

A scenic landscape of Bruce Hills at sunrise or sunset. The sky is a mix of soft pinks, oranges, and blues. The foreground is a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees, some with autumn-colored foliage. In the middle ground, there are rolling hills and a valley. The background features more distant, hazy hills. A yellow rectangular frame is superimposed over the center of the image, containing the text.

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

PS. BRUCE HILLS

*'Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. (46) He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, (47) and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (48) You are **witnesses** of these things. (49) I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."*

LUKE 24

(50) When he led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. (51) While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. (52) Then they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. (53) And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.'

LUKE 24

(6) So when they met together, they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

*(7) He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. (8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

ACTS 1



WITNESS

Luke 24:45-49

Acts 1:6-8



*'...it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a **witness** with us of his resurrection.'*

ACTS 1:21-22

*‘The life appeared; we have seen it and **testify** to it, and we **proclaim** to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We **proclaim** to you what we have **seen** and **heard**.’*

1 JOHN 1:2-3



1. EXEMPLIFYING OUR FAITH

*'You shall **be** my witnesses...'* (Acts 1:8)



A witness is *how* we live, not just what we *say*

- Being a witness is not our assignment; it is our *identity*
- Being a witness isn't just sharing our faith; it is *embodying our faith*

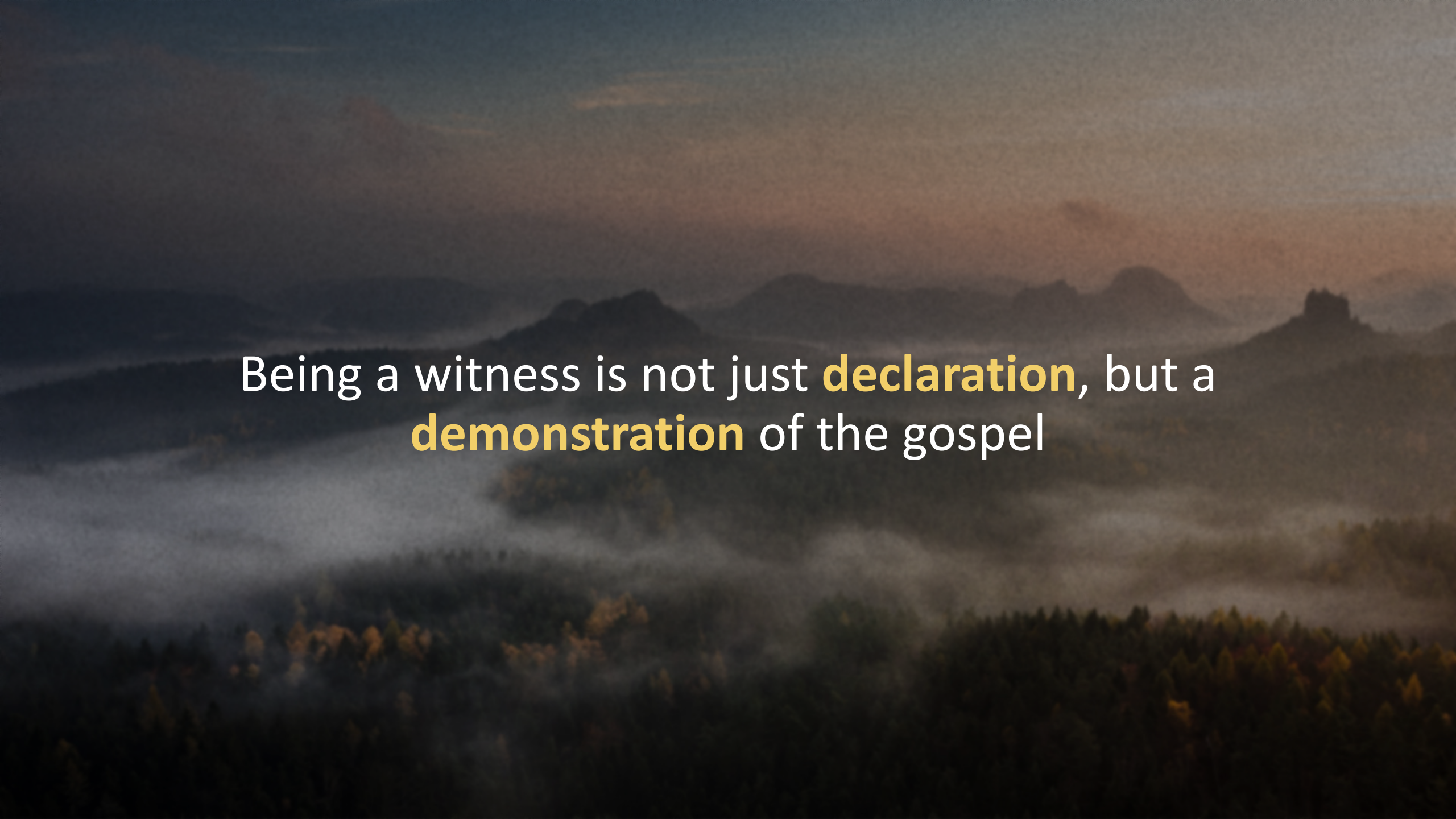
2. DEMONSTRATE OUR FAITH

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may **see** your **good deeds** and praise your father in heaven.”*

MATTHEW 5:14-16

LESSONS FROM 'SALT AND LIGHT'

- Christians are to be different from non-Christians
 - World is dark, church is to be light
 - World is decaying, salt hinders decay
 - Light must shine *into* darkness
 - Salt must be soaked *into* the meat
- Christians must become engaged with the world
- Jesus said church will be recognised by 'good deeds'



Being a witness is not just **declaration**, but a **demonstration** of the gospel

Syrian Refugee Camp, Jordan





Part of the church's mission is not just **declaration**, but
a **demonstration** of the gospel

- Good **news** and good **works** are inseparable
 - The gospel has social implications
- True mission should always be incarnational
 - It is Christian to care!

**Parable of the *Good Samaritan*
(Luke 10:25-37)**

***'...when saw him, he took pity
on him.'*** (Luke 10:33)



Compassion = **love in action**

- Jesus said, '*As the father has sent me, I am sending you.*'
(John 20:21)
- Modelled on Christ's mission, this means **entering into other people's worlds** (John Stott)

3. DEFENDING OUR FAITH

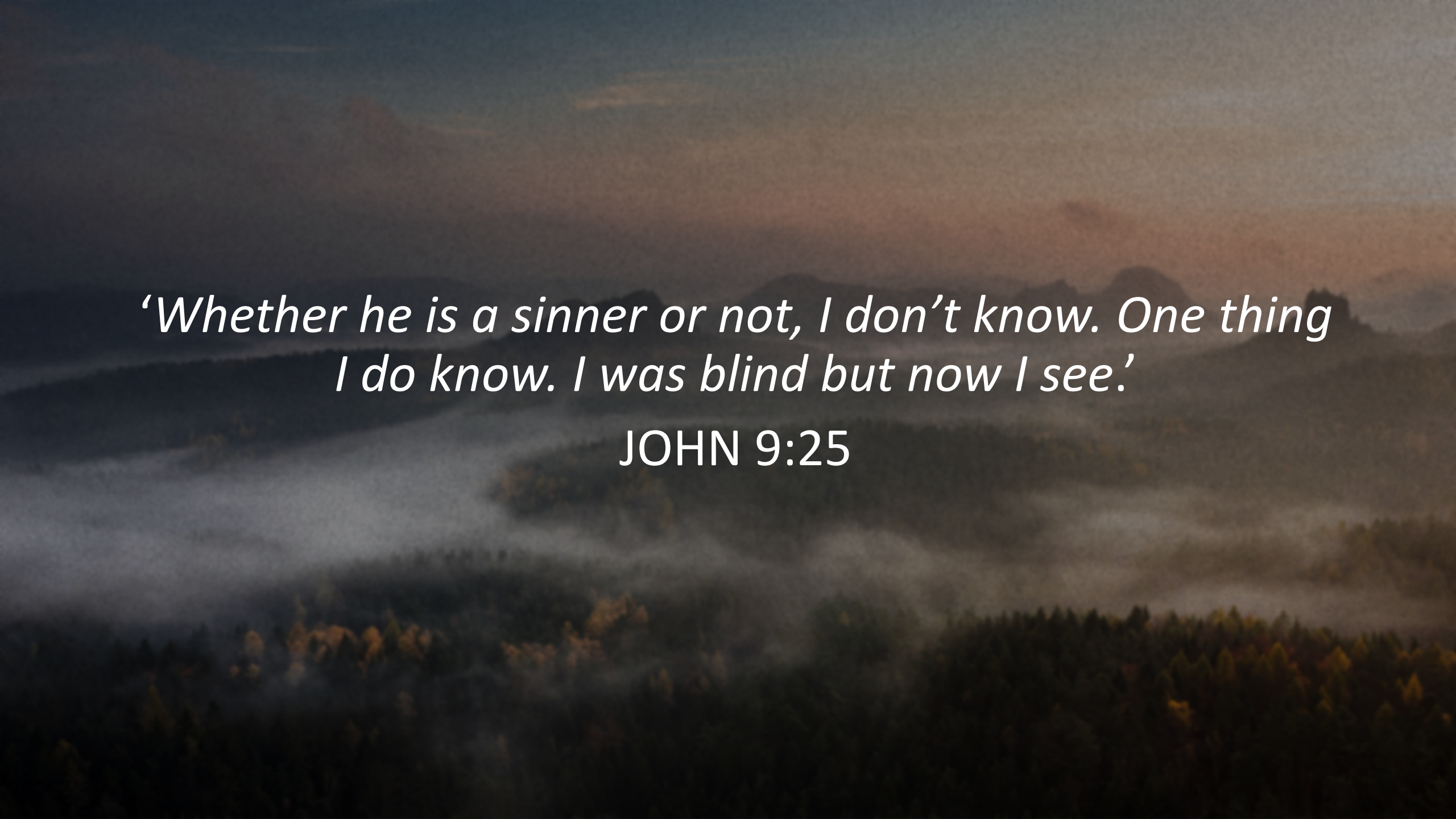
- Definition of apologetics: 'Commending or defending the Gospel (or Christian faith) in dialogue.'
- *'Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.'* (1 Peter 3:15)
 - 'answer' from Greek *apologia* meaning 'verbal defence' or 'speaking in defence'



4. SHARING OUR FAITH

(Luke 24:48) 'You are **witnesses** of these things.'

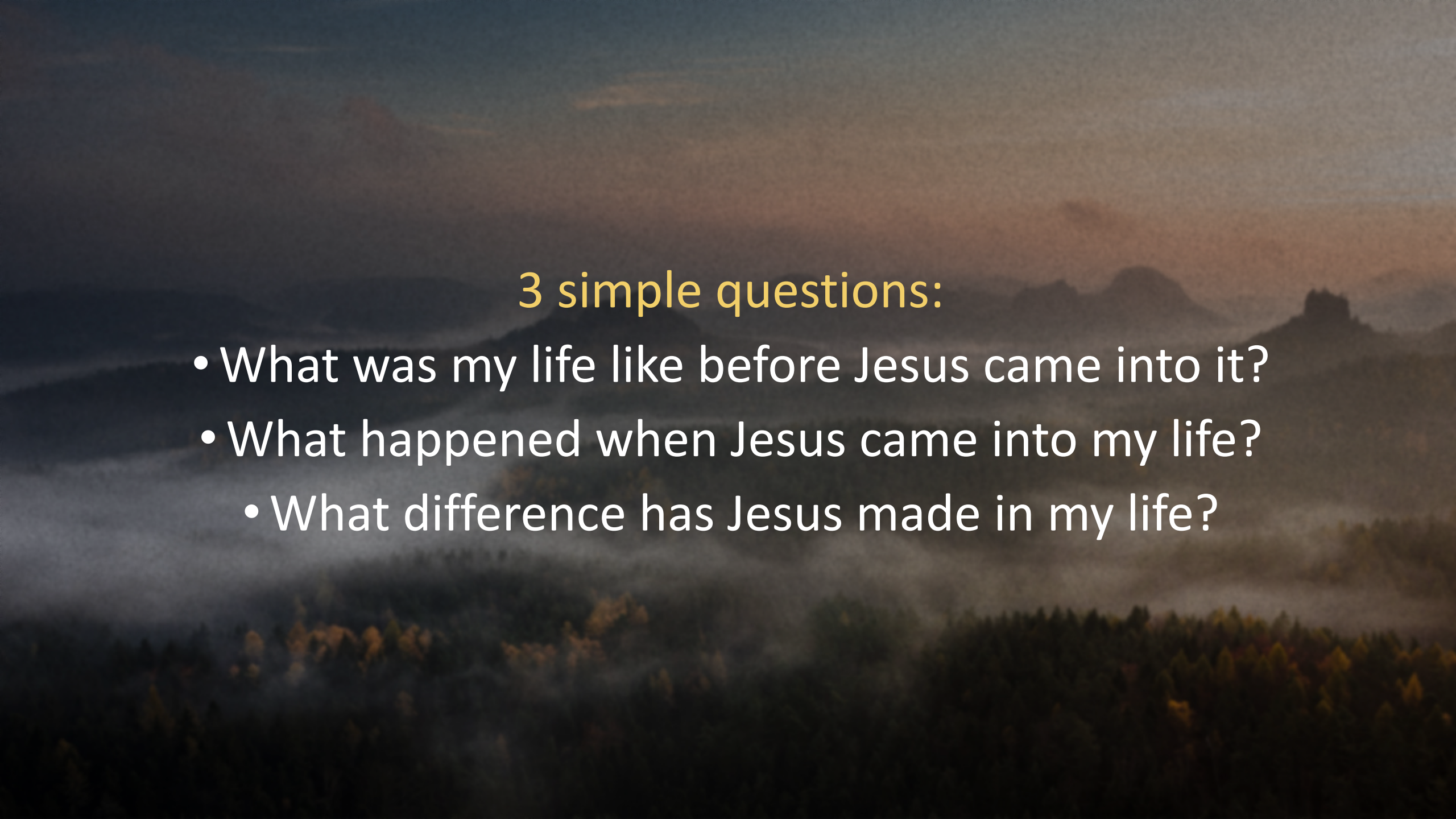
(Acts 1:8) '...you shall be my **witnesses**...'

A scenic landscape featuring a valley filled with mist or fog, surrounded by dark, silhouetted mountains and a dense forest of trees. The sky is a mix of soft blues and oranges, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

‘Whether he is a sinner or not, I don’t know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see.’

JOHN 9:25





3 simple questions:

- What was my life like before Jesus came into it?
- What happened when Jesus came into my life?
 - What difference has Jesus made in my life?

SUMMARY:

What does it mean to be a witness?

1. Embodying our faith
2. Demonstrating our faith
3. Defending our faith
4. Sharing our faith