

God's Love For Orphans, Part 3

We should all thank God that He is a God of compassion, having pity on orphans.

All of us had NOTHING to offer God, being trapped in the mire of sin.

But the love of God is beyond human comprehension.

He reaches out to the unlovely; simply because THAT'S WHO HE IS.

Just as we studied, He IS eternal life.

Well, He IS love, and that's just that.

Ro 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ **died** for us.*

Of course, there's no greater demonstration possible to prove one's love.

Ro 5:19 *For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.*

When Adam fell, Satan had a victory, and he was given temporary control over this world.

And all men born after Adam inherited his fallen state.

But of course, our God, who loves orphans, who loves the destitute, couldn't let that lie.

Helping the Helpless: Were it not for God reaching out to us and saving us, we would have been lost forever. He offers the righteousness of Christ, and therefore spiritual adoption, to anyone whose willing to place their trust in His Son.

We were all born helpless; in a situation with no hope.

"Born This Way": Every person since the Fall of Adam is **born under sin**, and therefore as "children of the devil"; children of a tyrant, under slavery to sin. **1Jn 3:10, Jn 8:44**

And God saw all this, before time began, and His love said I've got to do something.

God's passion just couldn't sit back and ignore it!

That's not who He is.

The perspective has been to **rightly see ourselves as spiritual orphans...**

... who have now been adopted by God through faith in Christ.

It began with all of us sinners... now saved by grace...

... and it extends to others in this world who don't yet see the Light.

Helping the Helpless: As an extension of Jesus, we reach out to spiritual orphans, and literal orphans... both are noble activities because they involve helping the helpless, the very thing God loves to do.

In Part 2, we expanded on **pure religion**, and visiting **orphans and widows...**

... and the Spirit prompted us to consider what they have in common, and why they are often mentioned together in Holy Scripture.

Orphans and Widows: A common description would be that they have lost someone in their life who **loved** them and **provided** for them... and therefore **God the Father reaches out to them with both love and provisions, and He calls us to do the same!**

So there's an emotional pain, losing a loved one, and a practical (logistical) pain, losing a provider.

But God the Father steps in, often providing **both love and provisions** in ways that are **indescribable**.

And He often uses others to help with that.

And so, **we also have this calling on our lives,...**

... to help those in need, both spiritually and practically/materially.

Again, **BOTH** are a shining example of the love of God the Father.

And when we live with the heart of God like this, we bring great glory to our God and Savior.

We've also talked a lot about adoption, and how being adopted, believers have a **new Father**, and a new inheritance, now being a member of His family!!

Our Adoption: Jesus died to make us **His brothers**; and for us to be able to call God **our Father**, as He did. **Gal 4:4-7**

Obviously, His sacrifice made these grand relationships possible, for all eternity.

Here's another verse to consider, as we find common ground with our fellow man.

Gal 4:4-7 *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5 so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the **adoption** as sons. 6 Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"*

7 Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

That's a message we can share when spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

You never know what perspective is going to hit an unbeliever right between the eyes, but the Spirit does.

And in this day of families being torn apart, the Spirit is saying consider the wonderful family of God...

... consider, unbeliever, that God is good, and all good things come from Him...

... and He wants to rescue you from the devil's world, and the corruption of sin, and death.

Consider that He wants you, even when no one else does.

And our gracious, faithful Lord promised not to leave us alone as orphans.

He promised He would come back for us, once our rooms are prepared and the time is right.

Jn 14:1-3 ESV *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also."*

In the meantime, our loving Father sends us His love and provisions, as we await the day of glory....

... the adoption consummated.

We've also talked a lot about living in the heart of God...

... to know God is to know His heart for the lost and the needy, and those in distress.

Jas 1:27 *Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.*

And we saw this verse, again revealing God's heart towards those in need:

Jer 22:16 *"He pled the cause of the afflicted and needy; Then it was well. Is not that what it means to know Me?" Declares the Lord.*

And orphans and widows in distress are an example held up for us in the Bible.

One other commonality to think about with widows and orphans...

Orphans and Widows: When you help those who are "in distress", **Jas 1:27**, you're helping those who cannot reciprocate, **Lk 14:12-14**.

Just think about that. You are helping those in a truly helpless situation, **who can't pay you back**. (and maybe that's why it's a pure thing in God's eyes)

And isn't that what our Lord did for us??

Lk 14:12-14 *And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may*

also invite you in return and that will be your repayment. 13 "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, 14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

If you'll notice, and hopefully you have been...

Spirituality Is Practical: God is tying in the spiritual with the practical. He has us going back and forth from the spiritual to the material for a reason; to see that spiritual things have a practical application to life.

Instead of hyper-spiritualizing everything, we should ask **what spiritual things mean in living out our lives.**

And sometimes the spiritual and material collide in a wonderful and unexpected way...

... again, both illustrating the wonderful love of God our Father.

And along the same lines, the Spirit has been teaching us for years now...

Love Is An Activity: It begins in the changed heart, and proceeds out in the living of life with others. We might say **love is practical!** Jn 13:17,15:13, Ro 5:8

Maybe that's why Jesus said: **you are blessed if you DO these things.**

God is practical.

With God, nothing is for no reason. (stay with me now:)

In other words, everything has a reason with God.

Nothing He does is useless or purposeless; especially because He IS love.

God's love is meant to actually reach out and help people.

And the example before us now is how we treat orphans and widows in distress.

And we see James' encouragement to live out life serving widows and orphans in distress was lived out thousands of years before by Job.

Let's read again about the great illustration of Job's life...

Job 29:1-17 *And Job again took up his discourse and said,
2 "Oh that I were as in months gone by, As in the days when God
watched over me; 3 When His lamp shone over my head, **And by His
light I walked through darkness;***

*4 As I was in the prime of my days, When the friendship of God was
over my tent; 5 When the Almighty was yet with me, And my children
were around me; 6 When my steps were bathed in butter, And the rock
poured out for me streams of oil!*

*7 "When I went out to the gate of the city, When I took my seat in the
square, 8 The young men saw me and hid themselves, And the old men
arose and stood. 9 "The princes stopped talking And put their hands on
their mouths;*

10 *The voice of the nobles was hushed, And their tongue stuck to their palate.* 11 *"For when the ear heard, it called me blessed, And when the eye saw, it gave witness of me,* 12 ***Because*** *I delivered the poor who cried for help, And the **orphan** who had no helper.*

13 *"The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me, And I made the **widow's** heart sing for joy.* 14 *"I put on righteousness, and it clothed me; My justice was like a robe and a turban.* 15 *"I was eyes to the blind And feet to the lame.*

16 *"**I was a father to the needy,** And I investigated the case which I did not know.* 17 *"I broke the jaws of the wicked And snatched the prey from his teeth.*

There we see the lifestyle of a blameless and upright man, in God's eyes.

Now, let's pause here for a balance statement, men. :)

Don't go put on your red capes and fly into action!

Let's not get a hero complex and make it all about ourselves.

It's about doing the right thing, by grace, through faith.

Amen???

That's being said, Job was a great example of living in the righteousness of God.

Why "Blameless And Upright"? : Job defended the weak and spoke up for them when no one else would (as God does!). And

people knew he wouldn't overlook their unrighteous activities against the orphans and widows. In fact, he fought for them, even though it wasn't his fight. **Job 1:1,29:1-17**

And because Job belonged to God, and he KNEW God's kindness towards him, he lived as God would have him live...

This my friends is a living illustration of **pure and undefiled religion**,...

And this is one clear and definite way we are told to live out our lives as believers in Christ.

The Simple Truth: As followers of Christ, we are instructed to do things like participate in the Great Commission, **Mt 28:20**, care for orphans and widows, **Jas 1:27**, and love the brethren, **Jn 13:34-35, 15:13, Ro 13:8**. These are all **very practical ways** to express our faith in Jesus Christ!

And even simpler, our Lord said we will be blessed if we do them.

The only question is do we really believe Him in our hearts.

As the Spirit also brought to our minds... **there's really no shortage of people in need.**

Not only are there plenty of spiritual orphans in this world to approach about God's adoption plan...

... but there are also plenty of literal orphans and widows to reach

out to, IF we open our eyes.

There is plenty of opportunity to stop sitting around and wondering what God wants us to do.

Defend The "Fatherless": The Bible often calls orphans the "fatherless", because the father is usually the provider in a family, esp. if the mother is staying home to properly raise the child. **Ps 68:5, 146:9**

And in many countries even today, there are no jobs for women... they couldn't find work even if they wanted to.

And think about how difficult it is for a single mother in America to support her children.

In fact, you might find both a widow and an orphan; one who has lost her husband and another who has lost his father.

Heck, you might bring a woman like this a bag of potatoes and babysit her child for a few hours!

What does that mean to someone in that difficult situation, when you show them love like that???

The Spirit's saying instead of thinking you're spiritual by sitting home contemplating all the time; get up and do the things you say you believe in.

God Loves Orphans: DO LIKE GOD. Ps 68:5, Jas 1:27, Jn 13:17

God **does** because love **does**, and God IS love.

And the Spirit's telling us to remember:

God visited you and I, orphans without hope, and He reached out to save us, did He not?!

And He's saying *this is what my children do, as well.*

Follow the example of your good Father, and your brother and Savior, TLJC.

We may not be able to raise people from the dead, but we can certainly reach out and comfort a grieving widow.

Even the "worst of us" can do that... by grace through faith.

Here's a point we need to get to:

God's Purposes Are Known: We often get caught sitting home in self-pity, as though we haven't been given new life in Christ. Well, we're deceiving ourselves. His Word tells us what He wants us to DO, practically speaking! **Mic 6:8, Jn 13:13-17, Gal 2:10**

Gal 2:10 *They only asked us to remember the poor – the very thing I also was eager to do.*

Mic 6:8 MSG *But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women.*

*It's quite simple: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor,
be compassionate and loyal in your love,
And don't take yourself too seriously –
take God seriously.*

Our faith is to be **exercised** on others, not only expressed privately to God our Father.

Our Father reached down to others in need, and that's what our Father wants us to do as well.

We're Given Purpose: Following Jesus includes **living for others**, as Jesus did when He healed the multitudes everywhere He went. We are to lay down our lives for others, someday, somehow, as the Spirit leads each of us. **Jn 15:13** It is then we will be blessed/happy. **Jn 13:17**

I'm sure He was tired, and thirsty, and tired of dealing with people pulling on Him and even sinning against Him.

But that didn't matter to Him. Self wasn't His priority.

The Father's will was His priority.

And He desires us to reach out and love others, in a variety of ways...

... ultimately that's between you and the Lord.

But don't be deceived by sitting home on the couch and thinking you are living the spiritual life.

God is very practical remember; His love doesn't exist for nothing. Love is active.

Why not go to the local soup kitchen and help serve the poor some food???

WHY NOT???

Anyone can do it. It takes willingness, not talent.

It takes choosing to live in the love of God, instead of just talking about it.

Why is that not our focus, the priority in our hearts?

Well, that's between each of us and the Lord. Maybe we're not ready yet.

Or maybe we too busy sulking and focusing on self.

That's between you and the Lord.

But you too can love your life, for one reason only...

... because you choose to walk in God's purpose for you.

And as we know, we'll be more blessed if we GIVE, not sit around waiting to receive.

That's sin's path to misery.

We can and will accomplish good for His Name, and it's by simpler means that we like to think, as we over-spiritualize everything.

In Deuteronomy, God is giving instructions to the nation of Israel, and how His people should live:

Deu 14:28-29 *At the end of every third year you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in that year, and shall deposit it in your town. 29 "The Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance among you, and **the alien, the orphan and the widow who are in your town**, shall come and eat and be satisfied, in order that the Lord your God **may bless you** in all the work of your hand which you do.*

Deu 16:9-15 *You shall count seven weeks for yourself; you shall begin to count seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. 10 "Then you shall celebrate the Feast of Weeks to the Lord your God with a tribute of a freewill offering of your hand, which you shall give just as the Lord your God blesses you; 11 and you shall rejoice before the Lord your God, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite who is in your town, **and the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your midst**, in the place where the Lord your God chooses to establish His name.*

12 "You shall remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and you shall be careful to observe these statutes. 13 "You shall celebrate the Feast of Booths seven days after you have gathered in from your threshing floor and your wine vat; 14 and you shall rejoice in your feast, you and your son and your daughter and your male and female servants and the Levite and **the stranger and the orphan and the widow who are in your towns**.

15 "Seven days you shall celebrate a feast to the Lord your God in the place which the Lord chooses, because the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all the work of your hands, so that you will be

altogether joyful.