

What Is Significant About Fathers?

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Today is Father’s Day and we need to celebrate all of our dads. I want to talk about what is significant about fathers.

II. WHAT IS A FATHER?

- A. The word for father in the N/T is “pater” and its means generator, male ancestor. The founder of a family or tribe. The author of a family or society animated by the same spirit as himself. Man was created in the beginning to be the creator of life.

“Then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living soul” (Gen. 2:9).

- B. God made man from the dust, and then God made fathers to be the fountainhead of the human race and of all the tribes of the earth. There are several “tribes” connected to Hilltop. It is pretty amazing when families come together to celebrate days like today, or any occasion for that matter. But the most important aspect is that man was made in the image of God the Father, to reflect who God the Father is.

III. GETTING TO KNOW THE HEAVENLY FATHER

- A. There’s nothing that will empower the human spirit like encountering the heavenly Father. There is nothing that will ignite and empower our hearts more than when the Holy Spirit reveals the Father to us. It creates a confidence in our spirit and an assurance as we face the future; even in the midst of our failures and weaknesses, we can have confidence in our heavenly Father.

- B. In John 14, at the end of Jesus’ ministry as He’s about to go to the cross, Jesus is clarifying what His ministry was about as he is giving His disciples promises for the future. He says, ***“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also” (Jn. 14:7).*** This was a brand-new concept to the disciples. Jesus explains, ***“The whole time I was with you, I was revealing the personality of the Father.”***

- C. Philip, one of the disciples, breaks in during the Jn. 14 discourse and says, ***“Well, Lord, show us the Father and that is sufficient” (Jn 14:9)*** —or, one translation says, “That is enough for us. Show us the Father.” Jesus says ***“He that has seen Me has seen the Father”***. Again, Jesus is clarifying why He came. To put the Father on display.

IV. A FATHER FROM ETERNITY PAST

- A. The disciples knew about trembling before a God of great power, but they didn’t know about confidence before a God of great affections. They knew to keep their distance and worship in awe from a distance, but they didn’t know how to draw close with confidence. To open their heart and to rest in the presence of God the Father.

“Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, “You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die.”²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin.”²¹ The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was.” (Ex. 20-18-21)

- B. Jesus came to give a more clearer expression of who the Father was and is. That was in the heart of God from all of eternity. The God who was full of grace and truth.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of Father, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14)

“Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.” (Heb. 1:3)

- C. Because He is more than a creator, He is in fact from the beginning, a (our) Father. At the very core of His being, He feels, He thinks and acts like a Father because that is who He is from eternity past. ***He is a father at the heart level!***

V. FATHER GOD – BEAUTIFUL TRANSCENDENT & LOVELY

- A. What Jesus wanted was for the disciples to put the Old Testament image of God, the transcendent God—the Jewish paradigm of the transcendent God before whom they trembled, with a new paradigm of God as the Father in whom they could have confidence, so that they would tremble before His power and have confidence in His affections. This was the combination of understanding that Jesus wanted them to have.

VI. THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION – ABBA FATHER

- A. Jesus revealed the Father to the Church, and now the Holy Spirit is revealing Jesus to the Church. He came to glorify Jesus, but He also came to reveal the Father to us. Paul the apostle gives us a very important description of the Holy Spirit’s ministry, one which is very similar to that of the ministry of Jesus: to reveal the Father. Paul says, ***“You have received” —that is past tense— “the spirit of adoption by whom we cry, ‘Abba, Father’” (Rom. 8:15).***
- B. Now, Paul says, “The Holy Spirit is crying through you because He wishes to inspire you to come before God, the God of Genesis 1 creator God, and address Him and relate to Him as “Papa”.
- C. The Holy Spirit wants to convince us of this. Then He wants to inspire us, actually, when we worship, not just to say, “God we love You,” at a distance but rather to go the next step in your nearness to God and with tender affection, actually connect with Him as ***Abba – daddy God!*** This is what He cries through us today, prompting us over and over. Get to know Him today as you Father, Daddy God! He loves you!