

Readings

Scripture

¹But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
- Isaiah 9:1-7 (English Standard Version)

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

¹⁸"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

- John 14:15-24 (English Standard Version)

Reflection

Forgiveness isn't an end in itself. The point of forgiveness is to remove the barrier that stands between us and God so that He can give us His Spirit and bring us into His everlasting family.

- Darrell Bock, *Recovering the Real Lost Gospel* (p. 19)

What is a Christian? The question can be answered in many ways, but the richest answer I know is that a Christian is one who has God as Father.

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God* (p. 181)

Sermon Outline

Everlasting Father

Isaiah 9:1-7; John 14:15-24

And His Name Shall Be Called

Brad Anderson

Through the child born to us we are brought into the closest possible relationship with God... (Isaiah 9:6-7; John 14:20)

How do we understand such a relationship?

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ... (John 14:15-24)

Through the love of God... (John 14:15, 21-24)

Through the fellowship of the Holy Spirit... (John 14:15-18)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is your favorite story of an orphan being adopted? Annie? Elf? Second Hand Lions? Tarzan? Superman? The Blind Side? Despicable Me? Other? What did you like about the story?
- What does the word orphan imply relationally? What does it mean that Jesus would not leave his disciples as orphans, but come to them? How is his description as a child born to us deepened now that we learn of his fatherly characteristics? How does Jesus not leave us as orphans?
- Read John 14:15-23 emphasizing the pronouns applied to Jesus (I, me, my, mine)? In each case, what is being emphasized? What changes in the pronouns in verse 23?
- There is a clear connection made in these verses between love and obedience. Which verses make that connection most plain to you? Can you find verses in the passage that emphasize where the strength to obey would be found? Describe the relational dynamic between love and obedience. How is disobedience accounted for in this passage? In surrounding passages?
- Have you ever thought much about being one with God in the Trinity?