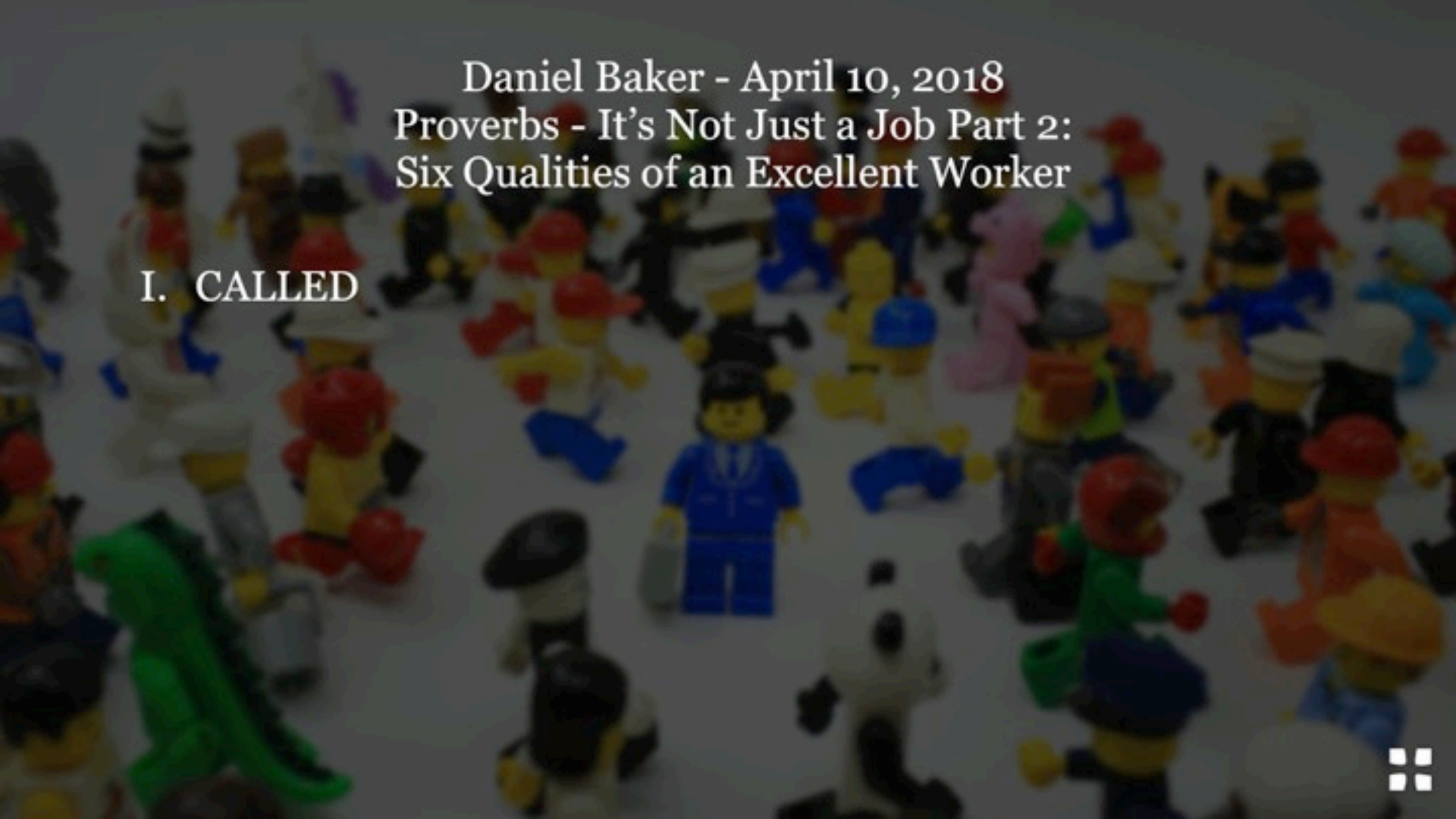




WISDOM
FOR *living*

A STUDY IN PROVERBS

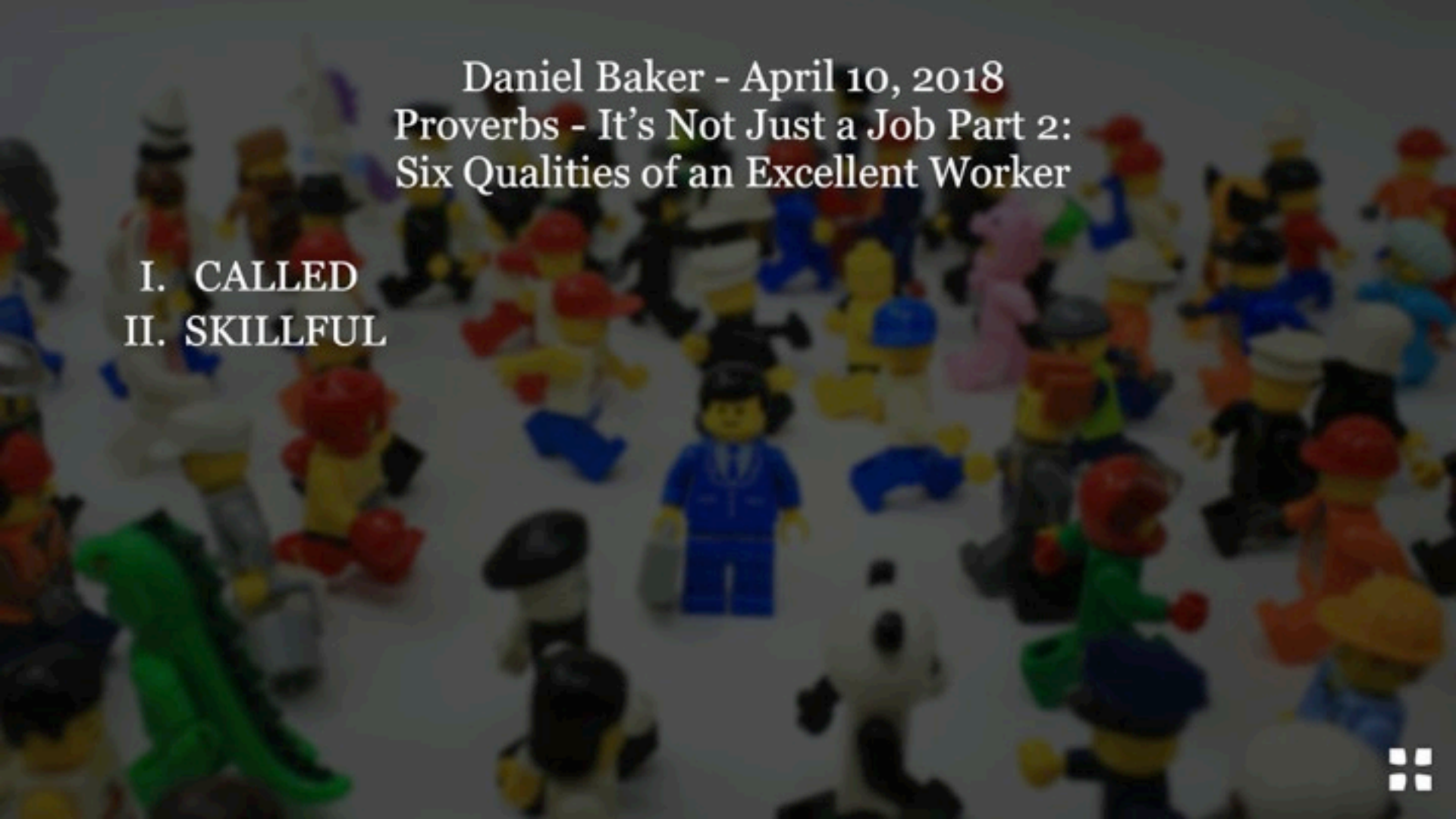
QUALITIES OF AN EXCELLENT WORKER



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Proverbs - It's Not Just a Job Part 2:
Six Qualities of an Excellent Worker

I. CALLED

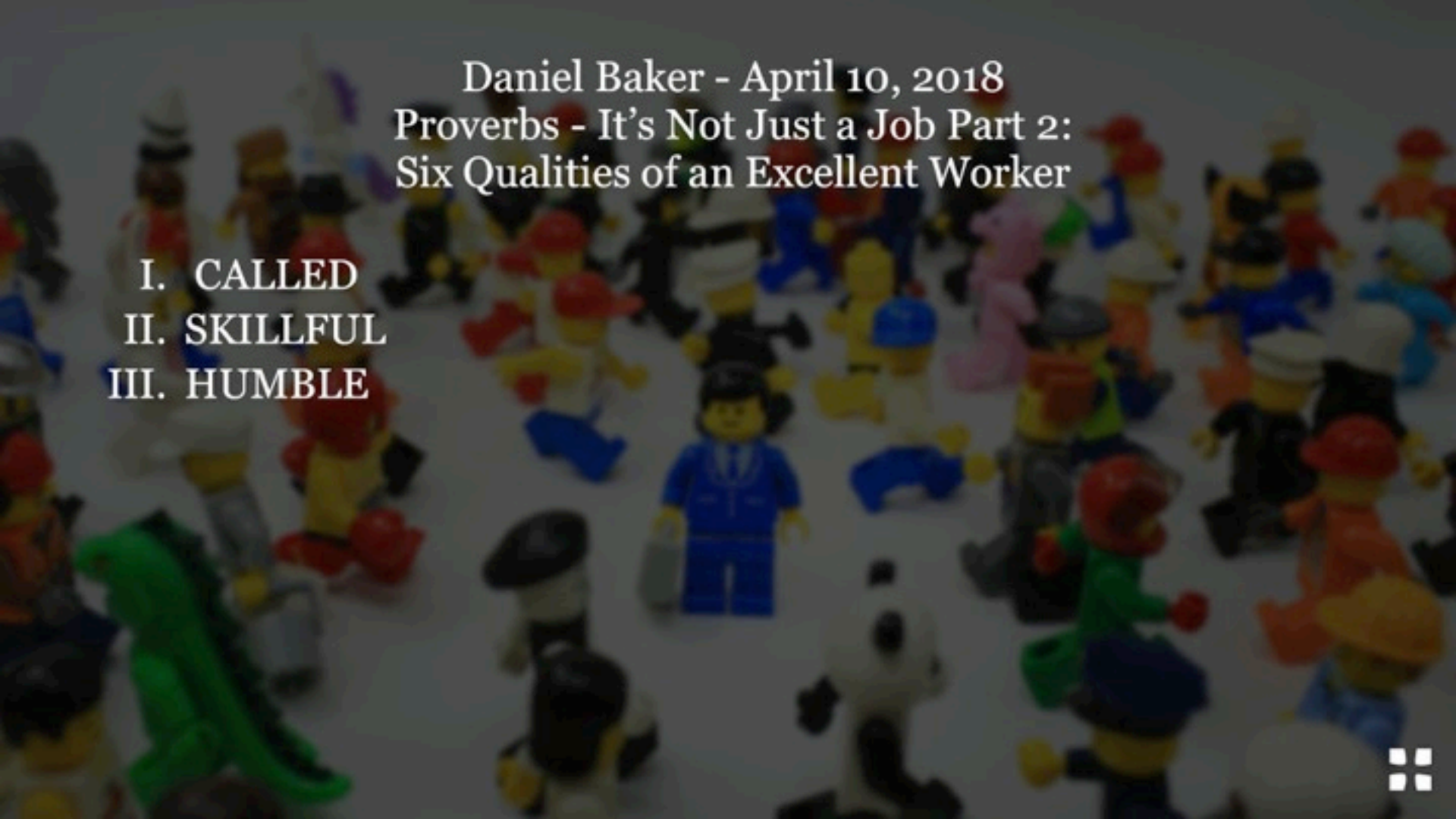




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- I. CALLED
- II. SKILLFUL

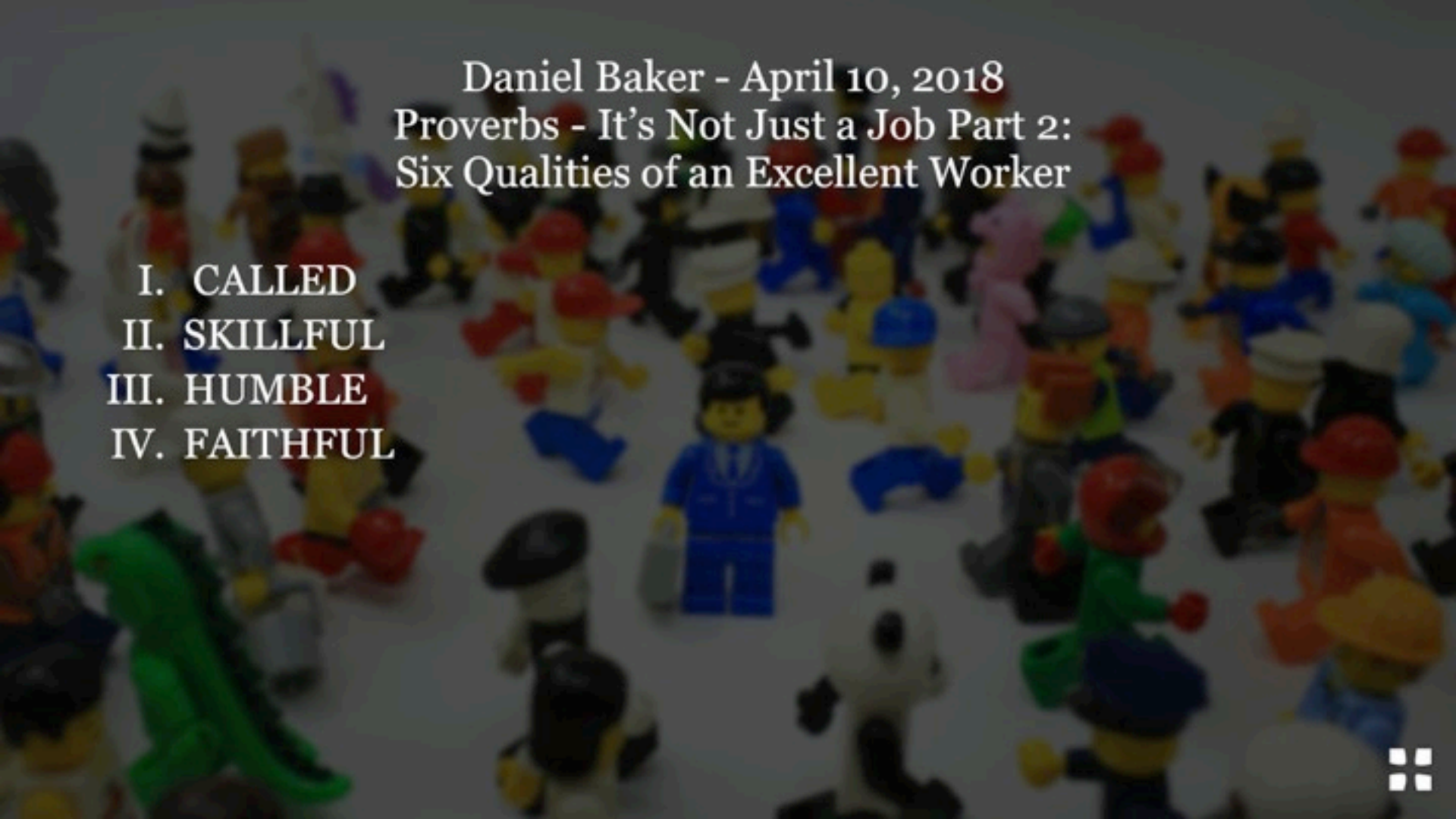




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- I. CALLED
- II. SKILLFUL
- III. HUMBLE

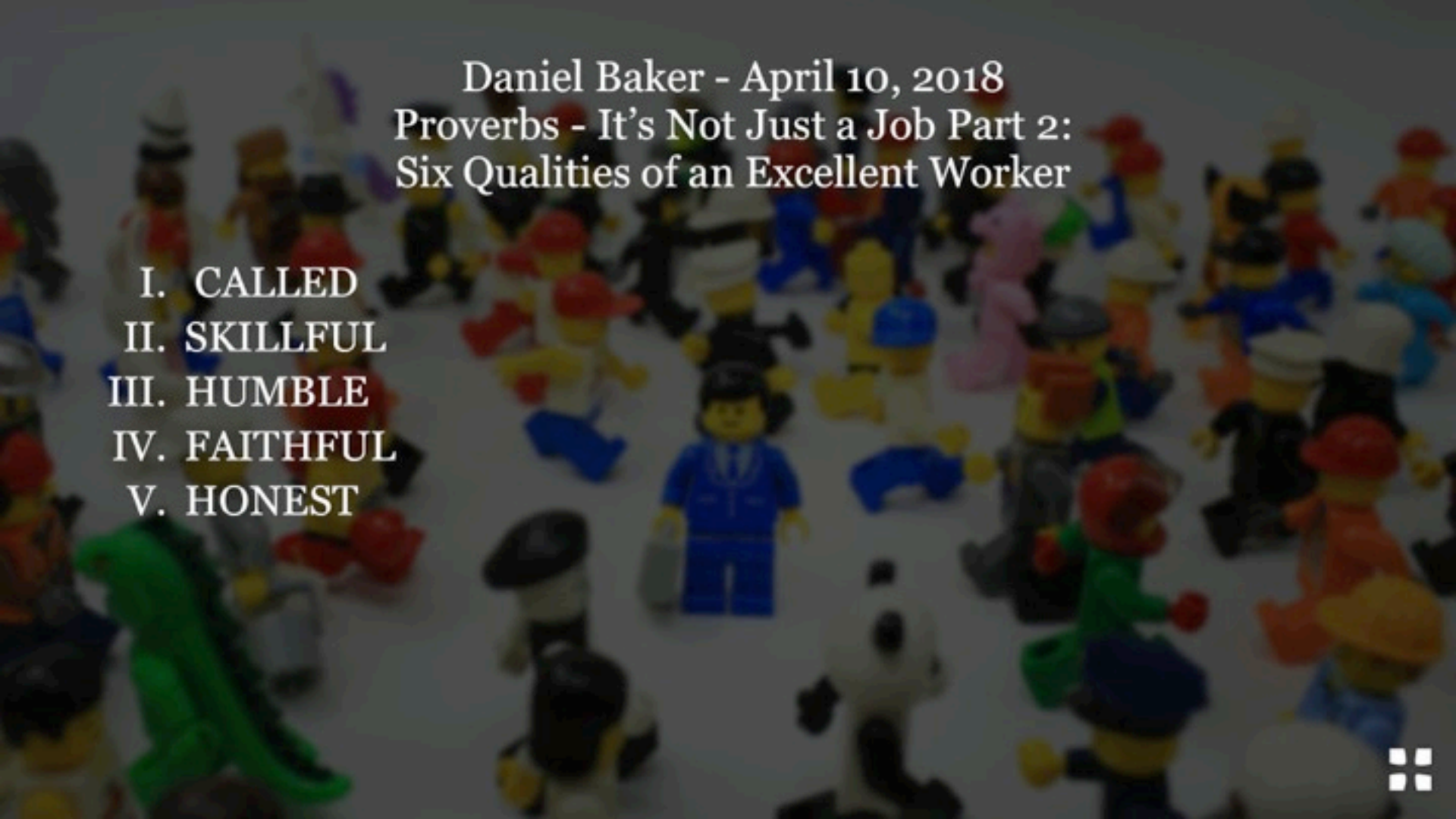




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- IV. FAITHFUL

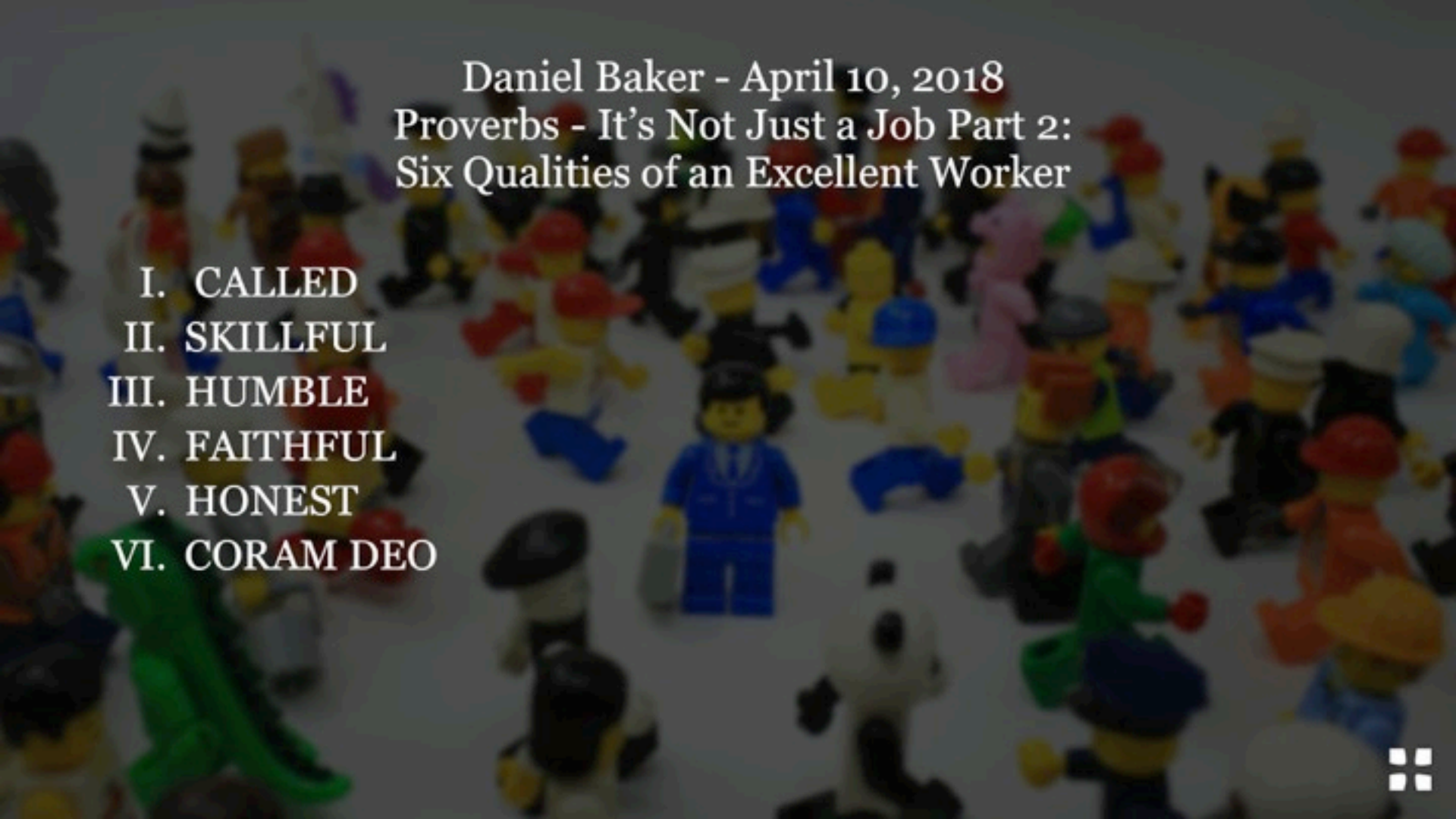




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- I. CALLED
- II. SKILLFUL
- III. HUMBLE
- IV. FAITHFUL
- V. HONEST

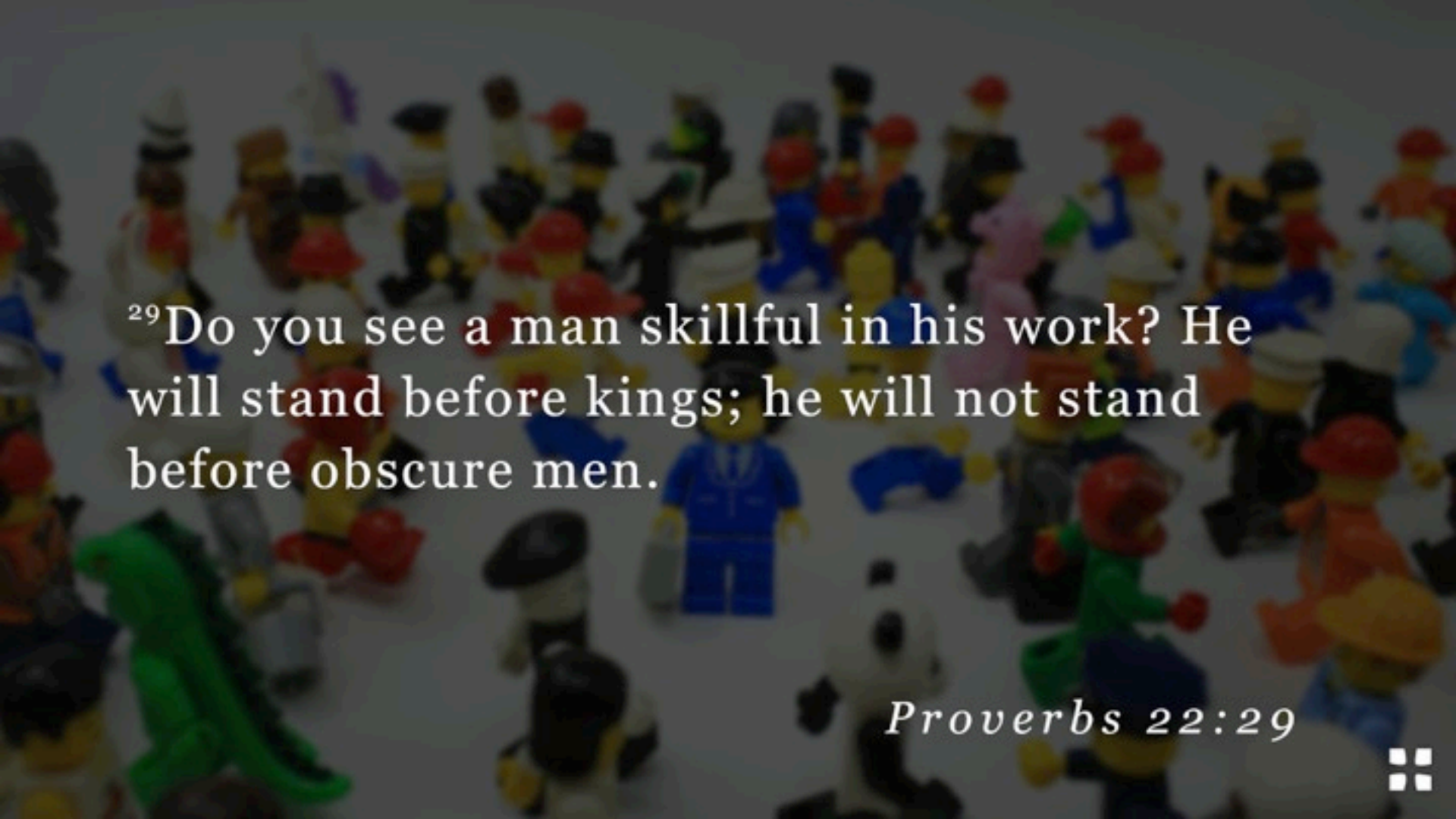




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- I. CALLED
- II. SKILLFUL
- III. HUMBLE
- IV. FAITHFUL
- V. HONEST
- VI. CORAM DEO





²⁹Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

Proverbs 22:29



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You may reply: But how if I am not called, what shall I do then?

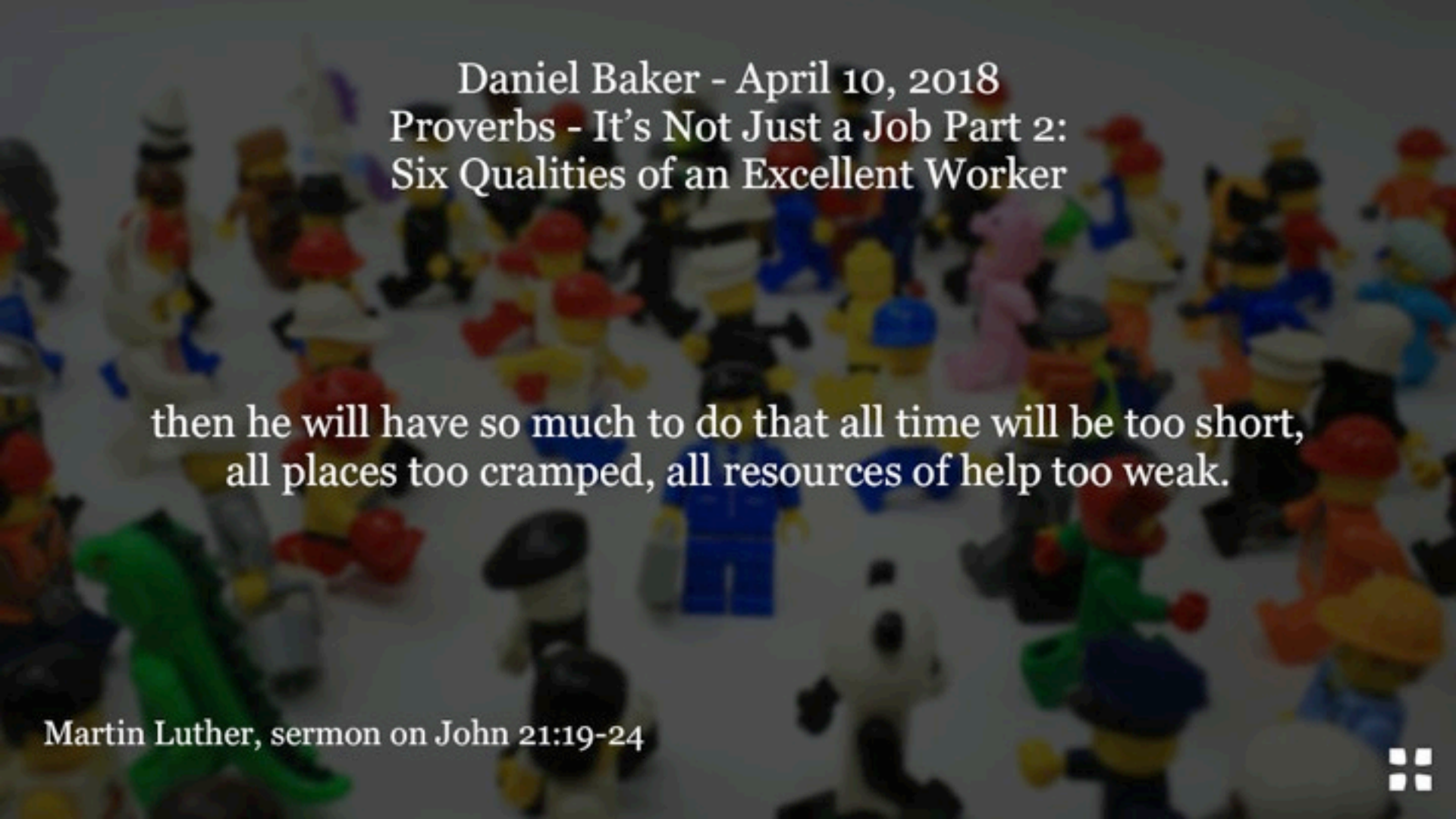
Answer: How is it possible that you are not called? You have always been in some state or station; you have always been a husband or wife, or boy or girl, or servant. Picture before you the humblest estate. Are you a husband, and you think you have not enough to do in that sphere to govern your wife, children, domestics, and property so that all may be obedient to God and you do no one any harm?



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Yea, if you had five heads and ten hands, even then you would be too weak for your task, so that you would never dare to think of making a pilgrimage or doing any kind of saintly work.... See, as now no one is without some commission and calling, so no one is without some kind of work, if he desires to do what is right. Everyone therefore is to take heed to continue in his calling, look to himself, faithfully do what is commanded him, and serve God and keep his commandments;



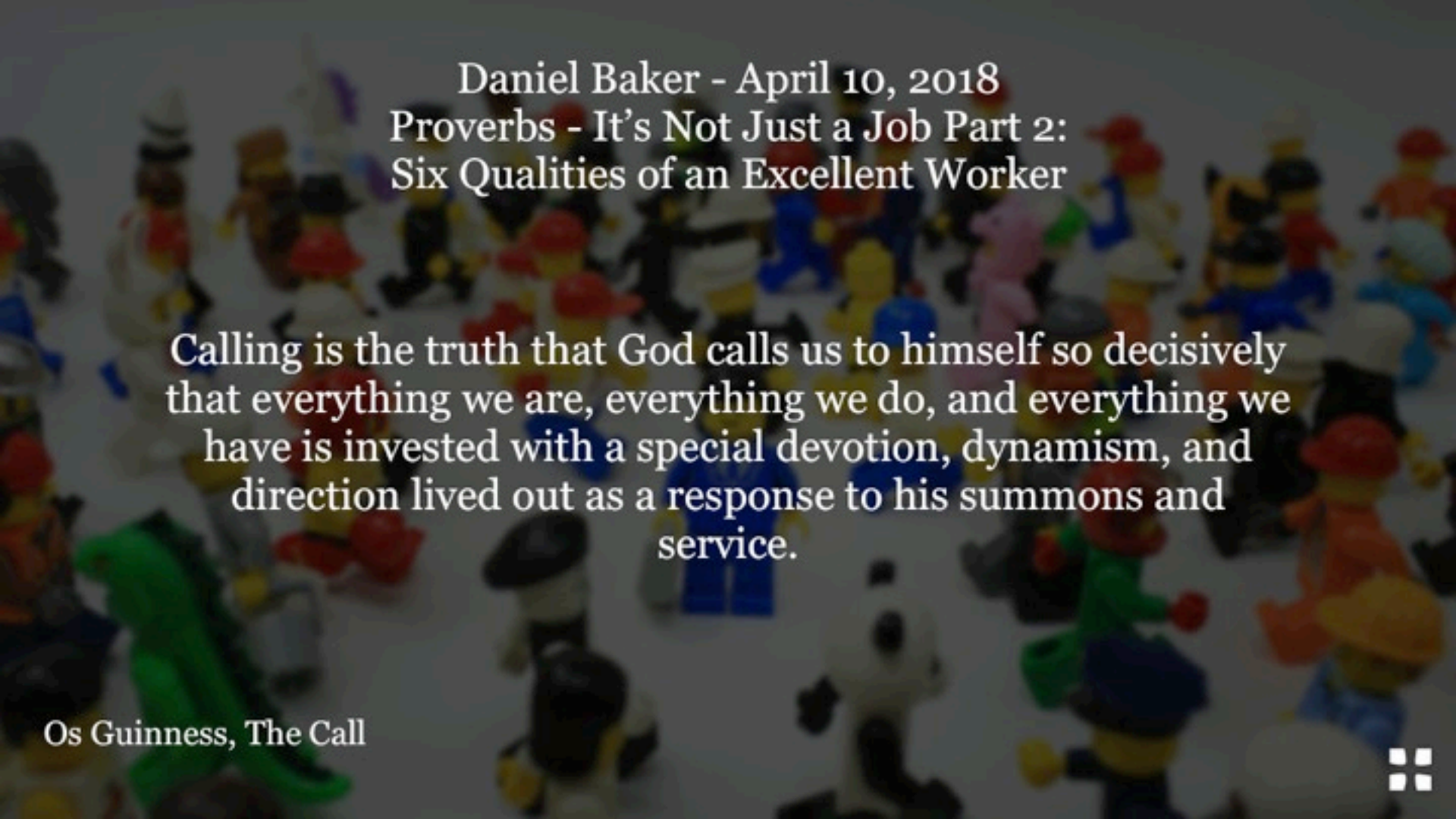


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then he will have so much to do that all time will be too short,
all places too cramped, all resources of help too weak.

Martin Luther, sermon on John 21:19-24

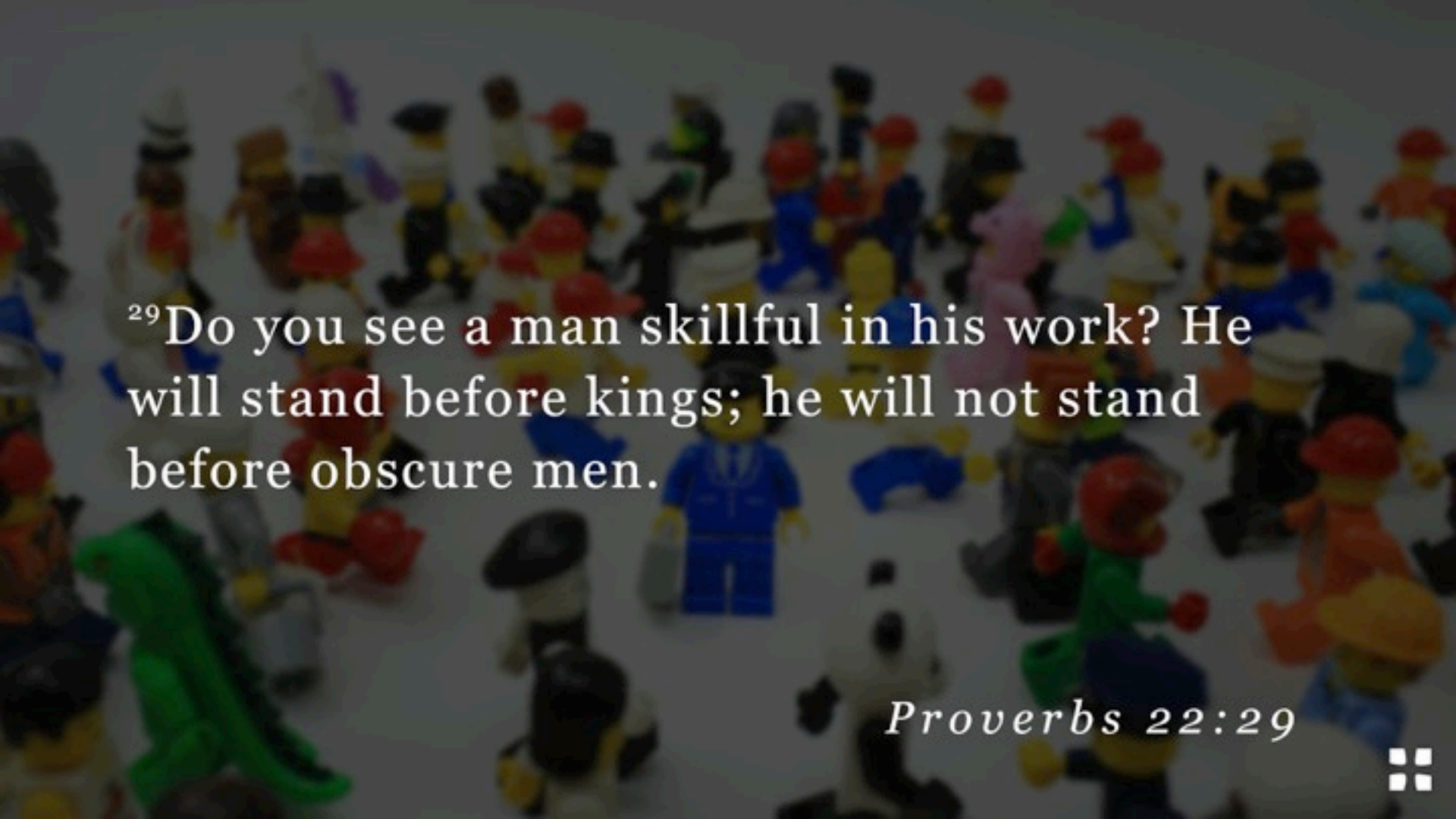




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Calling is the truth that God calls us to himself so decisively that everything we are, everything we do, and everything we have is invested with a special devotion, dynamism, and direction lived out as a response to his summons and service.





²⁹Do you see a man skillful in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.

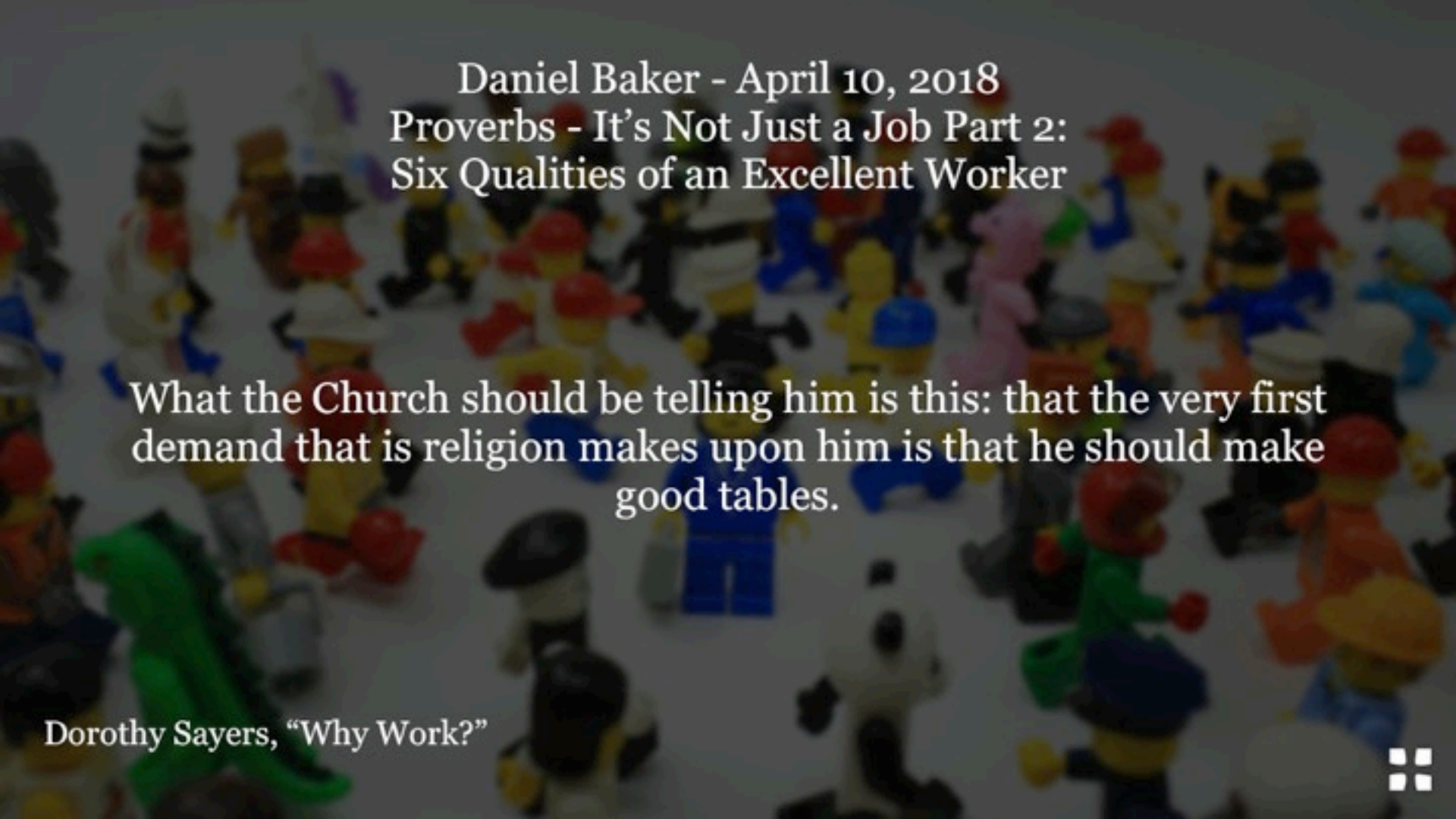
Proverbs 22:29



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“Work....should...be thought of as a creative activity undertaken for the love of the work itself; and...man, made in God's image, should make things, as God makes them, for the sake of doing well a thing that is well worth doing....The Church's approach to an intelligent carpenter is usually confined to exhorting him not to be drunk and disorderly in his leisure hours, and to come to church on Sundays.



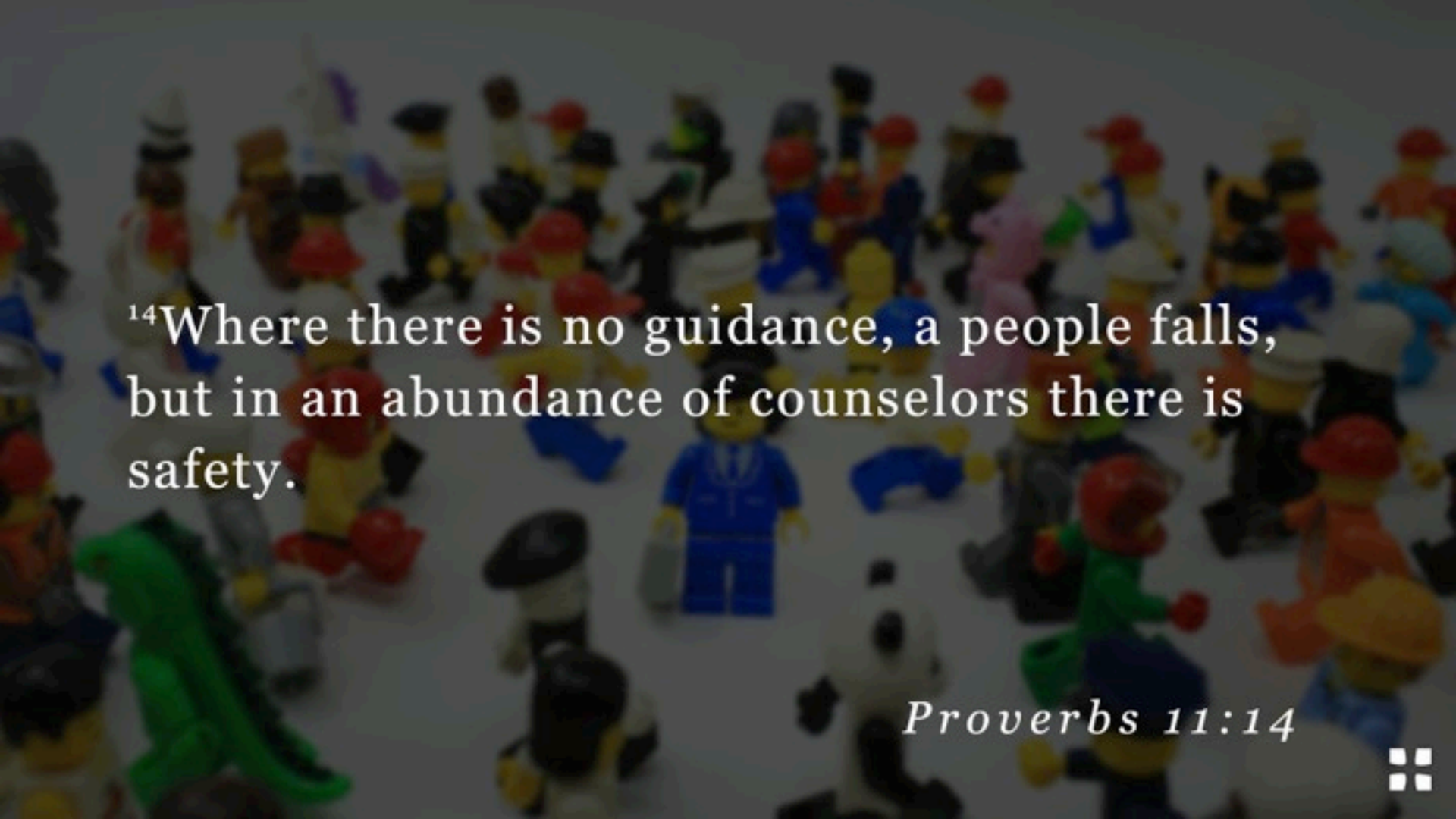


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What the Church should be telling him is this: that the very first demand that is religion makes upon him is that he should make good tables.

Dorothy Sayers, "Why Work?"

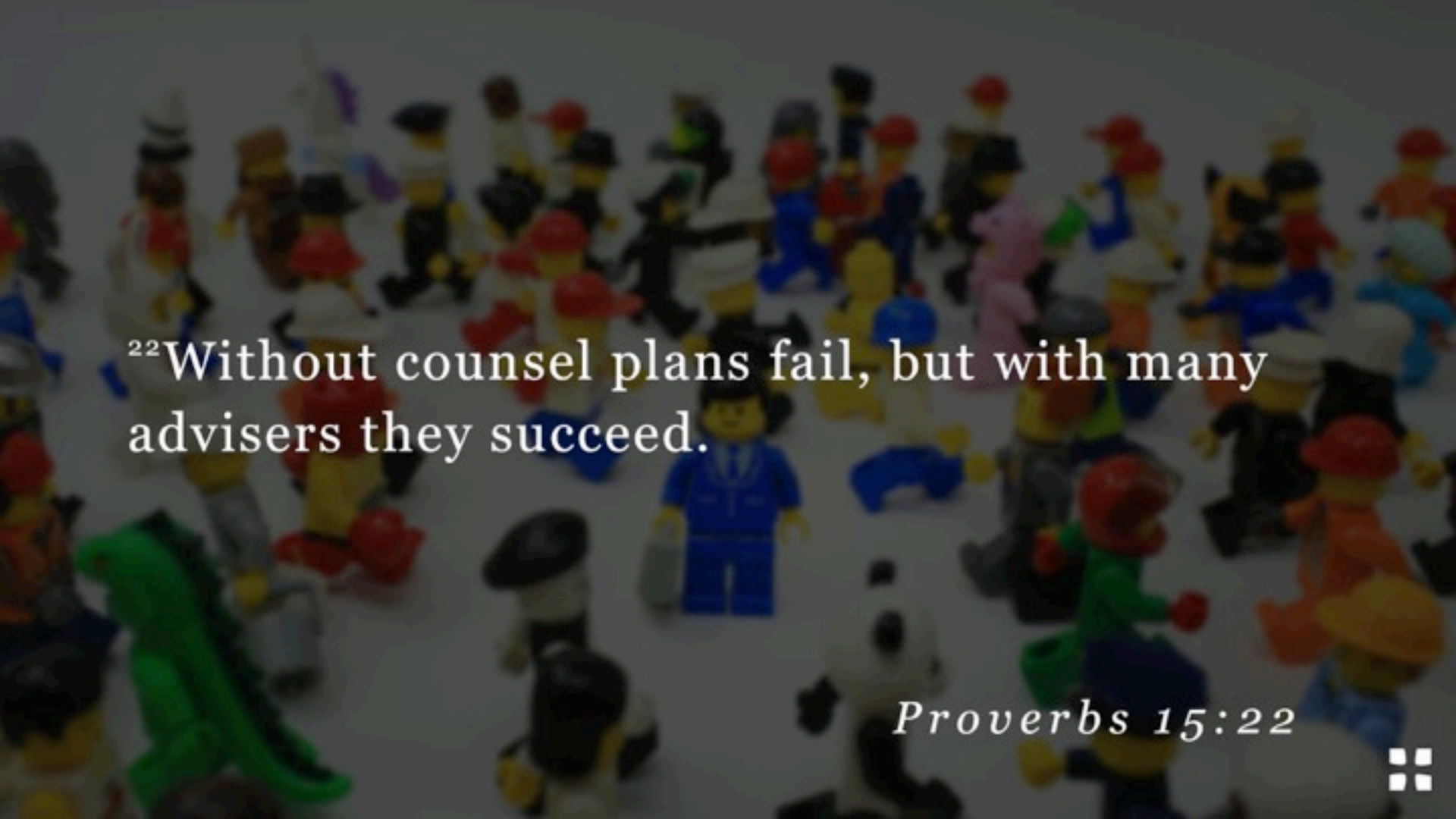




¹⁴Where there is no guidance, a people falls,
but in an abundance of counselors there is
safety.

Proverbs 11:14





²²Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:22

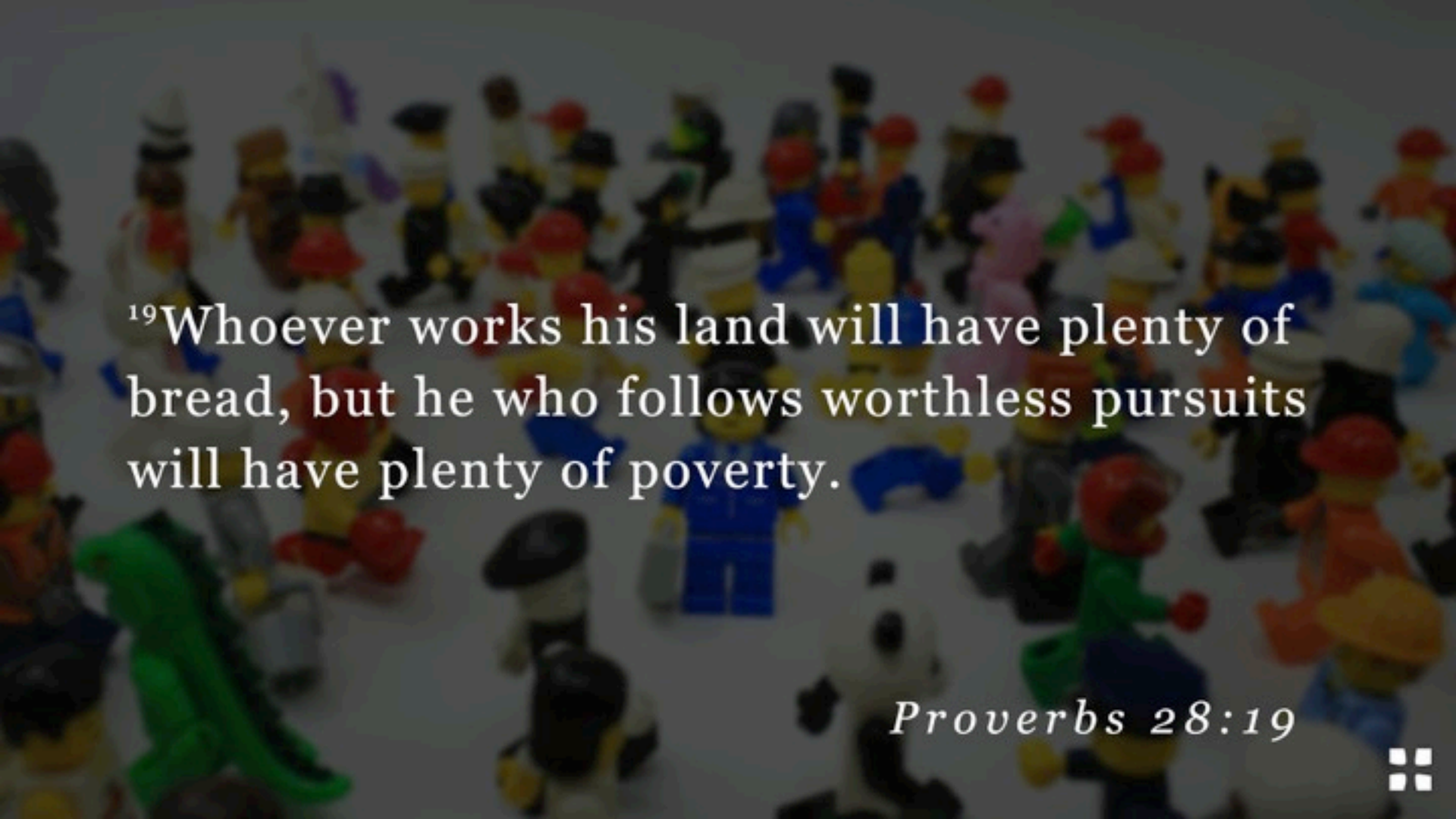




¹¹Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Proverbs 12:11

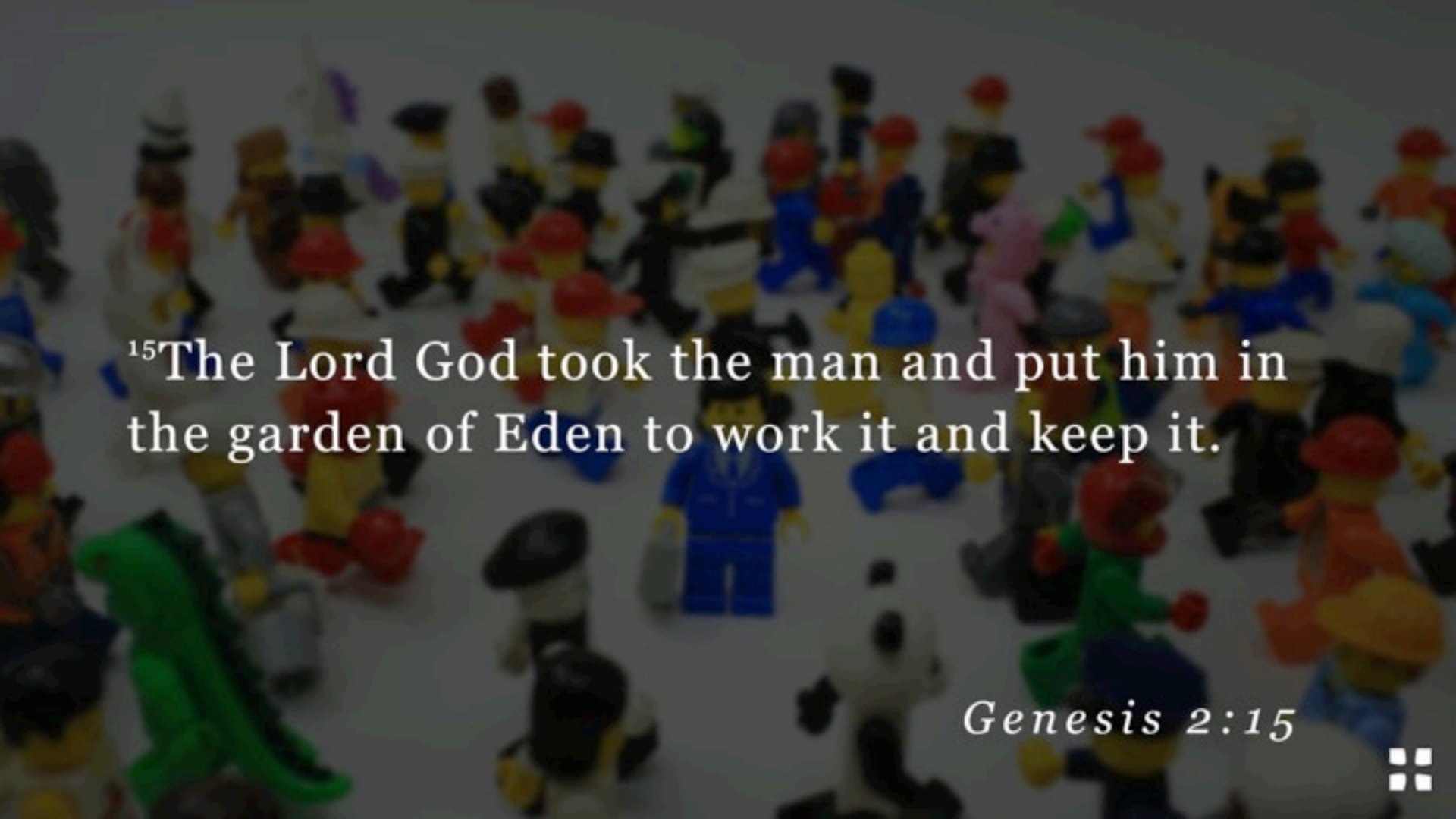




¹⁹Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits will have plenty of poverty.

Proverbs 28:19





¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.

Genesis 2:15



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The sixth Deadly Sin is named by the Church Acedia or Sloth. In the world it calls itself Tolerance; but in hell it is called Despair. It is the accomplice of the other sins and their worst punishment. It is the sin which believes in nothing, cares for nothing, seeks to know nothing, interferes with nothing, enjoys nothing, loves nothing, hates nothing, finds purpose in nothing, lives for nothing, and only remains alive because there is nothing it would die for.

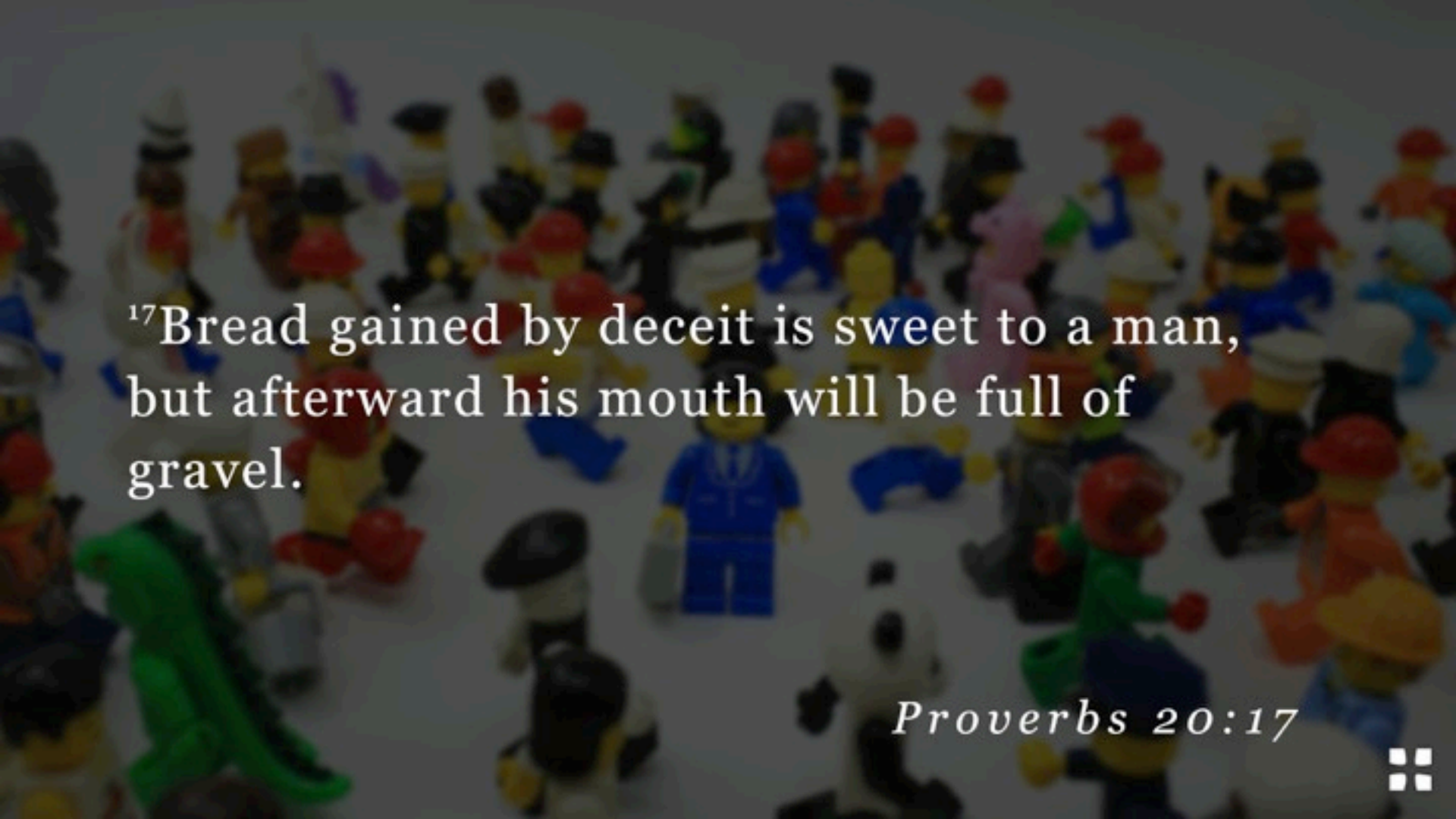


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We have known it far too well for many years. The only thing perhaps that we have not known about it is that it is mortal sin.... It is one of the favorite tricks of this Sin to dissemble itself under cover of a whiffling activity of body. We think that if we are busily rushing about and doing things, we cannot be suffering from Sloth.... But these are all disguises for the empty heart and the empty brain and the empty soul of [Sloth].

Dorothy Sayers, "The Other Six Deadly Sins"

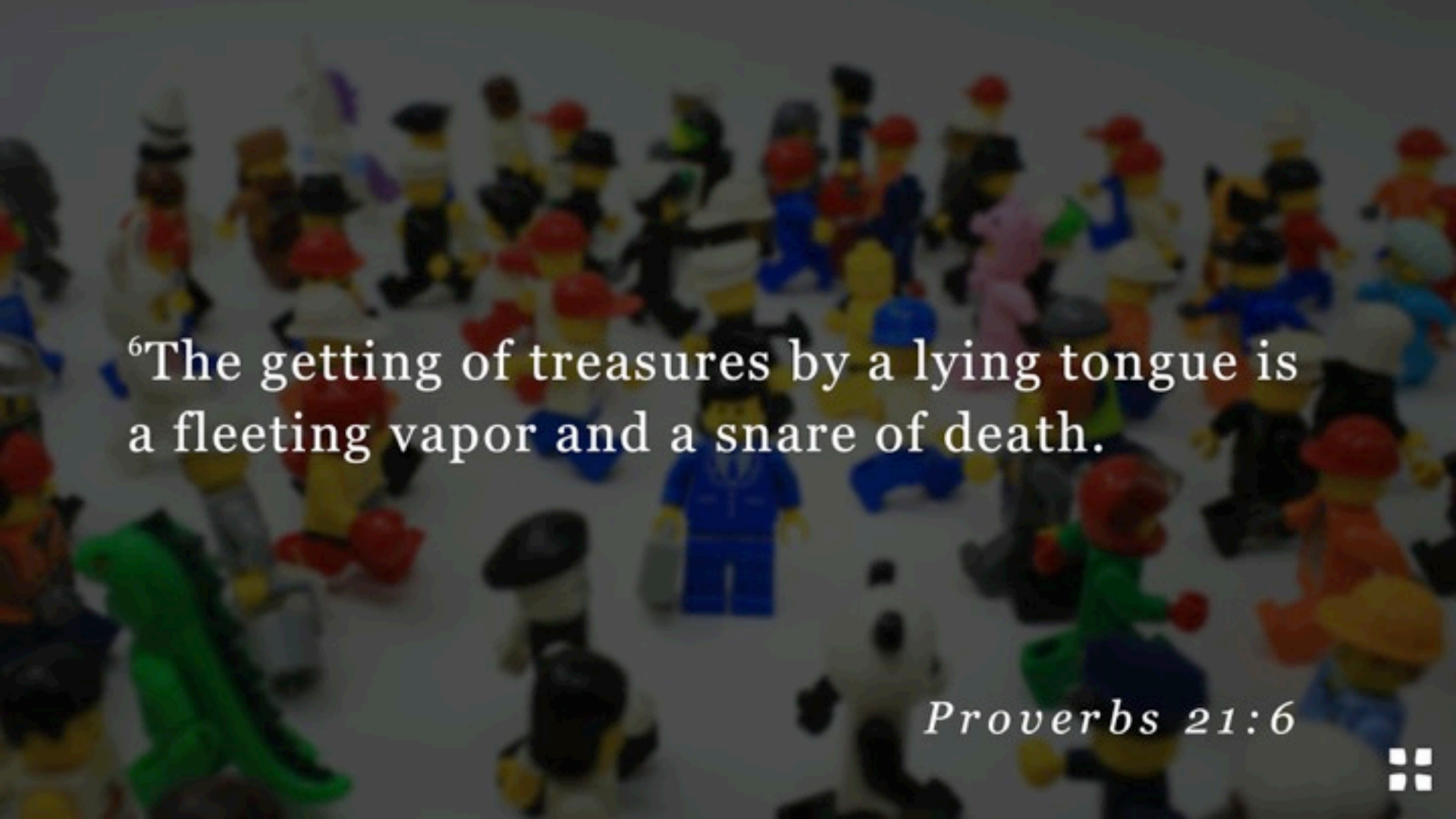




¹⁷Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man,
but afterward his mouth will be full of
gravel.

Proverbs 20:17

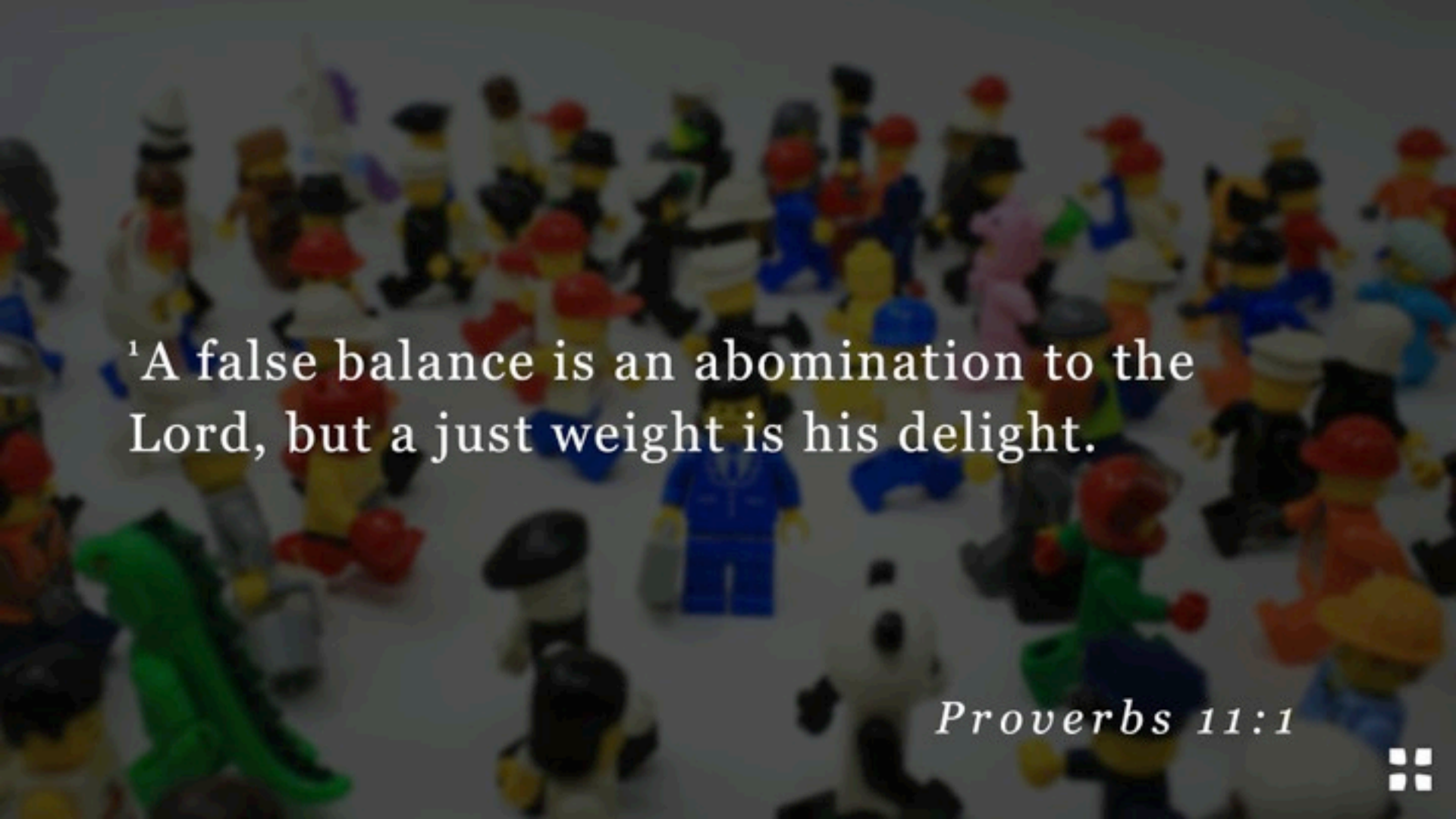




⁶The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is
a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

Proverbs 21:6

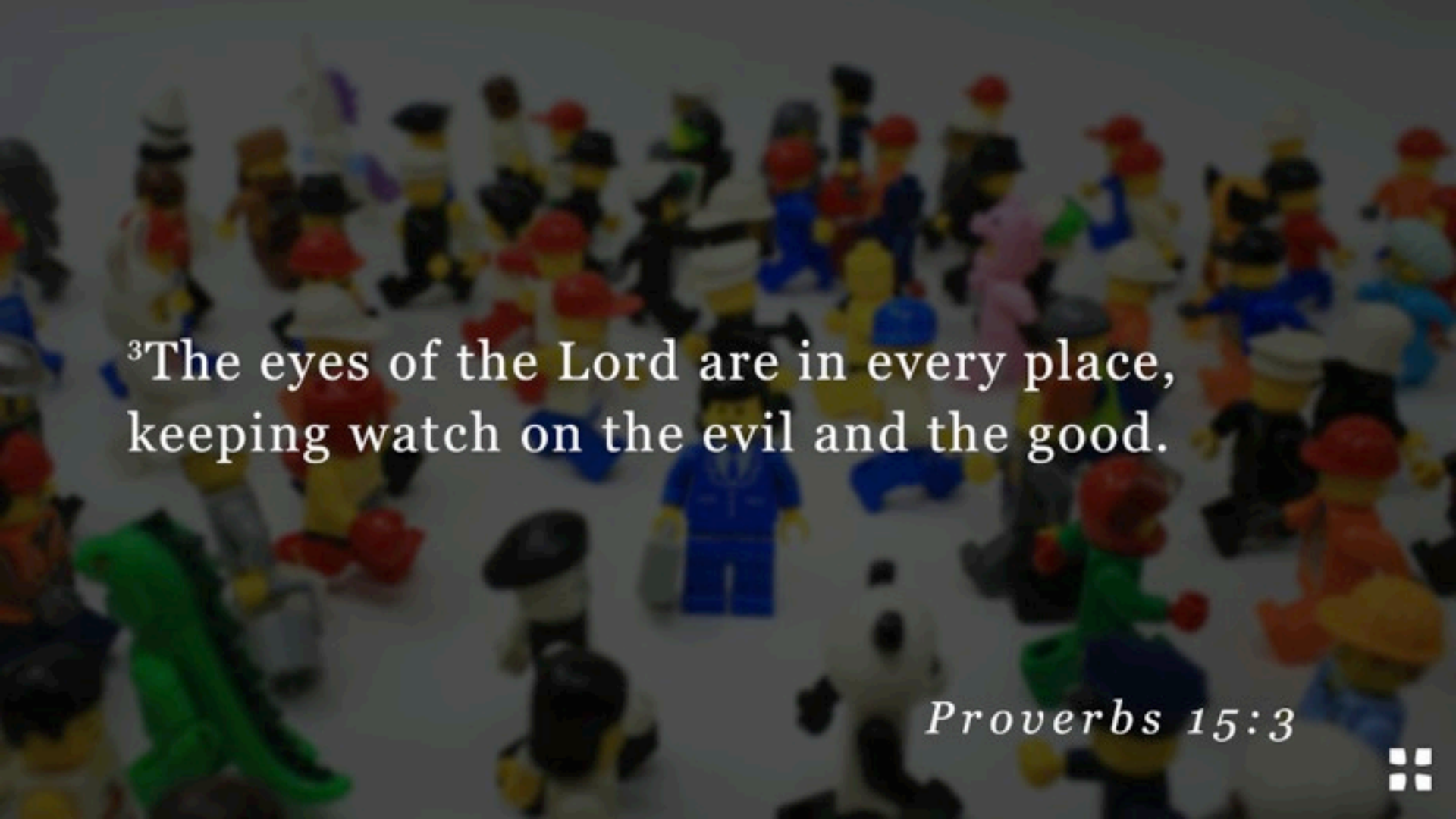




'A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.

Proverbs 11:1

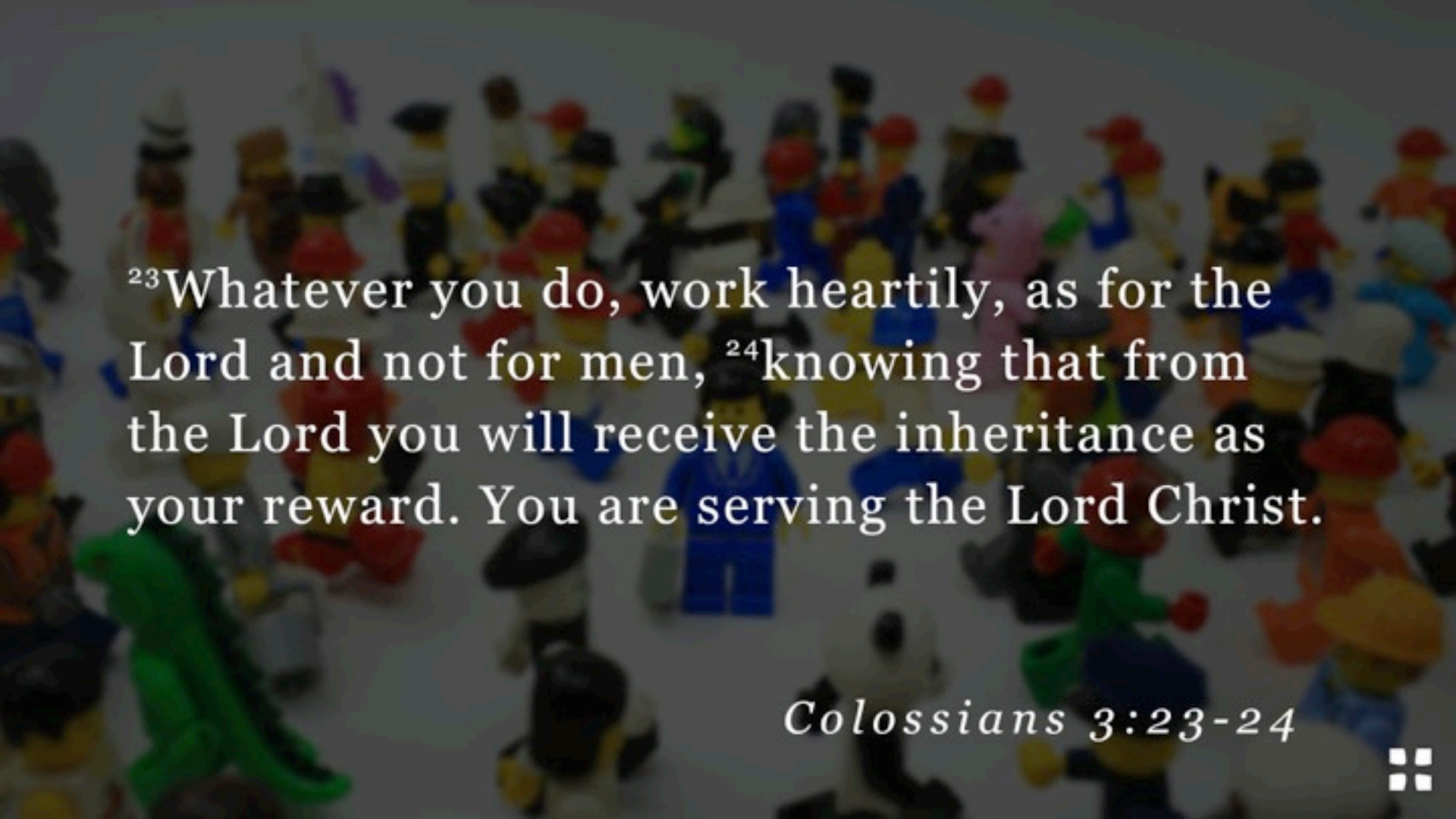




³The eyes of the Lord are in every place,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Proverbs 15:3





²³Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:23-24

