**I will not leave you as orphans – send the spirit of adoption -**

**I have been praying for a love revolution to sweep across this nation and the younger generation – where college students, teenagers and children would experience the Authentic love of the Father**

**God is not simply the reflection of your Earthly dad. God is the perfection of your Earthly dad**. He is everything you dreamed your dad would be and way more than that. He is not just a bigger version of your dad, he's the perfect version of your dad. He is everything you long for and more than that.

The Psalmist says it this way in Psalm 68:4, "Sing to God, sing praise to his name, extol him who rides on the clouds. His name is the Lord, and rejoice before him."

So we see a majestic God, a powerful God, an omnipotent God. This God's riding on the clouds. – FREAKING HUGE

And yet now God our Father chooses to be knowable to us in a very powerful and personal way. When it shifts into verse five, this God who rides on the clouds, "is a father to the fatherless, a defender of widows. This is God in his holy dwelling. He sets the lonely in families, and he leads forth the prisoners with singing."

God comes to us in a fatherless context – into a real and broken world situation saying,

**"Nobody is going to have to live fatherless and no one is going to have to navigate life without someone speaking over them words of LIFE and blessing -**

He says, "I am choosing, though I ride on the clouds, to bring myself into a relationship with humanity and with you – I am father to the fatherless." So if you are coming into church today and you’re saying

“I can relate to a broken relationship, to wounds and disappointment and abandoned, to being walked out on, to being mistreated, I can relate to all that. I feel stuck in all that."

God says to you today , "There is a special place in my heart for you. I am moving toward you. I am coming your way because I know how important it is to you to have a father wrap his arms around you. And I want to be a father to the fatherless."

He is a good father and he gives good gifts to his children – and not just GOOD – but mind blowing - I think he is way better that we think he is!

**How do you and I walk in our identity as beloved sons and daughters of a good Father – how do we discover how to walk in the freedom of our identity as a loved Child of God –** uniquely created by Him and for him –

where we are no longer defined by our past but by the love of a perfect heavenly Father –

For many years after I became a Christian – if somebody came up and asked me "Jason- Who are you?" Like I wasn't sure what I was supposed to answer to that.

And then I spent some time in Ephesians 1

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blameless before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself according to the good pleasure of His will."

That's a long sentence, right? First it says that I am chosen – handpicked – noticed, not left behind but chosen and that this was predestined – it was always God’s plan - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who predestined us– predestined us for what? to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to himself." And I like this last part, "according to the good pleasure of His will."

Going over this verse something connected in my heart, **a sense of belonging.**

And I realized, God the Father in heaven chose me – he adopted me,

He made it possible through his son Jesus Christ and brought me into his family. And I am a son of God – he wanted me.

It was his will - it gave Him pleasure - God chose me because He wanted me and it was His pleasure to adopt me as His son. I come from the FATHER \_

And I realized I am a son of God. I think that's the deepest thing about me. I think that's the most important thing about me, that I am His son

**This is your new identity**

And not just a son or daughter but a LOVED< BELOVED Son or daughter -

1 John 3:1 says, "See," key word, "see how great a love the Father has lavished on us." So not some little card in the mail on your birthday, but lavish love everyday - And what is this lavish love?

It is his son gashed on a cross for us. It's him saying to us, "I will never leave you behind. I'm not moving on without you. I will never forsake you. On the contrary, I will break through walls for you. I will climb up hills for you. I will run through the darkness for you. I will pay any price to get you."

And I WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT WITH YOU –

See how great a love the Father has lavished on us, that we should become the children of God. And then I love this little add-on, **and that's what we are – that is our core Identity!**

2. Not only are we loved but we loved even in our weakness – he knows us the best, and he loves us the most

God sees us as we are, loves us as we are, and accepts us as we are. But by His grace, He does not leave us as we are.

**If we understand that God is our father, we know that we are absolutely safe with him and that we will always have a home with him**

3. It’s a personal love – John 16 says, The Father himself loves you - meaning you are are irreplacable

And we don’t need to be a slave to our past - The Holy Spirit cries out of your spirit, "I have a father – I come from the Father – I have the FAMILYI DNA - Not just, "Oh, I'm going to heaven." That is not the payoff of salvation. The payoff of salvation is, "I have a father, I have a forever FAMILY -

Just so happens that my Father runs eternity … Just so Happens that he runs heaven and has defeated death, my dad. So that's good news."

What that means is that

I am not a orphan, rejected, abandoned – I am wanted, I am prized, I am LOVED – I BELONG

I'm loved, I'm not a slave to fear. I am a child of God. God’s perfect love casts out FEAR

The fear is real - but it doesn't need to define you anymore.

It doesn't define you.

You don't have to live as a slave to abuse. It was real, but it does not define you.

You don't have to live as a slave to the pain. The pain's real, but the pain does not define you.

You don't have to live as a slave to the sins of your father.

You don't have to live as a slave to doubt as to whether you have what it takes because you are a child born of God.

You can be everything he says you can be. And you can do everything he says you can do.

You can even in his power walk from the past into God’s good future that he is before you …

God is not a reflection of your earthly dad but he is your perfect Father you always dreamed of – he is everything you have always wanted and so much more –

* You are the apple of his eye
* He saw you long before you saw him
* You are his unique and purposed creation – his masterpiece
* He sought you and paid a ransom for you before you did one thing to deserve it
* He never gave up on you
* Before God ever asked anything from you – he gave everything to you in the GIFT OF HIS SON
* You matter to God
* You have a destiny
* You are a somebody
* You have God-given gifts
* You are not the center of all creation – but you are dearly loved by the ONE WHO IS
* You have access to the throne of grace
* You have a seat at the table of heaven
* You have a God to call FATHER
* And you have a God who calls you beloved Son – beloved Daugther

Your Father in heaven is a Healer – he can heal all your wounds your earthly father may have caused you – he can pick you up and hold you in his care

He can redeem what has been lost and make all things new again –

His arms are strong

His heart is good

And you can trust HIM

**I love you – I love you too… all my heart**

You are not forgotten – You will never be left behind – you are chosen – you are dearly loved – you are not an orphan – you are not alone – you are a child of God – He knows your name – you are HIS – You are not unwanted – you are not powerless – you are what he says you are – my son my daughter whom I love –

you are not defeated – you are made new – you have what he says you have – you can be and do what he says you can be and do – you are not a victim – you will walk side by side with the King – you are loved daughter of the King – you are a loved Son of the Most High – you are a trophy of HIS GRACE – You are a loved son – a loved daughter of a Perfect Heavenly Father