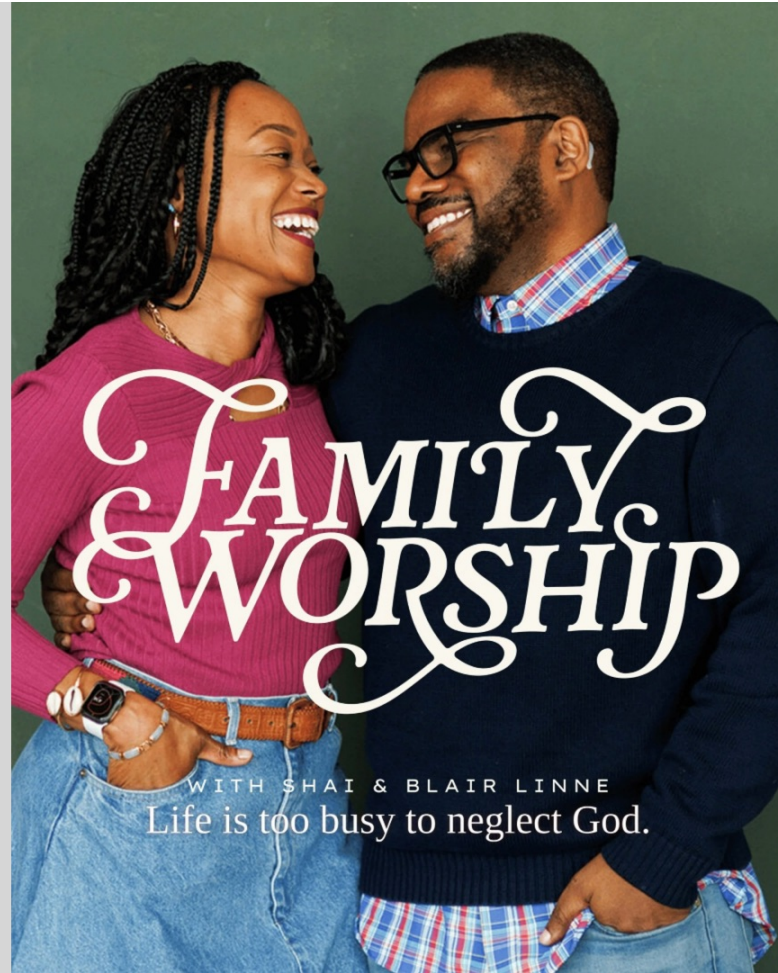


Getting/Giving Forgiveness  
Matthew 18:21-35



# FAMILY & WORSHIP

WITH SHAI & BLAIR LINNE  
Life is too busy to neglect God.

# FAMILY & WORSHIP

WITH SHAI & BLAIR LINNE

March 13-14, 2026

NORTH HILLS CHURCH  
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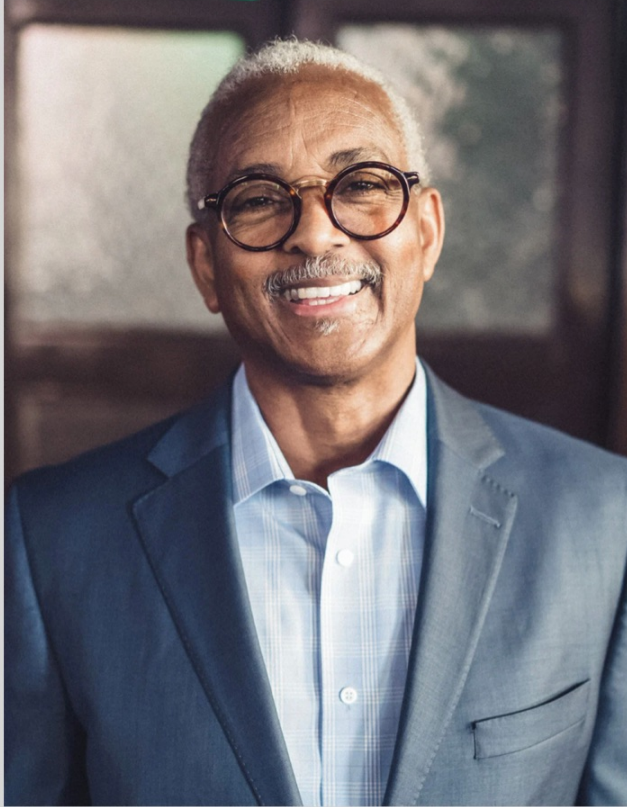


**REV. CLEMENTA**  
PINCKNEY





Dylan Roof



“I forgive you. My family  
forgives you.”

Anthony Thompson

“That man, that young man . . . I forgive him. I forgive him because it was what Christ did and is what Charlie would do. The answer to hate is not hate.”

Erika Kirk

“I hate my opponents, and I don’t want the best for them.”

President Trump

A sign of weakness



A sign of weakness

A trivializing of evil

A sign of weakness

A trivializing of evil

A delusional response

A cover for abuse

A cover for abuse

A means of exposing women to unsafe  
conditions

A cover for abuse

A means of exposing women to unsafe conditions

A harming of the victim



# Sermon on Relationships - Matthew 18

The basis of relationships -  
childlike humility (1-9)

The value of relationships -  
individual significance (10-14)

The upkeep of relationships -  
progressive communication (15-20)

The healing of relationships -  
**continual forgiveness** (21-35)



# 1. The **question** (21-22)

“Then Peter came up and said to him, ‘Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?’” (21)

“Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.’” (22)

1. The question (21-22)
2. The **illustration** (23-34)

Three main characters



**King**

**King**

“You owe 10,000 talents”

**King**

“You owe 10,000 talents”

talent = 20 years of wages

## **King**

“You owe 10,000 talents”

talent = 20 years of wages

10,000 talents = 200,000 years of wages

King

**Servant A**

“Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” (26b)

“And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.” (27)

“And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.” (27)

pity = (splachnizomai) compassion



“But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii,

“and seizing him, he began to choke him,  
saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’” (28)

“and seizing him, he began to choke him,  
saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’” (28)

denarii = one day’s wage, around \$23,000

King

Servant A

**Servant B**

“... fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’” (29)

“He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.” (30)

“Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’

“And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’



“And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.” (32-34)

1. The question (21-22)
2. The illustration (23-34)
3. The **application** (35)

“So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (35)

King = God

King = God

Servant A = you

King = God

Servant A = you

Servant B = someone who has offended you

\* When you **get** forgiveness,  
you **give** forgiveness!

“He who is forgiven little, loves little.”

Luke 7:47b



Two common ways we shut down forgiveness:

1. We **deceive** ourselves.

1. We deceive ourselves.

\* We don't see our debt as **unpayable**.

patience (makrothumeo) = longsuffering

patience (makrothumeo) = longsuffering  
“makros” = long (in time)

patience (makrothumeo) = longsuffering

“makros” = long (in time)

“thumos” = wrath

“... the Son of Man came not to be served  
but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom  
for many.”

Matthew 20:28

1. We deceive ourselves.
2. We **dehumanize** others.



1. We deceive ourselves.
2. We dehumanize others.
  - \* We don't see our neighbor as **forgiveable**.

“What these male feminists fail to realize is that, as men, they will always be oppressors.

“No matter how many feminist marches they attend or how much feminist literature they read, they are not exempt from perpetuating the subordination of women.”

Nian Hu



“Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners.”

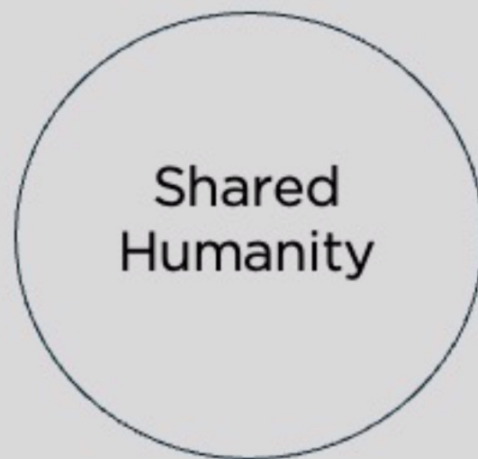
Miroslav Volf



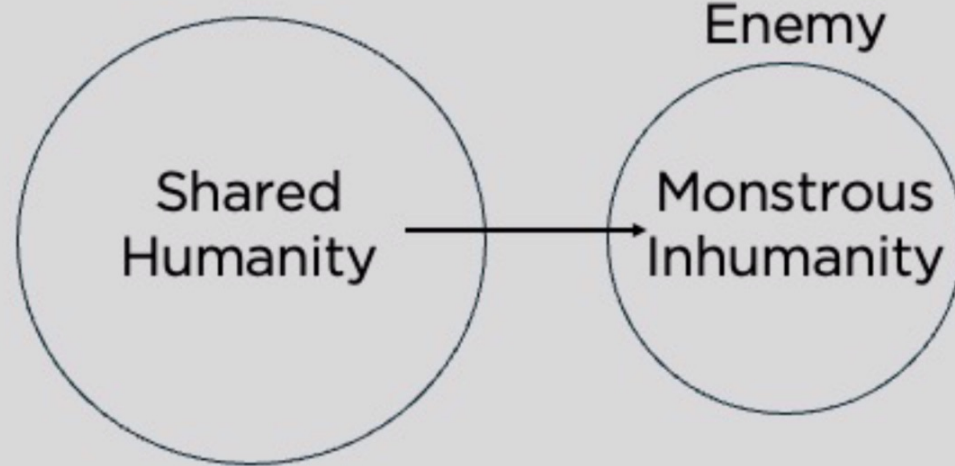
“But no one can be in the presence of the God of the crucified Messiah for long without overcoming this double exclusion . . .”

Miroslav Volf

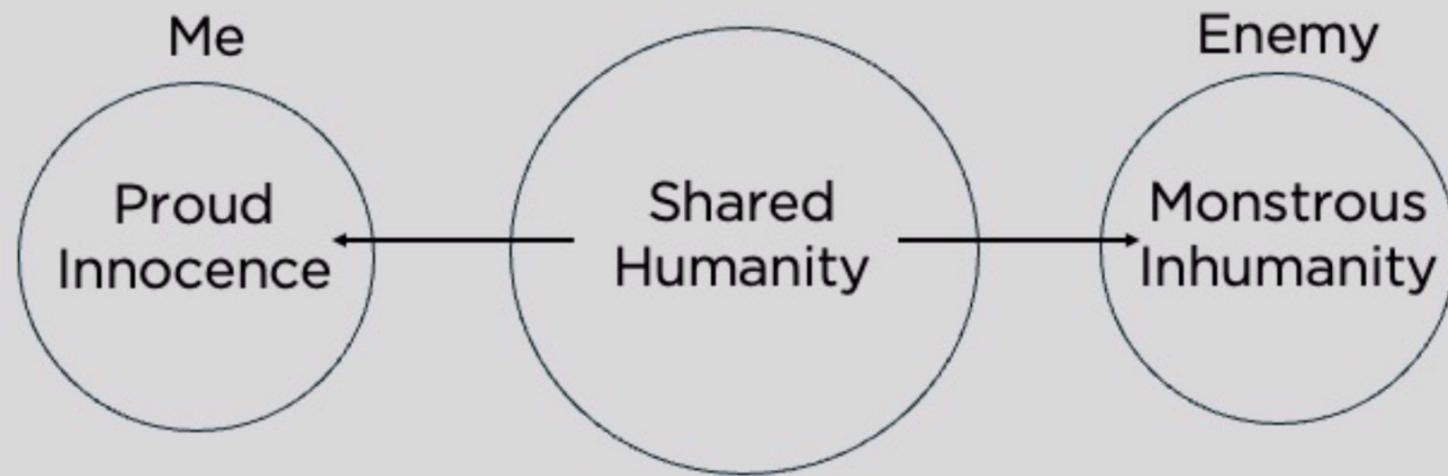
Double Exclusion



## Double Exclusion



## Double Exclusion





Conclusion: The flow of forgiveness

Down - We **receive forgiveness** from God.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

1 John 1:7-9

Down - We receive forgiveness from God.

In - We **relish forgiveness** in our hearts.

Down - We receive forgiveness from God.

In - We **relish forgiveness** in our hearts.

relish = to enjoy, to experience the pleasure of

Down - We receive forgiveness from God.

In - We **relish forgiveness** in our hearts.

relish = to enjoy, to experience the pleasure of  
“taste and see . . .”



“My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!  
My sin, not in part but the whole  
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!”

“Resentment is like **drinking poison** and then waiting for the **other person** to **die.**”

Carrie Fisher

gastrointestinal issues

gastrointestinal issues  
difficulty breathing

gastrointestinal issues

difficulty breathing

dizziness

gastrointestinal issues

difficulty breathing

dizziness

various forms of irritation

chest pain

chest pain

blurred vision



chest pain

blurred vision

irritability

“And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.”

Matthew 18:34

“And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.”

Matthew 18:34

jailers = torturers

“Resentment is bittersweet. If we did not cherish it, we would let it go. What sort of rewards do we get from our resentment? Why do we keep score?

“First, it makes us feel superior to the person we resent. . . . [Also, we] enjoy the feeling of hurt that the memory kindles. . . . We feel noble and worthy as the decent person who was wrongly hurt.

“Resentments serve a double purpose: they give us treasured pain, and they give us a chance to justify ourselves. . . . [Yet] it depresses us, robs us of gratitude, sneaks into other relationships.”      Lewis Smedes

“And whenever you stand praying, forgive, if you have anything against anyone, so that your Father also who is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”

Mark 11:25

Down - We receive forgiveness from God.

In - We relish forgiveness in our hearts.

Out - We **release forgiveness** to our neighbor.



“release”

(negative) - releasing them from debt

“release”

(negative) - releasing them from debt

(positive) - releasing the mercy we receive  
from God

“Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God.”

Romans 12:19a



Herman and Elly Van Slooten

“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,  
forgiving one another, as God in Christ  
forgave you.”

Ephesians 4:32