

jan 5

the word that keeps coming to me today is "Father". we all know that Jesus kept referring to the "Excellent Glory" as Father. our mortal minds cannot begin to comprehend the composure and nature of God. His glory and excellence and holiness is beyond mortal reach. we can only accept what we cannot understand.

Jesus came to teach us the relationship the Godhead desires with His creation. it is an intimate and personal one. i think we can all understand the term "father". i'm sure there are some who have had bad experiences with fathers. i think Jesus wants us to experience the relationship He had with the Father.

my father never said much to me. he was an alcoholic and there would always be several binges throughout the year. though i don't think he ever hit my mother, i can remember him chasing her out of the house, threatening to. so there always remained a certain amount of fear and apprehension at his authority.

he did have authority. he worked and supported our home and family. that in itself demanded respect. mother could get mad at us, but when she threatened to tell father, we suddenly got obedient. it was his wrath that sent shivers down us.

and yet, i can also remember there was a gentler side. i can remember watching television with my father in the evenings. i know he was tired from work and would rather have laid down on the couch to watch tv. instead, he would scooch down while i laid down and

tucked my feet behind his backside to keep them warm. that and so many other little things made me know he loved me.

i guess i'm trying to say, just as there is fear and love in our earthly fathers, there should be fear and love of our heavenly Father. the word says, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." prov 9:10 there should be fear and respect as we call Him Father. He hates sin and there will be a swift punishment for all those who desire it.

yet for those who love and respect Him, there will always remain those times when we hide our feet behind Him and call Him Daddy or papa. He will make space to hide us and keep us warmed and protected. it is the nature of fatherhood.

i don't think my earthly father ever came to Jesus to have his sins removed. perhaps he cried out in those last minutes of his heart attack, but i doubt it. there usually is not time or presence of mind in a crisis if one does not already know the name that saves.

do any of you ever want to wait for that last minute to be rescued? do you want to enjoy the pleasures of your sin as long as you can? "for this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near Him." psa 32:6

people are often creatures of procrastination. we put

off doing things. perhaps for a more convenient time and perhaps because they are distasteful. whatever the reason, there remain some things so urgent they cannot be put off.

now is the time all things are coming to pass. "do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. he who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." rev 22:10-11

while the door remains open to the age of grace, let His grace fill your heart. He loves you still.

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