

The Father's Banqueting Table

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- **Introducing Our Heavenly Father:**

- Knowing God Almighty as our Heavenly Father.
 - 2 Corinthians 6:18 “I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the LORD Almighty.”
- Jesus taught us how to pray in Matthew 6:9-13 with the Lord's Prayer, “Our Father in Heaven, Holy is Your name...”
- Why does God want this personal relationship with us? It is because of **love**.
 - 1 John 3:1 - “Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!
- This revelation means we can come boldly into the throne room of grace in a time of need.
 - Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- **Abba Father:**

- Romans 8:14–17 - “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are **sons of God**... you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘**Abba, Father.**’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that **we are children of God**, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...”
- Jesus called out to His Father as “**Abba, Father**” in Mark 14:36 while praying in Gethsemane.
- It is because of what Jesus did for us that we now have access to God Almighty as Abba Father, our Heavenly Father
 - Galatians 4:4-7 - ... God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father!” Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

- **The Heart of the Heavenly Father**

- Matthew 7:11 what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? If you then, being evil (fallen nature), know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
- The **heart** of our Heavenly Father is woven throughout scripture:
 - God created us in His image and according to His likeness (Genesis 1:26)
 - Before we were formed in our mother's womb, He knew us (Jer. 1:5).
 - He formed us and skillfully knitted our being – we are fearfully and wonderfully made by His hand (Psalm 139).
 - Our Father loves us with an everlasting love, and it is with this lovingkindness He draws us to him. (Jeremiah 31:3)
 - His plans for us are good and not of evil, to give us a future and a hope (Jer. 29:11).
 - He is ever mindful of us, His thoughts towards us are precious and great in number, more in number than the sand (Psalm 139:17-18).
 - You and I are inscribed on the palm of His Hands (Isaiah 49:15-16)
 - He goes before us, beside us, behind us, we are completely hedged in by His might hand – our defender and protector (Deut. 31:8 & Ps. 139:5).
 - Our Father rejoices over us with gladness and singing (Zephaniah 3:17)
 - His mercies are new every morning and great is His faithfulness (Lam 3:23)
 - He is attentive to us and pre-empted our moves (Isaiah 65:24 & Prov 16:9).

- **The Father's Banqueting**

- Songs of Solomon 2:4 - He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.
- A banquet speaks of abundance & indulgence—a time to sit, relax, feast & be merry - freely enjoy all that has been provided; to feast on the goodness of God.
- **He brought me** – This tells us The Host, our King, our Heavenly Father came to fetch us and escort us into the banquet hall.

Biblical examples of Banquets/Feasts:

- **Earthly King's Banquet (Queen Esther):**

- In Esther 1 we get a glimpse of the extravagance of an earthly king. A display of wealth, power, abundance and extravagance and this was only an earthly king, with earthly resources!
- HOW MUCH MORE our Heavenly Father! Jesus Himself said, “how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things...” (Matthew 7:11)
- The Banqueting Table of the King of kings; Our Heavenly Father. **What do you SEE?**
- **Father’s Celebration of the return of His Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11–24**
 - Jesus gives us a picture of a feast—but this time the emphasis isn't upon the wealth of a king. It is upon the heart of a father.
 - The prodigal son had taken his inheritance, left his father's house & “wasted his possessions with prodigal living.” Hard times hit; he squandered all he had and now had nothing left. He was hungry, broken & feeding pigs. (Luke 15:11–16)
 - Finally, he came to his senses and said, “I will arise and go to my father...and say I have sinned against you...I am no longer worthy to be called your son” but please take me in and let me be servant in your house. (Luke 15:17–19)
 - Look at the heart of the Father. While the son was still a great way off on his shameful journey back home, his father who had been keeping a look out, hoping and waiting; saw him, had compassion, ran to him, fell on his neck and kissed him. (Luke 15:20)
 - The son came home expecting to be treated like a servant – at best - but the father immediately began restoring him as a son.
 - “Bring out the BEST ROBE & put it on him.” “Put a RING on his hand.” “And sandals on his feet.” “Bring the FATTED CALF ... let us eat & be merry.”...“my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.” (Lk. 15:22-24)
- **What is on our Heavenly Father’s Banquet Table? What do you SEE ON HIS TABLE:**
 - **Salvation & righteousness:** We have been saved, redeemed and made righteous through Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:13–14; Ephesians 2:8)

- **Healing & health:** He is Jehovah Rapha, the LORD who heals us; by stripes of Jesus we are healed. (Exodus 15:26; Psalm 103:2–3; Isaiah 53:4–5; 1 Peter 2:24)
- **Provision:** Our Father knows what we need and supplies according to His riches in glory. (Matthew 6:31–33; Philippians 4:19; Psalm 23:1; 2 Corinthians 9:8)
- **Protection & deliverance:** He is our refuge, fortress and defender; He has delivered us from the enemy. (Psalm 91:1–4; Psalm 34:7,17,19; Isaiah 54:17)
- **Peace & rest:** His peace guards our hearts and minds, and in Him we find rest for our souls. (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6–7; Matthew 11:28–29; Isaiah 26:3)
- **Joy & strength:** In His presence is fullness of joy, and the joy of the LORD is our strength. (Psalm 16:11; Nehemiah 8:10; Isaiah 40:29–31; Ephesians 3:16)
- **Favour & blessing:** His favour surrounds us like a shield, and His blessing rests upon us. (Psalm 5:12; Proverbs 10:22; Deuteronomy 28:6–8; Ephesians 1:3)
- **Wisdom & direction:** Our Father generously gives wisdom and directs our paths. (James 1:5; Proverbs 3:5–6; Isaiah 30:21; John 16:13)
- **Restoration & renewal:** He restores what has been lost, restores our soul and makes things new. (Joel 2:25–26; Psalm 23:3; Psalm 103:5; Isaiah 61:7)
- **Victory & authority:** Through Christ we have victory and authority over the power of the enemy. (1 Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; Luke 10:19; 2 Corinthians 2:14)
- **Goodness & mercy:** “Taste and see that the LORD is good” (Ps 23:6; Ps 34:8; Ps 84:11)

- **His Banner over me was Love:**

- Banner: A flag or standard - a visible sign of identity, belonging & allegiance.
- Song of Solomon says, “He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love,” what is the banner of identity flying over us? **LOVE**
- He has clothed us with the **garments of salvation** and covered us with the **robe of righteousness** (Isaiah 61:10). We enter the banquet wearing what **He has provided**—washed, clothed, covered and accepted because of Jesus — He gives us dignity.

Psalm 23:5-6 - You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.