

Consider-ables w/Max Lucado

God Is the Potter, We Are the Clay

This verse and others like it are used often by preachers and teachers. Many love to use the thought of God being the Potter and we, His creation, being the clay. They love to speak on how God can give us a fresh start in life as He remolds us into a new vessel. The old vessel with its flaws and imperfections is cast into something new and better.

There is nothing wrong with this line of thought. It is a fine message that often draws people into a closer walk with Jesus Christ. The old becoming new is a very popular theme in the Word of God. *No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put new wine into old bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put new wine into new bottles, and both are preserved* (Matt. 9:16-17).

At this time though, let us look at another part of this verse. There are times when part of something becomes so popular that other parts are sometimes overlooked or even forgotten. The part of the verse that we wish to examine is *Thou art our Father*.

No one knows our fundamental human needs better than God; He knows our needs for things like hope, love and peace. How can we better trust in God to meet those needs? The first step is to acknowledge the fact that God is our heavenly Father.

Notice, God identifies Himself as a Father to us. That should say a lot to us as to how He feels. This is how He chose to characterize His relationship to us. It's not just a descriptive term used by preachers or theologians. God chose Fatherhood from all possible human relationships. There was something significant that God wanted to communicate by His choice of this title.

The thing that God was trying to communicate was that He wanted our dependence to be on Him. He desired to show that there is no one who loves us more, or in whom we should place more trust, than Him. God is the perfect example of what a father should be.

Earthly fathers have the perfect model to follow. They have the Word of God revealing God's character to mankind. This should serve as a manual on how to interact with their children. Everything a person needs to know about fatherhood is right there in the Bible. You need to learn how to teach the difference between right and wrong. The Word of God can help. If you need help regarding discipline, the Bible has lots to say on the subject. Many fathers do not use God as a role model, and their children suffer because of it. God is the only Father they know.

God is our heavenly Father. He should receive the greatest of praise for taking on this role in our lives.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 1:1-3, 6

ALL: **Happy are those who do not...**
Jan – Apr: ...follow the advice of the wicked,
May – Aug: ...or take the path that sinners tread,
Sep – Dec: ...or sit in the seat of scoffers.

ALL: **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on His law, they meditate day and night.**

Jan – Apr: They are like trees planted by streams of water,
May – Aug: ...which yield their fruit in its season,
Sep – Dec: ...and their leaves do not wither.

ALL: **In all that they do, they prosper.
The LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.**

Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them, I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the LORD is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Gospel: Luke 14:25-27, 33

Now large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and he turned to them and said: *"Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions."*

Upcoming Events

THANK YOU!

- **Gina Nechal,**
- **Eden Krajewski**
- **Deb Hoppe**
- **Jenny Dullum**

For sharing their time and their faith by willing to serve as Sunday School teachers this year!!!!!!

CONFIRMATION...

Please pray for and plan to come celebrate with Kasey and Ryan Frantzick, Mady Hockert, Ava and Eden Krajewski, and Charlie Templin as they confirm their faith next Sunday, Sept 15th, during the 9:30 service. A reception will follow.



- ❑ **The Autumn 2019 Newsletter has been sent out to our list of email addresses. If you didn't receive one, please see Pr. Rob! There are copies available in the narthex (entryway).**
- ❑ **Women's Group meets on Wednesdays starting Sept. 11th and every other week afterwards thru Nov. 20th (7:00-8:30pm)**
- ❑ **Men's Group – Next meeting Oct. 5, Nov. 2, and Dec. 7th -- the meetings start at 8:30am**

Ministry signups . . .

Readers, Ushers, Treat-suppliers, and communion-stewards needed! Please sign up on the lists posted on the office door!!

GRIN-ABLE(S)...

The Bad Apple

Jim never learned to read and write. When he got old enough to get a job, he had difficulty locating one. No one had a need for someone who was illiterate. In his frustration, he thought surely the church will take me in. Maybe they have something I could do for them. So he applied for the janitor's position at the Church. He went in for an interview and the pastor They talked for a few minutes before discussing the "Jim, you seem like a great guy. I really like you. However, you not being able to read or write is going to be a problem. I'm sorry, but we can only hire someone that is literate for this position."



"I understand," said Jim. Silently, he was devastated. Even the church couldn't help him? What would he do now? Jim was always the type to land on his feet, so he was not about to give up yet. He got the idea to open a fruit stand in town. He only had the finest fruits and vegetables at his stand and took great pride in customer service.

After a few months, his fruit stand was a success! He was so happy that he decided to open a second fruit stand. This one also became successful. After the first two stands, he expanded again and again. Within a few years his fruit stands were the most successful fruit stands in the entire state. Jim had become very wealthy and successful with fruit. One day Jim met with a prospective buyer who was interested in his business. The buyer offered Jim a substantial amount of money for the business and Jim was interested. The buyer handed Jim a legal document and told him to look it over and see if he liked the terms. Jim took the document and looked at the gentleman. "Sir, you're going to have to summarize this for me. I never learned to read or write." The man looked at Jim in disbelief. "You've got to be kidding me. You built this entire fruit empire without being able to read or write? How is this possible? Do you have any idea where you would be today if you had learned to read?"

"Yes. I'd be the janitor at the First Baptist Church!"

Calendar...

- ✓ **Next Council Meeting – September 10th @6:30**
- ✓ **Confirmation – September 15th**
- ✓ **Next Communion – September 15th**