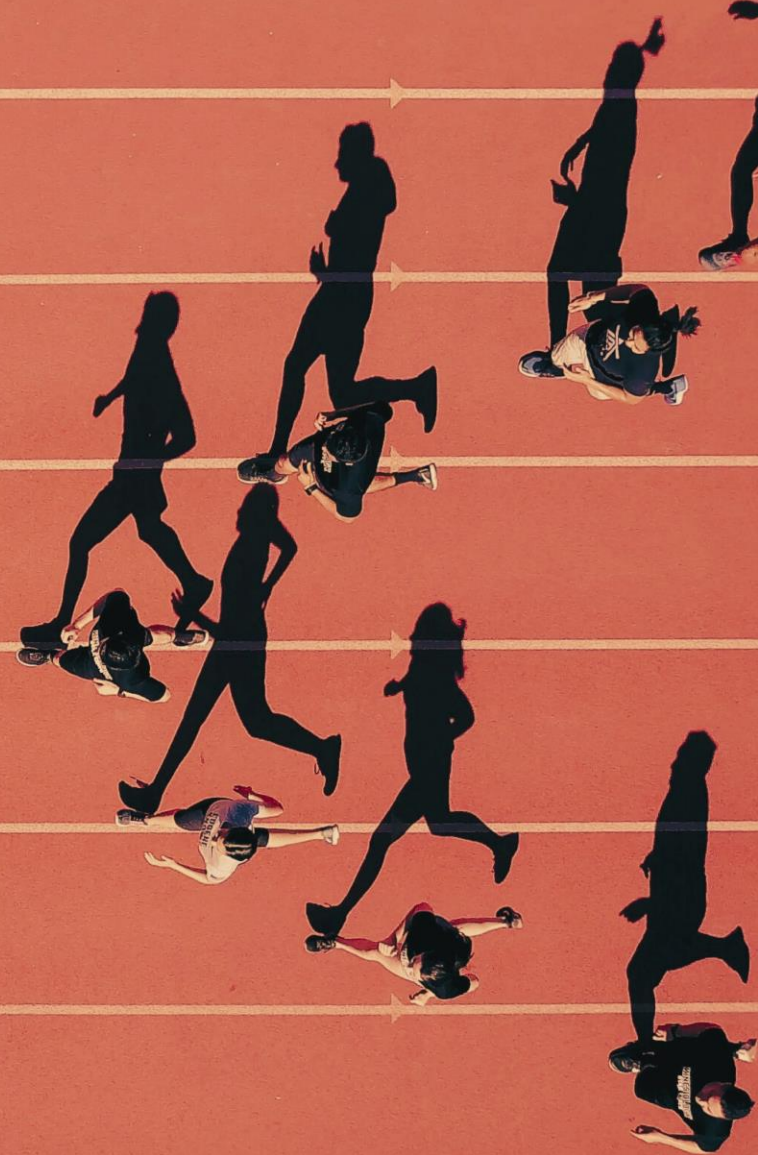
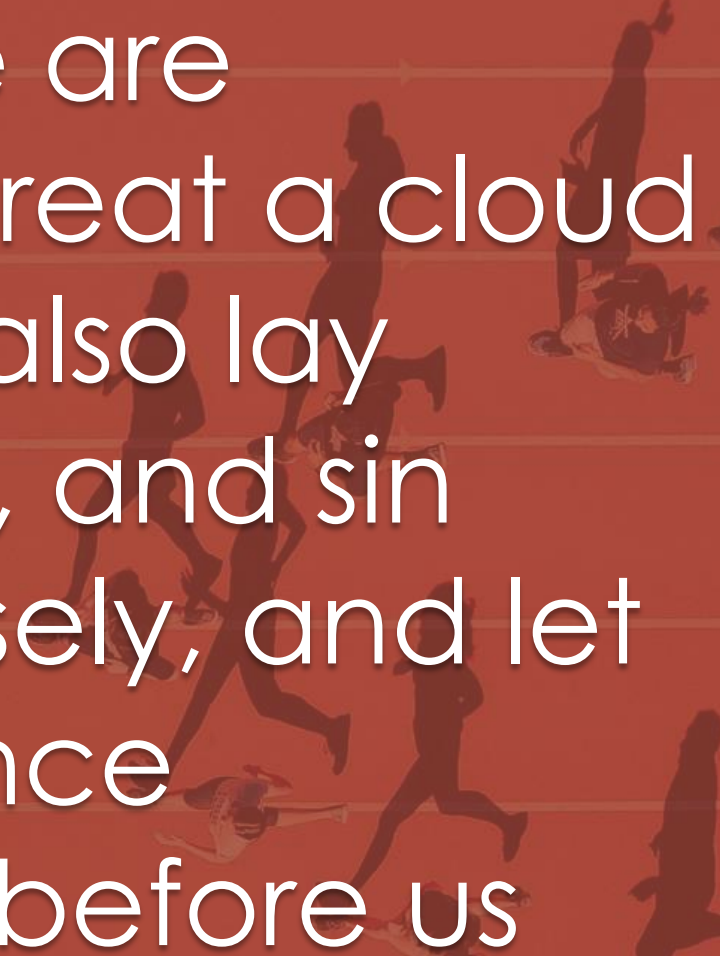


*2024 Congregational Theme*

# THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US

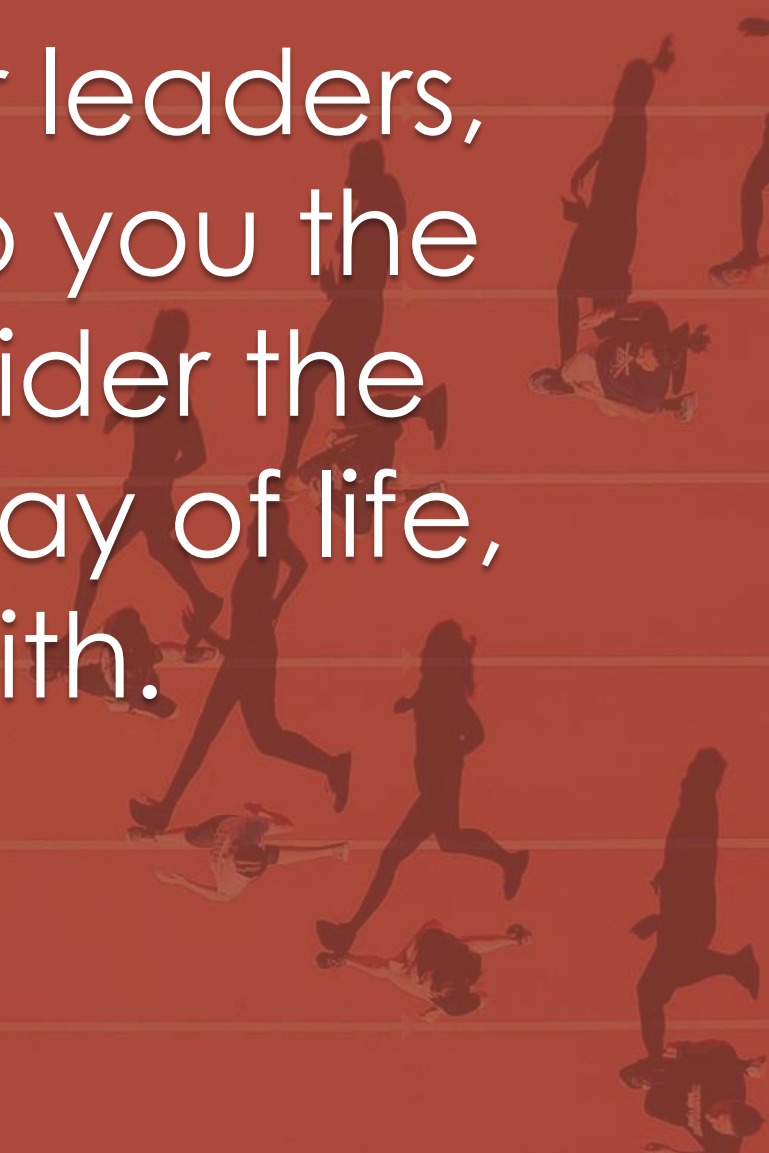


Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us

The background of the slide features a dark red color with a pattern of white horizontal lines. Overlaid on this are several black silhouettes of runners in various stages of a race, some in full stride and others appearing to be struggling or falling, which visually represents the 'race' mentioned in the text.

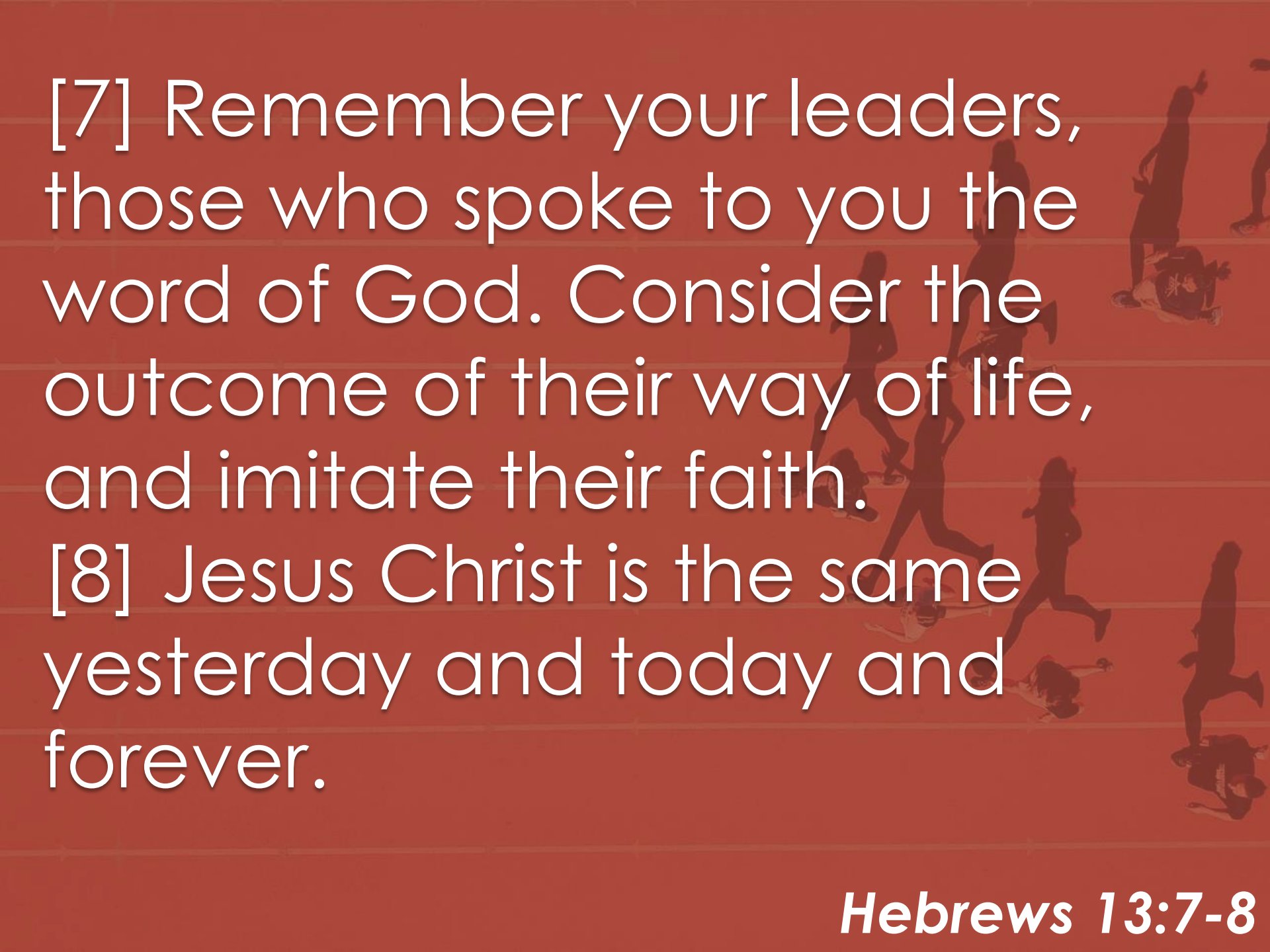
***Hebrews 12:1***

[7] Remember your leaders,  
those who spoke to you the  
word of God. Consider the  
outcome of their way of life,  
and imitate their faith.

The background of the slide features a series of dark silhouettes of runners in various stages of a stride, moving from the top right towards the bottom left. The runners are set against a solid, muted red background. The silhouettes are semi-transparent, allowing the text to be read over them.

***Hebrews 13:7***



The background of the slide features a dark red color with a pattern of white silhouettes of people running on a track, arranged in a circular path on the right side.

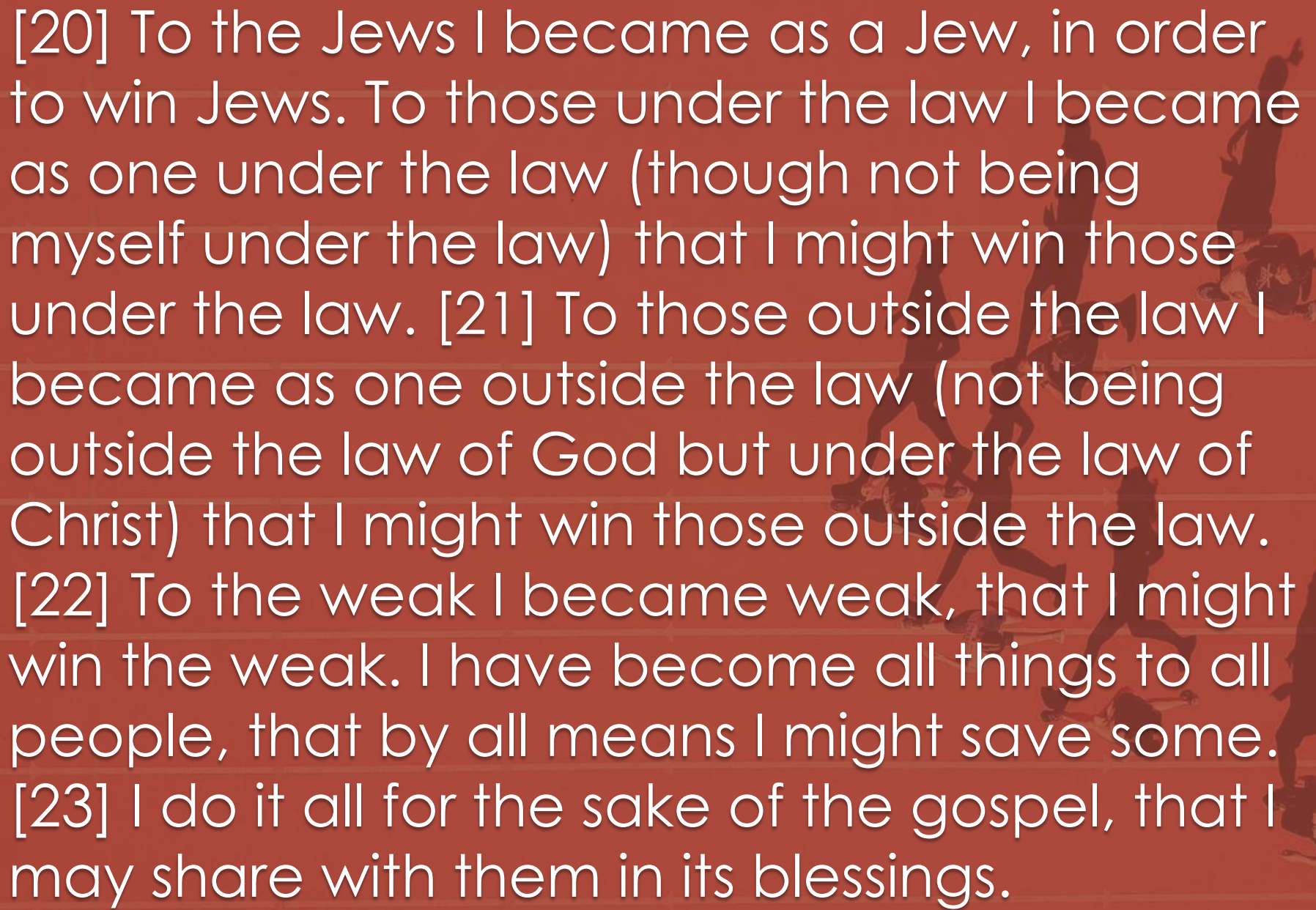
[7] Remember your leaders,  
those who spoke to you the  
word of God. Consider the  
outcome of their way of life,  
and imitate their faith.

[8] Jesus Christ is the same  
yesterday and today and  
forever.

*Hebrews 13:7-8*

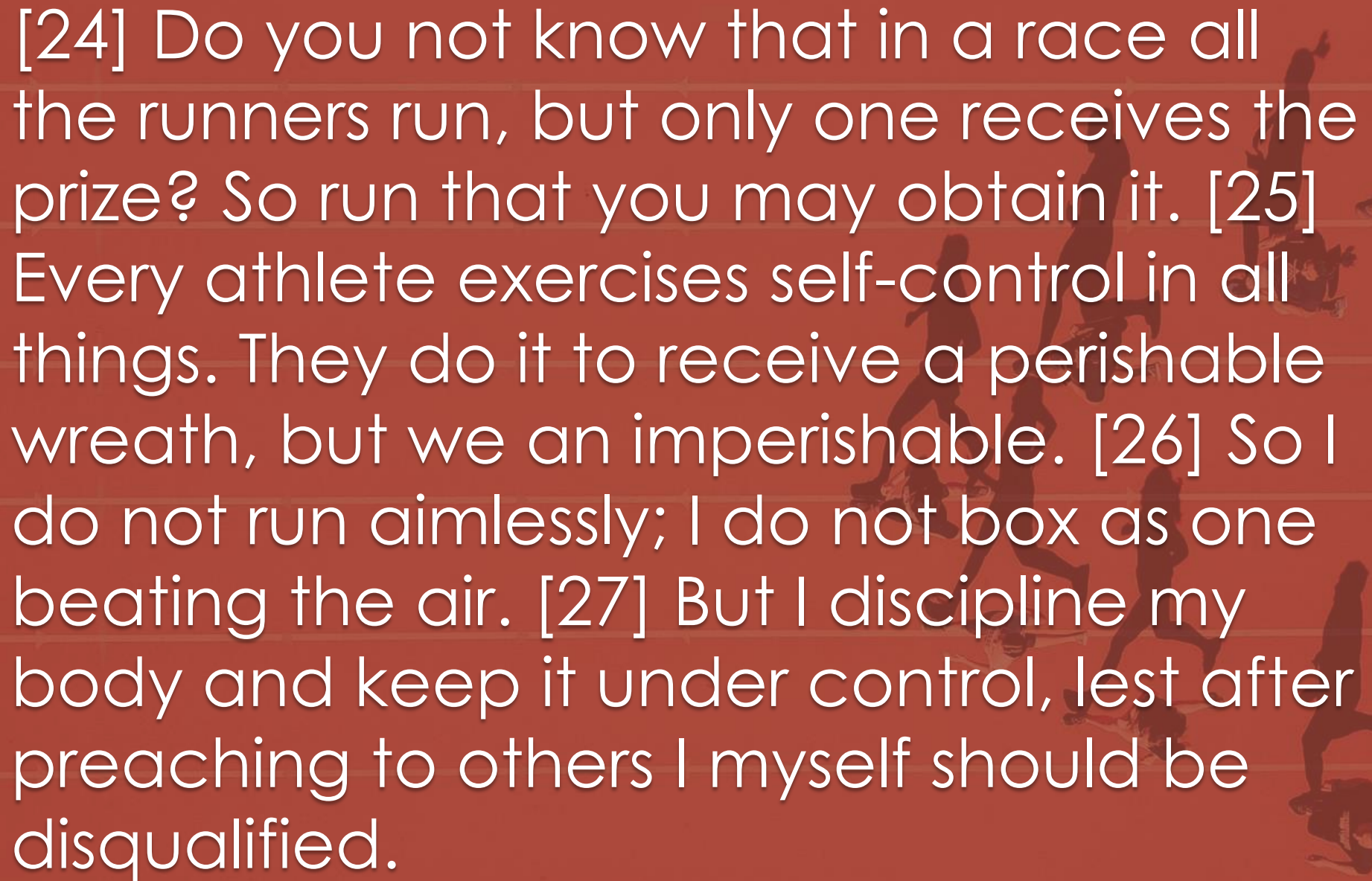
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance **the race that is set before us**

*Hebrews 12:1*



[20] To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though not being myself under the law) that I might win those under the law. [21] To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. [22] To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. [23] I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings.

***1 Corinthians 9:20-23***

The background of the slide features a group of runners in silhouette, captured in various stages of a race on a track. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent red filter. The text is presented in a clean, white, sans-serif font, arranged in a single paragraph that spans most of the width of the slide.

[24] Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. [25] Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. [26] So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. [27] But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

***1 Corinthians 9:24-27***



“By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household” (Heb. 11:7a)

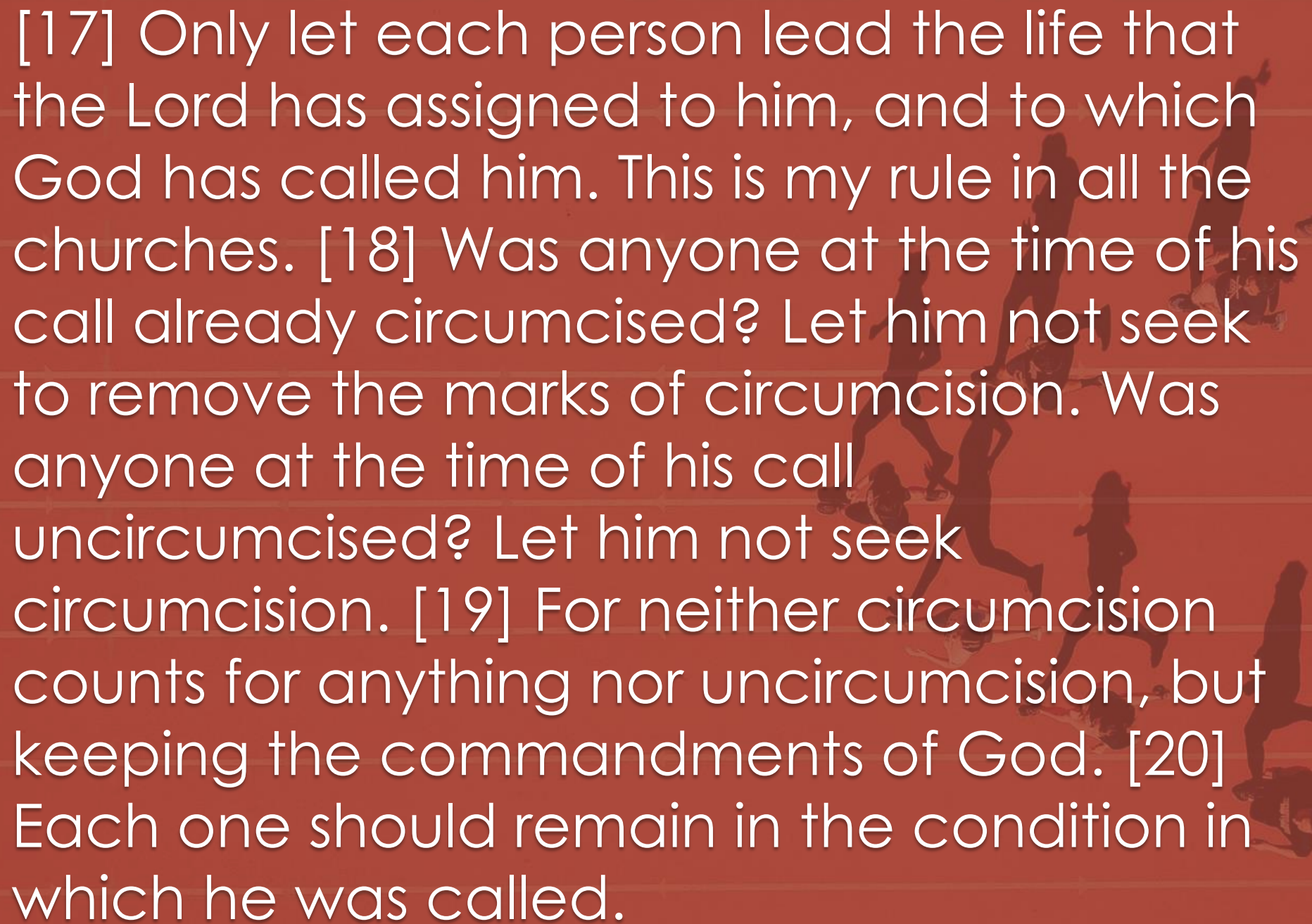
“By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going” (Heb. 11:8).

“By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones” (Heb. 11:22).





<i>January</i>	<b>The Race That Is Set Before Us... (Introduction)</b>
<i>February</i>	<b>As a Local Church</b>
<i>March</i>	<b>As Spiritual Leaders</b>
<i>April</i>	<b>As Men</b>
<i>May</i>	<b>As Women</b>
<i>June</i>	<b>As Married Couples</b>
<i>July</i>	<b>As Parents &amp; Children</b>
<i>August</i>	<b>As Youth &amp; Aging</b>
<i>September</i>	<b>As Employers &amp; Employees</b>
<i>October</i>	<b>As Earthly &amp; Heavenly Citizens</b>
<i>November</i>	<b>As Sinners</b>
<i>December</i>	<b>As Saints</b>



[17] Only let each person lead the life that the Lord has assigned to him, and to which God has called him. This is my rule in all the churches. [18] Was anyone at the time of his call already circumcised? Let him not seek to remove the marks of circumcision. Was anyone at the time of his call uncircumcised? Let him not seek circumcision. [19] For neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision, but keeping the commandments of God. [20] Each one should remain in the condition in which he was called.

***1 Corinthians 7:17-20***

[21] Were you a bondservant when called? Do not be concerned about it. (But if you can gain your freedom, avail yourself of the opportunity.) [22] For he who was called in the Lord as a bondservant is a freedman of the Lord. Likewise he who was free when called is a bondservant of Christ. [23] You were bought with a price; do not become bondservants of men. [24] So, brothers, in whatever condition each was called, there let him remain with God.

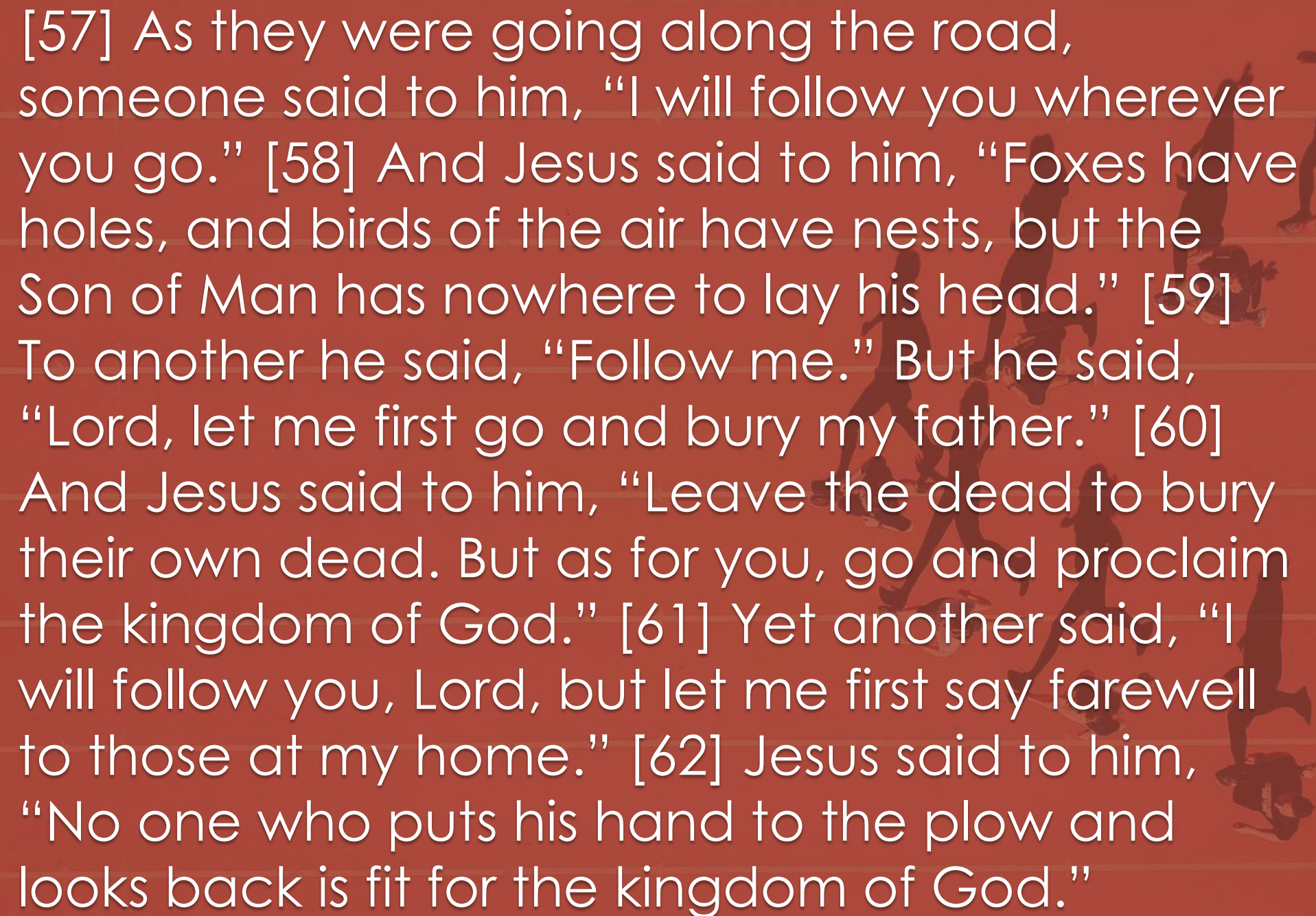
***1 Corinthians 7:21-24***



[57] As they were going along the road,  
someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever  
you go.”



**Luke 9:57**

The background of the slide is a solid red color. Overlaid on this background is a faint, semi-transparent image of a crowd of people running. The runners are in various stages of their stride, and their shadows are cast on the ground. The overall scene suggests a sense of urgency or a race.

[57] As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” [58] And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” [59] To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” [60] And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” [61] Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” [62] Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

***Luke 9:57-62***