

**"I WILL BUILD
MY CHURCH"**

DATE
Sunday May 25, 2024

PLAN TITLE

When the Truth Cost Everything

PROJECT SITE

FRANCONIA MENNONITE CHURCH

The Unstoppable Advance of the Truth



The Unstoppable Advance of the Truth

- The root of opposition: Jealousy
 - Think of Joseph and his brothers.
 - “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

- Gen 50:20

The Unstoppable Advance of the Truth

- The root of opposition: Jealousy
- God delivers to keep the mission moving

The Unstoppable Advance of the Truth

- The root of opposition: Jealousy
- God delivers to keep the mission moving
- Obedience to God over man

The Unstoppable Advance of the Truth

Religious Power

Jealousy filled their hearts. (v.17)

Locked them in prison. (V. 18)

Commanded to be silent. (V. 28)

Feared people. (v. 26)

Kingdome Power

The Spirit filled the apostles. (V. 29)

Angel set them free. (V.19)

Commanded to speak Jesus. (v. 20)

Feared God. (V. 29)

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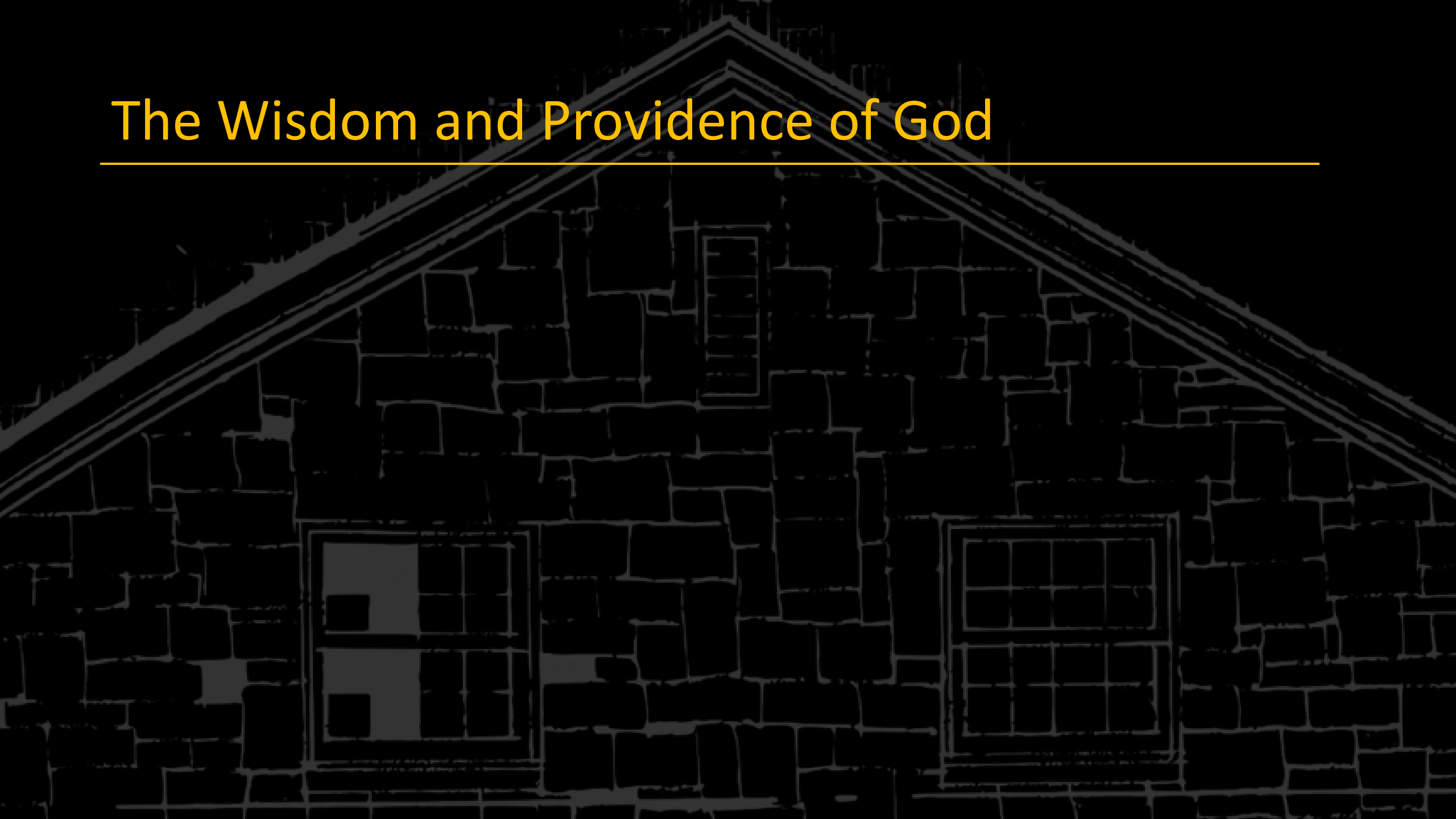
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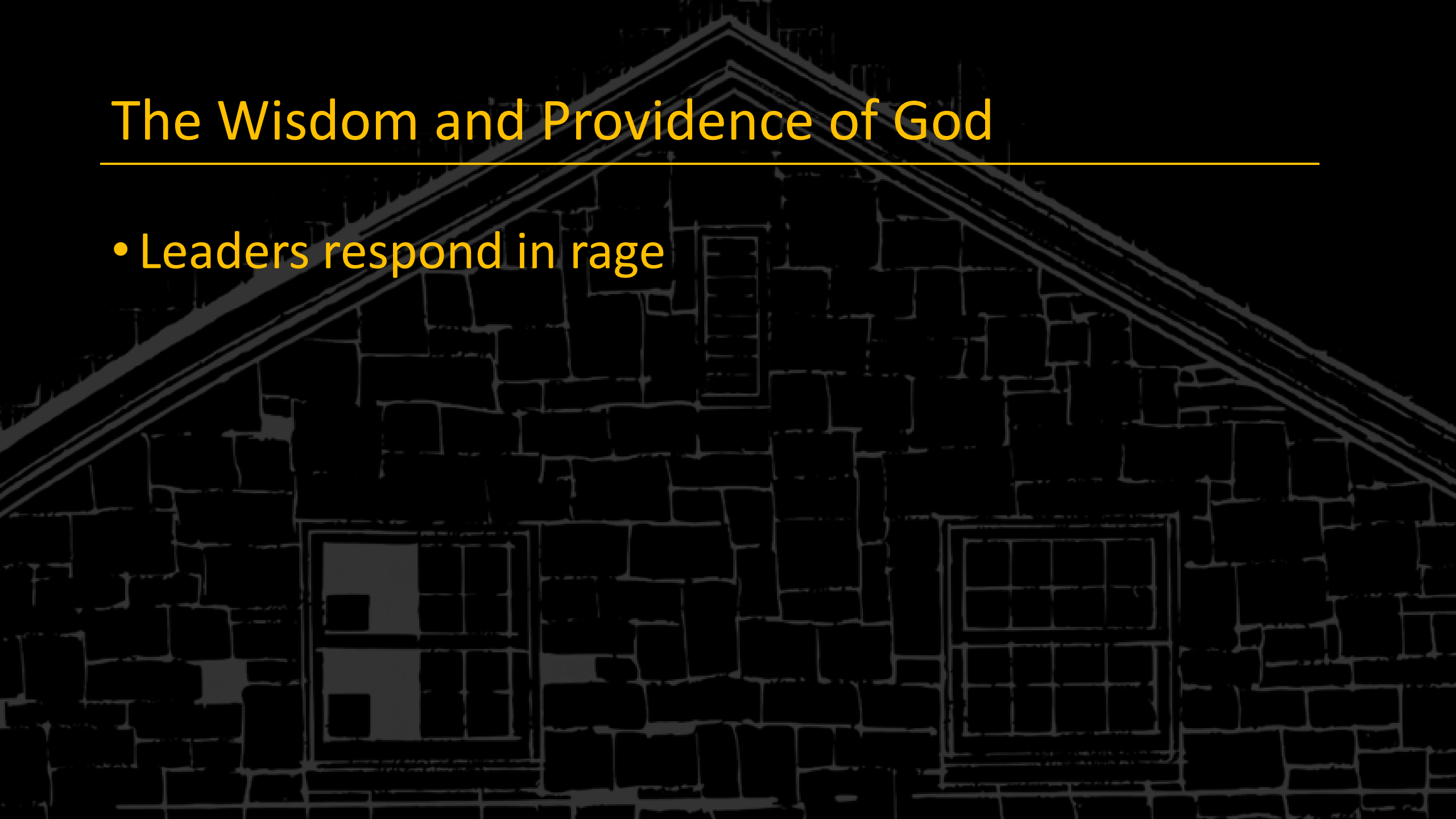
What is our response when sharing the truth brings
pushback?

The Wisdom and Providence of God



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- Leaders respond in rage



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- God raised an unexpected leader

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- Leaders respond in rage
- God raised an unexpected leader
- Apostles are beaten but not broken

The Wisdom and Providence of God

Human Reaction

Furious opposition

Beatings and threats

Command to be silent

God's Response

Providential protection

Joy and deeper devotion

Bold, daily proclamation

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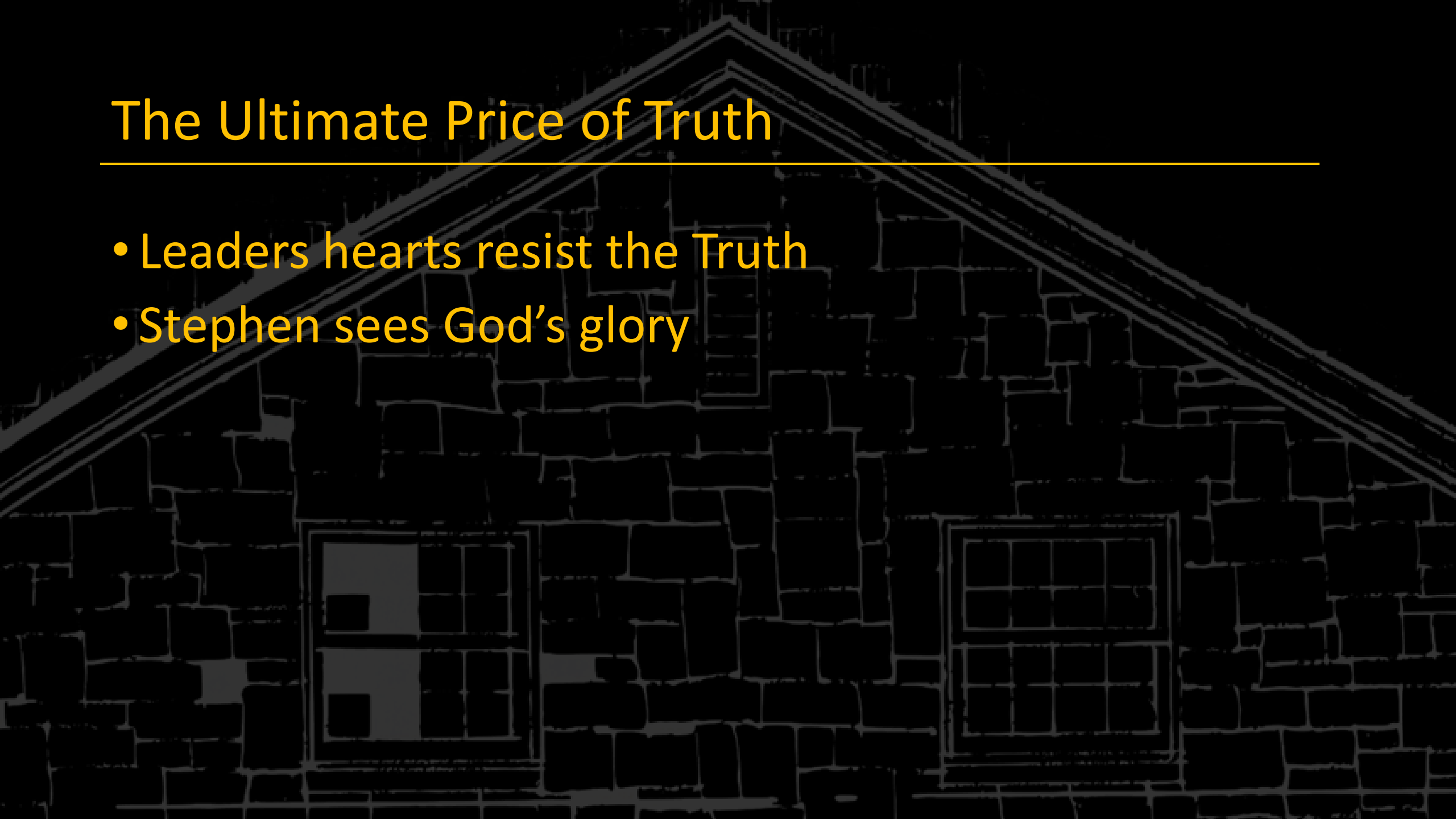
How consistent is your witness?

The Ultimate Price of Truth

- Leaders hearts resist the Truth

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- Stephen sees God's glory



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- Stephen sees God's glory
- Leaders rage strives to silence the Gospel (again)
- Love that forgives the enemy
- A seed of a greater harvest

The Ultimate Price of Truth

What the Worlds Saw

A man condemned

A violent mob

A tragic death

A silenced voice

What Heaven Saw

A man devoted to Jesus

A forgiving saint

An entry into glory

A Gospel seed that would grow

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Will you be faithful to speak the truth even
when it cost you everything?

Closing Applications:

Personal: Is your faith so real that you would hold onto it even if it cost you your life? Your job? Relationships?

Church: Are we preparing the next generation to suffer well and forgive boldly?

Family: Are we raising Stephens – or just trying to raise “safe” Christians?