

BFF435 Our Heavenly Father Desires to Adopt Us!

Scott Moore: Welcome to the "Building Faith and Family" podcast with Steve Demme. I'm your host, Scott Moore. Thanks for joining us today. Good morning, Steve. How are you today?

Steve: I'm well. How are you?

Scott: Good. I'm up and raring to go. Let's do this.

Steve: It's a little chilly here. It doesn't look chilly. I don't think if we had the wind, it would be chilly. When I went out with the pups, it was bracing. How's that for a word?

Scott: Yes. About what it is here, too.

Steve: Looks like we got our first snow last night. It's just a little bit on that little dust on the ground.

Scott: Fun–fun.

Steve: Yeah. I'm actually OK with that, so no problem. [laughs] I know I'm a strange puppy, but I think I like snow.

Scott: I don't mind it. I figure if it's going to be cold anyway, you might as well have some snow, right?

Steve: Yeah, absolutely. It's been cold for about a week, so if we do get some snow, I think it'll hang around for a while. We're continuing our study on Rebuilding our Understanding of God.

This morning, when I was putting my notes together, I thought, "I wonder if I've done any studies on this similarly in the past," and I found a file.

This file, was started in 2011 and 2012, and I call it Meditations. There are almost a hundred of them in there, and it was rich. I'm looking forward to going through that in a little bit more detail.

I didn't find a study on this, so this is good. Today we're going to talk about Being Adopted or God is our Adoptive Father, our Heavenly Father, our real Father.

Everybody is in this orphan boat. I'm sure a psychologist could give us insights into some of the battles that adoptive children face, feeling like they're not part of the bloodline, so to speak. They're not real children or whatever. We are all adopted. Nobody is born a child of God. We have to be born again. We have to be born from above.

We have to have God's Spirit work in our spirit, and we need to become adopted. Let's not forget what we know already. We've been studying that God is kind, God is love, God knows us, God is near, and He doesn't change.

All those characteristics are embodied in this study and assimilated. We have a loving, kind, near, all-knowing Father Who doesn't change. We're going to do like we normally do. We're going to look through all scripture. I'm going to read one passage and then we're going to pray. 1 John 3:1–3, "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us that we should be called children of God and such we are.

"For this reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now are we children of God. And it has not appeared as yet what we will be, but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies Himself even as He is pure."

Father, thank You for how great a love that You bestowed on us. The ultimate fulfillment of that love is that we should be called children of God. Thank You that we have been born from above. Thank You that we have had Your spirit work in us so that we have recognized our need for You and ask You to make us Your children.

For anyone listening that has not done that, I pray that You'll help them to take that step to apply for adoption because we've all had to do it, and we have all been received. Thank You for receiving us into Your family.

I pray that You'll bless us now as we read through these scriptures. Let them go right down to our heart of hearts and let them shape our thinking of You and who You really are. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: Now a little encouragement to all of you who are listening. Continue to read the Bible for yourself. This is all I'm going to do today. I don't even know the last time I checked a commentary, but a bunch of my buddies and I were on our Zoom call recently and we were talking about this.

There seems to be a conspiracy to convince people in the church that they're not smart enough to understand the Bible unless somebody interprets it for them. Unless someone has been to school and has a degree. Unless you are an expert. This is part of our culture today, you have to be an expert to do anything. You have to be trained as if there's some special knowledge for every skill.

I know I'm going to get in trouble with some people on this one, but I particularly distaste Bibles that have the commentary in them. They're right down at the bottom of the page, and in the margins, and there are all these footnotes.

I like the fact that somebody wants to go deeper. But you know who got the most out of these footnotes? The guy that did it. The guy that did the work and just read the book.

The Bible did not come down on Mount Sinai with commentaries. It didn't come down with asterisks. It is simply written to be read. I hope that we'll fight off that temptation to think, "Ah, I don't understand this. Let's go see what somebody else thinks."

Instead, let's read it, read it again, and pray. God, what does this mean? Just let it sit there.

Sometimes it takes a day or two after I pray that or after I've chewed on something and all of a sudden I'll think, "Oh, that's what it means." It's different then, because it's something that God showed me. It's something that I was able to understand on my own. I've told this before, but I owe a debt to my Hebrew professor in seminary.

We had his class three days a week and Monday morning He would take the first 10 or 15 minutes of class and show us something that we can figure out, discern from our

knowledge of Hebrew at that point, which was minimal, that was not in any commentary. He was encouraging us to do the work ourself.

We're going to go way back in Exodus 6. I've got one, two, three, four, five, six, seven chunks of scripture we're going to read. Put on your spiritual armor and soak it in.

God says, "Say therefore to the people of Israel, I am Jehovah and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians and I will deliver you from slavery to them. And I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment, I will take you to be My people and **I will be your God.**

'And you shall know that I am Jehovah your God Who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. I will give it to you for your possession. I am Jehovah.'

One of the studies that I did in preparation for this podcast was looking up the places where that expression or something similar to that is in the Bible. "I will be your Dad and you'll be my people." This is a common theme and you're going to hear it several times. I hope you don't get tired hearing it to the point that it becomes dull.

Jeremiah 31, "This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,' declares Jehovah, 'I will put My law within them and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God and they shall be My people.

'No longer shall each one teach His neighbor and each His brother saying, "know Jehovah," for they shall all know Me from the least of them to the greatest,' declares Jehovah. 'For I will forgive their iniquity and I will remember their sin no more.'

I was surprised to find that many of the passages, quite a few with that expression, "I'll be your God, you'll be my people," are found in probably two of the least-read books in the Bible, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. This was a really difficult time for the nation of Israel. This was when Jeremiah was predicting the captivity and Ezekiel wrote from captivity.

The whole nation had been torn asunder, and Jerusalem had been overthrown, and God was ministering to them over and over through these two prophets saying, "I'm still going to be your God. I'm going to be the Guy that takes care of you, and you're going to be My people."

Hebrews 8:10–11 quotes this almost exactly, "This is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days,' declares the Lord. 'I will put My laws into their minds and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God and they shall be My people.

'They shall not teach each one His neighbor and each one his brother saying, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know Me from the least of them to the greatest.'" This is something that God's spirit didn't want to let stop with Jeremiah. He brings it again into Hebrews.

Jeremiah 32, "Behold I will gather them out of all the lands to which I have driven them in My anger.'" He's talking now about those who had been dispersed among the

nations. This was the northern kingdom. Those 10 tribes that had gone out and were scattered. It was the scattering, it was the dispersion.

He says, "in My wrath and in great indignation, and I will bring them back to this place and make them dwell in safety. They shall be My people and I will be their God." Then He goes on to say similar language. "I will give them one heart and one way that they may fear Me always for their own good and for the good of their children after them."

I need to insert this in here. One of the reasons God does not want us to sin, is not because this is His rule that we're breaking. It's because sin messes things up. Sin not only creates distance between us and God. Sin has repercussions.

And we know this. If you see one family that has sin and I've watched this, and I could give you multiple examples. However let's say there's a dad, who has an affair, and he commits adultery and they end up having a divorce.

Now that whole family is shattered. Not only they're shattered, but the kids are shattered. The influence of that goes down and has generational repercussions from one guy that made a bad decision and sinned. I've also seen families where someone in the family becomes a drug addict, then they're stealing from everybody, then they're in prison. Sin messes stuff up.

God says, "Don't do it, for your own good and for the good of your children. That's why I gave you these rules. If you will follow My rules, it'll go well with you and with your children." OK, that's not in the text. Let me continue.

"I will make an everlasting covenant with them and I will not turn away from them to do them good. And I will put the fear of Me in their heart so they will not turn away from Me. I will rejoice over them to do them good and will faithfully plant them in this land with all My heart and with all My soul."

These words could have been written from the father of the prodigal in Luke 15. You can hear him. "I want to go gather my son who has gone off into these distant lands and I want to bring him back. I want to do good to him. I want to plant him. I want to put him back in our family. I want to put that ring on his finger."

This is our God, and this is the picture that we have in scripture. I'm going to jump into the New Testament for a minute because this is the number one passage I think of when I think of God wanting to be our Father. Usually, when I was quoting the scripture for many years, it was when I was talking to somebody who was tempted to marry an unbeliever. I would read this passage.

It starts off, "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers." Clear as a bell. Then Paul tries to reinforce his point. You can sense him working hard.

"For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? What fellowship has light with darkness? What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? What agreement has the temple of God with idols?" [laughs]

Paul's pulling out all the stops. "Are you kidding? You want to marry an unbeliever? You have nothing in common. Nothing. Light/darkness, Christ/Belial, believers/unbelievers, God/idols.

Then he goes on to say this, and this is wonderful stuff here, "For we are the temple of the living God, as God said, 'I will make My dwelling among them and walk among them. And I will be their God and they shall be My people. Therefore, go out from their midst, be separate from them,' says the Lord.

"Touch no unclean thing, then I will welcome you and I will be a Father to you and you shall be sons and daughters to Me," says the Lord Almighty.

Sadly, some people read that passage and all they say is, "Why do I have to come out? Why do I have to be separate? Why can't I touch unclean stuff? Why can't I worship idol those?"

They miss the fact that God is holding up this amazing invitation. "If you put off that stuff and draw a near to Me, I'll be there with open arms. I'll be your Dad, you'll be My kids."

Ezekiel 36, another favorite passage. Ezekiel, in the Spirit, is talking to Israel that has been scattered/dispersed. "I will take you from among the nations and gather you out of all the countries and will bring you into your own land. And I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean. From all your filthiness, from all your idols will I cleanse you.

'A new heart also will I give you. A new spirit will I put within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes. You will be careful to obey My rules. You shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers, and you shall be My people and I will be your God!"

I'm going to give you a chance, Scott, to jump in here right now because I know your wheels are turning. I've got three more wonderful ones but go ahead.

Scott: I'm still hanging back to that 1 John 3 passage you read at first. I'm just marveling at how amazing it must have been to have the Holy Spirit reveal that to John.

He's saying, "Dear friends, now we are children of God and what we will be has not yet been made known." We don't even know what will be yet. He said, "But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is," and just park it right there.

Scott: That bakes my noodle, if you will. If that doesn't bowl you over, I don't know what will.

Steve: Amen. Maybe we should create a new podcast for you can call it the Baked Noodle Podcast. I think that one would really generate some interest.

Scott: Nice.

Steve: Let's go back to another one from John then. John 1:11-13, "He came to His own and His own people did not receive Him. But 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." That might be our Magna Carta for this session because that passage right there, defines adoption without saying it.

We weren't born of the will of the flesh nor the will of man. We didn't become children by natural means, we were born of God. God chose us. How you like that? All my Sovereignty Reformed friends are rejoicing right now because I said it, but I'm going to read another one that reinforces it.

Ephesians 1, and I'm reading it in the NLT, to give a little different flavor, "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.

"Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do and it gave Him great pleasure." That's a noodle baker.

Scott: Amen.

Steve: It doesn't get much better than that, but I am compelled to read these next two. Romans 8, "All who are led by the spirit of God are sons of God. You did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear. But you've received the spirit of adoption as sons by whom we cry, 'Abba, Father.'"

Galatians 4, "When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of women, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law so that we might receive adoption as sons. And because you're sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts crying, 'Abba, Father.'"

We're going to pray in just a second, but for all those people who, when you hear the word "father," it dredges up awful, traumatic memories of your earthly father, this is what we're battling.

Even if you had a nice father. We don't want to look at God through the lens of our physical eyes and our experiences. We want to look at God through the lens of scripture. We want to have our minds, and our hearts and our spirits transformed because this is a picture of God that is real, that is eternal, and that lasts forever.

This is a beautiful picture of our God. This is our Dad. This is the one Who knew us and chose us before the foundation of the world.

He knew we were going to need to be adopted. That was His plan. I like this passage, "This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure." God really does like us. God really wants to be our close, all-knowing, kind, loving, unchanging Father.

Father, help us to get it. And I know I had some hurdles to try to understand You according to who You were and not according to who I thought You were. But some people have greater hurdles, lot more trauma. Let the scriptures change us. Let the scriptures transform us from within, in Jesus' name.

We worship You and thank You for knowing us, and drawing us, and having great pleasure as each of us has been adopted into Your family. Not only were you happy,

all heaven rejoiced and all the angels rejoiced when we repented and came to You and asked to be adopted into Your family.

Bless us now to that end. Let that knowledge just percolate way down into the core of our being. In Jesus' name, amen.

Scott: Amen. That's our show for this week, folks. Thanks for joining us for the Building Faith and Family podcast with Steve Demme. If you have a question for the show, email Steve at spdemme@Gmail.com. If you have a question for me, you can reach me at scott@unsocializedmedia.com. Thanks for joining us. Have a great week.