

The Father Heart of God

"God makes a home for the lonely" Psalm 68:6.

"Our Father in heaven..." Matthew 6:9.

Introduction...

How do we react to the word: FATHER?

Is your response positive or negative?

We must untangle and clarify the concept of father.

Why do we associate our own father with God the Father?

Many of us have had terrible experiences with 'our own father'.

This hinders and twists our understanding of God our Father.

It also warps our understanding of what 'human fatherhood' is all about.

"And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." Genesis 1:27.

How do we develop a clear, objective and correct understanding of God our Father?

We need to research and study the truth about God our Father.

God our Father

A clear understanding of who God our Father is, will help us to understand what human 'Fatherhood/Parenthood' can be when we align with God's truth.

Luke 15:1-31.

Three stories...

The Lost Sheep

Lost, knew it was lost, but did not know the way home.

The Lost Coin

Lost, did not know it was lost and did not know the way home.

The Lost Son

Lost, knew he was lost and knew the way home.

There was a man with two sons.

Both sons had a relationship with their father. V:11.

The younger son claimed his inheritance. V:11.

The older son stayed home toiling – 'slaving in the field'. V:25, 29.

The young son used and abused what the father gave him. V:13-14.

The younger son became desperate and finally repented. V:14-20.

The younger son was reconciled and restored. V:21-24.

The older son was angry and jealous. V:25-30.

The father loved both of his sons in the same way. V:31-32.

Lessons from the Father...

The Father was generous with his son – V:11

He gave him the inheritance due to him.

- *Lesson: All the Father has belongs to His children.*

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Ephesians 1:3.

The Father was watching for his son – V:20b

The father saw his repentant and humbled son from ‘a long way off’.

- *Lesson: Our Heavenly Father cares deeply for us and never ceases His watch over our lives.*

“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” Matthew 6:25-26.

“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.” Matthew 10:29-31.

The Father ran to his son – V:20-21

The son remembered the love and goodness of his father – leading to his repentance.

The father moved rapidly towards his repentant son.

- *Lesson: God, our Father, is quick to receive us when we repent.*

“The LORD is slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion.” Numbers 14:18.

“Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance?” Romans 2:4.

The Father forgave his son – V:20

The father forgave his sons rebellious stupidity.

- *Lesson: Our Father will always forgive us, even if we abuse His goodness.*

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9.

The Father restored his son – V:22

He reinstated sonship and status to his repentant son.

- *Lesson: God went beyond forgiveness, and restored His son to full ‘Sonship Status’.*

“For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.” Ephesians 1:4-6.

The Father lavished abundance on his son – V:23-24

He went beyond forgiveness and poured out ‘grace upon grace’.

- *Lesson: The Father’s Sonship includes an extraordinary display of His abundance, grace and fullness.*

“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ.” Ephesians 1:7-9.

The Father pleaded with his older son – V:28, 31-32

His older son was trying to earn his father’s goodness and blessing.

His ‘works mentality’ produced pride, judgment and anger.

The father offered all he had to the older brother.

- *Lesson: God love does not discriminate – and is available to all.*

Ephesians 2:11-22.

“For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.” Ephesians 2:14.

*“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.”
Ephesians 2:18.*

The Father Heart of God

As we give our attention to the truth of God’s word, and allow the Holy Spirit to work this truth in us, we will be renewed in our understanding of ‘Father’.

A clear understanding of who God our Father is, will help us to understand what human ‘Fatherhood/Parenthood’ can be when we align with God’s truth.

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be Your name.
Your kingdom come.
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors.
And do not lead us into temptation,
But deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.
Amen. Matthew 6:9-13.