

Who is your Father? Who is your Lord? 6/9/19

There is no doubt that all of our fathers had some earthly wisdom to pass along. Yet sometimes it's years later that we come to appreciate and or understand it.

Take for example the account of a young woman's father's wisdom.

"Does anyone in this room need to be dismissed from jury duty?" my father, a judge, asked the prospective jurors. A nervous young man stood up. "I'd like to be dismissed," he said. "My wife is about to conceive." Slightly taken aback, Dad responded, "I believe, sir, you mean 'deliver.' But either way, I agree. You should be there." The man was dismissed.

Or, this one of some serious wisdom conveyed by his father.

Four students walked in halfway through the American history test my father was giving at the community college. "Sorry," they said, "We had a flat tire." An understanding man, dad said that if they could all 4 answer just one question correctly, he would give them each an "A" for the exam. They agreed. So, dad handed each one a piece of paper, placed them in four separate corners and said, "Write down which tire was flat."

Father's are expected to dispense wisdom!

Pray

Since the beginning of the year we have explored the attributes of God as far as we can know them thru scripture. We've talked about how patient and awesome our God is in his treatment of us. We've talked about His son Jesus and that if you do not look to him as your Lord you cannot expect salvation.

Our Father, God, loves us!

Yet, we are a rebellious stubborn people, and he goes to extraordinary lengths to bring us into a relationship with him.

- He is truly an awesome God.

Yet, as awesome as he is, it's difficult to pattern my life after a God who is not like me. He is after all spirit and I am flesh.

- How can I call Him "father" when we are seemingly so different?
 - How can I understand the wisdom of my spiritual Holy God when I am sinful and definitely not holy?
 - He solves these problems by sending a part of himself to become flesh, deal with all the struggles of the flesh, the difficulties of other people and cultures, while still being obedient to God His father.

God our father gives us Jesus as a living human example to imitate and the Holy Spirit to give us the power to overcome our sinful nature.

- Jesus becomes like a hero to look up to and want to be like.

Paul expresses this idea in Romans 8:29

"For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."

When Jesus was asked by the disciples "how" they should pray he told them to begin by addressing God as father.

This was a revolutionary concept. The Jewish people who heard Jesus tell His disciple this must have been shocked. You would NEVER address God in such a familiar way!

In the Old Testament you do not find God being addressed as your father. Where it does occur is in a general sense – God being the father of all mankind because he is the creator.

- How then can Jesus change this and tell the disciples, now after a thousand or so years, to begin to address God as their personal Father?

Jesus could do this because God truly was His father and He had a close relationship with Him. So, if you claim Jesus as your Lord and live to do the Father's will you have the right to call Him "Abba" father. Then salvation is part of the package.

What a privilege we have in Jesus Christ to call the Holy God "daddy"!

- Have you claimed the right, do you talk to him every day seeking his wisdom in scripture and prayer?

So, when they asked Jesus told "how" to pray.

Matthew 6:8-15

*Don't be like them, for **your** Father knows exactly what you need even before you ask him! 9 Pray like this:*

***Our** Father in heaven,
may your name be kept holy.
10 May your Kingdom come soon.*

*May your will be done on earth,
as it is in heaven.*

11 Give us today the food we need,

12 and forgive us our sins,

as we have forgiven those who sin against us.

13 And don't let us yield to temptation,

but rescue us from the evil one.

*14 "If you forgive those who sin against you, **your** heavenly Father will forgive you. 15 But if you refuse to forgive others, **your** Father will not forgive your sins.*

Jesus had a lot to say about his Father if you look at this passages carefully.

1. In **verse 8** Jesus says "your" father excluding himself from the statement. *Your* Father knows what you need even before you ask him.

Jesus sets himself apart from the disciples. They have needs that are different than his. He and the Father are one and it's our needs he is talking about not his.

Then when we get to the prayer starting in **verse 9**, He changes the pronoun to "*our*" Father. This includes Jesus and the disciples. Sort of like telling your family members we are all in this together. He is *our* Father! This example of praying is to be done in a group and in fellowship with other believers.

Our Father is the focus of the prayer, He is the source of life, source of our provision, and the source of the security of our souls.

Then in **verse 14**, Jesus changes the pronoun again.

He expands the part of the prayer on “forgiveness” and tells them that when they forgive someone who sins against them, they are acting as part of the family and doing God’s will.

He uses the pronoun “your” Father excluding himself again from this part. The Father offers forgiveness through Jesus who is the source and payment to the Father for our sin.

But, if you do not forgive (**verse 15**) your father (general term) like the OT will be your judge.

- Lastly there is an interesting pronoun usage in **chapter 11:27**

Matthew 11:27

“My Father has entrusted everything to me. No one truly knows the Son except the Father, and no one truly knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

Jesus states to the disciples that God is his Father and they have a unique relationship. He goes on to state in verses 28-29 that in him, Christ, is rest if you learn from him.

The Son and Father know each other intimately. The Son chooses who to reveal the Father, and in them is found rest.

Jesus in describing God as our father in the prayer, helping us to develop the right frame of mind when we think about God and our relationship.

- Your father knows what you need before you do.
- Our Father the final authority on everything.
- Your Father forgives your sin just as you should forgive others when they sin against you.

- Your Father is personal and caring establishing the real nature and example of fatherhood.

Truly understanding the Fatherhood of God should make us deeply desire that relationship every day.

That relationship is only possible through the son – Jesus Christ.

Paul makes it very clear in **Romans 10:8-9**

*“The message is very close at hand;
it is on your lips and in your heart.”*

*And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: 9 If you openly declare that **Jesus is Lord** and **believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead**, you will be saved.*

Our Father raised Jesus from the dead and established Him as Lord over us to imitate. If you declare that Jesus is your Lord and believe it in your heart you can claim the salvation that is offered to you.

What an awesome Father we have, one who would go to these lengths to bring us home.

Like the song says: *“Love so amazing, so divine, demands my life, demands my all.”*

And, if you claim Jesus as your Lord and live to do the Father’s will you have the right to call Him “Abba” father.

What a privilege we have in Jesus Christ to call the Holy God “daddy”!

Have you claimed the right, do you talk to him every day seeking his wisdom in scripture and prayer?