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Overcoming Offence



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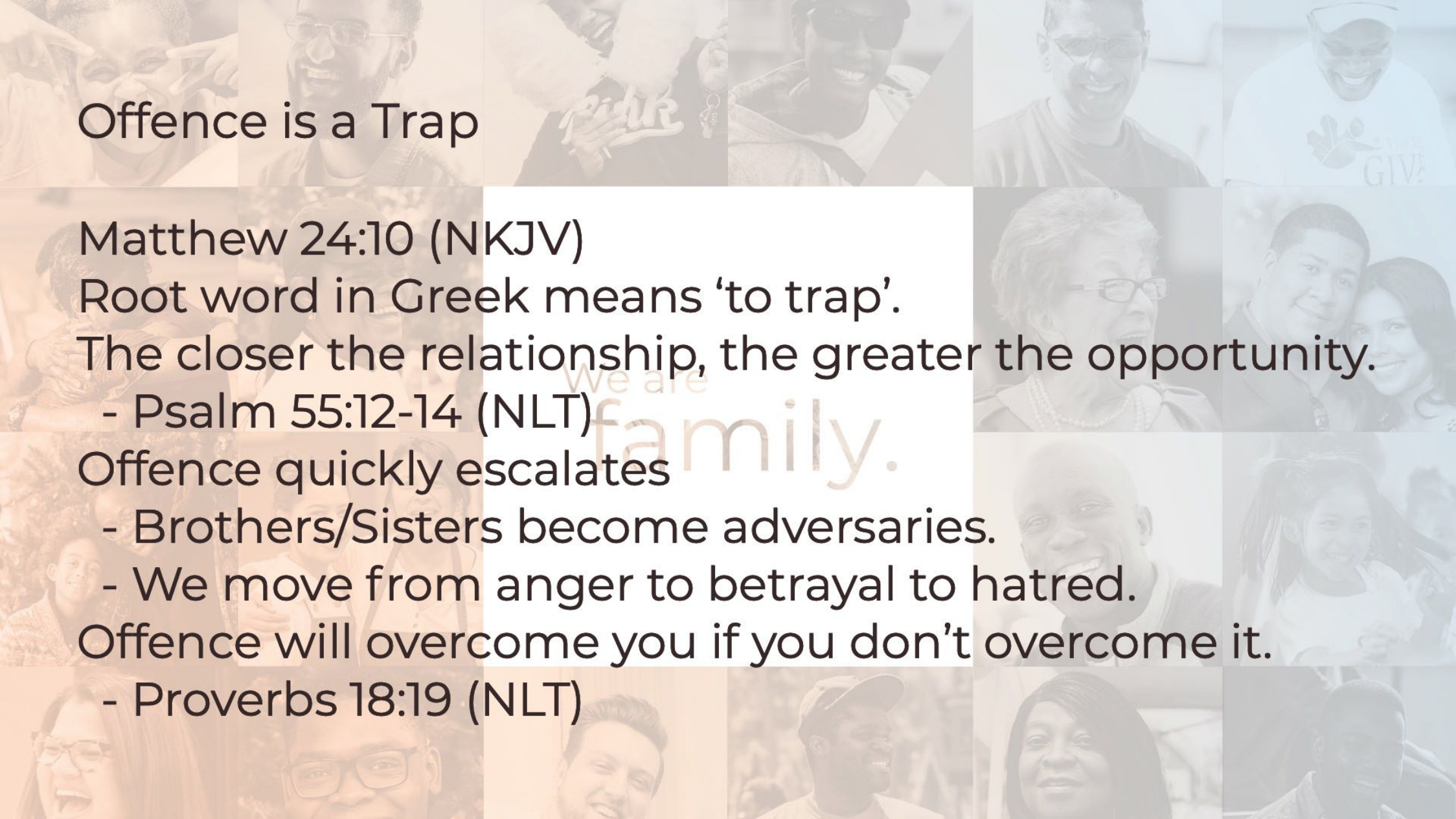
Matthew 5:21-25 (NIV)

The enemy's agenda is destruction (John 10:10)

His strategy is division (Matthew 12:25)

His tactic is offense (Matthew 24:10)

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Offence is a Trap

Matthew 24:10 (NKJV)

Root word in Greek means 'to trap'.

The closer the relationship, the greater the opportunity.

- Psalm 55:12-14 (NLT)

Offence quickly escalates

- Brothers/Sisters become adversaries.

- We move from anger to betrayal to hatred.

Offence will overcome you if you don't overcome it.

- Proverbs 18:19 (NLT)



Overcoming Offence:

1. Identify the Traps
2. Settle Matters Quickly
3. Choose Forgiveness

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you. - Lewis Smedes

Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

- Boundless forgiveness

Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it's a constant attitude. - Martin Luther King



3. Choose Forgiveness (Cont'd)

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

- Go be reconciled.
- If you are the one offended, it is your responsibility to go to the person.
- We tend to judge ourselves by our intentions, but we judge others by their actions.
- Never let the situation mean more than the relationship.



3. Choose Forgiveness (Cont'd)

Matthew 5:23-24 (NIV)

- It is always more rewarding to resolve a situation than to dissolve a relationship.
- Forgiveness is the way of the cross.

Romans 12:18 (ESV)

It's all about the love of God.

- Proverbs 17:9 (ESV)
- Proverbs 10:12 (ESV)



4. Be Prepared

Luke 17:1 (NKJV)

Resolve in your heart that you will forgive those who offend you.

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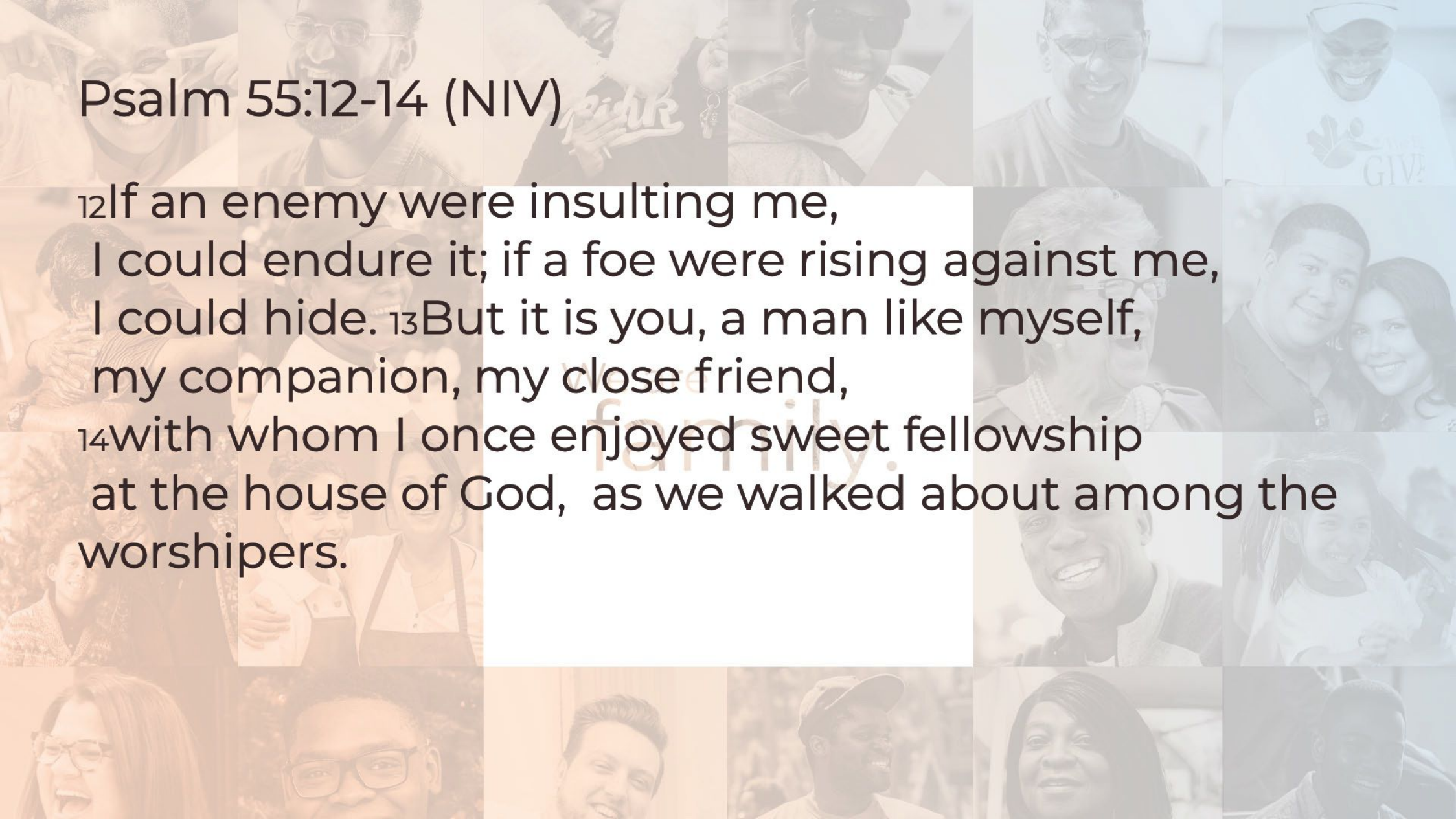


Conclusion

Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

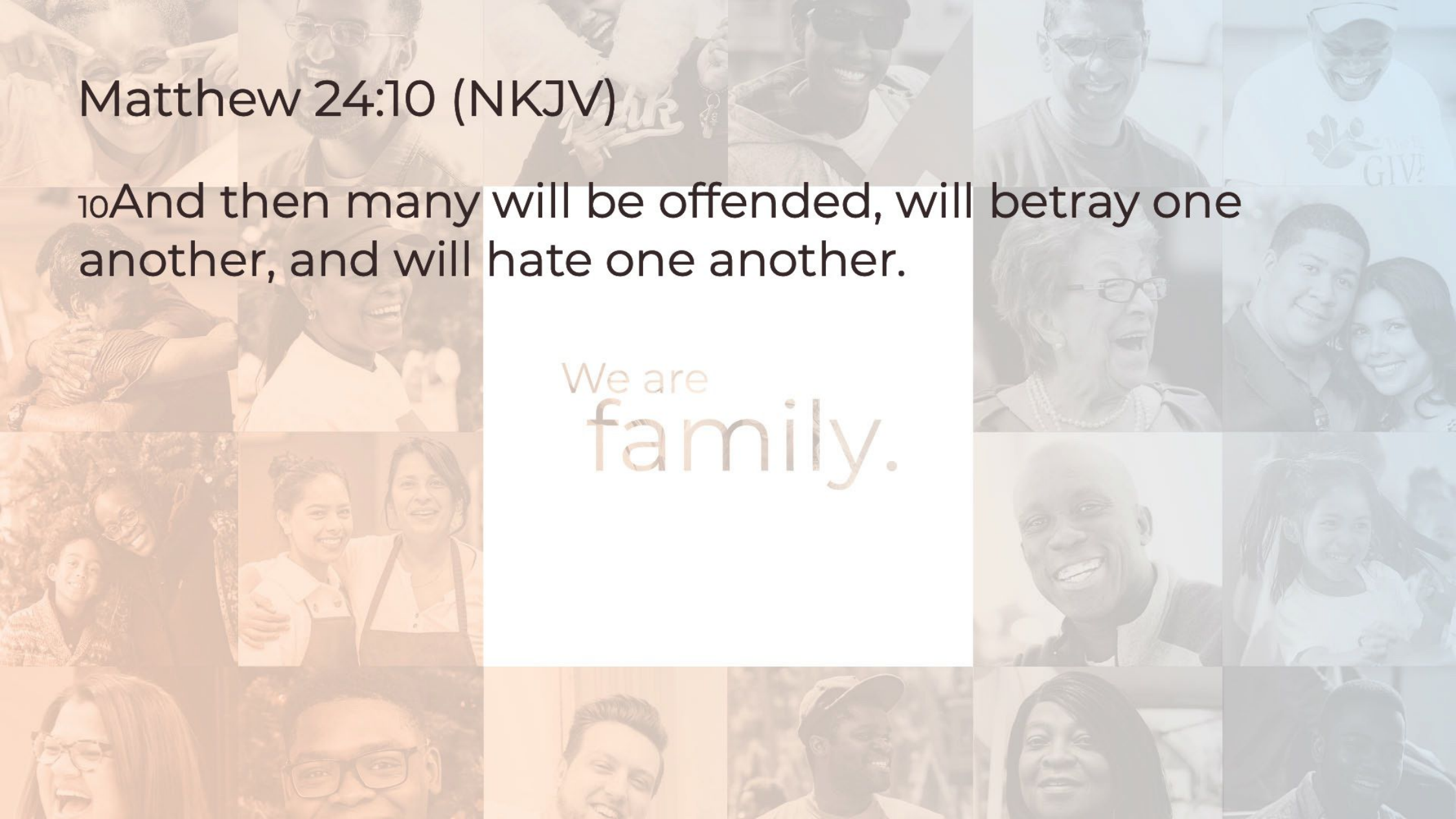
Mark 11:22-25 (NLT)

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Psalm 55:12-14 (NIV)

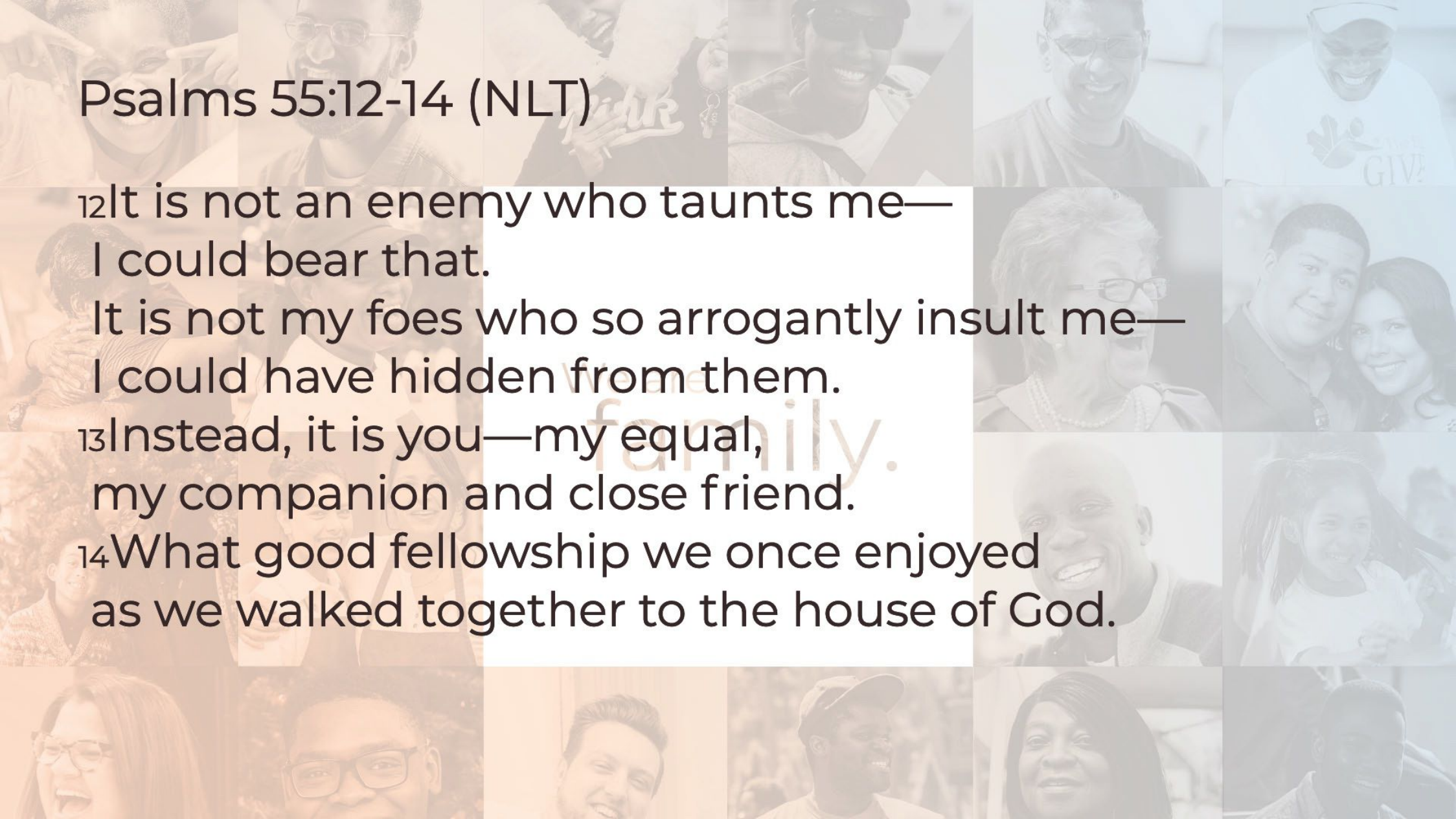
¹²If an enemy were insulting me,
I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me,
I could hide. ¹³But it is you, a man like myself,
my companion, my close friend,
¹⁴with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship
at the house of God, as we walked about among the
worshippers.



Matthew 24:10 (NKJV)

10And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another.

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Psalms 55:12-14 (NLT)

¹²It is not an enemy who taunts me—
I could bear that.

It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me—
I could have hidden from them.

¹³Instead, it is you—my equal,
my companion and close friend.

¹⁴What good fellowship we once enjoyed
as we walked together to the house of God.

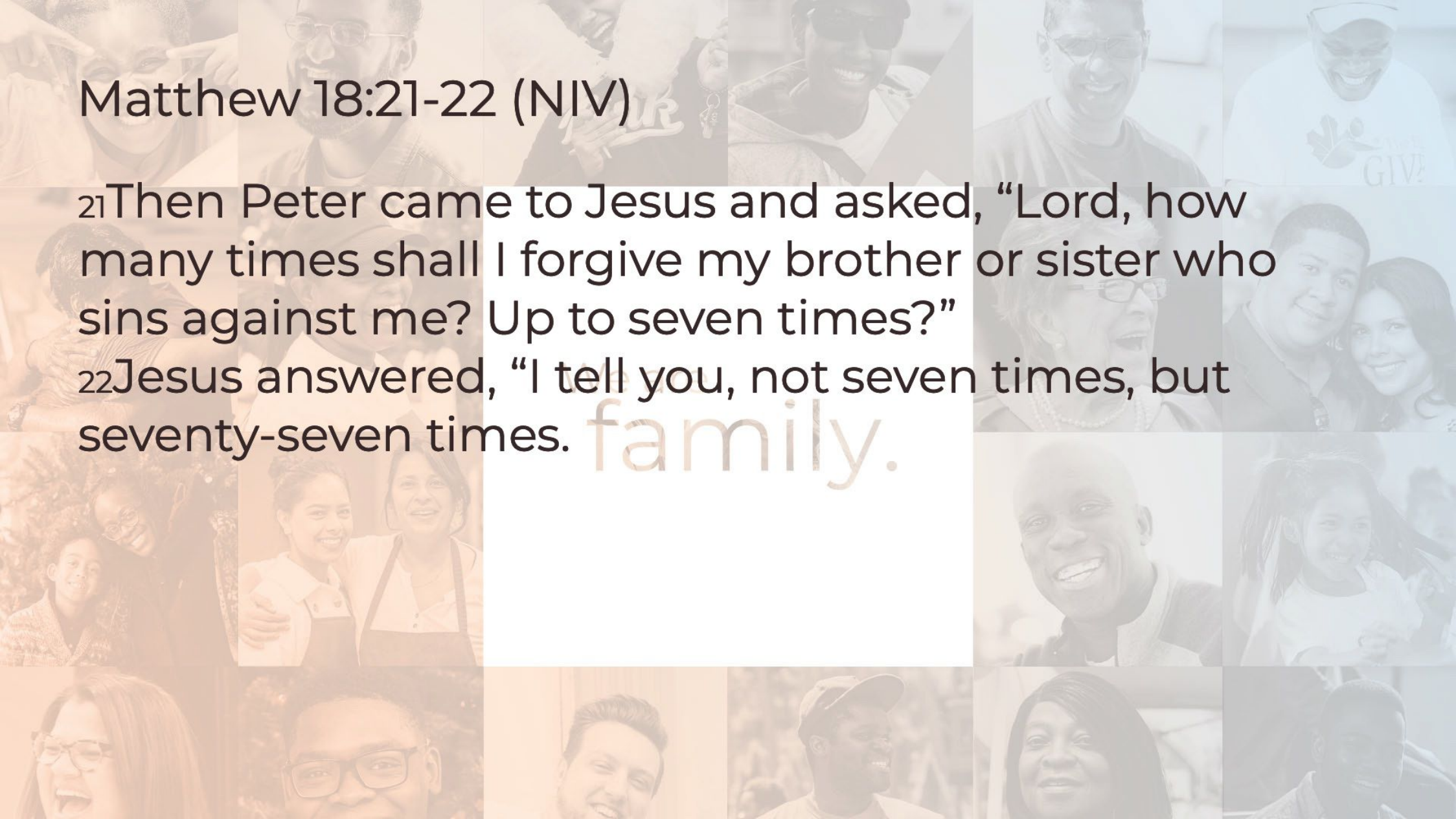


Proverbs 18:19 (NLT)

¹⁹An offended friend is harder to win back than a fortified city.

Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with bars.

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Matthew 18:21-22 (NIV)

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **family.**”



Romans 12:18 (ESV)

18If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

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Proverbs 17:9 (ESV)

Whoever covers an offense seeks love,
but he who repeats a matter separates close friends.

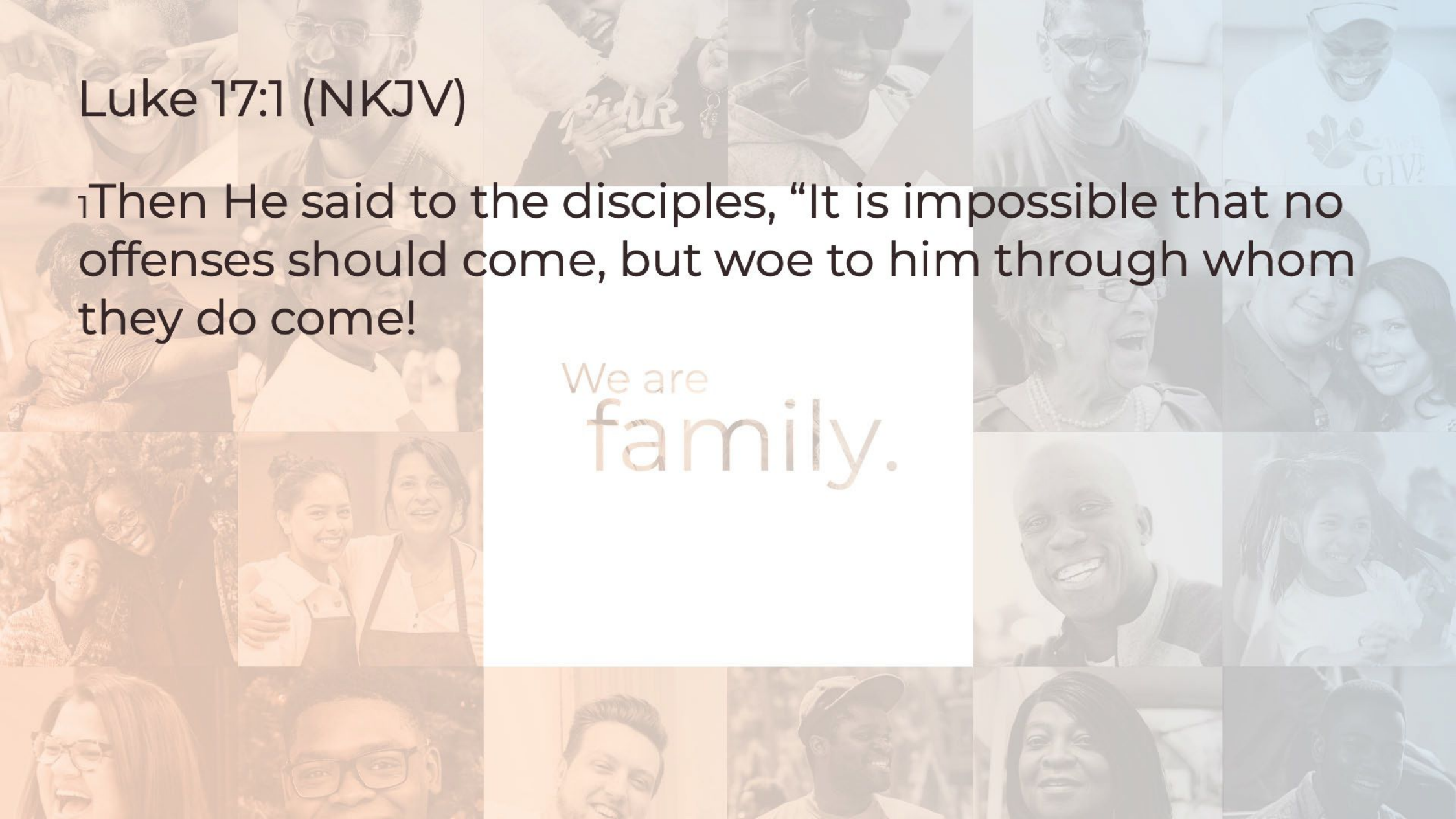
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Proverbs 10:12 (ESV)

¹²Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all offenses.

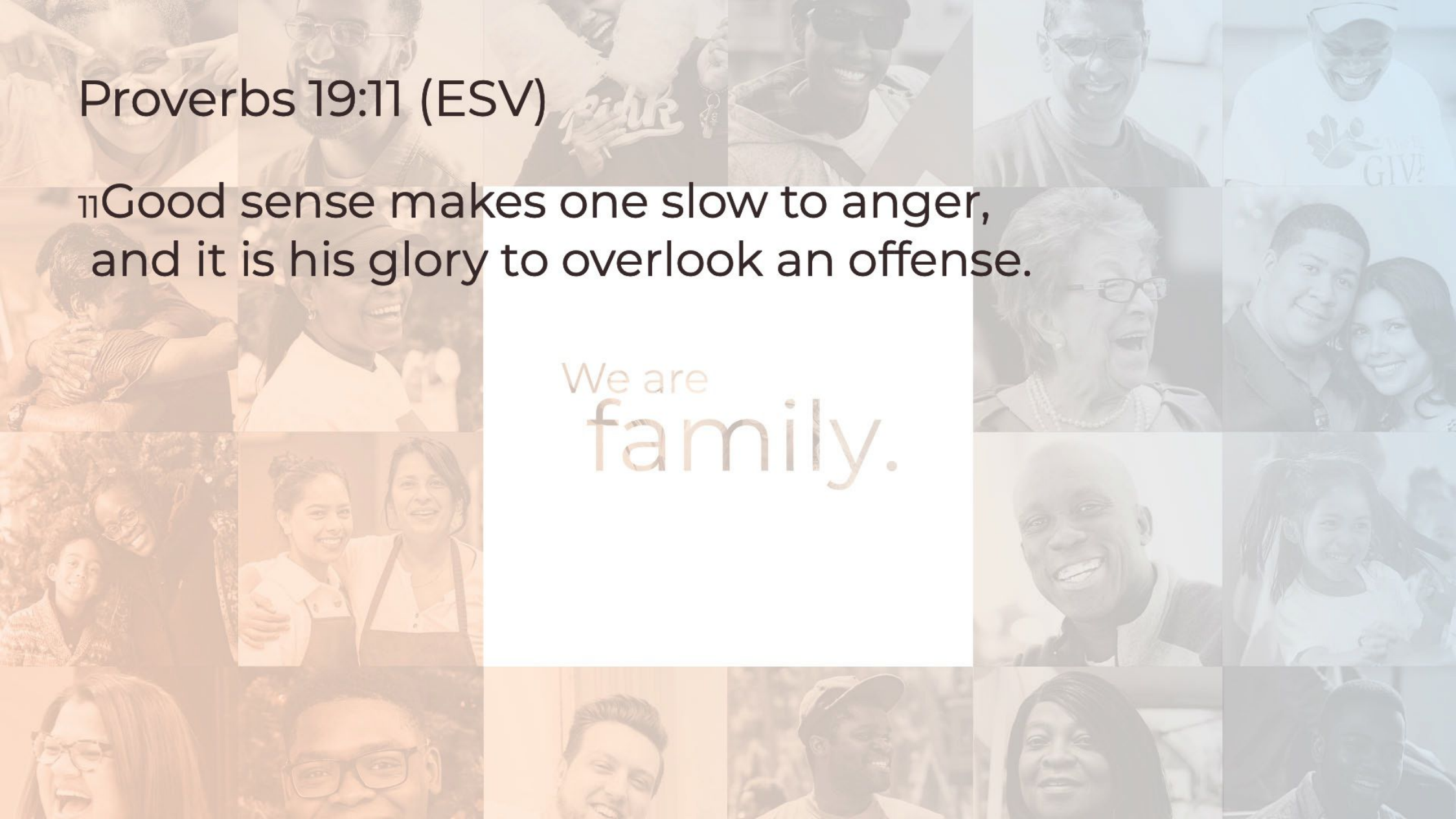
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Luke 17:1 (NKJV)

Then He said to the disciples, "It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!

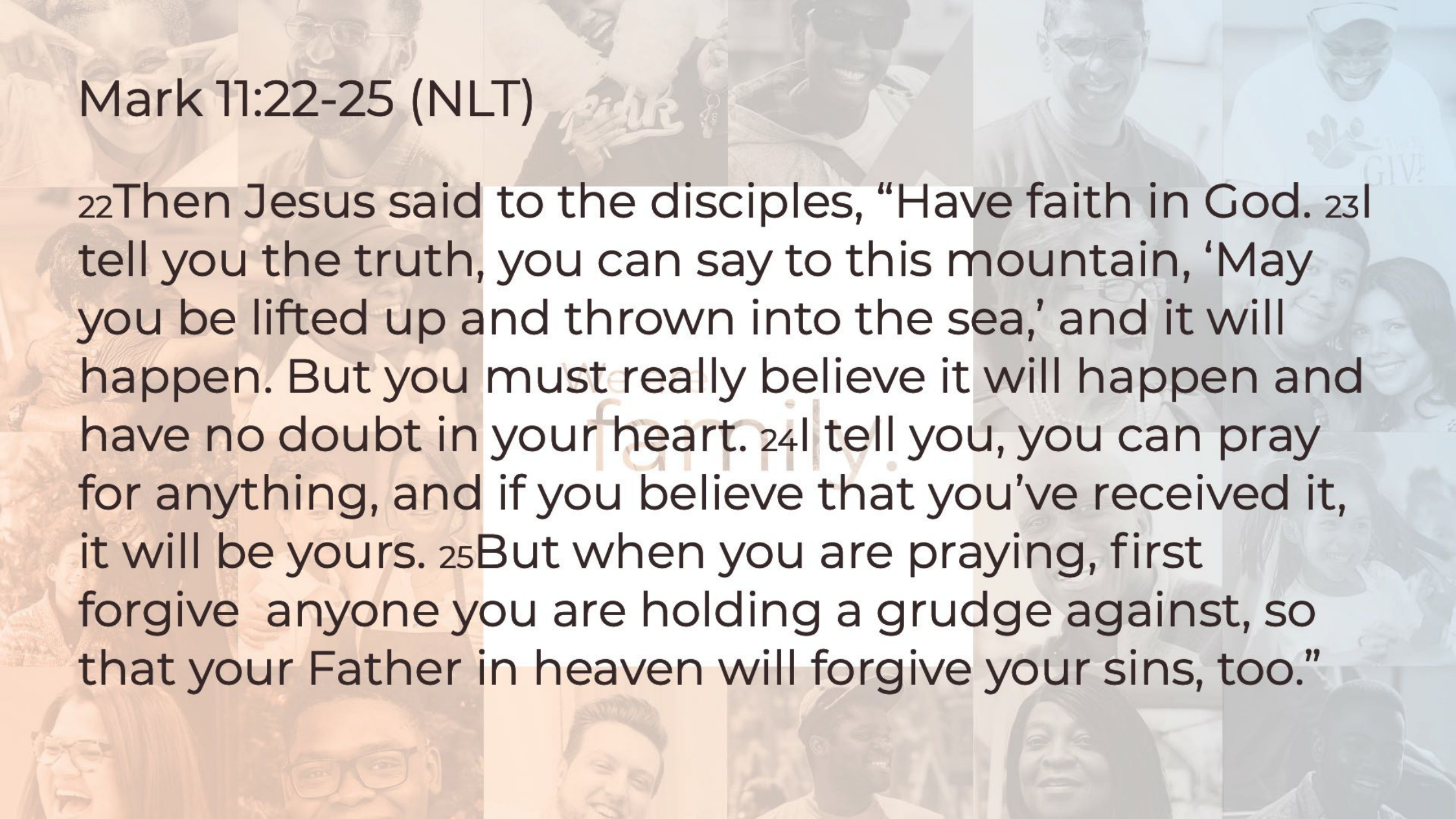
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Proverbs 19:11 (ESV)

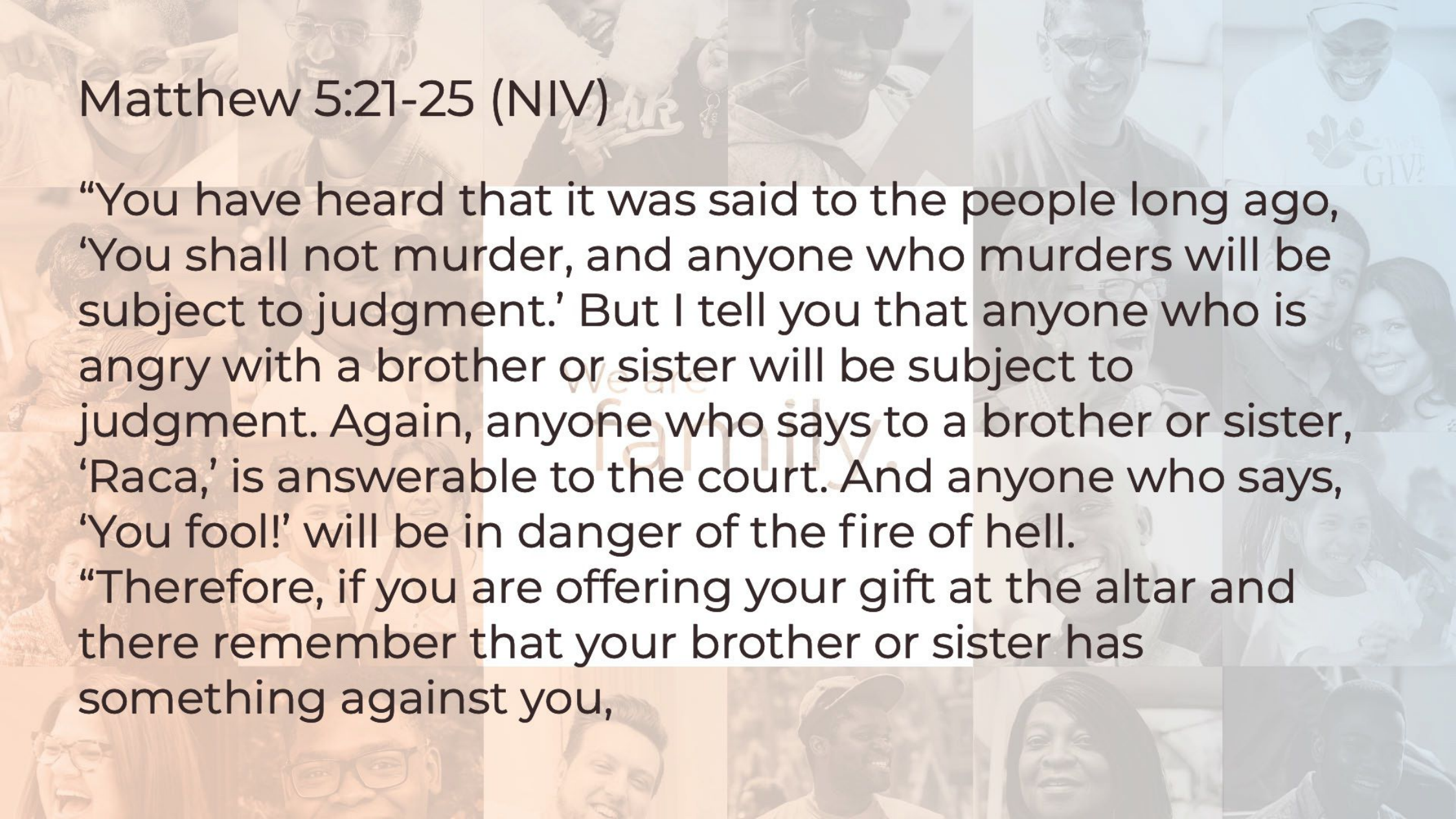
¹¹Good sense makes one slow to anger,
and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

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A collage of diverse people smiling and laughing, overlaid with a semi-transparent text box. The background is a grid of various photos of people of different ages and ethnicities, all appearing joyful. The text box is centered and contains the following text:

Mark 11:22-25 (NLT)

²²Then Jesus said to the disciples, “Have faith in God. ²³I tell you the truth, you can say to this mountain, ‘May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and it will happen. But you must really believe it will happen and have no doubt in your heart. ²⁴I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. ²⁵But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too.”



Matthew 5:21-25 (NIV)

“You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.’ But I tell you that anyone who is angry with a brother or sister will be subject to judgment. Again, anyone who says to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ is answerable to the court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire of hell.

“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you,