

Honouring the Father

We have been learning that Jesus came to show us the Father, but we, the church, do not know the Father. How can we call ourselves sons and daughters of God the Father, if we do not even know the One we call our Father? We are like orphans who do not know who our Father truly is. Like most orphans, we only have a very vague image of the Father in our minds. Therefore, we need to seek Him and get to know Him. So, how can we come to know the Father?

Jesus said, "...no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."¹ Jesus is the only One who truly knows the Father. He said, "...I know the Father..."² It is through Jesus that we can come to know the Father, for not only does He know the Father, He is also the Way to the Father. Jesus said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you really knew Me, you would know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him."³ So, if we get to know Jesus, we will come to know the Father as well. Jesus went on and said, "Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. ...The words I say to you are not just My own. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me..."⁴ The words that Jesus spoke were not His own, but the Father's. Jesus said, "For I did not speak of My own accord, but the Father who sent Me commanded Me what to say and how to say it. I know that His command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told Me to say."⁵ "...remember, My words are not My own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent Me."⁶

This brings us back to the command from the Father to the disciples of Jesus Christ. The Father said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased. Listen to Him!"⁷ If we listen to Jesus, we would be listening to the Father as well. For the Father has commanded His Son, Jesus Christ, what to say and how to say it. Jesus spoke the words of the Father. By coming to know Jesus through listening to Him, we come to know the Father as well. Jesus said, "The Father and I are One."⁸ "...the Father is in Me, and I am in the Father."⁹ The Oneness between the Father and the Son allows us to come to know the Father through Jesus Christ. "I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by Himself; He can do only what He sees His Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows Him all He does."¹⁰

Jesus said, "Pay close attention to what you hear [and how you hear¹¹]. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given —and you will receive even more."¹² To those who listen to My teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them."¹³

If we had listened carefully to Jesus, we would have heard Him talking about the Father more than He did about God. If we had listened closely to Jesus, we would have realised that He came to show us the Father. So, we ought to pay close attention to what we hear and how we listen to Jesus, as we cry out for more understanding of the Father.

The words of Jesus to the Father in John 17 are truly precious and a treasure. Jesus said, "Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son may glorify You. For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him. Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have brought You glory on Earth by completing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me in Your presence with the glory I had with You before the world began. I have revealed You to those whom You gave Me out of the world. They were Yours; You gave them to Me and they have obeyed Your word. Now they know that everything You have given Me comes from You. For I gave them the words You gave Me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from You, and they believed that You sent Me. I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those You have given Me, for they are Yours. All I have is Yours, and all You have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them. I will remain in the

¹ Matthew 11.27, Luke 10.22

² John 10.15

³ John 14.6-7

⁴ John 14.9-11

⁵ John 12.49-50

⁶ John 14.24 NLT

⁷ Matthew 17.5

⁸ John 10.30 NLT

⁹ John 10.38 NLT

¹⁰ John 5.19-20

¹¹ Luke 8.18 NLT

¹² Mark 4.24 NLT

¹³ Matthew 13.12, Mark 4.25, Luke 8.18 NLT

world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, protect them by the power of Your Name—the Name You gave Me—so that they may be one as We are One. While I was with them, I protected them and kept them safe by that Name You gave Me. None has been lost except the one doomed to destruction so that Scripture would be fulfilled. I am coming to You now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of My joy within them. I have given them Your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; **Your word is truth.** As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. [And I give Myself as a holy sacrifice for them so they can be made holy by Your truth.¹⁴] My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are One: I in them and You in Me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. Father, I want those You have given Me to be with Me where I am, and to see My glory, the glory You have given Me because You loved Me before the creation of the world. Righteous Father, though the world does not know You, I know You, and they [these disciples¹⁵] know that You have sent Me. **I have made You known to them, and will continue to make You known in order that the love You have for Me may be in them and that I Myself may be in them.**"

Note that Jesus said that He has revealed the Father to His disciples,¹⁶ and He will continue to make the Father known to us.¹⁷ How many times have we read those words but did not understand the fullness of it? That is why Jesus said that those who listen closely and carefully to His words, more understanding will be given. In John 17, Jesus was talking to the Father. It might seem as though He was merely praying to the Father about us, His disciples and believers, but look closely and you will see that He was actually revealing more about the Father to us.

Jesus has given us the words the Father gave Him. Jesus said, **"...everything that I learned from My Father I have made known to you."**¹⁸ **"...I have told you everything the Father told Me."**¹⁹ Jesus said **everything**, not some things, but everything that He learnt and heard from the Father, He has made known to us. He said, **"Though I have been speaking figuratively, a time is coming when I will no longer use this kind of language but will tell you plainly about My Father."**²⁰ When was that time that Jesus was talking about? Could it be the time when they, the early disciples, were supposed to meet Jesus in Galilee after His resurrection? What would they have seen and heard if they had gone to meet Jesus in Galilee at the specified time? What did they, or I should say we, miss out on? I do not have all the answers for now. Nevertheless, seek and ask the Holy Spirit about this if you desire so.

Jesus said, **"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to Me by taking from what is Mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is Mine and make it known to you."**²¹

The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. The Father's word is truth.²² So, **the Spirit of Truth will guide us into all of the Father's words and make it known to us. What the Holy Spirit hears from the Father and Jesus, He will tell us, even what is to come.** He will also teach us all things and remind us of everything Jesus has said.²³ That is why Jesus said, **"Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying..."**²⁴

The Father loves Jesus,²⁵ and He loves those who love Jesus.²⁶ If God is our Father, we would love Jesus because He came from God.²⁷ Those who love Jesus are those who obey His commands and teachings.²⁸

¹⁴ John 17.19 NLT

¹⁵ NLT

¹⁶ John 17.6

¹⁷ John 17.26

¹⁸ John 15.15 NIV

¹⁹ John 15.15 NLT

²⁰ John 16.25

²¹ John 16.12-15

²² John 17.17

²³ John 14.26

²⁴ Revelation 2.7,11,17,29; 3.6,13,22 NLT

²⁵ John 5.20; 10.17

²⁶ John 14.21; 16.27

²⁷ John 8.42

²⁸ John 14.15,21,23

If you obey Jesus, you would obey the Father as well, for Jesus spoke the words of the Father. Obeying Jesus and the Father is like the first step in honouring Them. If we cannot even obey Them, how can we honour Them? Honour is not about paying lip service, but honour comes from the heart. If we are to call God our Father, we must honour Him, for He said, "If I am a Father, where is the honour due Me?"²⁹ Jesus said, "Anyone who does not honour the Son is certainly not honouring the Father who sent Him."³⁰ So, if we do not even honour Jesus, we are certainly not honouring the Father.

The Lord Almighty said, "And now this admonition is for you, O priests. If you do not listen, and if you do not set your heart to honour My Name, I will send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings. Yes, I have already cursed them, because you have not set your heart to honour Me."³¹ Although this verse is from the Old Testament, it still applies to us, for are we not a kingdom of priests³² of which Jesus is the High Priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek?³³

It is written: Then those who feared the Lord spoke with each other, and the Lord listened to what they said. In His presence, a scroll of remembrance was written to record the names of those who feared Him [and honoured His Name³⁴] and always thought about the honour of His Name. "They will be My people," says the Lord of Heaven's Armies. "On the day when I act in judgment, they will be My own special treasure. I will spare them as a father spares an obedient child. Then you will again see the difference between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not."³⁵

Therefore, "...worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks."³⁶ Honour the Father and His Name, and have His honour in our minds and on our hearts. May the Father receive the honour and glory due Him from sons and daughters who will honour and glorify Him as Jesus the perfect Son honours and glorifies Him. Amen.

²⁹ Malachi 1.6

³⁰ John 5.23 NLT

³¹ Malachi 2.2

³² Revelation 1.6; 5.10

³³ Psalm 110.4

³⁴ NIV

³⁵ Malachi 3.16-18 NLT

³⁶ John 4.23