

SONS OF OUR FATHER - Lk 6:35

120620A

INTRODUCTION

1. Imagine being the heir of unimaginable wealth...
2. What if you are a *son of the Most High* - Lk 6:35?

1st: We Are Sons of the Father

1. Jn 1:12-13 - born of God w/ *rights*: ability & authority as children of God.
2. Lk 6:35 - *and*: additional motivation w/ expectation of *great reward*.
3. *you will be sons*: our identity & destiny demonstrated by childlike obedient kingdom-conduct - love proves that we are sons.
4. The tension: of the already & the not yet - already - Mat 5:43-48 behavior evidences identity as sons. Position entails function.
5. The ethic of sons exceeds that of sinners b/c we have God as our Father & image Him who is *kind to ungrateful & evil men*.

2nd: We Are to Imitate the Father

1. Lk 6:35 *for He Himself* - sons are like their father
2. You father is your 1st & dominant "power & principality". More often than not, people worship the god worshiped by their father - Ex 20:3-6
 - i. Our forefathers were idolaters - like Ab: Josh 24:2-3.
 - ii. But God - God breaks into generational idolatry to rescue His elect.
3. God becomes our Father, 1 Pt 1:17-19
 - i. *futile way of life inherited from forefathers*: idolatry
 - ii. but *you were redeemed by blood of Christ*
 - iii. 2 Pt 1:4 *partakers of the divine nature* - in union w/ Jesus
4. The nature of our sonship is determined by these words: *for He Himself*
 - i. We must, as sons, be like our Father - alive to live in His likeness.
 - ii. Eph 4:31-5:2 traits of the sons of Satan displaced w/ traits of the sons of God: kind, merciful, forgiving: *imitators of God as beloved children*
 - iii. Eph 4:24 *new [man] in likeness of God* = sonship
5. Of all God's traits, Jesus, THE Son, emph's *kindness & mercy* - Lk 6:35-38
 - i. Here is how we administer the rule of King Jesus - how we *judge* - so as to promote our Father's pardoning grace.
 - ii. We are sons in the Son charged to imitate the kindness of our Father.

Applic #1: Whose Child/Son are You?

1. It is difficult not to define self *according to the flesh* - 2C 5:12ff

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2. Jesus encountered descendants of Ab - Jn 8:31-47
 - i. These men were fleshly sons of Ab but spiritual sons of Satan.
 - ii. Ab's true seed act w/ Ab's faith & do the deeds of Ab: receive the promised Seed. How? Hear Jesus' words - those *of God* [Jn 1:12-13]
 - iii. Who are those who neither listen nor understand His words? Sons of Satan: hear Satan's words & do Satan's deeds: lie & kill. Enmity.
3. How can we tell the difference? The man's relationship to Word of God.
4. Who is your father? Who do you hear? imitate?

Applic #2: Listen and Watch Your Father and Imitate Him

1. Our earthly parentage is not our destiny. In heaven we are given new name.
2. Imitate your heavenly Father - from your heart by believing & following Jesus - Jn 1:18]; Jn 14:7f.
3. Do deeds of your Father - speak words of your Father.

Applic #3: Overcome the Sons of Satan as a Son of the Most High

1. Jesus overcame the sons of Satan in His death & resurrection.
2. Overcome - as sons of the Most High - imitate your Father.