

# SHOW US THE FATHER

- Our Word for 2022:

Fathers

A  
Atmosphere – Awareness – Anticipation

M  
Mothers

I  
Investment - Involvement - Interaction

L  
Look Around!

Y  
You

- **John 14:1-12** "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going." 5 "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" 6 Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!" **8 Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."** 9 Jesus replied, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and yet you still don't know who I am? **Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father!** So why are you asking me to show him to you? 10 Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. 11 Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Or at least believe because of the work you have seen me do.

- **Matthew 7:11** “ If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father give what is good to those who ask Him.”
- “Paid in full love Dad.”
- **Very different contrast:**
- What is God really like? Some people think the most important question of life is “Do you believe in God?” But a more important question is “What kind of God do you believe in?”
  - Some people picture God as a task master who gets great joy out of disciplining His people when they make a mistake. He has a bunch of rules in force that no one believes they can accomplish so they feel that He is always mad at us and correcting us.
  - Others picture God as a buddy. He will forgive anything no matter what you do or how you act. In the end, all go to heaven because a loving God “would never send anyone to hell”

# The Gospel and Jesus

- In particular, Jesus teaches the disciples to pray to the Father. **Matthew 6:9** Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may your name be kept holy.  
NLT
- All the gospels give many references to the way Jesus emphasizes the reality and nature of God the Father. But the gospel of John records the most references — at least 100.

## One of the most picturesque passages of the Father is found in Luke 15

- Luke 15:1-2 Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. 2 This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

# A key to understanding any Scripture in the Gospels is to know what preceded it.

**Luke 4:14-30** Then Jesus returned to Galilee, filled with the Holy Spirit's power. Reports about him spread quickly through the whole region. 15 He taught regularly in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. 16 When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. 17 The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written:

18 "The Spirit of the LORD is upon me,  
for he has anointed me to bring **Good News to the poor**.  
He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released,  
that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free,  
19 and that the time of the LORD's favor has come."

20 He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. 21 Then he began to speak to them. "The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!"

22 Everyone spoke well of him and was amazed by the gracious words that came from his lips. "How can this be?" they asked. "Isn't this Joseph's son?"

23 Then he said, "You will undoubtedly quote me this proverb: 'Physician, heal yourself'—meaning, 'Do miracles here in your hometown like those you did in Capernaum.' 24 But I tell you the truth, no prophet is accepted in his own hometown.

25 "Certainly there were many needy widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the heavens were closed for three and a half years, and a severe famine devastated the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent instead to a foreigner—a widow of Zarephath in the land of Sidon. 27 And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, but the only one healed was Naaman, a Syrian."

28 When they heard this, the people in the synagogue were furious. 29 Jumping up, they mobbed him and forced him to the edge of the hill on which the town was built. They intended to push him over the cliff, 30 but he passed right through the crowd and went on his way. NLT

- Jesus declaration: Luke 4:18 and the word therefore means "a good communication" or "message." This corresponds exactly with the meaning of the Greek word - "a good or joyful message-glad tidings." By the "poor" are meant all those who are destitute of the comforts of this life, and who therefore may be more readily disposed to seek treasures in heaven; all those who are sensible of their sins, or are poor in spirit (Matt 5:3); and all the "miserable" and the afflicted, Isa 58:7. (**Barnes Notes**)
- Luke 4:18 I have been designed and set apart for this very purpose; my sole business among men is to proclaim glad tidings to the poor, etc. All the functions of this new prophet are exercised on the hearts of men; and the grace by which he works in the heart is a grace of healing, deliverance, and illumination; which, by an admirable virtue, causes them to pass from sickness to health, from slavery to liberty, from darkness to light, and from the lowest degrees of misery to supreme eternal happiness. (**Adam Clarke's Commentary**)

## Back to Luke 15:1-2 – 3 Groups of people – Tax Collectors, notorious sinners, Pharisees and teachers of the religious law!

- Tax collectors – some things don't change!
- Notorious sinners - But what is a sinner? A sinner is someone who breaks God's law. 1 John 3:4 Everyone who sins is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God. NLT
  - The Hebrew and Greek words for "sin" throughout the Bible revolve largely around two images. The first means "to step across or go beyond a set boundary or limit," like stepping out of bounds on basketball court or football field. The second image is "to miss the mark," like an archer shooting for a bull's eye and missing the target. God has defined boundaries, standards, hopes and dreams for us, the playing field on which we are to live our lives and the target we are to aim for.
  - It is in his Word that defines sin. Galatians 5:19-21

It is with these 2 groups of people that Jesus hung out with that draws the scorn of the pharisees!

## Pharisees and teachers of the religious law –

The sect of Pharisees is thought to have originated in the 3rd century B.C., in days preceding the Maccabean wars, when under Greek domination and the Greek effort to Hellenize the Jews, there was a strong tendency among the Jews to accept Greek culture with its pagan religious customs. The rise of the Pharisees was a reaction and protest against this tendency among their fellow kinsmen. More and more of them were abandoning the Hebrew faith and embracing the perceived superiority of Greek thought and ways. This created a crisis in Judaism. **Would the “faith” and its covenant responsibilities survive in the generations to come?**

- The first Pharisees had their hearts in the right place.
- But as is true with many movements, factions within the Pharisees slowly began to revise their “theology” as they hardened their hearts towards those dissimilar to them.

# A Persistent Problem!

- Luke 5:17-26 – Jesus heals a paralytic
- Luke 5:27-32 – The call of Levi
- Luke 5:33-34 – Questions about fasting
- Luke 6:1-5 – Jesus Lord of the Sabbath
- Luke 6:6-11 – A man with a withered hand
- Luke 7:36-46 A sinful woman forgiven
- Luke 7:47-50 “Who is this, who even forgives sin?”
- Luke 8:37 “asked Him to depart from them, for they were seized with great fear.”
- Luke 11:14 Jesus and Beelzebul
- Luke 11:37-54 Woe to the Pharisees and Lawyers
- Luke 13:10-17 A woman with a disabling spirit
- Luke 14:1-6 Healing of a man on the Sabbath

**Luke 15 - Jesus again attempting to show all 3 groups the Father!**