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"APPREHENDING ABBA"

"MY ABBA IS TRUSTWORTHY ... PREEMINENTLY TRUSTWORTHY "

(Job 13:15; Psalm 20:7; Luke 23:46; John 3:16; 2 Peter 1:3; 1 Peter 5:7; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18)

Intro ... Today we return to our quest to '**Apprehend Abba**' ...
to '*Capture the Concept and the Reality of an intimate Child-Like
Relationship with Our Father God.*'

So far, we have encountered and sought to take into mental custody (as
it were) 21 Aspects of our Abba Father's nature. Each of them contributes
to our understanding of our Heavenly Father and draws us deeper into
the enjoyment of Eternal Life itself.

Today I would introduce us to the 22nd.
It's identified in ...

TODAY'S KEY CONCEPT ...

OUR ABBA IS TRUSTWORTHY ... *Preeminently Trustworthy*
- He will **NEVER** let you **DOWN** -

Sooner or later the question: "*Who can I trust?*" is raised in each
of us.

*"Who can I count on? Who will stand by me and stay with me
no matter what? Who is worthy of my trust - my very life?"*

Today we declare that our Heavenly Abba is such a ONE.
We can trust Him with our very lives ... The modifying adverb
'**Preeminently**' communicates that He is the **most** trustworthy
there is, for that is what the word "*Pre eminent*" means.

PREEMINENT - Of Highest Quality or Standing,
Worthy of great Honor or Regard

'**Trusting God**' has long been part of '**Knowing God**' even by some
who did not and could not '**Know Him**' as well as we can today.

Consider **Today's Key Scriptures** ...

TODAY'S KEY SCRIPTURES ...

* "Though He **SLAY** me, yet will I **TRUST** Him"
(Job 13:15)

Those words were spoken in ancient times by the Patriarch Job who was put through the most severe test of faith. Job was saying in effect:

'Though I don't know what is going on or why I am going through what I am going through, I know my God well enough to know that He doesn't make mistakes and so I will trust him in this no matter what.'

Job knew that His God - The God of the Universe - The Heavenly Father Himself was **trustworthy** - preeminently trustworthy - and Job never wavered from that though those around him urged him to.

Some 1000 years or more after Job, **King David** identified the same trait in The God of Israel ...

Here's what David wrote during a time of national stress ...

* "Some trust in **CHARIOTS** and some in **HORSES** but
We trust in the **NAME** of the Lord Our God."
(Psalm 20:7)

This is the man who as a shepherd boy took on a lion and a bear in the defense of his flock. David was the one who as a young man armed primarily by the power of His God's Awesome Name faced up to the giant Goliath.

David knew that His God - the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob was trustworthy - preeminently trustworthy - and David placed his trust completely in Him.

David knew that the God of Israel would never '*Let Him Down.*' David knew that the God of Israel delighted in responding to the Trust His People placed in Him.

The **Third Key Scripture** I would draw our attention to this morning contains what I consider to be the greatest '*Faith Statement*' found anywhere in the Scripture.

It was the last of the seven great statements Jesus made from the cross.

*"Father, into your Hands,
I **COMMIT** (entrust) my Spirit."
(Luke 23:46)*

Those were words spoken by ONE who had just taken upon himself all of sin's ugliness - ONE who had become sin for us - One who became the target for all of the Father's Righteous Wrath towards sin.

If Job's words: "*Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him*" are impressive to us, how about these that Jesus surely could have said:

'Though He has just poured out His Full Wrath upon me and though He has turned His Face from me due to the sin that has been placed upon me and though He has for these past three hours completely abandoned me so that I might feel the full horror of His Judgment upon sin, yet will I and yet do I TRUST HIM!'

Jesus knew that His Heavenly Father - His Abba - was trustworthy - preeminently trustworthy.

Jesus knew that His Heavenly Father - His Abba - would carry out the plan that Father, Son and Spirit had agreed to before the world ever came into being.

Man would need a Savior, a Substitutionary Sacrifice, and the Son of God would be the ONE to come and fulfill that role and make that sacrifice for man and take the Wrath of God upon Himself and yet ... when "**IT WAS FINISHED**" the Son would be wonderfully and gloriously restored to Fellowship and Favor.

Knowing that His Heavenly Abba was Trustworthy - Preeminently Trustworthy - Jesus confidently released His Spirit into His Father's Care.

And, as Jesus did so confidently exercise His Trust in the ONE that he knew to be Preeminently Trustworthy, He (along with Job and David as well as countless others) left us an example that we should *'Follow In His Steps.'*

It only follows, doesn't it, that if our Heavenly Abba is Preeminently Trustworthy, we should actually *'Put Our Trust In Him'*?"

Indeed, it does ...

Consider with me *'Four Life-Shaping Applications'* that grow out of our understanding that Our Heavenly Abba is absolutely, preeminently *Trustworthy*.

Here they are:

FOUR LIFE-SHAPING APPLICATIONS ...

Hopefully, they are already *'Shaping Our Lives.'*

BECAUSE MY 'ABBA' IS PREEMINENTLY TRUST-WORTHY ...

1. I WILL TRUST MY ABBA FOR MY SALVATION

*"For God (the Father) so **LOVED** the world that He gave His One and Only Son that whosoever believes in Him shall **NOT** perish but have everlasting life."*

(John 3:16)

Never can we nor ever will we *'exhaust'* the significance of that most familiar Bible verse.

Our *'Abba'* is the architect of our salvation. Our Heavenly Abba (as we saw some months ago) is *'Lavishly Loving'* and our salvation was born in and is secured by His Loving Heart.

Our salvation is not secured by *'Good Works'* on our part or by our connection to some earthly institution ... Our salvation is secured by the resolute love of our absolutely Trustworthy Heavenly Abba. As long as He remains a God of Love, our Salvation is secure.

So, let's **trust** Him for it ... He will never let us lose it ...
His loving heart has wrapped itself tightly around all who are His.

Now for the **Second** Life-Shaping Application:

BECAUSE MY 'ABBA' IS PREEMINENTLY TRUST-WORTHY ...

2. I WILL TRUST MY ABBA FOR MY SANCTIFICATION

*"His Divine Power has given us **EVERYTHING**
we need for **LIFE** and godliness ..."*
(2 Peter 1:3)

'Sanctification' (the process of becoming Christlike) goes hand in hand with **'Salvation'** (the process of us being forgiven of sins and being given *'spiritual birth'* into the family of God).

Our Heavenly Father desires us to walk in the *'Footsteps of His Son, Jesus'* and has provided the means whereby we can do just that.

His *'Divine Power'* (code language for the Holy Spirit) has been made available to us - our Almighty Companion comes to us fully equipped for every spiritual contingency.

He comes with the task and the privilege of *'Conforming us to the very image of Christ'* so that Jesus might be just the **'First'** of many *'God-Honoring and God-Revealing Human Beings'* on this earth.

Our Abba Father has set in motion a process to bring that about.

Whatever we need to live *'God-Honoring and God-Revealing Lives'* the Holy Spirit has been sent to provide.

We can **'Trust'** in our Heavenly Abba's Provision!

Consider now the **Third** Life-Shaping application ...

BECAUSE MY 'ABBA' IS PREEMINENTLY TRUST-WORTHY ...

3. I WILL TRUST MY ABBA FOR MY SUPPLICATION

*"Cast all your **ANXIETIES** upon Him
because He **CARES** for you."
(1 Peter 5:7)*

However, if Jesus Himself could at times feel overwhelmed by the immensity of the task, (think Garden of Gethsemane) we should not imagine that we never will.

And at such times, our Heavenly Father is worthy of our Trust ...

Cry out to Him and seek His Re-assurance that all will be well - know that His eye is upon you and that His heart is wrapped around you.

And now **Fourthly** and finally this morning ...

BECAUSE MY 'ABBA' IS PREEMINENTLY TRUST-WORTHY ...

4. I WILL TRUST MY ABBA FOR MY SEPARATION

*"... Come out from among them and be separate ...
touch no **UNCLEAN** thing ... I will be a Father to you ..."
(2 Corinthians 6:17-18)*

It only stands to reason that we will become as repulsed by 'Unclean Things' as our Heavenly Father is ... His favorites will become ours.

Just like children 'root for the teams' their father 'roots for,' those who truly come to "**Know**" their Heavenly Father will do the same.

He will not have to 'rip our hands off' the unclean thing for we will want nothing to do with it. Separation from 'sinful things' and 'worldly perspectives' will come naturally.

We can **Trust** Him for that.

Final Thot ...

*"My Abba is Trustworthy ... Preeminently Trustworthy"
- I will **REST** myself completely in His **CARE** -*