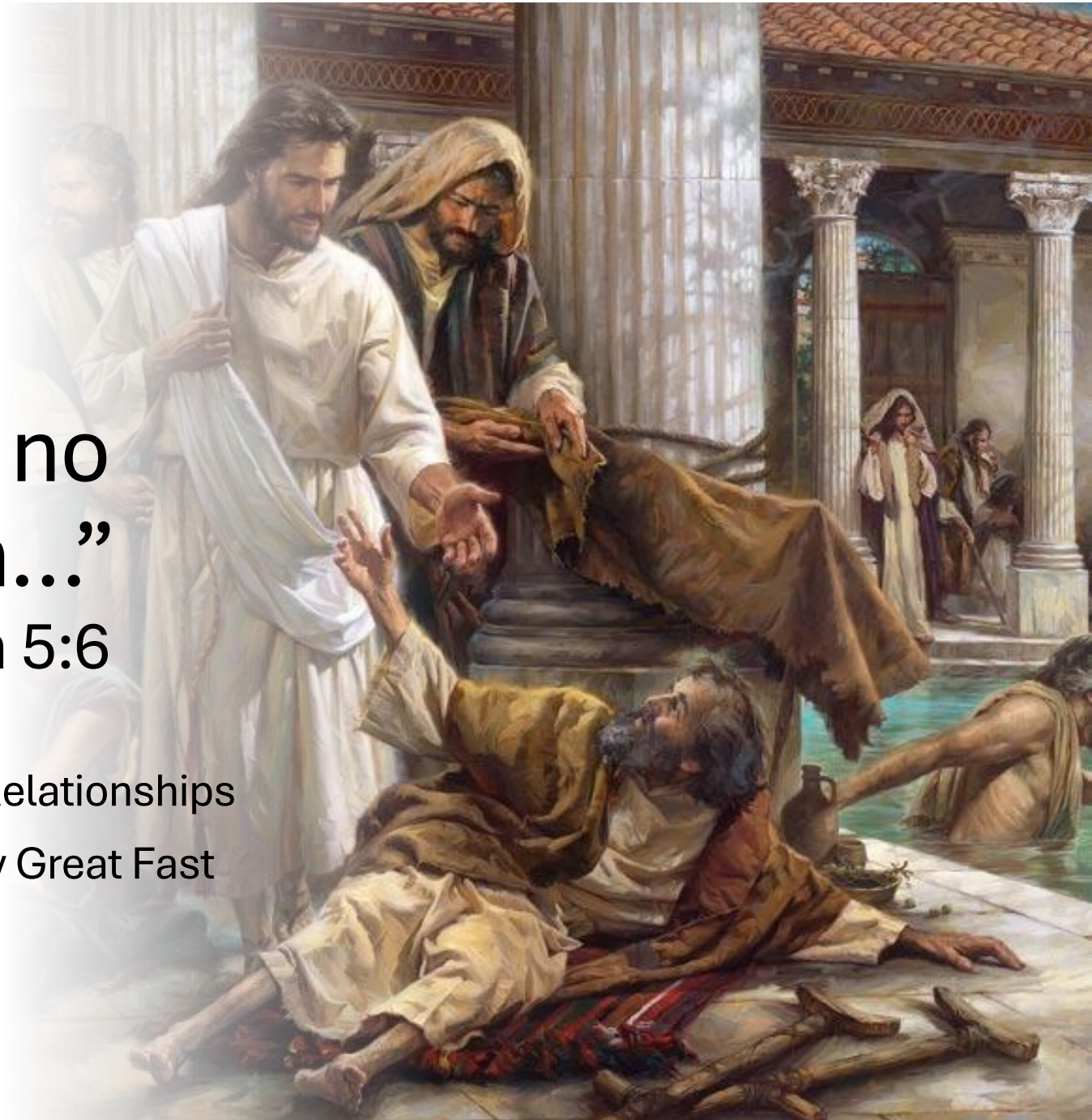


**“Sir, I have no
man...”
– John 5:6**

**PART TWO – Fragile Relationships
5th Sunday of the Holy Great Fast**



Recap

Levels of Relationships

Where is God?

The Root of Fragile Relationships

What Makes Relationships Fragile?

1. Built on Weak Foundations
2. Jealousy, Envy, and Favoritism
3. Unable to Bear an Offense
4. Bitterness, Resentment, and Unaddressed Wounds
5. A Controller in the Relationship

What Makes Relationships Fragile?

6. One Person Carrying the Burdens of the Relationship

- This type of relationship is fragile because it runs entirely on one person's endurance.
- **“Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”** (Galatians 6:2)





Building Resilient Relationships



1. Love without Possession

- Every healthy relationship is fundamentally voluntary.
- **“A man who has friends must himself be friendly...”** (Proverbs 18:24)
- **“And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.”** (Luke 6:31)

1. Love without Possession

“

A relationship must begin and develop in mutual freedom. If we could mechanically draw Him into an encounter, force Him to meet us, simply because we have chosen this moment to meet Him, there would be no relationship and no encounter.

— Metropolitan Anthony Bloom

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

2 Corinthians 3:17






2. Address the Cracks before the Spread

- **“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother.”** (Matthew 18:15)
- EX: The Lord had many difficult conversations
- **“Be angry, and do not sin”:** do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:26-27)



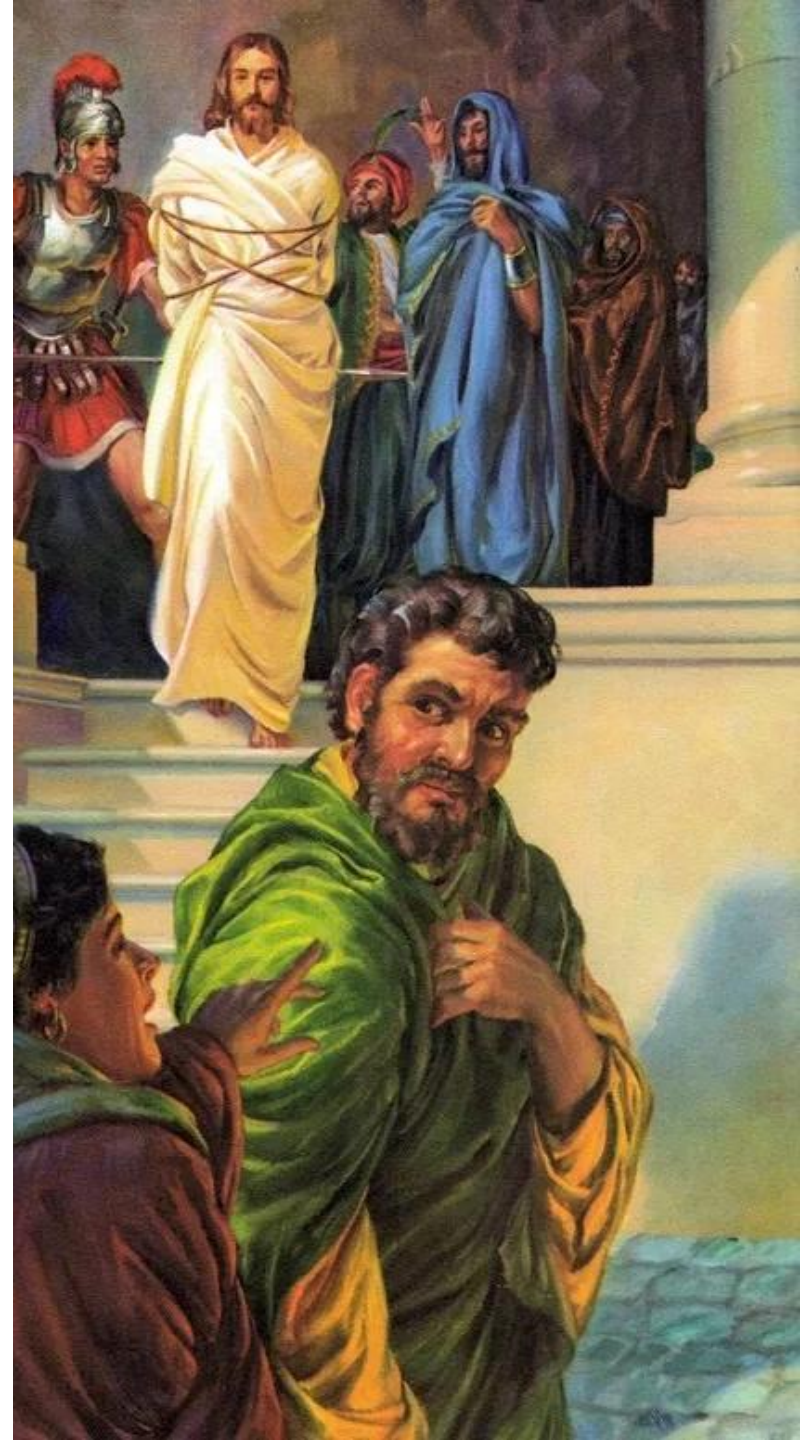


3. Guard your tongue

- **Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, Is the man who deceives his neighbor, And says, “I was only joking!” (Proverbs 26:18-19)**
- **Illustration: Nail in Wood**
- **"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit." (Proverbs 18:21)**

4. Practice Intentional Forgiveness

- EX: The Lord selected the imperfect disciples
- **And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. 32 But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” (Luke 22:31-32 31)**



4. Practice Intentional Forgiveness

- EX: Joseph
- **“But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.”** (Genesis 45:5)
- Intentional forgiveness makes for easy healing, thus strengthening every relationship.



5. Invest Regularly in the Relationship

- Am I adding value to the relationship?
- Be Present
- **"Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification."**
(Romans 15:2)



6. Root Your Relationships in Christ

- Christ is the Rock and is the foundation we must build all our relationships on.
- **“Do not trust in the princes, nor in the children of men, in whom there is no salvation.”** (Ps. 145:3 LXX)
- **“Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.”** (Ecclesiastes 4:12)
- Infuse Christ in your relationships



Summary

Strengthening your relationships to endure the failures and trials of life.

1. Love without Possession
2. Address the Cracks before the Spread
3. Guard your tongue
4. Practice Intentional Forgiveness
5. Invest Regularly in the Relationship
6. Root Your Relationships in Christ