

FATHER'S DAY 2024

INDIVIDUAL MESSAGE: FATHER'S DAY

Text: Luke 12:29-32

TITLE: **FATHER KNOWS YOUR NEEDS**

INTRODUCTION:

Well, here it is Father's Day again.

- It is another of the holidays created by the greeting card companies to increase our guilt and their income.
- I am always amazed at how we treat Father's Day.
- On Mother's Day we often hear sermons exalting the role of the mother in the family. Mothers are encouraged, praised and lifted up as the most important person in the home. And, we should thank the Lord for godly mothers.

Then there's Father's Day.

- Dad comes to church and hears a sermon on how he does not measure up as a father.
- He is told about some biblical father and the perfect life he lived, and dad leaves feeling like a failure who will never measure up as a dad.
- Well Dad, I have two pieces of news for you today.
  - First, you are a special person too! You are just as important in the home as Mom and I thank the Lord for every one of you.
  - Second, you do not have to listen to a sermon on this Father's Day telling you how you could do a better job as a father.

I was estranged from my earthly father for 28 years.

- So messages on fathers and fathering were foreign to me.

When I was 8 years old – I heard a message on the Love of the Father

- It drew me to a decision to place my life in the heavenly Father's hands
- I gave my life to Jesus June 30<sup>th</sup>, 1969
- Over the years I have purchased many books on how to be a godly father and looked to me in the church who I thought exemplified what a godly father might look like.
  - The books were helpful
  - The examples were helpful

**Jesus became my Lord and Savior and His words became authoritative in my life.**

- What did Jesus say about the Heavenly Father?
- What relationship did he have with the Father Person of the Trinity?
- What am I to learn about being a father, by looking to the ultimate Father?

There are many verses in the Bible regarding God the Father.

- His nature
- His attributes
  - Compassion, love, discipline, glory, provision, protection, power
- Being a father of lights
- A giver of good gifts

But what does Jesus say?

### **John 1:18**

*No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.*

## **JESUS SPEAKS ABOUT THE FATHER**

Today, I want to preach about The Most Wonderful Father of Them All.

- I want to preach about the One Jesus referred to as **"My Father" fifty-three times** in the Gospels.
- But, when Jesus talked about the Father, He did not just call Him "My Father."
- He also called God **"Our Father" some twenty-one times** in the Gospels. Thus, Jesus clearly shows us that those who believe on Jesus share the same relationship with God in Heaven that He Himself shares.
- But, if you do the research, you will find that it gets even better than that! Jesus calls God **"your Father" twenty-one times** in the Gospels as well!

I am interested in the matter of God being called our Father. I would like to examine Luke 12:29-32 together today.

- As we do I would like to point out some aspects of our connection to our Heavenly Father.
- I want to encourage you today and help you to rejoice in your relationship with God.
- If you are not saved, I would like to help you to come to know Jesus as your personal Savior as well.
- Today's message is called: **Father knows your needs.**

Let's look at the words of Jesus

### **Luke 12:29-32**

*<sup>29</sup> And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. <sup>30</sup> For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. <sup>31</sup> Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. <sup>32</sup> "Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

## **JESUS SPEAKS OF THE RELATIONSHIP (Luke 12: 30, 32)**

- Jesus calls God **"your Father."** As I said, Jesus used that designation for God twenty-one times in the Gospels.
- That title and the two verses where it is used in our text give us some precious insights into our relationship to **"our Father."**)

### **It Is a Personal Relationship**

- The title "your Father" speaks of a very personal relationship.
- When an unbeliever comes to saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is "born again."

A Pharisee named Nicodemus seeks out Jesus and Jesus tells him:

### **John 3:1-2**

*Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

- At that instant, that person is brought into a very personal relationship with the God of the universe.
- In fact, the newly redeemed sinner is actually “adopted” into the family of God.

**Rom. 8:15**

*For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”*

- The word “adoption” literally means “to place as a son.”
- That person instantly becomes a child of God in heaven.

You see, in adoption a son is brought into a family and is given the same rights as a child who is born into that family.

**It Is a Permanent Relationship**

- When God adopted us into His family, He did not do it for just a while. He did it for all eternity!
  - You see, adoption, as it was practiced in biblical times, could not be undone.
  - A man had the right to disown his natural children; but an adopted child was a child for life.
  - He or she could never be disowned by the father.
  - This is the same guarantee that we have today,

**John 10:28**

*I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*

**John 6:37-40**

*<sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”*

**1 Pet. 1:5**

*(We) who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

- What God does when He saves a soul is a forever work!

**JESUS SPEAKS OF GOD’S RESPONSIBILITIES (Luke 12: 30-32)**

- Just as a human father has certain responsibilities to the children that are born to him
- God has taken on many responsibilities in relation to His children.

These verses tell us about a few of those responsibilities:

## The Responsibility of Awareness v. 30

- The Bible says that “your Father knows that you *have need* of them.”
  - The verb “have need” is in a tense that means “our needs are many and they are constant.”
  - That sounds like my life; how about you?
  - We are a needy people!
- Even though we all have needs and we all have them all the time; God is well aware of every single one of them!
  - You see, the word “knows” means “to be aware of something.”
  - The tense of this verb means that “He is always aware of everything that affects His children.”
  - Sometimes we human parents just do not know what the needs of our children are.
  - We may not always know, but our Heavenly Father always knows. What a GREAT truth!
- Nothing happens in your life or mine that goes unnoticed by our Father, verses 24, 26-28.
  - I will go even farther and say that nothing happens in your life or mine that is not part of his plan for us.

## Rom. 8:28

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

- Thank God, He is aware of everything that is going on, and that is going wrong, in our lives,

## Job 23:10

*But he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.*

## Psa. 139:1, 4, 7-8

*O Lord, you have searched me and known me!*

*Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there!*

- Too often our focus is on the physical and the material; but we also have needs in the emotional, mental and spiritual realms of life. Regardless of what the need is, He knows all about it.

**God Is Aware!**

## The Responsibility of Ability v. 31

- It isn't enough for the Lord just to know about what His children need; He must possess the ability to meet those needs, or His knowledge does us no good.
  - According to this passage, God does have the power to take care of us as well as to know about us.

Verse 32, for instance, tells us, “Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you. Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

The word “kingdom” refers to “all that pertains to His rule.”

- It speaks of “the power of the ruling One.”
- Like a wealthy, benevolent king, God has the wherewithal to meet every need that arises in the lives of each of His children.

- Therefore, when He says “all these things shall be added unto you” in verse 31; He has the ability to back up that promise.

**Many people live in doubt of God’s great ability to care for His people;**

- If God can speak this universe into existence, He can take care of you.
  - If He can keep Noah safe through that flood; feed Elijah with the ravens; put meal in the barrel, oil in the cruse and life in the boy for the widow; keep the three Hebrew boys safe in the furnace; secure Daniel in the lion’s den; feed Israel manna and quail in the wilderness for forty years; slay Goliath for David; take care of those disciples in that storm; part the Red Sea for Moses; raise Lazarus from the dead; walk on the water; feed the five thousand, and countless other things too numerous to mention; I think He is able to take care of you! He is able!

**Eph. 3:20**

*Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us...*

**Matt. 28:18**

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.*

**Jer. 32:17, 27**

*Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*

*...“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?” ...*

**Rom. 4:21**

*...fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.*

- We human parents may not always be able to meet the needs of our children; but God will never fail.
  - He is eternally able to perfectly care for His children!

**God Is Able!**

**The Responsibility of Availability v. 32**

- God’s awareness of our needs and His power to help us is a wonderful truth;
  - But if He is a God Who is far removed from His children, then His power does us no good!
  - He must be available. Praise God, He is!

**Notice verse 32. We are told that it is the “Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”**

- The words “good pleasure” means “to choose, to determine, to be ready; to be well pleased to do that which seems good.”
  - God has determined to be ready to do that which is good for His children.
- This implies that He has made Himself available to us. He is available to each of His children

**Matt. 11:28**

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

**Heb. 13:5**

*Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

**Matt. 28:20**

*"...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

- He is as close to us as a simple prayer of faith!
- There are times when we human parents are not as available as we should be to our children.
  - Sometimes we are busy.
  - Sometimes we are estranged from them.
  - Sometimes one problem or the other gets in the way.
  - But, the same is not true with God! He is always near and He is always available, day or night!
- He perfectly executes all the His responsibilities all the time.

**God Is Available!**

**JESUS SPEAKS OF OUR ROLE v. 29, 32**

While we can count on God doing His part perfectly; there are times when we fall short on our end of this thing. Well, we have a role too.

**We Must Have Faith v. 29, 32****In verse 29. We are commanded "don't be worried."**

- This phrase means "to be agitated or harassed with cares."
- It is a term that was used to describe a ship that was being tossed about upon a stormy sea.
- Here, it is used a metaphor for worry. Jesus is saying, "Child of God, do not allow your mind to be tossed up and down by the waves of worry, doubt and fear."

**In verses 32, we are told to "don't be afraid."**

- That phrase means "to be out to flight, to be seized with fear."
  - This may not mean much to you, but that command is in the "middle voice."
  - It could be read this way, "Do not allow yourself to be seized with fear."
- Jesus is challenging us to learn to trust the Lord; regardless of what circumstances may look like.
    - There are times when it may appear that there is no solution; never count God out!
  - Learn to look away to Him and to trust in His power in every single circumstance,

**Mark 11:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> *And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. <sup>23</sup> Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him.*

**Mark 9:23**

And Jesus said to him, *“If you can!” All things are possible for one who believes.”*

**Psa. 62:8**

*Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.*

- Always remember that we serve a God Who is Sovereign.
  - That is, He is in absolute control, even when things look impossible, they are not, if God is in control of them!
- Trust in the Lord and He will never allow you to be put to shame,

**Rom. 10:11**

*For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”*

**We Must Be Faithful v. 31**

- If we will experience the awesome power of God in our lives day by day; we must learn to be faithful to the Lord.
- In other words, He must come first!
  - The word **“seek”** in verse 31 means **“to crave something.”**
    - We are to crave, or desire the things of God ahead of all other things in our lives.
  - When we put Him first; God will put us first!
    - However, when our desires are misplaced; we miss out on the Lord’s best for our lives.
  - When we pursue the spiritual, God will always see to the material!
  - When He is first, you never have to worry about the rest.

Now, don’t misunderstand me, God remains faithful even when we fail Him and ignore Him

**2 Tim. 2:13 – if we are faithless, he remains faithful—**

- But, even though He may go on being our Father; we miss out His best when we fail to put the Lord first in our lives.
- **Let me encourage you to examine your life and your priorities today.**
- If God, His Word, time with Him, His house, etc, are not the priorities of your life; then please take whatever steps are necessary to get that straightened out.
- Remember, when you put Him first on your priority list, He will keep you at the very top of His.

The fact that He would love the unworthy, save them by His grace and adopt them into His family proves that God the Father IS Worthy of devotion.

Add to this the fact that He looks out for His children and takes care of them in spectacular fashion.

**He Desires A Personal and Permanent Relationship with You  
He Is Aware, Able, and Available**

I am glad that He is my Father today!

**Decision and Prayer**

Can you honestly say,

**“I am saved by the grace of God. I know that He is my Father and I am His child.”**

If you can't say that, then I want to invite you to call on Him. If you will, He will save you!

**If you are saved, can you honestly say that God and His business are the first priorities of your life?**

If not, I invite you to come to Him today so that He can help you get all your priorities in their proper order.

If you are a child of God who has needs in your life and you need help; there is no better place to bring those needs than to the Father Himself. I invite you to come before Him and get the help you need right now.

If you know the Father and know how wonderful He is, I invite you to bow at His feet and tell Him just how you feel about Him. I have a sneaking suspicion that He might like that!