

## What God Remembers That We Forget - 01/05/20

**TEXT – Psa 103:6-18**

**INTRO- Psa 103:14** . . . *he remembereth that we are dust.*

**Have you wondered what God really thinks about you?**

*Our greatest barrier to knowing God better may be how much we know about how much God knows about us.* We struggle with God because we feel so bad about ourselves, and if we know the truth about ourselves, think of how much more God knows us! We can't fool him.

I think we run *from* God rather than *to* him because we know our own hearts all too well and his barely at all.

We don't know God's heart very well. That's where Psalm 103 can help us.

### I. He Loves the Outcast and the Needy.

**Psa 103:6-7** *The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.*

The "oppressed" are those who can't help themselves. In the Old Testament the word especially referred to widows, orphans, foreigners, and the poor. *If all of history is a book, we haven't reached the final chapter yet.* We're somewhere near the end, but we're not sure how far away we are *Eventually God will bring everything to light, and he will judge with impartiality.*

### II. He Shows Mercy to Those Who Don't Deserve It.

**Psa 103:8** *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.*

**Four great attributes of God:**

- 1) **The Lord is compassionate**-He pardons us.
- 2) **The Lord is gracious**-He gives us what we don't deserve.
- 3) **The Lord is slow to anger**-He is patient with us when we fall.
- 4) **The Lord abounds in love**-He loves us more than we can imagine.

Spurgeon takes that phrase *plenteous in mercy* and offers this application:

*All the world tastes of his sparing mercy,  
those who hear the gospel partake of his inviting mercy,  
the saints live by his saving mercy,  
are preserved by his upholding mercy,  
are cheered by his consoling mercy, and  
will enter heaven through his infinite and everlasting mercy.*

Six kinds of mercy for anyone who needs it.

### III. He is Slow to Wrath.

**Psa 103:9-10** *He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.*

Have you ever known anyone who loved to argue? God is not like that. *He is willing to end the quarrel and welcome us back home.*

**He's more ready to forgive than we are to be forgiven!**

**When we forget to pray, he remembers to feed us.**

**When we forget to give thanks, he sends us restful sleep.**

**When we idle in sin, he sends his Holy Spirit to convict us.**

**When we refuse to give, he keeps on giving still.**

**When we fall, he lifts us up.**

**When we disappoint ourselves and others, he still calls us his children.**

*He even blesses those who don't believe in him.* God is not intimidated by Christopher Hitchens or Richard Dawkins or Sam Harris, who are leaders in the atheist movement. They shoot at God on ground he provides from them. And the fact that God withholds punishment to his enemies, that too is evidence of his mercy for "not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?" Rom 2:4

### IV. He Forgives All Our Sins.

**Psa 103:11-12** *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.*

- **Consider the greatness of God's love.**

Astronomers tell us that the farthest known light source from the earth is **ten billion light years** away. By contrast the nearest star is "only" four light years away from us. That's four years traveling at the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles per second.

**There are two inescapable realities.**

**First, we live in a tiny corner of the universe,**

**Second, the universe is vast beyond our comprehension.**

But God's love is greater, vaster, larger, deeper, longer, broader, and bigger in all dimensions than the universe itself.

- **Consider the magnitude of God's love.**

When God forgives, he removes our sins, he lifts them up, he takes them away, and he puts them so far away from us that we could never find them if we searched for them for a thousand years. They are gone forever.

My sins can never come back to haunt me again.

Even Satan can't bring them back.

**A long fuse** - "slow to anger" (v. 8),

**A short memory**- "does not harbor his anger forever" (v. 9),

**A thick skin**-“does not treat us as our sins deserve” (v. 10), and  
**A great heart**-“so great is his love, so far has he removed our sins” (11-12).

#### **V. He Understands Our Weakness.**

**Psa 103:13** *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

**When an earthly father has done his job well, he makes it easy for his children to believe in their Heavenly Father.**

Mark was a young child and developed a persistent ear infection. After trying antibiotics the family physician sent him to a specialist. After examining him carefully, he announced that Mark needed to have tubes put in his ears. Even though the operation is quick and fairly simple, the doctor could see that Mark was scared. So he picked him up and carried him piggy-back to surgery. So it is with our Heavenly Father. The Great Physician knows our weakness and understands our fears. And when we can't go on, he carries us on his back.

#### **VI. He Remembers That We Are Dust.**

**Psa 103:14-16** *For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. 15 As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. 16 For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.*

- *Yesterday's green leaves soon turn brown.*
- *“You won't be here forever.”*

*A billboard by the cemetery that said, “Slow Down. We'll save a place for you.”*

**Our hope is not in man or in anything man can do.**

**Our hope is in the everlasting God!**

#### **VII. He Reminds Us of Eternity**

**Psa 103:17-18** *But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.*

- *There is nothing we can do about our frailty.*

**We can't cancel our humanity. Nothing can change what we are.**

Psalm 103 offers us one strong ground of comfort **“But”**

That one word-that little “but”-stands at the demarcation between this life and the next. Here is our real hope of life that never ends.

What will we leave our children? A vast estate? A large inheritance? A huge life insurance policy?

They pale next to the privilege of passing down a godly heritage.

#### **Take Me to the Cross**

What is Psalm 103 telling us? *We are richer than we think, we are more blessed than we know, and we have more than we realize.*

**We frail, mortal sinners are rich in the mercy of God.**

#### **The story of a policeman in a town in northern England.**

As he walked the streets, he heard a quivering sob. Shining his flashlight into the darkness, he saw a little boy in the shadows sitting on a doorstep and tears were running down his cheek. The child said, “I'm lost. Please take me home.” And the policeman began naming street after street, trying to help the boy remember where he lived. He named the shops and the hotels in the area but the little boy could give him no clue.

Then he remembered that at the center of the town there was a church with a large white cross that towered above the rest of the city. The policeman pointed to the cross and said, “Do you live anywhere near that place?” The little boy's face immediately brightened up. He said, “Yes, sir. Take me to the cross and I can find my way home.”

**CONCL** – All that we believe, all that we have, all that we hope for is found in the cross of Christ. *Go to the cross and you will find your way home to God.*