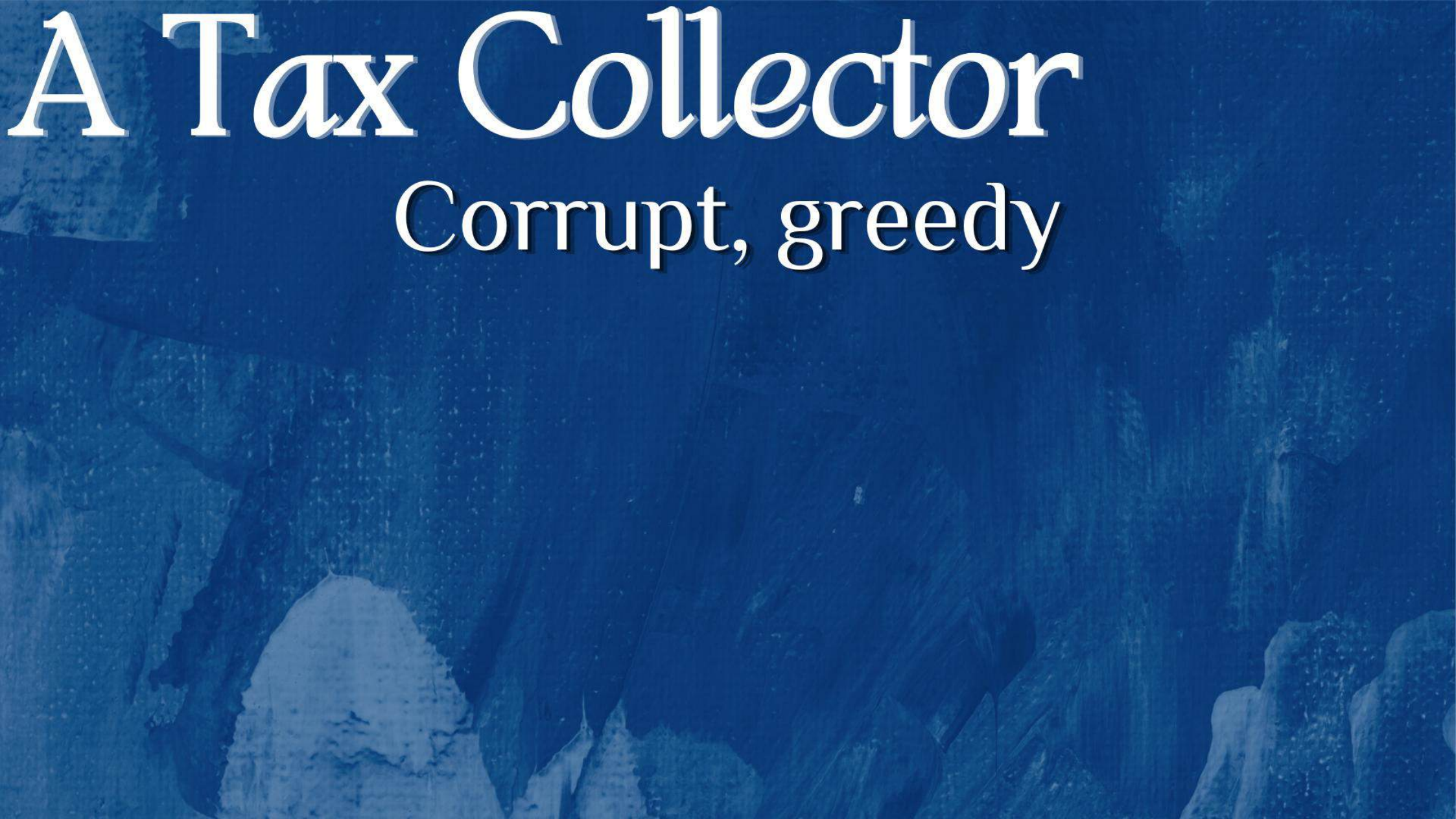




“Follow Me”

A Tax Collector





A Tax Collector

Corrupt, greedy

A Tax Collector

Corrupt, greedy

Despised

A Tax Collector

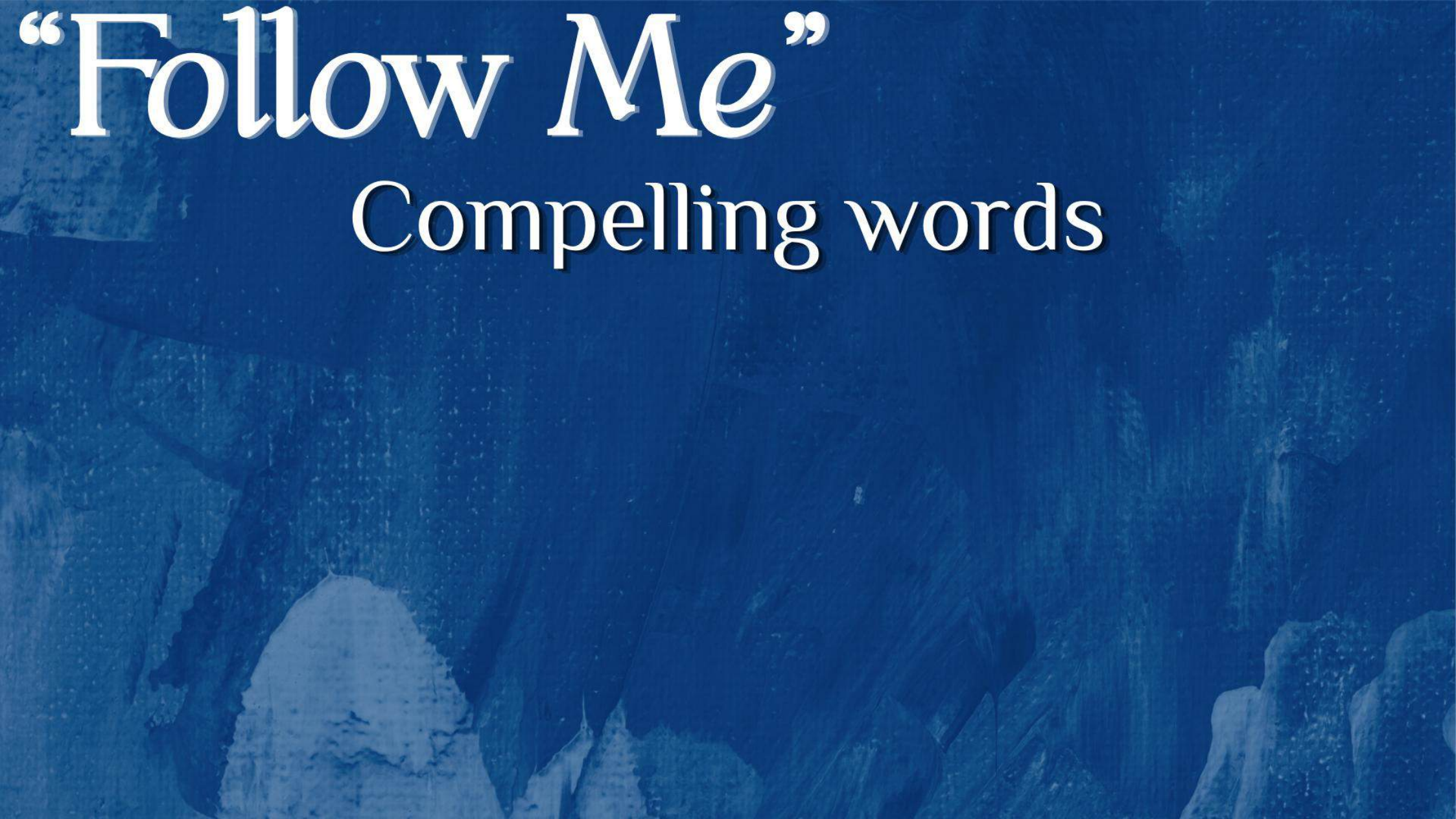
Corrupt, greedy

Despised

Matthew did not fit the *profile*
of a prospective Jesus *follower*

“Follow Me”





“Follow Me”

Compelling words

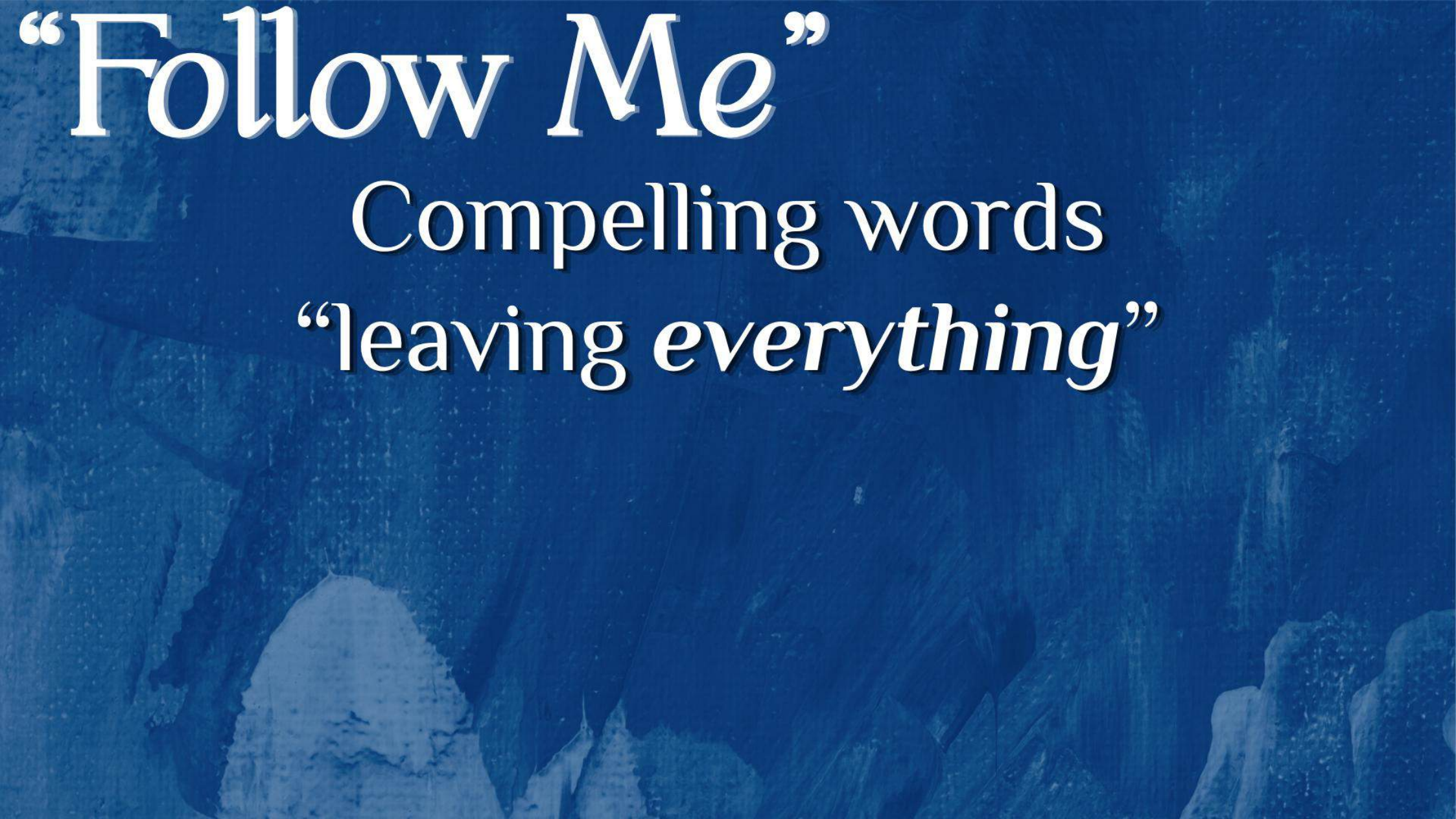
"By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and by the breath of His mouth all their host.

**He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap;
He puts the deeps in storehouses.**

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him!

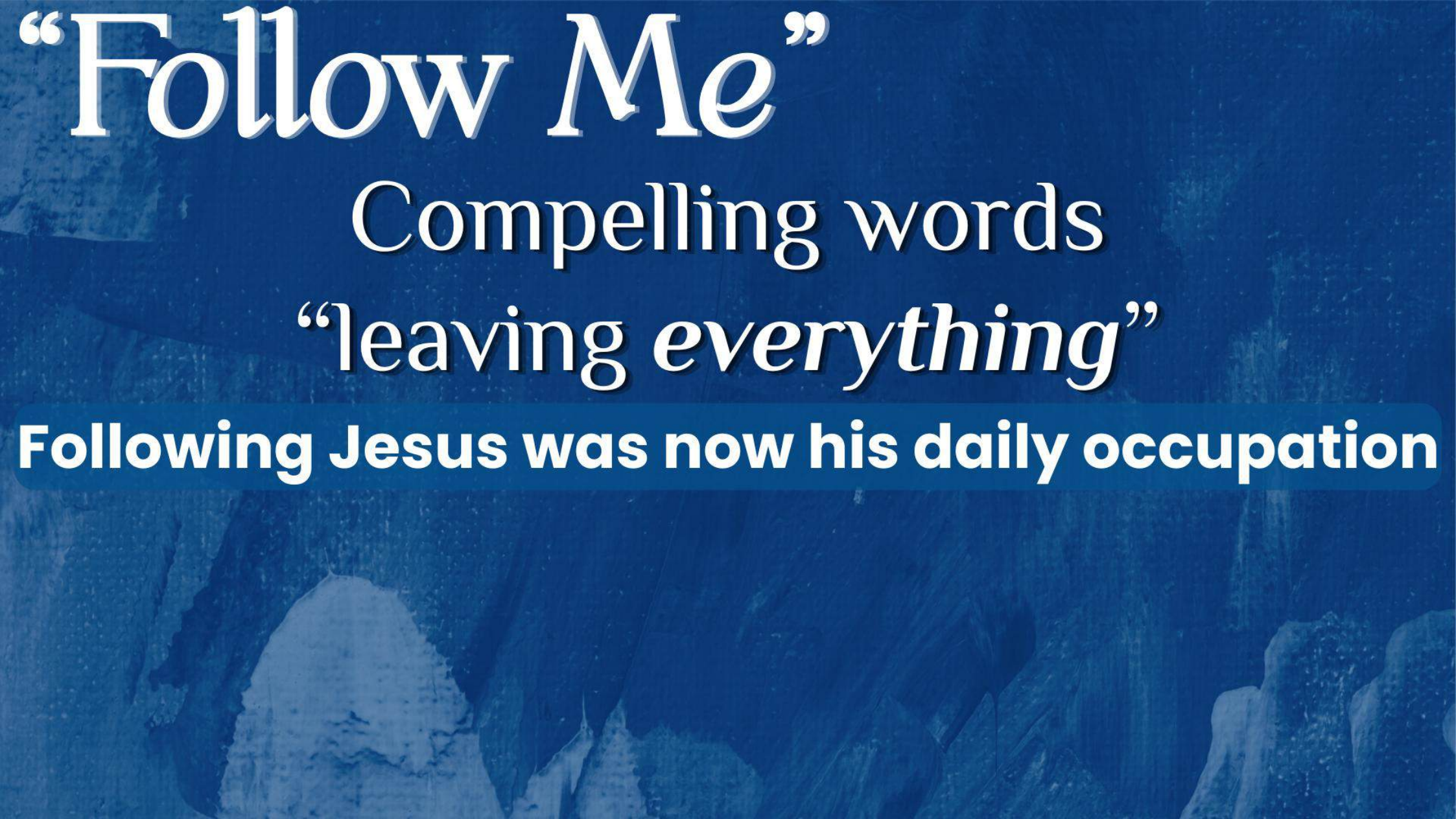
**For He spoke, and it came to be;
He commanded, and it stood firm."**

Psalms 33:6-9



“Follow Me”

Compelling words
“leaving *everything*”



“Follow Me”

Compelling words
“leaving *everything*”

Following Jesus was now his daily occupation



“Follow Me”

Compelling words
“leaving *everything*”

Following Jesus was now his daily occupation
It calls for fresh commitment every day, every hour

“Follow Me”

Compelling words

“leaving *everything*”

Following Jesus was now his daily occupation

It calls for fresh commitment every day, every hour

With each challenge, each decision –

“I’m following Jesus”

A Great Feast

The background of the image is a deep, dark blue. It features a subtle, textured pattern that resembles a close-up of a rocky surface or perhaps a mountain range under a night sky. The texture is composed of various shades of blue, from very dark to a slightly lighter, almost white, in some areas, creating a sense of depth and ruggedness. The overall effect is a moody and atmospheric backdrop for the title text.



A Great Feast

His *level* of wealth

A Great Feast

His *level* of wealth

Was now invested in a higher purpose

A Great Feast

His *level* of wealth

Was now invested in a higher purpose

His *circle* of *friends*

A Great Feast

His *level* of wealth

Was now invested in a higher purpose

His *circle* of *friends*

*He wants them to encounter Jesus
and hear Him*

Hospitality as Evangelism



Hospitality as Evangelism

It is a gracious way into the lives
of others to plant seeds of
God's love and truth

Religious Pushback



Religious Pushback

Eating together is a gesture of
acceptance

Religious Pushback

Eating together is a gesture of
acceptance

This *offends* the *comparisons*
of the *self-righteous*

The Gospel's Mission



The Gospel's Mission

The “righteous” and “sinners” in
Jesus’ statement is a matter of
self-understanding

The Gospel's Mission

Is it *informed* by God's *Self-disclosure*?

The Gospel's Mission

Is it *informed* by God's *Self-disclosure*?

Matthew 5:20 →
self-redemption = self-righteousness.
I'm a good person.

The Gospel's Mission

Is it *informed* by God's *Self-disclosure*?

Matthew 5:20 →
self-redemption = self-righteousness.
I'm a good person.

Mark 7:6-7 →
mere external conformity, no heart for God,
mechanical religion

The Gospel's Mission

Is it *informed* by God's *Self-disclosure*?

Still *misses* the *mark*

The Gospel's Mission

Is it *informed* by God's *Self-disclosure*?

Still *misses* the *mark*

All people know they are *imperfect*. They need *hope*.

The Gospel's Mission

The first step of faith is *humility* –
recognizing the *truth* about *me*

The Gospel's Mission

The first step of faith is *humility* –
recognizing the *truth* about *me*

**God resists the proud, but gives grace
to the humble**

The Gospel's Mission

The first step of faith is *humility* – recognizing the *truth* about *me*

God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble

*Acts 17:30 – “He commands **all** people everywhere to repent”*

The Gospel's Mission

He turned and followed Jesus.

This set him on the path of
forgiveness, reconciliation,
and *hope.*