

Good Morning and welcome to thought for the day.

I've chosen 3 short readings to consider today.

See if you can spot the link.

MARK 14 V 32-36. Jesus prays in Gethsemane.

They went to the olive grove called Gethsemane, and Jesus said "Sit here while I go and pray".

He took Peter, James and John with him, and he became deeply troubled and distressed.

He told them, "My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me".

He went on a little farther and fell to the ground.

He prayed that if it were possible the awful hour awaiting him might pass him by.

"Abba Father," he cried out, "everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me.

Yet I want your will to be done, not mine".

GALATIANS 4 V 4-7. Paul's words.

But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.

And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out "Abba Father".

Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child.

And since you are his child, God has made you his heir.

ROMANS 8 V 15-16. again Paul's words.

So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves . Instead you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children.

Now we call him "Abba Father".

For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

And since we are his children, we are his heirs.

In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.

But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.

YES, the link to these readings is of course the words ABBA FATHER, Abba is the Aramaic form of Father.

Most Christians have heard God referred to as Abba Father, throughout their lives. In prayer at Church, while reading the Bible. In quiet time. In song, and so on.

However, God's title of Abba Father, is only found referenced in the Bible, three separate times.

We have just heard or read those three instances.

Only Jesus and the apostle Paul spoke them. We know,
Both Jesus and Paul had deep relationships with God, and each had their own obvious
reason for seeing
God in an intimate manner.

So, why should we, you and I, be able to praise God and address him as Abba Father?
Yes, even us.

Well, each of us was created in God's image.
Genesis 1 v 27.

"So God created human beings in his image".

We are each a child of God.

Together we are children of God.

And, as Paul writes in Romans 8 , as children of God, we have exactly the same standing
before God, as Jesus does,
and we are also heirs to all the same promises.

What amazing powerful images that creates doesn't it ?

This also means we can experience that same intimacy with the Father that Jesus has.

That's why we can call God "Abba Father".

The Holy Spirit was sent by God into our hearts to enable this to happen.

WOW I could go on.

Friends.

Whatever we face today, let's remember and rest in the knowledge that we are God's
children.

And whatever we do or don't do, let's remind ourselves that our identity is not tied up in
activity.

It is found in God- and He draws us near and loves to call us His children.

1JOHN 3 v 1.

SEE HOW MUCH OUR FATHER LOVES US, FOR HE CALLS US HIS CHILDREN AND THAT IS
WHAT WE ARE !

Closing Prayer.

Lord God, we may find it incredible that we can call you ABBA FATHER and that you call us
your children.

Help us to rest in the knowledge of all that this means.

Thank you Lord.

Amen.

Song by Dave Bilbrough. ABBA FATHER,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_NZ4VNY6pvk