

"Knowing our Father"

Father's Day- June 18, 2017

"See **what great love** the Father has **lavished** on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!" (1 John 3:1 NIV)

"What **marvelous love** the Father has extended to us! **Just look at it**—we're called children of God! That's who we really are." (MSG)

"See what an **incredible quality of love** the Father has shown to us, that we would [be permitted to] be **named (*identity*) and called (*destiny*) and counted (*significant; valued*)** the children of God! And so we are!" (AMP)

- When God created us—He created **sons and daughters**
- "**The Fall**" was a tragic departure from our place of **identity, calling, and belonging**—greatly **distorting our thoughts and behavior**.
- In short, **we became a fatherless generation!**
- **Jesus** addressed this tragedy: "*From the beginning, it was not like this!*" (*Matthew 19:8*)

John 14:18- "I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you."

1. **MARKS of the Orphaned Life**

a. **ABANDONED. Uncared for.**

Orphans say: "*NO ONE cares. I don't matter to anyone.*"

Sons say: "*I am so cared for. The Lord will watch over my coming and going both now and forevermore*" (*Ps. 121:8*)

b. **INSIGNIFICANT. No name. No sense of belonging.**

- **STRIVE to EARN SIGNIFICANCE**—make a "name" for themselves. (If you want to **FEEL** important—you must **DO** something important).
- **BUT** sons find their significance by **BELONGING**—being loved & cherished for who they **ARE**." (Why **MOSES** said- "I'm tired of wandering. I want to be **SENT**" (*Exodus 3:13*). (Why **JESUS** said, "As the Father has sent Me, so I send you, too." (*John 20:21*))

c. **WITHOUT INHERITANCE. No provision.**

- **Struggle to be GENEROUS.** (*If you give it away—you'll never get it back. Struggle to believe that anyone will give you something (w/o strings attached)*)
- **Governed by a sense of LACK.** (*"Not enough to go around." Hard to rejoice with others. If one receives honor—less for you; jealousy & insecurity*)

- **Sons:** “Freely receive—freely give. My Father is wealthy & generous. He gives good gifts. He’s a good Shepherd—I’ll never be in want.”

[NOTE: The “orphan spirit” is **not a demon**—can’t be “cast out.” It’s a way of life—that must be **displaced** by a **better way of life.**]

CORE- WHY JESUS CAME (Luke 4:14-19): “Let Me connect you with Father”

1. LET ME MINISTER TO YOU.

“ANOINTED”- to pour over & rub in (Deeply personal—not just powerful)
Jesus: “What is such a part of who I am—I want to work deeply into your life.”

2. LET ME BRING YOU FROM ORPHAN TO ADOPTED

Luke 4:18-19- “PREACH”- to announce AND BRING

“To the poor”—I will SUPPLY

“To the prisoners”—I set you free from the shame of your past

“To the blind”—I give you sight, clarity, wisdom, discernment

“To the oppressed”—no longer haunted or hindered by the bruising, battering, and betrayal; I break the abuse cycle!!!

“The acceptable year of the Lord”—He ACCEPTS you!!

Jeremiah came out of the “orphan cloud of despair” (Lamentations 3:20-22):

(v. 20) I was “downcast”- to sink down into depression

**(v. 21) So I “recalled”- to return to the starting point—to GO HOME; Lit-
“I go back to the place I was made for; where I belong” (John 14- “the place”)**

**There “HOPE” is restored—joyful expectancy; confident anticipation
 HOW?**

**(v. 22) “Because of His GREAT LOVE I am not consumed” (at the end;
 failure; wasted)**

“With the arrival of Jesus, the Messiah, that fateful dilemma is resolved. Those who enter into Christ’s being-here-for-us no longer have to live under a continuous, low-lying black cloud. A new power is in operation. The Spirit of life in Christ, like a strong wind, has magnificently cleared the air, freeing you from a fated lifetime of brutal tyranny at the hands of sin and death.”

(Romans 8:1-2 The Message)