

Healing the Wound of Fatherlessness

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Session 9: Discovering God as Your Father

I. God Revealed Himself to Moses

1. Moses Hunger to Know Father God

- *Ex 33:18 And he said, Please show me your glory”*
- *Ex 33:19 Then He said, I will make all My Goodness pass before you and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”*
- **What is The Glory?**
 - *Glory.....Hb Kabod.....weight, substance, honour, dignity, heaviness*
 - The Glory of God is all the goodness or beauty of who God is
 - That goodness is revealed in His name, who He is, His nature

2. The Revelation of who God is to Moses

- *Ex 34:5 Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD*
Ex 34:6 And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abounding in goodness and truth
Ex 34:7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgressions and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon their children and the children’s children to the third and fourth generation.”
Ex 34:8 So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped
 - **In this OT passage God speaks and declares who He is**
 - This is not someone’s opinion about God. It is God describing who He actually is

3. Jesus Demonstrated in Person what Father God is Like

- **Jesus is the Express Image of Father God (Heb 1:3)**
- *Col 1:15 He is the Image of the invisible God*
 - ‘Image’ means an exact representation
 - Jesus also said, “If you have seen me, you have seen the Father (Jn 14:9)
- When we observe Jesus, how He lived, how He treated people, we see what the Father God is like

II. What is God Like?

- We can know what God is like by meditating on who God declares Himself to be, and how Jesus revealed Him
- We need to ask Holy Spirit to make these truths revelation to our heart and spirit
- **The Revelation of who God our Father is**

1. The Lord God

- The Lord...YWHWH....or Jehovah....The self-existing, eternal and unchanging one
 - He is the eternal faithful God who was and is and always will be
 - It means I AM who I AM
- God.....El.....means God who is full of power and strength, the Almighty, all Powerful God
- **Jesus:**
 - He called Himself I AM (Jn 8:58)
 - He was called Lord and God (John 20:28) and demonstrated it by His miracles over creation

2. Merciful

- Merciful is the word “**Compassion**”
- Compassion is a heartfelt empathy and understating of the pain and distress of another person together with the motivation to connect and show kindness and care
- God is full of compassion
- **Jesus:**
 - Moved with compassion Jesus healed the leper (Mk 1:41)
 - Moved with compassion, Jesus commissioned workers (Mat 9:35)

3. Gracious

- Gracious means being kind, gentle, thoughtful and showing personal warmth and generosity
 - A gracious person makes people feel welcome and cared for
 - God show favour and kindness freely, not because people deserve it but because it is in His nature
 - He bends down to help those who are weak and broken (Dt 1:31)
- **Jesus:**
 - He made tax collectors and sinners welcome (Lk 15:1-2)
 - He healed the lepers who were rejected by all (Lk 17:9)
 - Even while suffering on the cross, he forgave the thief (Lk 23:42-43)

4. Long Suffering

- Long suffering means very slow to anger. It means to be very patient, deeply restrained and merciful, even when wronged
 - God is very patient with human sin and failure and gives us abundant time to repent
- **Jesus:**
 - He was patient with His disciple's failures

- He endured rejection by his hometown (Mk 6:1-6)
- He was patient with Judas even though he was a betrayer (Mat 26:50)

5. **Abounding in Goodness and Truth**

- When God says abounds, He means overflows with an endless supply
- **“Goodness” is the word “Chesed” meaning loving kindness**
 - It is a deep covenant love for people that involves personal sacrifice and enduring commitment
 - It is a Love that is expressed in acts of Kindness, especially when the person is unable to repay and does not deserve it
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus loved the unlovable people (Jn 15:1-2)
 - He was faithful even when others failed. He forgave and restored His disciples (Jn 21: 15)
 - He laid down His life for us (Jn 15:13)
- **Truth is the word “Emet”**
- It means more than just being factually accurate. It means faithful, reliable, trustworthy
 - God abounds in truth means that His character is absolutely reliable, that He is full of integrity, and that God is absolutely faithful to keep His promises to us.
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus always spoke the Truth, even when it cost Him
 - Jesus declared He Himself was Truth (Jn 14:6)
 - He is the visible trustworthy revelation of who God is

6. **Keeping Mercy**

- **The word for mercy is “Chesed,” meaning Loving-kindness, loyal kindness and deep covenantal love and sacrifice**
 - God is keeping or guarding like a watchman to ensure and actively, extend Loving-kindness to thousands of generations (Dt 7:9)
 - This means that God’s covenantal love extends over generations and much longer than our failures last
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus showed Chesed or lovingkindness to sinners and the undeserving
 - He forgave those who crucified Him (Lk 23:34)
 - He continues to forgive all who come to Him

7. **Forgiving**

- Iniquity....is the word “Avon” meaning to be twisted or perverted
 - Iniquity is the inner distortion of our nature that leads to sin
- Transgression....is the word “Peshawar” meaning rebellion, willful disobedience
 - Transgression is something wrong that is done knowingly and willingly
- Sin is the word “Charra’ah”meaning a failure, missing the mark, falling short of God’s best
 - Sin describes falling short through ignorance, weakness or a mistake

- God forgives the full range of our failure and releases us from all debt owed
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus on the cross carried our iniquity, transgressions and sins (Is 53)

8. Just

- *By no means clearing the guilty*, means that God does not overlook or ignore sin
 - God is a Just judge and He does not ignore sin
 - He forgives sin but does not overlook it
 - Because He is Just, He must hold people to account for their sin
 - The consequences of sin can have a ripple effect on descendants up to 3 or 4 generations
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus upheld God the father's Justice upon the cross
 - He revealed the standard of God's Holiness
 - He called the people to repentance

III. God Reveals Himself as Father in the Parable of the Prodigal Son

1. The Extravagant Father

- *Luk 15:20 "And He arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him."*
- *Luk 15:22 "But the father said to his servants, "Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet."*
- *Luk 15:23 And bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;*
- *Luk 15:24 for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." And they began to be merry*
- **What the Younger son Did**
 - Demanded his inheritance before his father died
 - Dishonoured his father publicly
 - Lost all his inheritance
 - Lost his character and reputation
 - Joined to a Gentile pig farmer
 - Defiled himself among the pigs
- Jesus paints a picture of the depths of failure and defilement and dishonour the son had fallen to

2. Father God Revealed

- The Father in this parable represents God as a Father of two sons who did not know Him
 - **Compassionate**
 - **Forgiving**
 - **Unashamed of His son's (condition and actions)**
 - **Affectionate**
 - **Emotional**
 - **Generous**
 - **Desiring Total restoration**

- **Honouring**
- Jesus reveals the true Loving Nature of Father God in His desire for reconciliation and relationship and the extent he will go to restore it

IV. Activations

1. What aspect of God most impacted you?
2. Take time to meditate upon the Father's welcome of the Prodigal Son
 - What aspects of this most impacted you?
 - Memorise Luke 15:20 and take time to meditate upon it