



# The Bible Challenge

# Medieval approach to Bible

**Literal** – the  
actual  
meaning



**Allegorical**  
– the  
figurative  
meaning

**Anagogical** – the  
mystical meaning,  
often pointing to  
'the End'

**Moral** – the  
meaning that  
inspires right  
living

# Modern (historical-critical) approach to Bible

Author

*Archaeology*

Languages

*Linguistics*



Recipients  
/ first  
hearers

*Historical  
research*

Sources

Literary  
genre

*Literary  
theories*

Lectio Divina

Holy Reading

# Lectio Divina

Letting the Bible stand over us,  
rather than us standing over the Bible

# Lectio Divina

Slow, quiet and deep reading of  
Scripture

# Lectio Divina

“There is yet more light and truth to  
break forth from God’s Holy Word”

John Robinson (1575-1625)

Pastor to the ‘Pilgrim Fathers’ on Mayflower

# Lectio Divina

Where listening prayer meets Bible  
reading

# Lectio Divina

God has a personal word for us,  
spoken through Scripture

# Lectio Divina

Time

Quiet mental space

Quiet physical space

# Lectio Divina

## **1. Lectio - read**

Choose a short passage

Read the passage slowly and  
repeatedly

Read it aloud and read it silently

Focus on the words: don't analyse

# Lectio Divina

## **2. Meditatio - contemplate**

Let everything fall away except the things that struck you during Lectio

Chew it over: repeat the word or phrase in your mind. How does it make you feel?

What questions come to mind about what God is saying to you?

# Lectio Divina

## **3. Oratio - prayer**

Talk with God about what you have received.

Why is God saying this?

Be patient: be attentive to your heart

# Lectio Divina

## **4. Contemplatio -**

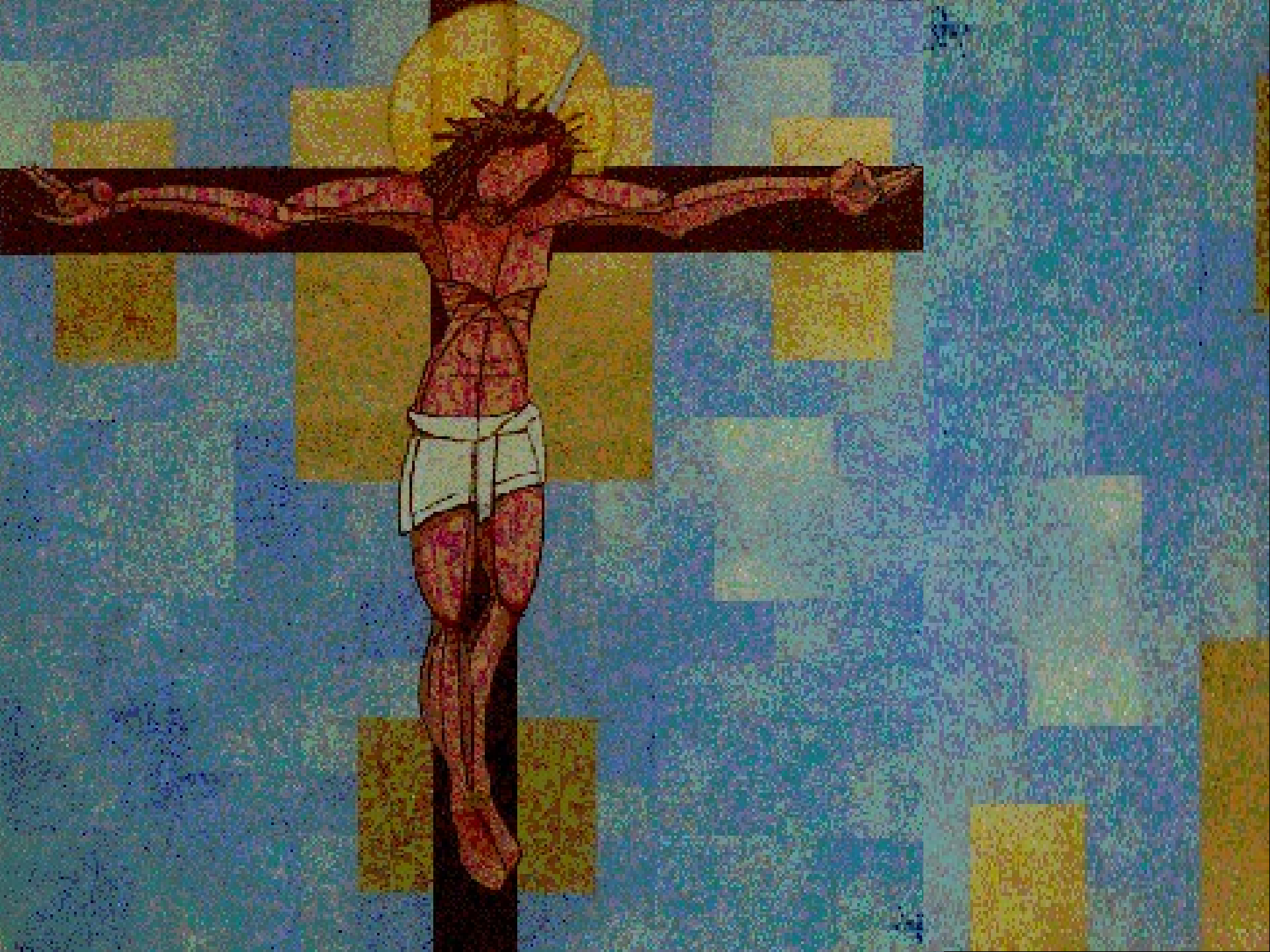
Be still and silent: pay attention to 'the still small voice'

Sit at Jesus' feet; adore and attend

# Lectio Divina

Keep a note book of what God has said





# Lectio

**1** What marvelous love the Father has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who he is or what he's up to.

**2-3** But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing him, become like him.

**All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.**

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What questions come to mind about what God is saying to you?

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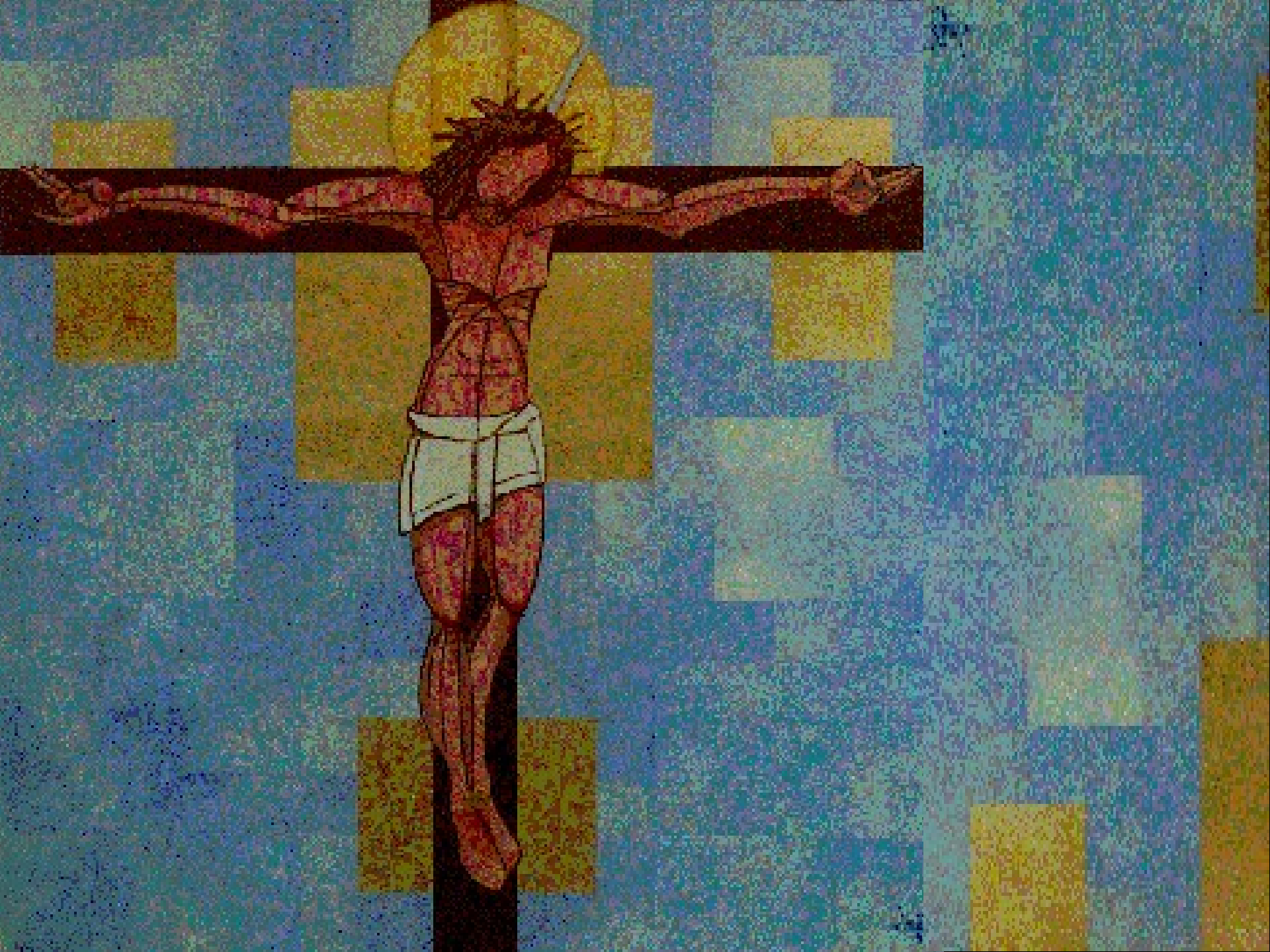
Why is God saying this?

Be patient: be attentive to your heart

## **4. Contemplatio -**

Be still and silent: pay attention to 'the still small voice'

Sit at Jesus' feet; adore and attend





# Lectio

**Then he said, "Do you understand what I have done to you? You address me as 'Teacher' and 'Master,' and rightly so. That is what I am. So if I, the Master and Teacher, washed your feet, you must now wash each other's feet. I've laid down a pattern for you. What I've done, you do.**

**I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the**

# Lectio

**5 Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"**

**6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 7 If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."**

**8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."**

**9 Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**