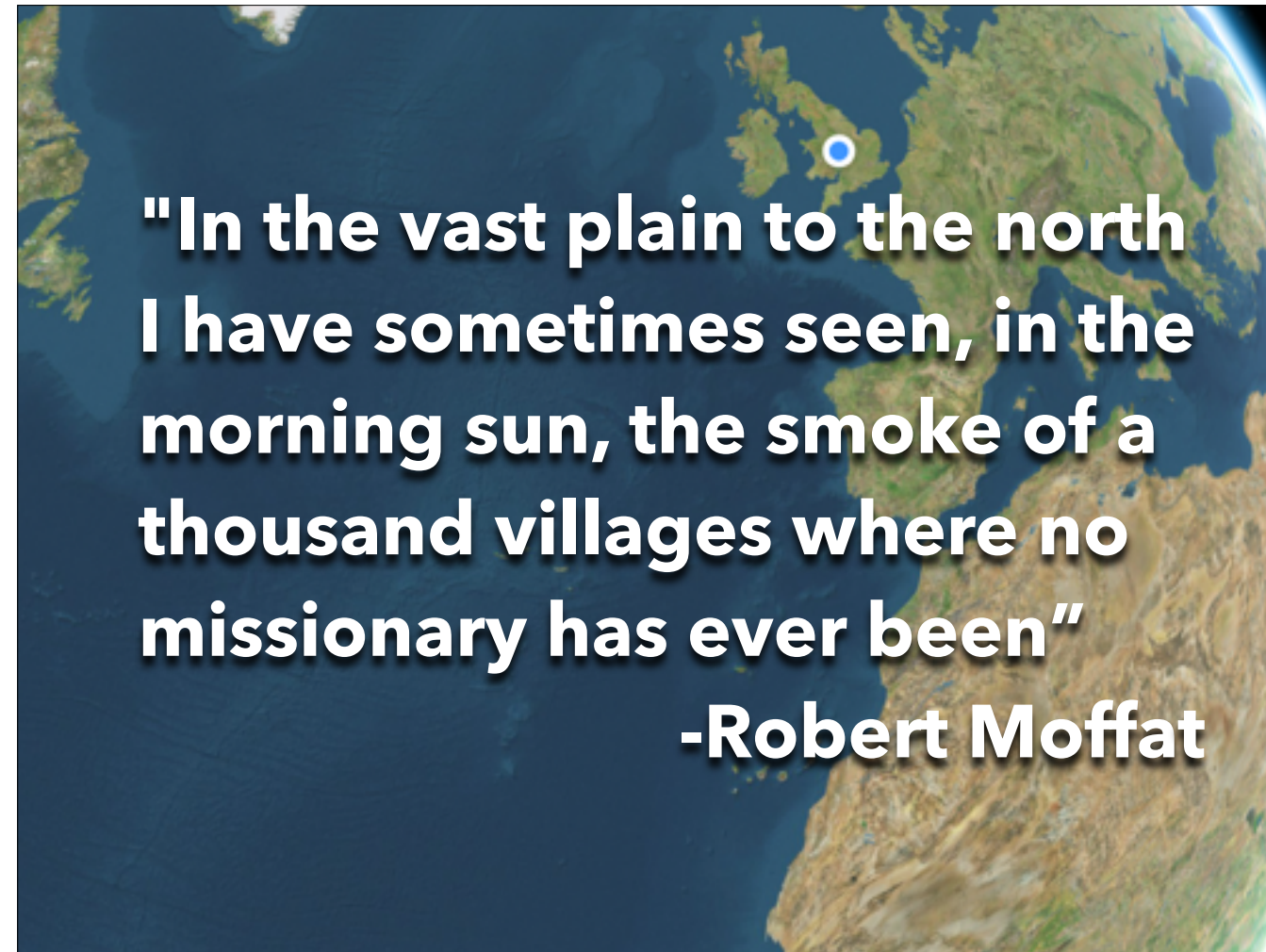




I want to tell you the story of a young man who played a very great role in the country of South Africa. It all started further north of the equator than Cape Town is south. It was in Scotland. An old village pastor was questioned by the deacons of his church: Why had there been no growth in the church-no new members? It seemed the work of the church, if not going backwards was at least at a standstill. They were about to dismiss the pastor and call a new one. The deacons said to the old pastor "No one has come to Christ through your ministry in the past year." His reply: "Yea, it has been a lean year, but what about wee Bobby." The deacons had forgotten about the young lad who had come to Christ that year.

Wee Bobby was from a poor but devout Christian family. Sometime after his conversion, there was a mission meeting in that village church. An offering was taken. When the offering basket came to wee Bobby, he told the usher to put it on the floor. "I have nothing to give to God but myself," and so saying stepped into the plate with his bare feet.

Bobby really meant it when he gave himself to God for His service. He had little opportunity for education, and as an early teenager was apprenticed as a gardener. He learned to love this work and later in life he was called "God's Gardener." It was in his late teens that he was attracted to a notice of a mission speaker at a church in a nearby village. Although the date was past, he went to talk with the pastor of that church and began to think more seriously on the great task of missions.

In due time, he volunteered to be a missionary. After a short term of missionary training, he along with another young couple left England October 1816 for their respective fields of labor. Robert Moffat went to Cape Town. He was just 21 years old.

Almost three years later, the daughter of Moffat's former employer came to South Africa, and they were married in Cape town in December 1819. Together, Robert & Mary, they spent the next 51 years on the mission field, experiencing the many hardships and sorrows of that primitive area. Three of their children died in infancy and youth. However, five of the remaining ones remained in Africa as missionaries.

His earliest ministries were treks taken into the interior. There were few railroads or roads and oftentimes those were washed away by rains. Travel was difficult, dangerous and often death-bringing. Rivers, rocks, swamps, and forests had to be avoided or mastered somehow. Intense heat by day and chill cold by night complicated travel. Always there were the wild beasts: lions, jackals, hyenas, crocodiles, snakes, monkeys and, worst of all, warlike and untrustworthy native bushmen. Such journeys were not often undertaken by those who knew the country well, and to a newcomer like Moffat such treks were deadly dangerous! But Moffat, motivated by his missionary call, meant to master all such obstacles. He gradually became physically acclimated to Africa's extreme climates. He learned the country and became proficient in its customs and its languages, and he developed the great power of leadership that was to be his badge and make him a blessing to multitudes.

In 1817 he set out for the kraal, or village, of the Namaquas where the chief, Afrikaner, a blood-thirsty butcherer, was converted. That conversion has been considered one of the great accounts of the grace of God on the mission fields. On that trip he saw for the first time the Kurumon River and the Bechuanas, the peoples with whom he would spend most of his long missionary ministry.

The Bechuanas' reception of Moffat's ministry ranged from stony indifference — to steeled intolerance — to incorrigible rejection. Moffat, "saw no reward for untiring work." That work, by the way, consisted of being a builder, a carpenter, a smith and a farmer all in one; while at the same time preaching.

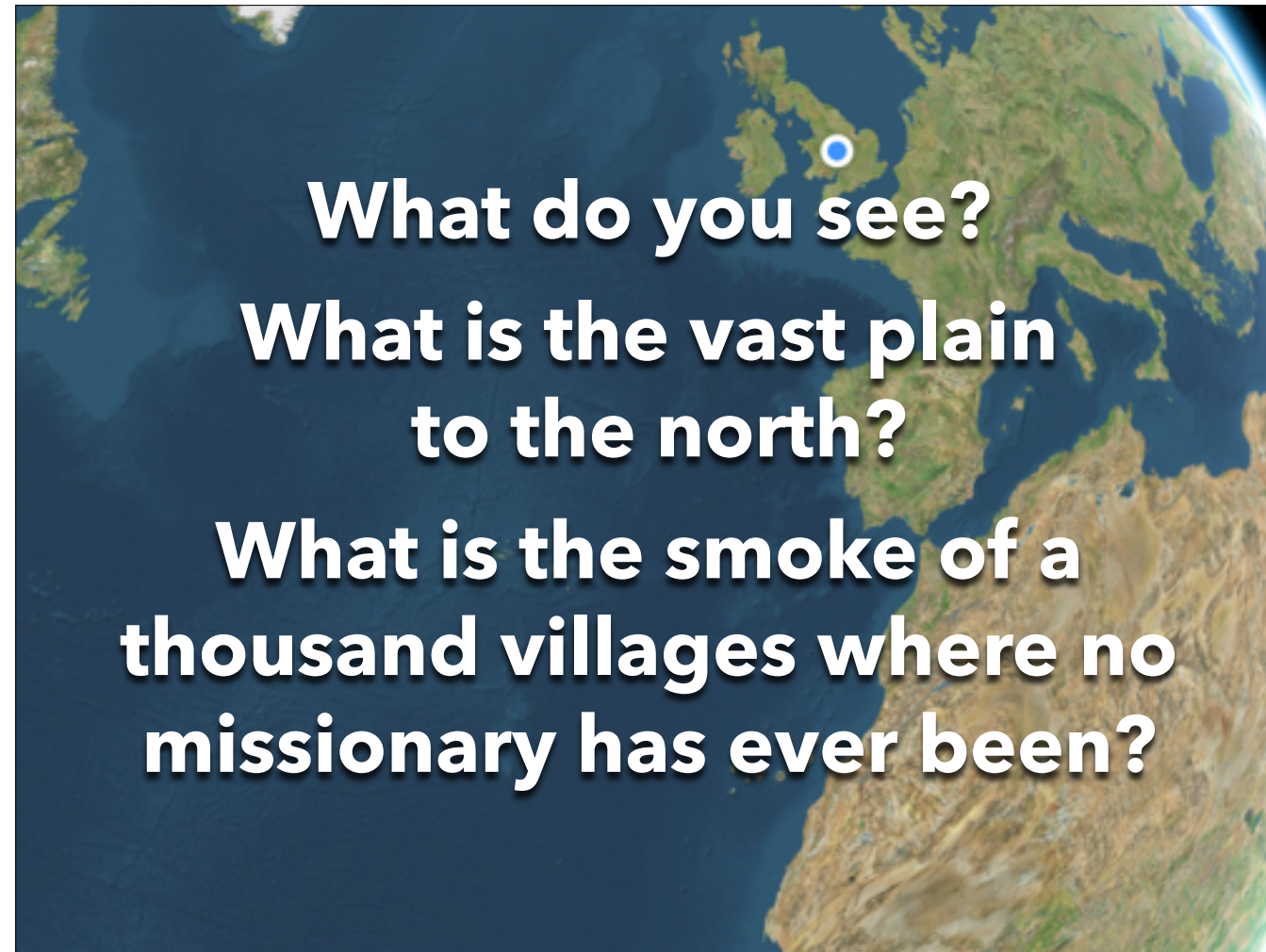
Probably one of the most momentous events in Moffat's ministry was not preaching but attempting to defend his Bechuanas from the warring Zulus. He did not avert a war, but defended the people and helped provide supplies. The Bechuanas fought back the the Zulus and, realizing Moffat's bravery and compassion in their behalf, they began to respect him as a friend.

It was twelve more years before his message bore the fruit of revival. Suddenly the meeting house was crowded. Heathen songs were not sung in the village and dancing stopped. Prayers came to the lips of the Bechuanas, and the songs of Zion were sung. They began to give up their habits. Converts were recorded, then time-tested, then baptized. Other tribes, hearing the news, sent representatives to learn of the white man's teaching. Moffat often would return with them and thus the revival message and results spread.

It was then that Moffat realized he must concentrate on translating the New Testament into the language of the people if they were to learn God's Word and live God's way! And, customarily, he not only translated the text, he procured a press and printed it. Translated into Setswana.

Moffat returned to England only one time before returning to die. On that visit he persuaded Livingstone to go to Africa instead of China. Livingstone built mightily upon the foundation that Moffat had so ably laid.

“We shall have all eternity in which to celebrate our victories, but we have only one swift hour before the sunset in which to win them.” –Robert Moffat, Missionary to South Africa



What do you see?

**What is the vast plain
to the north?**

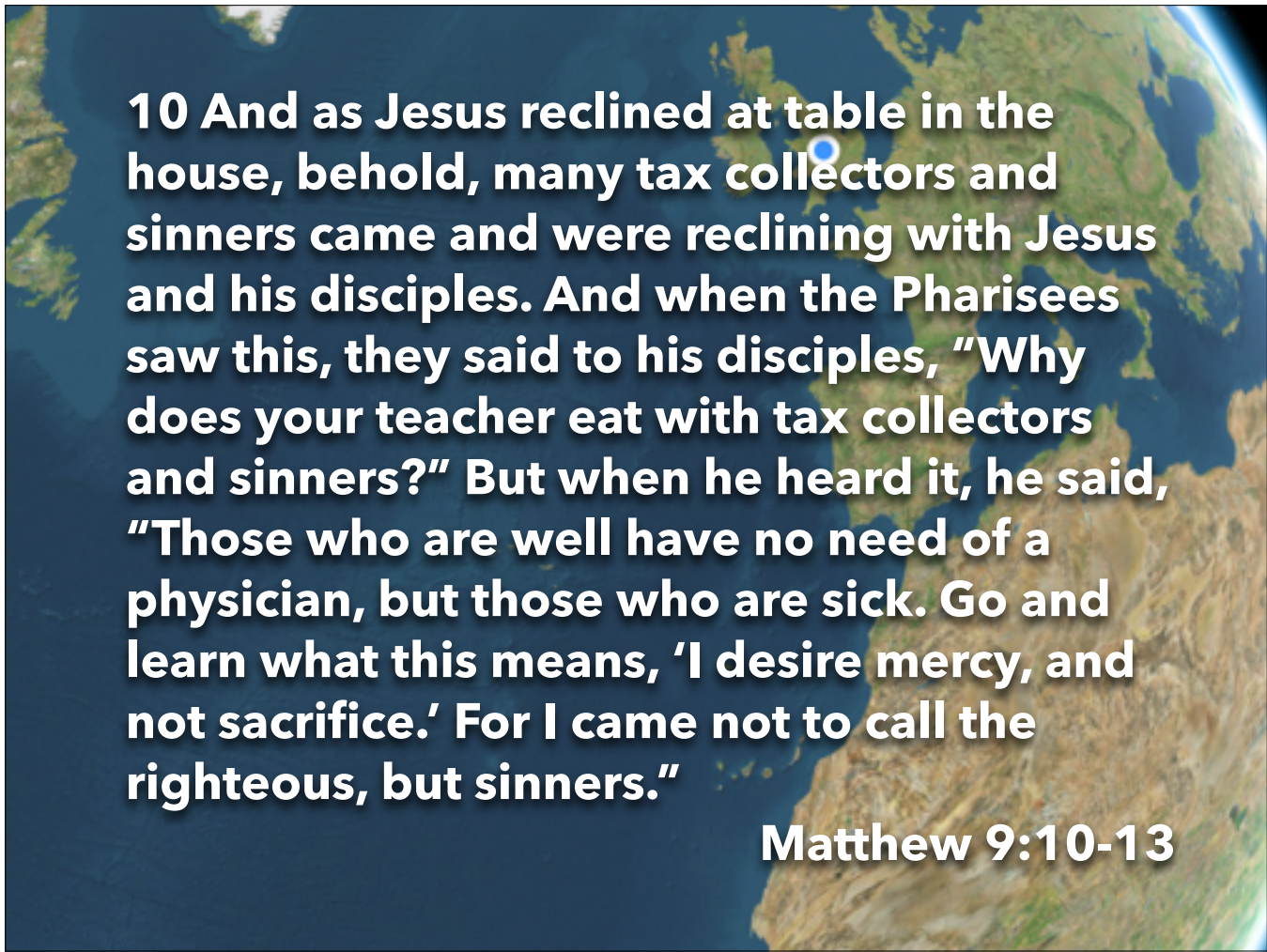
**What is the smoke of a
thousand villages where no
missionary has ever been?**



We are too disconnected from society.

Well we might see problems, we might see the needs. but we aren't moved into actual action.

The biggest problem is that we have surrounded ourselves with so much that we have actually lost sight of the problems. In the US people move into gated communities to be away from the poor people.



10 And as Jesus reclined at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were reclining with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.' For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners."

Matthew 9:10-13

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Matthew 9:10-13

These are people who know they need help actually. It's not about just hanging out with other people and saying, that's how you're being a good Christian, but it's desiring God to be at work in their life.

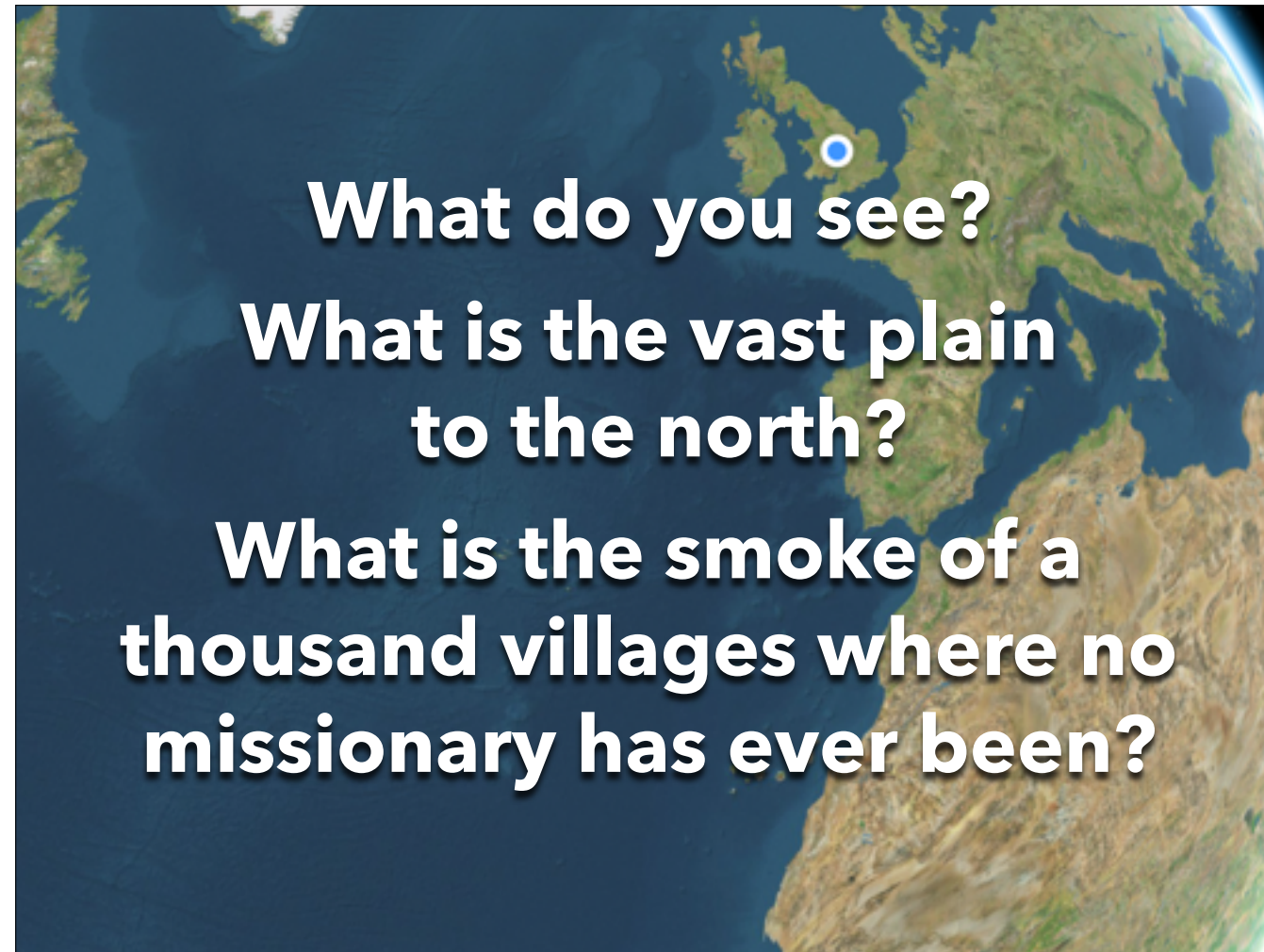
MERCY. Do you have mercy for those in need.

Hosea 6:6 — Steadfast Love

A living relationship with Christ, which is demonstrated in action

We should be actively living to help everyone know & love God more.

In all our actions, behaviours, interactions, all of this is about helping people know and love God more.



Start looking around you here.
Right here in this congregation.
Do you know your brother and sister?
Do you care about them?
Is this your family?
What happens when someone in this congregation falls ill, what happens to you?
When trials and persecution come, will you walk alongside them?

Look further out. your workplace, your school.



Why doesn't the government do this?

Why doesn't our church do this?

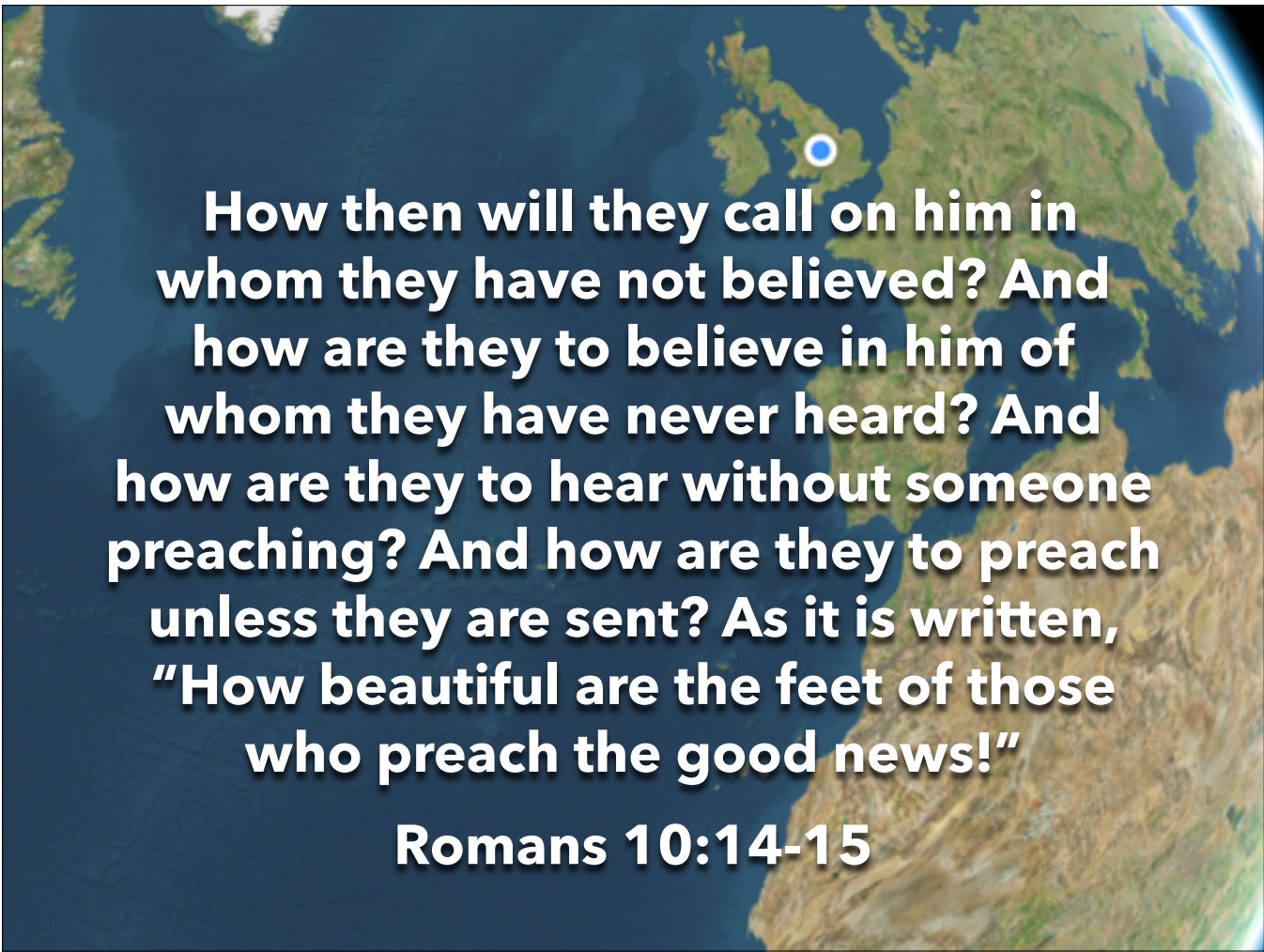
Why doesn't so and so do it?

I've got my own problems.

I've got my own things I need to work on.

And this is true. you do. we all do.

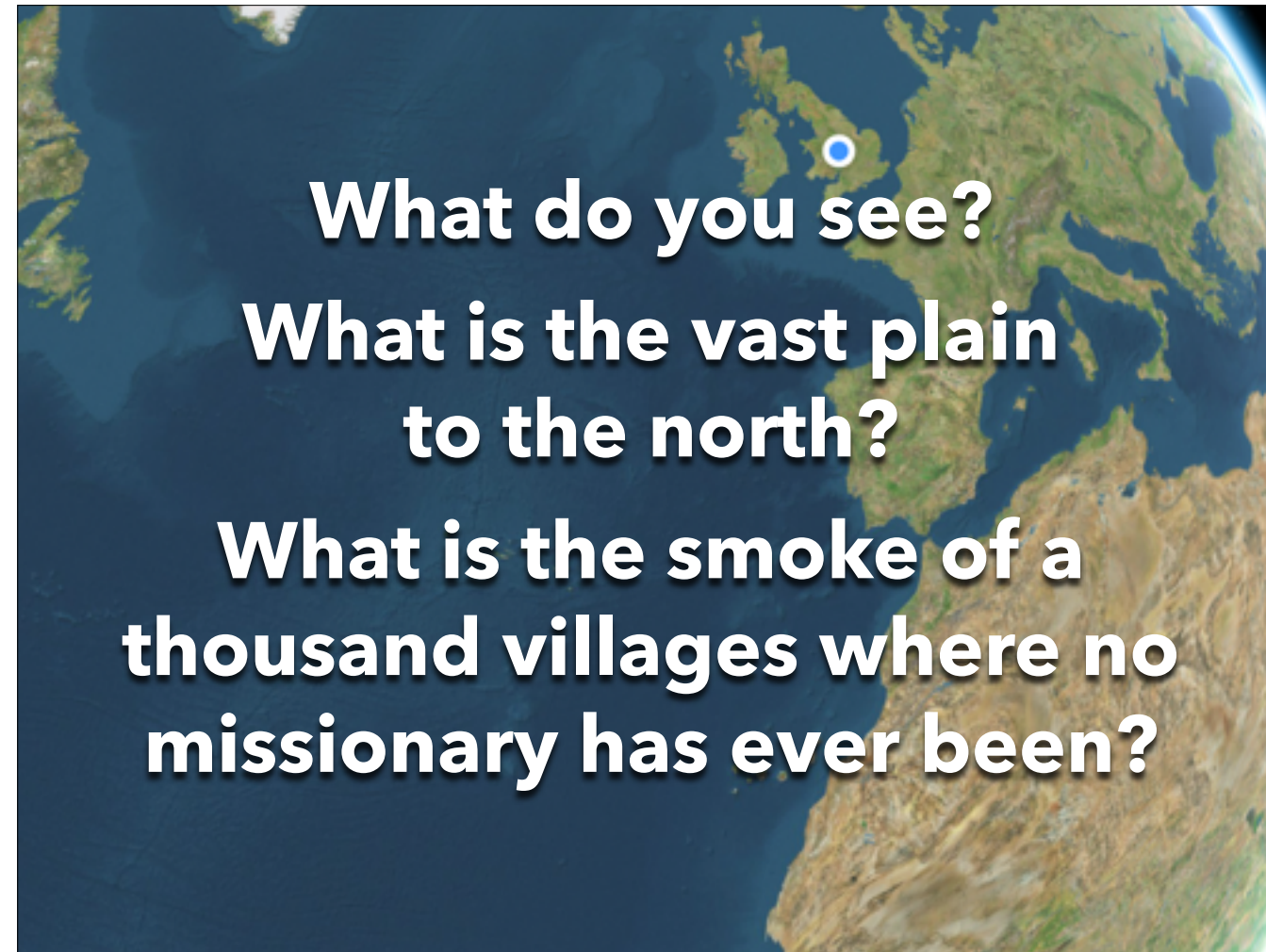
We want to jump to the corporate, the organisation, when actually much of the hard graft comes in the day to day. It's a focused commitment.

A satellite map of Europe and North Africa. A small blue dot is located in the British Isles, specifically in the area of the United Kingdom. The map shows the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the African continent to the south and east.

**How then will they call on him in
whom they have not believed? And
how are they to believe in him of
whom they have never heard? And
how are they to hear without someone
preaching? And how are they to preach
unless they are sent? As it is written,
"How beautiful are the feet of those
who preach the good news!"**

Romans 10:14-15

Are you your brother's keeper?
Who is my neighbour?



It's not my problem.

But we want people to take care of us.

But we don't have the energy to care for them.

We can always judge someone else, but would we give our own life?

A satellite map of Europe and the surrounding oceans. A small blue dot is located on the island of Ireland. The text "PROBLEM #3" and "I need more equipping." is overlaid on the map.

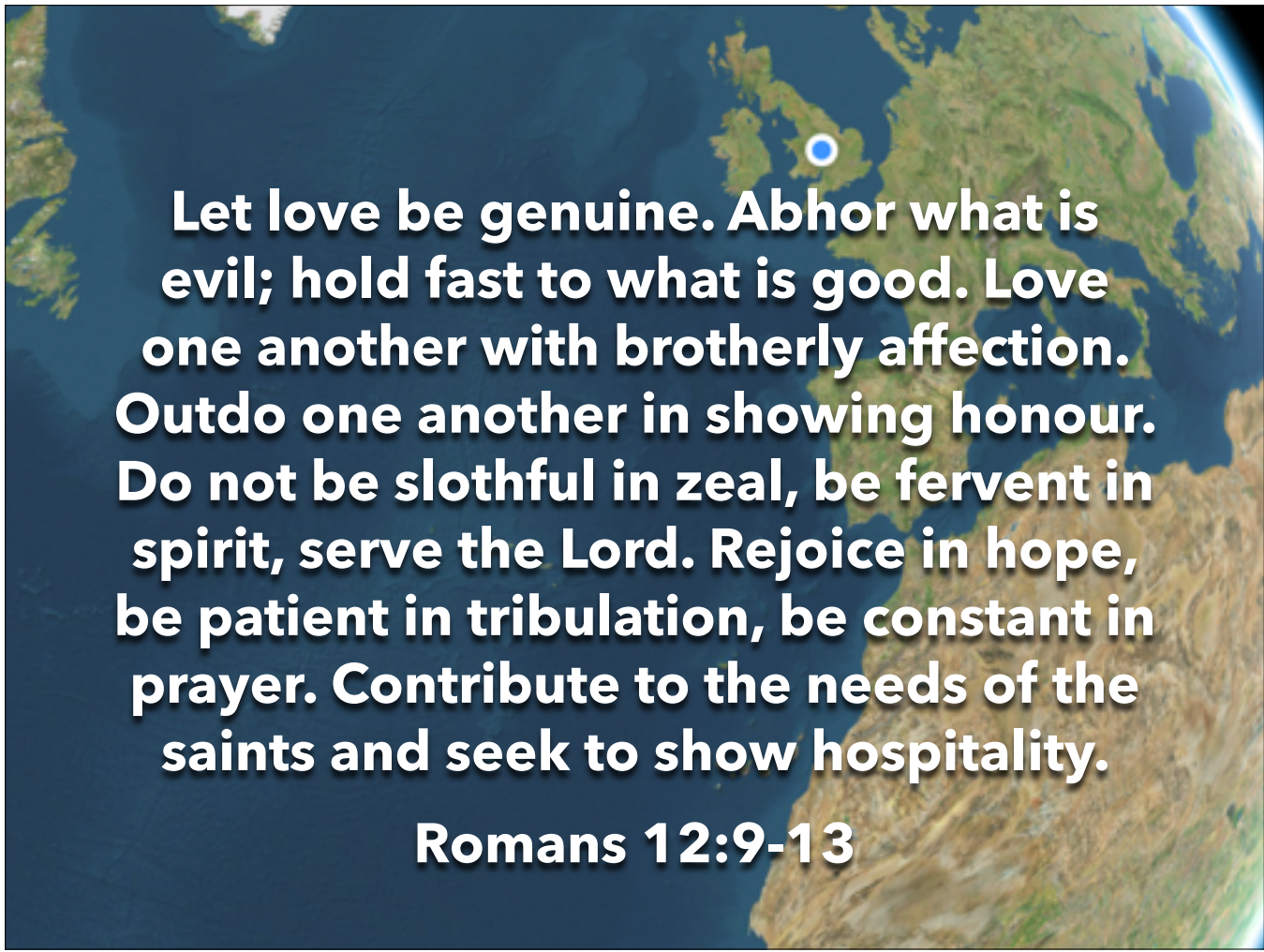
PROBLEM #3
I need more
equipping.



You have more access to learning, growing than ever before

You have more opportunities to practice faith than ever before.

the only thing that stops us is the lack of zeal — the fear of losing what we have, forgetting that it's God that's given it to us so far.

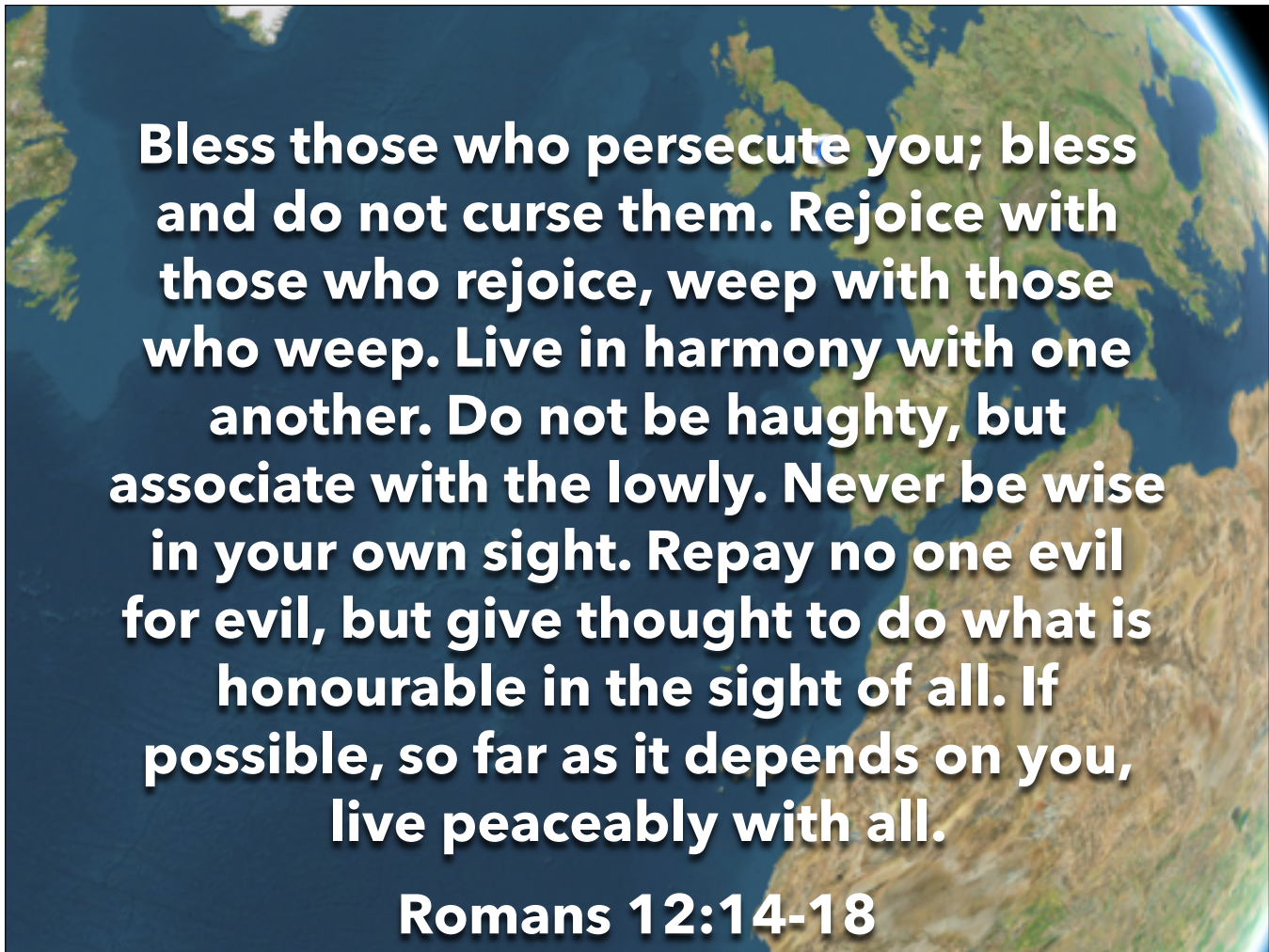


Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honour. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13

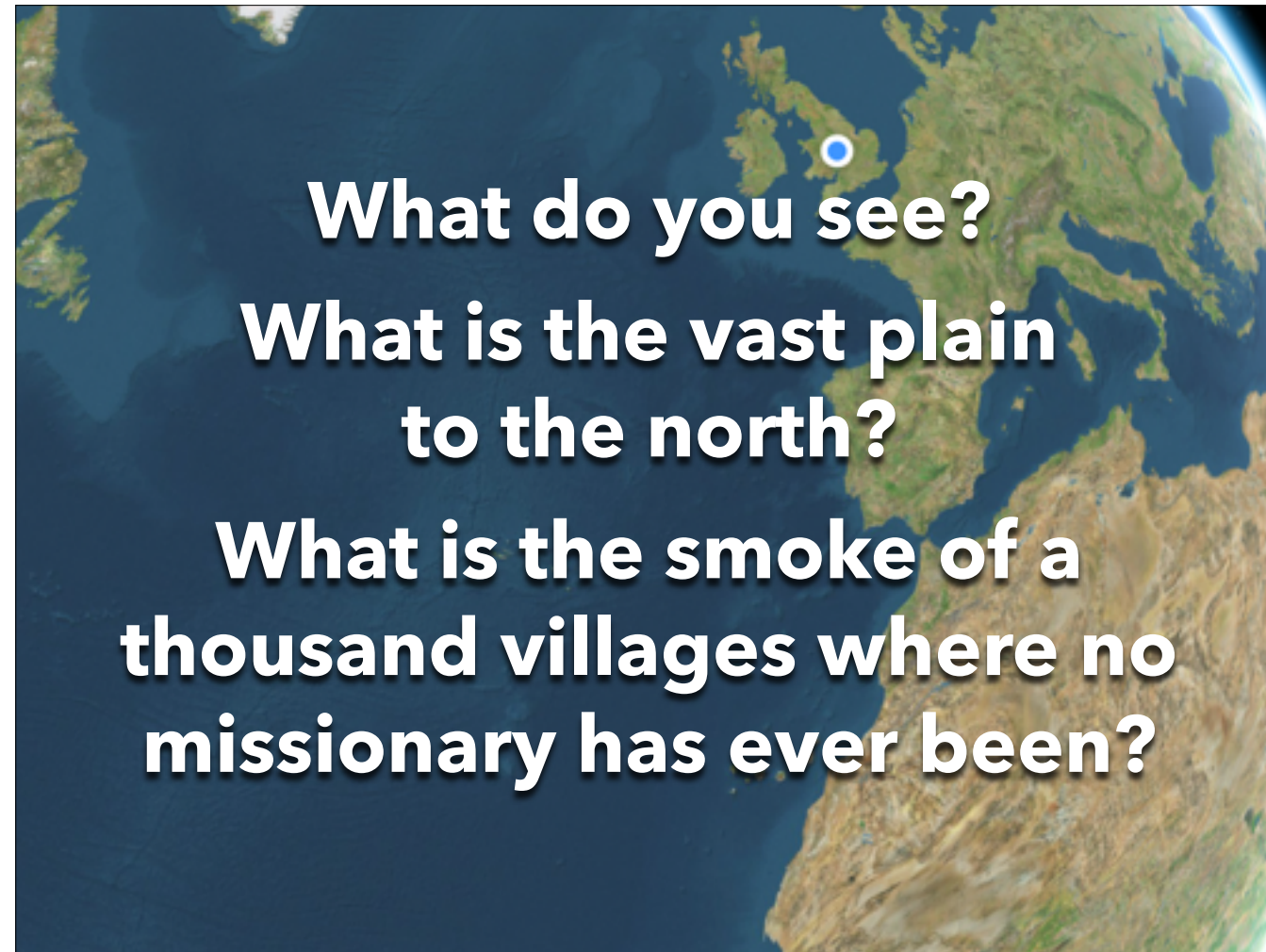
Actually, when we talk about equipping, this is the key to living life for Christ —

Let love be genuine



**Bless those who persecute you; bless
and do not curse them. Rejoice with
those who rejoice, weep with those
who weep. Live in harmony with one
another. Do not be haughty, but
associate with the lowly. Never be wise
in your own sight. Repay no one evil
for evil, but give thought to do what is
honourable in the sight of all. If
possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all.**

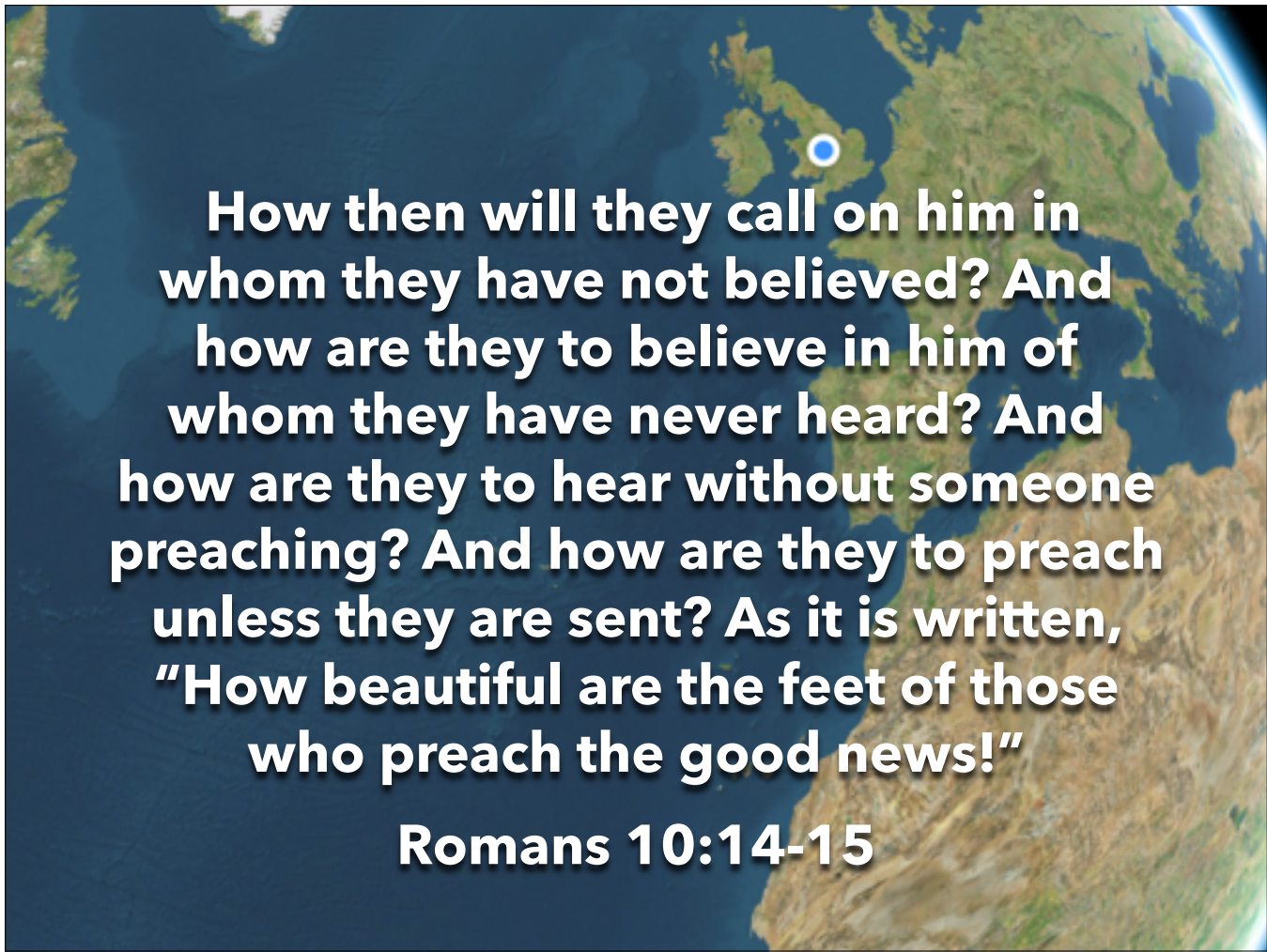
Romans 12:14-18



What do you see?

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**What is the smoke of a
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A satellite map of Europe and North Africa. A small blue dot is located in the British Isles, specifically in the area of Great Britain. The map shows the Atlantic Ocean to the west, the Mediterranean Sea to the south, and the African continent to the south and east.

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