

**Sermon Notes of  
Pastor Craig Kuhlman's Sermon on June 17, 2018:**

**"A Father's Love:  
Our Father's Love Letter"**

**[In today's sermon, Pastor Craig Kuhlman shows through 54 selected Scriptures that God has always, always loved us.]**

**Notes**

Introduction:

- Happy Father's Day!
- Today is a wonderful day for celebration especially because we have a heavenly Father who loves us in an amazing way.
- Today, pastor Craig is going to do something a little bit different.
  
- We're going to explore a Father's love letter which includes 54 selected scriptures from our Eternal Loving Father to let you know how much He loves you today, and every day.
- This material was provided to pastor Craig by three different people over the past month, so he felt like it was the Spirit's guidance to use this material today.
  
- Last night, as pastor Craig was formatting today's PowerPoint, and reading these verses, emotions just flooded over him.
- He had to take off his glasses to dry his eyes.
- That's because these Scriptures are so amazing because they show how God the Father loves us in such an amazing way.
  
- And secondly, as human fathers, it's natural to sometimes experience regrets.
- And pastor Craig could not get Harry Chapin's song out of his mind, because it really messed him up.
- "Cat's in the Cradle" is a 1974 folk rock song by Harry Chapin.
- The music is great but the words were haunting to him.
- Even when pastor Craig heard it at age 14, he thought that he would never be that kind of dad that the lyrics depicted.
  
- Yet after he went through a lot of pressures at work and came home, he sometimes didn't give enough attention to his children.
- But no matter what we might regret as human fathers, the words we going to see, from God Himself in Scripture, give us such an amazing story.
- As human fathers, we're simply stewards of our children acting on behalf of our God the Father.
- But he is the One who taken responsibility to raise our kids.
  
- For God the Father, there was never a plane to catch or a bill to pay – He was there when we learned to walk that day.

- So no matter the words of Harry Chapin, as much as they can grab us, be encouraged, because they don't apply to our heavenly Father at all.
- God has been there to love us, to embrace us and to replace where our role as a humanly father fell down.
- So today is a message of great hope and great love.
- So, this is a letter written from God, Himself, to us as His children.

"My child,

**You may not know me, but I know everything about you. (Psalm 139:1)  
I know when you sit down and when you rise up. (Psalm 139:2)**

**I am familiar with all your ways. (Psalm 139:3)  
Even the very hairs on your head are numbered. (Matt, 10:29-31)**

**For you were made in my image. (Gen. 1:27)  
In me you live and move and have your being. (Acts 17:28)**

**For you are my offspring. (Acts 17:28)  
I knew you even before you were conceived. (Jer. 1:4-5)  
I chose you when I planned creation. (Eph. 1:11-12)**

**You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book. (Psalm 139:15-16)  
I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live. (Acts 17:26)**

**You are fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14)  
I knit you together in your mother's womb.(Psalm 139:13)**

**And brought you forth on the day you were born. (Psalm 71:6)  
I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me. (John 8:41-44)**

**I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love. (1 John 4:16)  
And it is my desire to lavish my love on you. (1 John 3:1)**

**Simply because you are my child and I am your Father. (1 John 3:1)  
I offer you more than your earthly father ever could. (Matt.7:11)**

**For I am the perfect father. (Matt. 5:48)  
Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand. (James 1:17)**

**For I am your provider and I meet all your needs. (Matt. 6:31-33)  
My plan for your future has always been filled with hope. (Jer. 29:11)**

**Because I love you with an everlasting love. (Jer. 31:3)  
My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore. (Psalm 139:17-18)**

**And I rejoice over you with singing. (Zeph. 3:17)  
I will never stop doing good to you. (Jer. 32:40)**

**For you are my treasured possession. (Ex. 19:5)  
I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul. (Jer. 32:41)**

**And I want to show you great and marvelous things. (Jer. 33:3)  
If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me. (Deut. 4:29)**

**Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)  
For it is I who gave you those desires. Phil. 2:13)**

- Pastor Craig did some reflecting on these verses.
- These last verses reminded pastor Craig of when he was 21 and had an intense desire for a little red sports car.
- There was a used red Fiat sports car that only had 11,000 miles on it and was offered for \$9900 at the local Buick dealership.
- But all pastor Craig could afford then was \$7500.
- After talking to a sales person there, the lowest he could go was \$9200.
- So, Craig walked away. But a few hours later, he got a call from the owner of the Buick dealership and told him that they wanted to get the Fiat off the lot and would thus sell it to him for \$7500.
- It wasn't until later in life, that pastor Craig realized that it was God who had blessed him in that way, because at that time he didn't understand things about the nature of God.
- Pastor Craig now realizes that many times God places specific desires on our hearts and then miraculously fulfills them.
- Now in our first worship song today, "Come, Now Is the Time to Worship", pastor Craig loves those lyrics that say, "One day every tongue will confess You are God. One day every knee will bow."
- That passage gives us universal hope.
- "One day every tongue will confess You are God" doesn't mean that you are having your arm twisted to do something that is not your desire.
- So, we have the hope that we can spend an eternity with our fathers even if they hadn't accepted Jesus in this life.

**I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine. (Eph. 3:20)  
For I am your greatest encourager. (2 Thess. 2:16-17)**

**I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles. (2 Cor. 1:3-4)  
When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you. (Psalm 34:18)**

**As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart. (Isa. 40:11)  
One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes. (Rev. 21:3-4)**

**And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. (Rev. 21:3-4)**

- We face some tough issues in our life time – health issues, relationship issues, employment issues, economic issues – yet someday they won't be there anymore.
- Pastor Craig's dad would tell him when he would get upset about something, "You know what? In a hundred years from now, it's never going to matter."

- And so today we can say that in a thousand years from now, what we went through in this life, whether it was pain or sorrow or economic problems, relationship issues, heartache, simply isn't going to matter.
- When we can live life today facing the tough things and keep the perspective that these things are not just about now, but it's an eternity that we have been loved for, it's an eternity that we've been created for.
- And as that song goes on to say, "But still the greatest treasure is for those who gladly see you now."
- We have that perspective today – no matter what the pain is, no matter what regrets we face on this day as fathers – and for an eternity we will be with this God who loves us so much.

**And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth. (Rev. 21:3-4)  
I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus. (John 17:23)**

**For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed. (John 17:26)  
He is the exact representation of my being. (Heb. 1:3)**

**He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you. (Rom. 8:31)  
And to tell you that I am not counting your sins. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)**

**Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled. (2 Cor. 5:18-19)  
His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you. (1 John 4:10)**

**I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love. (Rom. 8:31-32)  
If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me. (1 John 2:23)**

**And nothing will ever separate you from my love again. (Rom. 8:38-39)  
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen. (Luke 15:7)**

**I have always been Father, and will always be Father. (Eph. 3:14-15)  
My question is...Will you be my child? (John 1:12-13)**

**I am waiting for you. (Luke 15:11-32)**

Love, Your Dad,  
Almighty God,  
Abba,  
Papa"

Concluding comments:

- That's the Father we have today.
- We have a subjective perception of the issues and problems we face.
- But you know what – to our Father, He knows that from a thousand years from now, those problems and those pains will be nothing!
- And when we take the perspective of a transformed life and not being conformed to the world, but being transformed by the renewing of our minds, each one of those pains and heartaches and pressures are only doing us a world of good in light of eternity.

- So, it's true that when we experience hurt or heartache or pain or suffering, it may not feel good for the moment.
- But the beauty is that the pain and the suffering and the issues we go through change us for good, for an eternity.
- So, in some respects, pastor Craig's dad was wrong, in a hundred years from now, it is going to matter, because those trials and those troubles and those things that hurt today, a lot of times bring us close to the Father.
  
- Pastor Craig was never more in relationship with God that when he faced all kinds of corporate pressure in his life.
- When everything was going good, he wasn't that close to God.
- Even though its paradoxical but when we are in the midst of that that pain of whatever that might be – human loss, death and dying, times in the hospital, dealing with terminal illness, we need to remember that we have a good, good Father that's right there with us – in the middle of our pain, in the middle of our suffering.
  
- And He says His love will never, never leave us.
- That's the Father who loves us today.
- And He only has one request for us – “Will you be My child?”
- And He's got one promise – is that He's going to throw the most amazing party in heaven that we've ever seen.
  
- Despite whether we had a good father or not, the truth is, we've always, always had a good Father – He has always, always loved us and wants the best for each one of us.
- That's why we celebrate Father's Day.

Closing prayer