

Our Heavenly Father

Text: John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he **gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

John 14:1-3 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 **In my Father's house are many mansions**: if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you.* 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, *I ascend unto my Father, and your Father;* and to *my God, and your God.*

****Introduction: We are here to honor our Fathers on Father's Day!****

Romans 13:7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute (*NIV tribute = taxes*) to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

I. First, In honor of our Earthly Fathers on Father's Day:

Ephesians 6:2-4 *Honour thy father and mother;* which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Some reflections and commendable traits of my earthly father:

Personal Reflections of my earthly father:

- My dad loved his children. Although it was hard for him to show affection, we knew we were loved!
- My dad had a hard life – only a 6th grade education. The jobs he was qualified to do did not pay well!
- My parents started out with almost nothing! My grandfather was a farmer and didn't have money to help them get started in life. They began their life together as a very poor family!
- My dad married young (15 years old), He had his first child before the age of seventeen. Five additional children came quickly afterwards with the last son born when he was only 26 years old.

Commendable Traits

- Although, my dad lacked proper education, he was one of the smartest men I have ever known!
- Although we were poor, I never remember my dad complaining about anything in life!
- Dad worked hard. He worked with his back and hands. He was a self-taught TRADESMAN. His skill was in high demand and marketable.
- My dad was an honest and well respected man of the community! To my knowledge, he never cheated anyone in any way in a business transaction.
- Although my dad had a tough outer shell, he had a tender heart toward others. When my sister had a child out of wedlock, my dad took him and raised him as his son. My nephew still calls him "DAD" today!
- My dad became a true Believer in Christ the last 10 years of his life. He never looked back after that life changing event!

II. Duties of a Good Earthly Father:

- 1) Love your family - let them know they are loved!
- 2) Provide for you family – work hard to meet their earthly needs!
- 3) Protect your family from danger and outside evil elements of society!
- 4) Discipline and mature your family – teach them to be responsible citizens of the world!
- 5) Give lifelong guidance and advise (sometimes even when they don't ask)!
- 6) Show compassion and forgiveness when your children fail or don't live up to your expectations!
- 7) Set an example by leading your family in a lifelong Spiritual Pursuit of Pleasing God

III. Second, In Honor of our Heavenly Father on Father's Day:

***Jesus Honors His Father in Heaven (in our chosen text):**

*(1) He told Nicodemus of The Father's Love for Mankind: **SHOWS THE FATHER'S LOVE***

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that he **gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

*(2) He told his Disciples in the Upper Room of a Future Home Prepared for them in His Father's House: **JESUS SHOWS THE FATHER'S FUTURE PLANS WITH THE FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST!***

John 14:2-3 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. *I go to prepare a place for you.* And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also

*(3) He Told Mary Magdalene, he was on his way to the Father to present his blood as a sacrifice for mankind: **JESUS SHOWS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SACRIFICE THAT MAKES US WORTHY FOR HEAVEN IN THE SIGHT OF GOD!***

John 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, **I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.**

IV. In the Bible, Jesus Taught us much about our Father in Heaven:

(1) JESUS KNEW ABOUT OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN IN A WAY NO ONE ELSE DID:

John 3:34-35 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 17:24-26 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

(2) HE IS OUR FATHER AND WE ARE HIS CHILDREN - JESUS' SERMON ON THE MOUNT

○ **Matthew 6:1-4** Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of ¹**your Father** which is in heaven. 2 Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 3 But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: 4 That thine alms may be in secret: and ²**thy Father** which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly.

○ **Matthew 6:5** And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 6 But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to ³**thy Father** which is in secret; and ⁴**thy Father** which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

○ **Matthew 6:7** But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. 8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for ⁵**your Father** knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

○ **Matthew 6:9** After this manner therefore pray ye: ⁶**Our Father** which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

○ **Matthew 6:14** For if ye forgive men their trespasses, ⁷**your heavenly Father** will also forgive you: 15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will ⁸**your Father** forgive your trespasses.

○ **Matthew 6:16** Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto ⁹thy Father which is in secret: and ¹⁰thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

****Notice how Jesus connects his Followers with God the Father. Ten times he says “our Father”, “your Father”, or “thy Father”.**

(3) THE FATHER LOVES THOSE WHO FOLLOW CHRIST IN A SPECIAL WAY:

I John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Ephesians 2:4-9 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

(4) WE DON'T NEED TO BE AFRAID OF GOD because Jesus is an earthly manifestation of our Heavenly Father:

John 14:7-11 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, show us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

(5) CLOSING - OUR HEAVENLY FATHER IS WORTHY & DESERVES FAR MORE HONOR THAN OUR EARTHLY FATHER:

(Google AI) While a loving earthly father strives to provide, protect, and guide, God's care is the perfect, limitless origin of that love. Earthly fathers are bound by human limitations, but God offers constant presence, unconditional understanding, and eternal security.

Key Differences in Care (Google AI)

- *Presence & Availability: Human fathers must work, sleep, and eventually pass away. God is omnipresent, promising to never leave or forsake His children, making Him accessible at all times.*
- *Understanding & Knowledge: An earthly father cannot know your inner thoughts or every struggle. God knows you intimately, even numbering the hairs on your head.*
- *Perfection vs. Flaws: Even the best earthly fathers make mistakes, carry biases, or show conditional reactions. God's love and mercy are perfect and unchanging.*
- *Security: Earthly care is temporary. God offers eternal care and salvation, securing the ultimate future of His children.*

Hebrews 12:9 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?

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee

Matthew 10:37-38 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.