

## 282 Podcast Thou Art My Son

Steve: How was the wedding of your daughter?

Scott: Wow. I can take up the whole show, but to put it quickly and easily, it was as wonderful as I could expect or hope for. There were a couple little hitches here and there, but nothing worth talking about. And by the end of it, as I told the folks that were there, I felt like George Bailey at the end of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Like, I felt so rich and so full of blessings that we'd had dumped on us and on our daughter and her husband now, just from the people that helped out and the things that were done for them and for us in the process. It was amazing and wonderful. It felt like John 13, where Jesus says, "A new command I give you, love one another. As I have loved you, you should love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." I feel like just saying that to everyone that was involved – "You're doing that. Good job." Because it felt like the church being the church, and I could never possibly repay everybody for what they did to help us. So it was awesome.

Steve: I'm going to start by reading Psalm 2:1–12. "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, 'Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.' He Who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision. Then He will speak to them in His wrath, and terrify them in His fury, saying, 'As for Me, I have set My King on Zion, My holy hill.' I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will make the nations Your heritage, and the ends of the earth Your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.' Now therefore, O kings, be wise; be warned, O rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, and you perish in the way, for His wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in Him." Right in the middle, the 7th verse, "The LORD said to me, 'You are My Son; today I have begotten you.'"

Before we go any further, let's pray. Father, help us to have the perspective that's declared in this Psalm, where You declare, "You are My Son; today I have begotten you." I pray that You would give us ears to hear what the Spirit has for us today. In Jesus' name, amen.

Steve: Jesus needed to hear those words. And as I researched this, I was surprised at how many times in the New Testament God reaffirms to Jesus that He is His Son. And not only does He say that several times in the Gospels, but this expression appears in 2 Peter, in Acts, and twice in Hebrews. I'm going to read these passages with very little commentary because I think it's important for each of us to get this truth that we are God's children.

God does not intend for us to sit in the back row as some kind of adopted waifs off the street who barely make it in. God says, "No, you are My children." God doesn't have grandchildren. When we become His children, we are His children. We're His

sons. Now, at Jesus' baptism, we know, because I've said it many, many times on this show, God affirms Jesus as His beloved Son.

The account of this baptism in the Jordan appears in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The only thing that's different is the first phrase. Matthew says, "When Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up out of the water." Mark says, "When He came up out of the water, immediately He saw the heavens being torn open." Luke says, "Now, when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened."

It's interesting how all three of those writers give a little different perspective. In one, the heavens were being opened. In another, the heavens were being torn open. In the third one, it wasn't just Jesus being baptized, there was other people being baptized that day, and He was praying when He came up out of the water. So maybe He was already asking God or talking to God, and then the heavens were opened, and God made His incredible announcement, "You are My beloved Son; with You I am well pleased."

The second time where this expression occurs is the Mount of Transfiguration. There's a really huge mountain in the north called Mount Hermon, which is 9,000 feet high. It's huge. There is another mountain that traditionally is believed to be the site of the transfiguration and that is Mount Tabor, which is easily seen from the valley of **Esdraelon** or Jezreel Valley.

When you're in Nazareth, you see it. And when you're in Mount Carmel, you see it. Personally, I lean toward Mount Hermon as the setting because it says, Jesus took them up "into a high mountain, and they were by themselves." Mount Tabor was inhabited, and it's surrounded by habitation. But when you're in Mount Hermon, you can easily lose yourself in the vastness of this huge mountain.

Regardless of where it occurred, what's important is the accounts by the disciples all agree. "Behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!' And when the voice had spoken," one version says, "When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified." Another says, "Suddenly, they saw nobody else there, but Jesus only."

The question is was God making a point to the disciples? "This is My Son, listen to Him." Or was He affirming Jesus, or both? Maybe that's why He sent Moses and Elijah, to encourage His Son. You know, "You're coming on a tough road here. Stay the course." I don't know what transpired between Moses and Elijah and Jesus, but there's a lot that took place there, and you have to admit – that would be amazing, to have this cloud come over you, and hear God the Father speaking out of this cloud.

Peter, James, and John saw Moses and Elijah, and they knew who that was. I'm sure that not only was Jesus transfigured, but I'm sure that those three disciples never got over that experience. The reason I know that is because Peter quotes in 2 Peter 1:16-18, "We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne

to Him by the Majestic Glory, 'This is My beloved Son, with Whom I am well pleased,' we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with Him on the holy mountain."

Now, back to Psalm 2. It's what we started with. Paul writes, "And we bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this He has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus, as also it is written in the second Psalm, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'" That's Acts 13:32-33. So Paul went back to this Psalm.

The writers of Hebrews says two times, "To which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You'? Or again, 'I will be to Him a father, and He shall be to Me a son'?" That's Hebrews 1:5. And in Hebrews 5:5, he says, "Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a High Priest, but was appointed by Him Who said to Him, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'

This verse from Psalm 2 appears in Acts, it appears in Hebrews twice and in 2 Peter. It appears that Jesus needed to hear from His Father over and over that "You are My Son." And I believe that you and I also need to hear these words: "You are My Son."

This is probably one of the things that has been the most real to me in the last several months, is that when we are saved from our sin, when we are restored back to relationship with God, we don't come, you might say, still partially clean or half in and half out or... because we're not giving credit to Christ's sacrifice. He died to take away our sin, He died to restore us to the Father, and He did a perfect work.

It takes faith to believe that. I keep thinking of that verse that says, "This is the work of God, that you believe." It takes something to believe that we're not just limping into heaven and we're barely making it before the doors slam shut. No! He has done a beautiful job, an effective job, a powerful job of taking away our sin, our guilt, our shame. Yes we still have our issues, but if we can just grab this truth and wrap it around ourself when we wake up in the morning, and look in the mirror and affirm "I am God's child, God's son, because of Jesus."

We can say this because of Him and what He has done for us. One of my favorite passages, John 15:9. I'm adding the word "just." "[Just] as the Father has loved Me, so have I loved you." If you're listening to this driving your car, just soak these verses in. John 1:12-13: "To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God."

You and I have been born of God. Galatians 3:26: "In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith." That's the work of God, believing. 1 John 3:1-2: "See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now." I love that. "And what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is."

Paul, through the Spirit, says, "All who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by Whom we cry" - and everybody probably in

the church knows this – “Abba! [Daddy!] Father!’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Romans 8:14–17)

I think we’re going to have opportunities to suffer with Him. I hope that, like Peter when he was in prison, who gave thanks that he was able to suffer with Christ, we also will endure. Galatians 4:4–7: “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” This is powerful stuff.

I hope that we don’t have so much familiarity with these Scriptures that they lose their power, because these are inspired and accurate. Ephesians 1:3–5 says, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will.”

A friend of ours, Vicki, she used to sing this anointed song: “I was in His mind before the world began.” I can still hear her singing it. She had a beautiful voice, and a beautiful, powerful message, but it’s based on that verse. We were in His mind before the world began.

Five times in the book of John he refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. “Maybe he just needed to keep reminding himself, or maybe this was just the most precious thing to him. Perhaps he was special, because he was the one who was leaning on Him during the Lord’s Supper, when Peter said, “Hey, ask Him who is the one who’s going to betray Him.” And he was the one at the crucifixion. Jesus looked at John and said, “Behold, your mother.” In other words, “Take care of My mom.”

But there’s another part of me that thinks, we all could utter those words, “Scott, the disciple whom Jesus loved.” “Steve, the disciple whom Jesus loved.” Because He does love us, and we are His children, and He has a special relationship with each one of us. Peter got in trouble when he said, “Hey, what’s going to happen to him?” And He says, “You don’t worry about him. You just keep your eyes on Me, pal.” And that’s what we each need to do. We don’t need to be looking around, thinking about who’s the best disciple, who’s the worst. We just all need to be looking to Jesus and reveling in the fact that He has called us to be His child, His Son, His loved Son, in whom He is well pleased, because of Jesus and because of what Christ has done for us on the cross. Amen?

I need to almost get up every morning and affirm what Christ has done for me. I need to clear the air, because doubt and unbelief creep in, and I battle condemnation, not feeling like I measure up, or I am enough. The devil is accurately called the accuser of the brethren. He’s the one that accuses them before God day and night.

We can combat his lies but affirming the truth or as as this phrase came to me the other day when I was seeking God: "Read my title clear." I know you love me to sing hymns, but I'm just going to quote the verse: "In spite of every fear, I'll read my title clear, and conquer though I die in bloody fray. I'll conquer the foe, for surely I know that Jesus is able to save. I'll shout with ransom breath. Where is thy sting, o death? And where is now thy victory, boasting grave?"

This is a very strong hymn that I like to sing with other committed believers and clear the air and blow away doubt and confusion. I'm going to read my title clear. I'm going to believe what God says about me in His inspired Word, and I'm going to accept it. And I'm not going to look in the mirror, and simply accept God when He says, "You are My son." Now we are children of God, it says in 1 John. So, I hope the Spirit of God will take these words, these inspired words, and put something right down deep into us to push away doubt, and push away fear, and help us to grab ahold of these truths, that we are children of God through faith in Jesus now. Amen.

This has been boiling up in my heart, and, thank you everybody for letting me preach. Because it's edifying to just declare the truth whenever you're dealing with doubt, confusion, and questions. The Word of God is living, active, and powerful. I've been blessed doing my research, and putting together these passages.

Let's pray in closing: Father, help us now to, by Your Spirit, believe the truth. Help us to be washed in the truth. Jesus says, "Now are you clean because of the words which I have spoken." I pray that these words will clean us up. I pray that they will wash us with clean water. I pray that they will feed our faith and our confidence and our assurance and that You'll help us to read our title clear. Help us to read it without any shady stuff, just the clear, wonderful Word of God. In Jesus' name, amen.