

A person wearing a blue hoodie is seen from behind, with their arms raised in a celebratory gesture. They are standing against a vibrant sunset or sunrise sky, with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm orange and yellow glow. The person's hands are clenched into fists, and their arms are extended upwards towards the top corners of the frame. The overall mood is one of triumph and achievement.

SUCCESS!

“Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist...” Matt. 11:11

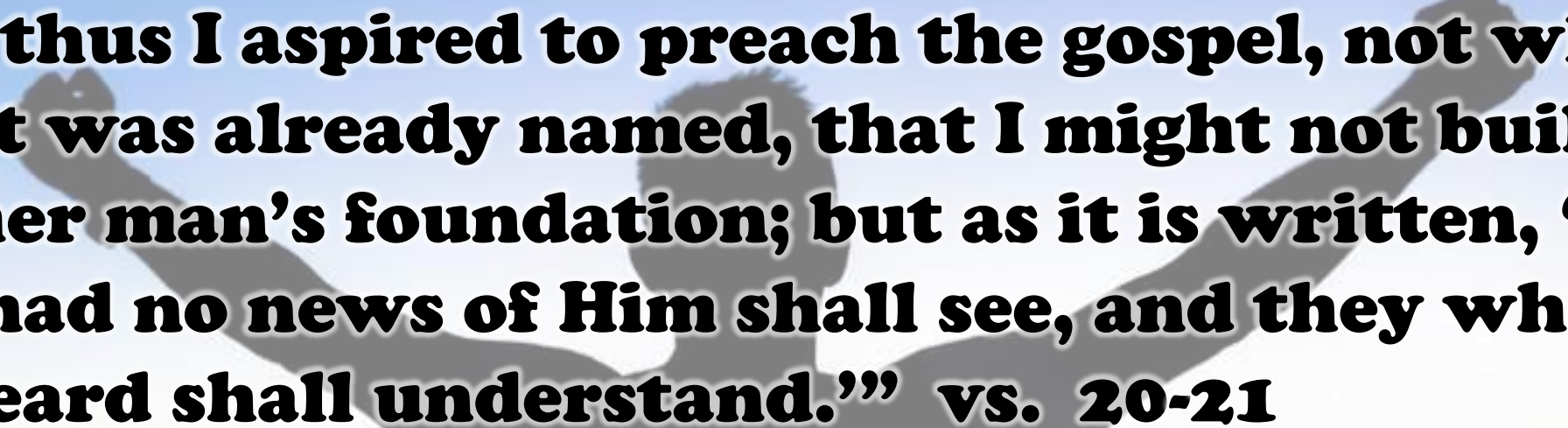
“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name goes all the glory for your unfailing love and faithfulness.” Ps. 115:1 (NLT)

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” 2 Tim. 4:7-8

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL MINISTRY:

1. HE WAS DRIVEN BY THE WORD. Vs. 20-21

“And thus I aspired to preach the gospel, not where Christ was already named, that I might not build upon another man’s foundation; but as it is written, ‘They who had no news of Him shall see, and they who have not heard shall understand.’” vs. 20-21

A silhouette of a person with their arms raised in a gesture of praise or triumph, set against a background of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water. The person is centered in the frame, with their arms extending upwards and outwards. The background features a gradient of colors from blue at the top to orange and yellow near the horizon, with the water reflecting the light.

“Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success.” Josh. 1:7-8

“I am going the way of all the earth. Be strong, therefore, and show yourself a man. And keep the charge of the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His ordinances, and His testimonies, according to what is written in the law of Moses, that you may succeed in all that you do and wherever you turn.” 1 Kings 2:2-3

2. HE PLANNED WITH FLEXIBILITY. Vs. 22-25

“For this reason I have often been hindered from coming to you; but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you whenever I go to Spain—for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while.” vs. 22-24

“I know, O Lord, that a man’s way is not in himself; nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.” Jer. 10:23

“Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.’”

James 4:14-15

“For we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, more than once—and yet Satan thwarted us.”

1 Thess. 2:18

For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica...”

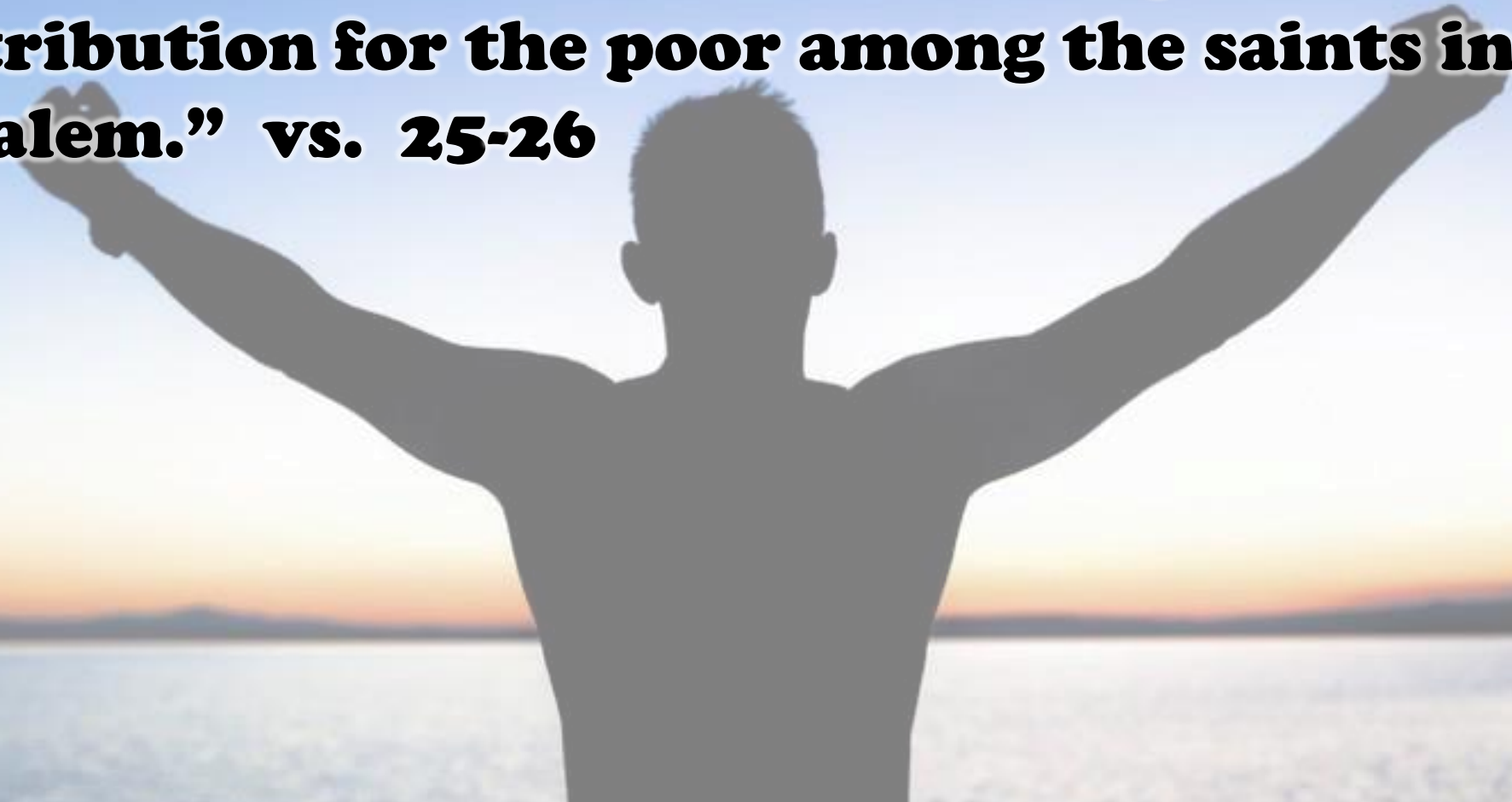
2 Tim. 4:10

“But I shall come to you after I go through Macedonia... and perhaps I shall stay with you, or even spend the winter...I hope to remain with you for some time, if the Lord permits. But I shall remain in Ephesus until Pentecost; for a wide door for effective service has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.”

1 Cor. 16:5-9

3. HE LOVED THE FAMILY OF GOD. Vs. 25-29

“But now, I am going to Jerusalem serving the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the saints in Jerusalem.” vs. 25-26



“Yes, they were pleased to do so, and they are indebted to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in their spiritual things, they are indebted to minister to them also in material things. Therefore, when I have finished this, and have put my seal on this fruit of theirs, I will go on by way of you to Spain. And I know that when I come to you, I will come in the fulness of the blessing of Christ.” vs. 27-29

**“He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his good deed.”
Prov. 19:17**

**“We know love by this, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. But whoever has the world’s goods, and beholds his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth.”
1 John 3:16-18**

4. HE WAS COVERED WITH PRAYER. Vs. 30-33

“Now I urge you, brethren, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.” vs. 30



“That I may be delivered from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and find refreshing rest in your company. Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen.” vs. 31-33

APPLICATION FOR ME:

**“The conclusion, when all has been heard, is: fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person. For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.”
Eccles. 12:13-14**

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