

Father's day Message

Emmanuel Masihi Punjabi Fellowship, Philippines

Dated 21/6/2020

Reading: Luke 12:22-32

A very happy Father's Day to all the fathers in the meeting today. Hope you have had a good one so far. Many people observe Father's day on this 3rd Sunday of June 2020. It is a day for people to show their appreciation for fathers and father figures. Father figures may include stepfathers, fathers-in-law, guardians (foster parents) and family friends. So raising to the occasion, I would like to preach on **The Most Wonderful Father of Them All**.

I want to preach about the ONE, Jesus referred to as "My Father" 53 times in the Gospels. But when Jesus talked about the Father, He did not just call Him "My Father", He also called God "Our Father" some 21 times in the Gospels. Thus, Jesus clearly shows us that those who believe in Jesus share the same relationship with God in Heaven that He Himself has. If we do little more research, you will find it gets even better than that! Jesus calls God "Your Father" 21 times in the Gospels as well. INTERESTING isn't it? So, let's look into this relationship and some aspects of it for our growth & understanding.

A DISCUSSION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP (V30, 32)

Jesus calls God "**your Father**." Jesus used that designation for God twenty-one times in the Gospels. That title and the two verses where it is used in our text give us some precious insights into our relationship to "**our Father**."

A. **It Is A Personal Relationship** – The title "**your Father**" speaks of a very personal relationship. When an unbeliever comes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is "**born again**." At that instant, that person is brought into a very personal relationship with the God of the universe. In fact, the newly redeemed sinner is actually "**adopted**" into the family of God (**Rom. 8:15**). That person instantly becomes a child of God in heaven (**1 John 3:1-2**) You see, in adoption a son is brought into a family and is given the same rights as a child who is born into that family. Hallelujah!

B. **It Is A Profound Relationship** – This is a remarkable thing when you stop to consider what a person is before God saved them by His grace. According to the Bible, the lost sinner is God's enemy, **Rom. 8:7**. He or she is also a slave to the world, the flesh and the devil, **Eph. 2:1-3**. In fact, the lost sinner is doomed and condemned to an eternity in Hell, **John 3:18; 36; Eph. 2:3**. The sad fact is this: every person in the entire world who has not been saved is in this horrible, lost condition, **Gal. 3:22 & Rom 3:10-23**. When we stop to consider the truth that a lost, hell-bound, hell-deserving sinner could even be saved by the grace of God; it is a profound and amazing thing! But, when you consider that same sinner also becomes a child of God, well, that is **amazing beyond words!**

The Jews had no concept of God as "Father". They saw Him as Jehovah—the Transcendent God. They could never have thought of God in so intimate of terms. So, when Jesus arrived calling God "Father", it was a totally new concept which in fact angered them.

The Jews had dozens of names for God. What they needed at any given time usually dictated the name that they used to call on God. For instance:

1. If they had a need in their life, they would call on "***J hovah-jireh***", **Gen. 22:14**, which means, "***The Lord will provide.***" 2. If they were anxious, they would call on "***Jehovah-shalom***", **Judges 6:24**, which means "***The Lord our peace.***"

3. If they were lonely, or afraid, they might call on "***Jehovah-shammah***", **Eze. 48:35**, which means "***The Lord is there.***" 4. If they need leadership, they would call on "***Jehovah-rohi***", **Psalms 23:1**, which means "***The Lord our Shepherd.***" 5. If they were sick, they would call on "***Jehovah-rapha***", **Exodus 15:26**, which means "***The Lord our healer.***"

There are literally dozens more, but you get the picture. When these people needed to get a hold of God, they referred to Him by these various names. However, for those who are in Jesus, there is a different name that we can use to speak to God. This name was revealed to the Disciples in **Luke 11:1-4** in what is known as "***The Lord's Prayer***", but is more correctly "***The Disciple's Prayer.***" Here, the disciples, who have witnessed the amazing prayer life of Jesus and who want the same access to God what to know how to pray. I can imagine them waiting to hear which name He would give them to use in their prayers. Imagine their surprise when Jesus spoke the word "***Father.***" In this passage, the Aramaic word "***abba***" is used, which translates to the English word "***daddy***".^[1]

C. **It is A Permanent Relationship** – When God adopted us into His family, He did not do it for just a while. He did it for all eternity! You see, adoption, as it was practiced in biblical times, could not be undone. A man had the right to disown his natural children; but an adopted child was a child for life. He or she could never be disowned by the father. This is the same guarantee that we have today, **John 10:28; John 6:37-40; 1 Pet. 1:5**. What God does when He saves a soul is a forever work!

A DISCUSSION OF GOD'S RESPONSIBILITIES(30-32)

Just as a human father has certain responsibilities to the children that are born to him; God has taken on many responsibilities in relation to His children. These verses tell us about a few of those responsibilities.

A. v. 30 **He Has The Responsibility Of Awareness** – The Bible says that He "***knoweth that ye have need of these things.***" The verb "***have need***" is in a tense that means our needs are "***many and they are constant.***" That sounds like my life how about you? We are a needy people!

Even though we all have needs and we all have them all the time; God is well aware of every single one of them! You see, the word "***knoweth***" means "***to be aware of something.***" The tense of this verb means that "***He is always aware of everything that affects His children.***" Sometimes we human parents just do not know what the needs of our children are. We may not always know, but our Heavenly Father always knows. What a blessed truth!

Nothing happens in your life or mine that goes unnoticed by our Father, **verses 24, 26-28**. I will go even farther and say that nothing happens in your life or mine that is not part of his plan for us, **Rom. 8:28**. Thank God,

He is aware of everything that is going on, and that is going wrong, in our lives, **Job 23:10; Ps 139:1-12**

Too often our focus is on the physical and the material; but we also have needs in the emotional, mental and spiritual realms of life. Regardless of what the need is, He knows all about it.)

- B. v. 31 **He Has The Responsibility Of Ability** – It isn't enough for the Lord just to know about what His children need; He must possess the ability to meet those needs, or His knowledge does us no good. According to this passage, God does have the power to take care of us as well as to know about us. **Verse 32**, for instance, tells us that it is "***The Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***" The word "***kingdom***" refers to "***all that pertains to His rule.***" It speaks of "***the power of the ruling One.***" Like a wealthy, benevolent king, God has the wherewithal to meet every need that arises in the lives of each of His children. Therefore, when He says "***all these things shall be added unto you***"(**verse 31**); He has the ability to back up that promise.

Many people live in doubt of God's great ability to care for His people; but I would like to remind you that if God can speak this universe into existence, He can take care of you. If He can keep Noah safe through that flood; feed Elijah with the ravens; put meal in the barrel, oil in the cruse and life in the boy for the widow; keep the three Hebrew boys safe in the furnace; secure Daniel in the lion's den; feed Israel manna and quail in the wilderness for forty years; slay Goliath for David; take care of those disciples in that storm; part the Red Sea for Moses; raise Lazarus from the dead; walk on the water; feed the five thousand, and countless other things too numerous to mention; I think He is able to take care of you! He is able, **Eph. 3:20; Matt. 28:18; Jer. 32:17, 27; Rom. 4:21!** We human parents may not always be able to meet the needs of our children; but God will never fail. He is eternally able to perfectly care for His children!

- C. v. 32 **He Has The Responsibility Of Availability** – God's awareness of our needs and His power to help us is a wonderful truth; but if He is a God Who is far removed from His children, then His power does us no good! He must be available. Praise God, He is! Notice **verse 32**. We are told that it is the "***Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.***" The words "***good pleasure***" means "***to choose, to determine, to be ready, to be well pleased with to do that which seems good.***" God has determined to be ready to do that which is good for His children. This implies that He has made Himself available to us. He is available to each of His children, **Matt. 11:28; Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20**. He is as close to us as a simple prayer of faith!

A DISCUSSION OF OUR ROLE(V29-32)

(III. While we can count on God doing His part perfectly; there are times when we fall short on our end of this thing. Well, we have a role too.)

- A. v. 29, 32 **We Must Have Faith** – Notice what the Bible says in **verse 29**. We are commanded "***neither be ye of doubtful mind.***" This phrase means "***to be agitated or harassed with cares.***" It is a term that was used to describe a ship that was being tossed about upon a stormy sea. Here, it is used a

metaphor for worry. Jesus is saying, “**Child of God, do not allow your mind to be tossed up and down by the waves of worry, doubt and fear.**”

In **verses 32**, we are told to “**fear not.**” This may not mean much to you, but that command is in the “**middle voice.**” It could be read this way, “**Do not allow yourself to be seized with fear.**” Jesus is challenging us to learn to trust the Lord; regardless of what circumstances may look like. There are times when it may appear that there is no solution; never count God out! Learn to look away to Him and to trust in His power in every single circumstance, **Mark 11:22-23; Mark 9:23; Psa. 62:8.** Always remember that we serve a God Who is Sovereign. That is, He is in absolute control, even when things look impossible, they are not, if God is in control of them! Trust in the Lord and He will never allow you to be put to shame, **Rom. 10:11!**

B. v. 31 **We Must Be Faithful** – If we will experience the awesome power of God in our lives day by day; we must learn to be faithful to the Lord. In other words, He must come first! The word “**seek**” in **verse 31** means “**to crave something.**” We are to crave, or desire the things of God ahead of all other things in our lives. **When we put Him first; God will put us first!** However, when our desires are misplaced; we miss out on the Lord’s best for our lives. When we pursue the spiritual, God will always see to the material! When He is first, you never have to worry about the rest.

Now, don’t misunderstand me, God remains faithful even when we fail Him and ignore Him, **2 Tim. 2:13.** But, even though He may go on being our Father; we miss out His best when we fail to put the Lord first in our lives. Let me encourage you to examine your life and your priorities today. If God, His Word, time with Him, His house, etc, are not the priorities of your life; then please take whatever steps are necessary to get that straightened out. Remember, when you put Him first on your priority list, He will keep you at the very top of His.

Conclusion: God truly is the most wonderful Father of all! The fact that He would love the unworthy, save them by His grace and adopt them into His family proves this. Add to this the fact that He looks out for His children and takes care of them in spectacular fashion. I am glad that He is my Father today! How about you ? as we celebrate the Father’s day one more time. Let’s pray !