

Episode: God and His Family No. 01

Narrator: Apostle John

Primary Scriptures: Genesis 1:1-2; John 14

Story Summary: Who God is, and who I am in relationship to him

Location: Israel

Time: 30 AD

Suggested Memory Scriptures: Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-2

Jesus caused people to rethink their concept of God. Most of his fellow Jews seem to have thought of God as a stern God who required strict adherence to the laws of Moses and the related rules promulgated by the religious leaders.

Starting with Genesis 1:2 (“the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters”) the Jews had an understanding that God had a Spirit. This separated God from all the other gods of the surrounding people groups. It’s not clear how the Jews understood the Spirit of God, but they conceived of God having a spirit.

However, Jesus confronted the Jewish leaders with the concept that he was the Son of God, and that God was his Father. This was so far away from their concept of God that they considered Jesus to be a blasphemer.

Many of the teachings of Jesus lead to the concept that God is actually a term referring to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,¹ either to them together or separately. Jesus refers to both God and Father almost interchangeably.

Jesus also opened the eyes of the religious leaders to the fact that God is a loving father who wants the best for his children. Jesus tried to get them to understand that God is the perfect father, unlike the imperfect fathers that so many people have experienced.

The words of John in 1 John 3 bring this concept home. 1 John 3:1-2 says: “See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.”

Reading the teachings of Jesus and the apostles, it is easy to sense the tension as they struggle to find words to communicate the importance of having a close relationship with God. Jesus sums this up well in John 17:3, “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

¹ Passages such as John 14 show this concept