

Introduction:

- Video Dads of strength.
 - Lots of precious moments in that video that cause us to think about Father and child relationships. There are many of those moments in the NT too.
 - We are in a series titled Abba/Father. I want to review for the sake of continuity so that we remember where we have been and are able to build upon it.
 - I began the series presenting to us what issues arise in people and culture that do not have father's active in their children's lives. We looked at what it meant to have an orphan spirit. (a spiritual condition in which some christian profess outwardly to know God as Father but inwardly live a contradictory experience. They feel isolated, abandoned, lonely. They have no roots, no family, no name, no inheritance.) Then, I introduced the radical change that Jesus brought to the understanding of father. "My Father...Your Father". He made the relationship to the Father personal and invited His followers to do the same.
 - The second week Mt 6:26 Jesus made a point that we are more valuable than sparrows and lilies. And He invites us into relationship with the Father. And we looked into what happens in a life that applies that...the orphan spirit goes.
 - Pastor Craig shared the 3rd message from Luke 15 on adoption and what it means. He declared that the God the Father has the biggest adoption agency in the world.
 - I shared the 4th message from the same passage stressing how the Father values us so much. He will leave the 99 sheep to find the one. He will not stop searching for us until He finds us. And like the father of the prodigal he moves quickly to stop him from thinking like a slave to being a son.
- I am convinced that many of the issues that believers have in their lives today would go away if we understood and knew what it meant to be God's child. My goal in this series is bring to light to the awesomeness of Father God, have you welcome him in as father, and lose the orphan spirit that has been damaging you and your relationships.
- Mt 3:13-17 Baptism of Jesus
- Heb 6:13-18.

I. You Are My Dearly Loved Son

- A. Powerful picture of relationship with God. *"And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.""* (Matthew 3:17, NLT)
 1. All scripture is given by God, but something powerful happens in this passage. We hear the voice of God speaking. This verse is amazingly intimate. It is powerfully personal. It reveals the relationship that the Son has with the Father. (We must always remember, that Jesus is the picture of a perfect man here on the earth.) He is what we are to be.
 2. This scripture is different from all other scriptures concerning the voice of God. We have God's voice all through the OT. And that voice says some very tender things to

His people and to His called ones. For me, this verse has a profound resonance in it. It is a "first time" thing that happens. It stands apart from all others because God is interacting with His Son. It stands apart from all other's because God is interacting with God. (I will return to this later today.)

3. It also reveals how important it is for the Son to hear the Father's voice and how important it is for the Father to say these words to His Son. A 'deeper bonding' takes place in that moment with Son that empowers Him to do what He is about to do.
- B. Three powerful affirmations happen. In this one verse Jesus is affirmed by the Father in three things:
1. God's love for His Son. "*dearly loved*" comes from the Gr. word *agape*
 2. The Son's identity to the Father "*My...Son*"
 3. God's joy in having this Son. "*who brings me great joy*"
 4. Every one of us want this from our earthly fathers and we need to receive it from our heavenly Father. Without it: we will always be performing to receive (trying to earn it), we feel like we don't belong, or don't fit in, we will become isolated and alienated from others particularly those we love the most.
- C. What the words of the Father do for Jesus:
1. Releases Jesus to begin his ministry.
 2. Empowers him to love well because He is loved well. Confirms His identity so that he can endure temptations, tests, and rejection. There is an inner confidence that Jesus has that is made possible by the Father.
 3. We never get the feeling that Jesus is ever alone except on the cross when He cries out "Father why have you forsaken me?"
- D. Freedom, you need to hear the Father speak well of you...because He does. When you do, you will be about the Father's business for your life. You will live with an inner confidence in who you are and you will be able to face whatever life throws at you because you are never alone

II. I Too, Am A Son Of The Father

- A. "*So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."*" (Romans 8:15, NLT) "*And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father."*" (Galatians 4:6, NLT)
1. In these two verse the Apostle Paul uses the Aramaic word Father and the Greek word father. The words are a cry/shout from a heart that has been touched by the Father.
 2. The words are a shout from the heart that has heard the Father say, "You are my son!"
- B. The Holy Spirit is the Fathers voice to us. Lets look at his activity in Romans 8:12-17. This happens when we believe in Jesus for our salvation: The Holy Spirit says we are sons of God. We say, "Abba, Father!"

1. vs. 13. By the Spirit we put to death the deeds of the flesh. We need Holy Spirit's help. To have real victory we must Christ's victory at work within us. Son's of God seek to be like their Father God. Jesus the Son of God was like His Father. "If you have seen me you have seen the Father." We are in process of becoming like our Father.
 2. vs. 14. Those who are lead by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. Jesus was led by the Father. "I only do and say what I hear and see my Father doing." We are in process of doing what the Father is doing.
 3. vs. 15. When we believed we received the Spirit of adoption. The Holy Spirit become our guarantee of eternal life.
 4. vs. 16. The Spirit bears witness to us that we (Romans 8:16, The Message) *"God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who he is, and we know who we are: Father and children."* He is the voice of the Father to us confirming our sonship! Heaven and earth agree. The Spirit (heaven) confirms we are sons of God. Sons of God (earth) agrees with heaven and we say, "Abba, Father"
 - a) It is a double witness.
 - b) The Spirit testifies that we are sons of God. It is a witness given to us.
 - c) We testify that we are sons of God by saying, "Abba, Father." It is a witness given by us.
- C. What the words/voice of the Father through the Holy Spirit do for us is the same as it was for His Son, Jesus:
1. It affirms God's great love for me! I am accepted by God. He is not rejecting me. He desires me! Song of Songs "I am my Beloveds and He is mine!"
 2. It affirms my identity with the Father. These words from the Father seal the heart of the believer to the promises God has made. I am a child of God. I have been given His name.
 3. It affirms His incredible joy in me as a son. He is not disappointed in me. He is not reminding me of my past but of my future. He likes me!
 4. That voice/those words empower me to do what I was created to do. If my Father believes I can then I can! I am empowered to face obstacles, rejections, etc because I know who I am! I am defined by my Father's words not by other peoples words.
 5. That voice/those words empower me to love well because I have been lavishly loved well.

III. The Authority of The Witness

A. Hebrews 6:13-18

1. We know that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father. Jn 15:26 We also know that He bears witness to us that we are Gods sons. Ro 8:15
2. The testimony of the Holy Spirit to us is based upon the strength of His oath. Ie. In a court of law it used to be that you would swear upon the Bible to tell the truth. That

was called an oath. When God was making promise to Abraham He need to swear an oath.

- a) When God went to swear in an oath to Abraham he could not swear an oath based on something bigger. He was it! So he speaks a promise and swears an oath on His very own person.
 - b) God will speak the promise to himself in the heavenly realm (oath) and then speak to the person receiving the (promise) on earth. That is what the two unchangeable things are: a promise spoken to someone on earth and an oath made in heaven. So God will speak once in the heavens and once in earth. 2 times he speaks.
- B. When God's voice need to be heard in times of great transition he will call a man on earth not once but twice. Examples:
1. Gen 22:11 Abraham is ready to sacrifice his son. God must change the course of Abraham obedience so the angel of the Lord says, "Abraham Abraham."
 2. When God called a deliverer to rescue his people He said, "Moses, Moses" Ex 3:4
 3. When God wanted pure prophetic voice in the midst of a corrupt priesthood he calls, "Samuel, Samuel!" 1 Sam 3:10 Samuel hears his name once until Eli explains what is happening. Then wham...transition.
 4. When the temple was being rebuilt God instructs Zerubbabel to put the capstone in place and shout, "Grace, Grace!" Zach 4:7
 5. When Jesus prays for an about to be sifted disciples He says, "Simon, Simon!" Lk 22:31
 6. When Jesus appears to a pharisee gone mad he says, "Saul Saul!"
 7. When God claims someone a child of the Kingdom, He sends His Spirit into that child's heart to cry the double name "Abba, Father!" In heaven and in the earth the witness of God is given by His voice. Wham! Radical salvation! That is revelation that comes to us in a promise backed up by an oath in heaven! That will change your life!
 - a) The oath and the promise are two unchangeable things!
 - b) Therefore when you hear that Voice, you know you can't be lied to. Rehma!
 - c) In the witness of two everything is established. Mt 18:16
- C. When we hear Holy Spirit bear witness that we are sons of God and we witness we have a Father, a major transition takes place in our heart and in our life.

Conclusion:

- *"Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"* (John 14:9). Not only does seeing Jesus let us see the Father, but it also let us see how the Father loves His Son... and His sons!
- *"How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"* (1 John 3:1).