

# Kingdom of God Part 19

## Kids of the King

1. **Review** – We have a King who is also our Father, our Dad. This relationship infers that God is much more than just “God” or “Lord” or “The Big Guy Upstairs” – He desires to be known as Father.
  - a. In using Kingdom of God language, this means that we are the King’s kids! We are children of the King who is over a great and magnificent kingdom.
  - b. What does that infer? What are kids of the King?
2. In the New Testament, the word "God" almost always refers to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - a. Christ refers to God as "His Father."
  - b. We are taught by Our Lord to pray to "*Our Father who art in Heaven.*"
  - c. Christ addresses God not by God’s role (Lord) but by the proper and relational name of "Father" (Mt 10:32-33; 11:25-26) as well as calls him with a childlike term of endearment, Daddy (Abba).
    - i. Mark 14:36 "*“Abba, Father,” he said, “everything is possible for you. Take this cup from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”*
    - ii. Galatians 4:4-7 "*But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, “Abba, Father.” So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.*”:
    - iii. Romans 8:14-16 "*...those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.* "
  - d. “Abba.” It’s a term of endearment. “Abba.” A term of intimacy. “Abba.” While it is usually translated “father”, it’s a term that can only really be understood today in the example of love and intimacy of a small child when it calls out “mama” or “dada.” It represents a close and very personal relationship. One so close, that words can barely begin to fully describe it. Only the thought of those words, “mama” and “dada” coming from the lips of a child whose love is without question can begin to represent the level of intimacy.
    - i. One would not usually think of an adult using “mama” or “dada,” and yet, that is exactly the word used by Jesus when he directly addresses God in the garden of Gethsemane. It is further not a coincidence that Paul uses this same word in our text today to describe our relationship with God. That one little word, gives us a world of insight, changes our view of God, and changes our paradigm for relating to God.
      1. For centuries, people had related to God in terms of something far off. God was something out there.
      2. .
      3. So much so, that in reverence, they couldn’t even say the name for God “Yahweh” out loud.
      4. Jesus brought a new understanding of relating to God. God is not far removed, God is not something out there, something so... “perhaps feared” is the word, that we can’t even utter his name aloud. No, he is much more close, and he wants a much more intimate relationship more like what we see in the example of Jesus. One thing we must understand, it was not simply just Jesus’ love for God that is represented by the term “Abba,
    - ii. It isn’t surprising that Muslims do not believe in a God who is intimate and knowable. It is a tragedy, though, for a Christian to not experience Him that way
      1. Muslims believe they came from the lineage of Hagar and Ishmael. Ishmael is considered a bastard, because Abraham rejected him. They live as orphans before

God, never knowing the love and intimacy of God, only the harshness and rigidness of Allah.

2. But far too many Christians, including many or most of us in this room, also see God that way. Harsh, judgmental, ready to punish for the slightest infraction. Yes, God is holy, but if you have received His Son, you are forgiven.
  - a. Your motive for obedience is no longer fear but joy. Holiness is no longer an obligation but a delight. That is how a son relates to a father.
3. Why does God love us...especially when we treat Him the way we do?
  - a. *Max Lucado's A Gentle Thunder* excerpt:
    - i. "God, I have a question: Why do you love your children? I don't want to sound irreverent, but only heaven knows how much pain we've brought you. Why do you tolerate us? We complain about the weather. We bicker about our toys. We argue over who gets which continent, and not a second passes where someone, somewhere, doesn't use your name to curse a hammered thumb or a bad call by the umpire. We ignore the Word you sent us. And we killed the Son you became. We are spoiled babies who take and kick and pout and blaspheme. And yet... your love never ceases. How do we explain it?"
    - ii. Perhaps the answer is found in yet another question. Moms: Why do you love your newborn? I know, I know; it's a silly question, but... why do you? For months this baby has brought you pain. They made you break out in pimples and waddle like a duck. Because of them you craved pickles and threw up in the morning. They punched you in the tummy. They occupied space that wasn't theirs and ate food they didn't fix. You kept them warm. You kept them safe. You kept them fed. But did they ever thank you? Are you kidding? They're no more out of the womb than they start to cry! The room is too cold, the blanket is too rough, the nurse is too mean. And who do they want? Mom! Don't you ever get a break? I mean, who has been doing the work the last nine months? Why can't Dad take over? But no, Dad won't do. The baby wants Mom. They made you scream... swear. You bit bullets and tore the sheets. And now look at you. Your back aches. Your head pounds. Every muscle strained and stretched. You should be angry, but are you? Far from it. On your face is a for-longer-than-forever love. They have done nothing for you; yet you love them. They've brought pain, yet you treasure them. Their face is wrinkled and eyes are dim, yet all we can talk about is how good they look. They are going to wake you up every night for the next six weeks, but that doesn't matter. I can see it on your face. You're crazy about them.
    - iii. Why? Why does a mother love her newborn? Because the baby is hers? Even more. Because the baby is her. Her blood. Her flesh. Her hope. Her legacy. It bothers her not that the baby gives nothing.
    - iv. So I ask in relation, why does God love his children? Because we are his. The entire Trinity is at work to bring us into full adoption where we receive a full share of the inheritance. We are bound with God, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus.
4. How many of us would ever think of calling God "dada" or "mama" the way a small child does? I fear we are far, far removed from that kind of relationship. We get into the habit of reserving one hour on Sunday each week for him. We think about praying, even want to pray, but forget or get too tired and we may have a whole day... or several days where we don't speak to him at all. Perhaps some of the old paradigm still exists, and we think God is something far out there, something far removed from us.
5. God, in the New Testament, is no longer "a father concept," He is FATHER by direct address.
  - a. Through a dramatic series of events, we go from condemned orphans with no hope to adopted children with no fear. Because of His justice He cannot dismiss your sin, but because of His love He cannot dismiss you.
  - b. People don't adopt children so they will get more money or have more sleep. Adoptive parents don't adopt children because of what they have, but because of what they need. They need a

home. If we can't earn our adoption through good works, can we lose it through a bad performance?

6. I would like to do a comparison between the heart of an orphan and the heart of a son. What is your heart like? And what can you do about it? You cannot simply change it by changing your mind. You need an encounter with Father's love, in a deeper, supernatural manner that changes the way you see God.
- As you can see, we all have pieces of the orphan's heart in our lives. What can we do about it? Come to Father God with those pieces of your heart in your hands and ask Him to heal your orphan heart. To develop in you the heart of a son
  - Ezekiel says, "I will turn your heart of stone into a heart of flesh"
  - God can do this. Will you let Him? Watch video. Prayer and ministry time.

Characteristic	Orphan	Son
The way you see God	Sees Him as Master, Lord, demanding and requiring.	Sees Him as loving Father
Approval Needs	Strive for approval, praise and acceptance of man.	Totally accepted in God's love and justified by His grace.
Motivation for Service	Striving for personal achievement to impress God or others. Some have no desire to serve at all.	Service is motivated by gratitude for being unconditionally loved and accepted by Father.
Motive for Christian Disciplines	<u>Duty</u> , guilt, earning favor.	<u>Pleasure</u> and delight. <i>1 John 3:1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God"</i>
Motive for holiness/purity	Fear, guilt, shame, unworthy to have favor from God unless perfect.	Desire is to please God, don't want anything to hinder the intimacy you have with God.
Source of Comfort	Seeks comfort in counterfeit affections, addictions, compulsions and escapism. Hyper religious spirit.	Seeks times of quiet and solitude with Father, enjoys the Father's presence and love.
Dealing with other's faults	Accusation and exposure to make yourself look good and others bad. (judgmental spirit)	Love covers as you seek to restore and encourage others in a spirit of gentleness and love.

Expression of Love	Guarded and conditional. You base your giving upon the other's performance as you seek to get your own needs met.	Open, patient and affectionate as you lay down your agenda in order to meet the needs of others.
Daily Purpose	You seek achievement and recognition and to be counted among the mature. You desire for others to look up to you.	Your priority is to experience Father's love and acceptance and to be used to share that with others.