

The Heavenly Father

When Jack was putting a microphone on me, he asked, “What are you sharing on?” I responded, “Our Heavenly Father.” He mentioned, “I shared on that.” I teach two Sundays out of every six, so I missed that message, but Jack was very gracious and said, “No pressure.”

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, we come to You. What a great Father You are, worthy of praise and adoration, bowing and bending our knees. Lord, we bless Your name this morning. I pray that Your Spirit, sent from the Father, would truly open our hearts to see anew these simple points that You have given me, that the Spirit of God would speak to each one of us. Lord, speak to me even as I share these things, though they are simple, yet You are so precious in the simplicity of Your Word. So, Lord, speak now, in Your name I pray. Amen.

Introduction

Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...”

I had a difficult time just getting past the first word of that verse—Blessed. “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who (the Father) has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,”

As I was considering this before the Lord, He guided me in an unexpected direction, and even this morning He was changing things, so I just bless the Lord for it. And I realize this message is more for me than probably for you, because I needed to be rearranged in my thinking and in my heart. So, I want to praise the Lord for it.

What does “blessed” mean? Blessed is simply to praise. Meyer says, “It is an emotion of the heart.” Is that not wonderful? We think of emotion of the soul, but he says that it is an emotion of the heart that is celebratory in its praise. So, when you bless someone, you are blessing someone from the depths of your heart as a celebration, as it were. So this morning, if you remember nothing else, and we come to the end of the message, I pray that your heart will be able to bless your heavenly Father with a deep-felt, heartfelt emotion, a passion that comes from the Spirit of God. Today, when fatherhood is looked down upon, it is wonderful to truly realize how precious our heavenly Father is.

The Heavenly Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus

What we are going to do is simply go through His birth, the birth of His Son, the walk of His Son, the death of His Son, and His Son being raised up. We want to see this from the Father’s point of view, and I am selecting just a few things. And the Lord narrowed it down to just a few for me, so I was very grateful for that.

Heavenly Praise and Adoration at the Birth of Jesus

Hebrews 1:5: “For to which of the angels did He ever say, (He referring to the Father) ‘YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU?’” And again, ‘I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME’”?

There was a time when our heavenly Father said, "Today, I will be Your Father." And this is referring to our Lord Jesus being begotten by the Father. "Today, I have begotten You."

John 3:16 tells us that the Father gave His only begotten Son.

John 14:24 says, "The Father sent His Son."

Galatians 4:2, 4 says, "The Father determined the time of Christ's birth, but when the fullness of time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman."

I do not understand how the pre-existing Christ became incarnate, but He did, and that was according to the Father's will. The Father sent His Son, and the Father gave His Son. And what a wonderful heart our Father had to send His only Son. I was reflecting, Lord, how wonderful it is that You put this in my heart months ago, and now I get to share it on the day after Christmas. So, we must see the shepherds. So let's read about the shepherds.

Let us have some true celebration this morning. I awoke at 3:30, as you often do when you have something to share, and I walked out on my porch. Across the street, my neighbors, whom I love and who are very kind, celebrate Christmas in a strange way. They have these balloons every season; I call them balloons, but they are like statue balloons, and there were four of them. One was Santa Claus, which was lit up at 3:30 in the morning, and beside Santa Claus was an elf with a Santa Claus hat. There was some kind of bear, possibly Winnie the Pooh, and Frosty the Snowman. I just started laughing because I wanted to share a little bit of Luke 2 and the wonderful celebration of the shepherds, and here across the street was something else. The world is so strange.

Luke 2:8-14 "In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened (afraid)."

I memorized this when I was a child in the King James Version, and I wanted to say, "sore afraid," and sore means terribly.

"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, glory to the Father in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill to men!"

You see, Jesus had already been born. I want you to know, just to realize this morning that at the birth of the only begotten Son of the Father, there was great rejoicing in heaven, a great celebration. It was as if, for these humble shepherds, God tore apart the sky and allowed them to see the praise and worship that was occurring in heaven to the heavenly Father for sending His only begotten Son. Have you ever thought of it that way? I had not. "To the glory of God, the Father. Glory to God in the highest." So, the heavenly Father is worthy of worship for sending His own Son. Praise the Lord for that. That is the first point.

Heavenly Praise and Adoration Throughout the Life of Jesus

The second is this: that praise and adoration in heaven continued throughout the Lord's life. And there were two instances where the heavenly Father had a burst of fatherly pride over His Son.

Matthew 3:13-17: "Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. But John tried to prevent Him, saying, 'I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?'" But Jesus answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, (It is as if the heavens themselves, the sky above our Lord just ripped open,) and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, (coming on Jesus) and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, (the door opened in heaven, and the voice of the Father said,) "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."

"This is My beloved Son." There are only three times when the people heard the voice of God in the gospels that I know of. This is one, and the one we are going to share about, and then another time when the Father told the Son, "I will glorify My name, I have glorified it, and I will glorify it," and they said, "The voice sounded like thunder." This first time, the heavenly Father shouted, as it were, "this is My beloved Son." The Father had so much love for His Son He wanted the whole world to know, "This is My beloved Son." The Son is beloved by the Father fully and completely with overwhelming love that we do not even comprehend. The Father loves His Son, and He calls Him, "His beloved Son." Not only is the Son beloved, but the Father says, "I am well pleased in Him." This hearkens to Isaiah 42:1 where it says, "The chosen One in whom My soul delights." The Father's heart for His Son is one of delight, of great joy, as if the Father is delighting at this point to say, "This One, Jesus, He is My Son, and He is beloved by Me, and I want you to know that." What a wonderful thing that is! And we are going to return to this Beloved aspect.

Matthew 17:1-7: "And six days later Jesus took with Him Peter and James and John his brother, and brought them up to a high mountain by themselves. And He was transfigured before them; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him. And Peter answered and said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, (the Father interrupted him,) behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!'"

And brothers and sisters, it is a wonderful thing that the Father once again opened the heavens and spoke in a voice that they could hear, "This is My beloved Son; listen to Him." I was thinking this morning, that voice was heard not only here but through all the principalities and powers, all the darkness. They heard twice: "This is My beloved Son." And this was right before Jesus was getting ready to foretell His death in the chapter beforehand. So, the coming of what the Lord had to go through, what the Father had to go through, the Father is saying to all: "This is My beloved Son to all who would hear." And what a proclamation! This is an eternal cry, an eternal voice of the Lord God Almighty: "This is My beloved Son; He will always be My beloved

Son. He was My beloved Son before the incarnation, He was My beloved Son while He was on earth, He will be, and He is later in our time, the beloved."

He is the beloved Son eternity past, present, and future. The Son will always be the beloved One of the Father. The Son will always be the recipient of the Father's love. It never changed and never has changed. And that one fact, which we will see later, is so important to Ephesians 1:3.

Perfect Harmony and Unity at the Cross

Next, we come to the Father, Son, and the cross. Because the Father so loved the Son, each step that the Son took, the Son said, "The steps that I take, where I go, what I do, I do in perfect harmony and unity with the Father." From the Father's point of view, He was leading, guiding, and supporting His beloved Son throughout His walk. As they approached Calvary, the Father poured out His love on the Lord Jesus and enabled Him to walk. When we came to the cross, it was prayed this morning out of Isaiah chapter 53.

Isaiah 53:4,10: "... Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting Him to grief; ..."

The heavenly Father, who loved His Son, was pleased to crush His Son for our sake. He was pleased to make His Son, as it says in II Corinthians 5:21a: "He (the Father) made Him (the Son) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf,"

In our Friday night meeting, one brother was sharing, "How much the Father must have suffered with the Son. Even in the garden of Gethsemane, as the Father and the Son fellowshiped about what was to come, the Son said, 'Oh Father, if it be possible take this away.' 'No, You have to go through this.'" In Peter's wonderful sermon in Acts, he said, "This was a predetermined plan by the foreknowledge of God." God the Father and God the Son knew this was coming, and the Lord Jesus was led all the way by His beloved heavenly Father. But praise the Lord, the Father would not allow His Son to see decay.

Raised from the Dead and Seated at the Heavenly Father's Right Hand

Acts 2:31b: "..., that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY." In the verse right after that, it says, "God raised Him up again." So, God the Father would not allow His Son to stay in the grave or His body to see decay. He loved His Son so much, He loves us so much, but He would not allow His Son to see decay; He raised Him up. This Jesus, God raised up. He raised Him up from the dead. Praise the Lord for that! This brought great glory to the Father. When the angels were worshipping at His birth, they said, "Glory to God, the Father."

In Philippians 2, it says that He was exalted, He was raised up. It was all done to the glory of God the Father. So, praise the Lord! The Father raised Him up and seated the Son at His right hand.

Ephesians 1:20b says, "... He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,"

Hebrews 1:13 says, "But to which of the angels has He ever said, 'SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET?'"

We are coming back to Ephesians 1:3. The Father sent His only begotten Son, the One whom He loved. The Father declared all through His life, "You are My beloved Son, and I rejoice over You with great gladness, and You are the delight of My soul." Then He raised up His beloved Son and seated Him at His right hand by His majesty on the throne. So, praise the Lord for that. This is all the Father's doing. The Father timed it to perfection when the Son would come, and the Father led Him all through His life to the very point where He is seated at His right hand again.

The Heavenly Father Is Also Our Father

Now we come to the part that really touched me. This is something we all know.

John 20:17: After the Lord was raised from the dead, He walked among us for a little while before He ascended. And He said to Mary: "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren (And I would that you would hear this as if for the first time. So often we hear so many wonderful things over and over, and it is just like it loses some kind of import to us.) and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, ...'" Brothers and sisters, do you realize how precious that is? My Father and your Father. Over and over again in the epistles it says, "Grace to you and peace from God, our Father." God, our Father. This is the Father of the beloved Son, who is our Father, and we share the same Father as the Lord Jesus. Now if the Scripture had not said that it would be difficult to say it, would it not?"

Hebrews 2:11a states: "For both He who sanctifies and those who are sanctified are all from one Father; ..."

So, we are from the same Father. Isn't that amazing? I can look around this room and say, "You have the same heavenly Father that I do, and we have the same heavenly Father that our Lord Jesus had. The same Father who sits on the throne is our Father, my Father, and the Lord Jesus' Father. That is amazing. If we would look at each other and consider each other as being the sons and daughters of a heavenly Father who has the same Father as the Lord Jesus. He is the same Father. Sometimes I get kind of myopic: "Oh, He is my Father; yes, but He is your Father, the same Father." And the way I think of you should be as if you have a powerful, loving heavenly Father, who is your Father as well as being mine. When you think of it that way, it really slaps you across the face when you have a harsh thought about brothers and sisters. You cannot, because that brother or sister has the same heavenly Father that you do. More than that, that brother or sister has the same heavenly Father the Lord Jesus has. And that is an amazing thing when we think of, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, that Father who is the God and Father of the Lord Jesus is my God and Father as well.

We Are the Beloved of God and the Heavenly Father

It is amazing, brothers and sisters. And to compound the amazement that I have, you and I are called "beloved of God" as well. We are called to be the beloved of our God and Father. Not only is He my Father, not only do I love Him in a small way, but He also says, "Roger, you are My son, and you are My beloved." Think of that. Each one of you, if you know the Lord Jesus, you are beloved by God the Father.

Now I did not have a good relationship with my father, and he died before we could probably share what he would have wanted to share about how much he loved me, but I never heard it. Of course, being raised that way, what did I do? I did the same thing, so I am just as guilty as my dad in not sharing with my children how much I loved them. So, it really means something personal to me that I can bless a father who calls me beloved. You are beloved by your heavenly Father, and I want to tell you that just the way the heavenly Father took delight in His Son, He takes delight in me, His beloved.

The Meaning of Beloved

What does "beloved" mean just in simple English? It is kind of a strange word, the more you say it. But beloved means, "I am the recipient of someone else's love." So, my wife is my beloved, and I am her beloved because I am the recipient of her love. William is Judith's beloved, and Judith is William's beloved. I am the beloved of my Father, and my Father is my beloved as well. And My Father loves His Son, and His Son loves His Father. And brothers and sisters, when I say you and I are beloved, we are beloved by God, and we are beloved by each other. And when I love, I love God the Father, and I love you, so you are my beloved, and I am your beloved, you are the Father's beloved. It is an amazing, wonderful beloved. We have a lot of songs about this. "Beloved, let us love one another." And we are each other's beloved. In the same fashion and manner and quality as we are beloved by our heavenly Father. You might say, "It cannot be the same. There is no way."

John 17: Consider it before you turn there; it is the same kind of belovedness as the belovedness of the Father and Son. If it is, that is quite amazing.

John 17:23: "I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me."

Love One Another with the Love that the Heavenly Father Has for His Son

The love that the Father has for the Son is a love that we should have for each other. That love is the same love. Beloved, the root of that is "agape." I looked it up, and Agapetus (beloved) is the very core of the brotherly love that we are to have with each other. Often, Paul said, "Dearly beloved." Not only is one dearly beloved by the Father, but we should be dearly beloved by each other. This is the kind of love that, when the world sees it, they are astounded by it, and they should be. I said, "Lord, I do not love that way. I know that I am beloved of God. I am beloved by each one of you, but do you know that I do love each one of you? Probably not. I was thinking, "Lord, what if we made it a rule that we call each other 'beloved?'" John Blanchard would just slap me across the face." (Just teasing you, John.) Beloved, when you greeted each other this morning, did you say, "Highly beloved in the Lord. Hi, beloved of the Lord." My wife would say, "Hi, dearly beloved." I was thinking, whether you say it or not, I wish we would say that more often or even some of the time. It is a recognition that each one of us, brothers, and sisters, is beloved by the Lord. Where would gossip be? Where would grumbling and complaining against each other be? No, that person is beloved by my heavenly Father, who loves me as well. Do you see how that love, that belovedness in the body of Christ, is so wonderful?

Conclusion

We Are Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing

Ephesians 1:3: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,” Seated by the Father at this very moment is the beloved Son, who even now rejoices over Him. Do you not know that if His very heart, His heart of delight in His Son, of His Son being His beloved, if we are to be blessed in His beloved Son, what is the Father's attitude of heart in giving every good thing to us? It is with great joy that our heavenly Father blesses us in His Son. We were talking about joy this morning, and I was going to talk about Hebrews 12:2: “For the joy set before Him.” There is joy in the Father as He led His Son through the cross.

It says in Peter that the Son kept entrusting Himself to the Father on the cross because there was such trust in that relationship of the Father and Son. It says, “For the joy set before Him,” and it mentions the battle on the cross, the joy of the people that will be saved. But you know, this joy is so extensive it can be all of this, of course. There is great joy that the Father has that He would bless you and me with every spiritual blessing because of Christ His beloved Son. He blesses us with great joy and delight because you and I are beloved ones of His Son and His beloved ones.

The Spirit of Love in Us Enables Us to know the Heavenly Father

Two final points: when we were born again, He taught us, these poor people. My children knew my love; they are not going to be able to love. At the request of His Son, I am going to send My Spirit. In Romans 5:5: The heavenly Father, the Father God says, “I will send My Spirit, and He will shed abroad in their hearts this great love,” and that love is going to be what enables them to know their beloved Father, to know how much they are beloved by each other. Just to know the love of God is being done by the Spirit at the direct request of the Son for us, I found that to be very wonderful.

The Heavenly Father's Great Love Is Upon Us Like an Open Floodgate

In Revelation 22:1 I struggled with the way to share this. I had this picture of the love of God just going through great flood gates as if there were a reservoir of God and it goes through these flood gates. When a floodgate is open, you can see pictures of this huge reservoir, and the pressure of it comes out like the flood gates.

“Then he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God (the Father) and of the Lamb, (that is the beloved Son,)” and there is a river of life that flows from God the Father to you and me that is as clear as crystal and wonderful. This blessing that flows from the throne of God in His Son is magnificent and amazing. Our Father is a Father full of great mercy, great love, and He pours out His grace upon us all because of His beloved Son.

Let us praise the Lord:

Heavenly Father, I do pray that we would come to realize more and more the greatness of Your love for Your Son. How great the Father's love for His Son is; how great the Father's love for us is. Lord, it is vast beyond all measure. Lord, I pray that You would fill our hearts with a

*celebratory praise of blessing for our heavenly Father, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Bless Your name, Lord. Amen.*

The Heavenly Father	1
Introduction	1
The Heavenly Father and His Son, the Lord Jesus	1
Heavenly Praise and Adoration at the Birth of Jesus	1
Heavenly Praise and Adoration Throughout the Life of Jesus	3
Perfect Harmony and Unity at the Cross	4
Raised from the Dead and Seated at the Heavenly Father's Right Hand	4
The Heavenly Father Is Also Our Father	5
We Are the Beloved of God and the Heavenly Father	5
The Meaning of Beloved	6
Love One Another with the Love that the Heavenly Father Has for His Son	6
Conclusion	7
We Are Blessed with Every Spiritual Blessing	7
The Spirit of Love in Us Enables Us to know the Heavenly Father	7
The Heavenly Father's Great Love Is Upon Us Like an Open Floodgate	7

Speaker	Ogburn, Roger
Venue	Richmond, Virginia, US
Date	December 29 th , 2024
Link	https://christiantestimonyministry.com/item/the-heavenly-father