

HOW CAN I KNOW THE HEART OF THE FATHER?

The Shack- Part 4

Why does it matter? Because understanding what lies at God's heart allows us to move beyond blame and anger and doubt and mistrust. It allows us to understand and trust Him—essentials in a relationship.

1. BEYOND BLAME

The Bible tells us that job belongs to God alone: *“There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the One who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?”* James 4:12 (NIV)

The apostle Paul spelled out that it's not up to us to get even or deliver judgment when we've been wronged. He wrote, *“Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say, ‘I will take revenge; I will pay them back,’ says the Lord.”* Romans 12:19 (NLT)

“As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.” Psalm 103:13 (NIV)

2. GRACE COMES FROM LOVE

“I and the Father are one,” John 10:30 (NIV).

“Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father,” John 14:9 (NIV)

John 8 gives us a beautiful example of this when Jesus encountered a woman caught in adultery. The religious people of the day wanted to judge and stone her to death, and they wanted to trap Jesus by forcing Him to pass judgment. Instead, Jesus said, *“Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.”* John 8:7 (NIV) When they all turned to leave, none able to cast a stone, Jesus told the woman that He did not condemn her either.

3. CONNECTING WITH THE FATHER'S HEART

This is the beauty of John 3:16–17: *“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.”*