

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020 Online Worship Service Transcript

God Has a Name: Abba Father

This morning we are closing out our series on the names of God. We close it out with a name many people have a problem relating to God in, It's the name Abba. It's actually an Aramaic word, it's the name children of Jesus's day would use for their dad. The closest word in our language is the term DADDY. Which is why some people have a problem relating to God in this intimate way.

Here's the reference for it. It's *Romans 8: 15-17*

¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba Father." ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

See we don't have as much difficulty referring to God by His other names, We are comfortable with God as our **Provider**, or God as our **Healer**, God as our **Defender**, **Protector**, our **Rescuer**, **Our Banner** or even as The God of **Peace**, or **The All sufficient One**.

These names are more comfortable for us, simply because they are intimate, and, and, we tend to feel like these other names are more respectful of God and Who He is than simply an everyday term like DADDY.

I mean, we don't use terms like ALL SUFFICIENT ONE or HEALER or DEFENDER or OUR BANNER for anyone else right?

It's the same response I imagine the Jews of Paul's day had when he suggested we refer to God as Abba. They were more than accustomed to referring to God as Father. After all He was Creator Father, He was Father of all living things. But the kids running in the streets would use the name Abba when they were calling their dad! they couldn't get their head around calling the creator of the universe Daddy...

And here's the thing, He is all those remarkable names too!!

And we shouldn't lose sight of Who He is in this intimacy, if you're a note taker jot this down:

Because God invited us into this intimacy, it doesn't dismiss His majesty

It still matters that He is the Creator of the universe and the King of Kings, the beginning and the end!

It matters what you believe about Who God is!

In 1961 A,W, Tozer published a book titled *The Knowledge of The Holy*. Maybe you've heard of it or even read it, If not I highly recommend it. In the first lines of the book he makes this statement "**what comes into our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us**".

Well, So some people disagree, C S Lewis for one, says “**it’s not what we think about God, but what God thinks about us that is most important**”.

I actually agree with both and I don’t think they are mutually exclusive. As a matter of fact, *I think one starts and the other is the completion of the first...*

Let me show you what I mean:

1 John 4:16-19

¹⁶ And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷ This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. ¹⁹ We love because he first loved us.

It’s what I mean by *one starts and the other is the completion of the first*. You can jot it down like this:

We call Him Abba because He first called us sons and daughters.

There is a popular saying in our culture used by Christians and people who don’t necessarily follow Jesus. the saying goes “well we are all God’s children”

It’s a false statement... It would be right to say we are all God’s creation, but to be a child of God you must be adopted and that requires you accepting the Father as yours.

Let me show you, it’s *Galatians 4: 4-7*

⁴ But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. ⁶ Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, (here’s our name again) “Abba, Father.” ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but God’s child; and since you are his child, God has made you also an heir.

So according to *Romans 10:9-10*, it’s up to us to ask for the adoption ⁹ *If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

And once you’re adopted, you’re a son or a daughter. Here’s a really interesting fact about this passage, there is one word in the Greek language that the phrase “adoption to sonship”

The word is **Huiothesia** (*we-oth-a-see-a*) and it means that you have become the same as a child born in the household. The adoption is never mentioned again! you have the same inheritance as the son born to the parents who adopted you! that’s the word Paul **purposely** uses here.

We read it in *Romans 8* earlier! We are “co-heirs” or “Joint-heirs” with Christ.... we are God’s children!

Let me illustrate it like this:

Imagine your dad is a king, as a matter of fact, he’s the most powerful king in the world. All other leaders of all the other nations are only leaders there because your dad put them in leadership. He doesn’t tolerate enemies of his kingdom and he’s both feared and respected. So your dad is a really

big deal and you're his favorite kid, according to Psalm 17:8 you're the "apple of His eye".....thing is, all his kids are his favorites, you don't know how he does it, but he's a really amazing dad.

So your dad's in a meeting, a really important meeting in the throne room, he's on his throne with his robe on and (let's use the numbers from Daniel 7 and Revelation 5) and there are so many of his subjects in the room they can't be numbered!

But you're his favorite kid, and you have a question, and you know where the family door over behind the throne is so you go around to it and push it open.....

Maybe it makes a LOUD squeaking noise and your dad turns and sees you..... Now at this point, most dads would say something like "son, I'm in a meeting right now can it wait"? Or maybe just hold up a finger to say "hang on just a sec" or "give me a minute"

But not your dad..... he sees you and this huge smile comes across his face and he turns toward you and throws his arms open and you go running to him!! And every angel in the room is smiling and almost as excited as he is because they know how much he loves you!!

You're so excited to see him you forget your question and ask him "can I just sit with you awhile"? And He's so excited to see you and He says "of course" and He kind of wraps His robe around you...

"Because we are His children, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts and His Spirit calls Daddy, and you are no longer a slave, but a child of the king"

Maybe you don't consider yourself worthy of being called a son or a daughter of a king. Maybe your experience with your own dad was less than great and you don't want to think of God as a parent. I had and still have fantastic parents so I can't say I know how you feel, but I know it happens. Let me assure you, whatever parenting skills your earthly parents lacked, God doesn't! He's a good Father

When our boys were young, and they got their first cell phone I added them to mine and they are and always will be in my phone as Paul-son Mark-son and John-son.

They are my sons, I didn't put them in that way so I wouldn't forget they were my sons, I did it because I love to see it's my son calling.

Now, they all grew up and got married and in my phone I have Lindy-daughter, Hannah-daughter and Marissa-daughter

Not because I might forget they are my daughters now, but because I love that I can call them my daughter!!

Think about this, only one person in the universe has the absolute right to call you anything He wants because He created you and He chose to call you His child.....

Don't be afraid of the intimacy the name Abba or Daddy brings, but don't forget Who your father is.

It's like C.S. Lewis wrote in his famous children's book THE LION THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE. He's not safe, but He's good.

Miss you all, love you all!

Discussion Questions:

1. Do you have an image in mind of Who our God is that we worship? What comes to mind?
2. Is it difficult for you to relate to God as Abba? (Daddy) Why?
3. Why is it important we understand adoption as God uses it in Galatians 4?
4. What did we give Jesus in return for His allowing us to be “joint-heirs” of His inheritance?

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