water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – April 11, 2023

The Lord be with you.

Question, what do you like to call Jesus? How do you like to address Jesus when you pray? You call Jesus Lord. Savior, master, mighty God?

Well, I'm gonna talk today about calling Jesus and knowing Jesus as brother. As our brother. And this all has to do with what happened on Good Friday and Easter, that Jesus, through His death and resurrection, he becomes our brother. Listen to Jesus' words on that Easter morning, as Jesus sends Mary Magdalene to His disciples. I'm looking at John chapter 20:17, Jesus says to Mary Magdalene, go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. Now, notice that this is the first time that Jesus calls his disciples, my brothers. You see, the cross and resurrection changes everything. That Jesus no longer calls His followers servants, or friends, or disciples, he calls them brothers. Go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father. Now, my brothers that that includes Simon Peter, who just hours before had denied Jesus three times, my brothers... Well, that includes all the others who bailed out on him, and then includes Thomas who will doubt him... Go to my brothers. Say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father. Because of the cross and resurrection, we are entering a new chapter here, as we are made Jesus' brothers and sisters through the cross and resurrection, so that the father of the son of a God, the father of the second person of the Godhead, is now our Father.

It has been God's plan from the very beginning to make us the sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in Christ. Listen to what the Apostle Paul says in Ephesians one versus four and five, as he says, Before the foundation of the world, God destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ. So the Son of God comes to Earth, he throws his lot in with us, becoming one of us, including us in God's embrace, taking our sins as his sins our guilt as his guilt, so that we can share his sonship. But the eternal Son of God is by nature. We are by grace through adoption. You see, God made you and me for this very reason, that we could be His beloved children enjoying the love and favor that the son of God has always enjoyed as the beloved Son.

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So Jesus calls God Father because He is naturally his father in the Trinity, and Jesus says that God is our Father by adoption through Jesus Christ. God is a Father of Jesus by nature. He is our Father by adoption and grace. God is our Father, and nothing in heaven and earth can change that. Because Jesus Christ, by laying down His life for us on the cross, we are forgiven, we are reconciled to God, adopted into the life of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are included in the life and joy that the son of God has forever shared with father and Holy Spirit. And that's why Jesus prayed on the night before he lay down his life for us. Jesus prayed for us in John 17:26, Father, I made your name known to them and I will make it known. So that the love with which you have loved me may be in them. I once served on the board of a Christian Adoption Agency where I met the most beautiful family, mom, dad, two the cutest little boys, and one of the little boys said to me. He said, One of us is adopted, but I forget which one.

Can you imagine how Jesus words must have sounded to Simon Peter, who had denied his master, or how Jesus words must have sounded to the other disciples who had abandoned him. Go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God. And I pray that the Holy Spirit who lives in you and me, that He might open our hearts and minds a little bit more to understand how much God loves us. Samuel Trevor Francis stood on London's Hungerford bridge, looking in to the deep dark waters of the river Tims, it was ready to end his life. When Frances thought about the love of Christ that he had learned as a child. And from that, Samuel Francis wrote to him, that sings, Oh, the deep, deep love of Jesus vast unmeasured down last free, rolling is a mighty ocean in its fullness over me, underneath me, all around me is the current of thy love.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.