

# God the Father

Rev. Fr. Martin Kalanparambil

There is no Father like our Father in heaven. Our thought about the Father can go wrong, but Truth in its fullness is revealed through Jesus.

I was going to a parish near Boston from the Port Authority bus stand in New York. I wish to share with you an incident – rather a God experience which I had during that journey.

I have been, of late, pondering over and contemplating on the relationship of Jesus with His Father and his revelations about the Father. I have noticed some specialities in the prayer of Jesus to his Father in the Bible. The first one of these is that Jesus always began his prayer, addressing 'Father'. Secondly, the Gospel writer tells us that he prayed lifting his eyes to heaven and calling out to his Father (Lk 9:16; 22:42; 23:34; Jn 11:41; 17:1). In spite of all our limitations, Jesus revealed his Father to us through the Word of God and through many of His deeds.

I have been praying repeating the words Jesus uttered about the Father. "Your Father who sees your prayer in secret will reward you" (Mt. 6:6). Your Father who sees you giving alms in secret promises you a reward (Mt. 6:3,4). Your good works should lead to the glorification of the Father (Mt. 5:16). "The Father will give you all that you ask for in the name of Jesus" (Jn 14:13,14). I used to pray repeating these verses. I have been meditating over the glorious work of the Father during my five hour journey from New York to Boston. During that time I heard a voice above my head, 'I am God the Father'. God the Father was revealed to me by way of voice. Whatever the Father reveals, has to be revealed to others. The Father has revealed himself to us through Jesus. "The Father and I are one" (Jn 10:30). "The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves" (Jn 14:10-11). On calling out to God the Holy Spirit, we will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit which will enable us to call out God the Father, according to the epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians and Galatians. "For all who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a

sprit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba! Father!' it is that very spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God" (Rom 8:15).

"And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of His son into our hearts crying Abba Father!" (Gal 4:6). John's Gospel reminds us that the Father who loves Jesus loves us too. "Those who love me will keep my Word and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them" (Jn 14:23). God desires that all should call him Father and it has been revealed in the Old Testament through prophet Jeremiah. We will take those words of Jeremiah as direct utterances to us. "I thought how I would set you among my children, and give you a pleasant land, the most beautiful heritage of all the nations. And I thought you would call me 'My Father' and would not turn from following me" (Jer 3:19). Let us call him Father lovingly and fulfill his wish. Thus God will become our Father and we his children. There is no Father like our Father in heaven. "And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father – the one in heaven" (Mat. 23:9). Our thought about the Father can go wrong, but Truth in its fullness is revealed through Jesus. Let us grow in prayer through the prayer of the Holy Spirit in the Word of God. God the Father speaks to us. God the Father who revealed everything to Jesus, living in Him and talking through Him, abides in us in the name of Jesus and speaks through us and acts through us.

Let us wait in prayer for the God experience and to receive graces that befit the children of God in order to grow in our faith in God the Father following the prayers of prophets and disciples who called out to our Father. Like Jesus who sought the will of the Father through prayer at dawn as well as dusk, we too will keep aside a good amount of time, seeking God in the calmness as well as turbulence of our day-to-day life. We will pray to the Almighty who is God of all time and season, to unite us in Him in His mercy.

*(Rev. Fr. Martin Paul V.C. was the Asstt. Director of Tabor Ashram and later the Director of Delhi (Faridabad) Vincential Retreat Centre. Now he serves as the Asst. Director of the Retreat Centre at New Jersey in the US. For information: e-mail: [divineprayercentre@gmail.in](mailto:divineprayercentre@gmail.in) Tel: 0019088359989).*

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