

Encounter Church  
Sunday June 16, 2024

## Lessons From the Garden The Father's Heart

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!

In the last month I've had to use my "Maps" app. On my phone much more than usual.

What I've noticed is that when I entered my destination I usually get 2 to 3 different routes to my desired destination.

First there's the fastest route and then the next fastest and so on. Two weeks ago I was even sent a different way to Galveston because there was a flood warning.

All of us are accustomed to there being several different "ways" to get to our destination.

That's just one reason why I think some people struggle with the following verse in the Bible spoken by Jesus Christ.

John 14:6- "Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Jesus says, "There's only ONE WAY boys and I'm it!" WHAT A BOLD STATEMENT!

And for years now the church has put much emphasis on Jesus being the ONLY WAY!

THERE'S JUST ONE WAY!

***Have we put so much focus on the message of "one way" that we've unintentionally put less focus on the destination?***

SO ON THIS FATHER'S DAY I WANT TO FOCUS ON:

### 1. The Destination

Here's what's really cool, the destination is not a place, it's a Person! And this Person, is not just God, He's the Father!

John 14:7- "Because you have known me, you will also know my Father; from now on, you do know him — in fact, you have seen him."

Jesus came to clear a path for us straight to the Father who longs to have an intimate relationship with His children!

### **A Father has children!**

Revelation 21:3-4- "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever."

The destination is an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father!

### **2. The Desire**

Genesis 3:8-9- "When the cool evening breezes were blowing, the man and his wife heard the Lord God walking about in the garden. So they hid from the Lord God among the trees. Then the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?"

They hid, God pursued because He still desired them!

Genesis 3:15- "And I will put enmity (open hostility) Between you and the woman, And between your seed (offspring) and her Seed; He shall [fatally] bruise your head, And you shall [only] bruise His heel."

Many believe this is the first prophecy about Jesus Christ. Again God pursuing mankind. His daughters and sons!

HE LONGS FOR A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU AND ME!

Romans 5:6,8-"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."

We hide, but God pursues us!

He is our destination because we are his desire!

### **3. The Delight**

1 John 3:1- "See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us his children, and that is what we are!...".

He calls us His children! That's my girl! That's my boy!

He delights in his children!

Ephesians 3:12- “Because of Christ and our faith in him, we can now come boldly and confidently into God’s presence.”

***When you go “The Way” you reach your destination, because your Heavenly Father longs to spend time with you because He desires and delights in you!***

CONCLUSION:

Luke 15:20- “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.”

This son, who had wasted all that the Father had given him on prostitutes and riotous living, set his destination for the Father’s house and he found a Father that still desired him and delighted in him.

THE FATHER’S HEART!

What is the Holy Spirit saying to you through this message?