



The Good Life
ACCORDING TO THE BEATITUDES

Scripture...does not present us with a moral code and tell us 'Live up to this'; nor does it set out a system of doctrine and say, 'Think like this and you will live well.' The biblical way is to tell a story, and in the telling invite: 'Live into this—this is what it looks like to be human in this God-made and God-ruled world; this is what is involved in becoming and maturing as a human being.

Eugene Peterson

Blessed are...

THE BEATITUDES

MATTHEW 5:3-12



WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY "HEART"?



WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN BY A "PURE" HEART?



Pure = Integrity, Transparency, Sincerity.



A Pure Heart = Those whose are sincere and transparent at their core.

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

Blessed are...



A Pure Heart = Those whose are sincere and transparent at their core.

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

Matthew 23:27-28

Blessed are...

A young boy with curly hair, wearing a straw hat and a plaid shirt, is swinging happily on a wooden swing set. An elderly man with white hair, wearing a light-colored jacket and jeans, is smiling and pushing the swing. The background is a soft-focus outdoor setting with trees and greenery. The text "A Pure Heart = Those whose are sincere and transparent at their core." is overlaid in white on the image.

A Pure Heart = Those whose are sincere and transparent at their core.

IS THIS POSSIBLE?

JESUS IS THE EMBODIMENT OF PURE-
HEARTEDNESS AND SINCERITY

JESUS CAME TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM
OF PURE-HEARTED PEOPLE.

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. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Blessed are...

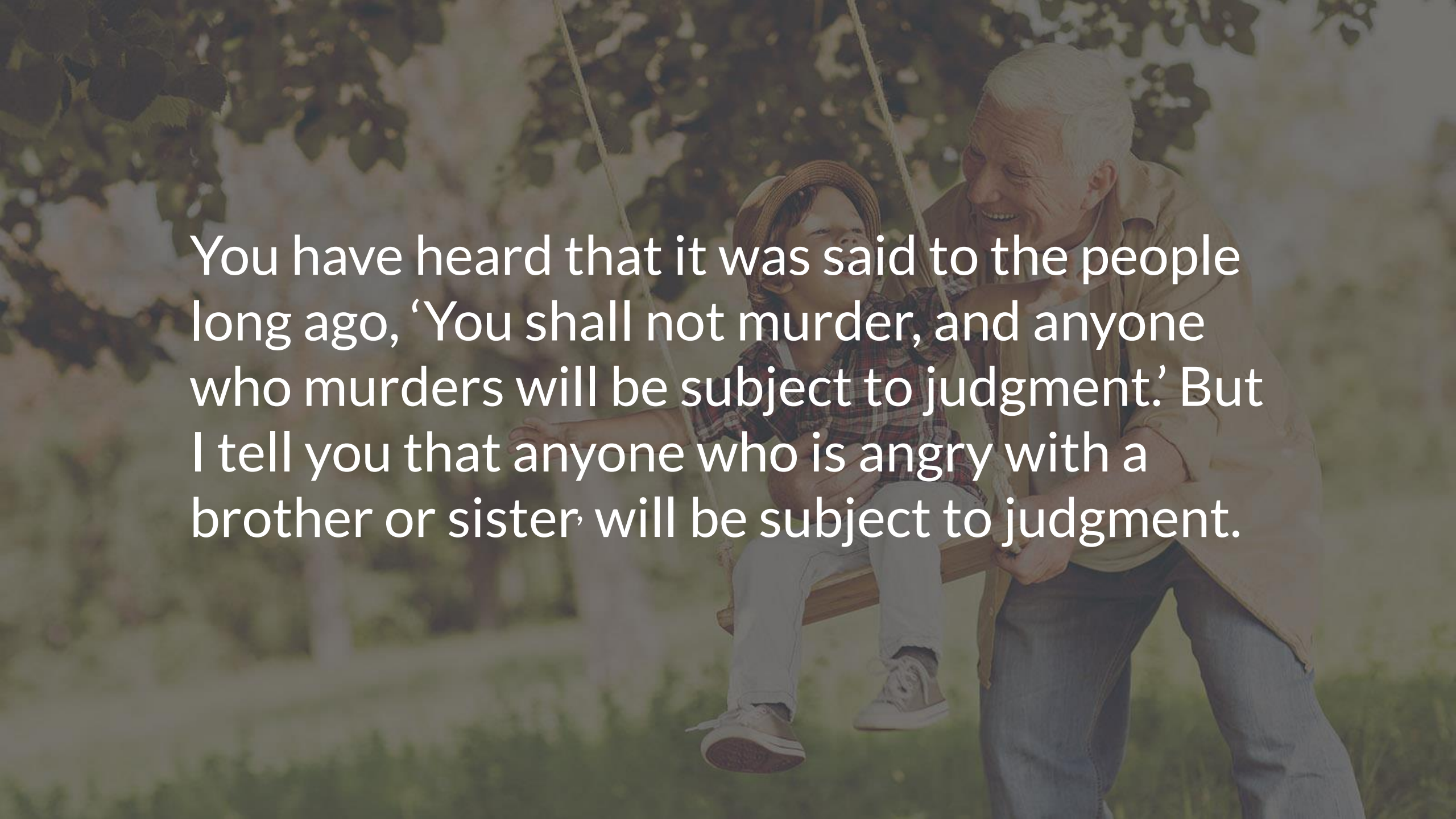
Jesus knew that we cannot keep the law by trying to keep the law. To succeed in keeping the law one must aim at something other and something more. One must aim to become *the kind of person* from who the deeds of the law naturally flow. ... Here lies the fundamental mistake of the scribe and Pharisee.

Blessed are...

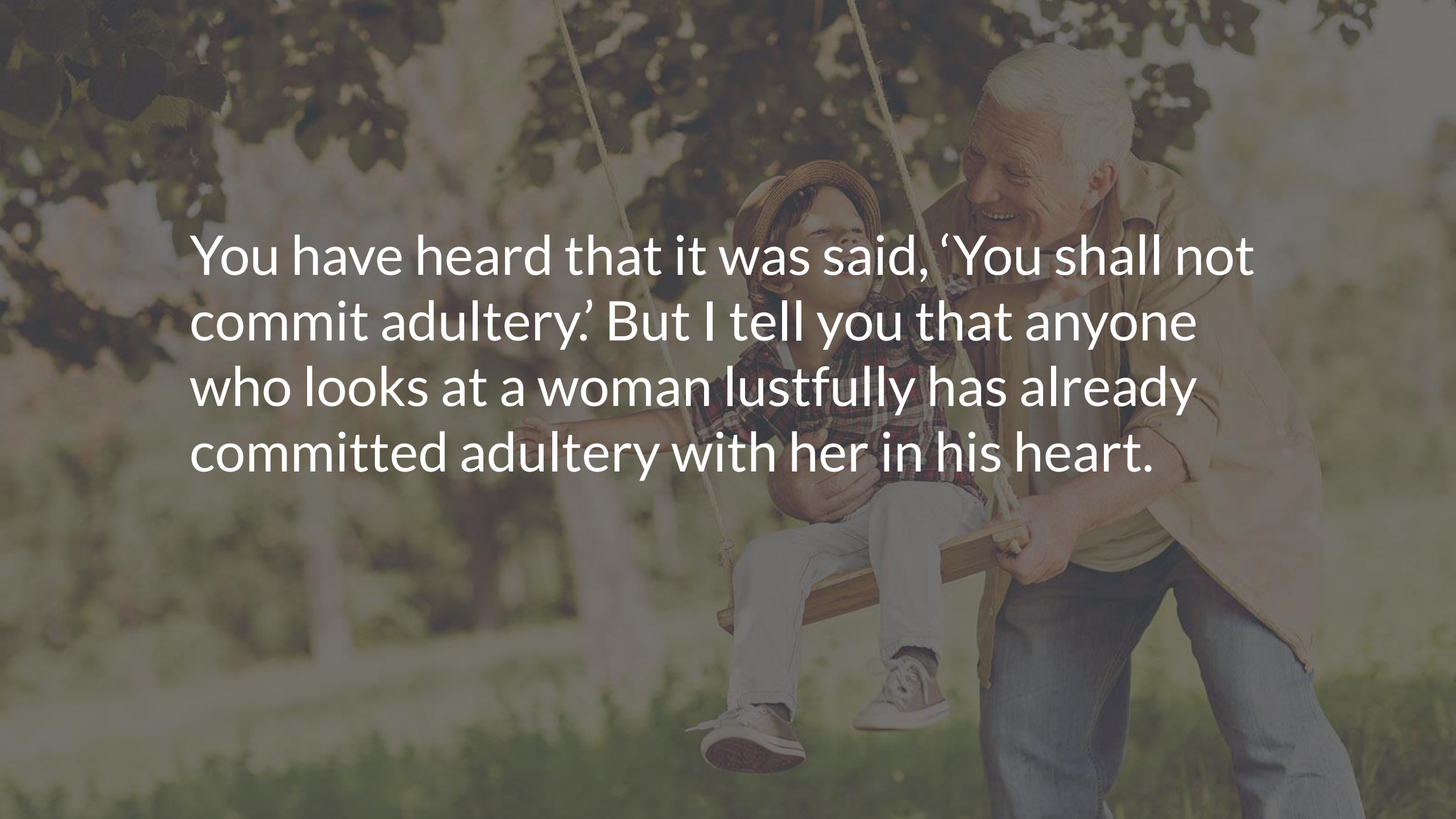
They focus on the *actions* that the law requires and make elaborate specifications of exactly what those actions are and of the manner in which they are to be done. But the inner dimensions of their personality, their heart and character, are left to remain contrary to what God has required... It is the inner life of the soul [that must be transformed] and then behaviour will naturally and easily follow.”

Dallas Willard

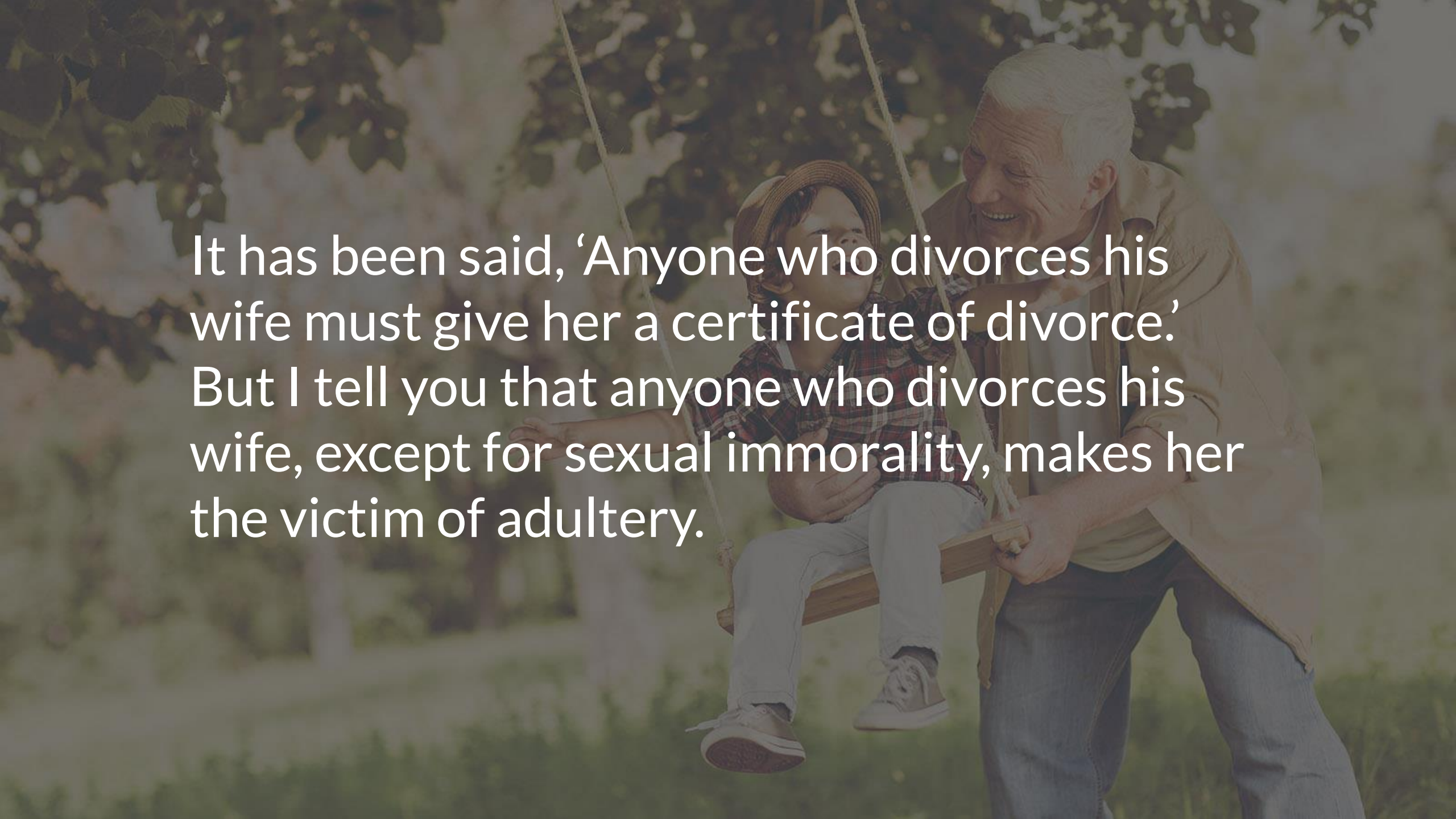
Blessed are...

A young boy wearing a straw hat and a plaid shirt is sitting on a wooden swing. An elderly man with white hair, wearing a light-colored jacket and blue jeans, is standing behind the swing, smiling and pushing it. The background shows green foliage and a white fence, suggesting a park setting. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

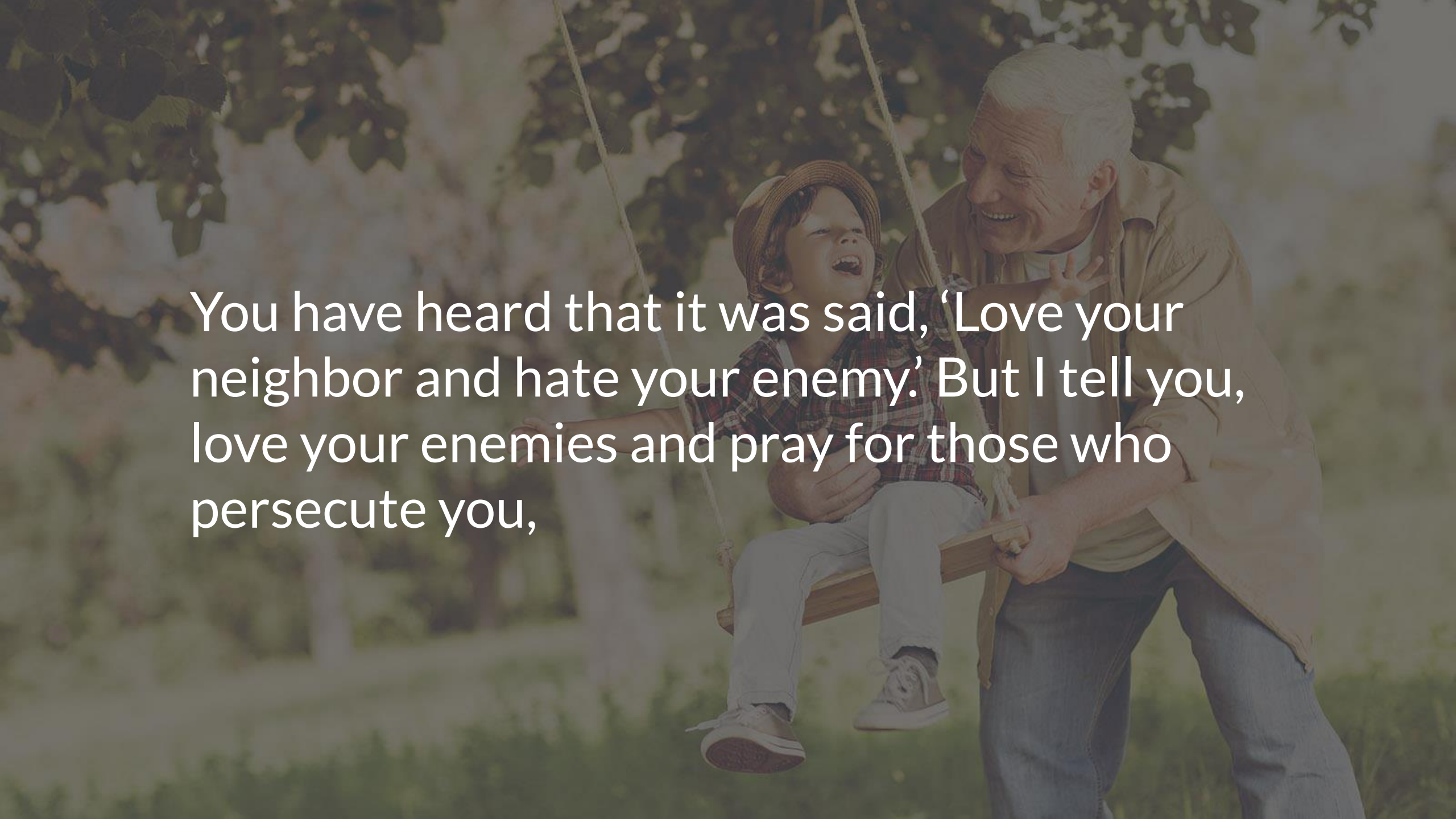
You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.' But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister, will be subject to judgment.



You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.



It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, makes her the victim of adultery.



You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

HOW IS THIS POSSIBLE?

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. And I will put my Spirit in you
and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to
keep my laws.

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Blessed are...

We as regenerated men and women, boys and girls, are to allow him as God to live his life in us through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one through whom God makes himself available to us. All that Jesus is as God is put, by the Holy Spirit, at the disposal of the individual who will put, by the Holy Spirit, all that he or she is at the disposal of Jesus as God. That is the essence of the Christian life. The Christian life is a supernatural life. It is the life of Christ lived out in every believer by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit”

Blessed are...

John Phillips

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. They will see his face...

Revelation 22:1-3

Blessed are...



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