

3/12/2017

LUKE 12:29-32 = CHARACTER OF GOD (The most wonderful Father...)

#**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 12:22-34 (30/32), Rom 8:9-17 (14-17) & Gal 4:6-7

#**SERMON=INTRODUCTION:** Incident at *Beit Shean* (2014): 2 of us walking to the curio shop (finished sightseeing). Suddenly the anxious calls of a young (± 5 year old) Jewish boy: "*Abba, Abba!..*" As I looked up, I witnessed (for me) *a life-changing scene*. This lad went to the toilet and as he came out, *he thought his dad had forgotten about him = that he was lost/on his own*. But as he shouted "Abba, Abba!" (*the Aramic word for "Father"*), his father (holding the hand of this little fellow's brother) *turned around, bent down and embraced his anxious son as he ran into his arms!* His dad then turned around and, holding both his boys' hands, walked towards the excavations...

+**TRANSITION:** Why was it a life changing scene/insident for me? Because within a moment, there was a new/deep understanding/appreciation of what Jesus meant when He told *the parable of the prodigal son* (LUKE 15:11-32), and when He said: "**For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God." (ROM 8:15-16) Allow me (together with you, as the Holy Spirit leads us) to look at what the Word teaches us about *God as our Father*. Let's look at the character of the One Jesus referred to as "**My Father**" 53x in the Gospels; the One He called "**Our Father**" 21x in the Gospels - the One He also called "**your Father**" (also 21x).

+**EXEGESIS&APPLICATION:** *(1) *The character of this relationship:* -

~ (a) *It's Personal:* The title "**your Father**" speaks of *a very personal relationship*. When an unbeliever comes to saving faith in the Lord JC, that person is *born again* (JOHN 3:3). At that instant, that person is brought into a personal relationship with the Creator of the universe. In fact, *the newly redeemed sinner is actually "adopted" into the family of God* (ROM 8:15). The word adoption literally means "*to place as a son*"; he/she is given the same rights as a child that was biologically born into that family.

~ (b) *It's profound:* This is a remarkable relationship *when you consider what a person is before God saves them*. According to the Word *the lost sinner is God's enemy* (ROM 8:7) - condemned to an eternity in hell (JOHN 3:18&36/EPH 2:3). That this same "enemy" can become His child/an heir/an eternal prince/princess - is indeed beyond words!.. Remember now - *the Jews had dozens of names for God;* what they needed at any given time usually dictated the Name they used to call on God. For example: *In sickness, they called to Him as "Jahwe Rapha" = the Lord our Healer* (EXOD 15:26). And then suddenly, during His 1st sermon, Jesus introduces/uses a totally foreign term to them! *In "The Lord's Prayer", He instructs them to call God "Our Father"* (MATT 6:9). [*By the way:* In this passage the Aramic word "*abba*" is used, which translates to the English word "*Daddy*"]

~ (c) *It's permanent:* When God adopts us (through JC) into His family, *it's not just for a while - it's permanent = for all eternity!* B/S, adoption, as it was practised during Biblical times, *could not be undone. A man/father had the right to disown his biological/natural children - but an adopted child was a child for life!..* What a wonderful guarantee to have as Kingdom children - *that God will bring us through* (JOHN 10:28&6:37-40 / 1 PET 1:5).

*(2) *God's role/responsibilities:* Just as a human father has certain responsibilities to the children that are born to him, God our Father has taken on (out of His own free will!) many responsibilities in relation to us, His children: -

~ (a) The responsibility of Awareness: Our Scripture reading says that “**your Father knows that you need [have need of] these things.**” (v30) The Greek verb translated with “**need/have need of**” is in a *tense* that means *our needs are many/constant*. The verb “**knows**” implies *to be aware of something*. The *tense* of this verb means that He [God] is always aware of everything that affects His children. In other words, nothing happens in our lives that goes unnoticed by our Father (v24, 26-28). *Regardless of what my/our needs are - physically/emotionally/Spiritually - He is 100% aware of everything. He never wonders - He only knows. He is indeed Omniscient.* What a blessed truth!

~ (b) The responsibility of Ability: It’s not enough for God our Father just to know what our needs are - He must possess the ability to meet those needs, or His knowledge does us no good. “**...it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**” (v32) The word “**kingdom**” used here, refers to all that pertains to His rule; it implies the power of His ruling. In other words: Like a wealthy, benevolent king, God has the wherewithal to meet every need that arises in the lives of each of His children. Therefore, when He says “**...all these things shall be added to you**” (v31), He has the ability to back up that promise.

My dear B/S, many of us live in doubt of God’s great ability to take care of His people =us. But I would like to remind you that if God *can speak this *universe* into existence, He can take care of you. If He *can keep *Noah* safe through the flood, *part the Red Sea for *Moses & Co*, *feed a million-or-two *Israelites* for 40 years with fresh manna/quails on a daily basis, *slay Goliath for *David*, *feed *Elijah* with the ravens, *put meal in the barrel/oil in the cruse and life in the boy for *the widow*, *keep the 3 *Hebrew boys* safe in the furnace, *secure *Daniel* in the lion’s den, *take care of *the disciples* in that storm and * feed the 5 000 - and countless other things too numerous to mention, *I think He’s able to take care of you!*..B/S, we human parents may not always be able to meet the needs of our children - but Abba Father will never fail! He is eternally able to perfectly care for His children=us!

***(3) Our role/responsibilities:**

~ (a) We must have faith: Notice what Jesus says in v29: “**...nor have an anxious mind.**” Another translation: “**...neither be ye of doubtful mind.**” B/S, this phrase meant: “*Don’t be agitated or harassed with cares.*” Was a term used to describe a ship that was being tossed about upon a stormy sea. Here, Jesus uses it as a metaphor for worry; He says: “*Child of God your Father, do not allow your mind to be tossed up&down by the waves of worry, doubt and fear...*” In v32 we are even told: “**Do not fear, little flock...**” B/S, if you knew the ancient Greek language, you would understand that *what Jesus says here, is in “the middle voice”*. Therefore it could be read as follows: “*Do not allow yourself to be seized with fear.*”

Dear children of the living Father, *Jesus is challenging us to learn to trust God - regardless of what circumstances may look like*. There are times when it may appear that there is no solution; I repeat - *never count God out!* Ask the Holy Spirit to teach/enable you to look away from the mountain and to focus on the Mountain Mover! (PS 62:8 / MARK 9:23 & 11: 22-23) Always remember that *we serve a sovereign God Who specializes in the impossible!* (GEN 18:14 / JER 32:17 / MATT 19:26 / LUKE 1:37) Trust Him, *He will never allow you to be put to shame!* (ROM 10:11)

~ (b) We must be faithful: Dear children of God, if we want to experience the awesome power of the most wonderful Father in our lives on a daily basis, *we must learn to be faithful to Him*. In other words, *He and His Kingdom must come 1st!* The word “**seek**” (v31) means *to crave something*. Do you hear that? *We are to crave or desire the things of God ahead of all other things in our lives*. Bottomline: *When we put God first, He will put us first! When we pursue the eternal/Spiritual 1st, God will always see to the material*. Therefore we must constantly (under the guidance of the HS, test our priorities against the Word. And *allow Him as a Father to correct/discipline you*. PROV 3:12=“**For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.**” Amen&amen!.. (...\Preke\WesevGod\Luk12v30)