

EMPIRES & EXILES

PT 3 – Everlasting Father

INTRO

- What traditions did you celebrate growing up at Christmas or the holiday season in general?
- What are your favorite food and drinks at this time of year?
- How many Starbucks specialty coffees do you drink at this time of year? E.g., Christmas Tree Frappuccino, Toffee almond milk hot cocoa, Peppermint mocha....

READ

Isaiah 9:6-7
John 14:9

REFLECT

Both creation and the written scripture reveal God, but when Jesus came into the world, the greatest and clearest picture of God was given.

Even though Jesus, is the second person of the trinity (Father, Son, Spirit) He revealed aspects of the Father and Spirit as well.

There are many ways Jesus revealed who the Father was to us. Here are 3 ways:

- The Father's CONSISTENCY
- The Father's CARE
- The Father's COMPASSION

One of the biggest challenges in our spiritual journey is to see and feel the Father's love for us. That is because no matter how good our natural father was, there will be some level of hurt that we carry.

Because we are all sinners and fall short of God's perfection, we all are affected by sins toward us, and we are all guilty of sins towards others.

The problem is that authority figures and those who are called to give us care – especially fathers – can both give us tremendous inner strength, but also leave us with tremendous wounds.

This impact is why part of every person's spiritual journey involves a deep revelation of the Father's love.

One of the names of the prophesied Saviour was Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6). Jesus revealed the heart of God to us.

He revealed that the Father is consistent. Jesus said that God always hears our prayers.

He revealed that the Father cares and provides for both our physical and emotional needs.

He revealed that Father's heart towards us is one of compassion.

Compassion literally means **“to suffer together.”** It's the feeling that arises when you are confronted with another's suffering and feel motivated to relieve it.

Finally, people who experience the compassion of God towards themselves become the people who extend compassion to others!

RESPOND

- Can you recall a time where you felt the Father was revealing to you personally His consistency, care or compassion?
- Do you find it hard or easy to think that God is a loving Father?

PRAY

- Pray for one another to experience a deeper revelation of the Everlasting Father's love.
- Pray that we would be compassionate people to those around us.