

Father's Day 2024 Pastor Dave Kuss

Jesus came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him and cried. "Lord, have mercy on my son," "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. .".... ["Lord, have mercy on my son,"] Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment. Matt 17

This is the ultimate Father's Day – where the father gets what he really wants. He doesn't want socks or jocks or chocolate – he wants his very sick son to be healed. Who wouldn't?

"Lord have mercy on my son, on my daughter"

The Father's prayer is answered – the boy is healed.

Now they can go to the park and throw Frisbees, kick the footy.

That's what you're supposed to do isn't it – that's what I saw on the TV.

The perfect Coles Father's Day with the:

- the perfect picnic – chicken, salad and fresh bread.
- the perfect warm, gentle, wife and dog,
- the perfect athletic kids running and competing with the dog to catch the Frisbee.
- And the perfect Father wearing an "I ♥ Dad" T-Shirt.

It's the image, It's the expectation.

Commercialism cashes in on Father's Day.

We are compelled to those socks, those jocks, those chocolates.

I saw some great Father's day T-Shirts in K-Mart – with a message for the day.

- *You can't scare me – I have 3 kids*
- *Who are these kids and why are they calling me Dad*
- *Do not resuscitate*
- *D.A.D.D (Dads against Daughters Dating)*

Sorry I'm not into commercialism.

But I still get caught up in this present thing - walking aimlessly up and down the aisles looking for that perfect plastic gift.

I find it hard buying presents – what about you?

I bought Ilona a candle for Mother's day and she burned it.

When my kids buy me something I just hope I can afford it.

How do we be good Fathers? (Mothers?)

- Is it throwing Frisbees or kicking the footy with the kids?
- Is it spending time together?

The father in Mathew saw the desperate need of his son:

"He has seizures, he's in pain, he's teased mercilessly, he often falls into the fire or into the creek, people laugh at him – I can't help him.

He seeks Jesus out and says: “Lord, have mercy on my son”.
 What a father? What a prayer? “Lord have mercy on my son”
 He’s saying I can’t help my son – Lord you can help – Have mercy on my Son.

There is nothing commercial about a son or a daughter in need.
 It’s an agonising thing – especially when you can’t help.
 The pain when you can’t help your own kids is indescribable.

In the scriptures there’re hundreds of people who turned to Jesus because they could not help their kids. But get this:
 There was one Father who had a son who was in deep trouble – he was sentenced to death.
 His crime was the sin of the world – he carried every sin of every person, past, present, and future.
 He was hung on a cross and endured unimaginable suffering.
 And when his suffering was at its worst, he turned to his Father and cried:
 “Father why have you abandoned me”
 “Father why are you not helping me.”

The help did not come and Jesus died absolutely abandoned by the Father – the very father who could have saved him;

- who could have removed the nails
- who could have removed the pain
- who could have removed the shame
- That Father left him to die on a cross.

Happy Father’s Day! – let me buy you a T-shirt.
 The earthly father of the son who had seizures did everything he could for his son.
 The heavenly father abandoned his son.

You know many abandon God when they see Jesus abandoned on the cross.
 They say, if that is what he does He’s not the God for me
 If it wasn’t for our friend, the Holy Spirit I’m sure we would all walk out and want nothing to do with the heavenly Father who abandons his son.
 Would you agree?

But the Holy Spirit is our friend, our counsellor. He says wait!
 He wants us to know that it was just as much Jesus’ will to go to the cross, as it was the fathers will.
 The Father and Son have one will – nothing had ever come between them until the first Father’s day – when Jesus took on the son of the world.

The sin of the world came between them.

Paul says *“God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God”* ([2 Corinthians 5:21](#))

In Habakkuk it explains why the Father abandons the Son:

My God, my Holy One, Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate any sin at all (Hab 1:13)

When Jesus took on our sin the Father could not tolerate the son – the Father had to abandon the son.

Thank God for our friend the Holy Spirit because in this hell we hear a gentle voice. We can hear love in the same text that others hear hate, “God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that through Jesus we become the righteousness of God.”

In what seemed a despicable act for a father we hear it was for us, so that in Jesus we become the righteousness of God.”

Even this is too much for some – even if it was for us it’s just too cruel.

- Let’s know that it was Jesus will to take our sin to the cross.
- Let’s know that it was our sin, our eternal separation from God, that made him do it.
- Let’s know the Father has to abandon him – there was no choice – the Father, purity, pure love, cannot come even close to evil – lest the evil is consumed – we don’t want to be consumed.
- Let’s also know that Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father – again exercising their common will together.

This first Father’s day was for us – that we might become the righteousness of God – with Jesus.

The heavenly Fathers will and our will are quite different.

We like everything to look right, the wife, the dog, the picnic, the T-shirt, the Frisbee. The heavenly Father knows that things are not right at the picnic – there are all kinds of things going on.

Matthews tells us it’s not the chicken that goes into the mouth that makes us a sinner, it is what comes out of the mouth that makes us sinful.

If you don’t believe me just hear what happens when the kid accidentally steps on the mum’s foot while chasing the Frisbee.

The Heavenly Fathers will is for his son to take on our sin to make us right for heaven.

The Heavenly Fathers will is that his son Jesus dies for me and you.

The heavenly fathers will is that we – you and me and Jesus and the Father become one and live in harmony – for ever.

Jesus took the sin and evil of the world out of that equation so that the heavenly father’s wish could be a reality. That first Father’s day Jesus says, take me not them, Let me suffer not them, let me die not them – Father have mercy on them.

Your have prayed just like that when you kid was really suffering or sick or being teased.

Lord let me take it – let them be free.

This Jesus prayer – Father let me take it – let them be free.

And the guarantee that the father answers Jesus prayer is in those somber words:
Father why have you abandoned me.

That's our guarantee that Jesusa has the sin of the world on his back.
Father why have you abandoned me.100% guarantee.

Lord have mercy on us, Lord have mercy on our kids.

Father, through your Son Jesus – take away all our sin – take away our pain and grief, take away our thoughts of unworthiness and unrighteousness and lead us to be with you and Jesus forever. Amen.