

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD

(A Father's Day Message)

TEXT: Psalm 103:13-18; Matthew 7:9-11

INTRODUCTION: We men who have children have learned much about God as a **Father** by being fathers ourselves. Every child is different and calls forth from our hearts special love, attention, and affirmation. As we acutely realize our inadequacies, we are thrown back upon our Heavenly Father, Who is all-wise, all-loving, all-powerful, and perfect.

Jesus came to reveal the Father (Matt. 11:27). He taught us to address God as "*Our Father*," a privilege given to no Old Testament saint. God has tender feelings and kindness toward them that fear Him. He feels our pain and pities us. "*In all of their affliction, he was afflicted*" (Isa. 63:9). If we would reflect God's infinite fatherliness toward our children, we must know Him as our own tender, pitying Father.

OUTLINE: How should the knowledge of God's Fatherhood affect us as believers?

I. It Should **ENCOURAGE** Us (Ps. 103).

A. God's pity extends to all those that **fear** Him (Ps. 103:13,18).

1. He condescends to our childish ignorance.
2. He takes into account our weakness (v. 14).
3. He forgives our faults (v. 3).

B. God's pity extends to those who are **wronged** by others (Acts 9:4; Lk. 18:7).

C. God's pity extends to His children's **dreads** (Ps. 23:4).

II. It Should **Spur** Us to **IMITATE** Him.

A. By loving our enemies (Matt. 5:44, 45).

B. By separating from the world (2 Cor. 6:17,18).

C. By being led by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14).

III. It Should **Prompt** Us to **PRAY** More (Matt. 7:9-11).

A. Because our Heavenly Father delights to give to His children – more than the best of human fathers (James 1:17)

1. Infinitely willing
2. Infinitely wise
3. Infinitely able

B. Because our Heavenly Father gives His filial Spirit to those who ask and obey (Matt. 7:11; Acts 5:32).

CONCLUSION: Do not fear to take God as your Father! The realization of the truth of God's Fatherhood is the starting point of prayer and holiness and the secret of forgiveness. Jesus came to reveal the Father. Let the words of Jesus sink deep into your hearts and ears – Your Father sees. Your Father knows. Your Father rewards. Your Father forgives. Your Father provides. Your Father answers prayer.