

2010 Lenten Series: “Teach Us to Pray That We May Not Be Tempted”–Lord of Life, Westfield, IN – 2/17/10(AW)

Title: “Father”

Text: On reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you will not fall into temptation." ⁴¹He withdrew about a stone's throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ⁴²"Father . . .

Intro: Video clip – “The Father’s Love Letter to You”

It’s Dad you run to when you are in trouble

- At the moment of trial/temptation it is not self-confidence that will carry us but relationship with God, the Father
 1. It is the place where Jesus turned and it was with the name “Father” that he used to address God
 2. Do you have that kind of image of God, the Father?
 - a. Sometimes, we project our imperfect father’s image on God and distrust and fear his intent for our life
 - b. Often like immature children do with their father, we say “I do” not realizing the harm we are headed for
 3. Looking this Lenten season, through Prayer/Lord’s Prayer, to repent of our independence of God and reestablish our “life-line” relationship to the Father through Jesus
- Our posture toward God’s will affect the attitude with which we approach prayer
 1. Do we need God or do we use him? (Seeing prayer as an emergency pull cord or a favored and secured place)
 2. *One thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life. To behold the beauty of the Lord And to meditate in His temple. 5For in the day of trouble He will conceal me in His tabernacle; In the secret place of His tent He will hide me; He will lift me up on a rock. Psalm 27:4-5*
 3. **Illus.: Wanting to look at Dad**

You call someone Dad with whom you already have a relationship

- In Jesus, the Father has re-establish lines of communication and relationship
 1. Because Jesus was in perfect harmony with His Father and took down the dividing barrier
 2. *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸**For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.** Ephesians 2:14-18*
- Because of Jesus we are adopted into the family of the Father with the open line of prayer to talk to Him any time
 1. We are adopted into the family through Jesus so that God claims us as his children and we can claim him as “Dad”
 - a. *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ⁵so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, **that we might receive the adoption as sons.** ⁶Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God. Galatians 4:4-7*
 2. Since we can call him Daddy, we can approach him with all our needs without fear
 - a. *"Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? ¹²"Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? ¹³"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, **how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" Luke 11:11-13***
 - b. Just like Jesus who did not have to fear that His Father was exerting a harmful will against Him thru the cross, we can approach the Father in prayer with confidence of his end game plan for our lives
 - c. *Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³**For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.** Hebrews 12: 2-3*

Just Wanting to Look at Dad

In his book *Good Morning Merry Sunshine*, Chicago Tribune columnist Bob Greene chronicles his infant daughter's first year of life. When little Amanda began crawling, he records: "This is something I'm having trouble getting used to. I will be in bed reading a book or watching TV. And I will look down at the foot of the bed and there will be Amanda's head staring back at me. "Apparently I've become one of the objects that fascinate her. ... It's so strange. After months of having to go to her, now she is choosing to come to me. I don't know quite how to react. All I can figure is that she likes the idea of coming in and looking at me. She doesn't expect anything in return. I'll return her gaze and in a few minutes she'll decide she wants to be back in the living room and off she'll crawl again." The simple pleasure of looking at the one you love--what Bob and his daughter enjoyed--is what we enjoy each time we worship God and bask in his presence. Greg Asimakoupoulos, Concord, California. Leadership, Vol. 15, no. 1.