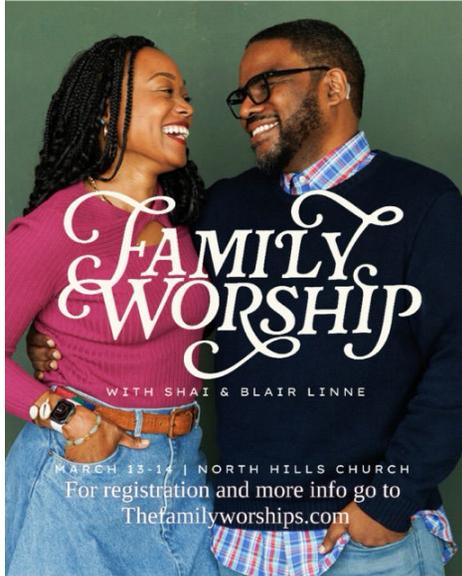


A Reliable Refuge  
Matthew 19:16-30



# FAMILY & WORSHIP

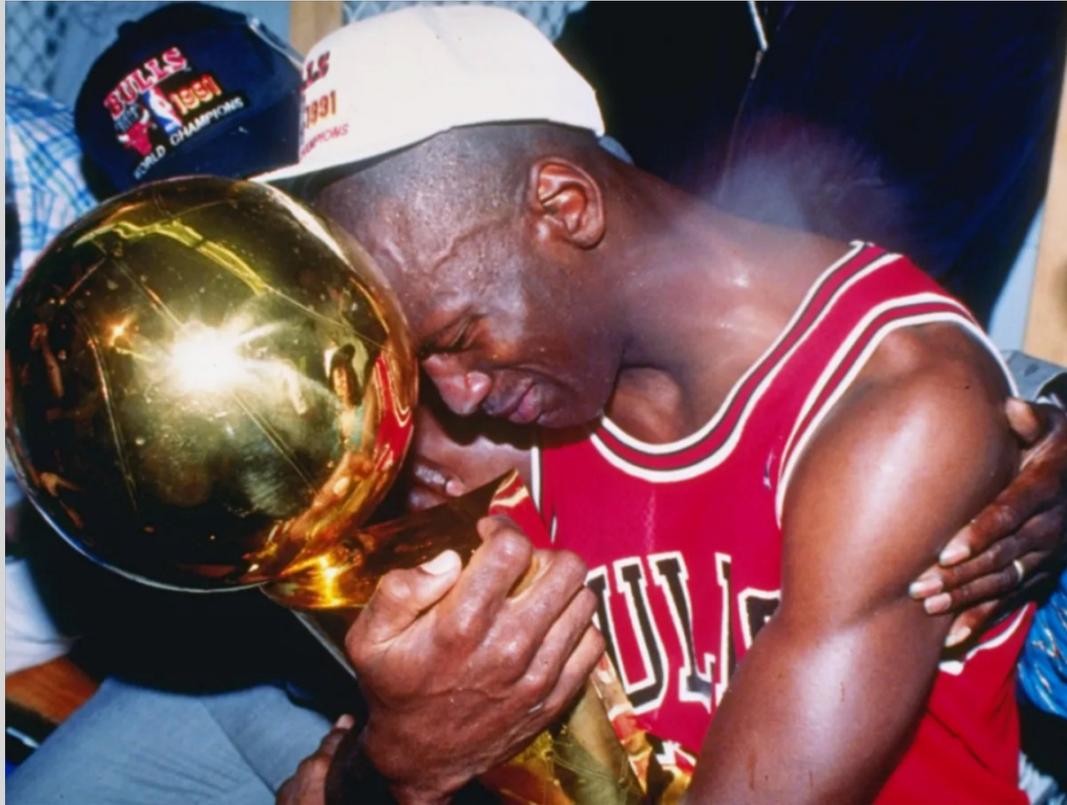
WITH SHAI & BLAIR LINNE

March 13-14, 2026  
NORTH HILLS CHURCH  
TAYLORS, SC



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“The game of basketball has been everything to me – my refuge, my place I’ve always gone when I needed to find comfort and peace.

“It’s been a source of intense pain and a source of the most intense feelings of joy and satisfaction. . . .

“It’s been a relationship that has evolved over time and given me the greatest respect and love for the game.”

Michael Jordan

“Limits like fears are just an illusion.”

Michael Jordan

“The game of basketball has been everything to me – my refuge, my place . . . to find comfort and peace.”

Michael Jordan

athletic ability

athletic ability

music

athletic ability

music

intellect

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

money

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

money

family

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

money

family

alcohol

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

money

family

alcohol

social media

athletic ability

music

intellect

relationships

money

family

alcohol

social media

religious reputation

**young** (20, 22) - “young man”

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**respectful** (Mk. 10:17) - “knelt ... good teacher”

**spiritual** (16) - “have eternal life?”

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**wealthy** (22) - “he had great possessions”

# 1. Two considerations

Think about **who I am.**

Think about **who I am.**

“Why do you ask me about what is good?

There is only one who is good.” (17a)

“No one does good, not even one.”

Romans 3:12

Think about who I am.

Think about **who you are**.

“‘If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’ He said to him, ‘Which ones?’

“And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder,  
You shall not commit adultery,  
You shall not steal,  
You shall not bear false witness,’

“Honor your father and mother, and,  
You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 19:17b-19

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Leviticus 19:18

“All these I have kept. But what do I still lack?” (20b)

The range of words used -

Eternal life (16)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Enter the kingdom of God (24)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Enter the kingdom of God (24)

Who then can be saved (25)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Enter the kingdom of God (24)

Who then can be saved (25)

In the new world (28)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Enter the kingdom of God (24)

Who then can be saved (25)

In the new world (28)

Inherit eternal life (29)

Eternal life (16)

Enter life (17)

Be perfect (21)

Treasure in heaven (21)

Follow me (21, 27, 28)

Enter the kingdom of heaven (23)

Enter the kingdom of God (24)

Who then can be saved (25)

In the new world (28)

Inherit eternal life (29)

First will be last and last first (30)

\* Jesus is going with this young man  
into his own **refuge!**

“Jesus said to him, ‘If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.’” (21)

Why did Jesus say this?

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2. Two conclusions

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2. Two conclusions

- I **demand more** than you think.

“When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.” (22)

“And Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Truly, I say to you, only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.’”

“Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.’

“When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, ‘Who then can be saved?’” (23-25)



“What do I still lack?” (20b)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 5:3

“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 18:3

“for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven”

Matthew 19:14b

“But Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” (26)

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

I demand more than you think.

I **provide more** than you think.

“Then Peter said in reply, ‘See, we have left everything and followed you. What then will we have?’

“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne,’

“you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.” (27-28)

“new world” (palliggenesia) = regeneration  
renewal

“paliggenesia”

“paliggenesia”

palin = again

genesis = birth

beginning

“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake,

“will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first.” (29-30)

“Oh, how abundant is your goodness, which  
you have stored up for those who fear you  
and worked for those who take refuge in you,”

Psalm 31:19a

3 common signs of an unreliable refuge:

3 common signs of an unreliable refuge:

- **anxiety**

“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD,  
whose trust is the LORD.

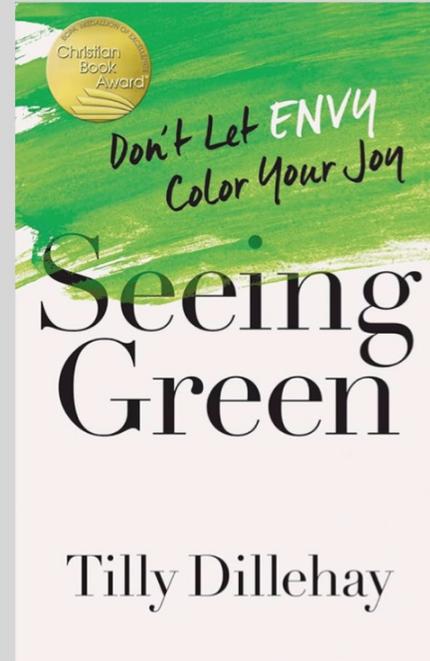
He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,

“and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Jeremiah 17:7-8

3 common signs of an unreliable refuge:

- anxiety
- **envy**



“Something is wrong with us. Something is missing. We’ve been locked out of something, but we want more than anything else to be let back in.

“Something is calling to us. We want to be enveloped by it, whatever it is.

“So when we find an experience that lets us brush our fingers, even for a moment, on this beauty or truth or fame or love that seems to lurk behind the locked doors of the world around us,

“we will do whatever it takes to chase that  
experience down for another taste.”

Tilly Dillehay

“How can you begrudge the difference between an eternally happy baker and an eternally gleeful cupbearer? They are both living in joy and serving the king.

“How can you look at the hairline difference between one eternity of bliss and another eternity of bliss in a slightly different color?”

“How can you find the heart to quibble over the difference between having been forgiven a death-sentence worth of sin and having been forgiven a death-sentence worth of different sin?”

“The more you see your own position through God’s eyes, and the better you understand the outrageous overflow of good things coming your way in the presence of the Eyes That Matter,

“the less possible it will be to mutter to yourself over your friend’s husband’s new job.”

Tilly Dillehay

“Prepare yourself to be a citizen of whichever kingdom you choose. You will play by its rules forever.”

Tilly Dillehay

3 common signs of an unreliable refuge:

- anxiety
- envy
- **stingy**

Stinginess is the close-fisted grip of  
insecurity and selfishness.

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insecurity and selfishness.

Generosity is the open-handed gift of  
security and kindness.

“As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

“They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share,

“thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.”

1 Timothy 6:17-19

What/who do you tend to turn to as a refuge?

In what ways is God showing you this is an unreliable refuge?

Will you turn from that unreliable refuge and follow Jesus?

My worth is not in what I own  
Not in the strength of flesh and bone  
But in the costly wounds of love  
At the cross

My worth is not in skill or name  
In win or lose, in pride or shame  
But in the blood of Christ that flowed  
At the cross

I rejoice in my Redeemer  
Greatest treasure, wellspring of my soul  
I will trust in him, no other  
My soul is satisfied in him alone