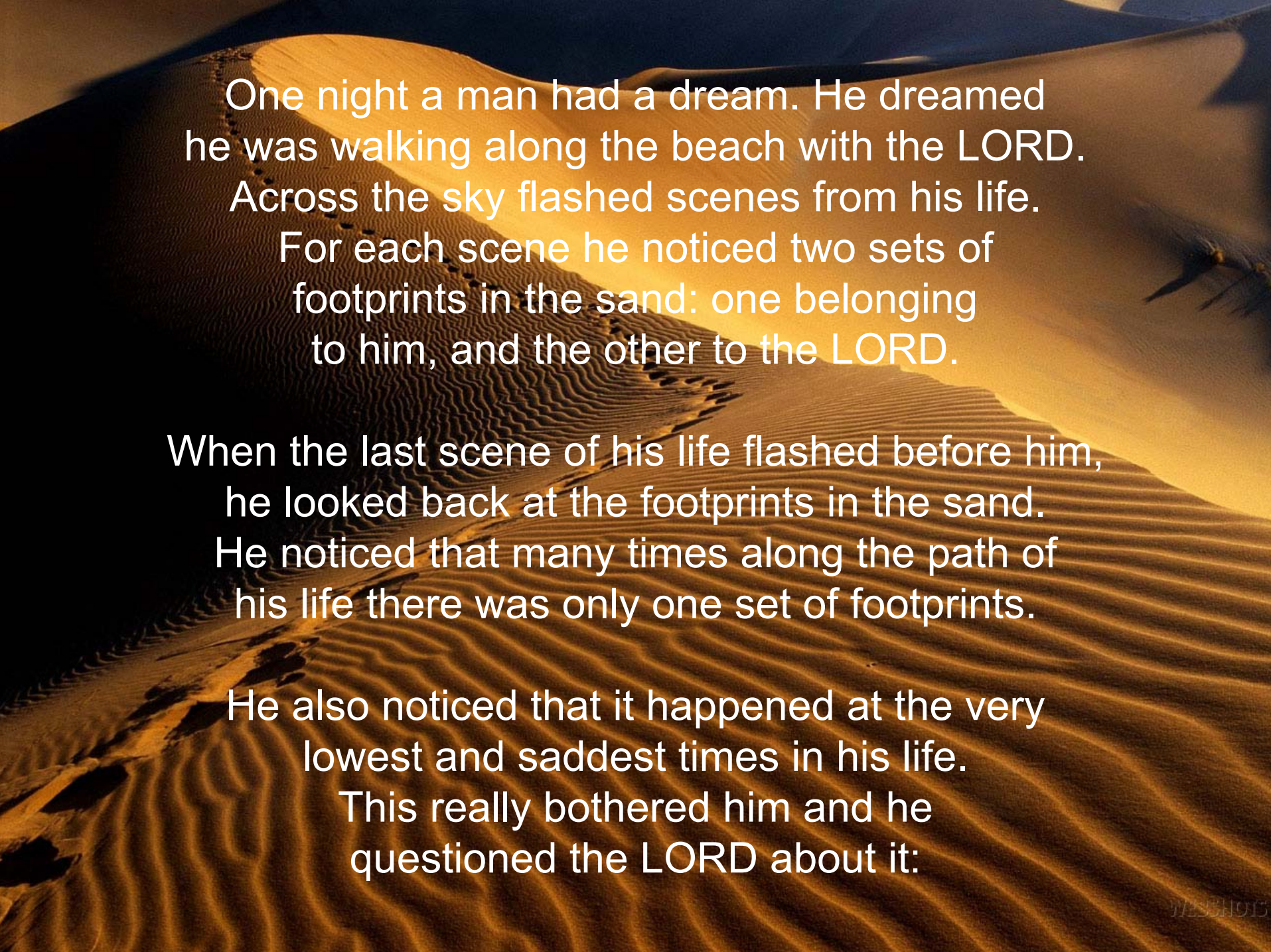
1 John 1:3 "what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. " NASB95

Acts 2:42 "They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. "

Galatians 2:9 "and recognizing the grace that had been given to me, James and Cephas and John, who were reputed to be pillars, gave to me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship, so that we might go to the Gentiles and they to the circumcised. " NASB95

God Himself Gives Us a Promise

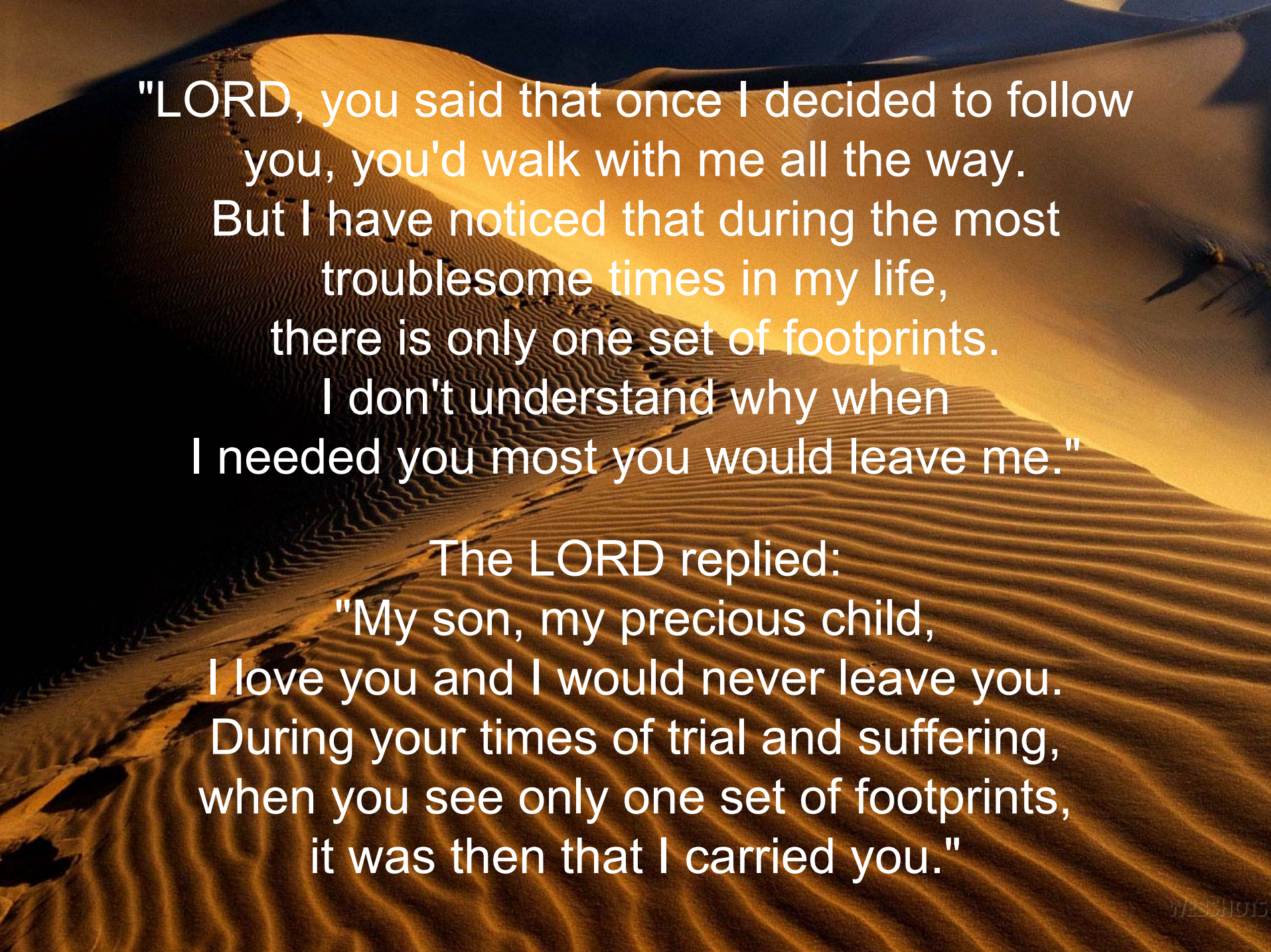
Joshua 1:5-9 "I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. "*Be strong* and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. "*Be strong* and very courageous. *Be careful* to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. "*Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth*; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. "*Have I not commanded you?* *Be strong* and courageous. *Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged*, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.'" NIV



One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the LORD. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the LORD.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand. He noticed that many times along the path of his life there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the LORD about it:



"LORD, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand why when I needed you most you would leave me."

The LORD replied:

"My son, my precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."



