

The New Season Separation and Reconciliation

Studio Session 129
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12/19/2007

The Scriptures tell us that Adam was the son of God. Luke, the 3rd chapter, in which the genealogy of Christ is presented, tells us that, in the reversal of the order of genealogies; starting with Jesus and going back to Adam. I want to just pick up the last few verses of Luke chapter 3 verse 37. “Noah was the son of Lamech, Lamech the son of Methuselah, Methuselah the son of Enoch, Enoch the son of Jared, Jared the son of Mahalalel, Mahalalel the son of Kenan, Kenan the son of Enosh, Enosh the son of Seth, Seth the son of Adam, Adam the son of God.”

We know what God was creating when He made man; God was creating sons. He said that He was creating beings in the image and the likeness of God. “The image”, that's an interesting term considering that God is a Spirit. And we normally think of images as being physical renditions of existing objects. But in fact God is a Spirit and Adam is a spirit man; God blew a spirit into Adam. And this spirit that was put in Adam, was of the same kind and nature as God. So God was genuinely creating sons in His image and in His likeness. Now likeness would have more to do with His character, with His nature of being, so it is to be anticipated that God was creating something of His own kind (meaning Spirit) with the intent of making him to be of the likeness of God; to share in the character of God. As the New Testament would put it, “To be a partaker of the Divine Nature,” not just to be a spirit being but also to have the same attitude and character of God. Because that's actually what it means to be a son. In human terms, a child, an offspring of a human being, looks like the human typically, has a physical resemblance, but it is more common to say to someone, “You remind me of your father,” or, “You remind me of your mother.” Meaning, at that point, not mere physical resemblance, but far more importantly an attitudinal resemblance, “In your attitude, in your character, in your behavior, in your normative life, you remind me of your parent.”

God fully intended that man be conformed to the image and likeness of God. He made him in the image of God by depositing a spirit in him. But to make him into His likeness, that would take educating that child to the ways of the Father. So we see Adam and God having fellowship together in the Garden, in the early chapters of the book of Genesis. God would come to the Garden in the cool of the day and He would meet with Adam.

The intent here was to impart an understanding of the ways of God, the attitude of God, the character of God to Adam, with the intent that Adam begin to adopt the ways of his Father. Frankly, this is discipleship; God was discipling Adam. We would know this term later on but all discipleship is meant to produce likeness. Paul would say to Timothy, "The things you have learned from me among many witnesses, you commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." And he would declare in I Corinthians chapter 4, he would declare that Timothy was his son, his son in the gospel.

Now when sin entered into the picture, when Adam sinned, the effect of sin was to separate man from his Father. You know, it's amazing that we know these things but just to hear them spoken in this different light, illuminates our understanding of God and of man. Sin had the effect of separating between a man and his father. So by reason of his sin Adam was distanced from God as Adam's Father. Now from that understanding, we may properly infer that over the course of human history, when sin had become fully grown, when sin had fully expressed its nature through human life and through the races of humanity over the course of human history; then what would be the observable effect of sin? Simple. The observable effect of sin is fatherlessness. The number one problem in the whole earth today is the problem of fatherlessness, it is literally the problem underneath the problem.

In nations of the world...I was recently in the Ukraine and of a country of 40 million people (there are 52 million Ukrainians in the world, 40 million of whom live in the country of the Ukraine), in that population of 40 million, there are close to 3 million orphans. Small children in various settings, in state run orphanages, in adopted homes or foster homes. But commonly in train stations, in bus depots, in public places, in the brutal winters of that country; it's almost an unimaginable tragedy, 3 million orphans. In South Africa, we have the phenomenon of children, some as young as the age of ten, who are heads of households. My friend and fellow worker, Thamo Naidoo, in Pietermaritzburg as part of the ministry that he and the team of brethren with him conduct is a drop in center where they feed young children two meals a day and give some structure to their lives. Some of these children are as young as ten. And all throughout that city, in all of the schools, there are thousands of children who are the heads of households because both parents have died. In the country itself, something close to 40 percent of the population is infected with the HIV virus. The country faces many problems but one of the most glaring of the problems is violence, perpetrated typically by young people, particularly young men. A car jacking may turn into a violent murder because the nation is suffering from the loss of fathers.

Everywhere you look in the earth today, from North America in the Caribbean to the Far East; fatherlessness is the dominant theme of humanity today. There is no question that sin is running rampant in the earth and less of a question as to the actual consequences of sin upon humanity in the earth today. Fatherlessness is the number one curse of nations. I

was told an interesting story, in fact someone told me this was a feature on a popular television show. There were some young elephants (it was a story that came out of Africa), that were brought into this particular park and they just behaved terribly, they would tear up the trees and go on rampages and the like. And the gamekeepers, as a solution, brought in two older bull elephants (two fathers, if you like) and the young elephants began, basically, to behave.

Fatherlessness has the consequence of removing the sense of order from society, and young people go crazy, run amok, because there is no discipline, no standard of life. In America, we have a form of fatherhood but there's little in the way of substance to it. The father in the home, watching over children, raising children, is an increasing rarity in America. In some communities in America, 70% of children born to families are born to single parents. Interestingly enough, I am understanding that the statistics from northern Europe are the same; an exact match. That single women are giving birth to children at the rate of 70% of national birth rates. Astonishing. You cannot begin to calculate the economic and social costs of fatherlessness.

The church is slow to respond to the issue of fatherlessness because, frankly, it doesn't know what to do, it has no idea. The general view of church is to convert people to membership in the church and as long as people show up on Sundays and occupy their seats in the pews, everything is thought to be OK. The real issue of fatherlessness is, to me, the elephant in the room, if you will pardon the pun; it's the thing everybody's ignoring. We're ignoring it in the church, we're ignoring it in families and we're most definitely ignoring it in nations because it's not politically correct, it's too sensitive a thing to be addressed politically because it would call for entire nation groups to restructure themselves to deal with the issue of fatherlessness. But my premise is, Adam was the son of God and when sin came into the picture, when Adam sinned, the consequence of it is that sin separates between a man and his father. And that consequence has continued to attend the generations of Adam and has ripened to the place where, in the earth today, the number one problem among nations is fatherlessness. But of course, God who knows the end from the beginning and who foresaw that, has made all the plans necessary and has implemented a way of life and being to cure the issue of fatherlessness. And in fact, the end of the age will see two things: one, it will see the proliferation to the highest level of fatherlessness; and two, it will show the glorious response of Christ when He claims that His message and His ministry in the end of the age will be that He will send the spirit of Elijah who will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the children to the fathers.

The intention of God is to reconcile man to God. And the end of the age where this lawlessness that results directly from fatherlessness, where the condition of sin will have produced fatherlessness to such a degree that even nations will hang in the balance. In fact, that's the statement from Malachi; even nations would hang in the balance. At that

point, God will deploy fully the restoration of the fathers to the children. I want to show you this thing from the end of Malachi, the Old Testament ends upon this note. This is Malachi chapter 4 verse 5, "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah," now at this point Elijah was already dead, so He is saying, "See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to the fathers or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." "...I'll send the spirit of Elijah."

Interestingly enough, there's a reference to this I believe. Let me quickly take a look at this thing, I think Luke tells us this about the spirit of Elijah coming with John the baptist. He said, "I will send you the spirit of Elijah who will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children." It's from the first chapter, it's worth it to find it. "When Zachariah, the father of John, had a vision from God..." Let me just read it to you. This is Luke 1 beginning at verse 11, "Then an angel of the LORD appeared to Zachariah, standing at the right side of the altar of incense, when Zachariah saw him he was startled and gripped with fear. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid Zachariah, your prayer has been heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear a son, you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and a delight to you and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the LORD, he is never to take wine or fermented drink,' and so on. Verse 16, "Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the LORD their God." Very significant prophecy, "Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the LORD their God and he will go on before the LORD in the spirit and power of Elijah to turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous to make ready a people prepared for the LORD." Fantastic, amazing prophetic declaration.

You see God knew that fatherlessness, resulting from the separation between God and man, would threaten to devour nations in the last days. The last days began with the age of Jesus and right at the front of that age God recalls the prophecy that had been made by Malachi the prophet upon which note the Old Testament ends; 400 years between the writing of Malachi and the first book of the New Testament. In that 400 year period of course, part of the time Israel was returned from captivity and so on. But the age that began with the New Testament, when it culminated with the return of the LORD, just prior to the return of the LORD that age would become lawless. Scriptures tell us, "Lawlessness will abound." Now do you know why lawlessness abounds? Lawlessness is the absence of discipline; fatherlessness. Fatherlessness is synonymous with lawlessness. The root of lawlessness is fatherlessness. My little story about the young elephants on the rampage, they were brought back (even nature understands the need for fathers).

I was in a meeting not so long ago...and I will not identify the location not that it's secret but I do not wish to identify the people...but I was in an area and the discussion was about the need for fathers and the men involved were concerned that in the inner cities of

America, young black men did not have fathers and part of the reason that hopelessness seemed to be so preeminent was the absence of fathers. Now this was a mixed group, probably 50 or so leaders of church groups; they were genuinely concerned about the conditions they saw in the inner cities in America and they wanted to try to and create a model to solve the problem, a model that might be useful as a national model. So much discussion was taking place on it and I happened to be present when this discussion was taking place. My response when I heard them talk was to observe that they were making a fundamental assumption and that is that you must have black fathers for black men. Now in the natural that might be not only true but even advisable, that is, apart from Christ. But when we speak of the body of Christ, fathers and sons have nothing to do with being of the same racial root or grouping. Only in the world might this be relevant and even required in some quarters. But because we are a holy race in the body of Christ, a father of a black man may be a white man; a father of white man may be a black man; a father of an Hispanic person may be a person of a different race.

You see, in Christ we are a holy race and we have the DNA of our Father; it's a spiritual DNA, if you'll allow me to use that term loosely. To signify to be born of and to possess the culture of God. One of the great truths that will come about at the end of the age in the body of Christ, will be that the hearts of the fathers will be turned to the children. And what people will notice is the peace and good order of the kingdom, and the peace and good order in the lives of individuals because they have fathers. But what they'll also note is that these fathers are not racially assigned; they're not assigned on the basis of race. One of the worst things that has ever happened to the church, one of absolutely the worse things is the idea of a church for black people and a church for white people; a racist church, the idea of a national church, a church of a particular ethnic group that's also a nation group. These are all racist ideas that do not belong in the church. They may speak to the prejudices within unconverted people, but anyone who knows Christ should understand that the solution that God is offering in the end of the age to this global, insidious, festering problem that is eating away at the fabric of human society and threatening it with everything from wars and violence to annihilation through plagues, through lawlessness and disorder costing nations billions in lost productivity, in unavailable humanity because so many of them are locked up in prisons or locked up in other forms of prisons.

If we're going to see the abounding of grace where this consequence of sin so proliferates, we're going to have to think differently about this new season that we're in. In this new season, we will banish the errors of our fathers; our fathers insisted on a church that was compatible to the attitudes and characteristics of nations unconverted. What we're now going to see and we'll see in nations like south Africa that has had a history of racial division; we're going to see nations like these lead the way in healing the body of Christ where we will have fathers who are black being the fathers of coloreds and fathers who are coloreds being the fathers of whites, whites the fathers of Indians and

Indians the father of whites. We're going to see spiritual fathers become again the foundational truth for the social order of the kingdom of God.

All this talk of a new season is meant to genuinely produce restoration from God of those things that have long been lost. When Adam sinned, he was separated from his Father. The spirit of Elijah will cause the restoration of the hearts of fathers to children and children to fathers. So when we speak in the next broadcast of the spirit of Elijah, we want to look at how Jesus restored fatherhood in the spirit of Elijah. We will look carefully at this as a model for the restoration of fathers and the healing of nations in this day that has come upon the earth.

God bless you. Hope to see you again in the next broadcast. Bye bye.