

December 26, 2021 Dennis Gallaher A Reason for Beginnings and Endings

There is a reason for beginnings and endings. Don't let this year end without considering what the Lord has said and what you have left undone. Go to the One that sees our lives from beginning to end. Today, let's look at God the Father as we end at chapter or are beginning a new one. Realize that God the Father is the one that sees us from beginning to end. He is a personal God.

Isaiah 46:9-10 *Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, "My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure."*

This tells us God's intention for each of us. How does God accomplish good things in our lives? especially if we are here today at a terrible ending? God wants to speak to each of us today. It hurts when our dreams are crushed but God has a purpose for each of those events.

Pascal said, "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created being but only God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ." This God is interested in a relationship not a transactional agreement with us.

A transactional agreement or relationship is a business deal. An exchange of goods, like money for a product. Example of a transactional relationship with God: I obey - You bless; I repent - You bless; I give - You give more back. That is never what God the Father wanted.

Three key movements:

1) Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* From the very beginning, God wanted a family. His heart was to be a Father. Every person has value because they have been created in the image of God.

But Adam refused the relationship with God. In **Genesis 3:22**, God with a broken heart as He shuns His son and does what a Father must... He releases Adam to his choices and the sons of Adam become the wandering prodigals. *Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever."*

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2) Yet all through the Old Testament, God seeks out the family lost to sin and He calls Israel "my children" as well as shows His broken heart over their idolatrous lifestyle. They wanted a transaction.

Malachi 1:6 *A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?' says the Lord of hosts to you, O priests who despise My name.*

The pain we suffer today, the pain that you might be suffering right now, is that you lost your Father and that is why Jesus came - to reveal the Father. Theology will leave you in the dark because we crave relationships - while Jesus came to reveal the true Father!

3) Matthew 11:27 *All things have been handed over to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.* Jesus came to forgive our sins, to offer a sacrifice, to offer miracles, to inspire others to write down His word, but the one purpose, He came to reveal the Father.

John 17:25-26 *O righteous Father, although the world has not known You, yet I have known You, and these have known that You sent Me; and I have made Your name known (revealed) to them, and will make it known, so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.*

This is the meaning behind the prodigal son. The father waits; the father embraces; the father dispels the lies of the transactional relationships; the father pours out his blessing! We are sometimes afraid of God the Father but when we turn our face to the loving Father, we can have a new beginning.

How do you see the Father? distant, abusive, angry, unapproachable, fearful, scary, divorced dad (one who shows up every now and again and buys you stuff but not there when you need him), busy dad?

The reason Jesus came is that He was the way to the Father's house. He is a relational Father. Jesus came to reveal the Father; He talks about the Father, a loving Father, merciful, good, kind, faithful, full of grace.

Jesus is the way; the Father is the goal. You can know the Father today.

Do you need a new beginning today?