

**Walking on Water**  
**Part 5 – In God’s Love, He Chose Us to Be in Christ**  
**July 8, 2018**

This morning we are continuing our look at Ephesians, looking into this passage to see if it can help us to walk on water like Peter did.

As we remember the story of Peter walking on water, please remember that Peter knew Jesus, knew what He was capable of. He trusted Jesus and so when Jesus said, come on Peter, jump out of the boat, come take a walk on the water with me, Peter didn’t hesitate.

The same can be true of our lives. As we come to know God and Jesus, see what He is capable of and hear His voice for us to jump out of the boat, put our trust and faith in Him, we too can be water walkers. We can be those individuals, when trials, temptations and the challenges we face with people come around, we have the strength and faith take the high road, to walk above them in our behavior and with a pure heart. This is where we want to be amen?

So how do we get there? First of all we must have faith and trust in our God and the great work He has done through His Son Jesus. Not just for salvation when this life is over but also for victory over the things that come up in this life.

In our study of Ephesians let’s begin by looking again at verse 3.  
**Ephesians 1:3, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons (and daughters) through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.”**

I might mention that I will be working on putting all of these sermons on Ephesians on-line so you can go back and look at what was being said and the scriptures references used. If you are like me, it takes several times reading through and contemplating a truth before it finally begins to sink in.

Last week I shared the story of God as He worked through the people of the Old Testament. I shared briefly the story of Adam, Noah, Abraham, David, Solomon and how God choose each one. And then I made the point that you, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have been grafted into God's great, unfolding kingdom plan.

It wasn't just by chance you heard the good news of Jesus Christ. God made it available to you, you heard it, accepted it and now here you are, learning more about what it means to be a subject in His kingdom.

This was always in God's plan. Look again at some of the action words from verses 3-6.

- a. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places**
- b. God chose us to be holy and blameless before the foundation of the world.**
- c. God predestined us to be adopted as sons and daughters**
- d. He freely bestowed on us His grace on us.**

This was His kingdom plan all along. To be able to do all these things for you. Now why God waited until He did, waited until the time of the Old Testament was over I don't know. It was in His time scripture tells us this.

Put point and 2 scriptures on same slide

- 1. God's Kingdom Plan was to send His Son Jesus at a specific time in the earth's history.**

**Galatians 4:4-5** <sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption (as sons and daughters).

**Romans 5:6** <sup>6</sup>You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

In God's love, a pre-set time that only God knew, He asked His Son to come to earth to die so that we could be adopted as His sons and daughters.

Look at this next verse. This is Jesus praying for His disciples and for us. **John 17:22-23** , “The glory which You have given Me I have given them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ”

Consider for a moment how much God must love Jesus Christ. After all, they have been together side-by-side for literally countless years—all eternity—in perfect harmony.

Relatively few couples are blessed with outstanding marriages that last fifty years or more. After so long, the depth of their relationship must be close and intimate. If that happens between two human beings in fifty years, what would it be like after a few billion? It would be intimate beyond our comprehension. Such is the depth of God's love for Christ—far beyond our comprehension.

In this verse, Put following on same slide

**Jesus is asking God to reveal two things to the world:**

- a. that God sent Him**
- b. that God loves us as much as He loves Jesus Christ.**

Understanding the full impact of this verse hinges on a little, two-letter word "as." God loves us **as** much as He loves His Son Jesus Christ.

One definition of this little word "as" means "to the same extent or degree; equally." Equally implies no more, no less. This definition makes Jesus' request staggering in its implications! It means we can truthfully say that there is not a being in the universe—including Jesus Christ—whom God loves more than us.

Every individual who comes into a relationship with God through their acceptance of Christ can say the same thing. God loves us all at the same incredible, beyond-our-comprehension level.

This statement also shows Christ's unbelievable love for us. He has been with God forever, yet the Son feels no animosity that our Father loves us just as much. In fact, in His prayer Christ is asking God to broadcast this fact to the world! Christ is preeminent in position and responsibility—but not in the Father's love. As the perfect Parent, He does not love any one child more than the others.

God's love is deeper, purer and more forgiving than anything we have experienced.

I wrestled with what I how God wanted me to share with you concerning His love. What can I share more than just scripture? One of the things I experienced just recently helped me to understand God's love for me just a little bit.

### **Picture of granddaughter**

Michal and I were able to keep our 6 and 9-year-old grandkids from the 4<sup>th</sup> through most of Friday. The 6 year old, Kaylee, seems to be especially connected to me right now and of course I am enjoying every minute of it.

Every time I am around she hugs me, wants me to pick her up, sit with me or on me if we are sitting at the table or watching something on television. She said something to me the other night while we were watching a video. She said, grandpa, I don't know why I always want to sit by you or on you, I guess it is because I love you so much.

Well, you can imagine what that did for my heart. You can imagine what that did for my love for her. It was one of those special moments I will always cherish.

I have no doubt most of you have experienced similar experiences with your children and grandchildren.

I want to say this morning, this is how God feels about you. He longs to be around you, to spend time with you, to be in your presence. In fact, His desire to be with you was so strong that He was willing to see His Son suffer and die just so He could spend now and eternity with you.

The second thing I wanted to share with you is a video that shares a number of scriptures in a special way. It is called **Father's Love Letter**.

**Watch: Father's Love Letter on YouTube**

## Father's Love Letter

My Child ~

You may not know me, but I know everything about you ~ Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down and when you rise up ~ Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways ~ Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ~ Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image ~ Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and have your being ~ Acts 17:28

For you are my offspring ~ Acts 17:28

I knew you even before you were conceived ~ Jeremiah 1:4-5

I chose you when I planned creation ~ Ephesians 1:11-12

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book ~ Psalm  
139:15-16

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live ~ Acts  
17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made ~ Psalm 139:14

I knit you together in your mother's womb ~ Psalm 139:13

And brought you forth on the day you were born ~ Psalm 71:6

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me ~ John 8:41-44

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love ~ 1 John  
4:16

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you ~ 1 John 3:1

Simply because you are my child and I am your father ~ 1 John 3:1

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could ~ Matthew 7:11

For I am the perfect father ~ Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ~ James 1:17

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs ~ Matthew 6:31-33

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope ~ Jeremiah 29:11

Because I love you with an everlasting love ~ Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore ~ Psalm  
139:17-18

And I rejoice over you with singing ~ Zephaniah 3:17

I will never stop doing good to you ~ Jeremiah 32:40

For you are my treasured possession ~ Exodus 19:5

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul ~ Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and marvelous things ~ Jeremiah 33:3

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me ~ Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart ~ Psalm 37:4

For it is I who gave you those desires ~ Philippians 2:13

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine ~ Ephesians  
3:20

For I am your greatest encourager ~ 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles ~ 2 Corinthians 1:3-  
4

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you ~ Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart ~ Isaiah  
40:11

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes ~ Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth ~ Revelation  
21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus ~ John 17:23  
 For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed ~ John 17:26  
 He is the exact representation of my being ~ Hebrews 1:3  
 He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you ~ Romans 8:31  
 And to tell you that I am not counting your sins ~ 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
 Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled ~ 2 Corinthians 5:18-19  
 His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you ~ 1 John 4:10  
 I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love ~ Romans 8:31-32  
 If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me ~ 1 John 2:23  
 And nothing will ever separate you from my love again ~ Romans 8:38-39  
 Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen ~ Luke 15:7  
 I have always been Father, and will always be Father ~ Ephesians 3:14-15  
 My question is ~ Will you be my child? ~ John 1:12-13  
 I am waiting for you ~ Luke 15:11-32

Love, Your Dad, Almighty God

As we take communion this morning, our normal focus is on Christ.  
 Let's do that but let us also think upon the love of God, the love He has  
 for us that put His Son upon the cross.

For God so loved the world, so loved you, that He gave His only  
 begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him would not perish but have  
 eternal life.

### **Walking on Water Outline** **Part 5 – In God's Love, He Chose Us to Be in Christ**

Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He predestined us to adoption as sons (and daughters) through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved."

- e. God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
- f. God chose us to be holy and blameless before the foundation

of the world.

- g. God predestined us to be adopted as sons and daughters
- h. He freely bestowed on us His grace on us.

**2. God's Kingdom Plan was to send His Son Jesus at a \_\_\_\_\_ in the earth's history.**

[Galatians 4:4-5](#) <sup>4</sup>But when **the set time** had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption (as sons and daughters).

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- 3. Jesus is asking God to \_\_\_\_\_ two things to [the world](#):**
- c. **that God sent Him**
  - d. *that God loves us \_\_\_\_\_ as He loves His Son Jesus Christ.*