

A person is seen from behind, wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt, with their arms raised high in a gesture of prayer or praise. The background is a dramatic sky at sunset or sunrise, with golden light breaking through dark, layered clouds. The overall mood is one of awe and devotion.

# **Belonging to Him**

**How Could I Love  
A God Like That?**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## The Problem of Evil



# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## The Problem of Evil

- A biblical/theological problem.
- A philosophical problem.
- An emotional problem.

*A relational* problem.

**“How could I love a God like that?”**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A Relational Problem

**“The deep and profound revulsion we feel toward pain, the sense of outrage that we feel when we witness blatant atrocities and horrific suffering. The howl of the soul that echoes in the recesses of our being when we’re confronted with cancer, genocide, hurricanes, rape, fatal car wrecks, school shootings, earthquakes, sex-trafficking, and the murder of the weakest members of the human race.” – Joe Rigney**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?



**Antonio Perez**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A Relational Problem

**“How could I love a God like that?”**

**This is absolutely a fair question.**

**But we must first ask the question: “A God like what?”**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## What We Know and Don't Know About God

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

**Any *person*—including God—is multi-dimensional. People are simple and complex. They are both easy to understand and mysterious.**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## What We Know and Don't Know About God

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

And in our closest personal relationships, what is clear about someone tends to outweigh what is unclear, or a mystery.



# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## What We Know and Don't Know About God

*“The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever.” (Deuteronomy 29:29)*

**Therefore, God's mysterious plan for our eternal good is best interpreted in light of what is clear and personal about him.**

**Chiefly, through the life and actions of Jesus.**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.*

*It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.” (John 11:1-2)*

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“So the sisters sent word to him, saying, ‘Lord, behold, he whom you love is sick.’*

*But when Jesus heard this, he said, ‘This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it.’”*

*(John 11:3-4)*

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.*

*So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.”*  
*(John 11:5-6)*

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“Martha then said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give You.’*

*Jesus said to her, ‘Your brother will rise again...I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me will live even if he dies.’” (John 11:21-23, 25)*

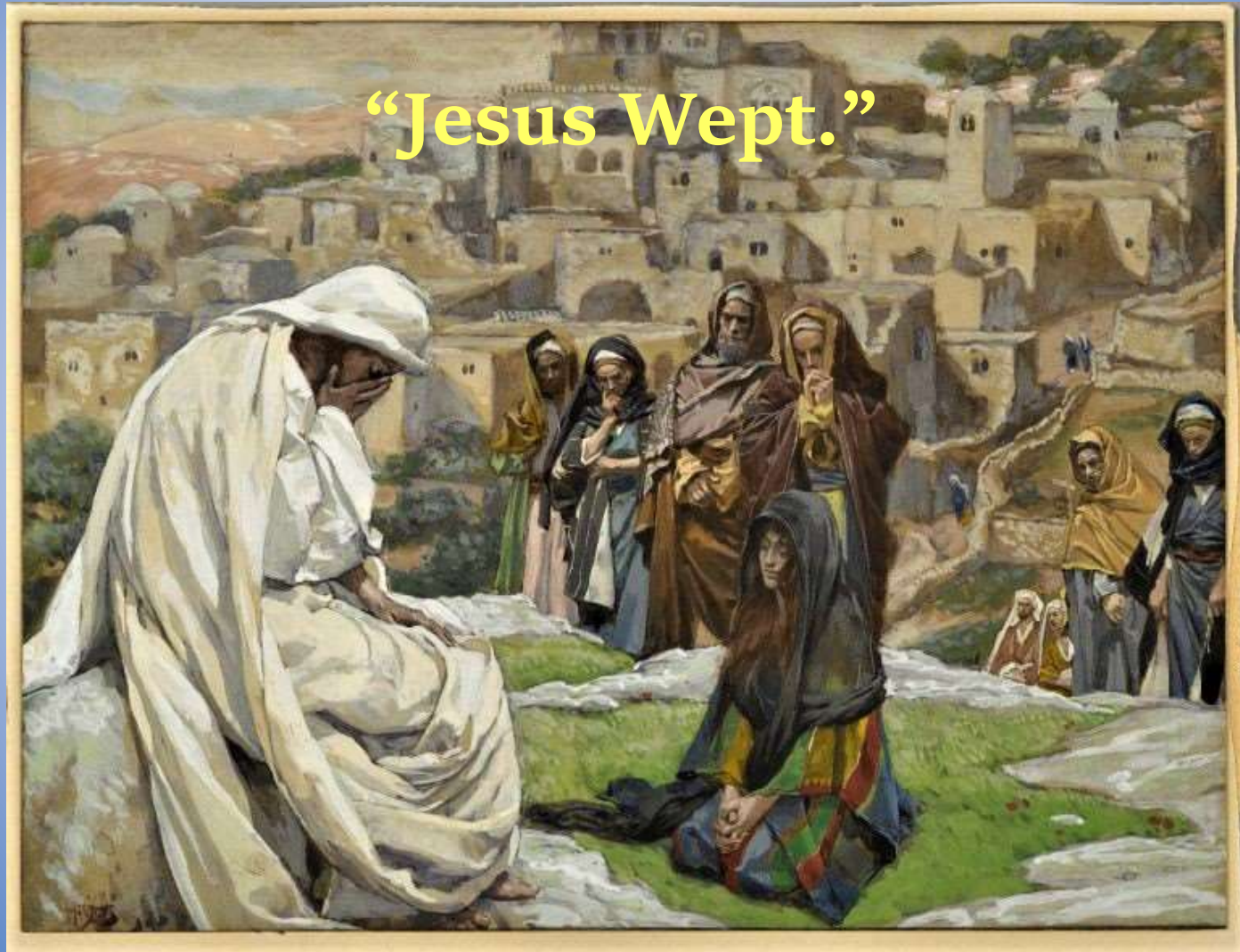
# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“When Mary came where Jesus was, she saw him, and fell at his feet, saying to him, ‘Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.’*

*When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled.”*  
*(John 11:32-33)*

# How Could I Love A God Like That?



# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“So, the Jews were saying, ‘See how He loved him!’*

*But some of them said, ‘Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?’” (John 11:35-37)*



# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“He cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come forth!’ The man who had died came forth.*

*Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary, and saw what he had done, believed in Him.”  
(John 11:43-45)*

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

**“The Incarnation [of Jesus] is God’s definitive answer to the emotional problem of evil.**

**The living God is not a detached observer or absentee landlord. He doesn’t stand aloof from the suffering and pain and evil that forms the central tension of his epic.” – Joe Rigney**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

**“The God who is born is also the God who bleeds, the God who dies, the God who identifies with our sorrows by becoming the Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief.” – Joe Rigney**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.’” (John 13:17)*

**Jesus’ chose Judas, the man who would initiate Jesus’ own suffering and death, for a greater eternal purpose—the salvation of the world.**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

**In choosing the evil and suffering of the cross...**

**God took on all our evil and suffering himself!**

# How Could I Love A God Like That?

## A God Like Jesus

*“God comes down, in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, and draws to himself all of the sin and the shame, the rebellion and the hate, the sickness and the death, and swallows it whole.*

*He swallows it by letting it swallow him.” – Joe Rigney*

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