

# *“The Perfect Father”*

Matthew 5:48 and Other Selected Scriptures

East Berlin Community Church

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## Introduction

- The search for the “Perfect Father”
  - Not found “on-line”
  - No Biblical examples of “perfect” father in Old Testament
    - Adam?
    - Noah?
    - Abraham?
    - Isaac?
      - Genesis 25:27-28-- *“So the boys grew. And Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a mild man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau because he ate his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.”*
    - Jacob?
    - Samuel?
      - 1 Samuel 8:3-- *“But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.”*
    - David?
    - Solomon?

## *The Perfect Father*

### **A. Meet the “Perfect Father”-- Matthew 5:48**

- Matthew 5:48-- *“Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect!”*
1. Jesus’ heavenly Father is Perfect
    - a. Meaning of “perfect”
    - b. Jesus has first-hand knowledge of His Father’s perfection.
      - John 17:5-- *“And now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was!”*
      - John 17:24-- *“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for you loved me before the foundation of the world.”*
    - c. Origin of the concept of “family”—the trinity
    - d. The prototype “Father”-- Ephesians 3:14-15; Matt 23:8-10
      - 1) Our concept of “father” derived from God, not from man.
        - Ephesians 3:14-15-- *“For this reason, I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.”*
      - 2) Is it wrong to call your earthly father, “father”?
        - Matthew 23:8-10-- *“But, do not be called Rabbi; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. Do not call anyone on earth father; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. And do not be called teachers; for One is your Teacher, the Christ!”*
  2. We are to be “perfect” as our heavenly father is perfect.
    - Matthew 5:48-- *“Therefore, you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect!”*

### **B. The Perfect Father in Action: Four “P”s**

#### **1. PROTECTS.**

- Matthew 10:28-31-- *“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both the soul and the body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father’s will. But the very hairs on your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore, you are more value than many sparrows.”*
- Matthew 26:52-53-- *“Put your sword in its place, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Or do you not think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels.”*
- John 17:11---- *“Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name!”*

## 2. PROVIDES. – Matthew 6:25-34

- Matthew 6:25-34-- *“Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature. So, why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil or spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all of his glory was not arrayed like one of these. No if God so clothed the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith. Therefore, do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear!’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.”*
- Matthew 7:9-11-- *“Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Of if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”*

## 3. PROMOTES. -- Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 17:1-5

- Luke 3:21-22-- *“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’”*
  - Matthew 17:1-5-- *“Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. Then Peter answered and said to Jesus. ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him.’”*
- a. For the benefit of Christ’s disciples.
- 2 Peter 1:16-18--*“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’ And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”*
- b. For the benefit of Jesus

## 4. PARDONS -- Luke 15:11-24

- Luke 15:11-24-- *“A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the younger son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in the land, and he began to be in want. Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him out into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father and say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’”*
- 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. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.’*
- 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. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.”*