

THE GOOD FATHER

When humanity, the children of God, turn their ways to God, it is then that they will see the true motives of a Good Father.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Our personal experiences influence our standards of what is good and also determine our expectations of God.
- ❖ If we don't understand the purpose of God, then we may face some challenges in trusting God with our lives.
- ❖ God is good! God is love. He is patient, kind, and righteous in all His ways. God is mighty, but He humbled Himself (Philippians 2:6-8). God is a good Father. He gives and He takes away for good and only for good.
- ❖ He deserves all praise and respect because of His mighty acts and goodness (Psalm 105).
- ❖ God is good because He is patient with us when we engage in sin.
- ❖ For example, Isaiah prophesies God's judgement against the land of Egypt (Isaiah 19). But he also prophesies that the Egyptians will turn back to God.
- ❖ And what happened to the Egyptians when they turned their way of living to God? God responded to their pleas and healed them (Isaiah 19:22).
- ❖ During this time of the COVID-19 global pandemic, every family across the globe should trust God – in the good and the bad – even when we don't understand, He is good!
- ❖ While each of us adjusts to the changes we face, trust God. Trust God in the job loss. Trust God while being alone. Trust God with your family. *Trust God.*
- ❖ God is good because He humbly comes down to our level and speaks to us through His holy Word. In Proverbs 3:5-6 NIV, we are reminded to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding ⁶in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."
- ❖ We can be better during challenging times, but only with the help of the Father's Spirit.
- ❖ If we, God's children – His creation – stop thinking and doing things through our own understanding and turn from *our* ways of living towards *God's* way of living, then we will see, we will experience, how good God is!
- ❖ Two thieves went through challenging times as they were led to be executed on crosses (Luke 23:32-33).
- ❖ These thieves are prime examples of the choice given to us – the children of God; the creation of God.
- ❖ Both thieves sinned against the law of God and the laws of society. Neither party expected the Good Father to come from Heaven to earth and die for their sins (John 3:16, John 6:33, 1 John 4:9-10).

KEY SCRIPTURES:

Isaiah 19:19-24, Proverbs 3:5-6, Luke 23:32-43

- ❖ Neither one expected God to model to them how to live. But God came down to live at eye level with His children. He ate and drank with them. He walked, talked and cried with them. He lived life with them and demonstrated true love (see 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a).
- ❖ Jesus died for both thieves and prayed, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23: 34a). He loved them equally, even though He foreknew that only one would respond.
- ❖ It pains a good parent to imagine their child being non-compliant to their instructions, making decisions that are detrimental to their well-being. This is the heart and mind of God towards you and me.
- ❖ We are all sinners. I did God wrong. I misused my birthright as a child of God and made life about me. I stole the authority that belongs to God to rule my life.
- ❖ The Good Father didn't condemn me. He interceded on my behalf and followed through with His Word.
- ❖ Jesus is a Good Father because while we were in sin He came down to our level, carried the shame of our sins and endured the cross for each and every one of us (Romans 5:8).
- ❖ I choose to be the thief that repents, that turns to God's ways. I choose to give up the way I would like to live my life and submit to the way God wants me to live (see Luke 23:42).
- ❖ I choose to make my Good Father proud.
- ❖ What do you choose? Make your D.A.D. proud!
Disclose your first thought of wrongdoing to Jesus
Access God's Word in prayer to live above sin
Declare by faith that God is with you and loves you.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What is the most comforting part of knowing that the God you serve is a good Father?
2. What do God's promises, i) to Egypt and ii) to the thief on the cross, teach us about His love?
3. How do we demonstrate/fail to demonstrate our faith in God's intrinsic goodness?
4. Use the D.A.D. acronym to write your own "formula" for making our heavenly Father proud.
5. Follow through with one or both formulae.

PRAYER TIME

Jesus, You are my good Father and I pledge my life to make You proud. But, Lord, I need Your help. Thank You! In Your precious name, amen.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2020

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 💡 (New idea) 🧠 (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ↔ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
 CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD
 Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline

Start-up: What action of yours has made/would make your dad and/or mom most proud of you? How do you know?

"WE PRAY" FS FACEBOOK GROUP

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/weprayatfaithsanctuary/>

**PRAYER FOCUS: Canadian political leaders: municipal,
provincial, federal**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

TO SUBMIT A BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENT

Obtain approval from Head of Department and send to announcements@faithsanctuary.com by Wednesday @ 4:00 p.m. (If projection is desired send to media@faithsanctuary.com.)

FAITH SANCTUARY DONATIONS

For email transfers, please use the following address:
donate@faithsanctuary.com

God is too wise to be mistaken
God is too good to be unkind
So when you don't understand
When don't see His plan
When you can't trace His hand
Trust His Heart

NOTICE:

Faith Sanctuary services are suspended indefinitely at the direction of public officials until further notice.
Watch our services at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday morning until we return to regular scheduled services.

4 ways to get to it:

- i) click the "livestream" link on the top menu bar on the Faith Sanctuary homepage
- ii) type www.faithsanctuary.com/live
- iii) go to www.youtube.com and search for "Faith Sanctuary".
- iv) call 1-844-268-4848 for toll-free telephone live streaming

KNOW JESUS, LOVE JESUS, SHARE JESUS

FAITH FOUNDATIONS

GOD

We believe there is only one God: the eternal, holy, loving, all-knowing, all-powerful, omnipresent Spirit, creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Timothy 1:17; Leviticus 19:2; 1 John 4:8; Hebrews 4:13; Revelation 19:6; Jeremiah 23:24; John 4:24; Isaiah 44:24; Colossians 1:16).

GOD'S WORD

We believe the Holy Scriptures—The Bible—is God's true and complete Word to humanity, verified most notably through fulfilled prophecies concerning Jesus Christ (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Isaiah 41:21-23, 42:8-9, 46:9-10; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17).

GOD'S CREATION

We believe all people were created in the image of God for His pleasure, to be His children, His church and His bride, living in eternal love and fellowship with Him (Revelation 4:1; Genesis 1:27; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:16; Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 19:7).

HUMANITY'S FALL

We acknowledge that we have all sinned and failed to fulfill God's plan and purpose for our lives, through willful disobedience to the word of God and our own conscience. All sinful acts lead to separation and alienation from God's pure, holy presence, eventually resulting in both physical and spiritual death (Romans 3:23, 6:23a).

THE GOSPEL

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Almighty God, fully divine and fully human (1 Timothy 3:16). He came to Earth and suffered death by crucifixion, willingly substituting Himself for us in receiving God's judgment against sin (Isaiah 53:5). But God raised Him from death (Acts 5:30), and He now offers eternal life to all who will believe in Him (John 3:14-17, 6:29; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 6:23b; Ephesians 2:4-9). Faith is sparked within us when we hear the gospel, the "good news" that Jesus died, was buried and rose from the dead for our benefit (Romans 10:14-17; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

OUR FAITH RESPONSE

Hearing the gospel is intended to lead us to repentance, a divinely inspired change of heart that causes us to turn away from our sins and turn to God (2 Corinthians 7:9-10; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). Faith and repentance lead us to obey the scriptural command to be baptized in Jesus' name for the forgiveness of our sins and to receive His gift of the Holy Spirit. His Spirit gives us the power to live a righteous, godly life, joyfully sharing the good news of our new life in Christ with others (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 4:12; 1 Peter 1:22-23).

CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe our Lord Jesus Christ will soon return to Earth to receive His people to Himself and establish His righteous, eternal kingdom (John 14:3; Matthew 25:34).

APRIL 19, 2020

Faith SANCTUARY

Know Jesus, Love Jesus, Share Jesus

2020 ~the year of vision~ 2020

Pastor: Rev. Granville E. McKenzie

*"Behold
what manner of love the
Father has bestowed on us,
that we should be called
children of God!"
1 John 3:1a NKJV*

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship: 8:00 a.m. • 11:00 a.m. • 6:30 p.m.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:45 a.m.

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