

DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Spiritual Relationship (part 2) ... by Gareth

READ : PHILIPPIANS 4:20

... now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever.

- **At** the start of creation as per the beginning of Genesis there was perfect union between God and man.
- Then sin entered and that perfect harmony was broken
- Adam & Eve had to hide behind leaves because of shame.
- Ever since the fall of man there has been that separation between God and mankind.
- However the heart of God has always been after mankind. To draw mankind unto himself.
- Abraham, Isaiah, Jacob, Moses, David to name but a few.
- Then the greatest event in history comes to pass. This event was foretold by prophets. Jesus the messiah was born.
- *For God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3v16.*
- During his life on earth Jesus was always reaching out to the broken, hopeless & hurting.
- Once he ministered to a woman at the well. This event wouldn't have happened by chance, nor was it the culture of the day for a Jew to come and communicate with a woman from Samaria. Not only did He communicate with her but he told her of all that she did and offered her living waters.
- Paul could identify with this merciful God. Think of his conversion which you can read about in the book of Acts (*ch 9*)
- Paul knew and experienced this love, mercy and grace. He started many of his letters to the various churches speaking of the grace and peace of God.

(Continued page 2...)



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

Week 14

- Grace be unto you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray he started that prayer with Our Father, because as believers we can call God our Father.
- Think of the parable of the lost son - *Luke 15*
- This son was so far removed from his father that he no longer felt he could be called a son but rather a servant.
- However the father had a totally different understanding. His was one of love for his son no matter what. Yes the son had walked away from the fathers house and presence. Yes the son had squandered his inheritance however the fathers love remained the same.
- Today because of our heavenly Father's love. 2 Corinthians 5 v 19/21 God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them....
- The first Adam was banished from the garden the second Adam Jesus Christ rose from the grave the victor over dead and the power of our sin.
- Adam's expulsion from the garden meant a separation between God and man. No longer was he able to enjoy the presence of the Lord like he and Eve did prior to the sin.
- However God the Father's heart was always a desire to return to that place of communion, Christ's victorious resurrection accomplished that.
- No longer do we need to be slaves of fear. We are not to live out of a centre of fear. But to live as sons and daughters out of a centre of love. ■