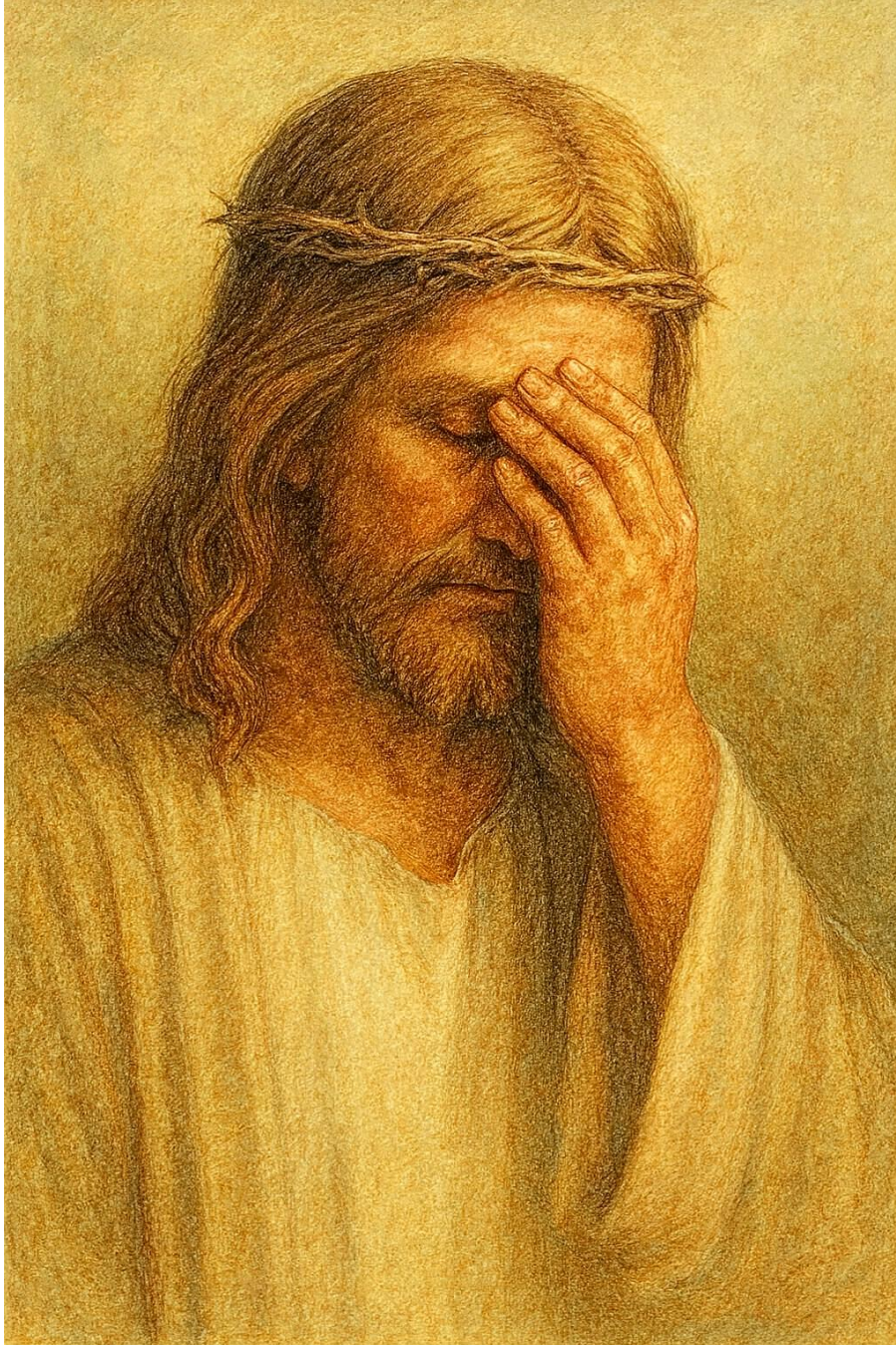


II: Trumpianity Defiles What It Means to be a Christian



“Going to church doesn’t make you a Christian any more than going to a garage will make you an automobile.”

Reverend Billy Sunday

Have you noticed how self-proclaimed “Christian nationalists” wearing red MAGA baseball caps are never also wearing *WWJD* bracelets? That’s because if they were to seriously ask themselves *What Would Jesus Do?* the answer would be the antithesis of Trumpianity. To support Trump and Trumpism is to do the opposite of what Jesus told us to do; it is to be the opposite of who Jesus told us to be.

In his 2018 article “The Cruelty is the Point” for *The Atlantic* Adam Serwer wrote, “President Trump and his supporters find community by rejoicing in the suffering of those they hate and fear.” Or as George Orwell (through the voice of O’Brien) put it in his prescient novel *1984*, “Power is inflicting pain and humiliation.”

The un-Christian cruelty of Trump’s second term has already made his first term seem like an oasis of kindness by comparison. Hundreds of thousands of human beings have been fired from civil service jobs; interred in inhumane detention camps or deported to foreign concentration camps; forced to carry unwanted pregnancies and then told to pull themselves up by their own bootstraps with one hand while changing diapers with the other; experienced deterioration of public services ranging from disaster management to Social Security. Millions of Americans will soon lose their healthcare to finance Trump’s tax cuts for the already wealthy. Millions more live in fear of what Trump’s MAGA minions and his ICE brigades might do to them.

Already in Trump’s second term we have seen blatant corruption on a scale that would heretofore have been unimaginable. As former President Barack Obama has noted, had he or any other Democrat, or pre-Trump Republican for that matter, engaged in such skullduggery and self-enrichment, Republicans in Congress would have been howling for impeachment and imprisonment. Jesus saved his harshest condemnation not for the tax collectors, not for the prostitutes, not for the homosexuals, but for the hypocrites. Not since slaveholders cited the Bible as justification for human bondage have we seen such hypocrisy at such a high level.

It does not take a Biblical scholar to know that pandering to an adulterous, narcissistic, false-witness-bearing, golden-calf-worshiping, fear-mongering, hatred-spewing, violence-inciting sexual predator is not the right or righteous answer to the question *What Would Jesus Do?*

Jesus warned us to “beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” Donald Trump is not “the chosen one” he claims to be. He is the false prophet that Saint Paul warned the Galatians to beware of, telling them to “let him be accursed.”