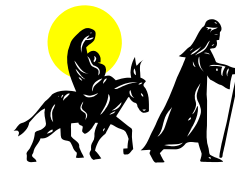




2021 Walk to Bethlehem



Week 11 Meditation

Heavenly Parenting (Abba, Father)

“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.” Galatians 4:6-7

Some have said that being a parent is the most difficult of all jobs, but those who are parents can taste a glimpse of the heart of God. Only the creator of the universe could have created a structure called “the family” that would mirror His own love, involvement and concern for us, His children.

Earthly parenting frequently involves watching children experience victories and defeats. The victories make a parent’s heart soar. The defeats leave parents in anguish. As children grow and are given more responsibility for their own actions, parenting becomes even more of a challenge. It is called “parenting from a distance.” It is with great care and wisdom that parents enter the lives of the adult children. It is here that those foundational relationships carved out in early years bear fruit.

Heavenly parenting is similar to earthly parenting. We address Him as our Heavenly Father. We are the apple of His eye (Deuteronomy 32:10). He cheers us on when we experience victory. He encourages us on when we’re struggling. He is always present (Psalm 139). He anguishes when we take a wrong turn. He anguishes when we suffer. He promises to always be with us.

How do we treat our Heavenly Father, the creator of the universe and our creator who “knew us while we were being knit together in our mother’s womb?” (Psalm 139:13) Does He long to hear from us? Does He long to be in communion with us? Does He long to hear our voice? Does He long to have us acknowledge Him?

Earthly parents understand these feelings, these struggles, these joys and these longings. It is a lesson in relationship and love, and just as earthly parents extend love to all their children in amazing ways, our Heavenly Father extends love to all of the family of God.

May we seek our Heavenly Father, who longs to hear from us. May we turn to Him for guidance and may we enter His presence with thankful hearts. He owns the cattle on a thousand hills (Psalm 50:10) and we are a part of His inheritance (Galatians 4:7).

See video link below. *[Place your mouse over the link words and hit the “Ctrl” key and click your mouse.]*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNORGh5w0Ck>

Ponder these questions this week and please send your thoughts (and any pictures), to: stpaulwtb@gmail.com

Questions to ponder:

- 1. Ponder the parent/child relationship. What is your idea of a good father?***
- 2. What is your idea of a good child?***
- 3. Can we grasp the significance and magnitude of God sending His Son to earth as a baby?***
- 4. What does it mean to call out to God, “Abba, Father”?***
- 5. Reflect on the significance of the God of the Universe being our Abba, Father.***