Tell Me the Truth with Compassion

Discussion Questions:

1. How comfortable are you with conflict? What makes conflict difficult for you?

2. Have you ever confronted someone and found that conversation deepened your friendship? Damaged your friendship?

3. What do you think is the goal of confronting someone with compassion? Is that the goal you have in such conversations?

4. Where are your blind spots? Where do you especially need people to tell you the truth about what they see in your life?

5. How can you be more open to receiving feedback people have for you?

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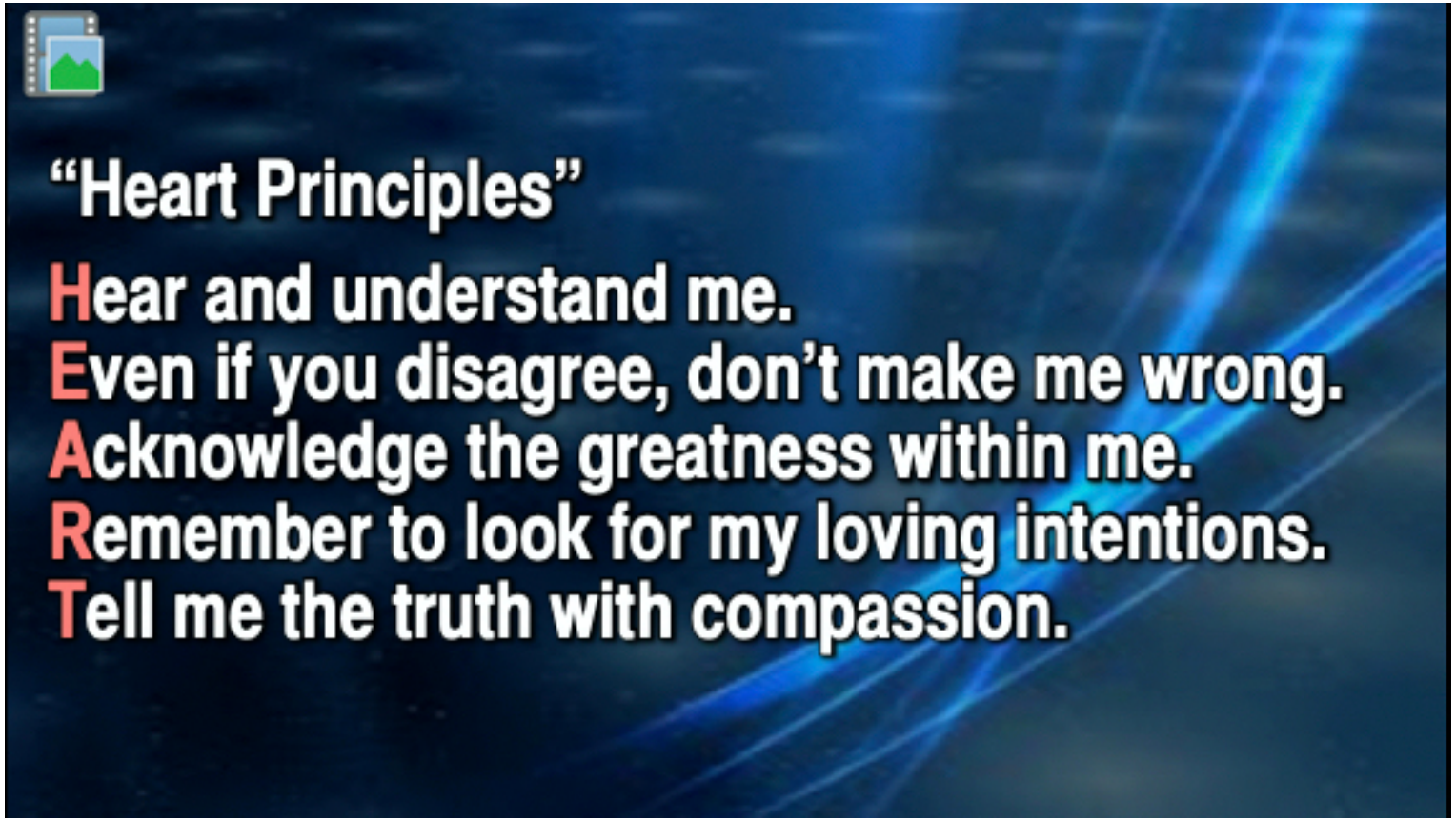
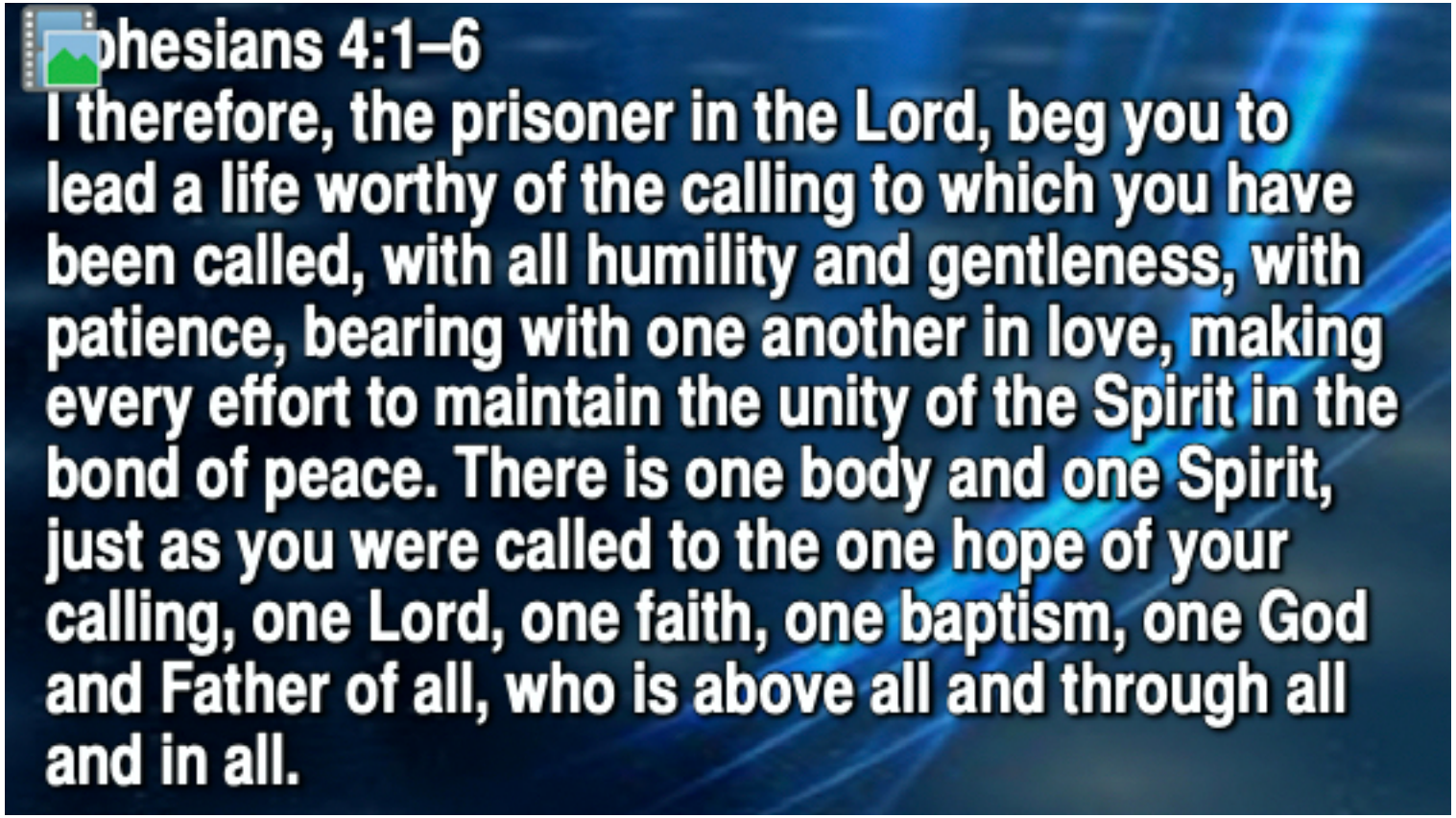
Tom Deviney


"Heart Principles"
Hear and understand me.
Even if you disagree, don't make me wrong.
Acknowledge the greatness within me.
Remember to look for my loving intentions.
Tell me the truth with compassion.


phesians 4:1–6
I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

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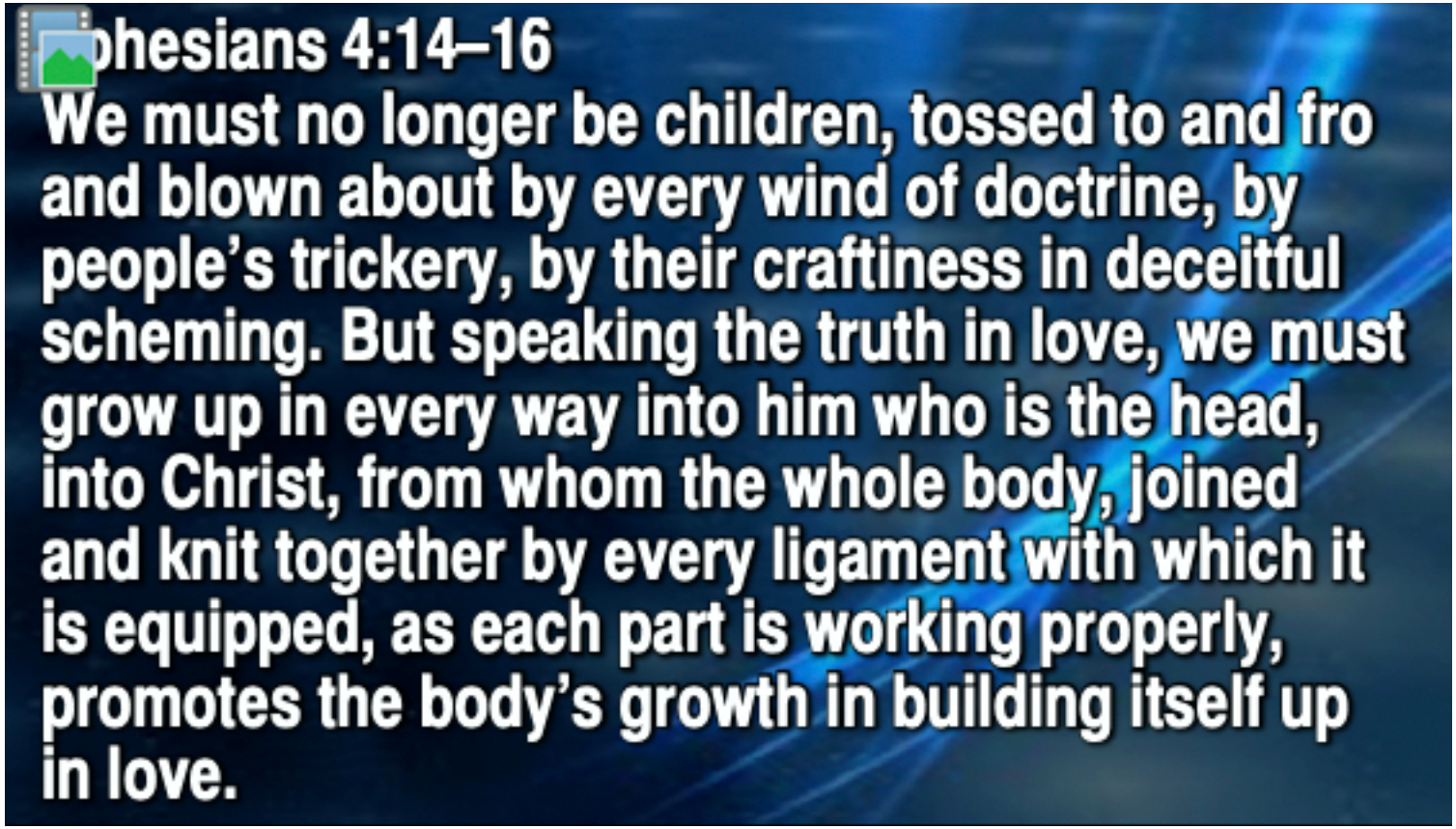
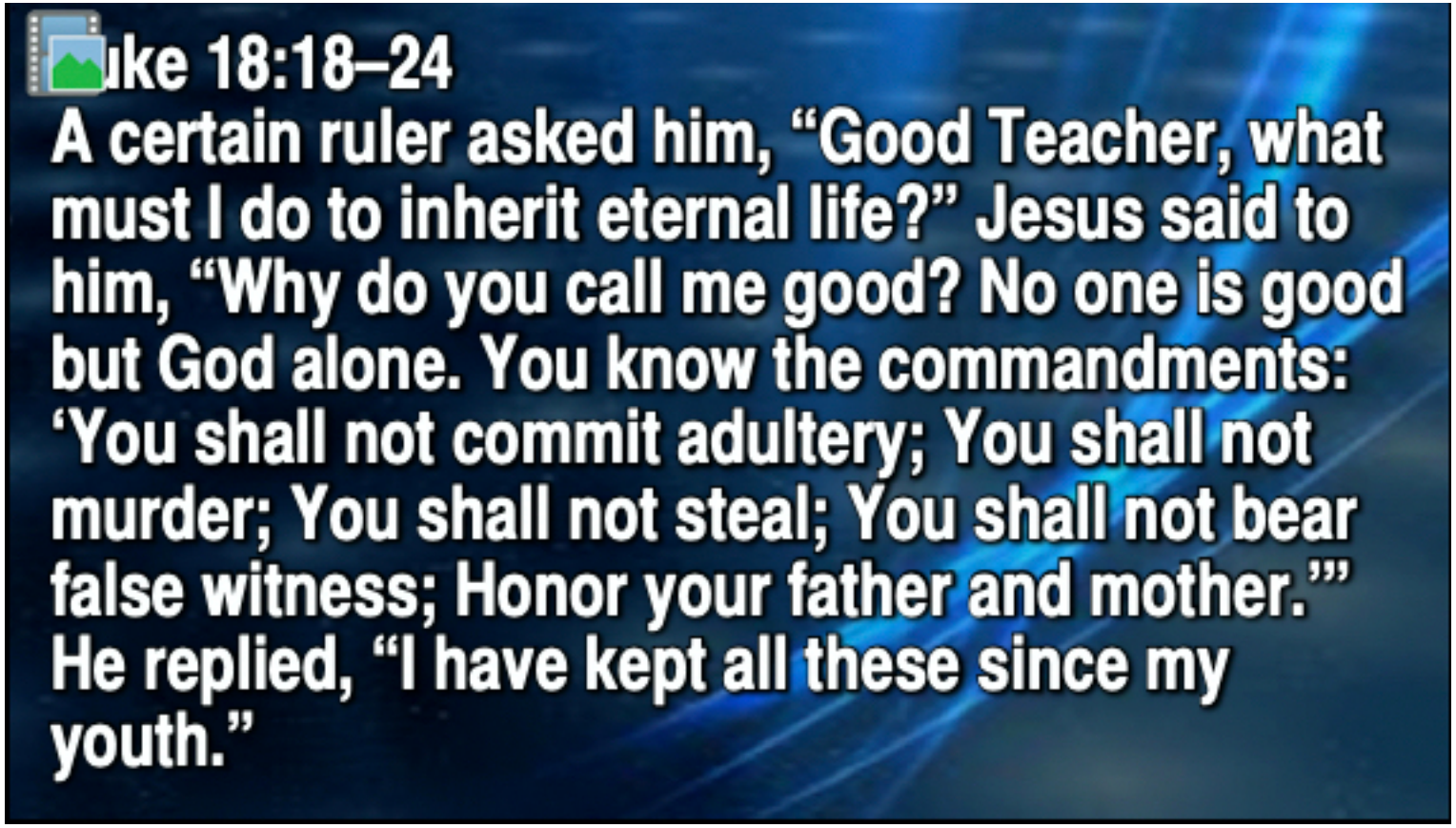
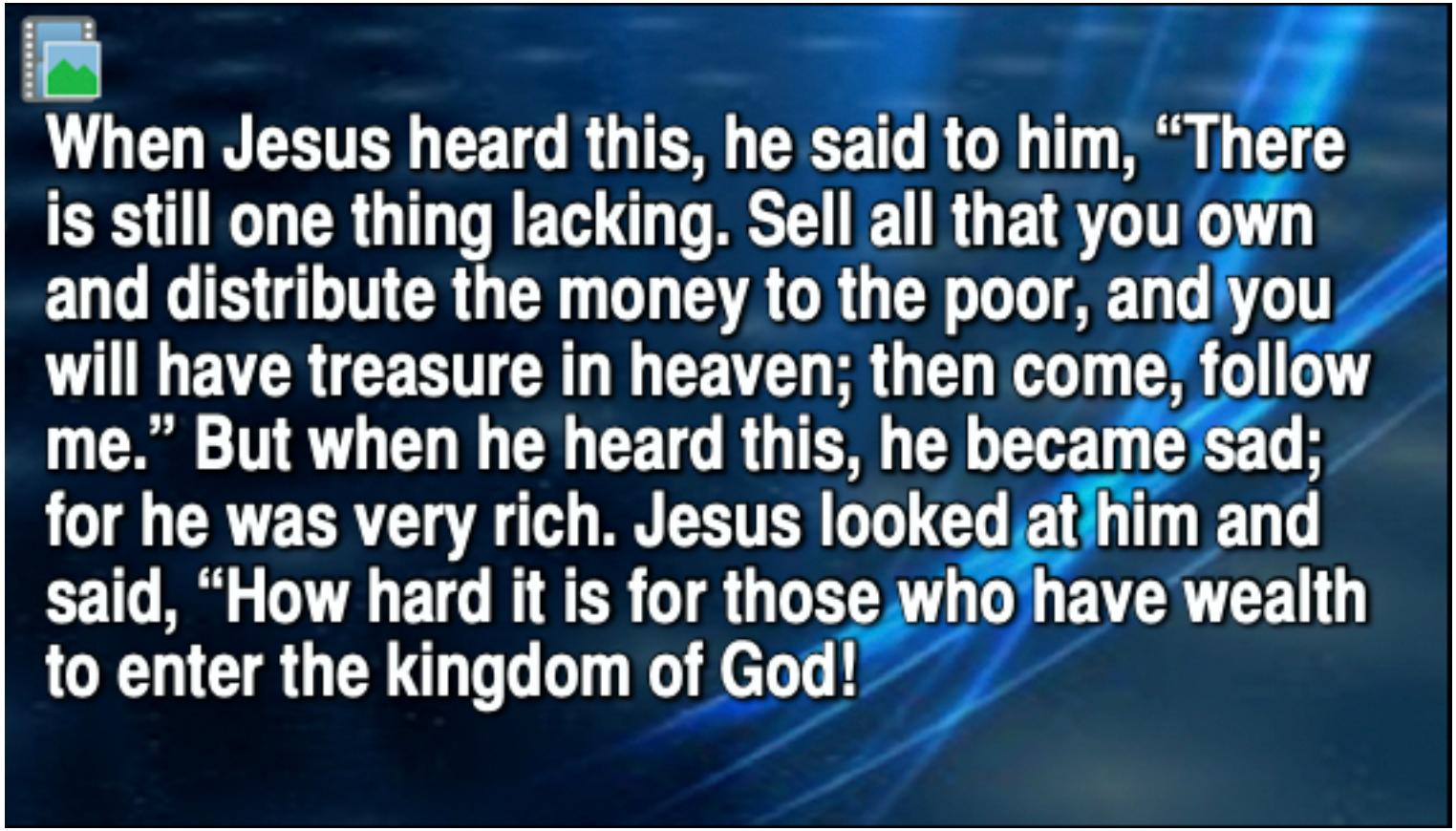
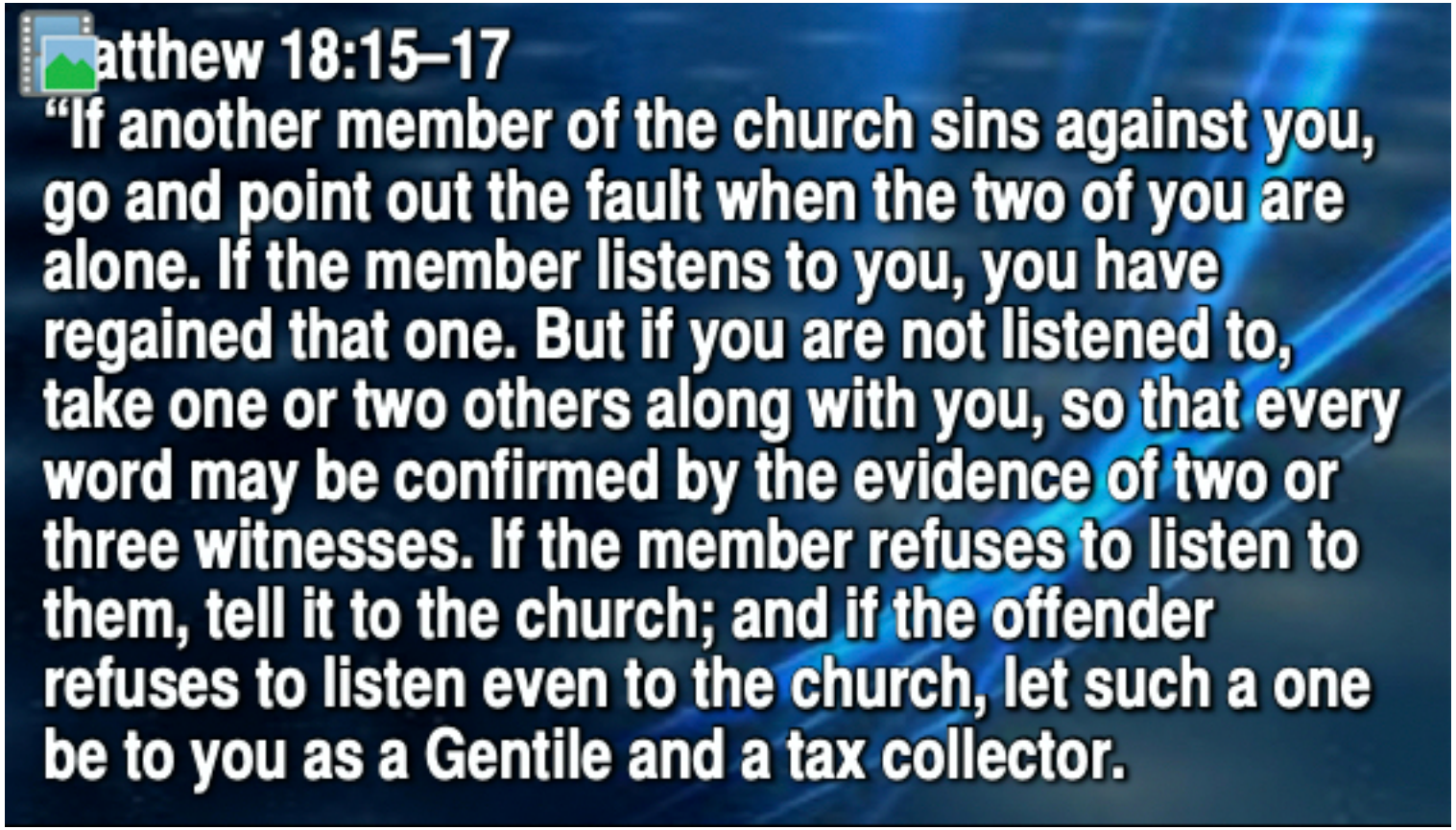

phesians 4:14–16
We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.


uke 18:18–24
A certain ruler asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honor your father and mother.’” He replied, “I have kept all these since my youth.”


When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich. Jesus looked at him and said, “How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!


atthew 18:15–17
“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

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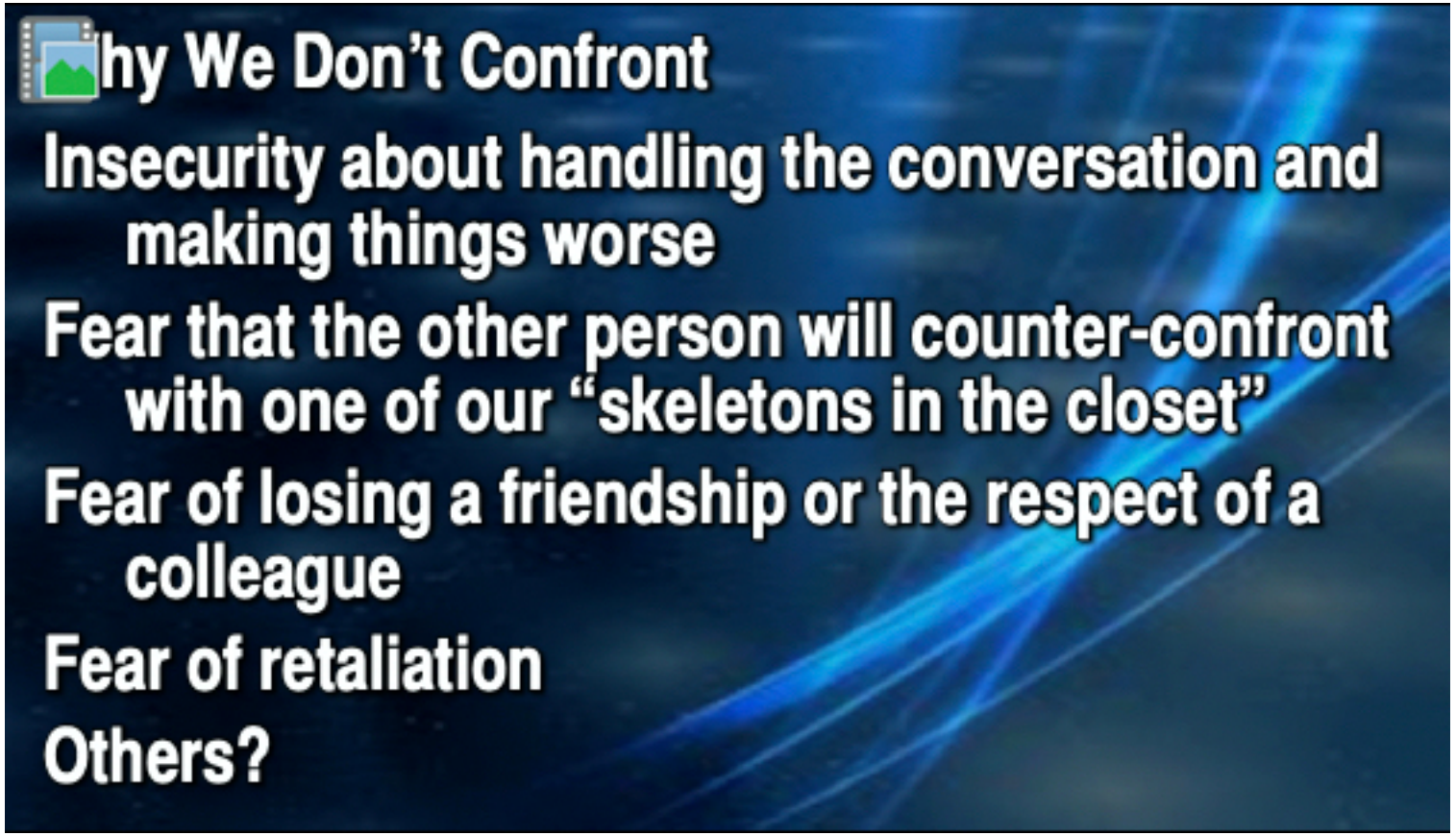
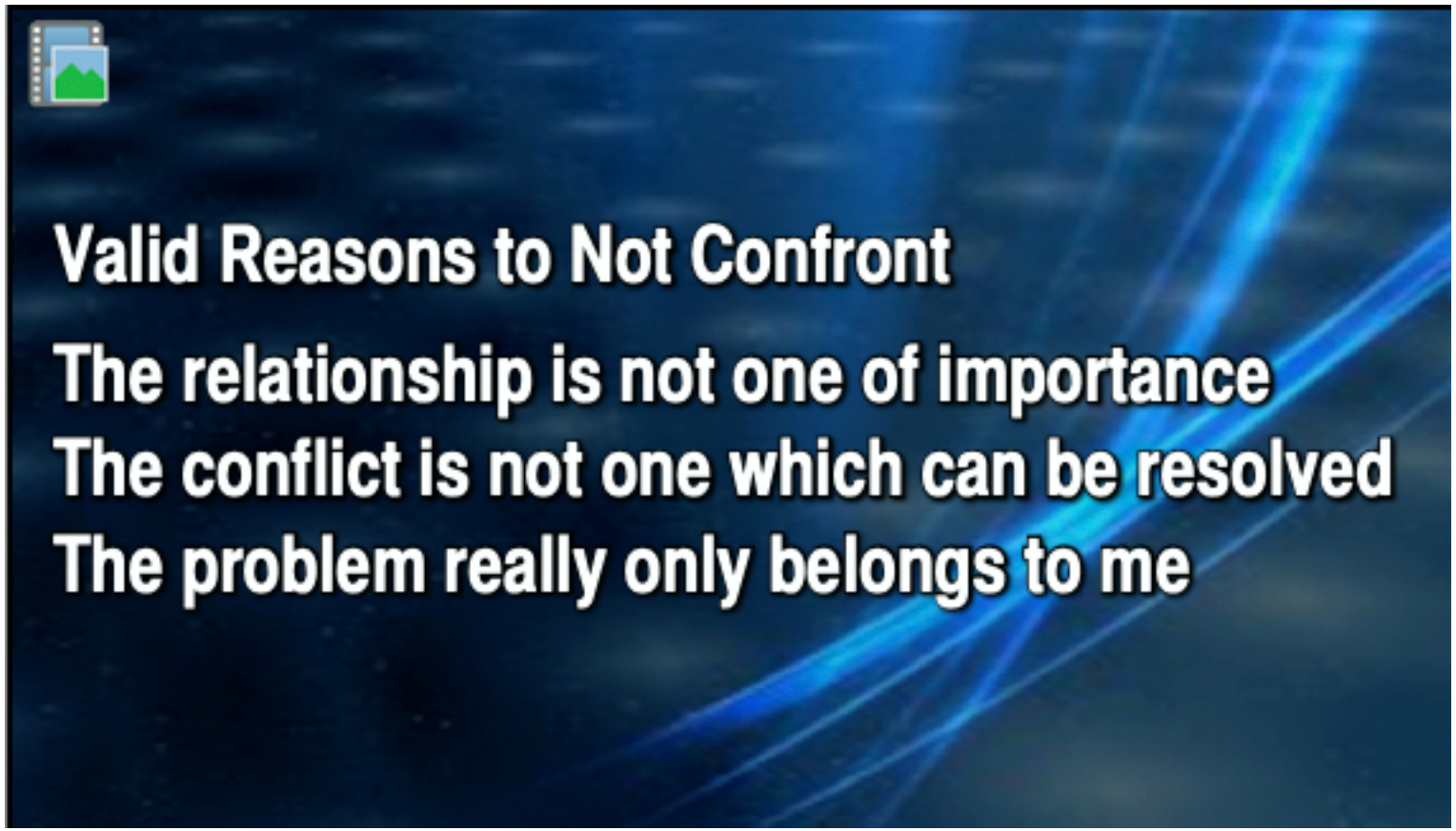
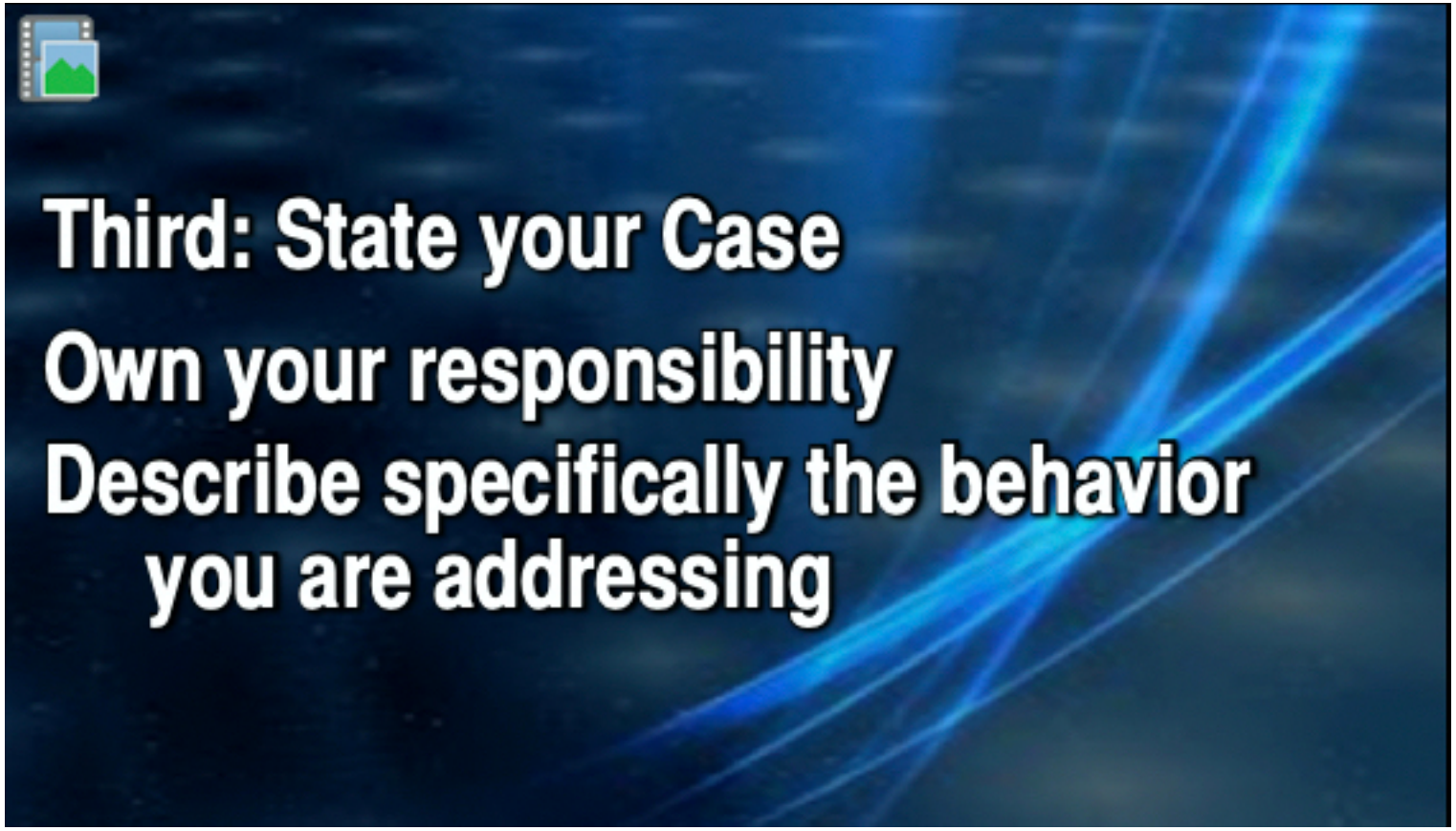

hy We Don’t Confront
Insecurity about handling the conversation and making things worse
Fear that the other person will counter-confront with one of our “skeletons in the closet”
Fear of losing a friendship or the respect of a colleague
Fear of retaliation
Others?

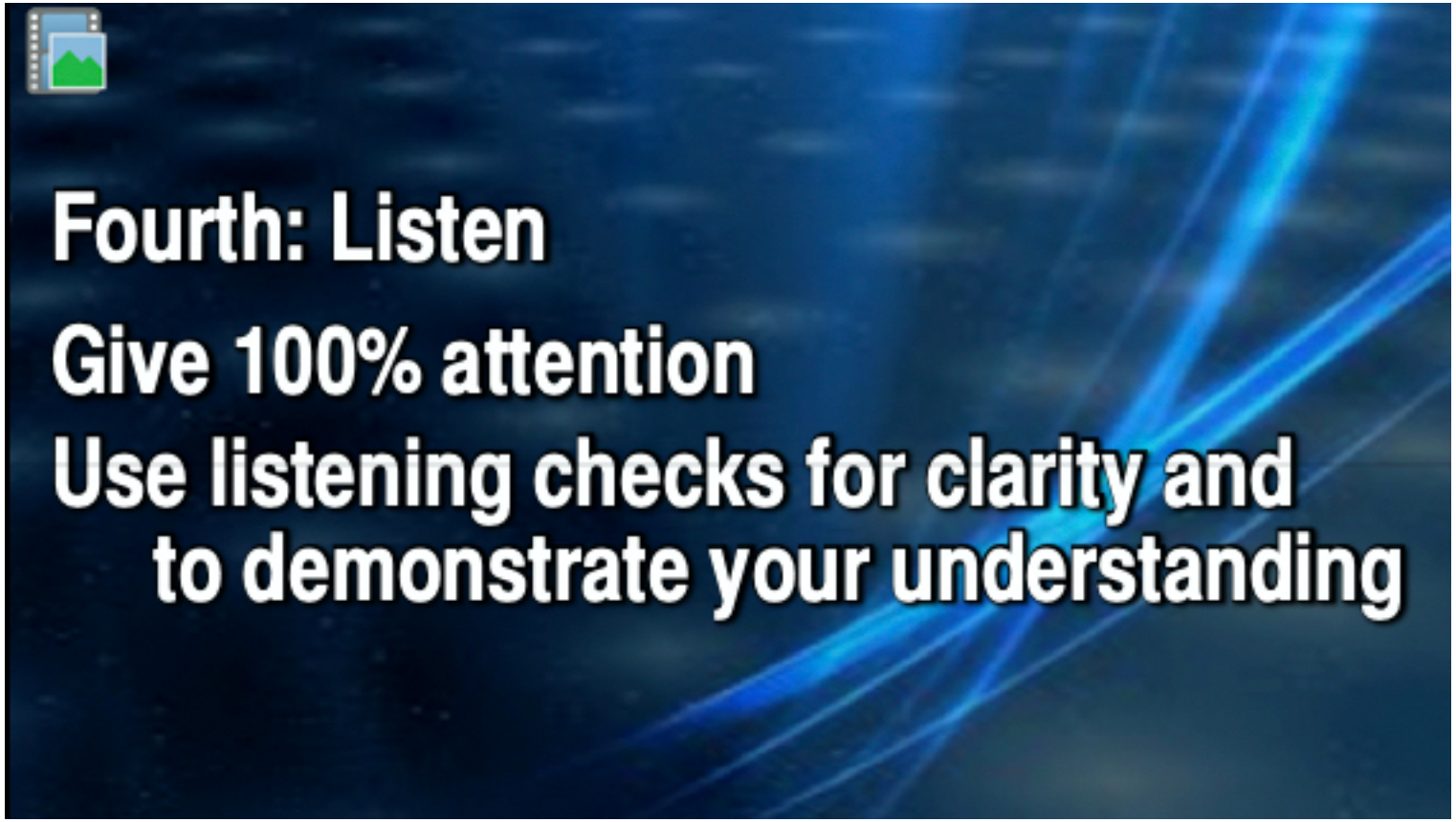

Valid Reasons to Not Confront
The relationship is not one of importance
The conflict is not one which can be resolved
The problem really only belongs to me

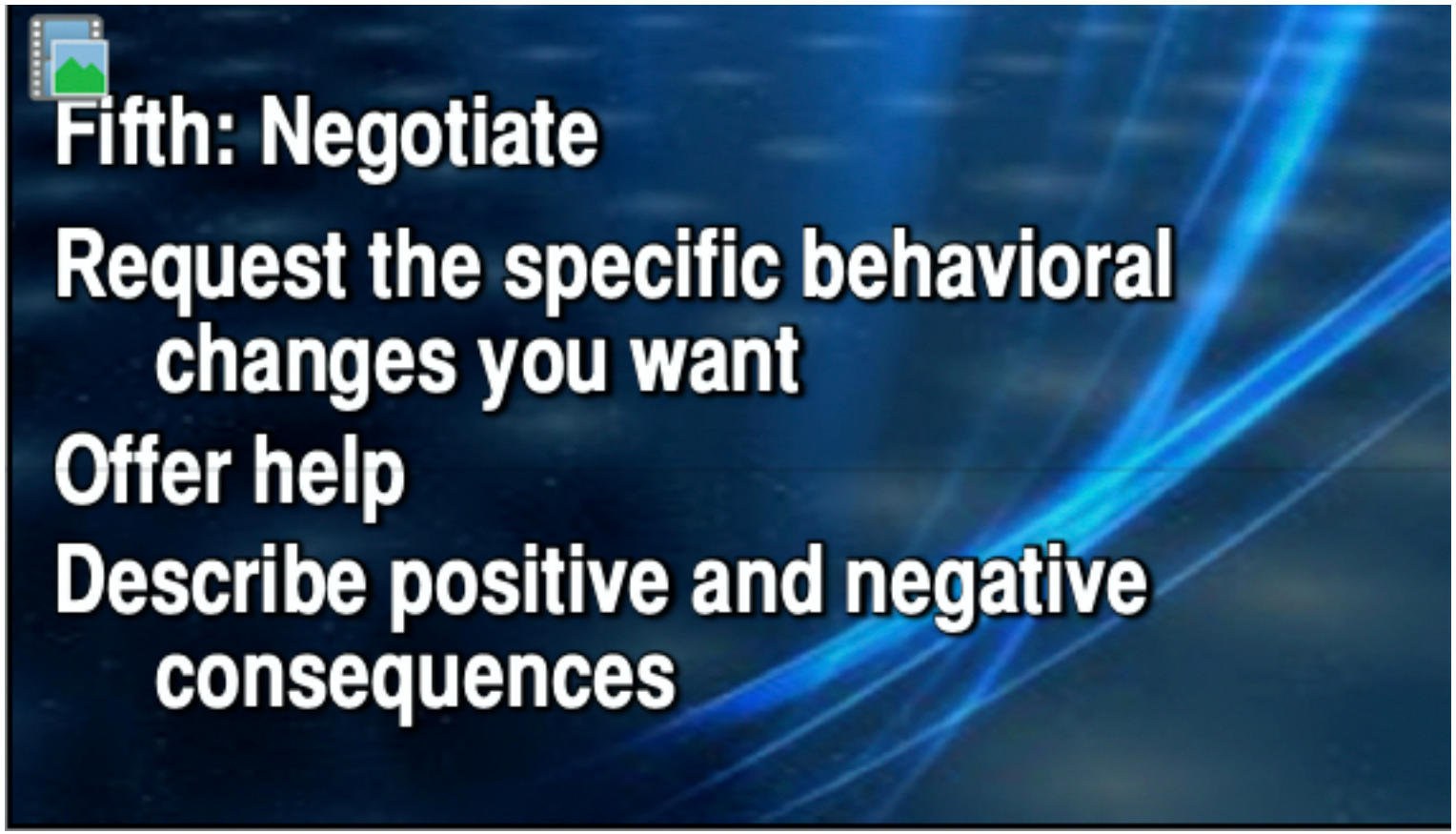
Six Steps for Confronting
Someone with Compassion

First: Ask for Time

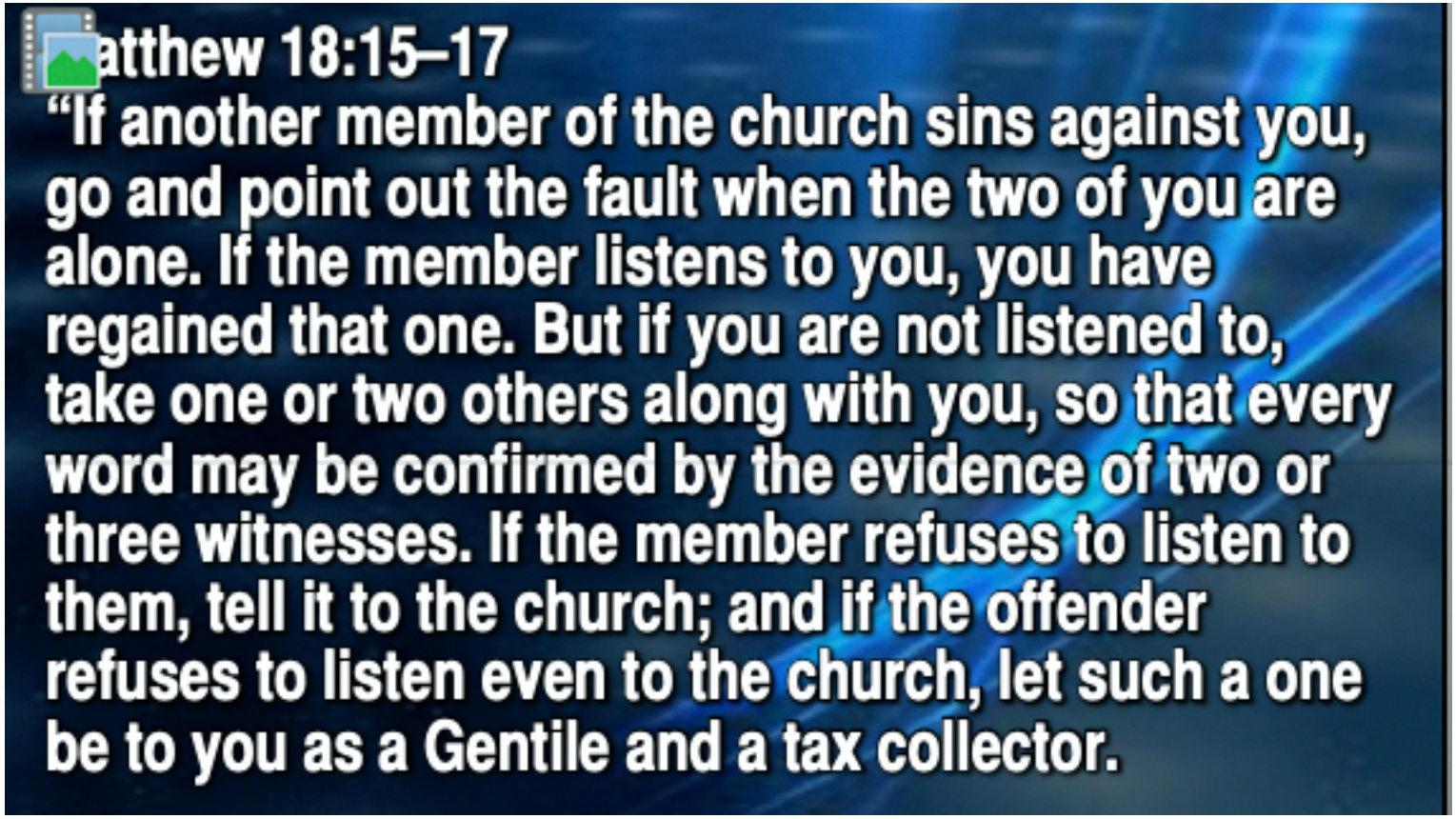
Second: Set the Climate
State your intentions
State your concerns or reservations


Third: State your Case
Own your responsibility
Describe specifically the behavior
you are addressing


Fourth: Listen
Give 100% attention
Use listening checks for clarity and
to demonstrate your understanding


Fifth: Negotiate
Request the specific behavioral changes you want
Offer help
Describe positive and negative consequences

Sixth: Reach and Confirm
any Agreement
Restate any agreement you have
reached
Agree on follow-up
Show appreciation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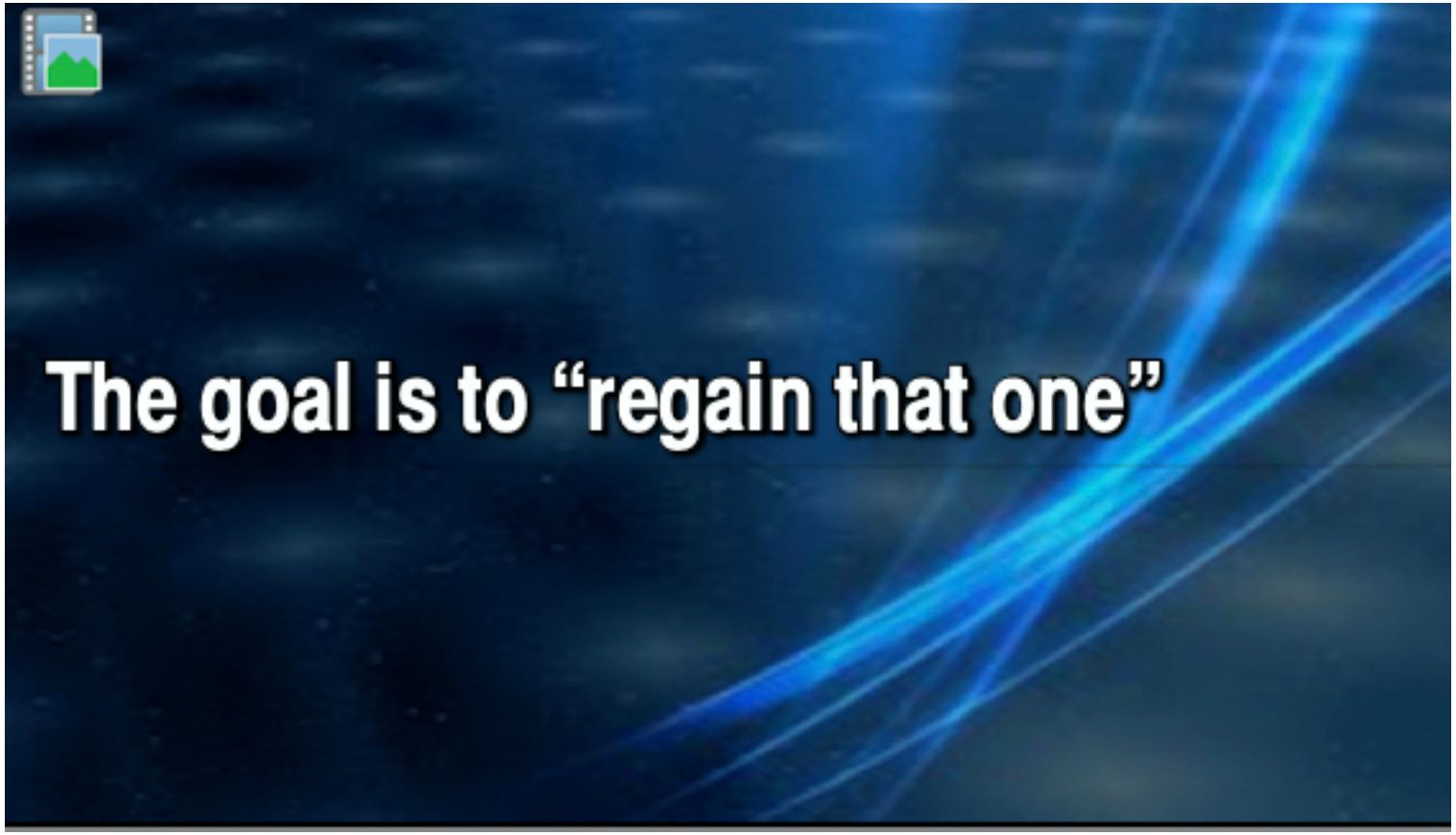
The goal is to “regain that one”

How did Jesus treat “Gentiles and tax collectors”?

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