A person is standing on a rocky outcrop in the foreground, looking out over a river that flows through a valley. The river is surrounded by large, grey rocks and has white water rapids. The background is a dense forest of evergreen trees, with a misty or foggy atmosphere. The overall scene is serene and natural.

# REVAMP

WHAT DOES JESUS MEAN TO YOU?

# Why Do We Need A Spiritual Revamp?

1. We are not in the best of our spiritual health
2. We need to break free from the ropes that tie us down
3. God wants to involve us in a fresh season of ministry soon

# The Ropes That Tie Us Down!

- The Rope of Consumerism & Non-commitment
- The Rope of Complacency & Compromise
- The Rope of Cynicism & Criticism

# The Meaning Of Cynicism And Criticism

Cynicism: Feeling of distrust that something isn't going to work out well.

Scepticism, doubt, unbelief, suspicion.

# The Meaning Of Cynicism And Criticism

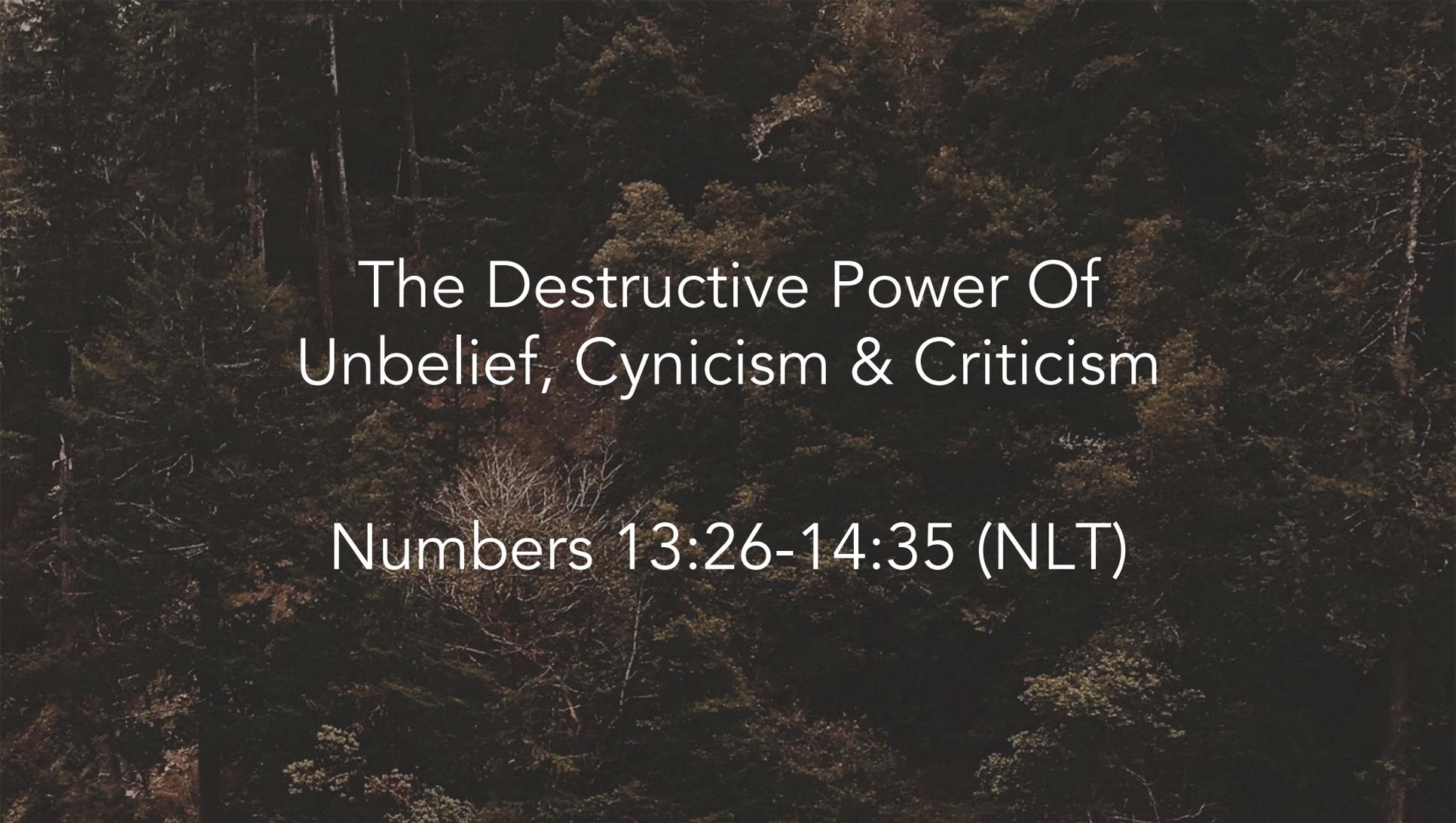
Criticism: Expression of disapproval of someone or something based on perceived faults or mistakes Censure, disparagement, fault-finding

# Cynicism And Criticism

- Root Causes: Pride, unbelief and distrust
- Cynical believer: I have heard such messages preached so many times before. So what else is new?
- I have seen and done almost everything in my Christian life. What else can excite me to run a second mile?

# Cynicism & Criticism

- Critical Believer: Why can't these leaders lead, preach or organize things better. I am sure I can do a better job!



The Destructive Power Of  
Unbelief, Cynicism & Criticism

Numbers 13:26-14:35 (NLT)

<sup>31</sup> But the other men who had explored the land with Caleb disagreed. "We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!" <sup>32</sup> So they spread this bad report about the land among the Israelites: "The land we travelled through and explored will devour anyone who goes to live there. All the people we saw were huge. <sup>33</sup> We even saw giants there, the descendants of Anak. Next to them we felt like grasshoppers, and that's what they thought, too!"

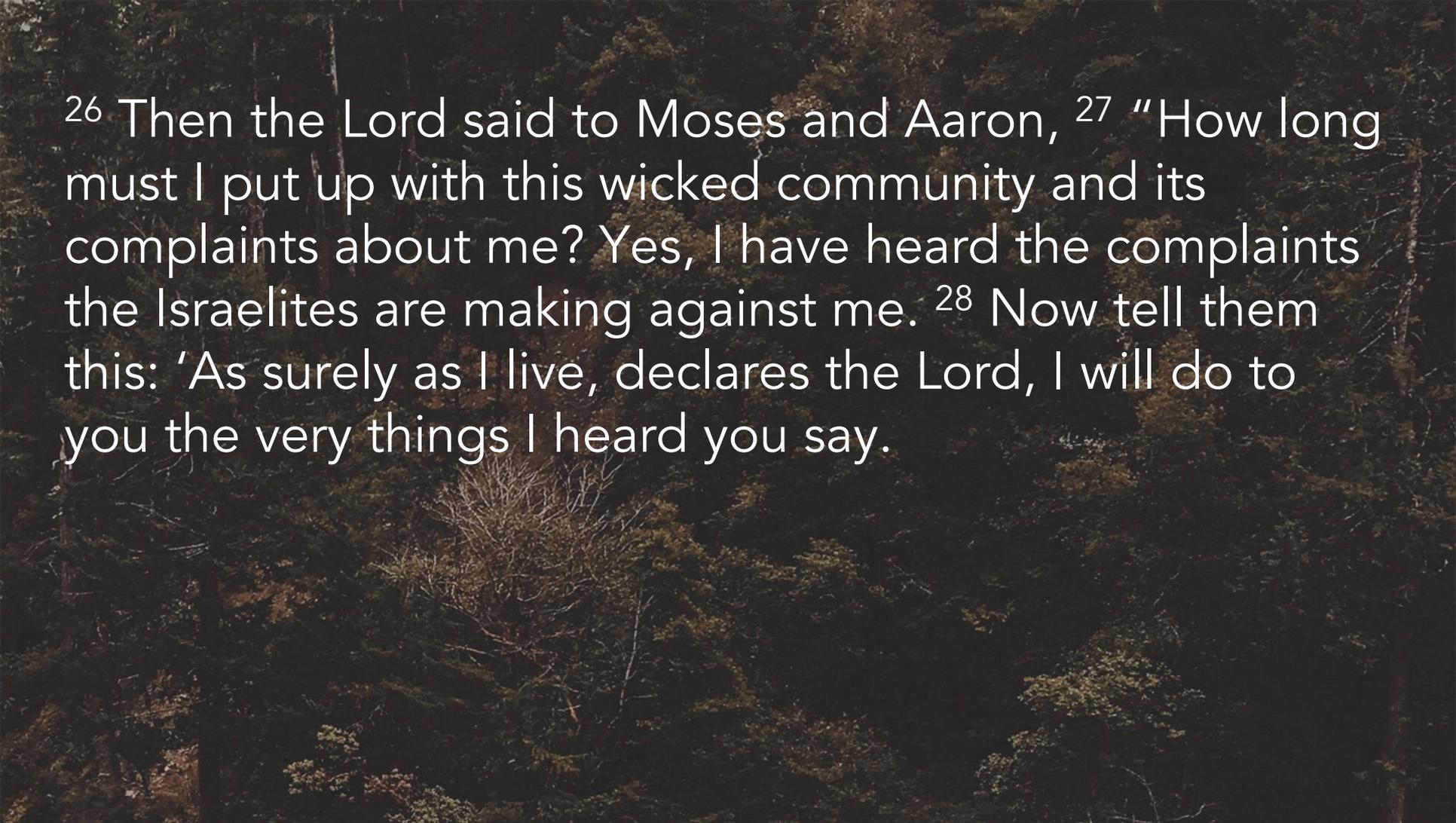
Numbers 13:31-33

<sup>1</sup> Then the whole community began weeping aloud, and they cried all night. <sup>2</sup> Their voices rose in a great chorus of protest against Moses and Aaron. "If only we had died in Egypt, or even here in the wilderness!" they complained. <sup>3</sup> "Why is the Lord taking us to this country only to have us die in battle? Our wives and our little ones will be carried off as plunder! Wouldn't it be better for us to return to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> Then they plotted among themselves, "Let's choose a new leader and go back to Egypt!"

Numbers 14:1-4

<sup>10</sup> But the whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to all the Israelites at the Tabernacle. <sup>11</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "How long will these people treat me with contempt? Will they never believe me, even after all the miraculous signs I have done among them? <sup>12</sup> I will disown them and destroy them with a plague...."

Numbers 14:10-12



<sup>26</sup> Then the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, <sup>27</sup> "How long must I put up with this wicked community and its complaints about me? Yes, I have heard the complaints the Israelites are making against me. <sup>28</sup> Now tell them this: 'As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say.'

<sup>29</sup> You will all drop dead in this wilderness! Because you complained against me, every one of you who is twenty years old or older and was included in the registration will die. <sup>30</sup> You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun.

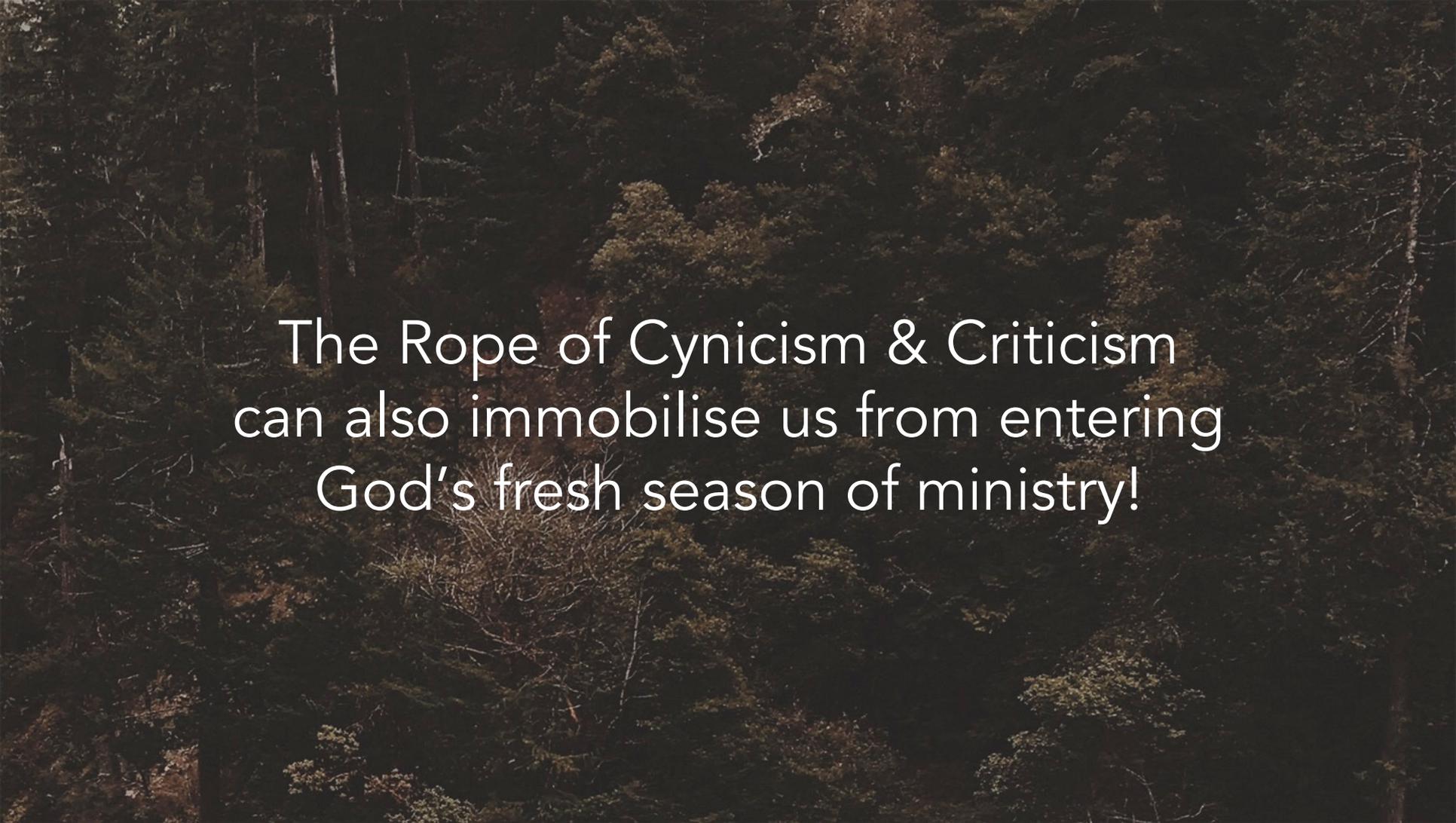
Numbers 14:26-30

# The Destructive Power Unleashed

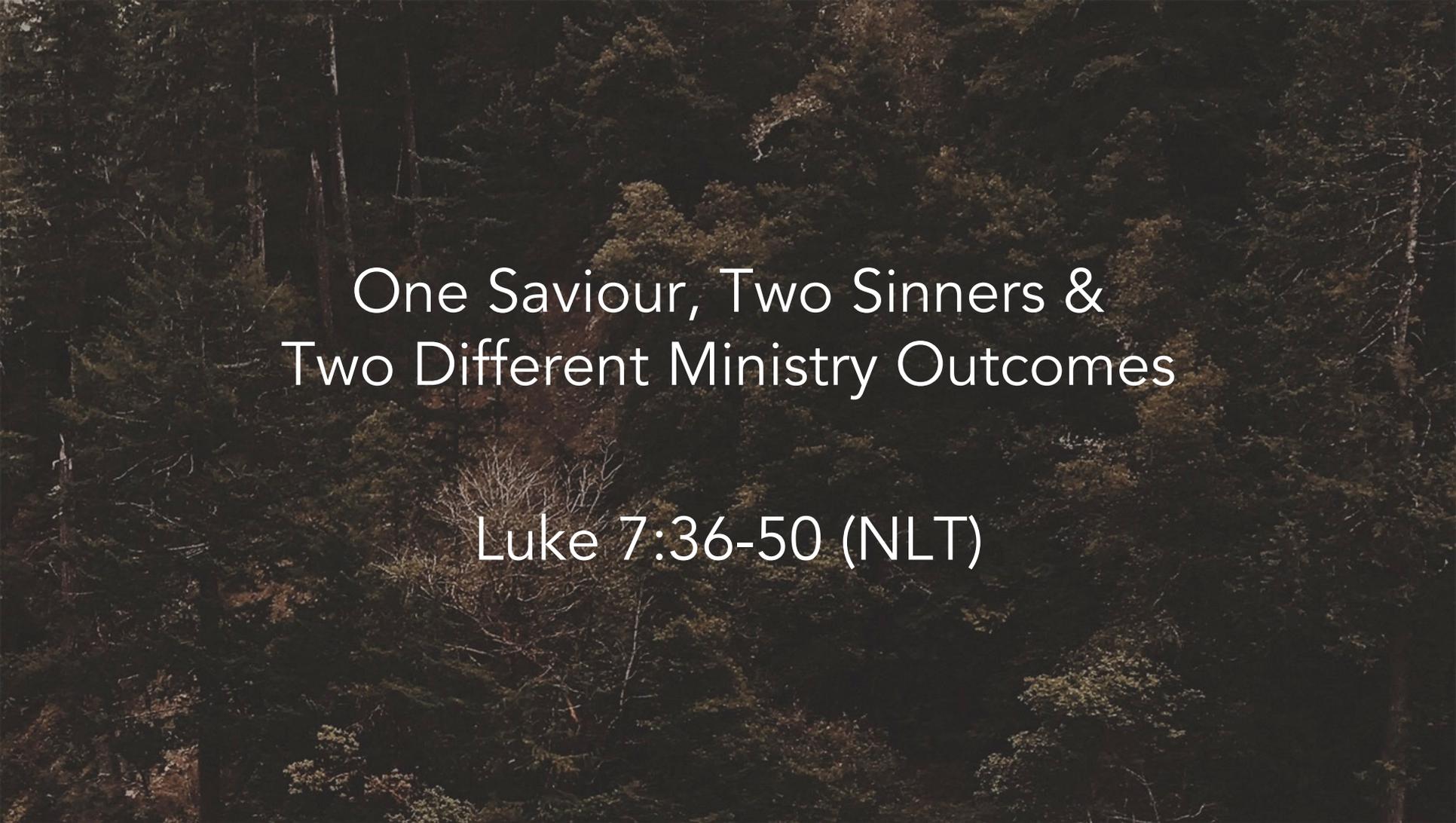
- It demoralised the whole community, bringing about hopelessness, fear and despair.
- It caused people to lose faith in God and His promises.
- It instigated people to rebel against God's leaders.

# The Destructive Power Unleashed

- It instigated people to rebel against God's leaders.
- It brought God's judgment on the nation and the 10 cynical leaders.
- It prevented Israel from fulfilling God's agenda for 40 years.



The Rope of Cynicism & Criticism  
can also immobilise us from entering  
God's fresh season of ministry!



One Saviour, Two Sinners &  
Two Different Ministry Outcomes

Luke 7:36-50 (NLT)

<sup>36</sup> One of the Pharisees asked him to eat with him, and he went into the Pharisee's house and reclined at table.

<sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment,  
<sup>38</sup> and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.

<sup>39</sup> Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what sort of woman this is who is touching him, for she is a sinner." <sup>40</sup> And Jesus answering said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." And he answered, "Say it, Teacher." <sup>41</sup> "A certain moneylender had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. <sup>42</sup> When they could not pay, he cancelled the debt of both. Now which of them will love him more?"

<sup>43</sup> Simon answered, "The one, I suppose, for whom he cancelled the larger debt." And he said to him, "You have judged rightly." <sup>44</sup> Then turning toward the woman he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. <sup>45</sup> You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not ceased to kiss my feet.

<sup>46</sup> You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven—for she loved much. But he who is forgiven little, loves little.” <sup>48</sup> And he said to her, “Your sins are forgiven.” <sup>49</sup> Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, “Who is this, who even forgives sins?” <sup>50</sup> And he said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

Sinful Woman	Simon, A Leading Citizen
Remorseful, contrite, grateful	Self righteous, proud and legalistic
Showed great devotion to Jesus.	Cynical about Jesus' identity. Had little honour for Jesus
Washed Jesus' feet with tears and dried Jesus' feet with her hair	No washing of Jesus' feet

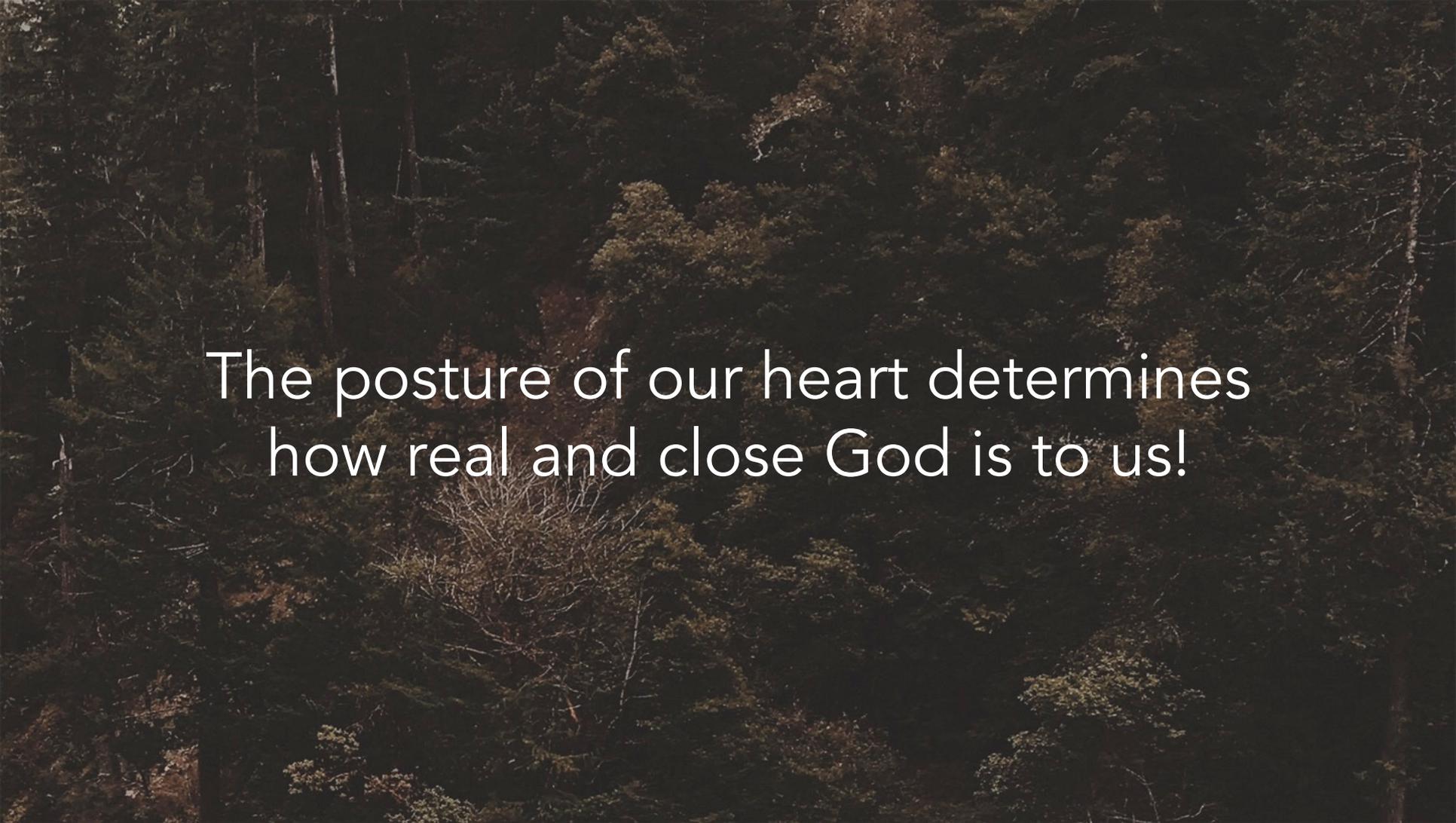
Sinful Woman	Simon, A Leading Citizen
Kissed Jesus' feet	No kiss of affection
Anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume	No anointing of oil
Couldn't stop receiving Jesus' love and forgiveness	Busy looking for opportunity to find fault with Jesus
Loved Jesus much	Couldn't love Jesus at all

## Why was the sinful woman able to receive love, forgiveness and restoration from Jesus?

1. She honoured Jesus with her expensive gift and extravagant devotion.
2. Her heart was humble and contrite.
3. She desperately needed God's love and mercy to forgive her many sins.

# Why was Simon unable to receive any love and forgiveness from Jesus?

1. He was doubtful about Jesus' identity as God's Prophet  
– Cynicism
2. He gave no proper honour to Jesus as his guest  
– Pride
3. He was too busy looking for faults to appreciate Jesus' ministry – Critical Spirit
4. He didn't see himself as a sinner in need of forgiveness  
– Pride



The posture of our heart determines  
how real and close God is to us!

# An Important Principle

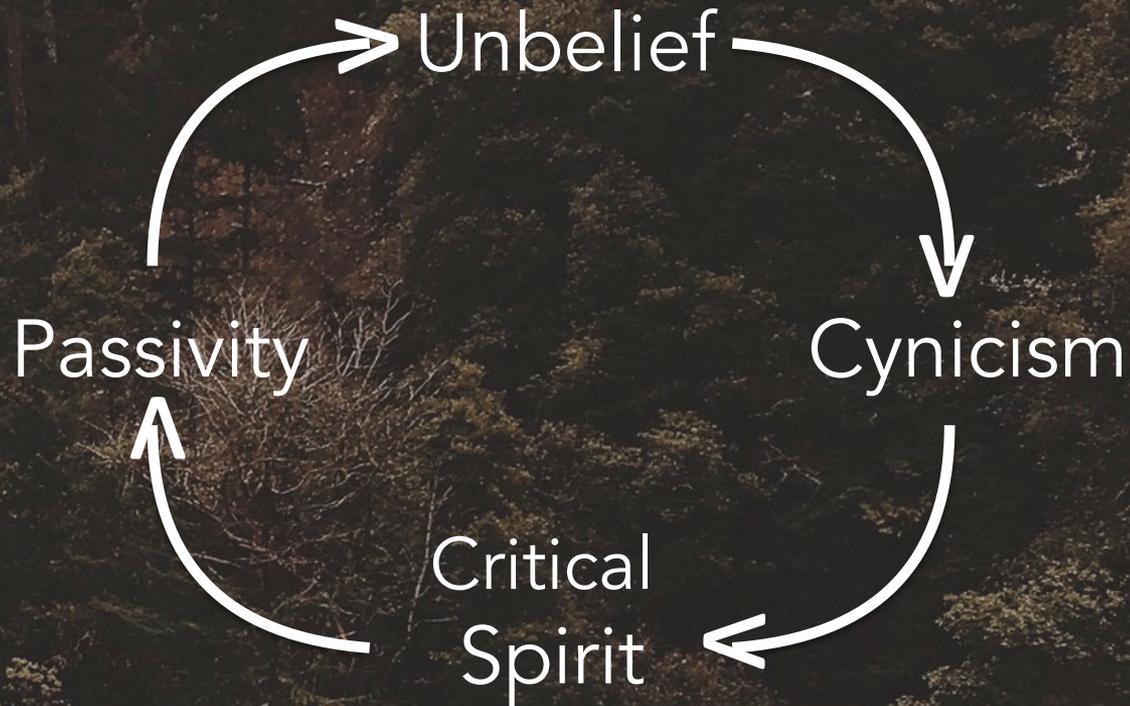
“He, who is forgiven much, loves much!  
He, who is forgiven little, loves little!”

Do you know how much you have been forgiven  
by God? Do you know how much you are loved?



Only a personal encounter with Christ  
can set us free from the  
rope of Cynicism & Criticism.

# The Vicious Spiritual Cycle



# The Virtuous Spiritual Cycle



# CT Studd



*"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."*



## **Application**

How do you move up  
the Virtuous Spiritual Cycle?