

# North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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6/21/16 - Our Good, Merciful Father

## **Mt 5:7**

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

### **Remember the Victory**

Overcoming darkness was already done for us by Christ, so when we struggle with certain things, we need to stop wrestling with those things and just turn to the Light. By turning to the Light, which is the Love of Christ, we defeat the darkness lurking in our lives.

### **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)

### **Our Good, Merciful Father**

Our Heavenly Father provides; that's one thing a good Father does.

### **Our Good, Merciful Father**

When a legitimate, sovereign authority allows Himself to be called by a 'vulnerable' name, such as "Abba", that's special, and it shows the mercy and humility of the authority.

### **Mk 14:36**

*And He was saying, "Abba! Father! All things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me; yet not what I will, but what You will."*

### **"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.*

### **"Abba"**

But ask yourself, do you honestly look at God the Father as "Dad"?

Are you comfortable calling Him that? If not, why not?

### **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 Good, Merciful Father**

We must remember, all good things come from our Father above, Jam 1:17.

Anything bad in our lives comes from our three enemies; the world, the flesh, and the devil. Free will is used to perform evil, even twisting the good things of God in the process. Our Father may allow certain things, but He is not the author of such things.

### **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)

### **Our Father Blesses Us**

Remember, the flesh doubts the goodness of God. But call it out for what it is; a liar.

Stand firm in the faith.

### **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; 1Th 1:2-3)

### **We Thank Our Father**

Eph 5:20 - *always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father;*

Col 1:12

giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

### **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 Is Sovereign**

How great to have the promises of a compassionate Father who has the perfect power to pull it all off.

#### **Eph 4:6**

*one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

### **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)

#### **Mic 7:18 NIV**

*Who is a God like you,  
who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?*

*You do not stay angry forever  
but delight to show mercy.*

### **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 Receive Inheritance From Our Father**

With God our Father, adoption means we are true sons, and nothing less, because our God is not one to show favoritism.

#### **1Jn 3:1**

*See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are. For this reason the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.*

### **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)