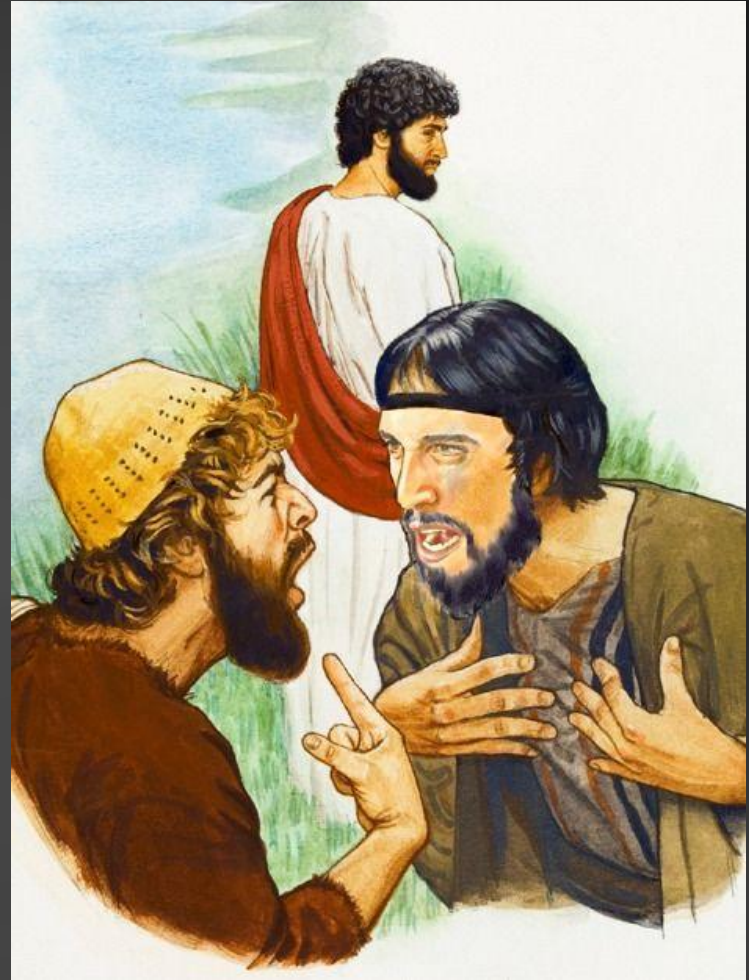


AT THAT TIME THE
DISCIPLES CAME TO
JESUS, SAYING,
“WHO THEN IS
GREATEST IN THE
KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN?” –
MATTHEW 18:1



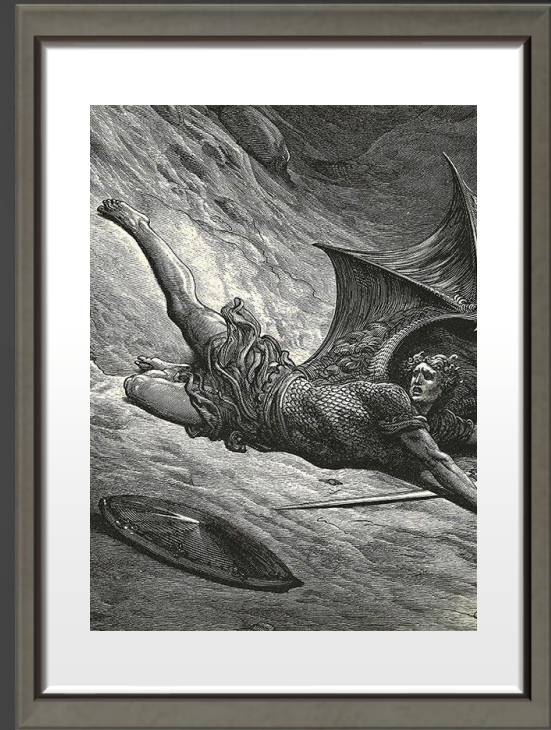
DO YOU WANT
TO BE GREAT?

2ND SUNDAY OF
EPEP

DANGERS OF PURSUING “GREATNESS”

1. Pride

- **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer... For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven... I will be like the Most High.’”** (Isaiah 14:12–14)
- **“Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.”** (Proverbs 16:18)



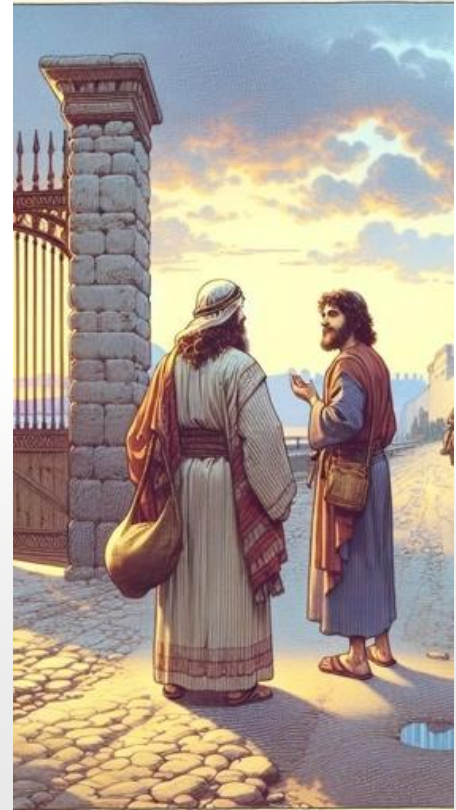
DANGERS OF PURSUING “GREATNESS”

2. Craving of Human Approval

- Pursuing this worldly “greatness” will leave me captive to the approval of others
- EX: Absalom

3. Rivalry, Envy, and Division

- “Where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.” (James 3:16)



DANGERS OF PURSUING “GREATNESS”

- Compromise One's Integrity and Morals
- **“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mark 8:36-37)**



WHAT IS GREATNESS IN THE EYES OF CHRIST?

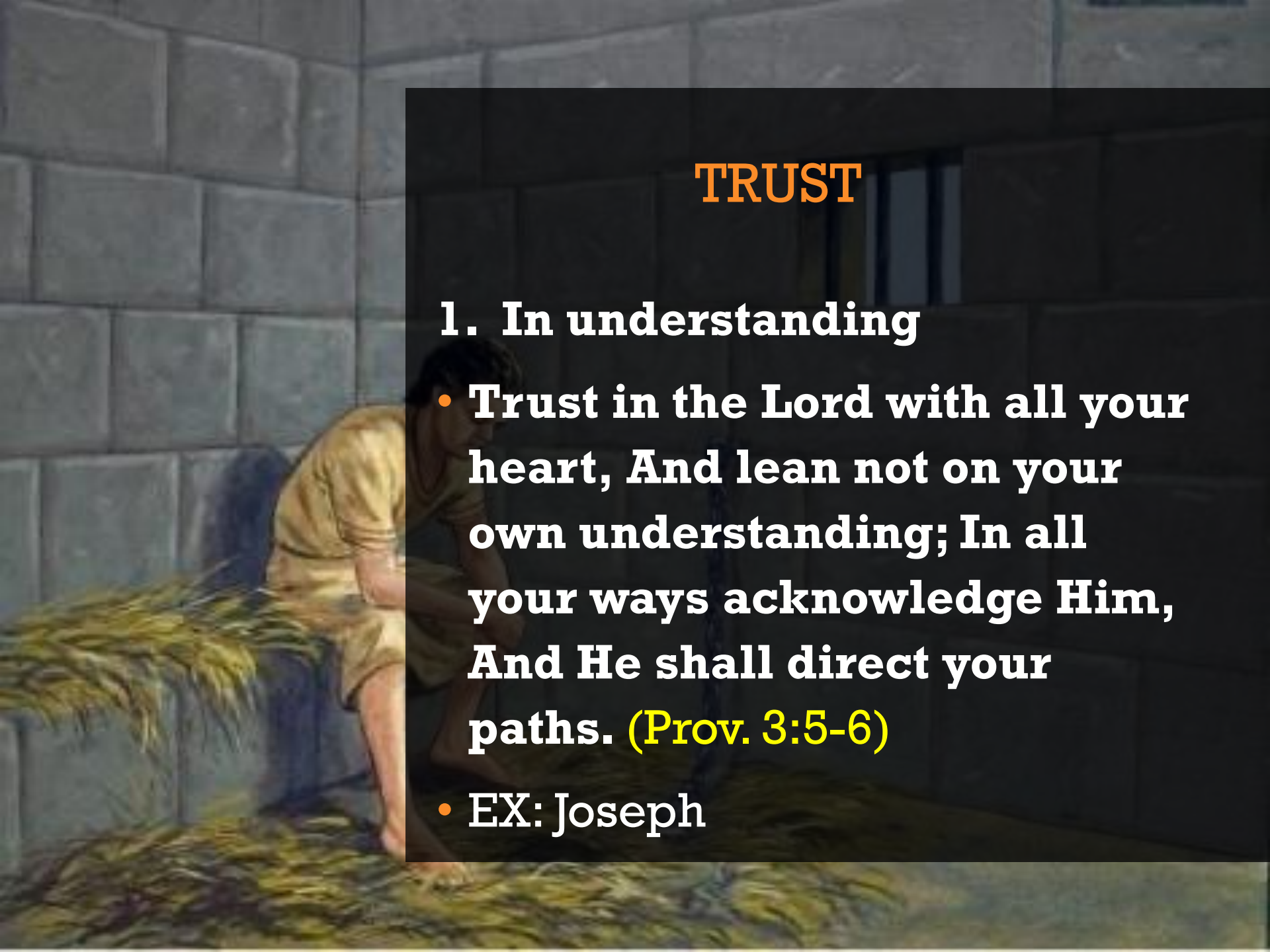
- **“At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (Matthew 18:1)**
- **“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3)**



QUALITIES THAT MAKE
ONE GREAT IN HEAVEN

HUMILITY

- **“Whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”** (Matthew 18:4)
- **“If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”** (Mk. 9:35)
- *“Humility is the only thing that no devil can imitate. If pride made demons out of angels, there is no doubt that humility could make angels out of demons.”* (St. John Climacus)



TRUST

1. In understanding

- **Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. (Prov. 3:5-6)**
- EX: Joseph

TRUST

2. In direction

- **O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps. (Jer. 10:23)**
- EX: Abraham
- **Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. (Ps. 23:4)**



TRUST

3. In His help

- **The Lord is my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in Him, and I am helped... (Ps. 28:7)**



FORGIVING

- **“BE ANGRY, AND DO NOT SIN”: DO NOT LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON YOUR WRATH...” (EPH. 4:26)**

DESIRE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

- **“Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it.” (Ps. 34:14)**



**DO NOT
THINK
BASE
THOUGHTS**

- **“I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.”
(Romans 16:19)**

SENSITIVE HEART

- **"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." (Romans 12:15)**
- ***"The compassionate man prays with tears even for his enemies. The heart that has been made spiritual by grace is softened toward all creation."* (St. Macarius the Great)**

