

Fathered by God Part 5: "Come as a Child" (10-6-2019)

Last Week: "Growing in Grace" We are to be Planted, Rooted, & Tended by God (**Jesus in the temple**)

This Week: "Come as a Child" – Planted (learning to grow where he has us)

A few weeks ago, we briefly discussed this passage, and will now be focusing on this concept more today . . .

1 Corinthians 13:11-12 (ESV)

(11) When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways. (12) For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.

Note: We start as a child and move towards maturity. There is much we don't know!

Mark 10:13-16 (ESV)

(13) And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. (14) But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. (15) Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." (16) And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Note: Receive the Kingdom like a child - We come with a childlike approach, and God receives us lovingly!

1) Trust in God's character

Proverbs 1:7-8 (ESV)

(7) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (8) Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching

Note: There are 2 ways to live: in the "fear of the Lord," or as a fool who trusts to his own perspective.

A Warning . . .

Proverbs 1:29-33 (ESV)

(29) Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, (30) would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, (31) therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. (32) For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; (33) but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

Note: The mentality of a Fool . . .

- Rejects the Fear of the Lord (honoring him as higher, greater, wiser, etc.)
- Won't take counsel from God (won't receive **direction**)
- Despises reproof (won't receive **correction**)

Results: They will be allowed to have what they are asking for, and it won't be good!

An Invitation . . .

Proverbs 2:1-5 (ESV)

(1) My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, (2) making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; (3) yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, (4) if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, (5) then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Notes: Choose to view (and seek) God’s instruction as treasure! (You will find knowledge with this approach)

2) Submit to the Process (A reflection on the life of Job)

Job 28:28 (ESV)

And he (God) said to man, 'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom, and to turn away from evil is understanding.'"

Note: Job is talking here, and he is quoting God’s message to mankind.

Job 1:1 (ESV)

There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job, and that man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

Note: Job was a good guy, He feared God & therefore followed His ways. He accepted God’s no’s and turned from evil.

We need to learn to receive God’s “no’s” - If we don’t learn what to do when God says “no” we won’t know how to handle His “yes”

The Story of Job

- We don’t know & don’t see everything (but we sure think we do)
- God doesn’t explain Himself, He never addresses the “Why” question
- Instead he reminds Job of who He is.

Job 38:1-4 (ESV)

(1) Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: (2) "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? (3) Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me. (4) "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

Note: Can we really stand on level footing with God and question Him? Can we even understand?

A couple chapters later God really sums things up . . .

Job 40:8 (ESV)

Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?

Note: God revealed more of himself and his character to Job, and asked Him will He trust God since he doesn't know, and can't know!

Job 42:1-6 (ESV)

(1) Then Job answered the LORD and said: (2) "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted. (3) 'Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?' Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. (4) 'Hear, and I will speak; I will question you, and you make it known to me.' (5) I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; (6) therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes."

Notes: And this response from God is enough for Job! So, he repents and submits. And he declares that he has more intimate knowledge of God. Whoa!

Questions to Consider:

- Do you want to learn from God?
- Will you allow Him to Father you His way?

3) Growth in My character

See, this is the process He is inviting us into . . .

1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation

Note: Peter says, we just need to simplicity of milk when we are starting out.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 (ESV)

(7) But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. (8) So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Note: Will I have the kind of humility that is willing to be like a newborn, nurtured and cared for by another much more powerful than me?

We want to rush on to maturity, but are we giving ourselves to the process of learning knowledge from Him first? It's not about length of time, but proper use of that time . . .

Hebrews 5:12-14 (ESV)

(12) For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the basic principles of the oracles of God. You need milk, not solid food, (13) for everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, since he is a child. (14) But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.

Notes: Repetition of Teaching (vs. 12) & Constant Practice (vs. 14)

Conclusion: We opened this message today, but looking at an approach Jesus encouraged – come like a child and experience his blessing & embrace . . .

This is how His Church grows, and by extension, this is how we will grow individually!

Acts 9:31 (ESV)

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.

Note: If I will humble myself like a child – allowing Him to teach me what I don't know – I will grow and be comforted.