

The Father's Gift

June 16, 2019

Psalm 23

Today is Father's Day and I'd like to say a word to you before we close from the eleventh chapter of Luke and verse nine.

Luke 11:9 "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. (10) For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

(11) If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? (12) Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Here is one of the many comparisons Jesus makes between our earthly fathers and our Heavenly Father.

Yet, the LORD begins with, not a comparison, but a contrast. Most dads don't think of themselves as great dads. But Jesus is very specific. *Luke 11:13 "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: ..."*

Though earthly fathers are far from perfect, your Heavenly Father is eternally good. Jesus isn't saying that every dad does evil continually. Rather, every dad, as good as we are, stands in contrast to the Goodness of our Heavenly Father.

That's the contrast between earthly dads and the LORD. But, what about the comparisons?

First, there's the comparison in the matter of giving. He says that just like no earthly father would give his son a serpent or a scorpion, so your Heavenly Father will not give you anything that will hurt you. God is the Ultimate Giver.

Second, there's a comparison is the willingness of the Father to give. When a hungry child asks his dad for bread or a fish, his fatherliness makes him perfectly willing to give his son or his daughter whatever he's asked for. And if that's true of earthly dads, how much more is it true of the absolute willingness of your Heavenly Father?

Third, there's the constant availability of fatherly resources. How many times in a week will you need to eat? And how many times in a week will you need bread? Or, how often will you want fish? Aren't you a person who is constantly in need; especially when it comes to food and drink?

Now, how available are they to you? They are constantly available. You dad makes sure they are in his storehouse. And it that's true in the earthly realm, how much more are the LORD's resources continually available to you?

God, the Father, is a Giver. God, the Father, is constantly ready to give. And God, the Father's resources are continually available.

So, folks, even though earthly fathers are far from perfect, Jesus connects their behavior to that of your Heavenly Father; the One Who is eternally Good.

Now, what is it beyond food and drink that you need? Jesus answers this question by telling us Who, not what, we need. You see, there's also a contrast between what we need and Who we need. Yes, we do need food. And you are likely to not go one day this week without it.

But, how about the One Person you need? Folks, if you constantly need food, then you constantly need this One

Provision the Father makes that is far better than food. And that is the Holy Spirit.

Verse thirteen. Luke 11:13 *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*

God, the Ultimate Giver, the Absolute Willing Giver, the One with Perfect Fatherly resources, is offering to you and me the One Gift we cannot survive without.

Folks, how many days of your life will you go without food? Yet, how many days of your life will you go without the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit?

Food and nourishment are essential to your daily life. But, is the Holy Spirit not?

At the moment you were saved, God, the Holy Spirit, came to indwell your spirit. Yet, when was the last time you asked your Heavenly Father for His Spirit to fill you, to empower you for usefulness to others, to enable you to pray, to be strengthened by might by His Spirit in your inner man? Is the Holy Spirit available to you? is He not a major part of the resources God will willing to daily supply you with? When was the last time you were so hungry for the Spirit of the LORD that you simply said LORD, give me Your Spirit?

Jesus died and rose again on the third day so that He could live His life in you and through you. And He does that through the Spirit that He has sent to live within your spirit.

So, for Father’s Day this year, why not go to the LORD in prayer and acknowledge your need, not of bread and fish, but of the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Spirit, to be led by the Spirit, and to let Him produce the fruits of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control? You see, these fruits are given to you to benefit the world around you. You need the Spirit more than you need food and drink.

And Jesus says that your Heavenly Father will give Him to you far more quickly than your earthly father will supply you with bread and fish.

So, what will it be? Will you be satisfied with food for your body? Or, will it be, a desire to be satisfied with the life and power of the Spirit?

It’s always a choice, isn’t it?

God offers. You choose. So, what will it be? Will you take Him at His Word? Will you, by faith, asking Him for His Spirit. And, remember, just like you need daily physical sustenance, you need daily spiritual sustenance. You need food and drink. But you also need the Holy Spirit.

Shall we pray?

Hymn # 581 “Tis So Sweet”