Our Relentless Father

When we read of our Father’s special love for His children, we are apt to turn Him either into a teddy bear or into a vending machine. We can only grasp the immensity of our privilege as His children when we see Him against the backdrop of His revelation of Himself in the Old Testament.

**1. Our Father is relentless in His *wrath*.**

A. Violent depravity is enflamed by the *devil*

John 8:44; Ephesians 6:10-12

B. The course of history is determined by the *Lord*

Jeremiah 46:25-26; 48:9-10, 47; 49:5-6, 17-18, 33, 39; 51:61-64

Lamentations 1:1-2; 2:2-3, 17, 20-21

**2. Our Father is relentless in His *mercy*.**

Lamentations 3:22-26; Jeremiah 30:10-13, 17; 31:10-13

**3. Our Father is relentless over *you*.**

Do you belong to Jesus? Then this is the God who—

A. Pursued you to make you *His child*

John 6:44

B. Will stop at nothing to see you *in glory*

John 6:37-40

C. Is determined to have *fellowship with you*

John 14:21, 23; 16:23-27

**Application**—come to your Father

A. With *reverence and awe*

Hebrews 12:28-29

B. With *holy boldness*

Hebrews 10:19-22

**For Private Meditation or Family Discussion**

1. How did the Lord speak to you through the message? Did He put His finger on any habits or attitudes that you need to change? Did He encourage you regarding some difficulty, move you to undertake some new challenge, or open your heart to some truth you hadn’t seen before?

2. When we see nations devastated by war or cities flattened by hurricanes or earthquakes, we might be tempted to think that God is doing this to them and not to us because we are better than they are. How does Jesus correct this notion in Luke 13:1-5?

3. How can you put together in your own heart your Father’s passionate, relentless love for you with the pains and problems you have suffered? (Or think of the Father’s love for your suffering brothers and sisters in Iraq.)

4. Some have used the suffering in the world as an excuse for denying that a loving God exists. Why didn’t Jeremiah draw that conclusion? What does suffering mean in a world without God?

5. In view of life’s many disappointments, how can you continue to pray earnestly, fervently, boldly, and hopefully?