

Morning Sermon June 21, 2015

"Our Heavenly Father"

Matthew 6:9-13; Romans 8:15-16; 1 John 3:1-3

I. Jesus teaching us to pray "Our Father" is an invitation to greater intimacy with God –

1. Most commentators say the likely word Jesus used when He actually taught this prayer was the Aramaic word "Abba."
2. The word "Abba" which is used in Romans 8:15 is close to our word "Daddy" or "Papa" R. Kent Hughes says the following –

"We sense that we really are God's sons! So intense is the reality of our adoption that we cry, "Abba, Father." The Aramaic word "Abba," which means "Dear Father" in the sense that we might say "Dad" or "Daddy," was never used by the Jews to address God, nor do they use it today. Jesus alone used it, and this was no doubt considered scandalous by his enemies. He used it in Gethsemane when he cried, "Abba, Father ... everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will" (Mark 14:36). We believe it was the word he used in the Aramaic original of what we call "the Lord's prayer." And here in Romans the Holy Spirit compels us to cry, "Abba, Father!" Galatians 4:6 says, "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, 'Abba, Father.'" It is not a reasoned cry, but a reflexive one, the cry of children." R. Kent Hughes

3. The New Testament emphasizes greater intimacy with God in several ways:
  - A. The rending of the veil in the Temple – Luke 23:45
  - B. Christ's taking of the Church to be His Bride – Ephesians 5:23 & :32; Revelation 21:2 & :9
  - C. The fact, that we are God's Temple, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, rather than an outward tent or building.
  - D. God being our Father is another example of this intimacy.
4. Old Testament emphasis was on the unapproachable nature of God, He spoke from a mountain, but people were neither allowed not able to come near –

<sup>18</sup> For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, <sup>19</sup> and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. <sup>20</sup> (For they could not endure what was commanded: "And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow."

<sup>21</sup> And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.")

<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (Hebrews 12:18-24 NKJ)

Jesus' blood makes all the difference. The defining characteristic in the Old Testament for the people in relationship with God was His holiness.

5. The spirit of bondage again to fear –

φόβος phobos {fob'-os} Meaning: 1) fear, dread, terror 1a) that which strikes terror 2) reverence for one's husband -

1. The word "again" in verse :15 implies "fear" and "bondage" characterized their relationship with God before He (God's Spirit) came as a Spirit of Adoption –

A. Fear is proper for sinners:

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."

(Genesis 3:8-10 NKJ)

B. Fear of God includes the dread terror of judgment:

<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> "For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?" (Revelation 6:15-17 NKJ)

C. Fear of God is the beginning of wisdom –

<sup>10</sup> **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do His commandments. His praise endures forever. (Psalm 111:10 NKJ)**

*D. This fear was appropriate for Old Testament believers who were under the Law –*

<sup>17</sup> **For the law was given through Moses, (John 1:17 NKJ)**

<sup>18</sup> **Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. <sup>19</sup> Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." (Exodus 20:18-19 NKJ)**

*E. Their sin meant approaching God with fear and trembling –*

<sup>13</sup> **"You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name. (Deuteronomy 6:13 NKJ)**

<sup>11</sup> **Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. (Psalm 2:11 NKJ)**

*6. We have the Spirit of adoption -*

<sup>15</sup> **For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." <sup>16</sup> The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, (Romans 8:15-16 NKJ)**

Can anything be more beautiful in this world of cold steel and computers? Jesus, through the Spirit, has given us his own special name for God, and it has become our natural cry to a loving Father. Could we offer anything more enticing than this to a lonely world? Many have never known a meaningful relationship with an earthly Father. Or some have, but now he is gone. God offers his soul-satisfying paternity to all who come to him. "Abba, Father." We are not under bondage to Law and afraid to act. We have the liberty of the Spirit and are free to follow Christ... ("Abba" means "papa"—a term of endearment.) Warren Wiersbe

*7. Fear is the beginning of wisdom, but love is the perfection of it*

<sup>18</sup> **There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love. (1John 4:18 NKJ)**

II. *Love desires the Hallowing of Our Father's Name*  
- <sup>9</sup> **"In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. (Matthew 6:9 NKJ)**

III. *Love (for God) aims at the advancement and spread of His Kingdom –*  
<sup>10</sup> **Your kingdom come. (Matthew 6:10 NKJ)**

IV. *Love will rejoice in His will being done –*  
**Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven. (Matthew 6:10 NKJ)**

1. *Definitely, His His prescriptive will, which we follow –*  
<sup>15</sup> **"If you love Me, keep My commandments. (John 14:15 NKJ)**

2. *But also His secret will which we fall into –*  
<sup>18</sup> **in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. (1Thessaloninas 5:18 NKJ)**

V. *We trust Him as our Father to meet both our physical and spiritual needs –*

<sup>11</sup> **Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, As we forgive our debtors. (Matthew 6:11-12 NKJ)**

<sup>14</sup> **"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (Matthew 6:14-15 NKJ)**

<sup>33</sup> **"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. (Matthew 6:33 NKJ)**

<sup>12</sup> **As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. <sup>13</sup> As a father pities his children, So the LORD pities those who fear Him. <sup>14</sup> For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. (Psalm 103:12-14 NKJ)**

IV. *We trust His (Our Father's) sovereignty in all things –*

<sup>13</sup> **And do not lead us into temptation, But deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. (Matthew 6:13 NKJ)**

*Arnold A. Brevick*