

A BETTER FATHER

2 Corinthians 6:17-18 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

THE GREATEST NAME FOR GOD: FATHER

Romans 8:15-18 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. 18 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are not worthy to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

Galatians 4:6-7 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. 7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Earthly Fathers: **Provide & Protect, Discipline & Direct.**

We as Fathers can learn a lot from our Heavenly Father. But we can also learn a lot about our Heavenly Father by looking at our earthly fathers.

1Thessalonians 2:11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, **as a father** doth his children,

Before we get too far into this thought, Let me remind you that God is NOT man:

God is Not Man

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Psalms 118:8 *It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.*

Where man will fail, God will not for He is NOT as man.

Let us understand that although He is not man, He did take on the “form of flesh” to become a man! He can relate to our feelings, temptations, and pain, yet He is not man.

Psalms 50:21 These *things* hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether *such an one* as thyself: *but* I will reprove thee, and set *them* in order before thine eyes

1. **He will Judge Righteously**
God looks on the heart

I Samuel 16:7 *But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.*

Psalms 96:10 Say among the heathen *that* the LORD reigneth: the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved: he shall judge the people righteously.

John 7:24 Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Psalms 44:21 Shall not God search this out? for he knoweth the secrets of the heart.

2. He Speaks Truthfully

God cannot Lie

Numbers 23:19 *God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?*

3. He Promises Faithfully

God keeps His promises

II Peter 3:9 *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

4 days late, but still on time – Lazarus' funeral

Hebrews 10:22-23 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. **23** Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)

4. He Waits Patiently

Hosea 11:1-5 When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. **2** *As* they called them, so they went from them: they sacrificed unto Baalim, and burned incense to graven images. **3** I taught Ephraim also to go, taking them by their arms; but they knew not that I healed them. **4** I drew them with cords of a man, with bands of love: and I was to them as they that take off the yoke on their jaws, and I laid meat unto them.

Hosea 11:7-9 And my people are bent to backsliding from me: though they called them to the most High, none at all would exalt *him*. **8** How shall I give thee up, Ephraim? *how* shall I deliver thee, Israel? *how* shall I make thee as Admah? *how* shall I set thee as Zeboim? mine heart is turned within me, my repentings are kindled together. **9** I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for **I am God**,

and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.

Hosea 11:12 Ephraim compasseth me about with lies, and the house of Israel with deceit: but Judah yet ruleth with God, and is faithful with the saints.

Scripture gives us a wealth of information about our heavenly father Almighty God. In this verse of Hosea, he tells us of his mercy and makes it clear, that he does not act like man.

Here we have God reminding Israel of their backsliding, but also a reminder that God is waiting patiently for them to return. **He is not man- he is patient**

There are 3 Examples that God Gives us to Show He is BETTER than our EARTHLY FATHERS:

A BETTER FATHER:

1. PROVISIONS

Father's are to provide in the home; Leadership, Physical needs...

God here in Matthew tells us that even though we try to provide our best, we fail. He is not MAN and will NOT FAIL us!

Matthew 7:7-11 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: 8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to

him that knocketh it shall be opened. 9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? 10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? 11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down **from the Father** of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

Matthew 6:8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

2. PUNISHMENT

Hebrews 12:6-11 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness. 11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

His Discipline is always JUST and FAIR

3. PROTECTION

Psalms 27:10 When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up.

Bike riding and the dog chasing us.... Where's dad?

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, **The everlasting Father**, The Prince of Peace.

Psalms 68:5 A father of the fatherless, and a judge of the widows, is God in his holy habitation.

CONCLUSION:

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.