

RUSSELL SANDERS

8-1-2020

OUR LORD'S PRAYER – JOHN 17

LESSON 24 – VS. 25

Jesus prays in vs. 25, ***“Oh righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee. But I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent me.”***

Jesus called God “righteous.” This is because all that He does is “rightly” done. When He judges sin and metes out the punishment, it is well deserved; that is justice from a “just” God. When that sin is repented of, He extends mercy and withholds punishment; that is still what a “just” God would do. When obedience is followed by us, He rewards us with the fulfillment of His promises and blessing. That is what is “rightly” done. There is no fault in righteousness, and as we are clothed in “the righteousness of Christ”, Father sees no fault in us; He sees His Son’s righteousness.

***“...the world hath not known Thee.”*** Up to this time the people did not know the heart of the Father. In fact, they had no “Father” concept of Him at all. They saw Him as a legalistic judge who would punish the wicked and “give a pass” to those who obeyed all His rules and commandments, “the law of Moses.”

There were a few exceptions like David and some of the prophets. But since the Israelites, as a whole, had no concept of a loving God, they were easily drawn into idolatry. God seemed no better to them than the pagan gods.

The mission for Jesus was to teach them who God really was, a caring Father. He often spoke of His Father in heaven and taught about the “kingdom of heaven” in earth terms (parables) that they could understand. The term “abba,” meaning Father in an intimate manner, was used by Jesus during His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, (Mark 14:3b). ***“Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee...”***. It is the only incident recorded in the gospels. Only the three inner circle apostles, Peter, James, and John, were present. However, they learned from Jesus that they (and we) could have an intimate relationship with Abba, as a “daddy.”

Abba is used only two other times. Romans 8:15 says ***“...ye have received the (Holy) Spirit of adoption (into the family of God), whereby we cry, ‘Abba, Father’ ”***. Galatians 4:6 says, ***“and because ye are sons (His children), God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, ‘Abba, Father’.”***

Prior to the advent of Jesus, the Old Covenant Jews had no “daddy” concept or “father” concept of Jehovah (Yahweh). The New Covenant brought to us a personal relationship through the Son. That is why Jesus’ prayer said that until now ***“the world hath not known Thee (until now). But I have known Thee (from the foundation of the world), and these (whom You gave me) have known that thou hast sent me.”***

They could now know God as Father because they learned who sent Jesus to them and they could know the Father through the Son.