

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD

INTRODUCTION: ¹ Jesus never attempted to prove the existence of God; He assumed it.

He identified the Father, Son, & H.S. in the trinitarian formula for Christian baptism. Mt. 28:19

² He accepted the idea of God In Israel:

1. Monotheism - ~~not polytheism~~, or many Gods.
2. Creative Power of God.
3. Holiness
4. Righteousness

Trinity -

I. He taught that God is a God of Love. Jn. 3:16

- A. The greatness of His love, "so loved"
- B. The expression of His Love, "that He gave His Son"
- C. The Power of His love, "to save the perishing"
- D. Jesus said "as the Father has loved me, so have I loved you." Jn. 15:9

E. Other characteristics of God as taught by Jesus:

1. God is good, Mt. 9:17
2. God is the only true God, Jn. 17:3
3. God is able "to raise of these stones children to Abraham."
4. With God all things are possible, Mt. 19:26
5. God is the God of the living, Mt. 22:32
6. God is true, Jn. 3:33
7. God is a spirit, Jn. 4:24
8. ~~God is "My God & your God", Jn. 20:17~~
9. ~~The Father knows the future, Mt. 13:32~~

II. Jesus Taught That God is Our Heavenly Father, Mt. 6:9

A. The Idea of God as Father in the OT

In Ps. 103:13 and 68:5 and 89:27, 28 and Jer 31:9

God is referred to as being like a Father, but it is more like a King with a fatherly attitude toward his people; the common man did not think of God as his own Father.

B. Jesus taught us to pray saying "Our Father" which ~~is in heaven.~~ ^{as He did.} Mt. 6:9 LUKE 11:2, RSV

C. He taught us to "be perfect, as our Father in heaven is perfect", Mt. 5:48

D. Lk. 11:11, the Father gives good things to His children

E. One of His greatest parables is about a grieved and loving father and a wayward & penitent son. Lk. 15

- F. "The Father loves the Son & has given all things into his hands." Jn. 3:35.
- G. We should "worship the Father in spirit and in truth." Jn. 4:23
- H. "The Father raises up the dead", Jn. 5:21
- I. "The Father has given all judgment to the Son", Jn. 5:22
- J. The way to honor the Father is to honor the Son, and "he who does not honor the Son does not honor the father who sent him."
- K. "The Father has life in himself." Jn. 5:26
- L. Jesus sought "the will of his Father" and not his own will. Jn. 5:30
- M. "The works which the Father hath given me bear witness that the Father hath sent me." Jn. 5:36
- N. He is the Way; no man can come to the Father but by him. Jn. 14:6,7
- O. "The Father loveth you, because ye have loved me." Jn. 16:27.
- P. Three Truths that flow from Jesus' Teaching about God as Father:
- (1) Individualism -- God knows ~~the single man~~ *each individual person* and cares for him ~~or her~~
 - (2) Universalism -- if God cares for each ~~man~~ *person*, then He cares for ALL men, not just for one nation whether Jewish, Anglo-Saxon, Teutonic, or Aryan.
 - (3) Religion becomes a PERSONAL religion -- the rule of God is to be carried out in the family, industry, society, the state, church; but the heart of it all is man's personal fellowship with God.
- Confessing the creed, performing the rite or ceremony, belonging to the church or the nation, cannot take the place of this personal relation of the child with the Father.
- Q. The word "FATHER" referring to God, is mentioned 142 times in the 4 gospels - and over 100 times in the Gospel of John alone.

III. Jesus Taught that God Offers Himself Freely and Without Force to the Individual.

A. Jn. 6:35-37, "He who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes on me shall never thirst....

All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out."

B. Heine, the great German poet, revealed the shallowness of his faith when he replied to a friend who had tried to comfort him in his dying moment by assuring him of God's forgiveness. Said Heine: "Of course He will forgive.

It's His business to forgive!"

But it isn't that easy.

C. A little Chinese girl who had just learned about the Christian God said: "Our gods ask so much.

Your God gives so much."

Yes, He does give so much;

He gives Himself in love.

CONCLUSION:

Emily Dickinson once spoke of the "hazy oblong blur which my parents worship and call God."

For all too many people, God is a hazy, oblong blur.

Jesus brought this hazy oblong blur into sharp focus, revealing God as a loving Father.

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