



SERIES: Walking with Jesus
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Wednesday, November 29, 2023
Scripture: Matthew 6:9
TITLE: Who's Your Daddy?

A couple of brothers were getting ready for bed after a nice evening with their grandmother. They brushed their teeth. Read their Bibles. Then before turning out the lights, they said their prayers. The younger brother began to shout. "Dear God, thank you for today. Thank you for my wonderful, giving, caring, and best grandma ever! And God, I sure would like a new bike for my birthday next week!"

The older brother unplugged his ears and said, "Dude! What's your problem? God's not deaf!"

"No, God isn't! But Grandma sure is!"

Many of us are like the younger brother. We surely don't know how to pray. We don't really know if God hears our prayers and what good our prayers do. But Jesus gave a powerful message on prayer that we'll look at over the next couple of days.

So let's continue walking with Jesus as He begins His lesson on how to pray. Matthew 6:9 (CSB).

"Therefore, you should pray like this: Our Father in heaven, your name be honored as holy."

Jesus begins by saying, "Our Father." If there's nothing else we learn today it is the privilege and radical relationship we get with God.

To call God "Father" was somewhat revolutionary. Yes, the Jews knew that God was the Father of Israel. Yes, God was the creator of Adam and Eve, so a father figure. But they also had great fear and respect for God. They wouldn't even fully write out His name.

But Jesus says, "Father, abba, daddy." This is a deeply close, intimate, familial relationship Jesus is referring to. This was unheard of. And here is why. Apart from saving faith through Christ, God is not our spiritual Father. According to Jesus in John 8, Satan is our spiritual father. Not God.

So through Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, God becomes our heavenly daddy. This means the end of fear of death and eternity. It means the end of false religion and superstitious fear. It means no more loneliness. It means no selfishness. He is *our* Father. It means no more

scarcity in our resources. It means allegiance, loyalty, and faithfulness. It means purpose in life and in eternity.

There is not a sweeter sound in my life than when my children say “daddy!” It doesn’t matter if it’s my 9-year-old or my 12-year-old. It is sweet music to my ears.

If my kids were to say “hey Nat” or “hey Mr. Crawford” I wouldn’t like it much. Those are my titles, but it would feel distant and restricted. I want them to call me as I am, their father—their daddy. God desires that for us as well.

Jesus says, “Pray this way.” God is now our daddy.

So here’s my challenge for you today.

I’d love for you to discuss in the comments below why this change in the relationship is hard for you and why it’s meaningful to you. For some of us, it may be hard to think of God as our Father. But know this, God is a good father. Not our earthly one. He loves us. He is there for us. He will never let us down.

But let’s talk about it. And then begin to celebrate and embrace this privilege of calling God our daddy.