

OUR ALL-SEEING FATHER

Monday, February 9

Reading: Exodus 3-4

Exodus 4:22 Then say to Pharaoh, 'This is what the LORD says: Israel is My firstborn son, **23** and I told you, "Let My son go, so he may worship Me."

Traditional Jewish prayers begin this way: "Blessed are You, Yahweh our God, King of the Universe." In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus begins a little different. While still showing deep reverence for our awesome God ("in heaven, hallowed by Your name"), He instructs us to pray to Him as "Our Father." While God is beyond our comprehension and deserves our awe and wonder, Jesus wants us to pray based on a personal relationship with Him as our loving Father.

In his classic book called *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A. W. Tozer wrote, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."¹ This is true because what we think about God shapes our relationship and walk with Him. If we see God only as the powerful King of the universe, we will approach Him with fear and obey Him only to avoid punishment. But when we see God as our Father, we will serve Him out of love and gratitude.

How do we see God as our Father? I personally have a good father to look up to and respect. But many people do not have this blessing. Their relationship with their fathers was abusive, distant, or non-existent! They have a hard time understanding a heavenly Father because of their personal experience with their own fathers. But we should not try to compare God to our human fathers – good or bad. The best way to see God as Father is to look at how He revealed Himself in His Word.

The first time God reveals Himself as Father is in the book of Exodus. When God sends Moses to Egypt, Moses is commanded to tell Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Israel is My firstborn son..." How did God reveal Himself as a loving Father to Israel while they languished in slavery in Egypt?

Exodus 3:7 The LORD said, "I have indeed seen the misery of My people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. 8 So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey

He was not a distant God unconcerned with Israel's suffering. The Lord saw the pain of His people. He heard their cries for help and was concerned about their trouble. So as a loving Father, He took action! He got personally involved. He came down to rescue them and bring them to the land of promise.

God is a Father who not only sees and knows what is going on in our lives, He is compassionate and actively involved in the lives of His people. When Israel finally made it to the Promised Land, Moses wrote: "...you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place" (Deuteronomy 1:31).

How have you experienced God as your loving, delivering Father?