

The Father's Love Presented!

John 14:8-11

“Run to the Father”

*I run to the Father, I fall into grace
I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait
My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend
So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again*

→ Daily Devotions through Passion Week! ←

During this time of continued unsettledness there are many declarations being made about God...

Many are claiming this to be God's judgment against the blatant immorality in our nation...

As I listen to these claims there is a deep sadness that stirs within me...

While I do believe in the certainty of God's judgment, I see it being presented in ways that make God out to be more of an ANGRY TYRANT than a LOVING FATHER...

Over the next few weeks I want to share with you about the Father's Love!

I believe the Father's love is one of the most misunderstood concepts in Scripture...

Since the FALL OF MAN in Genesis 3, TWO THINGS HAVE BEEN HAPPENING...

First, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HIDING

Genesis 3:9–10 (ESV) — But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”

Second, GOD HAS BEEN PURSUING

Jeremiah 31:3b (ESV) — ... I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

The Father's longing for people to enter His love is the theme of Scripture...

But many people MISS the Father's love...

When I mention the Father's love, what begins to stir inside you?

Our perception of God and ourselves is many times skewed by a faulty projection onto God of the failings of our parents and those in authority.

And by giving our lives to Jesus, we are LIBERATED into the Father's love where we can call Him, “DADDY”!

Romans 8:15 (ESV) — 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!”

1 John 4:16 (ESV) — So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

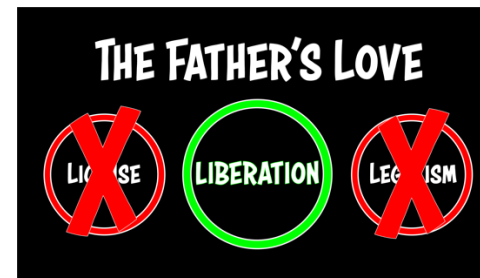
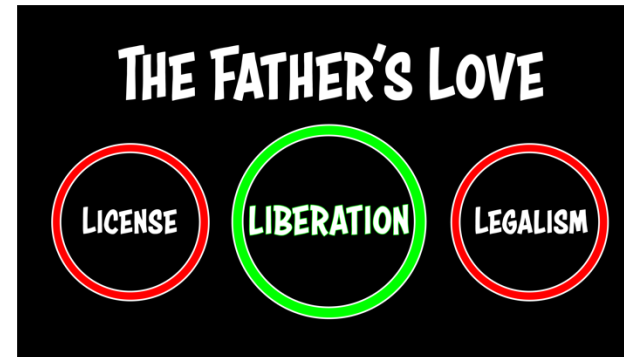
Last week we looked at three characteristics of the Father's love



ONE THING

The clearest picture of the Father's love is portrayed in the life of Jesus!

Again, before we take a look at the Father's Love Presented in Jesus, we need to make sure we STAY OUT OF THE DITCHES!!!



As we approach Easter Sunday this week...

As part of the conversation between Jesus and His disciples on Thursday, Jesus made a profound statement...

John 14:6 (ESV) — Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Following this, Jesus makes, what I believe to be, an equally profound statement...

John 14:8–11 (ESV) — Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else believe on account of the works themselves.

I want us today to key in on Jesus’ response to Philip’s statement...

John 14:9a (ESV) —Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...

Again, ...

The clearest picture of the Father’s love is portrayed in the life of Jesus!

This is PROFOUND!!!

Jesus’ LOVE for people PRESENTS the Father’s LOVE for people!!!

Jesus’ COMPASSION for people PRESENTS the Father’s COMPASSION for people!!!

Jesus’ APPROVAL of people PRESENTS the Father’s APPROVAL of people!!!

John 14:9b (ESV) —... Whoever has seen me has seen the Father...

Let’s look at THREE more amazing characteristics of the Father’s Love as PRESENTED by Jesus...

1. The Father’s AFFECTION

John 15:13 (ESV) — Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

Do you have any idea how attractive you are to God?

One of the biggest hindrances to our walk with Him is a sense that our flesh is repulsive to Him because of sin.

One of the grave misnomers is that Jesus loves us, but the Father... well, He does love us as long as we toe the line...

But one slip up, one step off the “straight and narrow” and the Father is there to pounce on us and punish us...

But that is NOT the Father!!!

Jesus said, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father!”

Many of you know that Kathy and I have three sons...

They are all grown men with children of their own now, but there was a time when they were the little boys running and playing in our home...

You know, there is something about boys and mud puddles that seem to attract each other!

After a rain (or many times while it was raining) our boys wanted to go outside...

When they went out...

- **They didn’t avoid the mud puddles...**

- *They didn't tip-toe through the mud puddles...*
- *They jump up and down in the middle of the mud puddles!*
- *They sat down in the mud puddles!*
- *They sometimes laid down and made "mud angels" in the mud puddles!*

When it was time to come back in, what would we do?

We would get the water hose and wash all that mud off of them...

→ We rejected the mud, but not our boys!

Again, the Father says to you...

Jeremiah 31:3b (ESV) — ... I have loved you with an everlasting love...

His compassion and understanding are measureless. He feels our hurts more deeply than we do because His sensitivity to suffering is so much greater.

*→ **Story of Jesus and the Leper***

Mark 1:40–41 (NLT) — A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," he said. 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!"

Again, Jesus said,...

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father!"

Many children, particularly boys, have had no physical display of affection from their fathers.

*As a result, it's so hard to understand the Father's deep **AFFECTION** for us...*

Let the Father's love...

His undignified... undeserved, undeterred, undivided, undeniable...

Love for you pierce through the protective layers covering your heart!

The Scripture doesn't say...

"For Jesus so loved the world that he gave his only life, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

It says...

John 3:16 (ESV) — For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

The clearest picture of the Father's love is portrayed in the life of Jesus!

1. The Father's **AFFECTION**

2. The Father's **ATTENTIVENESS**

Jesus made a statement that sounds kind of strange when we read it...

Matthew 10:30 (ESV) — But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.

We hear that and many jokes begin to surface...

Jesus doesn't say that because God is heavily into statistical analysis!...

He says that because the Father is attentive to every detail of your life!

Psalms 139:17–18 (NLT) — How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! 18 I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

To help us better grasp this characteristic of the Father's love let me illustrate through a familiar NT story...

→ Story – Woman with the issue of blood

There's a story in the NT about a woman who had an unstoppable bleeding discharge...

She had gone to doctor after doctor...

She had tried every remedy, yet was not getting better...

In fact, we are told that she had spent all her money and was actually getting worse!

She heard that Jesus was passing through

She went and touched his garment and was instantly healed!

I want to tell you this story from the ATTENTIVENESS of the Father's love for this woman...

This poor woman had spent the last 12 YEARS trying to stop this bleeding...

- **Because of the bleeding, she was considered UNCLEAN and UNABLE to go to the Temple**

The Father was there! He saw her pain, her struggle, her embarrassment...

- **You may say, "Well, why didn't He just heal her and keep her from all the misery?"**

→ Because He wanted to do an even greater miracle through her!!!

One day someone came by and told her that Jesus was passing through town...

She may have thought, "What's the use..."

By this time, her hopes of getting better had been dashed so many times she had probably given up hope...

But something inside her urged her to go...

The Father began nudging her to go...

John 6:44 (NLT) — For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me ...

The Father began building her faith!

When she arrived the crowds were massive!

There was no way she could get Jesus to stop and pray for her.... Again, her hopes were crumbling...

But the Father kept stirring up her faith...

The thought enters her mind, “This is the Messiah, sent from God. If I can just touch His garment I’ll be healed!”

So she begins pushing and shoving her way towards Jesus...

To be unrecognized by the people for fear they would make her leave because of her uncleanness, she gets on her hands and knees ... and waits for Jesus to pass

As Jesus passes, she stretches out her hand and grazes the hem of Jesus garment...

SUDDENLY, the healing power of God’s Kingdom flows through Jesus and into the woman...

IMMEDIATELY her bleeding stops and she is healed!

Jesus FEELS healing power leave Him...

- ***He turns and begins asking who touched Him***
- ***People were pressing in all around Him!***
- ***Multitudes were touching Him***
- ***But this woman’s touch was different!***

She confesses and Jesus realizes the Father was blessing this poor woman...

Mark 5:34 (ESV) — And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

It wasn’t Jesus’ compassion for the woman, but the Father’s!

John 5:19 (NLT) — “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.”

The clearest picture of the Father’s love is portrayed in the life of Jesus!

1. The Father’s AFFECTION

2. The Father’s ATTENTIVENESS

3. The Father’s APPROVAL

First off, ...

What does it mean to experience God’s approval?

The word, “approval” means, “To regard with favor”

So, ...

Living in God’s approval is living in God’s favor!

Second, ...

How do we attain God’s favor?

By this I want to make something very clear that the New Testament unveils...

God's approval is not gained by us through our works, but was attained for us through the Cross!

Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV) — For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

God's approval was attained through the Cross and is entered through the gift of salvation!

To better understand this idea of God's approval let's listen to Jesus again...

"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father!"

Jesus one day told a story of two people going to pray...

Luke 18:10–14 (ESV) — "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' 14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

John 8:3–5 (ESV) — 3 The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst 4 they said to him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. 5 Now in the Law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?"

John 8:7 (ESV) — 7 And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

John 8:10–11 (ESV) — 10 Jesus stood up and said to her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" 11 She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more."

The Father has approved you!

To the men listening who may never have heard your earthly father tell you that he was proud of you...

The Father is proud of you!

To the women listening who may feel like a failure because you know you can never measure up to the impossible and unhealthy cultural standards measured as beauty...

The Father sees you as His beauty!

The Father loves those perceived "flaws" you see in yourself... You've been fearfully and wonderfully made by Him!!!

April 5, 2020

Crossgates – AM Message

David Jett

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John 14:8-11

1. The Father's _____

2. The Father's _____

3. The Father's _____