

Day Four • Thursday, May 7

The Intimacy of Being Fed

Isaiah 49:15 (ESV)

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you.

Peter chose his picture carefully. A nursing infant is not just a picture of neediness. It is a picture of intimacy. The baby is not fed at arm's length. The baby is held close, skin against skin, with the heartbeat of love right there in its ear. There is no room in that picture for a God who is far away, watching from a distance to see how we manage.

This is what Peter is telling us about the Word of God. When the Lord feeds you with His Word, He is not handing you a textbook from across the room. He is drawing you in close. He is addressing your deepest needs at the place they actually live. He knows what you cannot say out loud. He made you. He took on your flesh. He bled in His own body to redeem yours. There is no part of you He has not entered.

And note what is lying behind this milk. The reason God can feed you with such tenderness is that the cost has already been paid. The Word that nurses your soul is the Word made flesh, crucified and risen. Every Sunday when the pastor preaches Christ to you, when the bread and cup come to your lips, when you hear, "I forgive you all your sins" — what is being placed in front of you came from a cross. The intimacy is real because the death was real.

If you have ever held a baby and watched them eat — really watched, as the little one relaxes into total trust — you have seen a parable of what God wants to do with you. The world will tell you, in a thousand ways, that you must keep your guard up. The Father says, child, lay it down. I've got you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Is it easier for you to think of God as "powerful" or as "tender"? Why?
2. How does it change the way you hear a sermon to remember that what you are receiving came at the cost of Christ's death and resurrection?
3. Where in your life right now do you most need to hear God say, "I will not forget you"?

CLOSING PRAYER

Tender Shepherd, draw me close. Where I have built walls, take them down. Feed me with Yourself, and let me rest in the love that bled for me. Amen.

Family Action Item

If there is a young child or grandchild in your life, hold them today — and as you do, pray silently for them by name. If there is no little one nearby, call or write someone you love and tell them, plainly, that they are not forgotten. The God who remembers us teaches us how to remember each other.