

✓ OFW.9. Discovering God as Your Father

Sunday, 27 April 2025 8:48 AM

Discovering God as Your Father

I. The Revelation of Father God to Moses

1. Moses Hunger to Know Father God

- [Exo 33:18](#) And he said, "Please, **show me Your glory.**"
- [Exo 33:19](#) Then He said, "I will make **all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.**"
- **What is The Glory?**
 - Glory....Hb Kabod....weight, substance, honour, dignity, heaviness
 - The Glory of God is all the goodness or beauty of who God is.
 - That goodness is revealed in His name, who He is, His nature
- **Hunger attracts the presence of God**

2. The Revelation of who God is:

- [Exo 34:5](#) Now the LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD.
- [Exo 34:6](#) And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,
- [Exo 34:7](#) keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."
- [Exo 34:8](#) So Moses made haste and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshiped.
- **In This OT passage God speaks and declares who He is**
 - This is not someone's opinion about God.
 - It is God Himself, describing who He actually is to someone hungry to know Him

3. Jesus Demonstrated in Person what Father God is Like

- **Jesus is the Express Image of Father God (Heb.1:3)**
- [Col 1:15](#) He is the image of the invisible God,
 - 'Image' means an exact representation
 - Jesus also said "If you have seen me you have seen the Father (Jn.14:9)
- When we observe Jesus, how he lived, how He treated people, what He valued, we see what Father God is like

II. What is God Like?

1. The Value of Meditation

- We can know what God is like by meditating on who God declares Himself to be, and how Jesus revealed Him
 - We need to ask Holy Spirit to make these truths revelation to our heart and spirit
 - We Meditate upon each aspect seeking for Holy Spirit to make it revelation to us
 - Meditation and worship can lead to Encounters with God

2. What is Meditation?

- **What is meditation?**
- *Meditation:to revolve in the mind repeatedly, to imagine, to ponder, murmur*
 - Meditation assists the Word of God get into your heart
 - Meditation assist us experiencing truth rather than just head knowing
 - Meditation helps us connect
 - Meditation trains our heart
 - Meditation renews our mind
- **How do you Meditate?**
 - Memorise the scripture
 - Pray it aloud
 - Picture what that looks like and feels like
 - Let you mind and heart embrace the truth

III. What is God Like?

1. The Lord God

- The Lord...YHWH....or JehovahThe self existing, eternal and unchanging one
 - He is the the eternal faithful God who was and is and always will be
 - It means I Am who I Am
- God.....El....means God who is full of power and strength, the almighty, all powerful God
- What does that Look like?
- Jesus:
 - He called Himself I AM (Jn.8:58)
 - He was called Lord and God(Jn20:28)
 - He demonstrated it by His miracles over creation

2. Merciful

- Merciful is the word “**Compassion**”
- Compassion is a heartfelt empathy and understanding of the pain and distress of another person together with the motivation to connect and show kindness and care
- God is full of compassion
- What does that look like?
- Jesus
 - Moved with compassion Jesus healed the leper (Mk.1:41)
 - Moved with compassion Jesus commissioned workers (Mat.9:35)

3. Gracious

- Gracious means being kind, gentle, thoughtful and showing personal warmth and generosity.
 - A gracious person makes people feel welcome and cared for
 - God shows favour and kindness freely not because people deserve it but because it is in His nature
 - He bends down to help those who are weak and broken (Dt.1:31)
- What does that look like?
- Jesus:
 - He made tax collectors and sinners welcome (Lk.15:1-2)
 - He healed the lepers who were rejected by all (Lk.17:9)
 - Even while suffering on the cross he forgave the thief (Lk.23:42-43)

4. Long suffering

- Longsuffering means very slow to anger.It means to be very patient, deeply restrained and merciful even when wronged
 - God is very patient with human sin and failure and gives us abundant time to repent
- What does that look like?
- Jesus:
 - He was patient with His disciples failures
 - He endured rejection by his hometown (Mk.6-1-6)
 - He was patient with Judas even though he was a betrayer (Mat.26:50)

5. Abounding in Goodness and Truth

- When God says He abounds, He means He overflows with an endless supply
- “*Goodness*” is the word “*Chesed*” meaning *loving kindness*.
 - It is a deep covenant love for people that involves personal sacrifice and enduring commitment.
 - It is a Love that is expressed in acts of Kindness, especially when the person is unable to repay and does not deserve it
- *Jer 31:3* The LORD has appeared of old to me, saying: “Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.
- What does that look like?
- Jesus:
 - Jesus loved the unloveable people (Jn.15:1-2)
 - He was faithful even when others failed. He forgave and restored His disciples (Jn.21:15-19)
 - He laid down His life for us (Jn.15:13)
- “Truth” is the word “Emet”.
- It means more than just being factually accurate. It means faithful, reliable, trustworthy
 - God abounds in truth means that His character is absolutely reliable, that he is full of integrity, and that God is absolutely faithful to keep His

promises to us

- What does that look like?
- **Jesus**
 - Jesus always spoke the Truth, even when it cost Him
 - Jesus declared he himself was the Truth(Jn.14:6)
 - He is the visible trustworthy rec=velation of who God is

6. **Keeping Mercy.**

- The word for mercy is “Chesed”, meaning Loving kindness, loyal kindness, and deep covenantal love and sacrifice
 - God is keeping or guarding like a watchman to ensure that actively extending Lovingkindness to thousands of generations(Dt.7:9)
 - This means that God’s covenantal love extends over generations, and much longer than our failures last
- What does that look like?
- **Jesus**
 - Jesus showed Chesed or lovingkindness to sinners and the undeserving
 - He forgave those who crucified Him(Lk.23:34)
 - He continues to forgive all who come to Him

7. **Forgiving.**

- Iniquity...is the word “Avon’ meaning to be twisted or perverted
 - Iniquity is the inner distortion of our nature that leads to sin
- Transgression...is the word “Peshawar” meaning rebellion, wilful disobedience
 - Transgression is something wrong that is don knowingly and willingly
- Sin...is the word Chatta’ah....meaning a failure, missing the mark, falling short of God’s best
 - Sin describes falling short through ignorance , weakness
 - or a mistake
- God forgives the full range of our failure and releases us from all debt owed
- What does that look like?
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus on the cross carried our iniquity transgressions and sins (Is.53)

8. **Just**

- “By no mens clearing the guilty, means that God does not overlook or ignore sin
- God is a Just judge and He does not ignore sin.
 - He forgives sin but does not overlook it
 - Because He is Just He must hold people to account for their sin
 - The consequences of sin can have a ripple affect on descendants up to 3 or 4 generations
- What does that look like?
- **Jesus:**
 - Jesus upheld God the Father’s Justice upon the cross
 - He revealed the standard of God’s Holiness
 - He called people to repentance

II. **Jesus Revelation of God as Father in The Parable of The Prodigal Son**

1. **The Extravagant Father**

- [Luk 15:20](#) “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.”
- [Luk 15:22](#) “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.’
- [Luk 15:23](#) And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry;
- [Luk 15:24](#) for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ And they began to be merry.
- **What The Younger Son Did**
 - Demanded his inheritance before his father died
 - Dishonoured his Father publicly
 - Lost all his inheritance
 - Lost his character and reputation
 - Joined to a Gentile pig farmer
 - Defiled himself among the pigs
- Jesus paints a picture of the depths of failure and defilement and dishonour the son had fallen to

2. **Father God Revealed**

- The Father in this parable represents God as a Father of two sons who do not know Him
 - **Compassionate**

- **Forgiving**
 - **Unashamed of His Son's (condition and actions)**
 - **Affectionate**
 - **Emotional**
 - **Generous**
 - **Desiring Total Restoration**
 - **Honouring**
- Jesus reveals the true Loving Nature of Father God in His desire for reconciliation and relationship and the extent he will go to restore it
 - What does that look like?

III. Activations:

1. What aspect of God most impacted you
2. Take time to meditate upon the Father's welcome of the Prodigal Son
 - What aspects of this most impact you
 - Memorise Lk,15:20 and take time to meditate upon it