

God Is Your Father

Luke 11:1-13

Introduction:

[The Almighty Maker and Judge of all the Earth Is Your Father.]

- A. The Disciples came to Jesus while He was praying for instruction in how to pray. They desired to know this because John had taught his Disciples to pray. Obviously, they felt the need to pray and, knowing Jesus was a man of prayer, were confident that He would guide them.
- B. Jesus answered their request not only teaching them “how” but also for “what” and “why” they should pray.
 - 1. Verses 2-4 teach the disciple for what to pray.
 - 2. Verses 5-8 teach the disciple how to pray.
 - 3. Verses 9-13 teach the disciple why to pray.
- C. It is a beautiful thought to contemplate that the omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent Creator is a Father to His creatures (Hebrews 12:9). It is a comfort to know that the Judge of All the Earth to whom vengeance belongs is the Father of unregenerate mankind (1 John 4:14). It brings a special joy and peace to the heart to believe that I am a son of the God that dwells in light unapproachable Whom no man has seen or can see but Whom I shall see in glory (1 John 3:1, 2).
- D. Jesus said pray, “Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name” We need to consider the implications of this wonderful truth.

I. What Does It Mean to Have God as Our Father?

- A. The text suggests one aspect of “fatherhood” that implies others:
 - 1. Giving “good gifts” is something inherent in the qualities of a father.
 - 2. Thus, we ought to consider other comparisons the Scriptures make between a father and the Father.
- B. There are at least three qualities that all fathers possess that are possessed by Our Father, which make Him the Father:
 - 1. The desire to give gifts - Lk 11:9-13
 - 2. The capacity to forgive erring children - Lk 15:11-32
 - 3. The ability to train and discipline offspring - Heb 12:4-11

II. God Is the Giver of Every Good and Perfect Gift—

- A. “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, *how much more* will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”
 - 1. This is a case of arguing from the *lesser* to the certainty of the *greater*.
 - 2. Numerous examples of this in Scripture:
 - a. In Matthew 10:25 if the Master is called Beelzebub *how much more* the Disciples.
 - b. In Luke 12:24-28 if God feeds the birds and clothes the fields *how much more* will He feed and clothe the Disciples.
 - c. In 1 Corinthians 6:3 if saints will judge angels *how much more* should they judge matters between the saints.
 - d. In Hebrews 9:13, 14 if the blood of bulls and goats sanctifies the pattern *how much more* must the blood of the Son of God cleanse you.
 - 3. God being of infinitely perfect character will never fail in giving good gifts to His children - Jas 1:17
- B. To whom does God give gifts?
 - 1. Obviously, only to those of whom He is Father - Lk 11:13
 - 2. God is Father to all men by Creation - Heb 12:9; Acts 17:29; Lk 3:38; 1 Cor 8:6; Eph 4:6

3. However, God is Father to a special class by re-creation or regeneration - 2 Cor 6:18; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 2:13-19
- C. What should I expect as a gift from my Father in Heaven?
 1. God does not withhold His providence from any that are His children by Creation - Matt 5:44, 45; Gen 1:29, 30; Psa 8:4-9; Psa 104; Acts 14:17
 2. However, as a Christian, a child of God by re-creation, I have the promise of special blessings that God does not bestow upon others:
 - a. I am the object of His love and never forgotten - Rom 8:31-39
 - b. He will never forsake me or leave me - Heb 13:5, 6
 - c. He hears and answers my prayers - 1 Pet 3:12, 13
 - d. He protects me from Satan - 1 Cor 10:12, 13
 - e. He sends forth His angels to minister on my behalf - Matt 18:10; Heb 1:13, 14
 - f. He provides me with the necessities of life and more - Matt 6:26-33; 2 Cor 9:8-10
 - g. He has given me a loving family of believers to fulfill His intentions - Mk 10:28-31; Matt 12:49, 50; Phil 1:19
 3. As an aside, sometimes wicked and evil things happen to good people.
 - a. Folks want to cast the blame for that upon God.
 - b. Our text does not allow for such an interpretation.
 - c. God is good; He gives only good gifts to His children - Jas 1:17
- D. Have you thanked your Father for your gifts today?

III. *For Those Whom The Lord Loves He Disciplines*—

- A. “But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons” - Heb 12:8
 1. One of the things that none of us have enjoyed is the discipline which our fathers used to correct us - cf. Heb 12:11
 2. However, we all know that such measures were necessary to recover us from rebellion and wickedness - Prov 22:15; 3:11, 12
 3. One of the saddest sights I have seen is a child with “parents” that will not restrain him. It reveals something about both the character of the child and the parents.
- B. Every child of God experiences discipline - Heb 12:7, 8
 1. What is this discipline?
 - a. “*When you are reprov'd by him*” - Heb 12:5; cf. Rev 3:19
 - b. Rebuke in the Scriptures is directed toward sin, error and apathy - 2 Pet 2:16; Lk 17:3; 1 Tim 5:20
 - c. It is through the preaching and teaching of God’s Word that these rebukes are issued - Mk 8:33; 1 Tim 5:20; 2 Tim 3:16-4:2; Tit 2:15
 2. What occasions this discipline?
 - a. Running our race (12:1)
 - b. Experiencing the contradiction of sinners (12:3)
 - c. Striving against sin (12:4)
 - d. However, it is a lack of endurance, *grow weary and lose heart*, in the struggle against sin that occasions the rebuke of God (12:1-3).
 3. What is the result of this divine “discipline”?
 - a. “Our profit” (12:10)
 - b. “That we might be partakers of His holiness”

- c. “Afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness” (12:11)
- 4. Why does God allow the struggle, if it results in discipline that may end in the spiritual demise of some?
 - a. First, because we are creatures of choice. Eliminating trials requires the elimination of choice. No choice, no sin, but no glory to God.
 - b. The struggle perfects the participants - Jas 1:2, 3, 12; 1 Pet 1:3-9
 - c. The trials separate the wheat from the chaff, the sheep from the goats and the good fish from the bad - Matt 3:12; 25:33; 13:48

C. How are you reacting to the discipline of the Lord?

IV. *Your Heavenly Father Will Also Forgive You—*

A. *“Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful”* - Lk 6:36

- 1. One of the most beautiful images in the Bible is that of the man with two sons peering intently toward the horizon looking for his wayward boy - Lk 15:20
- 2. That loving father of that wayward boy represents Our Father in Heaven - Psa 103:13; Eph 2:4-7; 2 Cor 1:3
- 3. We serve a God who is rich in mercy and always ready to forgive His penitent children - Jas 5:11
 - a. Those of His children who have gone into the world like Adam may come home to Him and enter His spiritual family the Church - 2 Pet 3:9; Heb 8:12
 - b. Even those of His spiritual family that sin God will forgive as a father does a child - Heb 4:16; Jas 4:8; 5:15

B. What must you do to obtain God’s forgiveness?

- 1. The prodigal had to go home - Lk 15:17-20
 - a. He knew the blessings were in his father’s house.
 - b. He knew that he had sinned.
 - c. He knew he would have to submit to his father to be restored.
 - d. He made up his mind to go and went.
- 2. Repentance is the road that leads home to your Father.
 - a. It is not enough to believe only - Jas 2:17
 - b. One must cease his rebellion against the Father. Just as a child must obey his parents (Eph 6:1-4), so must a man submit to God his Father - Eph 5:1; 1 Pet 1:14
 - c. The alien must repent and be baptized - Acts 2:38
 - d. The erring Christian must repent and pray - Acts 8:22; Jas 5:16; 1 Jn 1:9

C. Will you come home to your Father today?

Conclusion:

A. God is your Father—

- 1. He will give you good gifts.
- 2. He will discipline when you need it.
- 3. He will always forgive you when you sin.

B. What will you do today?

- 1. Be thankful.
- 2. Endure the discipline.
- 3. Come home to My Father’s house where I belong.