

**Amos 6:1. 4-7; Ps 145; Tim 6:11-16; Luke 16:19-31**

---

I am deviating away from the readings for the week, because recent events will fade into history, and I need to speak of this before it does.

Just over 2 weeks ago, on Wednesday 10th September Charlie Kirk was assassinated. He was 32 when he died, and he left behind a wife and two children. He was a popular figure on the conservative right in the American political landscape. He was noted for his outspokenness, but also for his willingness to engage with his opponents during his 'Prove me wrong' debates on college campuses. Just as he was popular with conservatives he was not generally fondly regarded by those on the liberal left.

His murder caused deep anguish amongst his many supporters, raising him to the level of a national hero. There was also some rather disgusting triumphalism by a few of his detractors, who revelled in the idea that Charlie Kirk had somehow got what he deserved.

This is just by way of back-ground. Then the most remarkable thing happened. Eleven days after the event, at a packed venue to honour him, Charlie Kirk's wife, Erika, spoke:

*"That young man, that young man," she said. "On the cross, our saviour said, 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' 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. The answer we know, from the Gospel, is love and always love."*<sup>1</sup>

Eleven days. Hardly time to even begin coming to terms with the nauseating, world upheaving event that brought disaster upon her and her family; no time even to begin the 'grieving process' she utters the words: 'I forgive...'

Erika, is right of course. It is in the Bible. Jesus is always forgiving, even when he is dying on the cross. I have told you stories about modern day forgiveness, and so has Deacon Andrew. You probably know a few yourself, but they quickly sink beyond our immediate recollection. However, this was almost yesterday. Hold onto it. Consider the enormity of what is at stake. 'I forgive'. Do not retreat into yourself with the words, 'I could not do that'. Do not shrug your shoulders, put your hands in your pockets and half-embarrassed look away. Look at Erika. She did not do this simply for herself or her children, to liberate themselves from a lifetime slavery to hatred. She did it out of Love for God. And, you know I mean this, she did it for us, even

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.dailywire.com/news/erika-kirk-forgives-her-husbands-suspected-assassin-says-charlie-would-have-done-so-too?author=Virginia+Kruta&category=News&elementPosition=11&row=0&rowType=Vertical+List&>

[title=Erika+Kirk+Forgives+Her+Husband's+Suspected+Assassin%2C+Says+Charlie+Would+Have+Done+So+Too](https://www.dailywire.com/news/erika-kirk-forgives-her-husbands-suspected-assassin-says-charlie-would-have-done-so-too?author=Virginia+Kruta&category=News&elementPosition=11&row=0&rowType=Vertical+List&) accessed 26 Sept 2025

though we are an ocean away. Because this forgiveness has an enormity about it. Acts of evil often seem to dwarf acts of goodness in our minds, in the news and in our imagination. The murder of Charlie Kirk was an act of evil. The forgiveness of his murderer was an act of Grace. Truly, a gift from God to Erika and a gift from her to all who will listen to what has been enacted before the world.

We expect angry calls for vengeance. We expect calls for retribution and justice. We expect calls for rights, dignity, and the whole flag-waving experience of righteous indignation. But what we heard was 'I forgive'. Jesus said, 'Blessed are the meek' and 'Blessed are the peace-makers'. Erika seems to have taken Him very seriously. Perhaps we all have something to learn from her. Maybe I, we, all have someone that we need to forgive. Maybe we should do that. Now, before it is too late. If not, will I not be put to shame at the gates of heaven?