



# 溪邊的樹

July & Aug 2007

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Orlando FL  
Permit No. 2357

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## 慈愛的天父

剛才唱的詩歌說：主有豐富的慈愛，恩典取之不盡，在基督裡有無限的豐盛。主供應，一直不斷的供應，願今天早晨主親自供應我們！

早上要從約翰一書三章一節開始交通，請看約翰一書三章一節，這裡說到：世上的人不認識祂，所以他們也不認識我們所認識的這一位，但是我們知道我們認識祂，我們認識的這一位是我們的父。並說到，父賜給我們何等的慈愛，因此我們得稱為神的兒女，神是我們天上的父親。下面聖經這麼說，我們也真是祂的兒女，我們感謝主。

今年四月，弟兄安排我在清華大學有一次聚會。到了清華就想起，朱自清先生在清華園寫的“背影”這篇有名的文章。故事的内容大概是這樣的：朱自清的祖母過世，他到徐州奔喪。喪事辦完後，他父親要往南京找事，所以他與父親同搭火車到南京。住了幾天，他轉車回北京，父親堅持要送他到火車站。當他在火車上坐好，父親交代他這兒，交代他那兒，然後說：你在這兒坐著，我去對面買些橘子。當朱自清看到他父親的背影，爬到月台下面，穿過火車軌道，很吃力的爬上那邊月台，他眼淚就留下來了。他父親用長袍兜著橘子回來，交給他後，又囑咐了一些事，就轉身走了。看見父親的背影消失在人群中，他不禁又淚流不止。這以後，好幾年沒看見他的父親，後來收到父親的來信，

提到大去之期不遠矣。朱自清先生眼中再度浮起他父親那肥胖的背影，而又淚流滿頰，不知哪一天能再看見父親。我在清華園常情不自禁的，想到這篇文章。

離得那麼遠，我想到在洛杉磯的父親。想起 1961 年我離家上大學，第一個寒假回家，因著過年回台北的火車票不容易買，父親幫我安排，從屏東搭空軍便機回台北。一大早，天還沒亮，下著小雨，父親陪我，坐軍用吉普車從高雄往屏東去。因為路滑，當吉普車快速駛下屏東大橋的斜坡時，司機精神一個恍惚，吉普車就飛了出去，像茶杯一樣蓋在稻田上，我們三個人就被扣在車裡。我順著一絲光線爬了出來、沒事，可是司機整個人卻被壓在擋風玻璃下。父親也爬出來了，但覺得右邊肩膀有些不舒服，仍勉強拖著行李、爬到公路邊上，攔了一部軍用大卡車帶我們到屏東飛機場，讓我趕上飛機回到台北。幾天後，才知道父親的傷很嚴重，不久就來台北開刀。因為他一身軍戎，右臂不方便敬禮，非同小事。幸虧復健好一段時間後，他的右肩總算恢復。後來雖然又開刀、把用來定位右肩的兩根釘子拿出來了，但骨頭上的釘痕卻永遠在那兒，身上永遠帶著開刀的疤印。因為他清早起來送我上飛機，留下釘痕和疤印那愛的記號。

多少年以後，我信主了，認識了更大的那位父親——天父。因祂愛我們，在祂手上、在祂腳上有那不能減去的傷痕。我們要常常記得祂怎樣愛我們：為我們的救恩，祂來到地上；為我們能得著生命，祂被釘在十字

架上。主耶穌出來服事的三年半時間，常常提起：『父啊！父啊！』有一次祂差遣七十人出去，這七十個人做工回來，非常開心。主耶穌告訴他們：不要為著工作歡喜，要為著天父的啓示，能認識這位天父而歡喜。祂教導門徒，這位是我們的父親。祂禱告：『父啊！天地的主！我感謝你！』當祂與馬大，馬利亞來到拉撒路的墳墓前；祂也開始禱告：『父啊！我知道你常聽我的禱告，現在你要作一些事、讓周圍的人都認識你。』當有一些希臘人來見主耶穌，安得烈把他們帶到主面前，主知道祂的時候到了，祂就向父禱告：『父啊！求你榮耀你的名，讓周圍的人都認識你這位天上的父！』天上的父就響應祂。約翰福音十七章，主耶穌要離開門徒，祂向父禱告：『父啊！願你榮耀你的兒子，因為我已經榮耀了你。』到最後，主耶穌上了十字架，在十字架上祂說：『父啊！求你赦免他們，因為他們所做的，他們不知道。』弟兄姊妹，主耶穌來到地上，不只為我們的罪死，為我們復活，讓我們得著新的生命。祂在這新生命裡面，告訴我們一個極重要的信息，就是這位神是我們的父親。

在舊約中，猶太人沒有這種觀念，他們只知道神是公義的、是嚴厲的，神要他們守許多誡命：守誡命，他們就蒙福，不守誡命，他們就得咒詛。但是主耶穌來了，住在我們每個人心裡，祂要我們認識這位神是我們的父親。老約翰就深深的體會到這點，約翰一書三章一節“你看父所賜給我們是何等的慈愛，使我們得稱為神的兒女！我們也真是祂的兒女。”因此，主就將父向我們顯現。多馬曾對主說：『主啊！我們不知道你往哪裡去，怎麼知道那條路呢？』主說：『我就是道路、真理、生命；若不藉著我，沒有人能到父那裡去。』腓力就說：『求你將父顯給我們看』，主說：『你們看見了我，就是看見了父。』主耶穌來到地上，任務之一就是將父向我們顯現，啓示我們，這位神是我們的父親。所以，主在約翰福音十七章的禱告，“我已經將你的名顯明給他們”。曾經許久我自問：這向門徒啓示的，是哪個名呢？

當你再往下看，你就明白，原來這名就是“父”。

我們再思想一下，聖經中向我們顯明的這位父，是怎樣的一位父呢？

詩篇 103 篇 13 節“父親怎樣憐恤他的兒女，耶和華也怎樣憐恤敬畏祂的人。”所以聖經首先啓示我們，這位父親憐恤我們，祂怎樣憐恤我們呢？好像我們做父親的，憐恤他兒女一樣；我們當中有許多做父親的，做祖父的，你們懂得如何憐恤你們的孩子。我自己為人父，一個兒子，一個女兒；雖然他們都已長大成婚在外，但是每次想到孩子們的困難，心中就有說不盡的憐恤。聖經告訴我們：『父親怎樣憐恤他的兒女，這位神也怎樣憐恤我們。』所以主耶穌在登山寶訓上，一開頭就說：『憐恤人的，有福了！』因為祂要我們認識，祂是憐恤的那一位。聖經告訴我們，可以隨時到祂面前禱告，因為祂是施憐憫的那一位，我們來到祂的施恩寶座前，蒙恩惠、得憐恤，作隨時的幫助。主耶穌來了，祂說：『祂喜歡憐恤，不喜歡祭祀；』故此，祂說祂來召罪人，不是來召義人。祂看見我們身上的罪，祂看見我們落在重擔中，祂憐恤我們。祂來救我們脫離罪惡、救我們脫離世界的捆綁、救我們脫離黑暗、救我們脫離仇敵陰府的權柄。讓我們成爲一個自由的人、讓我們成爲一個被釋放的人、讓我們享受天父的慈愛，這是祂的憐恤。

以弗所書 5 章 1-2 節“所以你們該效法神，好像蒙慈愛的兒女一樣。也要憑愛心行事，正如基督愛我們捨了自己，當作馨香的供物和祭物獻與神。”這裡告訴我們，我們是蒙慈愛的兒女。我們接受了這愛，那這愛是從哪裡來的？愛落在我們這些成爲兒女的人身上，因為愛來自那位父親，這位父親愛我們，祂是慈愛的父。這是什麼樣的愛呢？這是基督的愛，祂爲我們捨了自己。所以這位天上的神，祂是父，祂有捨己的愛。約翰一書 4 章 9 節：“神差祂獨生子到世間來，使我們藉著祂得生，神愛我們的心在此就顯明了。”神的愛不只是說說而已，是有行動

的愛。祂捨了祂的獨生子，差祂到世間來，為我們死、為我們復活、讓我們因祂而得生，這就是神捨己的愛。我們常把愛放在嘴上，見面時，只說些不著邊際問候的話；聽到弟兄姊妹有難處，隨口說句‘我替你禱告’就算了事。這不是愛，這是自欺，我們要效法神那捨己的愛。羅馬書 5:8 “唯有基督在我們還作罪人的時候為我們死了，神的愛就在此顯明了。”

路加福音 15 章 11-12 節、耶穌又說：“一個人有兩個兒子。小兒子對父親說：‘父親，請你把我應得的家業分給我。’他父親就把產業分給他們。”主用路加福音這裡的父親，說到我們天上父親的第三方面：這個父親有寬廣的心。我們與人之間的相處，常因別人一個眼色，就懷恨在心，不能釋懷；也因別人頂撞你一句話，而不再理睬。我們也常以這麼窄小的眼光，看這位寬廣的神。那小兒子拿了父親分給他的產業，歡歡喜喜的離開家。這父親明明知道這小兒子會浪蕩，可是這寬廣的父親仍然把產業給了他，任他去揮霍。他明明知道那個大兒子心胸狹窄，也把產業分給沒有明著要產業的大兒子。弟兄姊妹，我們一定要認識，神的心是廣大的。有時候，我們任意妄為，以為神不知道，卻不懂得神有一個寬廣的心。

羅馬書第一章說：祂任憑！祂任憑！請注意，不是祂不能在我們身上做事，祂暫時讓你去犯罪，犯罪到自己都厭煩，到一個地步，你回轉向神。同樣那父親知道，到了盡頭，小兒子必定回頭。果然聖經告訴我們，最後小兒子衣衫襤褸的回來了。這位寬廣心胸的父親動了慈心，遠遠看見就跑過去抱著兒子親嘴。弟兄姊妹，在我們剛開始犯罪的時候，天上的父親已經知道我們回頭的光景。祂遠遠的看見，已經動了慈心，而且祂要擁抱我們。請注意，這裡說：父親跑去擁抱他，不是這小兒子遠遠看見父親，跑過來擁抱父親。我想，主耶穌講這個比喻的時候，猶太人必定笑祂，因為在猶太人的文化中，沒有一個做父親的，而又是一個財主，會跑去

抱他的兒子。為什麼這個父親會動了慈心，遠遠的看見，會跑去擁抱他呢？因為父親的心是何等的寬廣。而當家裡都那麼歡歡喜喜、大兒子不進來時，還是父親出去勸他，這就是父親那寬廣的心。

希伯來書 12 章 5-7 節“我兒，你不可輕看主的管教，被祂責備的時候，也不可灰心。因為主所愛的，祂必管教，又鞭打凡所收納的兒子。你們所忍受的，是神管教你們，待你們如同待兒子，焉有兒子不被父親管教的呢？”10-11 節“生身的父都是暫隨己意管教我們；唯有萬靈的父管教我們，是要我們得益處，使我們在祂的聖潔上有份。凡管教的事，當時不覺得快樂，反覺得愁苦，後來卻為那經煉過的人結出平安的果子，就是義。”我們務必要認識這位在天上的父親：祂憐恤我們像父親憐恤兒子一樣；祂向我們施慈愛，將祂兒子捨了給我們；祂也尊重我們，以寬大的心容忍我們；但也正因為祂愛我們，總有一天祂要管教我們。所以，我們在主面前不敢隨便：不敢隨便說話、不敢任意行事，因為當管教的手來的時候，是嚴厲的。神憐恤敬畏祂的人、祂保護敬畏祂的人、祂垂聽敬畏祂的人。所以我們要有一個敬畏祂的心，就是管教臨到我們，我們也要敬畏祂。因為這所臨到的一切，都是由於祂愛我們。啓示錄說：我疼愛的就責備管教。為了讓我們得益處，祂用管教的手，把祂的性格模到我們裡面去，使祂的聖潔和公義成為我們生命的一部份。大衛懂得管教，當他行了淫亂時，神管教他，叫拔示巴的孩子受神的擊打，大衛明白神的心意，他仍起來服事神。大衛數點百姓，神對付他，他就買下禾場，向神獻祭，所以大衛是一個合神心意的人。

記得小時候被父親管教的事。最記得我五歲在南京剛念幼稚園時，每早有一位士兵帶我去上學。一到幼稚園，我就肚子痛，這位士兵只好把我帶回家，回家以後，肚子就不痛了。這個把戲耍了三天，父親回家了，“今天肚子又痛了？！”父親用他的綁腿把

我綁在長凳上，狠狠打我屁股，打得我大聲哭喊，連街上都聽得見。從那次以後，肚子再也不痛了，每天好好去上學。許多年，我一直無法忘懷那場痛打，非常氣我父親。但今天我要感謝父親，假如說我讀了一點書、我學了一點事、就是因為那一頓打。弟兄姊妹，就像我們天父那管教的手，因為祂愛我們，祂要我們得益處。祂的憐恤臨到我們，祂的慈愛臨到我們，讓我們認識祂的寬廣，也認識祂的公義。感謝主，我們能更認識我們天上的父，祂愛我們，祂不斷的供應，不斷的愛我們，引領我們走人生的路，所以我們要在每天生活中、更親近天上這位慈愛的父親。



## The Loving Heavenly Father

The hymn writer wrote, "His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto man; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!" May the Lord give us His own words this morning!

We begin our sharing from 1 John 3:1, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God; and such we are. For this cause the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not." The world knew Him not, but we know Him as the Father. We are called His children, and we know what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us. Thanks be to God!

In April it was arranged for me to speak for a meeting at the Qinghua University. While on campus I thought about Mr. Zhu Ziqing's famous essay of "the Silhouette of My Father's Back" written there many years ago. The story went like this: His grandmother passed away and he went home for the funeral. Afterwards, he accompanied his father to Nanjing since his father had to find work there. Few days later he was to take a train back to Beijing, and the father insisted on coming to the station to bid him farewell. Once settled in his seat, his father went across the platform to buy him some oranges. He was watching the back view

of his heavy-set father climbing down the platform, crossing the rail then climbing clumsily up the other side.... He could not hold back the tears coming down his cheek. Noticed that the father was coming back toward him, he quickly wiped the tears dry. Leaving the oranges with him, his father finally said goodbye and left him. He again watched his father's back disappearing in the crowd as he walked away, his tears came down again. Many years passed and he had not seen his father. One day he received his father's letter, expressing the fear of the end being near. Mr. Zhu said once again he saw that heavy-set back silhouette, and his tears came once again.

In Qinghua I thought about Mr. Zhu's writing, and I thought about my own father far away in Los Angeles. My memory went back to 1961, that first year of my college life. It was the first winter break and I went home. The train ticket back to Taipei was hard to find, so Dad arranged for me to catch a military transport back to school. That morning bright early he and I rode in his military jeep to Pingdong airport. It was raining lightly, and as the jeep speeded down the slippery road of Pingdong bridge, the driver dozed off and the car flew off the highway. Like a teacup flipped over in the rice field, all three of us were covered underneath the jeep. The driver was caught by the wind shield and could not move. Somehow I got out, so was Dad, who was nevertheless injured on the right shoulder. Still he took my luggage, got on the highway and hitchhiked a military truck to take me to the airport. Few days later I learned that his injury required surgery in Taipei. As a Marine general, an injured right arm and shoulder would prevent him from saluting, and that would be very troublesome. Fortunately, the surgery was successful, but he endured months of physical therapy afterwards. A second surgery later removed the two nails holding his shoulder bones together. I saw the two nails, which became a reminder of the permanent scars on his shoulder bone and flesh. All because he wanted to take me to my flight early that morning, the scars remained as a symbol of love.

Years later I became a Christian to know an even greater father, the heavenly One. Because God loves us, there remains nail-scars on His

hand and His feet. For our salvation He came to the earth in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord to die for us on the Calvary cross. During the three and half years of His earthly ministry our Lord often mentioned "the Father". Once He sent 70 out to work. When they returned and rejoiced, the Lord reminded them of the greater joy in the Father's revelation. He taught the disciples to pray to the Heavenly Father. He Himself prayed when the Greek came to seek for Him, "Father, glorify your own Name!" When He came to the tomb of Lazarus, He prayed to the Father to work so those around would know Him. In John 17 He prayed the Father to glorify the Son, "for I have glorified you." Finally, He cried out on the cross to the Father to "forgive them for they know not what they do." The Lord Jesus came not only to die for our sins, and was raised for our justification, so we may have life. This life in us also teaches us an important truth, that this God is now our Father.

In the Old Testament the Jews did not have this concept. They only knew about obeying the commandments. If they did, they would be blessed. Otherwise, there would be curse. They only knew God as the righteous and fearful One. But, Jesus came, and now abides in our hearts. He wants us to know that this God is our Father. That is why the Apostle John said in 1 John 3:1, "Behold what manner is the Father's love toward us, so we are called the children of God." Thomas once asked how they could know where Jesus was going. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. He who has seen me has seen the Father." Then Philip asked Him to show them the Father. Jesus continued in saying, "You who have seen me have seen the Father." Therefore, in John 17, Jesus stated that He has shown us God's Name. For a long time I wondered what that Name could be. As we read on in that chapter, we understand that the Name is "the Father". May we further meditate upon what this Father is like from the Bible:

First, we read in Psalm 103:13, "Like as a father pitieth his children, So Jehovah pitieth them that fear him." So the Bible revealed to us that God is like a Father that pitieth the children of His own. Among us are fathers and grandfathers. We know how we pity our children when they have needs. So is God toward those who fear Him. In the sermon on the mount, Jesus proclaimed, "Blessed

is the merciful," because He wants us to know His mercy. The Bible says that we can come boldly to the mercy seat to receive grace and mercy as our help for all seasons. Jesus came and said that He did not love sacrifices but mercy. So He called the sinners, not the righteous. He saw our sins and saved us from sin and this dark world. He set us free to enjoy the love of the heavenly Father. He is the merciful One.

Secondly, Ephesians 5:1-2 showed us the love of the Father. He loved us as children, and gave Himself for us with the love of sacrifice. 1 John 4:9 says, "Herein was the love of God manifested in us, that God hath sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him." His love is the love of action. He sent His Son into the world. Sometimes our love is only verbal. We say to a brother, "I will pray for you", then walk away with no action. We should not deceive ourselves to think that is love, but to learn from the Father and love one another by giving ourselves. Rom. 5:8, "When we were yet sinners, Christ died for our sins, and the love of God is manifested."

Thirdly, Luke 15:11-12 reads, "A certain man had two sons: and the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of thy substance that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living." Jesus showed us the heavenly Father by the father in this parable. Father has an open heart toward us. We can be so easily upset by others' word or act, because we are so narrow and small. Then we misunderstand this God, not knowing His big heart. The younger son asked for the property and the father gave to him. He knew how the boy would waste it, but he gave it anyway. He knew how jealous the older son was, so he gave to him as well. Sometimes we do whatever we want, thinking that God does not know. We misunderstand Him, not knowing that He has a big, open heart.

Romans Chapter one keeps on saying that God let them, God let them.... It is not that He cannot do, but He allows you to sin for now, with the hope that you will get sick with sinning and repent. The father in the parable of prodigal son knew the son will return one day. Indeed the son did, and the father on that day saw him from afar

and ran to embrace him. When the Jews heard this parable, they probably laughed at Jesus, because no elderly Jewish gentleman would run to a young boy. But that is the father's heart, open wide for the sinners. When the family rejoiced together, the older son refused to join in. It again was the father who went out to encourage him. That is the father's heart!

Lastly, Hebrews 12:5-7, "and ye have forgotten the exhortation which reasoneth with you as with sons, My son, regard not lightly the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art reprov'd of him; for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. It is for chastening that ye endure; God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father chasteneth not?" Then, v. 10-11, "For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed good to them; but he for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness. All chastening seems for the present to be not joyous but grievous; yet afterward it yieldeth peaceable fruit unto them that have been exercised thereby, even the fruit of righteousness." We should know that the heavenly Father has mercy toward us and loves us. He even respects us and bears with us for a time. But because He loves us, He will one day discipline us. Therefore we should not live irreverently in our speech nor our action. When His disciplinary hand appears, it is strict. He will show mercy to those who fear Him, so we need to fear Him. Revelation 3:19 says, "As many as I love, I reprove and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." For our good, He molds His nature into us through discipline, so we become partakers of His holiness and righteousness. David knew of this, so he served God when Bathsheba's child died; so he purchased the threshing field and offered sacrifices to God. He is called the man after God's own heart.

I still remember vividly how my father disciplined me when I was about five. I began attending kindergarten at that time in Nanjing. In the morning a soldier accompanied me to the school. As soon as I arrived, I developed a stomach ache, and the soldier took me home. As soon as I got home, I was well. That scheme continued for three days until my dad came home. He bound me on a long bench, and spanked me hard. My loud cry could be heard on the street. From that day on,

I never had a stomach ache at school anymore. For years I resent his spanking. But, if I had learned anything today, I know it is because of that discipline. It is the father's love, showing us the love of the heavenly Father. May we know His mercy, His love, His open heart and His righteousness. He leads us in our journey on earth with His love. We ought to draw near to Him everyday, to our dear heavenly Father!



## 感謝與代禱

1. 請弟兄姊妹繼續 記念多用途建築物工程的進度，求神帶領我們在建造過程中，更多的經歷主的恩典，願意把新的建築物仰望主，願祂的旨意成就。
2. 請記念在 Sanford 服事飛行員的福音聚會。求聖靈澆灌福音的種子，並親自收割成熟的莊稼。
3. 感謝主 設立 教會在本地方作見證二十五年，神的愛親自吸引人歸向祂。求神繼續帶領眾兒女在地上的服事，願榮耀歸與父神！

## Prayer And Thanksgiving

# 25th

1. Please continue to remember the progress for the multi-purpose building construction. May the Lord let us experience more of His grace during the whole process. We lift up the new building into His hand, and may His Will be done.
2. Please remember the Gospel meeting at Sanford serving the pilot trainees. May the Spirit water the seeds of the Gospel, and do the harvest Himself.
3. Thank the Lord for establishing His testimony through the church at this local area for 25 years, and His love draws people to Him everyday. May the Lord continue to guide His children in their services. Glory be to God!