



He was vulnerable to all the conditions of human life which constantly threaten and unsettle – fear, loneliness, suffering, temptation, doubt, and ultimately godforsakenness.

Charles B. Cousar

CONSUMING JESUS

THE PURPOSE OF THE SENDING

“in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.”

Galatians 4:5

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TO REDEEM

- To ransom/ buy back
- An economic term – to pay for
- Used as an expression for God's saving action in Jesus

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TO ADOPT

- Adoption – a Roman law – someone receives the same status as a son/daughter by birth
- Become sons & daughters of God

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A POSITION OF INTIMACY

- Ready access to our Father
- We live in communion with God as our parent
- God still the prime actor

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GOD SENDS HIS SPIRIT BECOMING HEIRS

Galatians 4:6-7

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And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Galatians 4:6-7

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'INTO OUR HEARTS'

- God sends his Spirit deep into our hearts (v6) – a movement speaking to our daily experience
- Not an intellectual observation but an experiential reality

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While that presence is never overpowering, it has within it a gentle, unremitting imperative, a compulsion toward something higher, which invites us to draw upon it. And, if we do draw upon it, it gushes up in us in an infinite stream that instructs us, nurtures us, and fills us with endless energy.

Ronald Rolheiser

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KNOWING GOD AS ABBA

- A relationship Jesus knew of the Father (Mark 14:36)
- We have the same access to God to know him as Abba (Romans 8:15)

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BECOME HEIRS OF GOD

- This is a relationship that stirs up hope
- Enabling us to live in assurance and confidence before God

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MOVING
FORWARD

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OUR IDENTITY

- God's double-sending speaks to the issue of our identity
- The challenge of the identity-crisis: Who am I? What defines my worth?
- Our relationship with Jesus defines who we are in God

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'CRYING ABBA!'

- A daily communion with God – an ongoing conversation with Him; an awareness of God's continuing presence
- So that our hearts burn with his interior presence (Luke 24:32)

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DON'T TURN BACK

- Do not become enslaved to old patterns again (Galatians 4:8)
- Keep going forward from deep to deep (Psalm 42:7)
- Keep listening, being attentive to God's voice
- As our Abba, God empowers us to do amazing things

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