

Our Father, Immanuel

It is Christmas Day, and we are here finishing off a series about the Fatherhood of God.

The last two weeks:

- As the perfect Father, God provides some of what we want but all of what we need.
- As the perfect Father, God chooses perfectly what to protect us from and what we are allowed to endure.

What does perfect fathering require, beyond provision and protection?

ISAIAH 63:16

¹⁶For you are our Father,
though Abraham does not know us,
and Israel does not acknowledge us;
you, O LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

Perfect fathering requires a relationship between the child and the father.

- We want our fathers attention, love, affection and pride.

1. The heart of a child longs to know and be known by their father..

→ *This is a basic desire, consider it residue from being created in the image of God.*

THE DILEMMA:

We are separated from our Heavenly Father, both physically and spiritually.

- That our hearts long to know and be known by our father is a good thing, however, there is difficulty when we consider our position.
- We are separated physically from God because he is spirit and we are flesh, and we are separated spiritually because of our sin and His holiness.

JOB 9:2;30-34

²... how can a man be in the right before God? ...

³⁰If I wash myself with snow and cleanse my hands with lye,

³¹yet you will plunge me into a pit,

and my own clothes will abhor me.

³²For he is not a man, as I am, that I might answer him,

that we should come to trial together.

There is no arbiter between us, who might lay his hand on us both.

³⁴ Let him take his rod away from me,

and let not dread of him terrify me.

Then I would speak without fear of him, for I am not so in myself.

THE SOLUTION:

Our Heavenly Father sends Immanuel, Jesus Christ into the world.

MATTHEW 1:18-23

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

- God broke into the universe that HE created in order to become Immanuel, God with Us so that we would no longer be separated physically.
- He did this so we can see what he's like, see how he lives, see God in the form of Christ. "If you have seen me, you have seen the father"
- He experienced all that we experience so that he knows our pain, he felt it, he knows our temptations, he overcame them.

MARK 14:32-36

³² And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I pray." ³³ And he took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. ³⁴ And he

said to them, "My soul is very sorrowful, even to death. Remain here and watch."³⁵ And going a little farther, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him.³⁶ And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you. Remove this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will."

- ☉ The cup Jesus is referring to is found in Jeremiah 25:15-17: ¹⁵ This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: "Take from my hand this cup filled with the wine of my wrath and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. ¹⁶ When they drink it, they will stagger and go mad because of the sword I will send among them."
- ☉ Jesus came to earth in order that he could take our sins upon himself and with them God's wrath towards sin and nail it to the cross that we are no longer separated from relationship with our heavenly father.

THE RESULT:

Through Jesus' life and death we are able to know our Heavenly Father.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21: For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

JOHN 17:3: And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

The first result is that we are declared righteous before God, which separates the enmity between us and our father.

The second result is that, with the enmity removed, we are able to receive eternal life through Christ... and eternal life is described as "knowing" God.

Jesus came to die for sinner like us, so that we can be reconciled to our heavenly father and be in relationship with the one our heart longs to know.

