

# The Power of Forgiveness





# The Story of a Jew and a former SS Soldier



# Matthew 18:21-22

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? *Seven times?*" <sup>22</sup> "No, not seven times," Jesus replied, "but *seventy times seven!*"



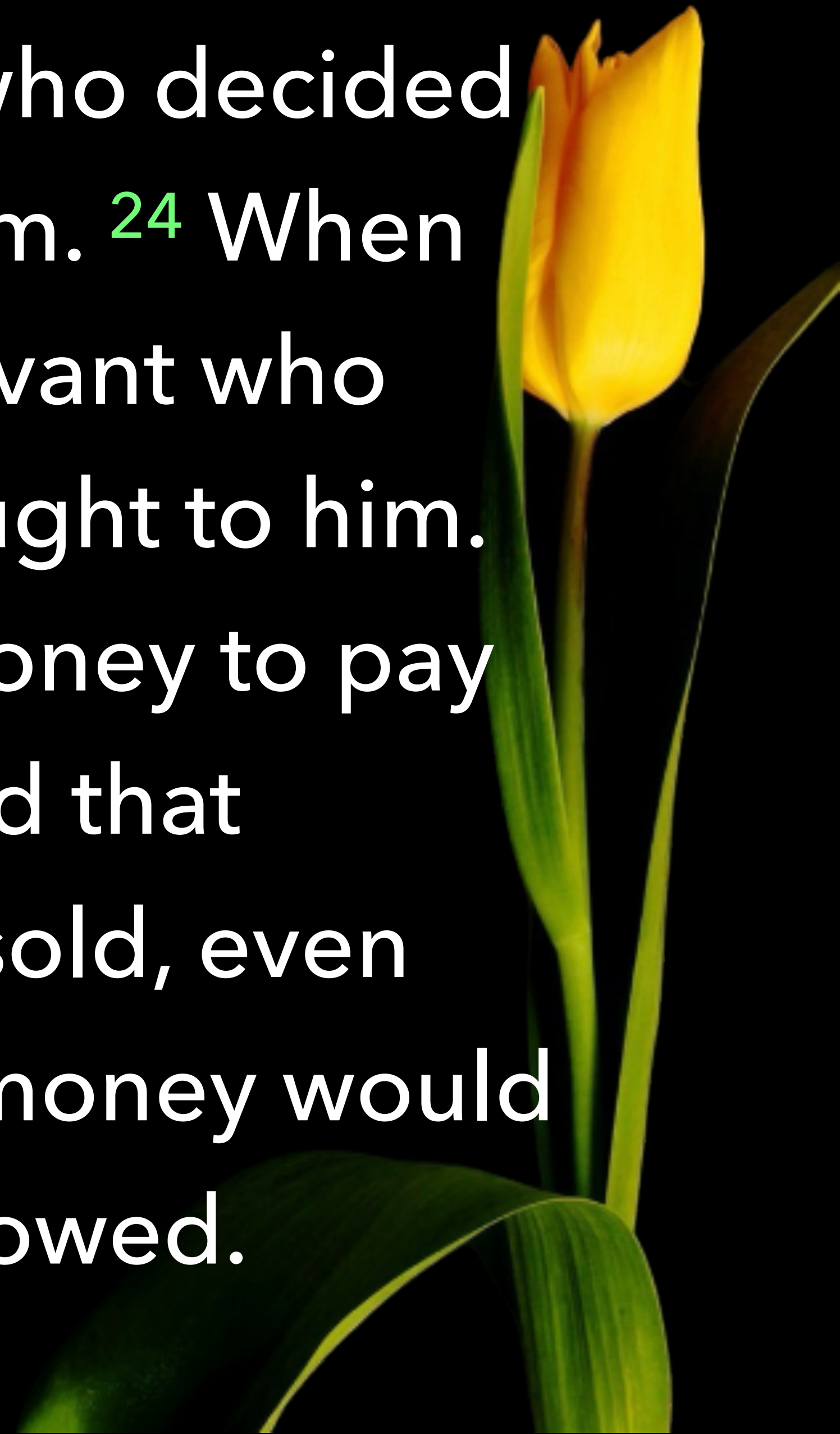


# The Parable of a Unforgiving Servant

Matthew 18:23-35

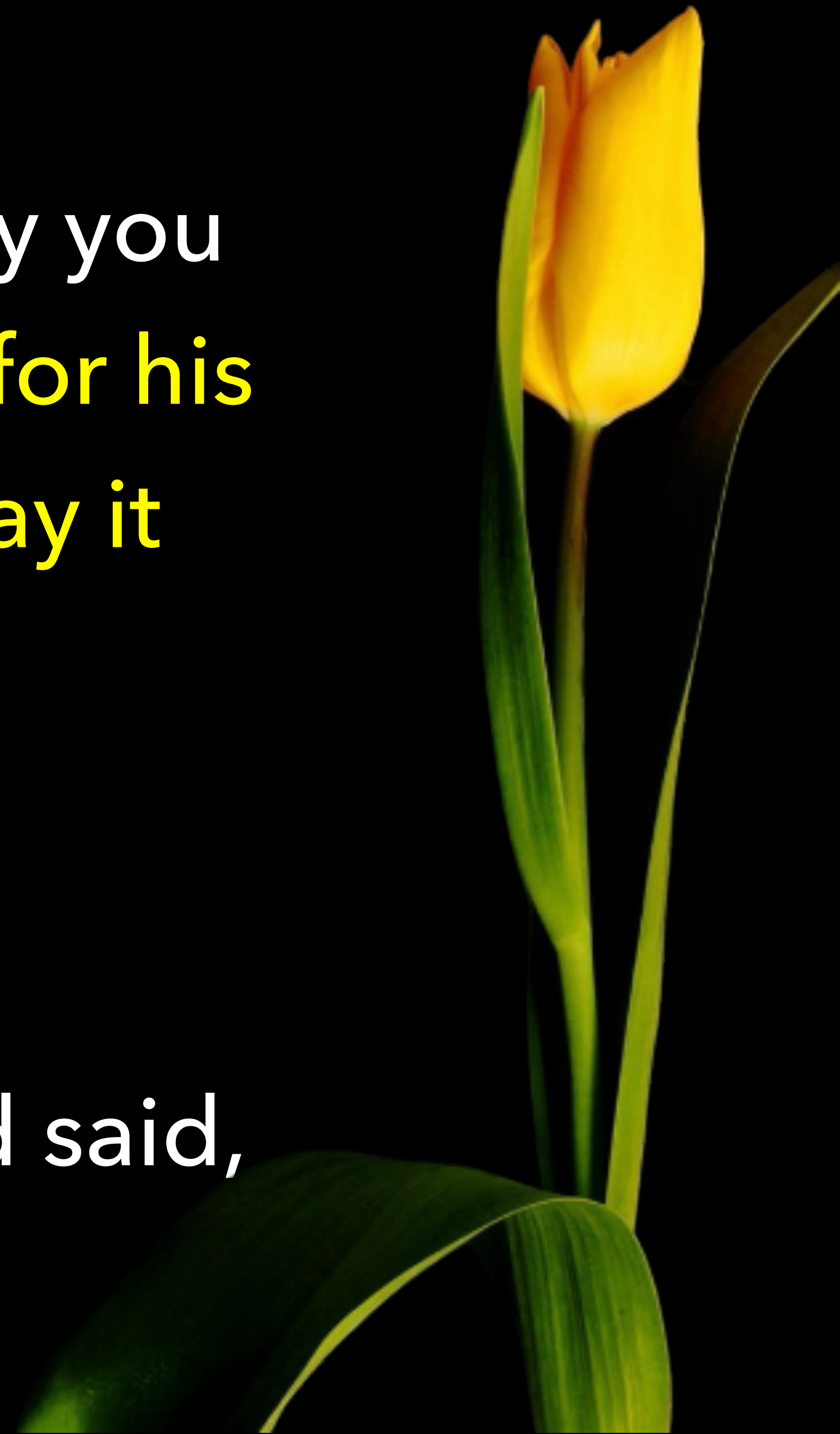


**23** "The kingdom of heaven is like a king who decided to collect the money his servants owed him. **24** When the king began to collect his money, a servant who owed him several million dollars was brought to him. **25** But the servant did not have enough money to pay his master, the king. So the master ordered that everything the servant owned should be sold, even the servant's wife and children. Then the money would be used to pay the king what the servant owed.



**26** "But the servant fell on his knees and begged, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.' **27** The master felt sorry for his servant and told him he did not have to pay it back. Then he let the servant go free.

**28** "Later, that same servant found another servant who owed him a few dollars. The servant grabbed him around the neck and said, 'Pay me the money you owe me!'

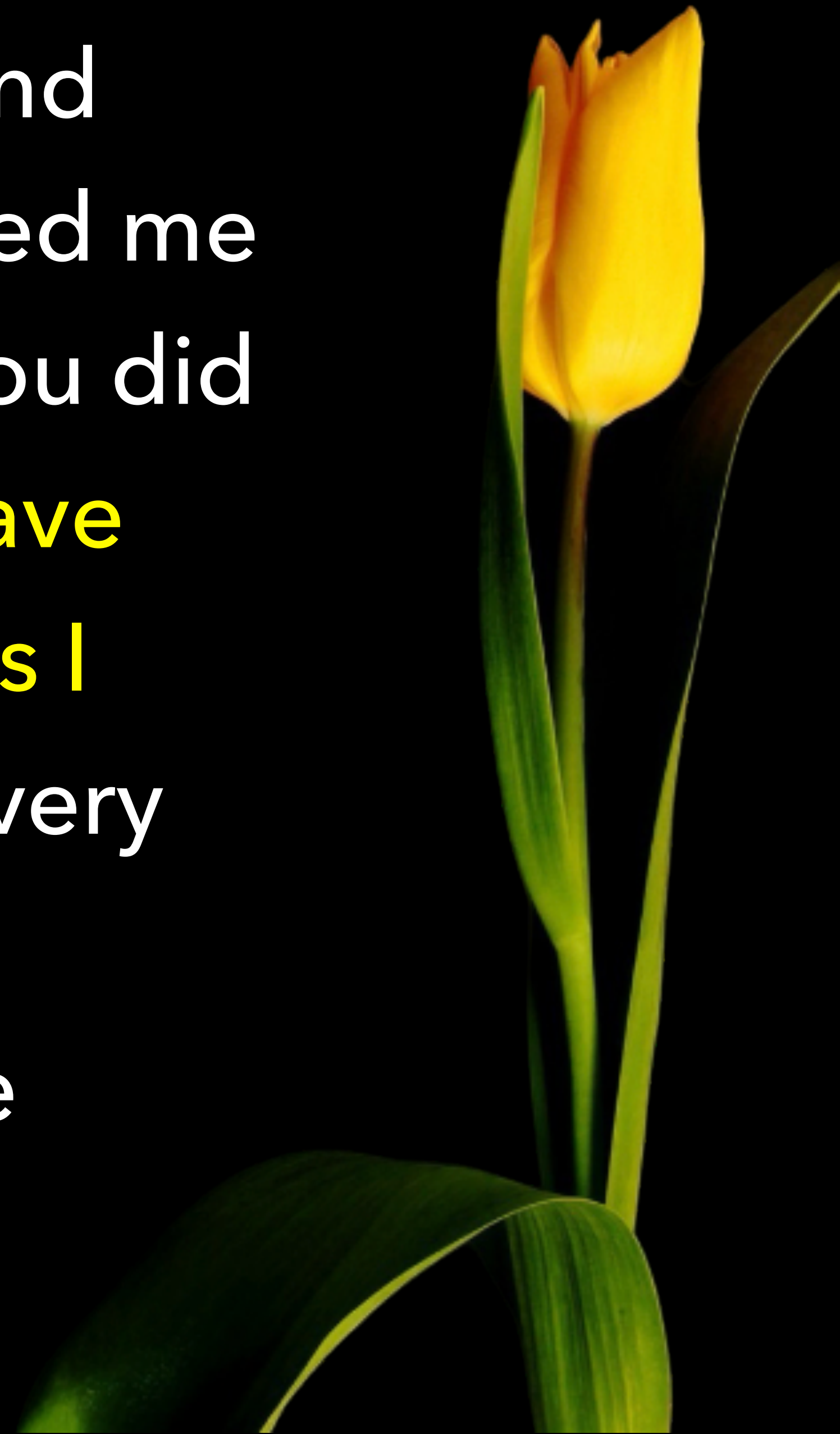


29 "The other servant fell on his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you everything I owe.'

30 "But the first servant refused to be patient. He threw the other servant into prison until he could pay everything he owed. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were very sorry. So they went and told their master all that had happened.



<sup>32</sup> "Then the master called his servant in and said, 'You evil servant! Because you begged me to forget what you owed, I told you that you did not have to pay anything. <sup>33</sup> **You should have showed mercy to that other servant, just as I showed mercy to you.**' <sup>34</sup> The master was very angry and put the servant in prison to be punished until he could pay everything he owed.



35 "This king did what my heavenly Father will do to you if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."



# Thought Point 1

33 You should have showed mercy to that other servant, just as I showed mercy to you.



# Analysis

33 You *[the wicked servant]* should have showed mercy to *that other servant*, just as I *[the king]* showed mercy to you *[the wicked servant]*.



# Three Parties Relationship

King



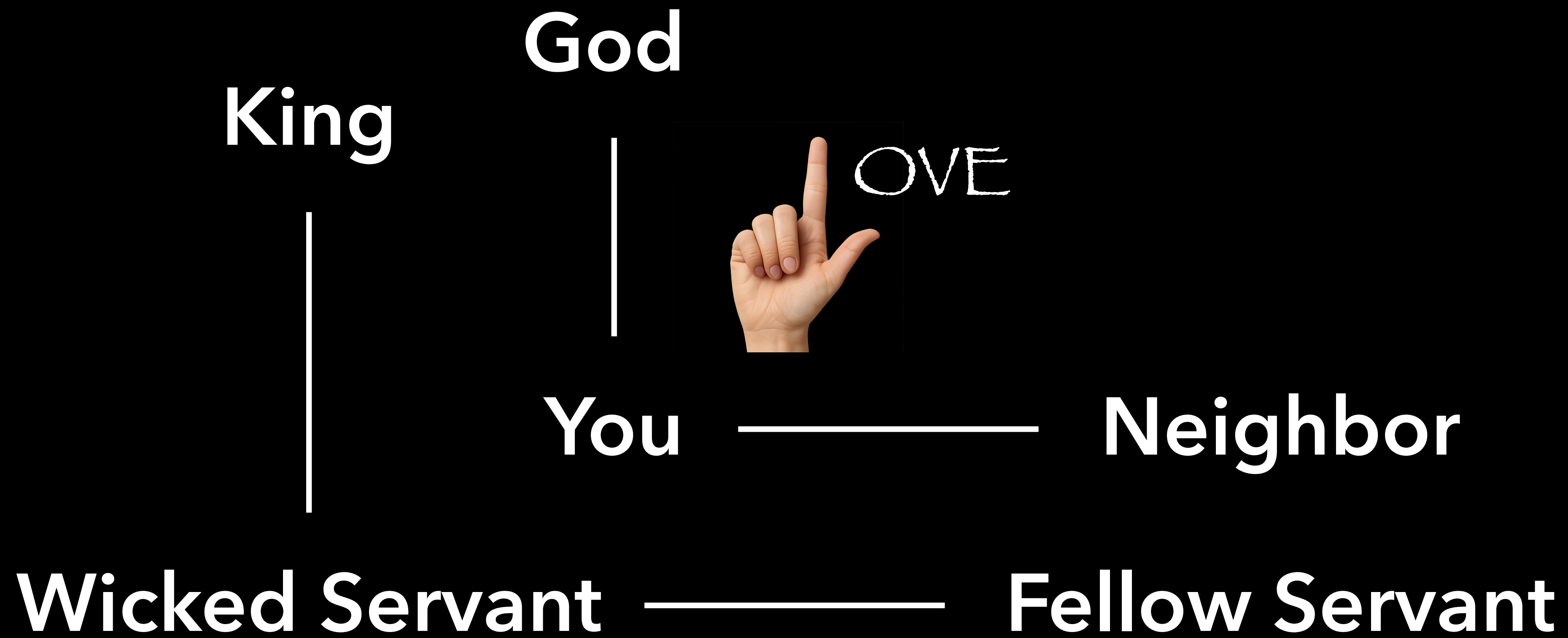
Wicked Servant



Fellow Servant



# Three Parties Relationship



# Matthew 6:12 NKJV

**12** "Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors."

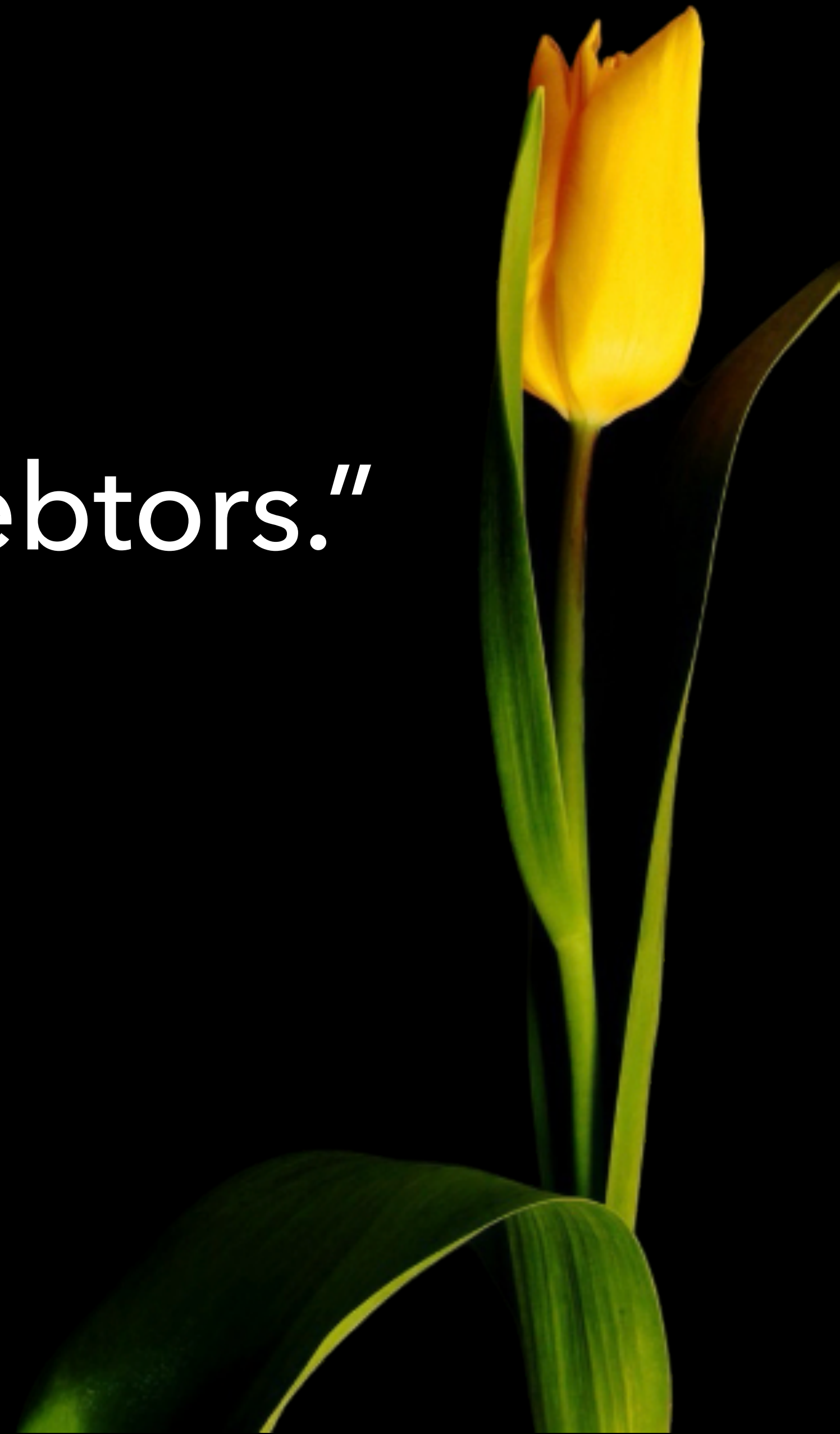
God



You



Neighbor



# Matthew 6:12 NKJV

12 "Forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors."

God



You



Debtor

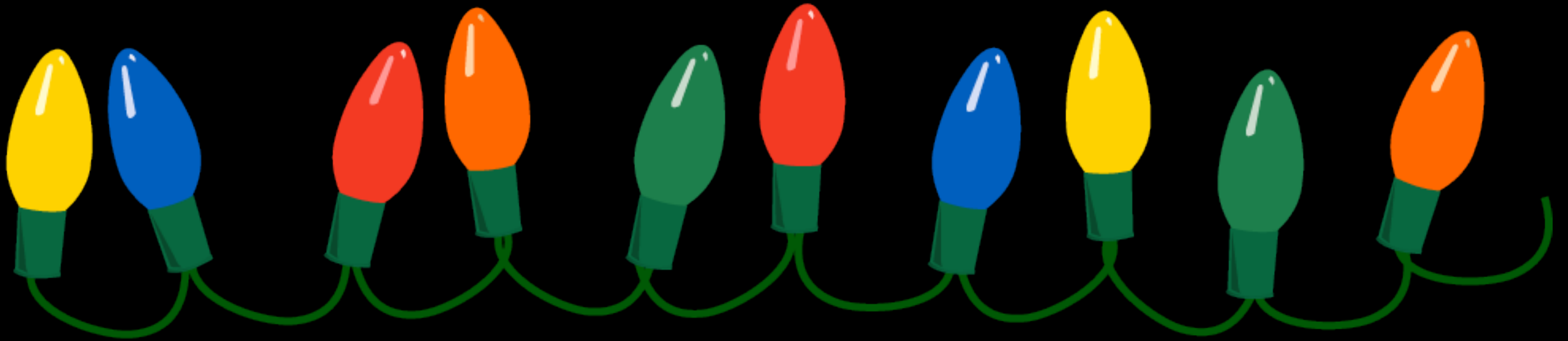


# Thought Point 2

Jesus illustrates that the unforgiveness of wicked servant results in the loss of the king's forgiveness.



# Illustration of the Christmas Lights



If a single Christmas light bulb burns out, it causes the entire circuit to go dark.

God



Me



Person Who Hurts Me

# Forgiveness Circuit

When I cut off forgiveness from those  
who hurt me,

I cut off God's forgiveness to me.



# Nelson Mandela

“The first lesson is forgiveness, you must not allow hate to fester *[injure and worsen]* in your brain. You can never allow racism, hatred, and bitterness to rent space in your head.”





# Romans 12:19 CEB

**19** Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, *Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back, says the Lord.*

*[Deuteronomy 32:35]*





Holding onto unforgiveness can harm your emotional, physical, mental, and spiritual well-being.

# Matthew 11:29

<sup>29</sup> Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.





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# Jesus Forgives and Heals a Crippled Man

Mark 2:1-12





# One of the Seven Sayings of Jesus

Luke 23:32

John 19:23



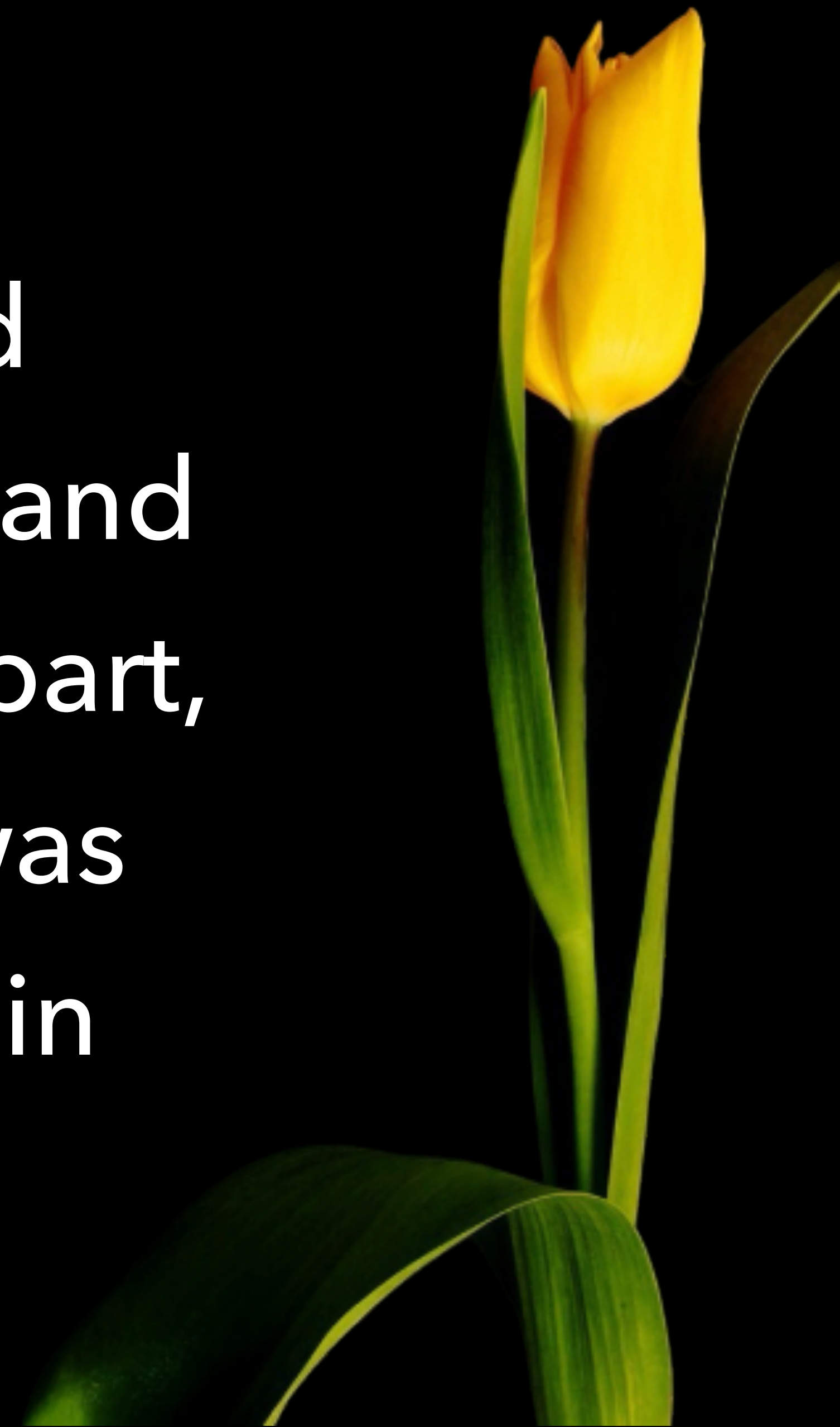
# Luke 23:32 NKJV

32 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.



# John 19:23 NKJV

**23** Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.

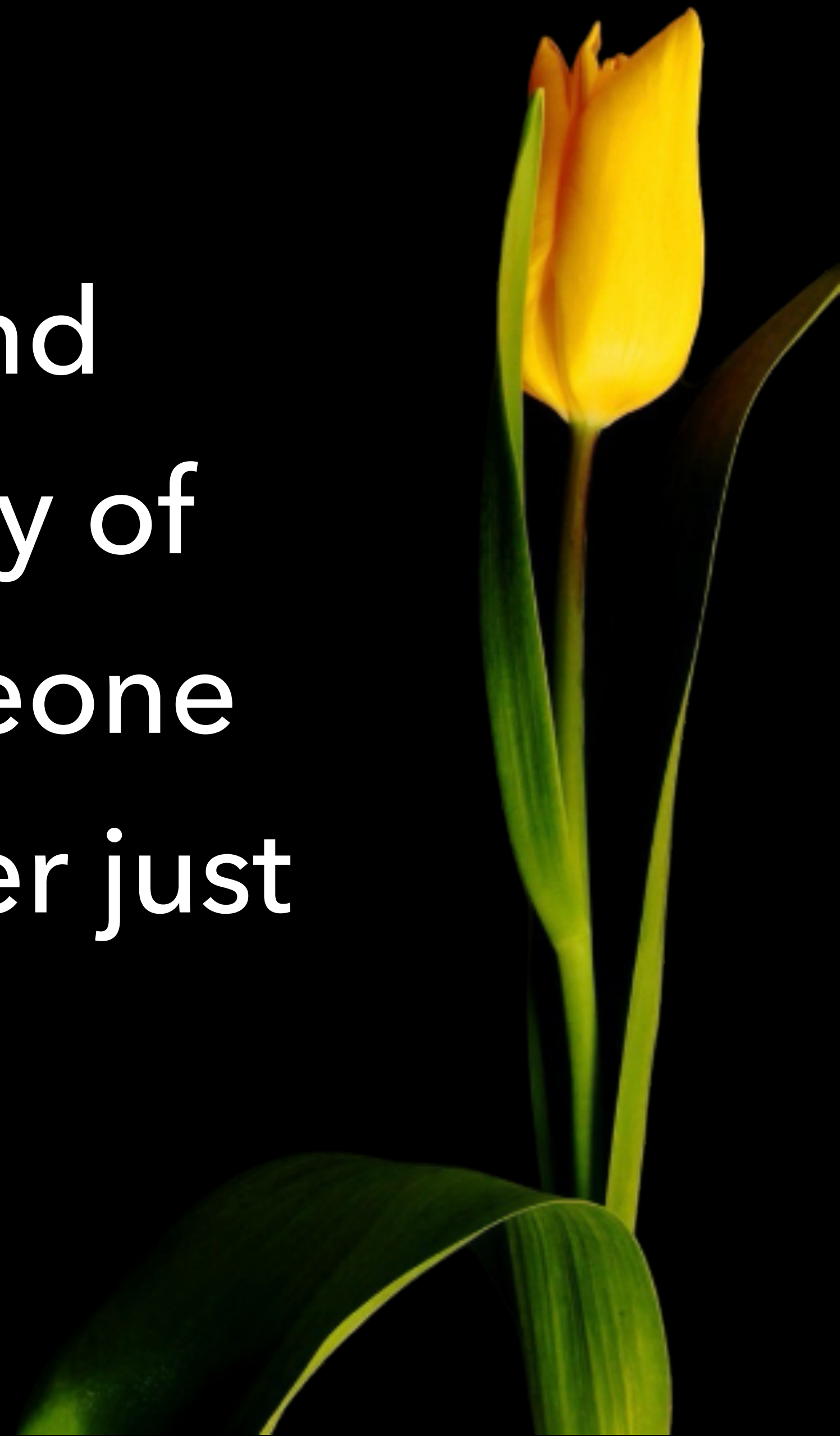


# Colossians 3:12-17 GNT



# Colossians 3:13 GNT

**13** Be tolerant with one another and forgive one another whenever any of you has a complaint against someone else. You must forgive one another just as the Lord has forgiven you.



# Ephesians 4:32 GNT

**32** Be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ.





# **FORGIVENESS**

SLIDE EXTRAS



Principle 1:

I will be forgiven as I forgive

*“Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors.”*

*— Matthew 6:12*



## Principle 2:

If I don't forgive, my worship is unacceptable to God

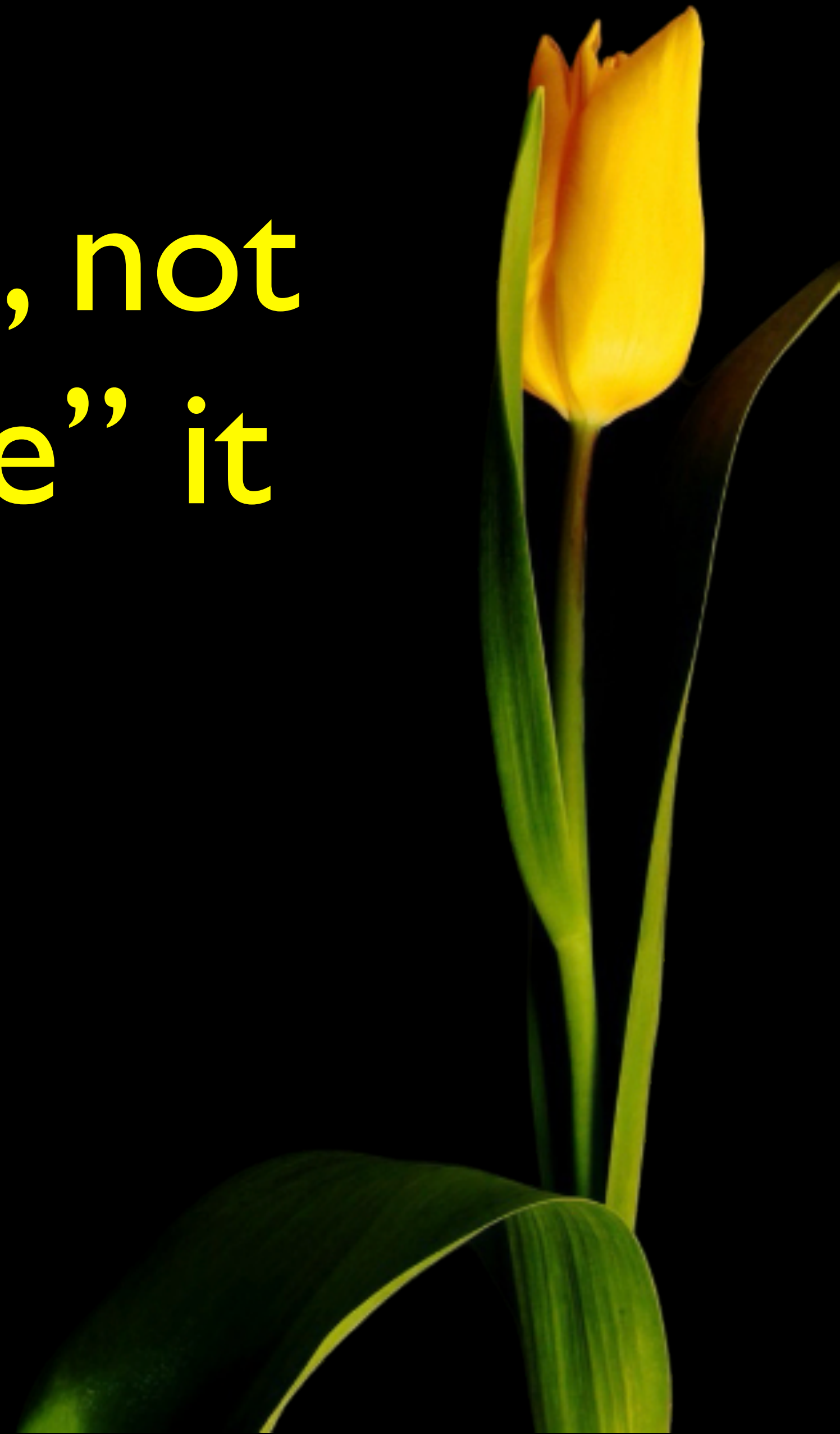
*“If you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gifts.”*

*— Matthew 5:23, 24*



## Principle 3:

Forgiveness is for everyone, not just for those who “deserve” it



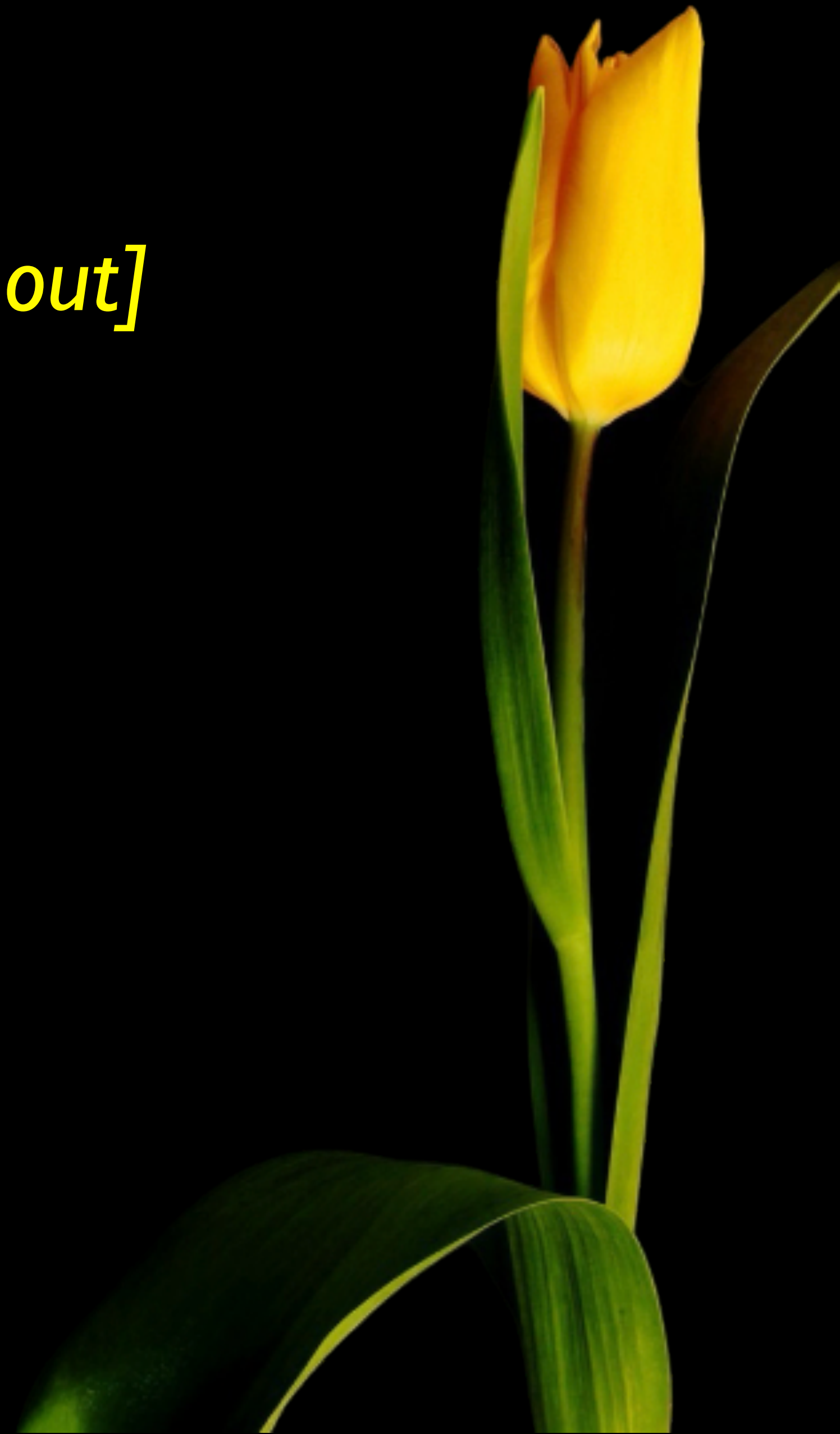
## Principle 4:

It is easier to forgive when there  
has been a confession



## Principle 5:

**Forgiveness can elicit** *[draw out]*  
**repentance** *[from someone]*

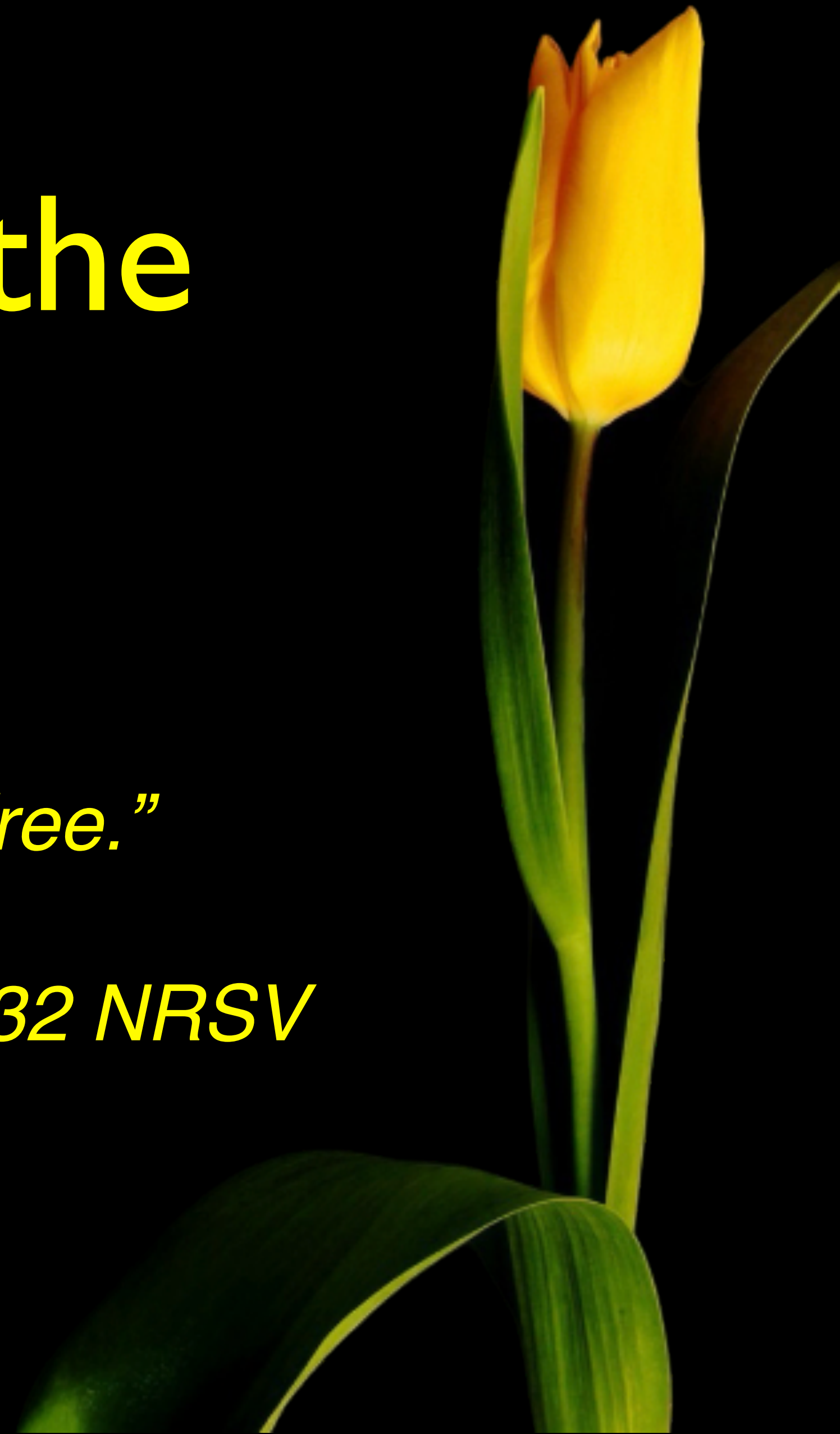


Principle 6:

# The freedom of knowing the “truth”

*“You will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”*

*— John 8:32 NRSV*



Principle 7:

“Seventy times seven”

*“How often should I forgive?”*

— *Matthew 18:20 NRSV*



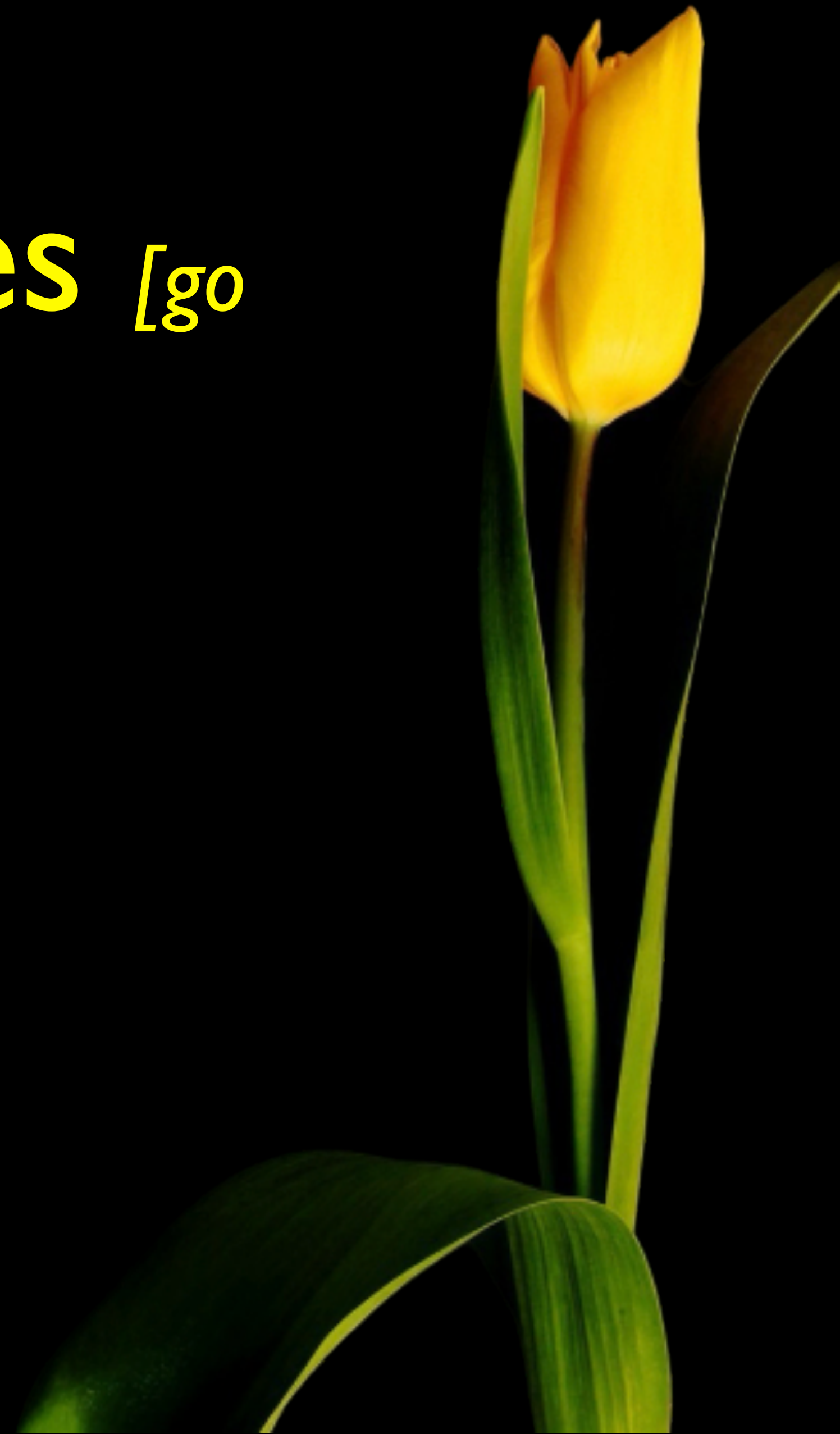
Principle 8:

There is no such thing as a  
“Christian” vengeance *[revenge]*



Principle 9:

Healing always accompanies *[go*  
*along with]* forgiveness



# Making the Forgiveness Promise Stick



1. I will not think about or focus on this incident  
*[problem]*.
2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it  
against you.
3. I will not talk to others about this incident.
4. I will not allow this incident to stand between us  
or to hinder *[create difficult]* our personal  
relationship.



# Forgiveness Scale

Healing ----- Hurting



Forget

Recall

Nurse

Remember

