LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT MY FATHER

Scriptures: Matthew 23:8, 9

SUNDAY JUNE 15, 2014

"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have only one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father and He is in heaven." Matthew 23:8, 9

Since today is Father's Day, I'd like to share a few things about my Father:

My Father begat me; He brought me into this world and gave me Life, and He's the reason for my existence. Romans 1:7; James 1:16-18

My Father loves me, and He's always telling me how important I am to Him. Hardly a day goes by that He doesn't reassure me in some way. And I love Him back, because He loves me with a perfect and never-failing love, like no one else ever has or ever will be able to. Psalm 103:11; Jeremiah 31:3; 1 John 4:19

My Father is a strict disciplinarian; He never lets me get by with anything. But even though He's strict, He isn't rough or harsh with me, and He doesn't discipline me in anger; He always knows exactly what kind of discipline is best to help me overcome a weakness or grow in an area I need to grow in. My Father's discipline doesn't destroy me or tear me down; instead, it helps me mature and makes me a better person than I would be otherwise. In fact, in a curious sort of way I can't quite explain, I find that my Father's discipline actually makes me feel more loved and reminds how much I really am cared for. Proverbs 3:11,12; Hebrews 12:4-11

My Father is a great teacher. He knows so much about so many things, and it seems like almost every day He has something new He wants to show me or teach me. Even though I've been an adult now for over 40 years, we stay in close touch and I continue to learn from Him on a regular basis. I believe I'm being accurate when I say that I've learned more from my Father than from anyone else in my life. Psalm 25:4; 71:17; 119:102; John 6:45

My Father has always been a great Provider and He's always seen to it that my every true need is met. He has more ways to provide than anyone I've ever known—some of them really surprising at times—and His resources are so vast and varied, He can supply anything I need no matter how large or small.
It's really important to my Father that I trust Him, so sometimes He lets me reach the point where I wonder if or how He's going to come through, but He always does and in the end He always meets every need. When He makes me wait for something, it's because He knows I'm not quite ready for it or the timing isn't right. By now, I should know that my Father will always provide every time, and if I worry, I do it in spite of His faithfulness to me. What a wonderful Father I have! Genesis 22:13,14; Psalm 65:8-13; Matthew 6:33; 7:7-11; Philippians 4:19,20

My Father is 100% dependable and reliable; He is always there for me. Some dads have been known to abandon or neglect their children but my Father will never leave me or forsake me and not one day in my life has He ever neglected me, and He never will. In fact, I have His Word on it, and that is such a comforting thing to know. Psalm 27:10; Deuteronomy 31:6; Hebrews 13:5,6

My Father knows me better than anyone; He knows me inside out, right-side-up, upside down, backwards and forwards. He know my thoughts, my feelings, my likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses, fears, hopes, and everything else about me, and yet He loves me in spite of it all! I'm His son, you know, and that alone is enough for Him to love me unconditionally. Psalm 139:1-24

My Father is fair and impartial; He never shows partiality and He loves all His children equally and deals with each of us in perfect fairness. He has no favorites; He doesn't love me more or less than any of His other children, and believe me, He has many. He may deal with each of us a little differently because we're each a little different and our needs may be different on any given day, but He only has one set of rules and one set of principles He uses in dealing with all of us. I'm so glad I have a Father that is 100% fair all the time. Acts 10:34; 1 Peter 1:17

My Father always keeps His Word and does everything He promises, and He never says anything He doesn't mean. If my Father says something, you can, as the saying goes, "take it to the bank," because He never promises anything He's not going to do or makes a commitment He won't keep. He takes His Word extremely seriously, and His Word is as reliable as He is; He never breaks a Word He's given. Numbers 23:19; Psalm 119:89,90; Ezekiel 17:24b

My Father is a wonderful Counselor and a great Listener, and gives the most wonderful advice. Being able to go to Him with anything and everything is a treasured privilege I have as a son. If He were a paid counselor and not my Father, I wouldn't be able to afford Him, but thank God, He *is* my Father! I can even see Him on off hours and He's always willing to fit me in no matter what time of day or night. How many people have a privilege like that? I'm so blessed! Psalm 32:8; Jeremiah 33:2,3

My Father is strong and powerful; in fact, He's stronger than anybody I know. I don't think even Hulk Hogan could stand up to Him! So strong, and yet so gentle; what a reassuring presence! I'll tell you this much; anytime my Father's nearby, I don't have to worry about a thing; because just His presence is enough to keep me safe. Even Satan himself doesn't dare bother me when my Father is near; he knows better. Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 32:17-19a; Revelation 1:8; 19:6

My Father is my Protector, and He is always willing to come to my defense. I'm His son, so He defends me. If I need correcting, He'll correct me, but He's not going to allow someone else to hurt me. I can't tell you how safe and secure that makes me feel. And He's just as protective of each of His other children as He is of me. Psalm 18:1,2; 27:5; 91:1-6; Romans 8:31

My Father is a great Encourager. All of us like to be encouraged, but when the encouragement comes from our own Father, there's just something extra-special about it. Even if there's no encouragement coming from anywhere else, I can always count on encouragement from my Father. And while encouragement from others is nice, it's my Father's opinion that matters the most. When I'm fearful, He'll say: "With My help, you can do this." When it seems I'm alone or forsaken by others, He says, "Remember, I'm still with you." When it seems there's no encouragement from any other quarter, He says, "Just remember how much I love you and that I'll always be here for you, and that nothing in heaven or on earth can ever change that." I'll tell you, with a Father like that, who could stay discouraged very long? Isaiah 41:8-10; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28-39

My Father knows a lot about sacrifice, and there's no one who has sacrificed as much for me as He has. It seems odd that Someone as rich as my Father would know anything about sacrifice, but then we have to remember that not all precious things have anything to do with money or possessions. (For example: If you're a parent, how much is the life of your child worth to you? Or, some of you may have memories you wouldn't take a million dollars for, etc.) In this case, I was the precious thing my Father desired, but in order to qualify me as His son, someone innocent, pure and sinless would have to die in my place, because I entered the world contaminated by sin, and the penalty for sin is death. Nor did I qualify to have a relationship with my Father. But He, my Father, loved me so much that He had His one perfect Son in heaven come to earth as a man just so He could take my penalty upon Himself and I could be reconciled to my Father. It was a terrible price to pay, and from our point of view down here it really doesn't make any sense, but then, when has love made sense? That's the price my Father was willing to pay to have me as His son, and that is how precious I was to Him

even with my defects. That's why I say, "Nobody has ever loved me like my Father, and no one else has ever sacrificed so much for me." No wonder I love Him; how could I not? Romans 5:6-11; 8:31-34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:18-21;

Lastly, but certainly not least, My Father is the ultimate Role Model. I never have to apologize for my Father. I never have to say, "My Father is wonderful in many ways and He love me, but. . . My Father's character is so perfect that He is basically the ideal role model for anyone, and anyone who follows His example will never go wrong. Most fathers—even the best ones—might still have a flaw or two or a weakness, but my Father has none; He is literally perfect in every way. Though I'm His son, I still have some lingering flaws and weaknesses, but He assures me that one day they will all be gone. But I sure am proud He's my Father and that He is willing to own me as His son, and it is the true desire of my heart to honor my Father daily—not just on Father's Day. Also, it's my hope that I'll get to introduce my wonderful Father to a lot more people as time goes on, because, if it were possible, I would love for everyone to get to know my Father. And as a dad, it blesses me to know that as I stay in close touch with my Father and keep learning from Him, I'll become a better example to others, and a better father myself. Matthew 5:43-48; Ephesians 5:1,2; 1 Peter 1:13-16

In short, I have the most wonderful Father anyone could ever hope for! Do you know Him?