



WHILE I HAVE
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**It is not good for man to be alone. I will
make a helper suitable for him.**

Genesis 2: 18

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Merriam Webster

Definition of *helper*: one that helps

Often, a relatively unskilled worker who assists a skilled worker, usually by manual labor

Synonyms: assistant, aide, apprentice, adjutant, deputy

Ezer: rescuer, warrior, shield, divine help

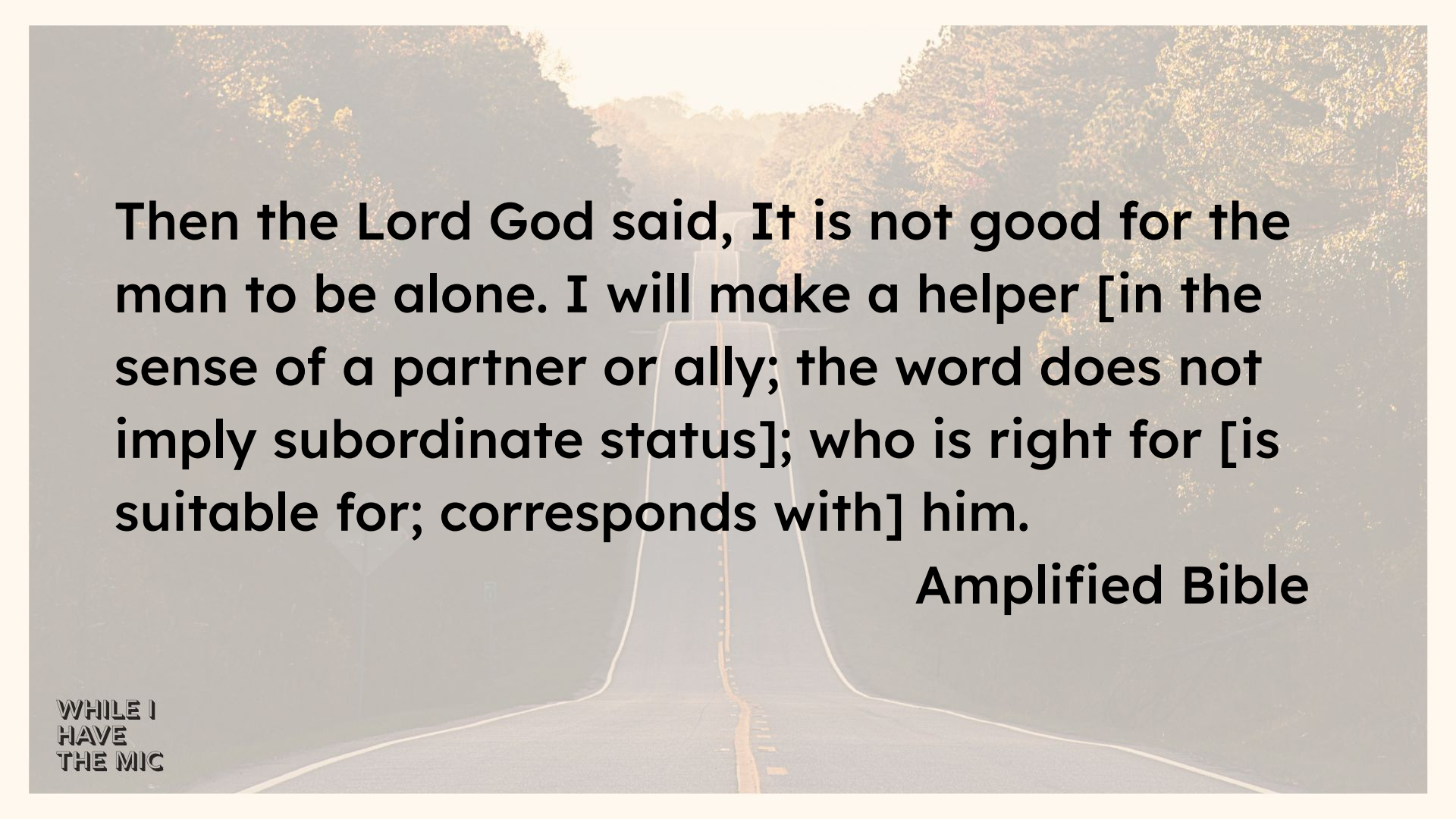
This word occurs in the Hebrew Testament 21 times.

Of those 21 times, it is used to describe God 16 times. And of those 16 times, the word is translated into English as one who rescues, a warrior, a shield. There is no sense of God having a subordinate status because he is an *ezer* for his people.



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Then the Lord God said, It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper [in the sense of a partner or ally; the word does not imply subordinate status]; who is right for [is suitable for; corresponds with] him.

Amplified Bible



**It is not good for man to be alone. I will make
the woman to be an authority corresponding
to him.**

International Standard Version

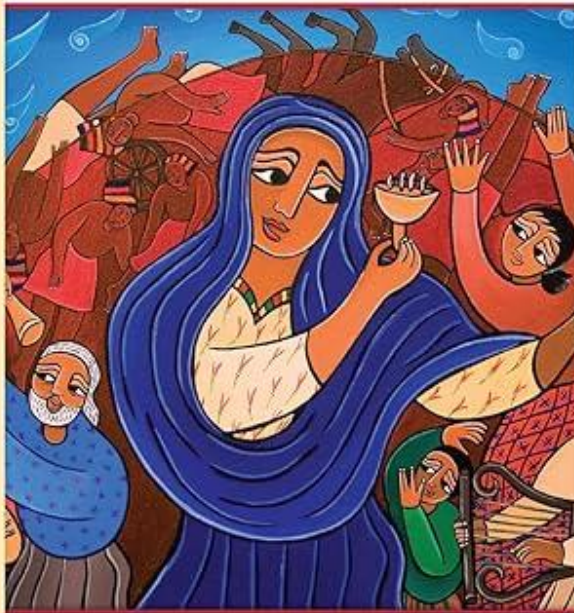
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WOMANIST MIDRASH

A REINTRODUCTION TO THE WOMEN
OF THE TORAH AND THE THRONE



Wilda C. Gafney

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Shiprah, Puah, and Miriam

A photograph of a paved road stretching into a dense forest. The road has a yellow dashed center line and white edge lines. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow and long shadows. The trees are mostly green with some autumnal tints. The overall mood is serene and contemplative.

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Empires of the Northern Kingdom and Judah

1. Assyrians-10 tribes of the Northern Kingdom exiled, never to return
2. Babylonians-conquer Judah, the remaining 2 tribes of Judah taken to Babylon
3. Persians-Conquered Babylonian empire and allowed the 2 tribes to return to Judah

A road winding through a forest at sunset, with a large white arrow pointing forward.

4. Greeks conquer Persians and rule all of Israel's land

5. Hasmonean (elite Jews ruling with Greek and then Roman permission

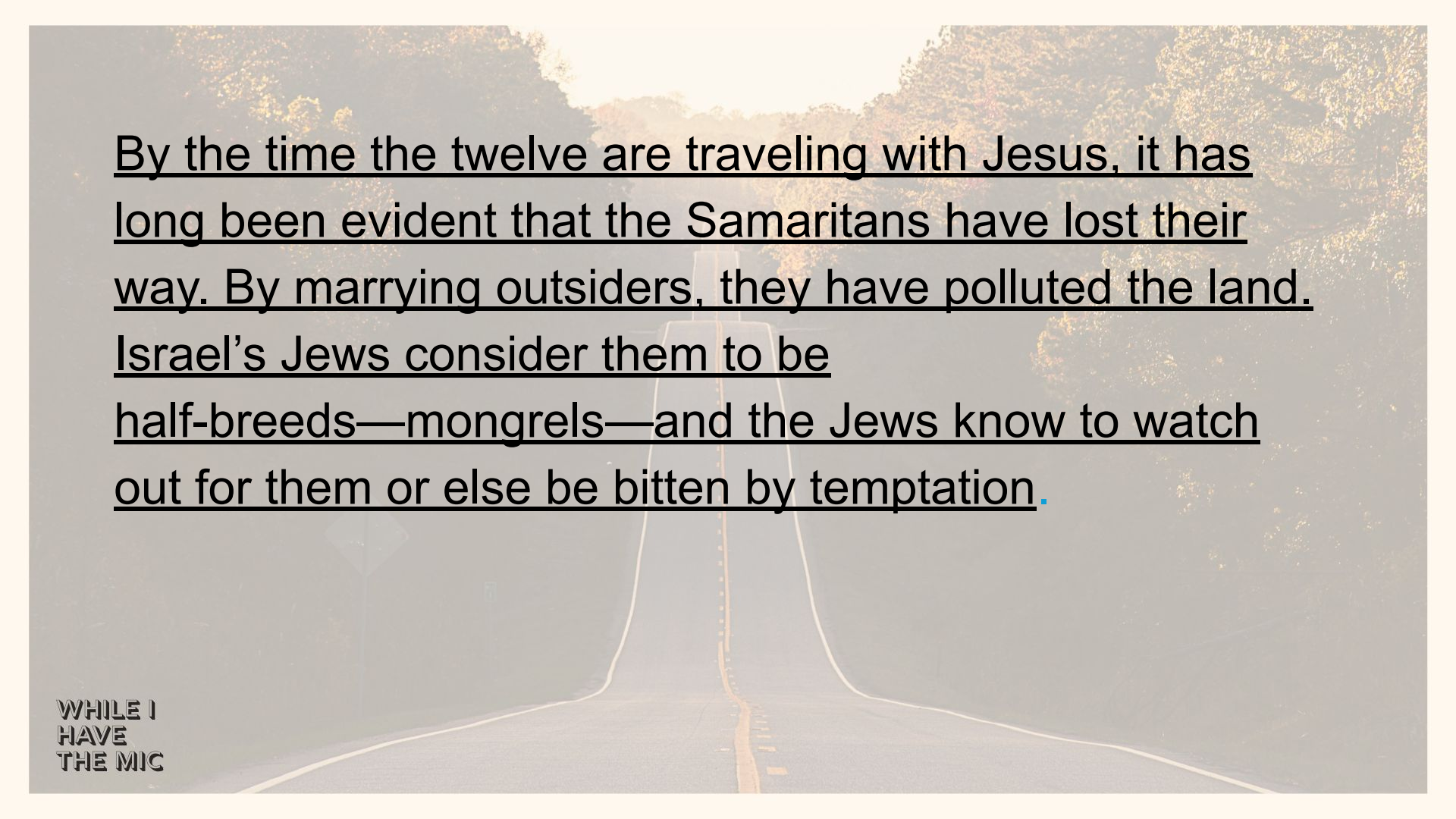
6. Roman rule of everything, everywhere

The Woman at the Well

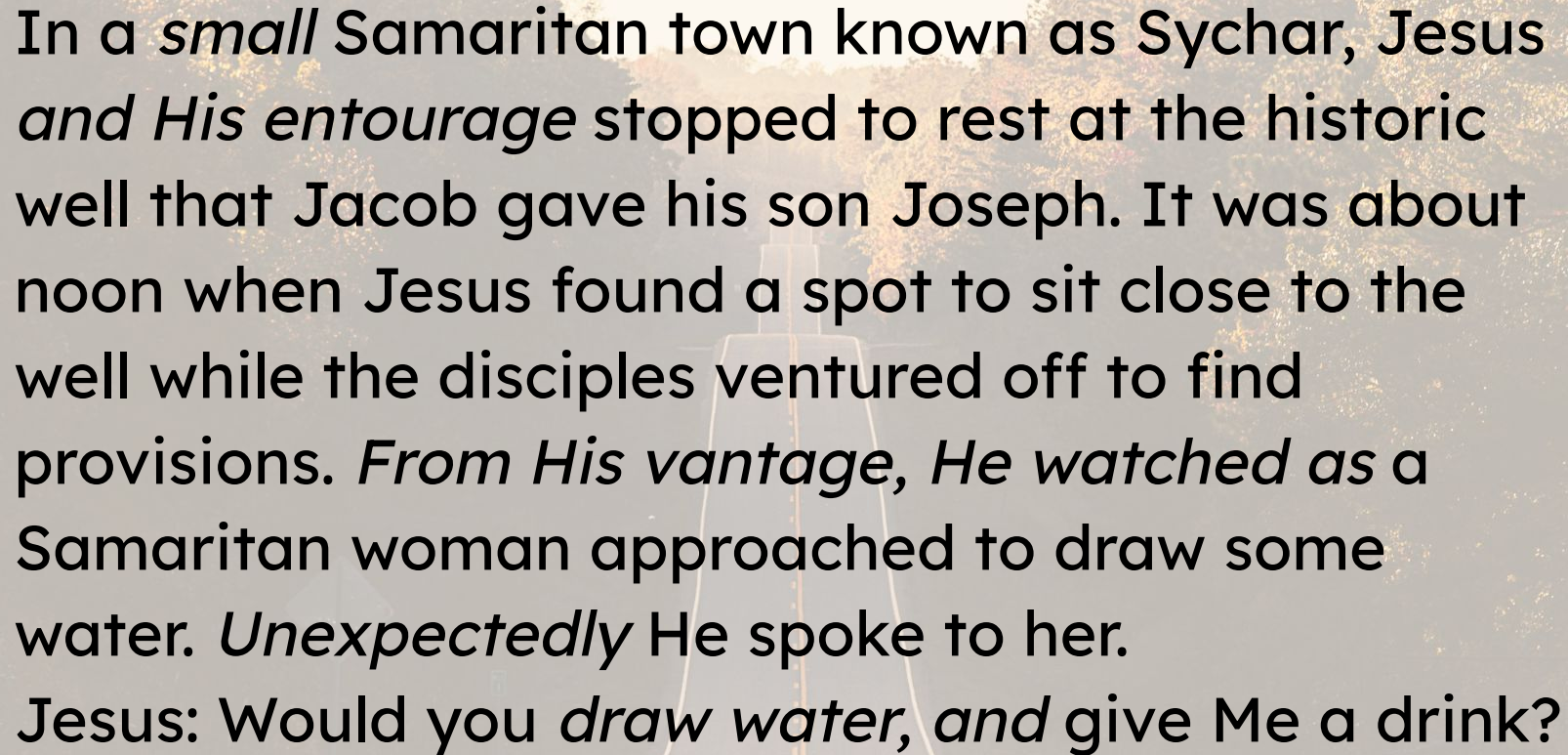
The picture was becoming clear to the Pharisees that Jesus had gained a following much larger than that of John the Baptist, *the wandering prophet*. Now He could see *that the Pharisees were beginning to plot against Him*. This was because His disciples were busy ritually cleansing many new disciples through baptism. He chose to leave Judea *where most Pharisees lived* and return to *a safer location in Galilee*. This was a trip that would take them through Samaria.

Added Study Notes in the text

For Jews in Israel, Samaria is a place to be avoided. Before Solomon's death 1,000 years earlier, the regions of Samaria and Judea were part of a united Israel. After the rebellion that divided the kingdom, Samaria became a hotbed of idol worship. The northern kings made alliances that corrupted the people by introducing foreign customs and strange gods. They even had the nerve to build a temple to the True God on Mt. Gerizim to rival the one in Jerusalem.

An aerial photograph of a road winding through a dense forest. The road is a light-colored path that curves through the trees. The text is overlaid on the image in a bold, black, sans-serif font, underlined. The background is a soft-focus aerial view of a road through a forest, with the road curving through the trees. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the colors are natural, with greens and browns of the forest and the light color of the road.

By the time the twelve are traveling with Jesus, it has long been evident that the Samaritans have lost their way. By marrying outsiders, they have polluted the land. Israel's Jews consider them to be half-breeds—mongrels—and the Jews know to watch out for them or else be bitten by temptation.

An aerial photograph of a road winding through a dense forest. In the center of the road, there is a stone well with a wooden structure on top. The text is overlaid on the image.

In a *small* Samaritan town known as Sychar, Jesus *and His entourage* stopped to rest at the historic well that Jacob gave his son Joseph. It was about noon when Jesus found a spot to sit close to the well while the disciples ventured off to find provisions. *From His vantage, He watched as a Samaritan woman* approached to draw some water. *Unexpectedly* He spoke to her.

Jesus: Would you *draw water, and* give Me a drink?

Woman: I cannot believe that You, a Jew, would associate with me, a Samaritan woman; much less ask me to give You a drink.

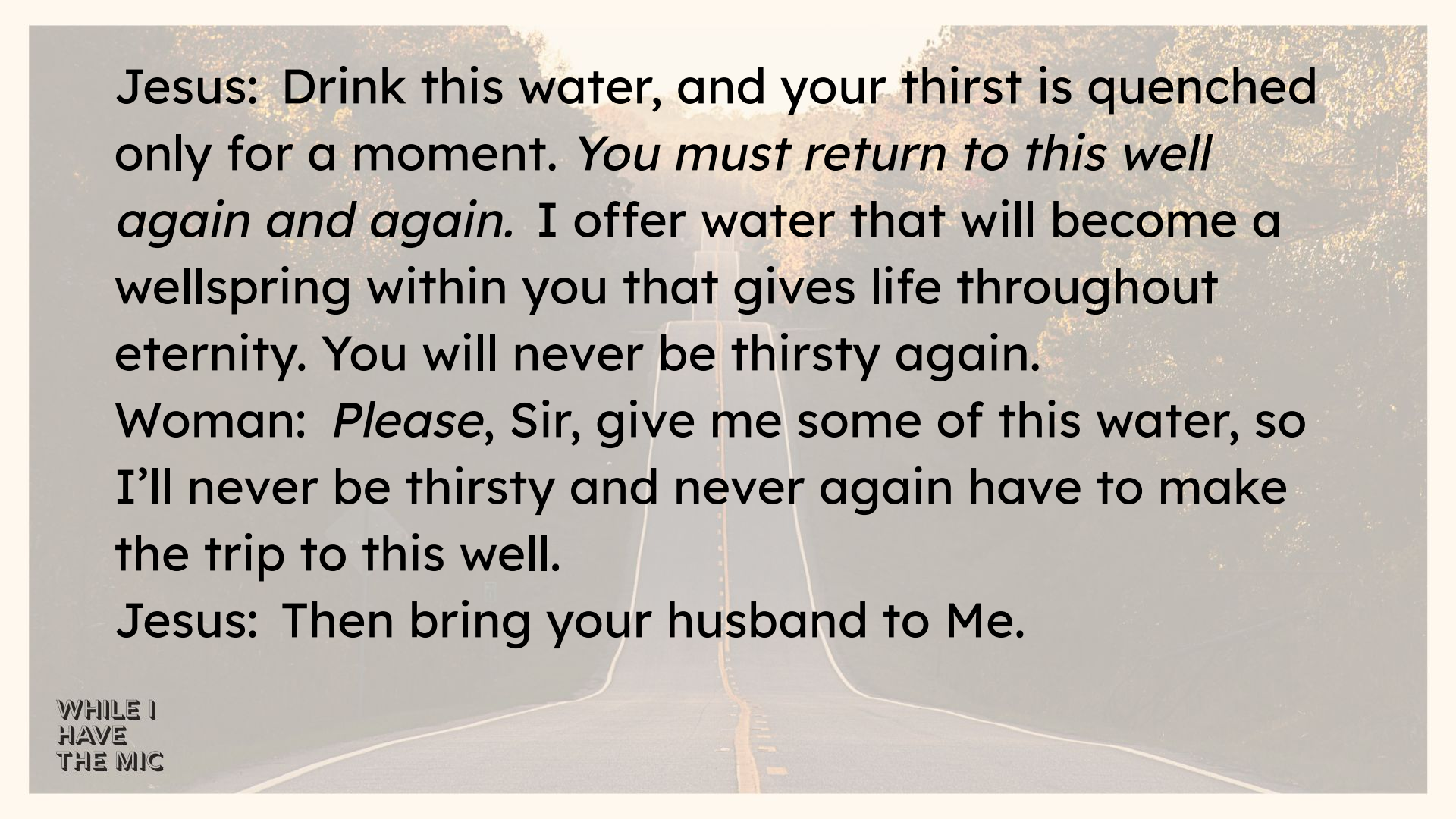
Jews, you see, have no dealings with Samaritans.

Also, a man never approaches a woman like this in public. Jesus is breaking accepted social barriers with this confrontation.

Jesus: You don't know the gift of God or who is asking you for a drink *of this water from Jacob's well.*

Because if you did, you would have asked Him *for something greater*; and He would have given you the living water.

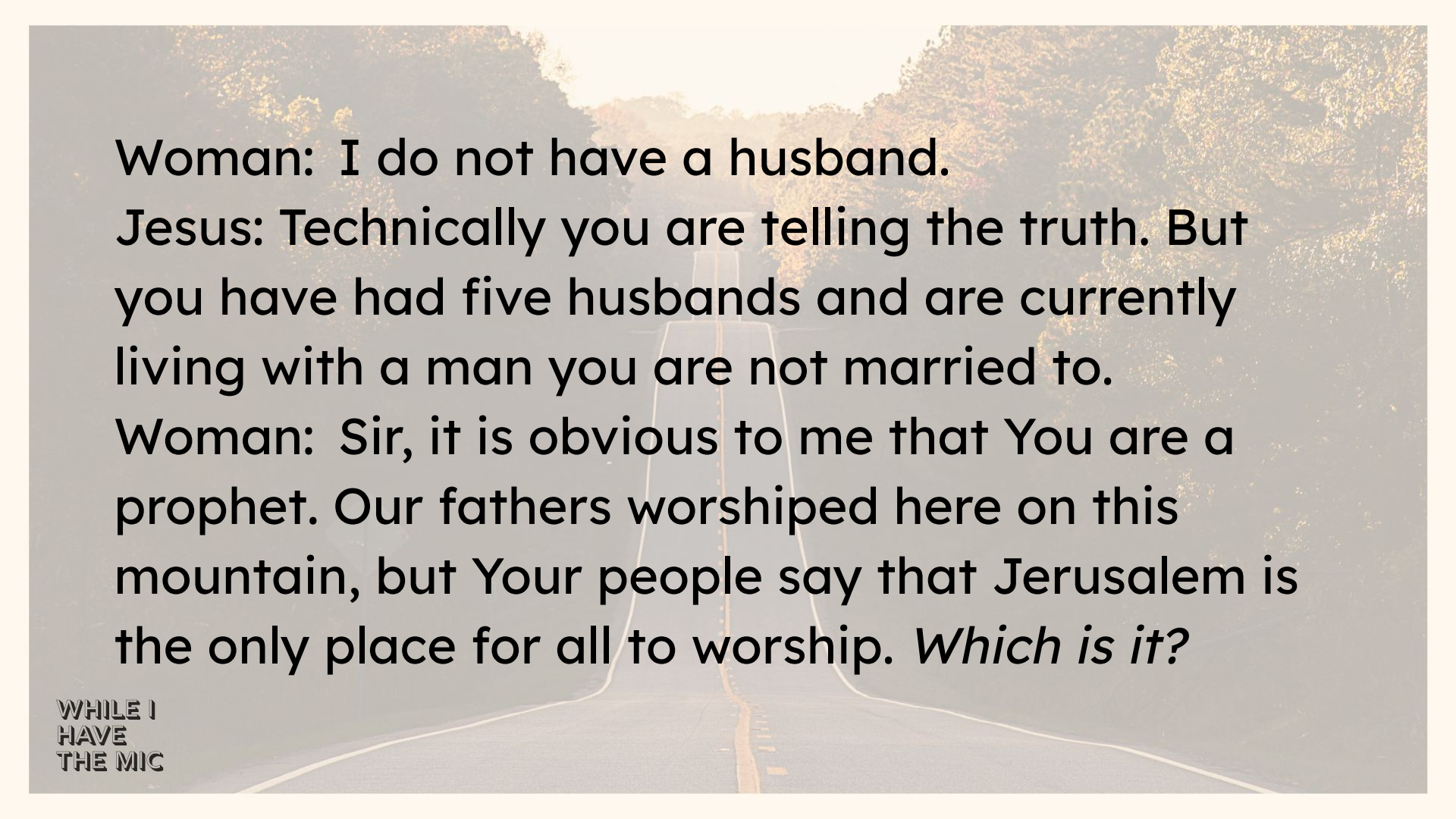
Woman: Sir, You sit by this deep well *a thirsty man* without a bucket in sight. Where does this living water come from? Are You claiming superiority to our father Jacob who labored long and hard to dig *and maintain* this well so that he could share clean water with his sons, *grandchildren*, and cattle?



Jesus: Drink this water, and your thirst is quenched only for a moment. *You must return to this well again and again.* I offer water that will become a wellspring within you that gives life throughout eternity. You will never be thirsty again.

Woman: *Please, Sir,* give me some of this water, so I'll never be thirsty and never again have to make the trip to this well.

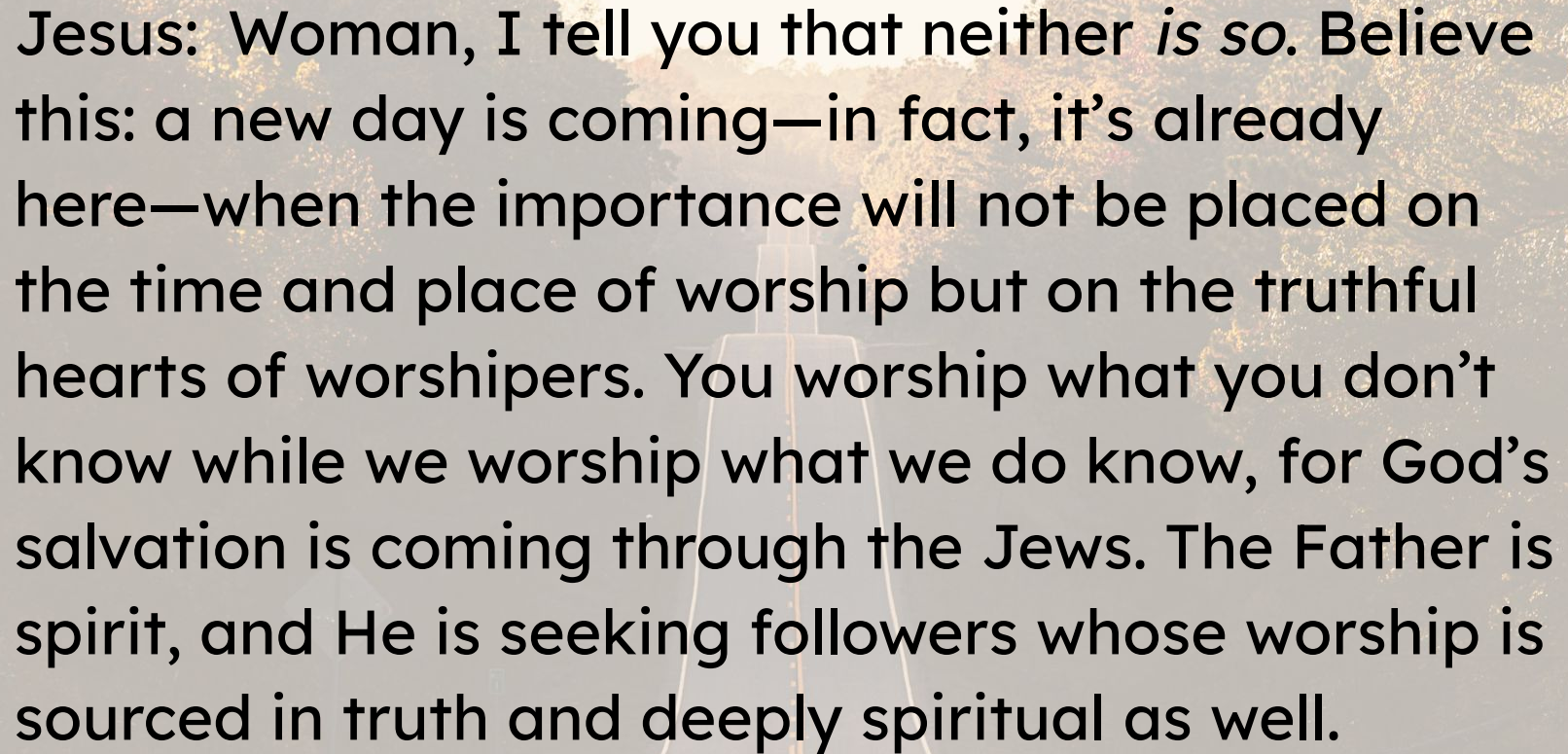
Jesus: Then bring your husband to Me.



Woman: I do not have a husband.

Jesus: Technically you are telling the truth. But you have had five husbands and are currently living with a man you are not married to.

Woman: Sir, it is obvious to me that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped here on this mountain, but Your people say that Jerusalem is the only place for all to worship. *Which is it?*

An aerial photograph of a road winding through a dense forest. A large, prominent tree stands in the center of the road, casting a shadow. The road is flanked by white lines, and the surrounding trees are lush and green. The overall scene is bright and clear.

Jesus: Woman, I tell you that neither *is so*. Believe this: a new day is coming—in fact, it’s already here—when the importance will not be placed on the time and place of worship but on the truthful hearts of worshipers. You worship what you don’t know while we worship what we do know, for God’s salvation is coming through the Jews. The Father is spirit, and He is seeking followers whose worship is sourced in truth and deeply spiritual as well.

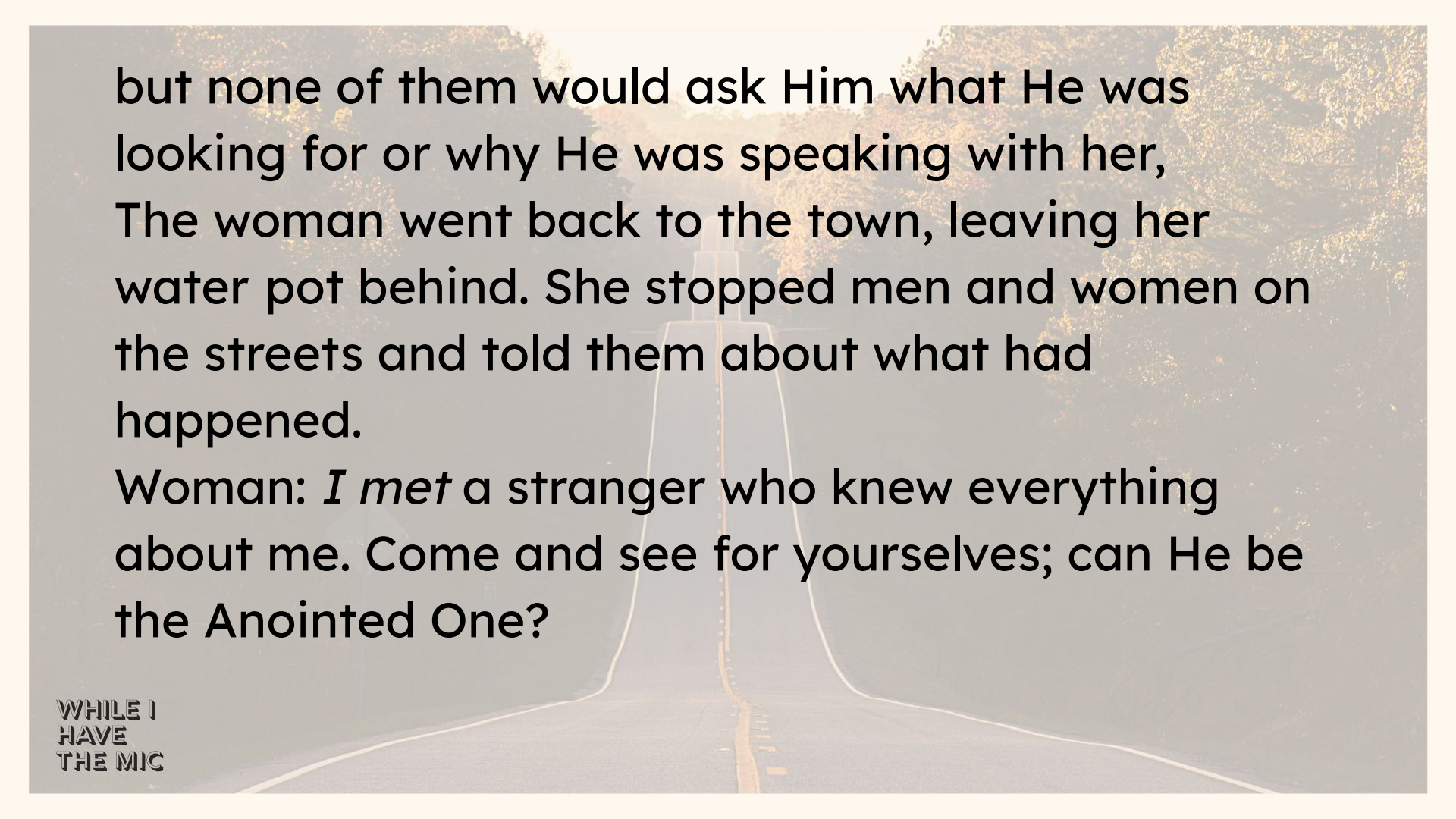
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Regardless of whether you are in Jerusalem or on this mountain, if you do not seek the Father, then you do not worship.

Woman: These mysteries will be made clear by He who is promised, the Anointed One.

Jesus: The Anointed is speaking to you. I am the One you have been looking for.

The disciples returned to Him *and gathered around Him* in amazement that He would *openly break their customs* by speaking to this woman,



but none of them would ask Him what He was looking for or why He was speaking with her, The woman went back to the town, leaving her water pot behind. She stopped men and women on the streets and told them about what had happened.

Woman: *I met* a stranger who knew everything about me. Come and see for yourselves; can He be the Anointed One?



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And the man you currently live with is

6. Roman rule of everything, everywhere

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Add text here. White is the main text color. Don't go any smaller than font size 22 (Lexend Medium)

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