

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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March 22, 2026

“Is God Your Father?”

By Constant Coulibaly

When we think of God as Father, a child might imagine Him as an old man with a long beard sitting in a rocking chair in heaven. Such a representation of God is understandable for a child but becomes ridiculous when it comes from an adult. Yet many adults visualize God the way children would.

When the Bible refers to God as a "Father," this does not mean God has a physical human body.

The Apostle John declares, "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). This means that God is not a physical being like us, but rather a spiritual being. God is infinite, and as such, it is impossible to localize Him in one's mind to have a mental description of Him. We cannot conceive of an image of God in our earthly minds. If we could, we would be frightened to death. This reminds us of Exodus 33:20, where God tells Moses, "you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live."

When the Old Testament speaks of God the Father, distinguishing the first Person of the Godhead from the Son and the Holy Spirit, this is to show that He is the Originator or Creator.

It says, in Deuteronomy 32:6, *“Do you thus deal with the Lord, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?”*

The prophet Isaiah also writes, *“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.”* (Isaiah 64:8). Malachi adds, *“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us? ...”* (2:10 NKJV)

These three passages, along with many others, emphasize God's role as the Father of the Hebrew people. He formed them as a nation and placed them in the Promised Land (Genesis 12:1-3). God was the Creator of the Jewish nation.

Furthermore, God is the source and sustainer of all life. Concerning human life, the Bible teaches that God created man (Genesis 1:27). He formed his body (Genesis 2:7) and is the Father of his spirit or soul (Hebrews 12:9; Genesis 2:7). Both animal and plant life owe their existence to God (Genesis 1:11-12, 20-21).

God also is referred to as the "Father of lights," which means that even things like the stars came from Him (Genesis 1:14). God is the Creator of everything that exists! (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6)

When Jesus spoke of God as Father, the emphasis shifted from origin to relationship. Jesus often talked about God being "Father," using the term more than fifteen times in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). He taught his disciples that God is their Father, telling them on a dozen occasions, God "is your Father". Jesus meant to convey the loving and caring character of God, not a physical description.

People who receive Christ, believe in His name and submit to His command to be baptized by immersion in water for the remission of sins, God "gave the right to become children of God." (John 1:12;

1 John 3:1-3). That is what it means to become a child of God through faith in Christ (Galatians 3:26). While all human beings are children of God in the sense that they were created by God, only those who have faith in Christ are His children.

As God's children, Christians can count on Him to provide them with the necessities of life (Matthew 6:25-34; James 1:17). This assurance is grounded on the fact that God is perfectly good (Mark 10:18; 1 Peter 2:3).

When we face times of grief or sorrow, God comforts us, for He is "*the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.*" (2 Corinthians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:18). When we go through difficult times and worry, God offers us a way to find peace. Through prayer and supplication, we can entrust our concerns to our heavenly Father, knowing that we have access to Him (Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Peter 5:7; James 1:6).

The Word of God therefore invites us to think of God in a warm and affectionate way, being confident that He welcomes us as His beloved children (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6).

Is God your Father?

"ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACHTHANI?"

By Lance Byers

Translated from the Aramaic, it means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Much has been written about the words Jesus said on the cross a few brief minutes before His death from Matthew 27:46 and Mark 15:34. It was about 3:00 p.m. of that fateful day that Jesus shouts these words. An inexplicable darkness had just engulfed the land since noon and there was a crowd around Him watching all these events happen while mocking Him.

They call out, "This man is calling Elijah." Jesus' words were misunderstood that He was calling out for God to save Him, as if He were helpless. Whomever shouted this would have distracted the crowd, redirecting their thoughts to the prophecy from Malachi 4:5-6, which on a cold read, says that Elijah will come on the day of the Lord and turn the hearts of the people. Was Jesus calling out for Elijah to save Him? No. Jesus has remarkable control of the situation as we can see in an analytical study of the events written in the gospels and in secular writings of the day. Instead, what is Jesus saying?

Without looking at the context, there are some in the religious world who say this is a moment of Jesus in pure agony. That, at this moment, His cry saying that God has forsaken Him is Him feeling what it is like to sin for the first time, despite His never having had sinned. They say that like the offerings of the Law of Moses, the sins of man were now being placed upon Him and He is feeling the guilt of the sins of all men, past and present, and the separation from God as God forsakes the sinner. This is the justification for many to say that salvation is given to all men when they simply accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior since their sins are already forgiven when they were heaped upon Jesus on the cross. Like the one who said He was calling for Elijah, this is also a misunderstanding.

To understand Jesus' words, we must listen to His words in the context. This was not an outburst of selfishness crying out to God a question of forsaking Him. Jesus knew everything that was happening to Him and why. He was fulfilling God's will by being hung on the cross, not by being forsaken. It is important to note something seemingly unrelated to the topic: chapters and verses were not added to the Bible until the mid-sixteenth century. In the time of Jesus, people would read from the scrolls of their Bible equivalent, and they would all sing from the Psalms in their Sabbath worship services. As is still the case in many hymnals today, it is often the very first words of the verse which are recited to remind the congregates of the song they were about to sing. It is important to note that the beginning of Psalm 22 reads: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Does this sound familiar?

In a moment, the listeners should have been reminded of the psalm they would sing at Synagogue which describes in detail everything Jesus is going through in front of their eyes. All which was happening to Him was prophesied, and described generations before He was born to this world, and described in the words sung in the psalm. Was Jesus in agony for the sins of the world? Was Jesus crying out to God because He was forsaken? Was Jesus just delirious before swooning? The answer to all these questions is no. Jesus was doing what He always did when in front of a crowd. He was teaching, trying to make all around Him see that what He was doing was for all their souls and that He is the Messiah for which they were all searching.

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Daniel Holloway, Robbie, Sheila, Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, B.J. Graves, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Stacy & Annette Meeks, Anita Harris' mother: Hillard Switcher, Kiefer Norman (Robbie Doles' relative), Evelyn Trimble, Danny Briggs (cancer), Kely Whittemore, Cameron Hutchins, the McCarthy family in Baldwyn (two men have cancer, one is terminal), Josh Boswell, Karen Kennemur, & Dianne Johnson.

Updates: Billy Grisham is home recovering from a fall at age 94.
Sherry Fuqua Doles is still in Rehabilitation in Iuka.
Dan's sister, Michelle Hopper had her funeral last Friday.
Bert Ward passed away last week, prayers for the Ward Family.
Dan Cottrell is doing better from his kidney stones.
Camden (Chad's son) is home from his hunting accident, prayers for his full recovery; He was flown to Leboneur Wednesday, and treated for a gunshot injury.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "The Last Beatitude Of Jesus"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Revelation
Author: By Dan H. King Sr.
Starting Page & Question: Page #64 Question #5

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Nathan Meade
Scripture Reading: Psalm 15:1-5
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Brian Meade
Assisting: — —
Singing Service: Men of The Congregation Lead Singing
Invitation: Jerry Kennemur
Closing Prayer: Danny Sheffield

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

March 25, 2026

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Busby
Workbook: The Book Of Mark
Author: By Mike Willis
Starting Page & Question: Page #25, Question #11
Invitation: Fred Johnson
Song Leader: Nathan Meade
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.



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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qIfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“The Last Beatitude Of Jesus”

Lesson Text: **Acts 20:33-35**. Why Is It More Blessed To Give?

I. The Problems Of Always Wanting To Receive?

- People In The Bible Who Thought It Was More Blessed To Receive.
 - Balaam Wanted To Receive The Reward For Unrighteousness- **2 Peter 2:15**.
 - Ahab Only Wanted To Receive The Vineyard He Couldn't Have- **1 Kings 21:1-2**.
 - Gehazi Wanted To Receive The Reward From Naaman- **2 Kings 5:26-27**.
 - The One Who Wanted To Receive The Inheritance From His Brother- **Luke 12:13**.
 - The Prodigal Son Who Received His Inheritance Early- **Luke 15:12**.
- Wanting To Receive Only Can Make Us Impatient, Covetous, & Greedy.
- It Can Also Spoil Us And Ruin Our Good Heart- **Proverbs 30:15**.
- Only Wanting To Receive Doesn't Help Anyone But Ourselves!
 - **Deuteronomy 15:7-11**.

II. It Is Essentially God-Like In Nature.

- God Is A Provider/Giver, And We Should Be Too. **Ecclesiastes 5:18**.
- We Are To Be Like Our Heavenly Father- **Matthew 5:48**.
- Being A Generous Giver Goes Against The World's View Of Life.
 - The World Says, “What's In It For Me?”
- God Teaches Us To Say, “How Can I Help Others?” **Ephesians 4:28**.
 - It Makes Us Well-Pleasing To The Lord- **Hebrews 13:16**.

III. It Is Just Like Our Master Jesus.

- **Acts 10:38**.
- **Luke 6:40**.
- Jesus Lived To Enlighten, To Comfort, To Bless, To Bestow, & To Redeem.
- There Was Little, Indeed, That He Received In Life- **Matthew 8:20**.
- A Contrast Of Two Followers Of Jesus— Mary & Judas.
 - Mary In **John 12:3**. What Can I Give To Jesus?
 - Judas In **Matthew 26:14-15**. What Can I Get From Jesus?

IV. It Enlarges Our Life.

- **Luke 6:38**.
- The Farmer Gains By Giving: Labor, Seed, & Care.
- He Gets Back What He Puts Into It- **2 Corinthians 9:6,8,& 10**.
- If We Want The Best Life Possible, Here and In Eternity— Be A Giver!

V. It Is An Investment In Eternity.

- **Matthew 6:19-20**.
- **1 Timothy 6:17-19**.
- Conclusion: **Matthew 10:8**.