The image shows two silhouetted figures on a dark, rocky mountain peak against a bright, cloudy sky. One figure is standing on the peak, leaning forward and reaching out with their right hand to assist another figure who is climbing up the side of the rock. The scene is backlit, creating a strong contrast between the dark figures and the bright sky.

Proverbs 24:16 “For
a righteous man falls
seven times, and
rises again...”

*Sometimes
we cannot
rise up on our
own*

Jeremiah



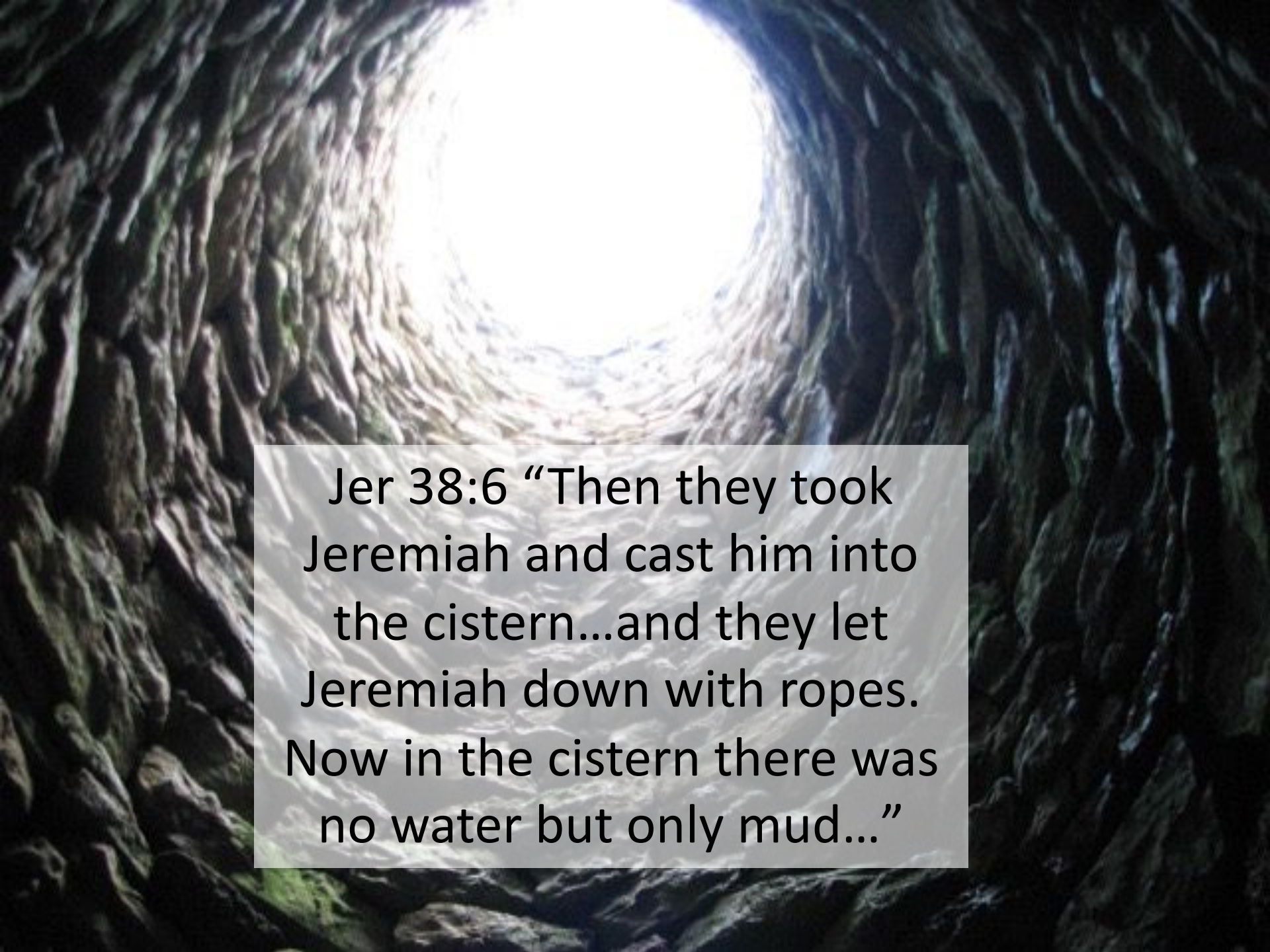


Jeremiah 38


The city will fall (3)

Those who remain will die (2)

Jeremiah's words were considered treason (4)



Jer 38:6 “Then they took Jeremiah and cast him into the cistern...and they let Jeremiah down with ropes. Now in the cistern there was no water but only mud...”

A photograph of a narrow, circular tunnel with rough, textured walls, leading to a bright opening at the end. The walls are dark and appear to be made of stone or brick, with some green moss or algae growing on them. The light from the opening at the end creates a strong contrast with the dark interior.

**Jer 38:6 “and Jeremiah
sank into the mud”**



**Jer 38:7 An unlikely Blessing:
An Ethiopian Eunuch**

He brings ropes & rags

A person is seen from behind, crawling through a dark, circular tunnel. The tunnel's walls are made of a textured material, possibly stone or brick, and are illuminated by a bright, circular light source at the far end. The person is in a low, crawling position, and their hands and feet are visible as they move forward. The overall atmosphere is one of struggle and perseverance.

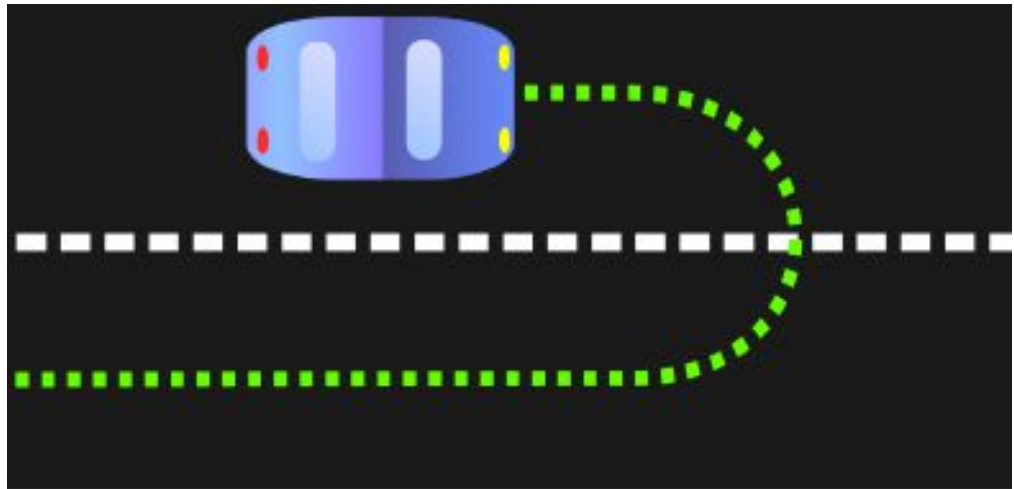
Rising Up



Ropes represents God's Word

- Without ropes one can not get out of the pit

Repentance
is more than
saying you
are sorry



It is a change in
direction

Children are taught concerning fire:

STOP...DROP...ROLL

God teaches us concerning sin:

STOP...TURN...FOLLOW





Luke 13:3 “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”





2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.”





John 8:11 “And she said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go your way; from now no sin no more.’”





Repentance begins in the mind and becomes a change in behavior.

Revelation 2:21 “And I gave her time to repent; and she does not want to repent of her immorality.”



Rags represent God's Compassion

Luke 15:20 “...but while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him.”



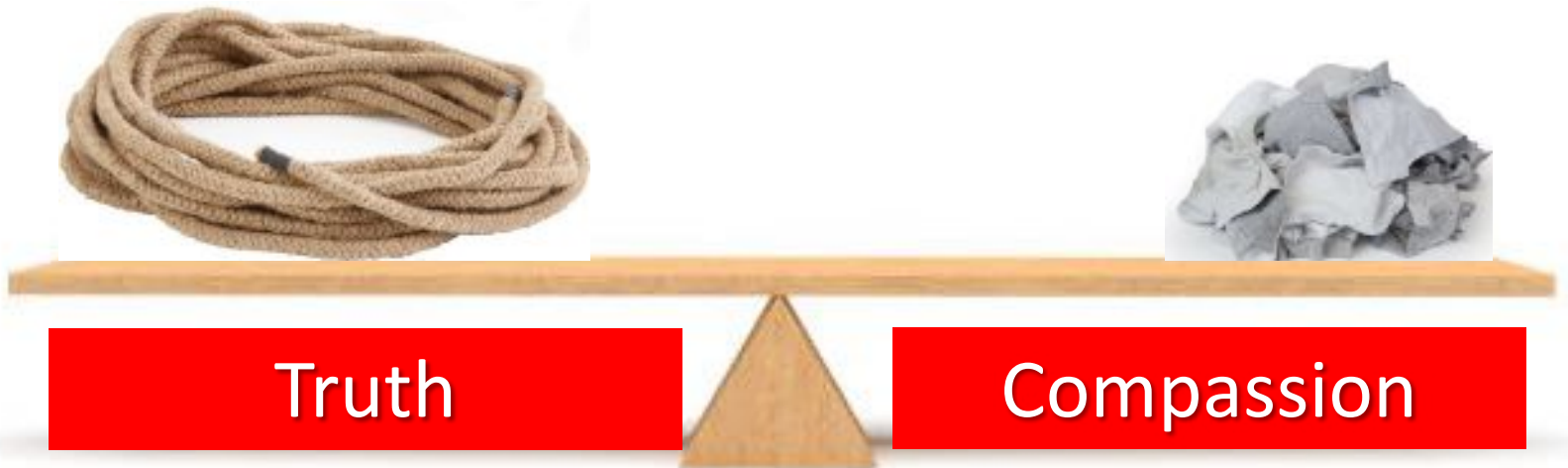


**Compassion alone will
not pull someone out of
the pit**



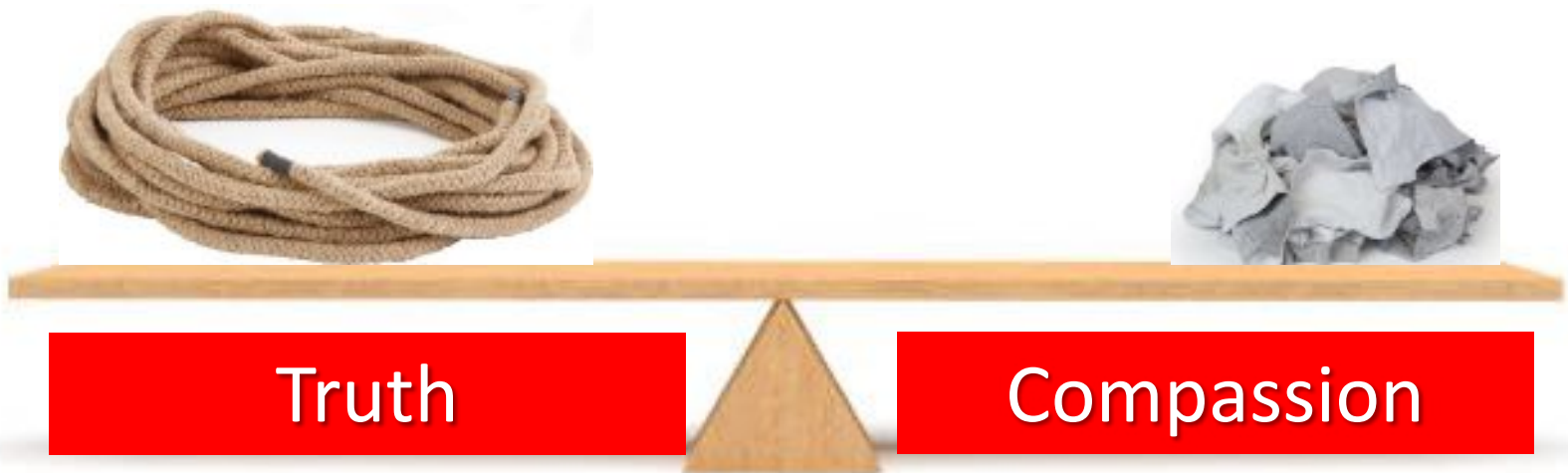
The Balance of Ropes & Rags

Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, even if a man is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual are **restore** (ROPE) such a one in a spirit of **gentleness** (RAG); each one looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted.”



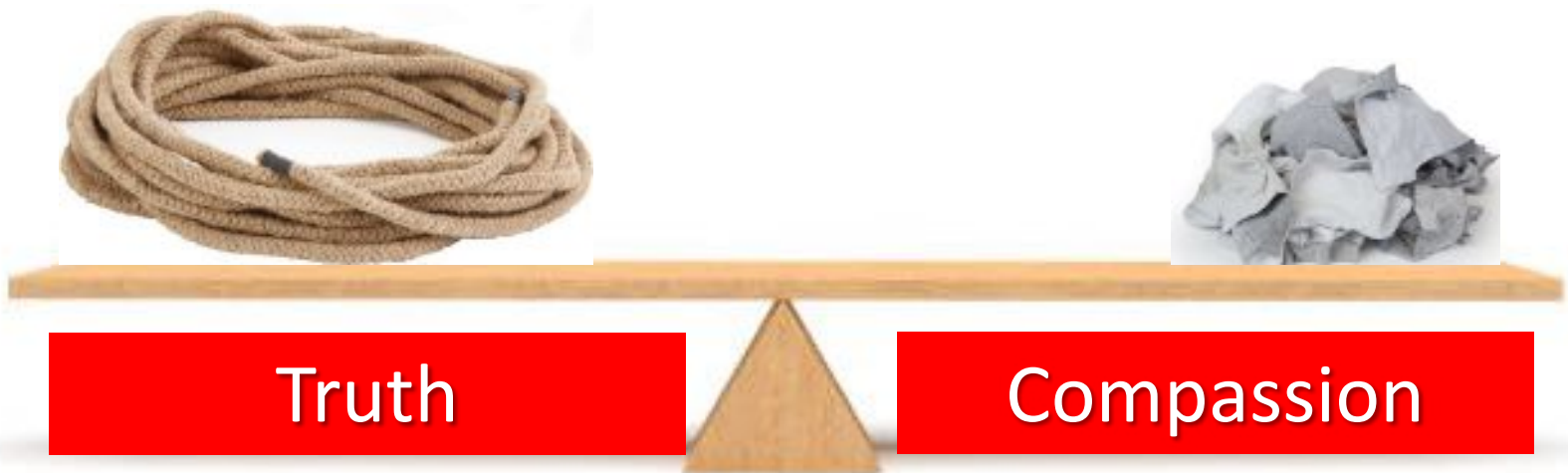
The Balance of Ropes & Rags

2 Timothy 2:25 “with **gentleness** (RAG) **correcting** (ROPE) those who are in opposition; if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of truth”



The Balance of Ropes & Rags

1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a **defense** (ROPE) to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with **gentleness** (RAG) and reverence”



Rags without ropes
will not help a
person get out of
the pit





Ropes without rags
may get the
person out, but he
will be damaged





There is a time for
you to bring ropes
& rags

James 5:19-20 “My brethren, if any among you strays from the truth, and one turns him back; let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death, and will cover a multitude of sins.”



There is a time
when you need to
let others use
ropes & rags on
you

**Proverbs 19:20 “Listen to
counsel and accept
discipline, that you may
be wise the rest of your
days.”**



Truth & Compassion: Ropes & Rags.

It's not one or the other. It's both.

Both in our preaching

Both in our leadership

Both in our homes

Both in our hearts

A person is crawling through a dark, circular tunnel. The tunnel's walls are made of a textured material, possibly stone or brick, and are illuminated from the bright light at the end. The person is in the foreground, seen from behind, and is moving towards the light. The overall mood is one of hope and perseverance.

Rising Up