

A black and white photograph of two hands held open, palms facing up, forming a cupping shape. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame against a dark, solid background. Overlaid on the hands is the word "FORGIVENESS" in a large, bold, light blue font. The letters are slightly curved and have a soft, glowing effect, appearing to be held within the cupped palms.

FORGIVENESS



FORGIVENESS

WHAT IT IS NOT

It is not forgetting
the sin

“And I will forgive
their wickedness,
and I will never
again remember
their sins.”

WHAT IT'S NOT



Hebrews 8:12 NLT

Forgiveness is not
reconciliation

WHAT IT'S NOT



Not tolerating the sin

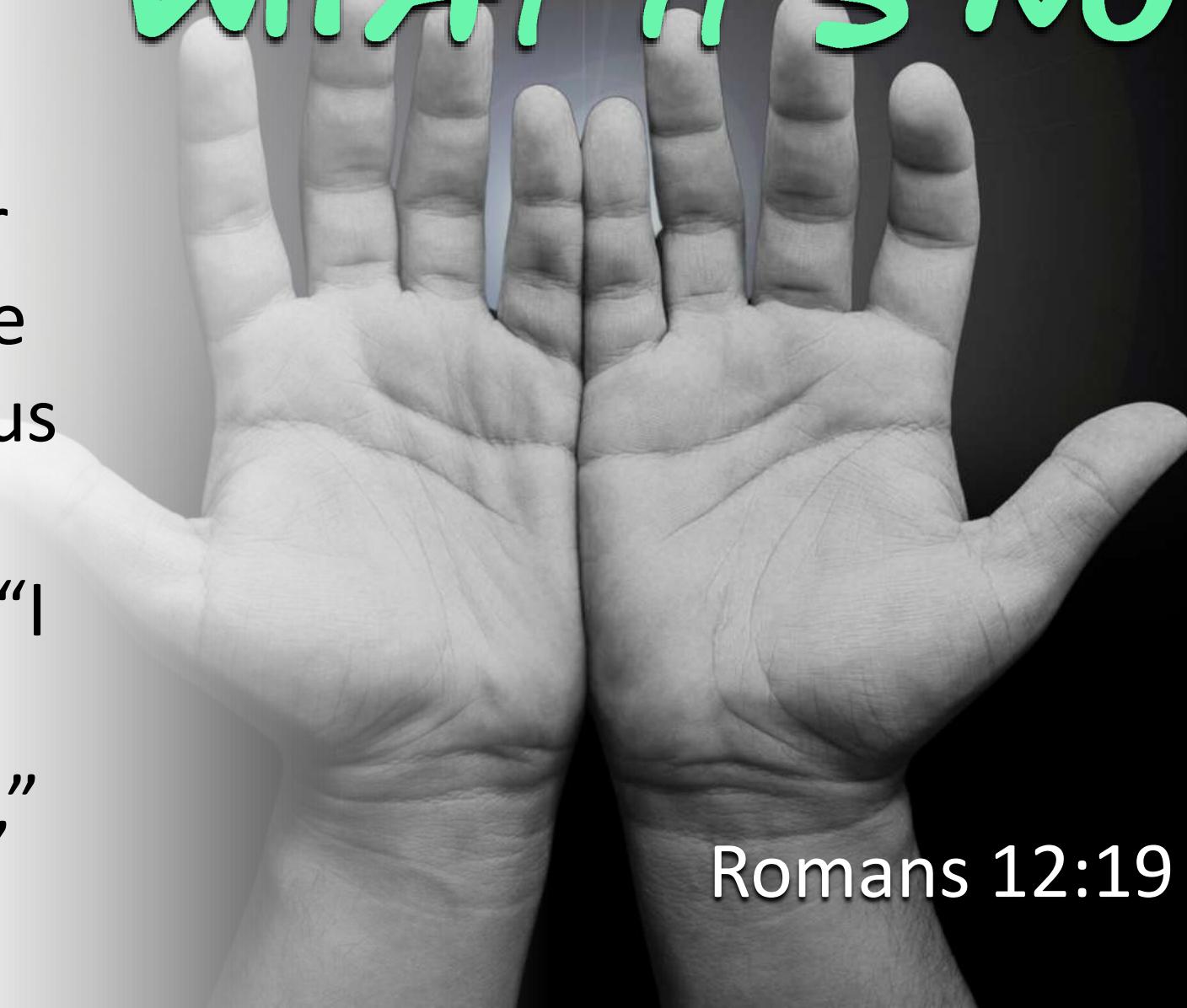
WHAT IT'S NOT



It is not seeking
revenge

Dear friends, never
take revenge. Leave
that to the righteous
anger of God. For
the Scriptures say, “I
will take revenge; I
will pay them back,”
says the Lord.

WHAT IT'S NOT



Romans 12:19 NLT

It is not sweeping it
under the carpet

WHAT IT'S NOT



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FORGIVENESS

WHAT IT IS

It is a choice not a
feeling

WHAT IT IS



WHAT IT IS

It is letting a person off
your hook and onto
God's hook



WHAT IT IS

It is allowing God to be
who He is, a God of
Justice

He is the Rock; his deeds are
perfect. Everything he does is
just and fair. He is a faithful God
who does no wrong; how just
and upright he is!

Deuteronomy 32:4 NLT

Part of forgiveness is
accepting the
consequences of their
actions

WHAT IT IS



A white dove is captured in mid-flight, its wings spread wide, against a dark, slightly grainy background. In the upper right, two pigeons are perched on a dark, textured surface, possibly a roof. The background features a building with a grid of small, dark rectangular windows.

WHY?

FORGIVE

WHY FORGIVE

If someone says, “I love God,” but hates a fellow believer, that person is a liar; for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?



1 John 4:20 NLT

WHY FORGIVE

and forgive us our sins, **as**
we have forgiven those
who sin against us.



Matthew 6:12 NLT

WHY FORGIVE

Parable of the Unforgiving
debtor



Matthew 18:21-35

WHY FORGIVE

“I tell you, her sins—and they are many—have been forgiven, so she has shown me much love. But a person who is forgiven little shows only little love.”



LUKE 7:47 NLT

Your relationship with God
will be affected

WHY FORGIVE

“And when you stand praying,
if you hold anything against
anyone, forgive them, so that
your Father in heaven may
forgive you your sins.”

MARK 11:25-26 NLT

WHY FORGIVE

“Do not judge others, and you will not be judged. For you will be treated as you treat others. The standard you use in judging is the standard by which you will be judged.



MATTHEW 7: 1-2 NLT



WHEN TO
FORGIVE

How do we recognize it?

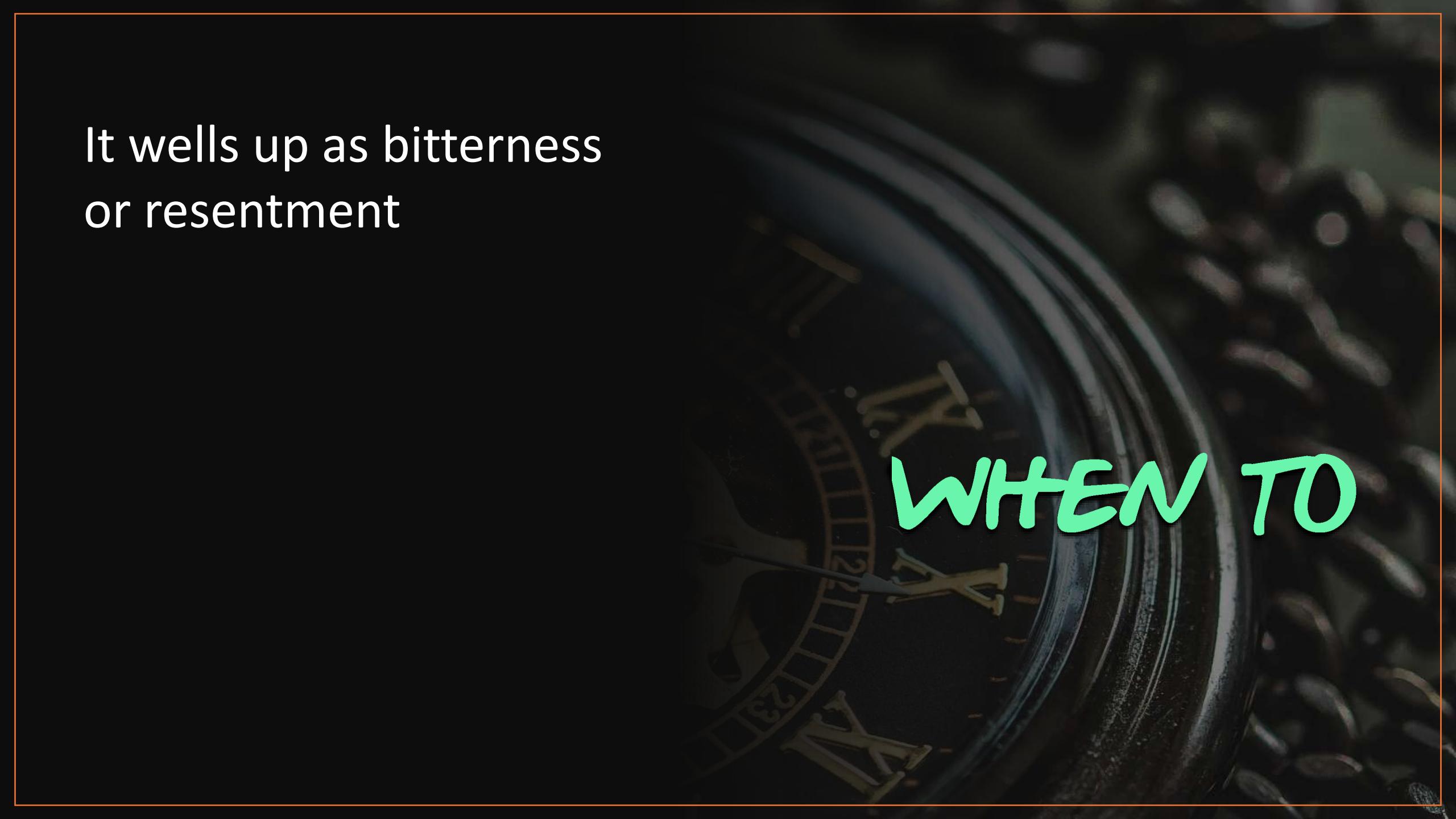
You still experience the past:

- The hurt
- The smells
- The pictures
- The face
- The fear
- The anxiety
- ...



WHEN TO

It wells up as bitterness
or resentment



WHEN TO

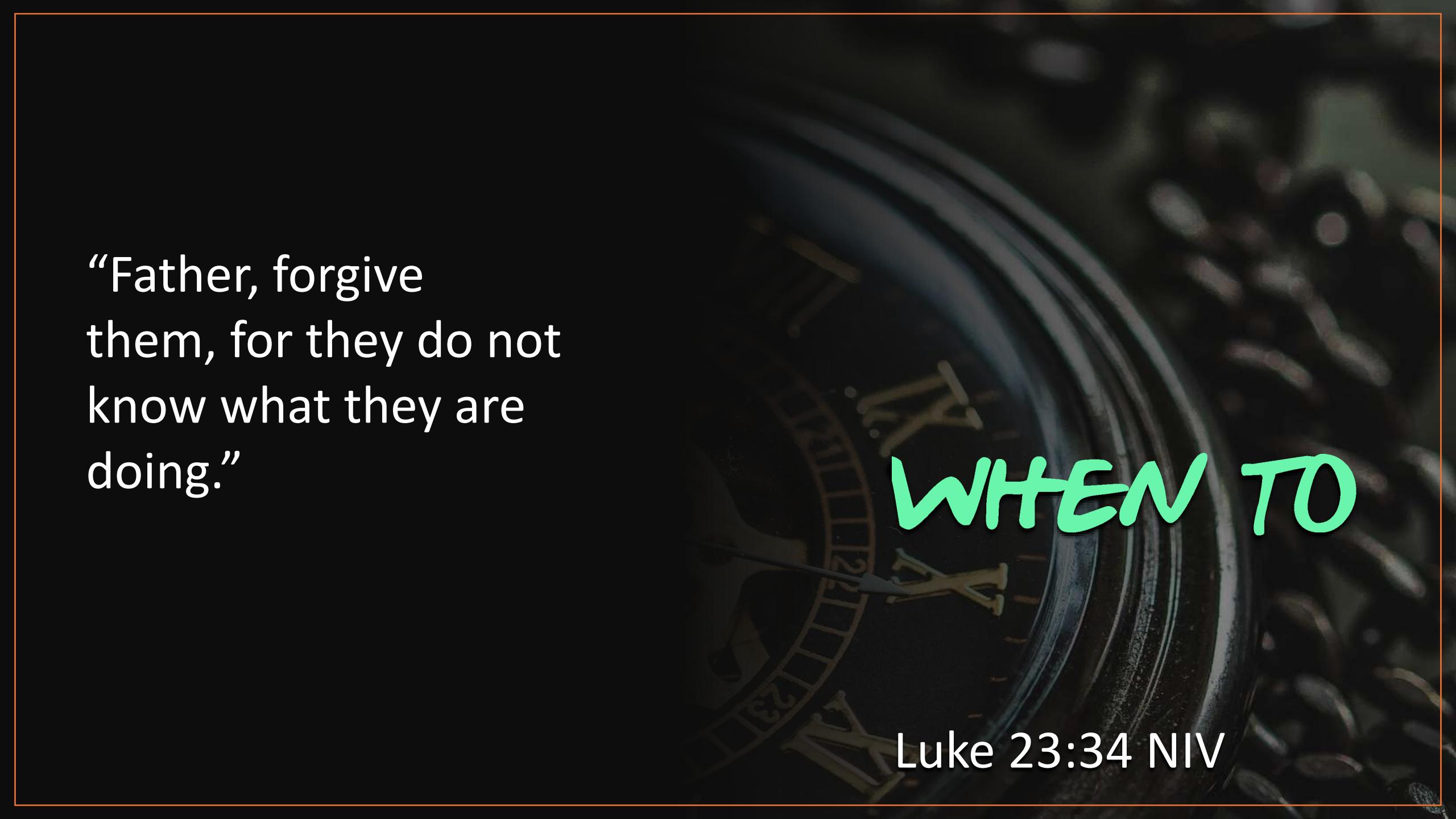
You constantly wait for
the “wheel to turn”



WHEN TO

When There is pain

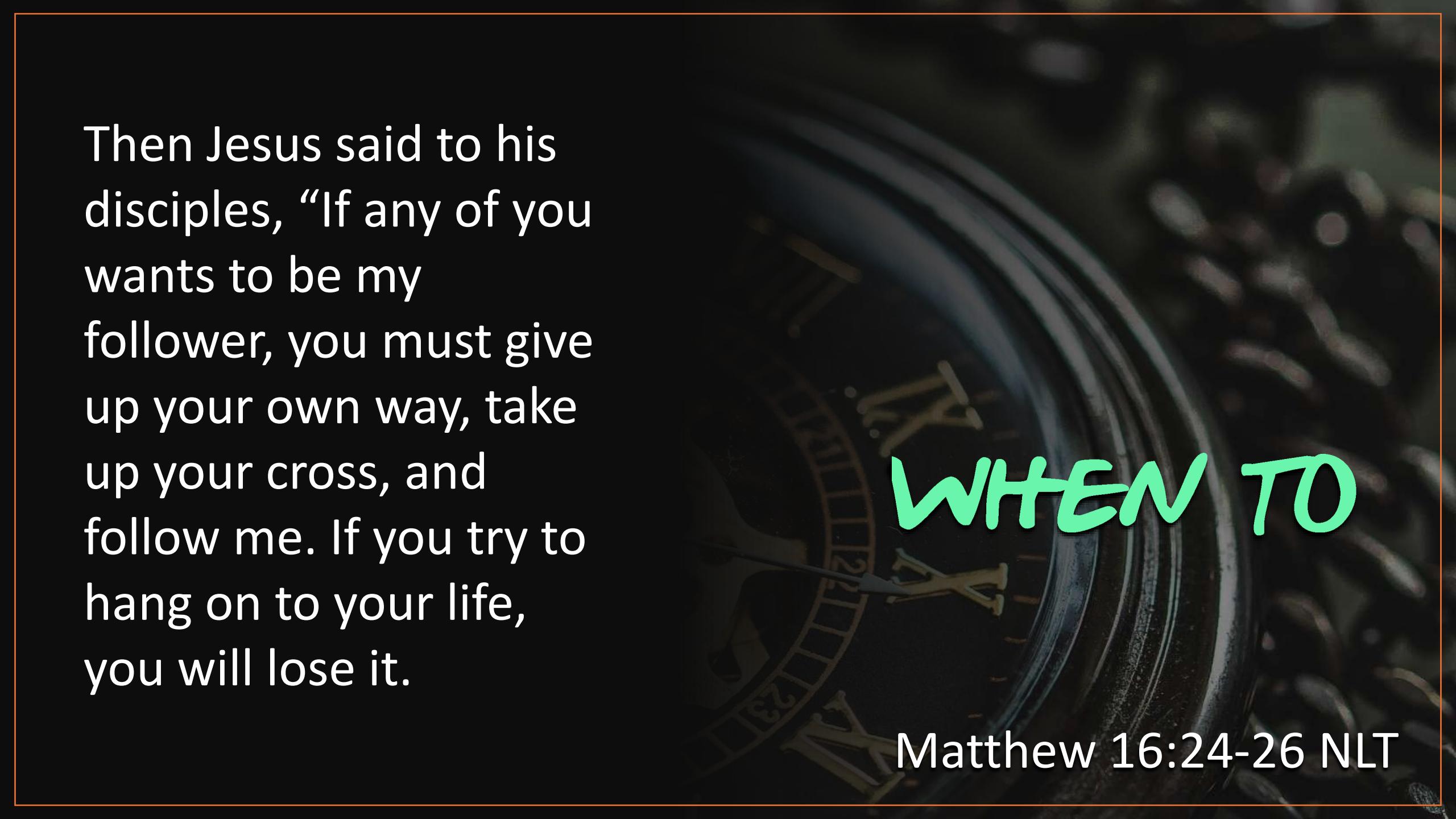
WHEN TO



“Father, forgive
them, for they do not
know what they are
doing.”

WHEN TO

Luke 23:34 NIV



Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it.

WHEN TO

Matthew 16:24-26 NLT

But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?



WHEN TO

Matthew 16:24-26 NLT

HOW TO
FORGIVE



- Be emotionally vulnerable to God
- Choose to forgive them for what they did and how it made you feel
- Realize it's not easy



HOW TO

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FORGIVENESS