

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

www.nccdighton.org

6/19/16 - Father's Day Special

Mt 5:7

"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy."

Fathers

- Our Father in Heaven
- Spiritual "fathers" (Apostles, shepherds, etc.)
- Fathers in earthly families
- Father figures (mentors, etc.)

"Father"

Jesus' favorite term for addressing God was "Father" (165 times in the Gospels, 100 times in the Gospel of John alone vs. only 15 times in OT). (e.g., Jn 5:17-18; 6:29-40; 8:18-19, 54-58; 10:14-18, 25-30, 38; 14:6-7, 23-24; 15; 20:17; Mk 14:36; Ro 8:15; Gal 4:6)

"Abba" - Baker's Dictionary

The rarity of this designation [Abba] for God is striking. There is no evidence in pre-Christian Jewish literature that Jews addressed God as "Abba." A second unique feature about Jesus' use of Abba as a designation for God involves the intimacy of the term. Abba was a term little children used when they addressed their fathers.

"Father"

Jesus' favorite term for addressing God was "Father" (165 times in the Gospels (100 times in the Gospel of John alone) vs. only 15 times in OT). (e.g., Jn 5:17-18; 6:29-40; 8:18-19, 54-58; 10:14-18, 25-30, 38; 14:6-7, 23-24; 15; 20:17; Mk 14:36; Ro 8:15; Gal 4:6)

Jesus Taught His Disciples

"Father" was not just one way Jesus taught his disciples to address God; it was THE way. They were to pray, "Father, hallowed be your name" (Lk 11:2).

Our Father Adopted Us

Jesus is the Son of God, we are adopted sons. This is why He never used the term "our Father"; rather, He used the term "your Father" (in reference to us) versus "My Father" (in reference to Himself). He wasn't slighting us, He was merely saying that intrinsically, He was the Son, whereas we are adopted (Jn

20:17; Mt 5:16, 45, 48; 6:1, 4, 6; 7:21; 10:32-33; Ro 8:12-16).

Our Father Blesses Us

God's grace is abundantly supplied to all of His children, beyond all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20). His blessings are never-ending, His compassion new every morning (Lam 3:22-23). We find peace in our faith that His grace is sufficient for each of us, regardless of circumstance (2Co 12:9; Php 4:11). (Ro 1:7; 1Co 1:3)

We Thank Our Father

We simply have so very much to be thankful for when it comes to God the Father. First, and foremost, of course, is that He chose to elect us on the premise of His Son's good work on the Cross, whom He sent out of love (Jn 3:16). In proper form, we say, "Thank You!" to the One who gives. (Eph 5:20; Col 1:12; Th 1:2-3)

Our Father Is Sovereign

Our Father's immensity ought never be misrepresented in our souls. He is sovereign Lord over all things, even His Son. As such, we ought to fear God and keep His commandments. (1Co 8:6, 15:28; Eph 4:6; Ecc 12:13-14)

Our Father Comforts Us

There is no real comfort, at least not of the eternal sort, in anything or anyone other than God. In any and every circumstance in life, when all else fails, we always have a special place with our Father in Heaven - a place of peace and comfort. (2Co 1:3)

We Receive Inheritance From Our Father

An inheritance implies that something of value preexists. God is love. God is peace. God is eternal life. Our Father gives us these things as an inheritance, among many other things that will never fade away. (1Pe 1:3-4; 1Jn 3:1)

We Praise Our Father

Our response in time, in humility, is the same response we will live in for all of eternity - worship God. This is His plan and His ultimate will, for He is worthy of our praise. (Ro 15:5-6; Rev 4:11)

Fathers

- Our Father in Heaven
- Spiritual "fathers" (Apostles, shepherds, etc.)
- Fathers in earthly families
- Father figures (mentors, etc.)

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

- We can focus on their imperfections, resulting in misery, or;
- We can focus on how God uses them to our benefit and His glory, resulting in blessing.

Php 4:8 [Message]

Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious-the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to

curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

If you can say in your heart that you trust God the Father in Heaven, then why would you distrust His choice of authority in your life? If the perfect Father placed you in submission to an imperfect father on earth, then the situation is perfect for you.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

God never says that a father's failures disqualify him from leading his subordinates under the auspices of authority-orientation. If this were the case, every father in the Bible, besides God, would stand disqualified (in stark contradiction to scripture on obedience to authority).

Eph 4:26

BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

- We can focus on their imperfections, resulting in misery, or;
- We can focus on how God uses them to our benefit and His glory, resulting in blessing.

A Father's Heart

Carrying the responsibility of being a father is difficult enough without the added pressure of being cross-examined by your subordinates. Those who perpetrate this heinous act are actually foremost revealing a distrust towards God (in Heaven), not their fathers (all earthly types).

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

If you can say in your heart that you trust God the Father in Heaven, then why would you distrust His choice of authority in your life? If the perfect Father placed you in submission to an imperfect father on earth, then the situation is perfect for you.

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

God never says that a father's failures disqualify him from leading his subordinates under the auspices of authority-orientation. If this were the case, every father in the Bible, besides God, would stand disqualified (in stark contradiction to scripture on obedience to authority).

Fathers

- Our Father in Heaven
- Spiritual "fathers" (Apostles, shepherds, etc.)
- Fathers in earthly families
- Father figures (mentors, etc.)

What About Imperfect, Earthly Fathers?

- We can focus on their imperfections, resulting in misery, or;
- We can focus on how God uses them to our benefit and His glory, resulting in

blessing.