

Pastor Jordan Gades Sermon 6.9.19

Grace and Peace be to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Quick poll - who here knows someone who has adopted a child?

So almost all of us are at least a little aware of the process? It's not easy, massive amounts of work. High emotions, Crazy highs to such horrible lows, doubt, grief, sadness, extreme joy and love. And on top of that it's also just insanely expensive. My heart goes out to all those who have gone through it. In some ways I'm jealous and in others it makes me even more scared to think about it. So often the ones who get adopted are the little healthy babies, with no past, no history, no scars, but then there is all the others. It gets harder and harder for kids to get adopted the older and older they get. And that's even in the best circumstances. There are people in this room who could tell you a lot about the other end, where those kids have been hurt, neglected, abused and worse. How big a heart do you need to take that in?

Read a lot of stories about adopting older children this quote summarizes well.

"Adopting this child has been the hardest thing I've ever done. It's also the best thing I've ever done. Sometimes, good things aren't easy."

That's not the story for everyone but for many that rings true. And that good things aren't easy line there is something resounds within us

Let's meet up with Paul in his letter to the romans. Romans, as you might recall Luther said that this letter is truly the most important piece in the New Testament. It is purest Gospel"

Today in the letter to the Romans Paul talks about adoption a few times. And this theme of adoption, of this parent child relationship is so incredibly important. There is one thing about adoption in Paul's time that is just a little different then how things are done now, and it's even more of an attitude then logistics thing.

So for romans when you adopted someone as your child they were your child. There was never the almost kinda awkward conversations of yes that's my son, oh but he's adopted. It was yes that's my son, and the other person would say, think, act, great they doing t ball this year? In a way adoption was touch more embedded into their society. It's a small thing but there is a difference between always having to say this is my child, there adopted, to this is my child. And the same goes for the child, they would never say this is my adopted mother or father. It's this is my father, this is my mother.

Paul is trying to connect this idea of adoption to our relationship with God. He goes so far as to say this relationship with your Lord, Your God, your creator and redeemer, should be so personal, it we should go so far as to think of God as a parent, so intimate as go the distance to call God "Abba" You might have heard about how Abba is so much closer to small child saying "daddy" then Father. This is the relationship that Paul is trying to show, one of such

trust, hope innocence and love. But also one where we have been brought into it and called beloved child.

Kids have zero power in what's going in their lives. And in a way we are just like that. We come into this world and try our best but it never works out the way we would hope. Over time we develop these wounds that don't heal as well as they used to. We start to feel more and more like we are on our own. Something just isn't right with our world, we start to feel like we have been orphaned in this place that is hostile to us. We start to feel more and more alone. And then from that we start to lash out more, get angry, isolate ourselves. If the world is going to treat us this way then we have every right to treat the world like that don't we?

But it's right there that God meets us. It's right there where we are rebellious and hurtful and spiteful God comes to us and takes in. Not as strangers, not as someone off help for the night, but takes us in as beloved children. Takes us in, cares for us, shows unconditional love and support. We cannot push hard enough to escape. And then beyond that beyond the fact that there is nothing that we can do to separate ourselves from God. Nothing can or will separate us from our true father in heaven. The depth of this love and the strength of this Paul is just scraping with these famous verses.

**"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

So this is the Good news of the gospel put down before us today. But I think we are forgetting something. It's not just for us. There are people outside these who think they are alone, who are alone. Who are abandoned by our world. They have not been abandoned By God there loving father, they have not abandoned us, there sisters and brothers. This is why God sent the spirit into the world, this is why the celebration is so important. It's the ultimate symbol of our mission to go and show the presence of God, to tell this message of hope and promise to our world. Today we are sent to seek the lost and the abandoned and tell them that they are found and have a family. Amen.