

The Whole Counsel



“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts

God As Father

John 3:11-21

11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 19 And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. 20 For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. 21 But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

Mark 14:32-36

32 They went to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” 33 He took with him Peter and James and John, and began to be distressed and agitated. 34 And he said to them, “I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and keep awake.” 35 And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. 36 He said, “Abba, Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want.”

OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ Jesus calls God “Abba Father” - which means “_____”
- ◆ We are all one _____
- ◆ This name for the Father shows us the nature of God’s relationship with us.

Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

Romans 8:12-17

12 So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13** for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. **15** For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” **16** it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

What does it mean that you have received a spirit of adoption and are a child of God?

We have “obtained an inheritance” from God. What do you imagine that this is?

QUESTIONS *for discussion*

What name or title do you usually use to address God in prayer?

Do you struggle with calling God “Father”? Why or why not?

How does knowing God as Abba Father help you in your understanding of God?

How has your relationship with your own father affected your view of God?

In what ways have you experienced the love of our heavenly Father this week?