

God Our Father and His Greatest Gift

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References: John 1-6, John 1:10-12; John 3:7; John 4:23; John 5:23-24; John 6:32-33; John 6:35

The Children's Song

The theme song is "The Saviour Above in Wonderful Love Came Down to This World to Die." I see the world in wonderful life. Come down to this world tonight. Oh follow me, my heart is missing, and English is never on fire, I say goodbye. In wonderful worlds came down to this world tonight. The whole world, really. My God, I miss you and me with the everlong fall. Now, one that we haven't sung—frankly, I don't think I've sung it for many, many years. This is a children's song, and you'll find it in the Believer's Handbook in the children's section, and we're going to sing it.

因为我们的主题曲呢，是那个在天上的救主，带着奇妙的爱来到这个世界，为我们而死。所以这一首歌我们很久没唱了，很久没唱了，那我以为我们可能从来没唱过。这首歌呢，你如果在这个，就说是，在那个小孩子唱的那一部分，你可以看到，这个是一首小孩子歌。

The words are wonderful. They say, "We are little children, very young indeed." That's really the way we are. God is so great, and we're so small. We're just like little children. We are little children, very young indeed, but the Saviour's promise, each of us may flee. This is a promise: if we seek Him early, if we come today, we can be His little friend.

歌词非常的美妙。歌词说，我们都是一些小小的孩子，非常年轻。我们确实是这样，神是如此的伟大，我们是如此的渺小，我们就像小孩子一样。我们是小小的孩子，非常年轻，但是救主应许我们每个人，如果我们去寻求祂的话，这对于我们非常实用，因为我们就像这样一个小孩子一样。

It's amazing to me how often I completely forget translation. Sorry!

所以那时候对他来说感到很惊奇，他总是忘了要翻译。对不起！

If we seek Him early, if we come today, we can be His little friends; He has said we may.

在这个里面呢，如果我们去寻求祂，早点来到祂这里，我们可以成为祂那小小的朋友，祂说我们是可以的。

That's the amazing thing: I can be a **friend of God**. Imagine that! Him so great, me so small.

这其实是个非常神奇的事情。去想象一下：我会成为神的朋友！神是如此的伟大，我是如此的渺小。

We'll sing it together, just the first verse we'll sing, and we'll learn the melody to go with these simple words:

"We are little children, very young indeed,
But the Saviour's promise each of us may dream,
If we're sinking early, if we come today,
We can be His little friends."

He has a great many friends. This is a hymn that you can teach to your grandchildren, as well as sing it to yourself. Here we go again, first verse:

"We are little children, very young indeed,
But the sinners' promises each of us will bring,
If we sink in early, if we come today,
We may be His little friends,
In the excess we make."

那就先唱第一段。先唱第一段，我们应该学会这些简单歌词的旋律。我们可以和我们的孙辈一起唱这首歌，也可以唱给我们自己听。我们再来唱一次第一段。

Very good. Now, there are four verses. It's been a long time since I've sung all four. We're now going to sing all four verses. You can follow the logic and a delightful theme as we go:

"We are little children, very young indeed,
But the sinners' promise each of us will be free.
If we seek Him early, if we come today,
We can be His little friends, here and sing with me.

Waiting for some reason, waiting for some reason
In the Bible song,
If we seek Him early, if we come again,
We can be His little friend, give us a sadly name.

Little friends of Jesus, walking by His side,
Makes His arms around us and pretend to grind.
If we sleep in early, if we come to Thee,
We can be His little friends in the serenade.

We must love Him dearly with our constant love,
And we'll go and see Me in our hometown.

If we sink in early, if we come to Thee,
Where He can be His king of the world, He lives that way.
Amen, Amen, Amen."

非常棒。这首歌一共有四段，我已经很久没有把四段都唱完了。现在我们要开始唱，把这四段都唱完，你会跟从祂那个逻辑是什么。我们现在来唱。阿们，阿们。

Father's Day and the Best Father

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Sunlight. What is Sunday? And the answer is, this Sunday it's going to be Father's Day. So I thought, maybe we could learn a little bit about fathers and Father's Day. The best Father in the Bible is God. That's wonderful. The fact that we can be His little children is marvelous. So, just a very few thoughts on Father's Day today. Let's pray.

谢谢，谢谢。今天是什么日子？接下来这个星期天会是父亲节。所以我认为，我们可以来学习一下关于父亲的真理。在圣经里，最好的父亲是谁呢？是神。这是非常奇妙的，事实上，我们能够成为祂的小孩子，这是非常奇妙的。所以，今天我们有几点关于父亲的想法，我们先来祷告。

Lord, we thank You for the simplicity and the truth of the words we just sang. And the fact that we could be Your little children is absolutely overwhelming. So, Lord, our prayer is that each of us will say, "Yes, Lord, I want You to be my Father. I want to be Your child." Now teach us, we pray. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen.

主啊，我们要感谢您，在我们刚刚唱的这首歌里，那些歌词是如此简单而真实。事实上，我们能够成为您的一个小小的孩子，这对我们来说是绝对无法抗拒、非常激动的。所以，父啊，我们的祷告是，愿我们每一个人都说：“是的，主啊，我想要您成为我的父，我要成为您的一个孩子。”现在求您教导我们。我们奉耶稣的名祈求，阿们，阿们。

Becoming Children of God (John 1)

So, if you look in the Bible to find out truth about God the Father, what are you going to find? The answer is, you'll find a whole lot. The Bible says a lot about God being our Father. So I thought today we'd just take some simple thoughts, and I'm going to focus them mostly on the Book of John. So take your Bibles and turn to John chapter one, John chapter one. You'll remember the introduction of the life of the Lord Jesus in John chapter one. And it says that Jesus was the One who made the world. He came into the world, and He came in as a man. And most people weren't expecting the precise detail of that. So verse ten says:

如果你去读圣经，想要找到关于父神的真理，你会发现什么呢？答案是，你会发现很多，因为圣经讲了很多关于神是我们的父。所以我认为我们今天只要找到一些简单的想法，而我会把焦点主要放在约翰福音。请大家把圣经翻到约翰一章，约翰福音第一章。你们会记得约翰福音第一章里关于主耶稣基督生命的介绍。经文

说，主是那位创造世界的。祂来到这个世界，祂作为一个人而来。大多数人并没有料到那具体的细节。所以第十节说：

[John 1:10 NKJV]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

And the tragic truth of the life of the Lord Jesus is summarized in verse eleven. It says:

[John 1:11 NKJV]

¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

主耶稣基督生命的悲惨之处在第十一节里做了一个总结，它说祂来到自己的地方，自己的人倒不接待祂。

But there were a few. They were willing to be on the narrow road. And so verse twelve says:

[John 1:12 NKJV]

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

但是，那里有少数人，他们愿意走在窄路上。所以第十二节说，凡接待祂的，祂就赐他们权柄作神的儿女，甚至赐给那些信祂名的人。

He came to His own, and His own didn't receive Him. Some did receive Him. What did He give to those who did receive Him? He didn't just say, "I want you to work for me." He didn't say, "I'm the boss, you can be my servants, and I'll pay you a dollar an hour or a hundred dollars a day or whatever." He said, "I want you to become my **children**." That's overwhelmingly amazing, isn't it? I can understand that He would be willing to have some relationship with us, but to be willing to make me His child—that's overwhelming.

祂来到自己的地方，自己的人不接待祂；但有些人接待了祂。那么那些接待祂的人，祂赐给他们什么呢？祂并没有说：“我想让你为我工作。”祂没有说：“我是老板，你可以作我的仆人，我会付你一个小时一块钱，或者一天一百块钱之类的。”祂说：“我要你们成为我的儿女。”这实在是让人感到无比奇妙，不是吗？我可以理解祂愿意与我们保持某种关系，但祂竟然愿意让我作祂的孩子，这实在是太让人震撼了。

And this particular verse says that the way we become children of God is, number one, by receiving Him. "As many as received Him, to them gave He the right to become the children of God." And then the verse ends with the simple line, "even to those who believe in His name." So, the question is, how could you receive Him? Simple logic might say, "Well, you could come into my house, I'd be happy to let you through the front door, and you can come into the living room." How do you receive a person? And if, in fact, you become part of the family, that's a totally different thing than staying for lunch.

这些经文告诉我们，我们成为神儿女的方法，第一，是借着接待祂。“凡接待祂的，祂就赐他们权柄作神的儿女。”然后这节经文以简单的一句话结束：“甚至赐给那些信祂名的人。”那么，问题是你怎么去接待祂呢？简单的逻辑会说：“你可以到我家里来，我很乐意让你从前门进来，进到客厅里。”你如何接待一个人？如果事实上你成为了这个家庭的一员，那跟留下来吃顿午饭是完全不同、意义重大得多的事情。

I've been invited by many people to have lunch. I've been invited by a few people to stay the night. I've never been invited by anybody to say, "Listen, you just live here, and I will treat you as my son." So overwhelming! Frankly, I think if that were to happen, I would say, "This is going to be a little bit awkward." And the Lord Jesus says it's true, "You trust Me; there will be a lot of new things." But to believe the Lord Jesus Christ is not just to acknowledge Him with your head; it is to receive Him into your life.

我曾被很多人邀请去吃午饭，也曾被少数人邀请留宿。但我从来没有被任何人邀请说：“听着，你就在这里住下，我会把你当作我的儿子看待。”这太令人震撼了！坦白说，如果这真的发生，我可能会说：“这感觉有点尴尬。”而主耶稣说，这是真的，“你信靠我，就会有很多崭新的事情发生。”但是，相信主耶稣基督并不仅仅是在头脑里承认祂，而是要把祂接到你的生命中。

The actual picture in the Bible, though not everybody understands this, is that we become His bride. Now, that's something different. That's a big deal. That's what God says: if you receive Him, if you believe Him, He will become your bridegroom. How does that all happen? It happens because God wants to be our Father. That's what Father's Day is all about. Father's Day is to marvel—to marvel at the wonder that God wants children. And of all the children that He could have, He chose me. I see that's wonderful.

圣经中真实的图景——虽然并非每个人都能理解——就是我们成为祂的新娘。这又是另外一回事了，这是一件大事。这就是神所说的：如果你接待祂，如果你相信祂，祂就会成为你的新郎。这一切是如何发生的？它的发生是因为神想要作我们的父亲。这就是父亲节的全部意义。父亲节是为了让我们惊叹，去惊叹这位神竟然想要孩子。而在祂所有可以拥有的孩子中，祂选择了我。我明白，这太奇妙了。

Born Again (John 3)

Now, chapter three. Turn over to chapter three, a little bit more about God the Father. Chapter three is the story of Jesus speaking to a religious leader. And he was associated with very much of the mature things of God. God said to him, and Jesus said to him in verse number seven:

现在，请翻到第三章。翻到第三章，再多看一点关于父神的事。第三章是耶稣与一位宗教领袖谈话的故事。这个人与神许多深奥、成熟的事物有关。神对他说话，耶稣在第七节对他说：

[John 3:7 NKJV]

Do not marvel that I said to you, "You must be born again."

What happens when you're born again? You get a new Father, and you get a new family, and you get a new home, and you get a new inheritance. You get a new life. When you become a Christian, how much is new? Pretty much everything. You're **born again**.

当你重生的时候会发生什么？你得到了一个新的父亲，你得到了一个新的家庭，你得到了一个新的家园，你得到了一个新的产业，你得到了一个新的生命。当你成为基督徒时，有多少东西是新的？几乎一切都是新的。你重生了。

When I would go to somebody's house, I would take my suitcase and I would move in, and I would be in the little spare room with a suitcase. But if I were to be born again, I couldn't put it all into a suitcase. What does this verse say? It says, "You must be born again." Why does it say, "You must be born again"? Because you must be born again, that's why. Nicodemus says, "I'm a religious leader; I'm okay." Jesus said it wouldn't matter, Nicodemus, whether you were a religious leader or a little child: you must be born again.

如果我去到某人的家里，我会带上我的手提箱住进去，我会带着手提箱待在一个小小的客房里。但如果我是重生了，我就无法把这一切都装进手提箱里。这节经文说了什么？它说：“你必须重生。”为什么说“你必须重生”？因为你必须重生，这就是原因。尼哥底母说：“我是个宗教领袖，我没问题。”耶稣说，尼哥底母，不管你是宗教领袖还是一个小孩子，这都不重要：你必须重生。

True Worshippers (John 4)

All right. Well, that's very important. I told you I was just going to pick up a few key things along this way of God the Father and we, the children. So turn over now to chapter four. And in chapter four, there's a discussion between a woman who'd had many husbands and the Lord Jesus Christ. So verse twenty-three says:

这非常重要。我告诉过你们，我只是要在关于父神和我们作儿女的这条路线上，挑出几个关键点。现在请翻到第四章。在第四章中，有一场关于一位有过许多丈夫的妇人与主耶稣基督之间的对话。所以第二十三节说：

[John 4:23 NKJV]

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

Who is the Father? God. What is it that He wants? He wants somebody to worship Him. Is that good or bad? Actually, it's very good. Is God good or bad? He's very good. If He were bad, would you want to worship Him? And the answer is, the Devil is bad. He wants a lot of people to worship him, but it's bad. But God is good. What would He expect? He would expect us to worship Him.

谁是这位父？神。祂想要的是什么？祂想要人来敬拜祂。这是好事还是坏事？事实上，这是非常好的事。神是好的还是坏的？祂是非常好的。如果祂是坏的，你会想要敬拜祂吗？答案是，魔鬼是坏的，他想要很多人去敬拜他，但那是坏事。然而神是美好的，祂会期待什么？祂会期待我们去敬拜祂。

Some of you have children. What would you expect from your children? So, you're a mother, and your child comes to you and says, "Mommy, Father's Day is on Sunday. What should I do for Daddy?" What would you say to your little child? Would you say, "Why don't you tell Daddy, 'Thank you for being a good Daddy'?" The child says, "Oh, I couldn't do that." She says, "Of course you can. You're old enough to say thank you." The child might say, "Oh, Daddy wouldn't be impressed." And Mommy would probably say, "If you don't say thank you, your Daddy will notice." And so, there are a lot of people this coming Sunday who will go to their father and say, "Thank you, Father. You have been a good father. Thank you for loving me."

你们有些人有孩子。你对你的孩子有什么期待？假设你是一位母亲，你的孩子跑来对你说：“妈妈，星期天就是父亲节了，我应该为爸爸做点什么？”你会对你的小孩子说什么？你会说：“你为什么不去对爸爸说：‘谢谢你作我的好爸爸’呢？”孩子说：“噢，我做不到。”妈妈说：“你当然可以，你已经够大可以开口说谢谢了。”孩子可能会说：“噢，爸爸可能不在乎这些。”而妈妈大概会说：“如果你不说谢谢，你爸爸可是会介意的。”因此，在这个即将来临的星期天，会有很多人走到父亲面前说：“谢谢你，爸爸。你一直是一位好父亲，谢谢你爱我。”

So, that's the ordinary Father's Day response. What will you say to God on Sunday? You would say, "Thank you, God. You have been a really good Father to me." Why would you say

that? Number one, because it's true. Number two, because you know you should. Number three, because God is seeking worshippers. That's what this verse says.

所以，这是普通的父亲节回应。那么，在星期天你会对神说什么？你会说：“谢谢您，神。您对我来说一直是一位极好的父亲。”你为什么要这样说？第一，因为这是真的。第二，因为你知道你应当这么说。第三，因为神正在寻找敬拜祂的人，这就是这节经文所说的。

How many people are in the world? Well, eight billion. Of those eight billion, how many people on Sunday will say, "Thank you, God, for sending Jesus. Thank you for dying for me"? How many people will say that out of the eight billion? A lot of people will, but not eight billion. Not everyone is going to say that. But you and I say, "I want to say that. I want to worship God. He's looking for worshippers. At least I can worship Him and say thank you."

这世界上有多少人？大约有八十亿。在这八十亿人中，有多少人在星期天会说：“谢谢您，神，因为您差遣了耶稣；谢谢您，主，为我而死”？在八十亿人里，有多少人会这样说？很多人会说，但并不是全部八十亿人，不是每个人都会这么说的。但是你我都会说：“我想这样说。我想敬拜神，祂正在寻找敬拜的人，至少我可以敬拜祂并对祂说谢谢。”

Honoring the Son (John 5)

Chapter five, verse twenty-three. It says:

第五章第二十三节，经文说：

[John 5:23 NKJV]

²³ that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

God's plan for us is that we worship Him, and we honor His Son. And he who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father. Many people in the world today say, "I believe in God; I just don't believe in Jesus." And the answer is, that's not what God wants. You say you believe in God, but you don't do what He says. He says, "I want you to honor the Son, just as you honor Me."

神对我们的计划是，我们要敬拜祂，并尊敬祂的儿子。不尊敬子的，就是不尊敬父。今天世上有很多人：“我信神，但我就是不信耶稣。”答案是，这并不是神所要的。你口里说信神，却不照祂说的去做。祂说：“我要你们尊敬子，如同尊敬我一样。”

And the blessings flow in verse twenty-four:

[John 5:24 NKJV]

²⁴ "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

What is God's plan? God's plan is that we believe in the God who sent Jesus, and we end up getting everlasting life, and we are delivered from judgment and death, and what we get is life.

在第二十四节中，福气就流淌下来了。神的计划是什么？神的计划是让我们相信那位差遣耶稣来的神，最终我们得到永生，并从审判和死亡中被解救出来，我们得到的是生命。

The Bread of Life (John 6)

Now, just one other thought, and that's John chapter six, verse thirty-two:

现在，还有一个想法，就是在约翰福音第六章第三十二节：

[John 6:32-33 NKJV]

³² Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. ³³ For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Okay, if you lived in the wilderness in Moses' day, and your daddy came home and said, "Here's supper," and you had a plate full of manna—and if you didn't get that, you'd starve—what would you do? You'd thank him and eat it. It's manna. You'd say, "That was a good meal, Daddy, thank you." Now, what happens to you and me when God comes to us in the wilderness of life?

好吧，如果你住在摩西时代的旷野里，你的爸爸回到家说：“晚饭来了，”你面前有一盘满满的玛哪——如果你没有这个，你就会饿死——你会怎么做？你会感谢他，并且把它吃掉。那是玛哪。你会说：“爸爸，这顿饭真好吃，谢谢你。”现在，当神在我们生命的旷野中来到我们身边时，你和我又会如何呢？

What does God give? Well, He gives breakfast, lunch, and dinner, that's true, but that's not what He's talking about here. Jesus is saying, just as God gave manna in the wilderness, so God gives Jesus to you and me. Verse thirty-five:

神赐下什么？祂赐给我们早餐、午餐和晚餐，这的确是事实，但这不是祂在这里所讲的。耶稣是说，正如神在旷野赐下玛哪一样，神也把耶稣赐给了你和我。第三十五章：

[John 6:35 NKJV]

And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

God is the Father. What is the most important gift He gives us? Jesus—that's the gift. What do we do? We say, "Thank you for giving me the best gift that could be given." Not only on Sunday, but especially on Sunday, we worship Him and we say, "Thank you, Lord, for giving me Jesus."

神是父。祂赐给我们的最重要的礼物是什么？耶稣——这就是那礼物。我们怎么做？我们说：“谢谢您赐给我所能赐下的最好的礼物。”不仅在平时，特别是在星期天，我们要敬拜祂并说：“谢谢主，将耶稣赐给我。”

Lord, we want to thank You for being a Father, for being the best Father, for being a Father far beyond our wildest imagination or hope. We thank You that, of all the gifts You gave us, the most wonderful one was You gave us Jesus to be our Saviour. Help us to understand it, help us to appreciate it, help us to thank You for it, and help us to believe in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. We give thanks, and ask this in Jesus' name. Amen. Amen. Amen. Sorry for going long.

主啊，我们要感谢您作我们的父，作我们最好的父，作一位远远超出我们最狂野的想象或指望的父。我们感谢您，在您赐给我们的所有礼物中，最奇妙的是您赐下耶稣作我们的救主。求您帮助我们去理解，帮助我们去感激，帮助我们为此向您感恩，帮助我们相信耶稣是我们的救主和主。我们感恩并祈求，是奉耶稣的名。阿们，阿们，阿们。很抱歉讲得太久了。