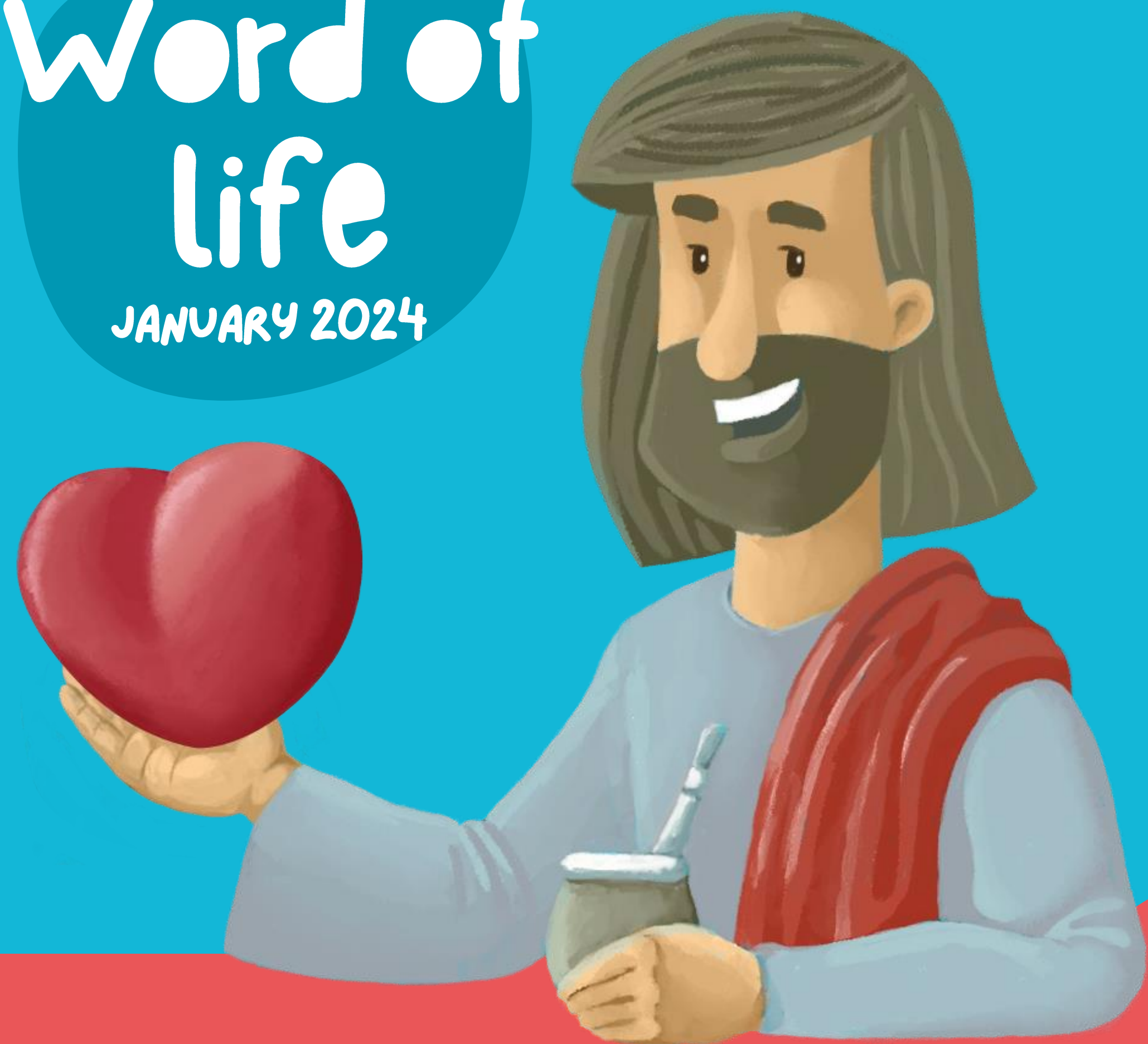


Word of life

JANUARY 2024



«You shall love the Lord your God ... and your neighbor as yourself.»

(Lk 10:27)

Jesus was going toward Jerusalem. A doctor of the Law (an expert in the Holy Scriptures) came up to him and asked:

TEACHER, WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GAIN ETERNAL LIFE?

WHAT IS WRITTEN IN THE BIBLE?

«YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL (...) AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF»

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



Jesus tells him the story of the Good Samaritan who took care of someone he didn't even know but was in need of help.



“If we are indifferent...toward our neighbor when they need something, whether it be something material or even spiritual, we cannot say that we love our neighbor as ourselves. We cannot say that we love them as Jesus loves them.” (1)

We too can **take care** of people who are around us – in our family, at school, in our neighborhood. We too can put into practice **the Golden Rule**. (2)



When do we have to love our neighbor?
In the present moment – right now!

This is **MARIANO's** experience:



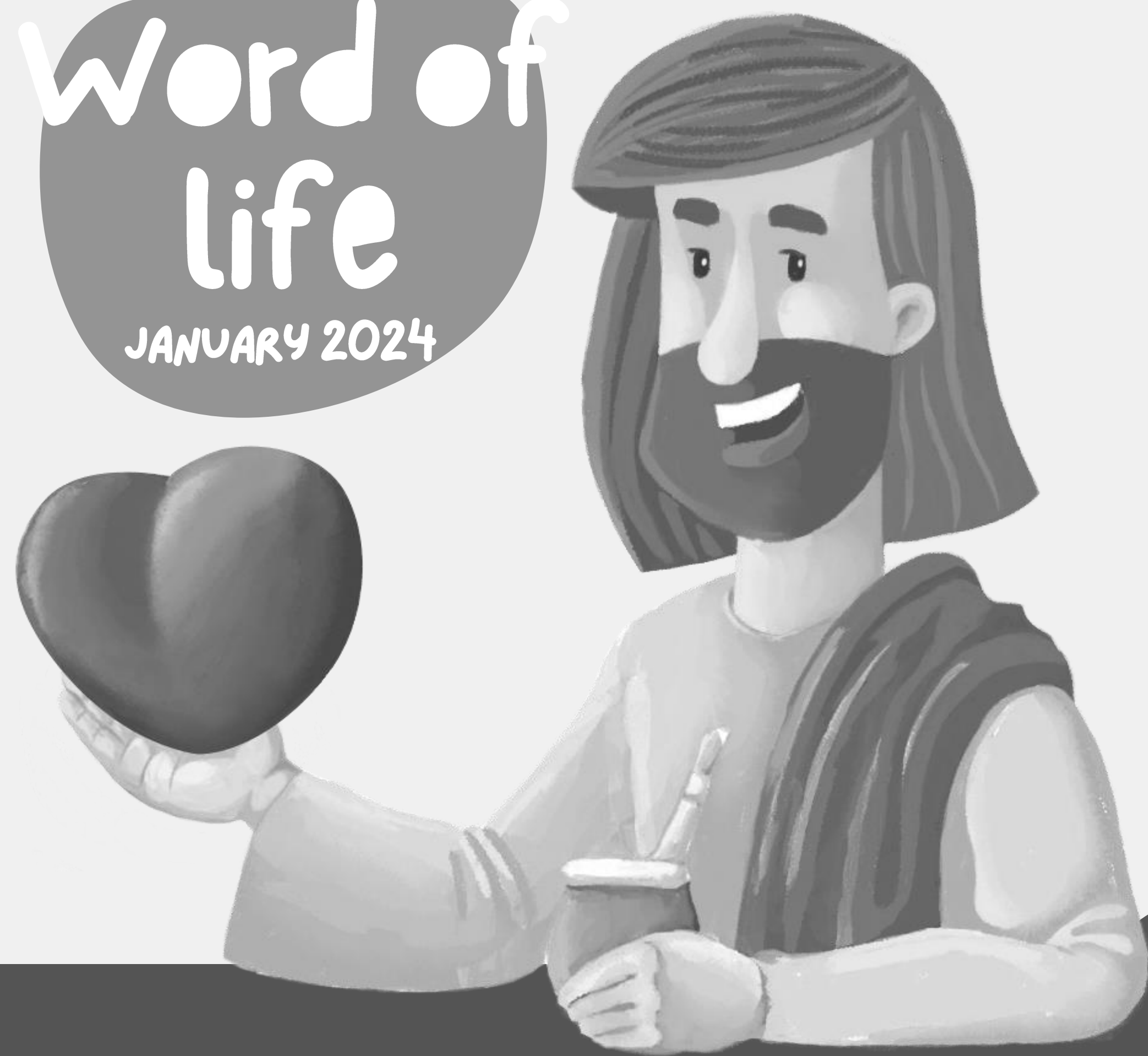
One day my parents were having an argument. After dinner I went to my computer and started playing a video game. But then **I remembered the “Golden Rule”** - “do to others as you would have them do to you.” I got the idea of preparing a plate of cookies so they would feel my love. **So I closed down the computer and went into the kitchen.**

I immediately felt much happier than if I had stayed in my room playing video games. I brought the cookies to my parents who were very surprised and happy. I was happy too, because even though it was just a few cookies, that little gesture **gave me great joy.**



1. Chiara Lubich, Word of Life, November 1985.

2. The “Golden Rule” is present in almost every religion, culture and tradition. It invites everyone to do to others what they would like done to them. In the Gospel it says: “Do to others as you would have them do to you” (Mt 7:12).



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