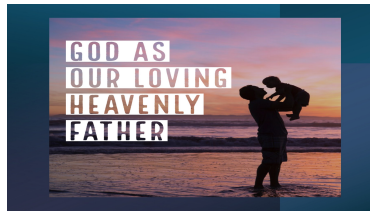
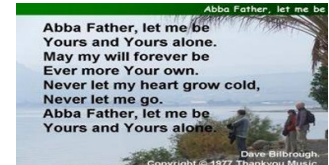


## Sermon Sunday 21.06.2026 Father's Day



Father's Day does not have its own set of readings, yet being a father, guardian, or carer, and working within that role is important. Sadly, not everyone has a father or father figure or happy memories of their father but what or who do we consider to be a father to us. Each of us will have our own special memories of that person who was there for us to guide and support us in the good and the more difficult times.

That beautiful song written by Dave Bilbrough can help us to reflect on who Christians see as their Father. Abba Father, let me be, Yours and Yours alone. May my will forever be, ever more Your own. Never let my heart grow cold, never let me go. Abba Father, let me be, Yours and Yours alone.



How does Father's day relate to our reading from Matthew today? It is not an easy passage to understand but here Jesus is trying to help his disciples to learn about loyalty, fear, opposition, divisions in families and reminding them that those who lose their life for his sake will truly find it. Jesus is trying to prepare them to travel along a faithful road. We know from the bible that many disciples were persecuted for their faith and lost their lives for believing in God through Jesus but they would never be forgotten by God.



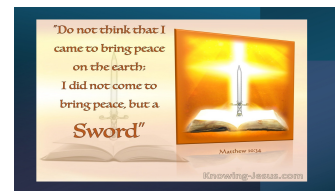
This passage reminds those taking on a father's role can help to nurture others in their growth in their faith and trust in God. They can help to nurture, advice and protect those that they love and care for and not hide their faith and we can live and learn about our Father God through following what Jesus has taught us. When

Jesus is telling us that "The student is not above the teacher, nor a servant above his master," it reminds us that if we belong to Christ then will find that our lives can resemble His. As each of us is an ongoing student in the Christina faith, we may express our thought and feelings about passages we read or listen to and at times we may be misunderstood or feel oppression from others that do not understand our faith and belief . What we need to remember is our growth in understanding of the Word of God is to become like Him in the love, truth, humility, courage and endurance that we live with and share with others each day.

Life in some families is not easy and people can live with fear for many reasons including neglect, violence, social pressures, anxiety and depression they cannot sometimes explain, health reasons, dysfunctional families, loneliness and isolation. People may fear being rejected or for speaking the truth, for standing up for others in need or what people think about them and the way they live their lives. Jesus tries to help us to understand how to redirect the fears that we may have. If we feel alone and not able to cope with life's daily struggles, he wants us to direct those fears to God as he sees our suffering and will help us to find a way through the suffering. He reminds us

“Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul,” As a human’s power is limited whereas God’s power is ultimate.

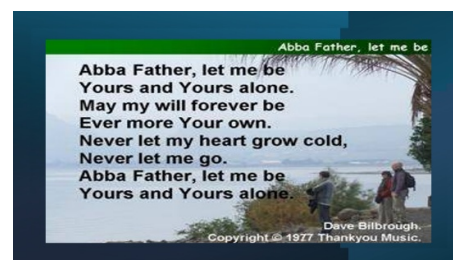
Each of us has a faith that is personal to us and as we share time together in church or with those around us at home, work or in the community, Jesus wants us to live this faith openly. Jesus talks of the two sparrows that were of little value in the market yet they were of value to God our Father. He also talks of “not bringing peace but a sword.” He reminds us that he is the Prince of Peace and he will bless the peacemakers and reconcile sinners to God. He reminds us that when we consider reorganising our lives it can cause tension within our families but we must not but these tensions and strife’s first in our life but to think about our love and devotion to God who is there and will help us cope with these conflicts.



When he speaks of “Whoever does not take up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me” he is not asking us to look at the cross on the wall or the one we may wear daily, he is asking us to surrender and sacrifice our lives to follow Jesus in any way we can. This might include us thinking about forgiveness rather than taking revenge or letting our pride, selfish ambitions, bitterness and fears go and remain faithful to God. When we decide to surrender our lives to God, we can open our hearts and lives to what God wanted us to be. It can help us to let go of our fears and begin to live a new life.

On this Father’s Day, where we are able to, let us honour the Father’s love and care, and let us model courage, tenderness, truth and costly love. This helps us to reflect our God who does know us and values the lives of each one of us. Today, where we are able, let us bless, fathers, grandfathers, those who are a father figure in their family lives. Let us thank God for the knowledge and skills they may have taught us that help guide us in our daily lives.

‘Abba Father, Let me be’ helps us to express the longing for us to belong to God as his beloved children, who trusts the Father’s love and helps us to remain close to Him. This links with our Gospel from Matthew where Jesus has taught His disciples not to be afraid because the Father sees them, values them, and knows them completely. Though being a disciple can be costly, we belong to the Father and we can trust Him enough to follow Jesus when our path in life is difficult. Faith grows through knowing we are held by God. We can take up our cross faithfully knowing that He is there to support and guide us. We belong to God, we are held by his love and we can follow Jesus faithfully without fear. **Amen**



Tina Titley