

Our Father and our God

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: He that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, He that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: He shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

God is good, all the time and all the time, God is Good. Verse 5 **for the Lord is good His mercy is everlasting and His truth endureth to all generations.** I say again God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good. Now do you say that because you're required to say that or do you say it because God has been good in your life? God is good all the time and all the time God is good.

Yes, I love God. He is a very nice person. Now, I use the word *person* deliberately. God is the nice person; Jesus Christ is a nice person and the Holy Spirit is a nice personality or person we don't know much about Him. But I'm very grateful to God for my life it is because of His mercy I'm alive today. I love to go to the gym and exercise. I love vitamins and minerals and supplements and soy milk, but I am alive because of the mercy of God. Are you with me? **For in him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28)** - that is spiritual and physiological. It is by the power of God that you and I live and move and have our being.

You know I fly a lot, I travel, I was in Australia a few weeks ago, then had to go to somewhere in Maryland and then came back had to go to New York, then came back, now I'm here and I get home, and I go to Kenya, and some other place, leave Kenya I don't come back home, I go straight to Malaysia. That's the way it is, but every time I'm on plane I say thank you Father that you are the one keeping this plane aloft. Not that Rolls Royce engine, you are keeping that plane in the air. And so, I am ceaselessly grateful to God for His goodness and I love Him. How many of you love God can I see your hand? Oh, God bless you. Well this must be one of God's favorite churches all the hands went up

Our subject for this morning **Our Father and our God.** Before if I go any further you need to know how to get along with me and I with you.

Favor #1

What's this? what's that? (Cell phone & Bible). If you have two of these I prefer you to use this (the Bible) Why? We're in the church. When you go to the Apple Store then you can use that (phone) but we're in a church. Let us look as if we're in the church, as far as possible. Now if you did not bring the Bible and you only have the cell phone, it is okay, but if you have the Bible use it.

Let me tell you what happened to me. When was it? About two years ago, I was in Boston preparing to speak at an event in a hotel and I was in my room reading the Bible on this phone. An app of an advertisement appeared on the bottom of the screen because these are smartphones and the advertisement said how to date Asian women, mm-hmm. Now here's a preacher getting ready to occupy a sacred desk and the devil sends him an advertisement on the Bible, but it's not the Bible, it is a phone, you see. Now it can never happen

if you read from the Bible. Has your phone ever died, you needed to plug it in? Yes. Can't happen to the Bible. The Bible always has power. Are you following me? It's always plugged in.

So wherever possible, it's not a command, it's a recommendation or request from your guest speaker and you look as if you like to treat your guests nicely. Wherever you can use a Bible and put the cell phone away.

Favor #2

The second favor I ask is that you pray for me while I speak. All I want you to say is Lord put your words in that man's mouth. That is based on Jeremiah chapter 1 verse 9 - **then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth and the Lord said unto me behold I have put my words in thy mouth.**

I only want to speak, God's words. Here's what Jesus said about His words; **the words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life.** He did not say that about my words and so if I only speak my words what that means is my opinions will be kept out of the pulpit. The pulpit is no place for personal opinions. It is a place for **thus saith the Lord.** Can you say Amen?

Favor #3

Favor number three, I want you to think as you listen. **Isaiah 1:18 come now let us do what reason together saith the Lord.** Here is an example of God asking us to reason. Here's what the Bible says - **⁵ If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan? (Jeremiah 12:5).**

God is calling upon us to think.

- If more of us would think, we would not eat the things we eat
- If more people would think, they would not drink the things they drink
- If more people would think, they would not go the places that they go
- If more people would think, they would not marry the people. They marry they would not date people they date

If they would stop and think.

You've been going to the gym for six months and you put on 20 pounds what's wrong? Think!

Opening prayer -

Let's pray

Dear God we thank you for life. Father despite the hardships we may have none of us wants to die right now. We're happy to be alive and we thank you. We ask your Father forgive us where we've sinned against you. We ask dear God for your spirit to guide this message. Tell me what to say, tell me when to say it, dear God. Tell me how to say it. Bless your sons and your daughters whom you love so much. Let the spirit working through me enlighten their understanding. Father your word says in Isaiah 42 verse 8 I am the lord that is My name, My glory will I not give to another. And so, Father take all the glory dear God but please give us the blessings because we need them in Jesus name we pray. Let God's people say Amen and amen

What's our subject **our Father and our God.** Every weekend, every Saturday, every Sunday people assemble in churches to worship a God they've never seen. They pray to a God they've never heard talk back. They give their money to a God they've never seen. We need to know something about this God. He wants to be known. The Bible says **and ye shall seek me and find me, when you shall search for me how? With all your heart;** God wants to be found. Millions of dollars are spent in science laboratories as scientists pursue this research and

that research and sometimes it takes years and there are no results. God guarantees results with no expenditure of funds. What's our subject? **Our Father and our God**

Let us go to John chapter 7. We read from verse 14 of John 7. If you have the King James version: ¹⁴ **Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.** Christ did more teaching than preaching. Let me say it again, Christ did more teaching than preaching. **He went up into the temple, and taught.**¹⁵ **And the Jews marvelled, saying, how knoweth this man letters, having never learned?** What they meant was He didn't go to College/University, but His Father taught Him. He made an effort, the Holy Ghost and the Father taught Jesus Christ. The Bible says and **Jesus increased in wisdom.** What does that mean? He learned which means as a human being Christ did not know everything. At the grave of Lazarus, He said we have relayed Him because He did not know. In His humanity, Christ had to learn, He made the sun, moon, and stars. And so He went up to teach and the Jews were amazed at the depth of His knowledge. Verse 16 ¹⁶ **Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but His that sent me.**

Let's pause. We will read 14:16 microscopically. Read it for me **Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine.** Stop. If it is not His, what's the logical question? Whose, is it? And He answers the question my doctrine is not mine finish the verse **but his that sent me.** Jesus Christ was saying, whatever He taught came from the Father not from Him. He spoke by the command of the Father and the Father told Him what to say. Christ had opinions of His own, but He never expressed them. Let me say that again, **Jesus Christ had opinions of His own but He did not express them.** He only said what the Father told Him to say.

Go to John 8 we read from verse 26 what's our subject? **Our Father and our God.**

John 8 reading from verse 26 - ²⁶ **I have many things to say and to judge of you: but He that sent Me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him.** Christ is virtually saying the same thing in John 8:26 He said in John 7:16. I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him. Verse 27 ²⁷ **They understood not that He spake to them of the Father.** Verse 28 ²⁸ **Then said Jesus unto them, when ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of myself;** Stop. He said I do nothing of Myself, He has already said, I say nothing of Myself. Now He tells us I do nothing of Myself. Finish verse 28 - **but as my Father hath taught Me, I speak these things.** Jesus says His Father taught Him and He only said what the Father told Him to say.

Let's listen to John 7:16 again. **My doctrine is not mine but His that sent Me.** Let's get a list of Bible doctrines. Name one doctrine Jesus taught. Quickly name a Bible doctrine Jesus taught, this is the Seventh-Day Adventist Church!

- 1- **The law** - think not that I come to destroy the law or the prophets say it with me: **I am not come to destroy but to fulfil.** Now that's a doctrine, a correct one, a biblical one. Where did that come from in the life of Jesus's words my doctrine is not mine? Where did the doctrine of the law come from? The Father.
- 2- Give me another doctrine Jesus taught the - **Sabbath.** **The Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath** Where did that come from? The Father.
- 3- Give me another doctrine. **The second coming of Christ.** Where did that come from? The Father.

My doctrine is not mine but His that sent me. Let us stay in John 8, let us go to verse 37-³⁷ I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because My word hath no place in you. Let me pause and digress meaningfully. That's a very serious statement. Why would they try to kill Christ? His word had no place in them. When the Word of God does not have a welcome in your heart, if you live long enough you will kill people. If you live long enough you will try to kill God. Let me say it again, when the Word of God does not abide in the heart, if we live long enough we will try to kill God. My word hath no place in you.³⁸ I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your Father.³⁹ They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, if ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.⁴⁰ But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. So, here again John 7:14 to 16, John 8:26 to 28, John 8:37 to 40, Jesus said the truth He preached, He received from God the Father. We need to take a closer look at the Father. If you were to ask seven children to pray, almost all seven with pray to whom? Jesus. Am I telling the truth? You asked little children to pray and they pray to Jesus. The question must be asked why? That we inadvertently give them a sweet image of Jesus and a harsh one of the Father.

Let's go to John 10:16-18. **Our Father and our God.**

¹⁶ And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one-fold, and one shepherd. ¹⁷ Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. ¹⁸ No man taketh it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of My Father. In other words, Christ is saying the Father told Me when to die and He told Me when to get up. What does that tell you about Jesus Christ and His relationship to the Father? Estimate the degree of His submission – 100%. Now listen In Desire of Ages 664 paragraph 6 I believe it is. She says this, Christ revealed no qualities and exercised no powers that men may not have through faith in Him. His perfect humanity is that which all his followers may possess if they will be in subjection as He was. Jesus Christ was 100% submitted to His father. Our problem is that we are partially surrendered to God and a partial surrender to God is no surrender at all. God needs 100% of your life to save you. The devil just needs 1% to destroy you. It is absolutely essential that like Christ we surrender to God 100%. And so, Jesus said this commandment have I received of my Father when I will die, when I will come from the dead.

Go to John 12:49 and 50 our subject **Our Father and our God.**

⁴⁹ For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. Stop. Here again Christ is saying I only say what the Father tells Me to say. Think with me, can you imagine how many problems you and I would avoid if we only said what God told us to say? How many fewer clashes in the church? How much fewer misunderstandings if we only said what God told us to say?

⁵⁰ And I know that His commandment is life everlasting: Stop. Think about that. Jesus said I only say what the Father tells me to say, He says this commandment is life everlasting. **Obedience to God is life.** Nobody said amen. Listen to me again, obedience to God is life. And so, Jesus says, I only say what the Father tells Me to say. I know His commandment its life everlasting, whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto Me so I speak. Here again we have Christ saying I only say what the Father tells Me to say.

Go to John 14. Let's read from verse 9, remember Phillip said Lord show us the father and it sufficeth us verse⁹ ⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he

that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? ¹⁰ Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.** Here again Christ is saying not only do I only say what the Father tells me, I only do. Jesus Christ only said and did what the Father told Him to say and to do.

Question for you - that relationship you're in now, did the Father tell you to do it? That man you're seeing? or who seeing you? Did God tell you to do that? That degree you're pursuing, at Cambridge, University of Sussex, University of Slough, did God tell you to do it? I can't answer that nor do I require you to answer me. I want you to think Christ only did and only said what the Father told him to do. Now examples of things Christ did - tell me something remarkable that Christ did? He raised Lazarus from the dead. What question am I about to ask you? Who told him to do that? His Father.

Recite the most popular verse in the Bible. **John 3:16 - For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Who sent Jesus to die? Father. Who told Jesus to feed the 5,000 with fish and bread? The Father. Who told Jesus to raise the son of the widow of Nain? His father. Who told him to walk on water? His Father. Listen to me, Jesus only did what the Father told Him to do. He only said what Father told Him to say. Which means that when we look at the things that Jesus Christ did, when we see Christ as loving which He was as tender-hearted which He was, as merciful which He was, we must see the Father. **The Father is merciful, He's tender-hearted, He's loving, He's compassionate.** Listen to Jesus, **he that have seen me have seen the Father.**

Let me tell you something else about the Father.
Go to John 15 we will read from verse 12.

Let's pray again:

Father in heaven as I continue please give me more wisdom, grant me more of your Spirit I pray in Jesus name Amen

¹² **This is My commandment, that ye love one another.** Which means love is not a feeling, it's a commandment. You have to love whether you feel like loving or not. Love is not sentimentalism, so stop watching TV and trying to define love based on what you see on television. If it is commanded it has nothing to do with feeling or it is not based on feeling. This is my commandment, because you don't kill because you don't feel like killing. God doesn't care how you feel, don't kill people. He doesn't care how you feel, don't steal. He doesn't care how you feel, love. If obey that command long enough a nice feeling will come. Are you following me? But we're commanded, Zimbabweans love Nigerians. Why are you laughing? You don't love them? You're commanded black people, love white people. You're commanded white people, love Mexicans.

This is My commandment that ye love one another, as I have loved you. ¹³ **Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down His life for His friends.** Now think with me. What's the greatest way to show love? You just read it in verse 13, don't look at me. You just read it in verse 13. What's the greatest way to show love according to God? **Die for someone.** Now keep that in mind. Recite John 3:16 again: *For God so loved the world-stop.* The word so, how much is so? For God so loved the world. Now He's about to show us how much He loved the world, but keep in mind what verse 15 of John 15 said **the greatest way to show love is to give your life.** Now read John 3:16. - *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.* Wait a minute, wait a minute, wait a minute, whom did God give? His only begotten Son. But what's the greatest way to show

love? Give your own life, not somebody else's. We have to fix that. The problem doesn't lie in the Bible or with God it always lies with us. When you study the Bible, you come across difficulty, it does not lie in the Bible it lies in you. When you read Ellen White and something seems contradictory the problem is you. Now, you have to be humble to accept that. The problem is you, not the inspired prophet. Are you following me?

John 15:13 greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 3:16 for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son. What we have to understand is that when God gave His son in some way, we may not understand what did He also do? He gave Himself. Let me use creation as a way of explaining that. Who created heaven and earth? God. When you say, God you mean God the Father, Holy Spirit. Who do you mean? Jesus Christ. The Creator is Christ. Let God the Father tell you that.

Go to Hebrews 1 read from verse 8. We are trying to answer the question who actually created heaven and earth. Listen to God the Father answering that question for you Hebrews 1 reading from verse 8 very interesting chapter Hebrews. When you found say amen. ⁸ But unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. Now this is the Father speaking to the Son. Are you with me? No, you're not. You just polite. You're not with me. Are you following me? Who is speaking in verse 8? The Father. Speaking to whom? The son. Thy throne - what does the Father call the Son? God. Thy throne, Oh God. Well if He has a throne what does He have? A kingdom. The Father acknowledges the Son has a kingdom. How many kingdoms are there in the universe? Two. The kingdom of God and the kingdom of Satan. It isn't Satan has one, the Father has one, the Son has one, the Holy Ghost has one, no. They are two? So, clearly the Father and Son they share the leadership of that kingdom.

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom. ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; Stop. I heard someone saying in Sabbath school, we must hate sin because the things we hate we avoid. When I was a little boy for every sickness my mother recommended castor oil and I hated it with a capital H and so I try to avoid it. Are you following me? When you hate something, you avoid it. We must hate sin the way we hate castor oil. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity. Now read verse 10 for me keep in mind it's the Father speaking to the Son. ¹⁰ And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: What is the Father saying? Jesus Christ created.

Go to John 1 we read from verse 1. Our subject our Father and our God
John 1 reading from verse 1. A very familiar passage, beautiful passage. Have you found it.
John chapter one reading from verse one: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. Look microscopically at verse 1. Read for me - in the beginning was the Word, that's one person, one entity. Are you with me? And the Word was with God. That's the second one and the Word was God. So, we have plurality, more than one and we have equality, they're the same in nature not the same person, they're the same in essence, in substance, in nature. In the beginning was the word, the Word was with God, the Word was God. Two different people and we'll see that. Verse 2 - the same was in the beginning with God. Who is the same? The word according to verse 1, yes. The same was in the beginning with God.

Now if you have two people what pronoun would you use? Them. Now listen to verse 3, tell me what's missing? What is the verse not saying? All things were made by them.

Go to verse 10. ¹⁰ He was in the world. Is He singular or plural? Singular. But we've met two people? ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. Now read verse 14 ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us. So, we know the word in verse 1 and the same in verse 2 is Jesus Christ. Now the Bible identifies Jesus Christ as the Creator. If that's clear, say Amen.

But go to Ephesians 3. Where does the Father come in. Ephesians 3:9. ⁹ And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: Now, let's think. Whom does that verse identify as the creator? The Father. Then Christ in that verse is what? The agent. Jesus Christ is the agent of the Father in creation. We need more than one verse to establish that.

Hebrews 1. Let's read from verse 1. Our subject **our Father and our God**
Hebrews 1 reading from verse 1. We are looking at the Father. You have Hebrews 1. This is God the Father we're talking about. God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spake in time past unto the Fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Here we have another verse that tells us the creator is really the Father but Jesus Christ was the agent. When Nebuchadnezzar said is not this great Babylon that I have built? Did he build it physically? Did he lift a brick? No. But can you correctly say he built it? Yes. It was Jesus Christ who said; let there be light, let there be a firmament, but at the direction of the Father. And so, the Father created through Jesus Christ. If that's clear say Amen. Christ was the agent of creation at the will of the Father. Now creation physical is a symbol of creation spiritual.

Go to 2 Corinthians 5 reading from verse 17. Our subject **our Father and our God**
¹⁷ Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. ¹⁸ And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to Himself by Jesus Christ, Stop.
God has reconciled us to Himself how? By Jesus Christ. **Christ is the agent of God, in the work of salvation. Which means as verily as God is creator through Christ, God gave Himself when He gave Christ.** Because this is the greatest expression of love. God found a way to give Himself, that way was to give His son Jesus Christ and they are so closely linked that by giving Christ, the Father effectively gave Himself. And so, we can say with confidence, God was in Christ come on, reconciling the world unto Himself. God was in Christ.

There's something about the Father and the Son we should understand. Go to John 15, let's read verse 23.
²³ He that hateth Me hateth My Father also. Which tells us immediately - you know there's some people who accept the Father, they don't accept the Son. That's impossible they come as package deal, if I may say that. He that hated Me hate my Father.

Go to John 14 let's read from verse 1

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. ⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? ⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. ⁷ **If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Here again we have the Father and the Son. If you know Christ, finish my words, you know God. If you hate Christ, you hate God.**

Go to John 10:30 ³⁰ I and my Father are one.

Now, let me ask you this, you see that little girl in her father's arms? If I were to slap her, who would feel greater pain? The father. And my life would cease to exist. Now because what she feels, he'll feel and perhaps more. Now when Paul was persecuting the church - let's go to Acts 9. Because I will show you a relationship between God and the Son must exist between the son and a believer, then we'll come back to the Father. Acts 9 let's read from first 3

Let me pray one more time:

Father as I come to the end of the message stay with me. Father don't end your intercession on my behalf give me mercy, give me grace, give me truth. In Jesus name, I pray amen

³ And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴ And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou Me? Now, wait a minute who is speaking? Jesus. Read verse 1 - And Saul, yet breathing out threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord. And so, we have in verse 1 persecution against the disciples. We have in verse 4 Jesus saying what? Why are you persecuting Me? What does that tell you about Christ and the disciples? What they feel, come on, He feels.

Now listen to the Desire of Ages page 823 paragraph 4 - Christ feels the woe every human sufferer. When fever is burning up the life current He feels the agony. Have you ever had a fever? Christ felt it. You know why? He's still human. Now, you're looking at me. You're not thinking. What I just said? When you suffer, Christ suffers. When you stressing out over rent, and tuition, and your husband was about to leave, your wife about to leave you, Christ feels your agony. Christ feels the woes of every human sufferer. When you're sick, He feels it. Now, He says to Saul, why are you persecuting me? In other words, what the church was suffering, Jesus was suffering. It was He who said in as much as He done it unto one of the least of these My brethren ye have done it unto Me. And this is not symbolic, this is not Revelation. Now this thing applies to the Father and the Son.

Desire of Ages 693 Ellen White writes - God suffered with His son when He was in Gethsemane. Now let me ask you what was Jesus suffering in Gethsemane? Did He sweat drops of blood? Did He say my soul is exceedingly sorrowful even unto death? Yes. You know what happened in heaven? The Father felt it, because the union between Father and Son means what the Son suffers the Father suffers. When Jesus died, in some way I cannot explain, the Father gave His life for us. Let me say something that may cause you a little consternation. Jesus tasted death in Gethsemane and He died on Calvary. Never tried to be sensational in a pulpit you run into trouble but listen again Jesus tasted death in Gethsemane, He died on Calvary.

How many times did He say remove this cup from me? Three times He prayed. Where was He when He prayed that prayer? In the garden or on the cross? In the garden. Now three times He prayed for Himself in the garden. Three times He interceded for others on the cross. He told His mother behold thy son. He told John behold thy mother. He said forgive them they know not what they do and He saved the thief on the right. Three times He prayed for Himself in the garden, three times He interceded for others on the cross. The suffering of Christ was not really what happened on the cross because there were two other men suffering the same thing. His suffering was in that garden. That's why He said Father please. Ellen White writes, the cup tremble in His hand, He almost went mad. The Father felt it.

What's our subject our Father and our Godly

Ellen White writes- Desired of Ages page 694 paragraph 1 that **in Gethsemane Christ tasted the sufferings of death for everyman**. He tasted it for every man having tasted it, He went to the cross and died. The Father suffered with Christ in Gethsemane. The Father suffered at the cross as well. Yes, He turned away but He suffered with His son.

We have someone called the Father who told Jesus heal sick people. He told Jesus open the eyes of blind people. He told Jesus I love them go die for them. And in this arrangement, will give myself through you. He told Jesus feed the hungry. Can you not love a God like that?

Here's what He told Jesus to say and then I'll close. Matthew 6 from verse 24. Here's what the father told Jesus to tell us: **²⁴ No man can serve two masters:** Stop. A lot of Christians try to do that. They serve God on Sabbath, so they think, and they serve somebody else during the week. You cannot serve two masters. **²⁴ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other;** Those words are opposite. If you love God, it has to be obvious that you hate the world. **Either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.** Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? That is a question you have to answer as you look at how much time you spend trying to make a living. Jesus said, there is more to life than meat and clothes and houses and cars. Let me say it again with respect, we are so absorbed in making a living in this life, we have no time to get ready for the life to come. And the Lord will come and burn up that car - which is fine, you need one. Burn up that house it is fine you need one, I have one. Burn up whatever. What I am suggesting is, change priorities, seek the Kingdom when? First. Listen to me, many of us will be lost, descent people will be lost because we did not follow that list of priorities - the Kingdom first, the Kingdom was second.

²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Stop. What is Jesus saying? The Father told Him to say, I will take care of you. Question for you, did Jesus die to save birds? No. Did He make the birds? Yes. Were they made in His image? No. Jesus died to save you. So, Jesus says, if your Father can take care of birds, not made in His image, He'll take care of you. And so, the Father has sent a message to us, don't worry I will take care of you. Many men and women will not give their lives to Christ because the question they have is how will I survive? How will I eat? What will I wear? Where will I live? What work will I do? We ask these questions not realizing that we serve a God who put everything in place first, then He made Adam. He still functions that way.

And so, **our God our Father** and our God is saying to us this morning my son, my daughter, I will take care of you. Give your life to Me. I will take care of you because I love you and I demonstrated My love by sending My son as the one through whom I gave Myself. God the Father loves you with the love with which Jesus Christ loves you. When I say, God loves you, I'm not saying God loves the church. Yes, He does but that's not my focus. God loves you as an individual. God is familiar with the stresses you're under right now. God is familiar with the case before the immigration office whatever you call him in England, that you're praying He goes through on your behalf. He is familiar with that. He knows you've got three children, no husband or three children, no wife. He knows you're about to be dismissed next week because they're downsizing but you can't downsize on God. Are you following me? The Lord has told us He loves us and He will take care of us.

And so, **our Father and our God** is someone who loves us and I say for the final time:

- It was He who told Christ to do all the nice things Christ did.
- It was He who told Christ put the child on your lap, suffer the little children to come the Father said see that and Jesus said it, of course Jesus felt the same way. Don't misunderstand me.
- It was the Father who told Christ be quiet when Pilate ask you certain questions.
- It was the Father who told Christ when they spit in your face do nothing. I know you can wipe them out with a thought, do nothing.
- It was the Father who told Christ heal the ear of that man who was wounded by Peter.
- It was the Father who told Christ forgive the people who are right now crucifying you.
- It was the Father who told Christ die and the father who told him rise

Why? For you. God's love for you is more real than the taxes you pay. God's love for you is more real than the color of your skin. God's love for you is more real than your gender. God loves you, He wants you with Him. Listen to John 14:1-3 again. Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you and if I go and prepare a place for you I will come again and receive you unto myself. Stop. Unto myself. That's God's desire and God will not rest until we're with Him in a sinless world where we can talk to Him face to face. We can have personal communication with God as Adam had before He sinned.

As I contemplate my loving God I recommit my life to God now and I ask God to take care of me, to guide me, to direct me, help me, to trust Him where I cannot trace Him. Help me to trust Him when everything around me seems dark. When I cannot hear God, when I cannot see God, when I cannot touch God, when I cannot smell God, when I cannot taste God, when my senses offer no evidence of the presence of God. Let me trust Him because He says I will never leave you nor forsake you.

How many of you will say with me, Father I recommit my life to you, can I see your right hand? Stand up with me. God is good, all the time and all the time, God is good. And that's a fact. God is a good God. You know what the Bible says in Romans 2:4 the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance. There's something sweet about God that causes us to feel badly that we sin. There's something, God always does what's right but you can do what's right mechanically. God does what's right in such a sweet way that when we realize that our hearts are convicted and we repent of all the evils we've done against God. He is a good God, a loving God and He has a place in His heart for you and if you don't fill that place God will have a vacancy throughout eternity.

Closing prayer-

Heads bowed eyes closed.

We thank you dear God for your love. We thank you Father for sending Christ. It is through this arrangement that you gave yourself for us. Oh, Father we thank you that you desire that one day we will have face-to-face communication with you. As we bow in your presence dear God, if we've offended you Father forgive us. If there's someone under the sound of my voice dear God who has drifted from you Father and would like to say God I'm coming back to you, fling wide your arms dear Father and receive that person dear God.

And while heads are bowed and eyes are closed, I make this appeal again; If there's someone listening to me, you have drifted from God and you'd like to come back to Him seriously. You have drifted from God and you know it and God knows it, you want to come back and say Father receive me again and He will do that. If there's someone like that can I see your hand? You've drifted from God and you know it keep your hand up. I'll pray. keep your hand up

Father look at the hands that will raise dear God in honesty they have admitted they have drifted from you and I ask you now in the name of Jesus Christ as you ran to meet the prodigal son run to meet them Father. Wrap your arms around them, give them the assurance that you receive them again 100%. And Father let them commit themselves to staying with you and never drifting again. Dear God, keep us in your care, keep us in your power, keep us in your love dear God so that when you come with the Son save all of us without losing one. I offer this prayer in Jesus name, let God's people say, Amen and amen.