



July 4, 2010

Fathers Day

A few weeks ago we observed a secular holiday to honor fathers and demonstrate our appreciation for our parents. After services that day I was speaking to one of our members who commented that she had lost her parents long ago but still remembered her Heavenly father every week as we are instructed to do in the scriptures. In a worldly sense we would be considered uncaring and ungrateful if we ignored the holiday to remember fathers and many go out of their way to make the day special for their parents. When it comes to how we look at God do we really think of him as our Father? There are many who claim to revere him but do they really? This is an attitude that demonstrates the spiritual failure of mankind from the beginning and unfortunately has characterized God's people as well. Malachi confronted the people of his time with their disrespect and lack of reverence. ***“And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the LORD of hosts.” (Mal 1.8).*** Most of us would not think of showing such disrespect to our earthly fathers openly and yet that is what happens when we don't do the things that God wants us to do, or, we do them but we don't offer or do our best. David expressed the right attitude when he built an altar to the Lord to stop a plague. The owner of the threshingfloor where the altar was to be built offered to give the animals and things necessary to David. The king replied, ***“...Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver.” (2 Sam 24.24).*** David desired to offer the best to the Lord and not cut any corners. He realized that to do otherwise would demonstrate the wrong attitude. God meant everything to David and the king desired to show that in what he offered to the Lord. Christ exhibits an attitude of respect and reverence to his Father while he was on the Earth. Although he is the summation of the plan of God to save the world, Christ continually pointed the people in the direction of his Father as the recipient of praise and the giver of all blessings. Teaching his disciples to pray, Christ states that it is God's will that we should desire to be done **(Matt 6.10)**. Christ indicates that it is the Father who will ultimately forgive sins **(Matt 6.14)**. Christ also stated that those who are acceptable in the sight of God are those who do the will of the father **(Matt 7.14)**. When Mary and Joseph found Christ in the Temple he told them, ***“...How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” (Lk 2.49).*** Christ also clarifies his relationship with the Father in his statement to the Jews who were angry enough to want to kill him. ***“I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.” (John 5.30).*** These are only a few of the statements that have been recorded in the Gospels that reflect the relationship and attitude Christ demonstrated toward God and taught his disciples to emulate. Although our focus is on Christ and what he taught we need to hold onto the big picture so to speak. God desired to save man and had that plan in his mind before the foundation of the world **(Eph 1.1-3, Titus 1.1-2)**. He sent his only begotten son into the world as an expression of his love for all of us **(John 3.16)**, and did so at the exact moment that he knew would accomplish his purposes **(Gal 4.4)**. He prepared the way for his son's appearance, speaking to the prophets **(Heb 1.1-2)** who prophesied of things that were to come and that they wished to see **(1 Pet 1.10-12)**. All of these things were revealed and contained in Christ who is the central point of God's work. To honor the Father we love and listen to the son who points us in that direction and who is the only way to the Father of all **(John 14.6)**.

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