

## The Provision of our Father

Psalm 103: 8-14

Today we celebrate Father's Day, a time set aside to honor our fathers and show our gratitude for their contributions in our lives. I am thankful for each one who invested in me and made a significant impact on my life. I am sure I would not be where I am today, or serving the Lord in the capacity I do without their investment and godly wisdom.

As I pondered what to share on such a special day, I was reminded of the many blessings we all enjoy from our heavenly Father. Every believer can rejoice and be thankful for the presence and influence of the Lord our God. Your father may no longer be with you. If you still have your father, be thankful for that and cherish the time you have. Some may not have enjoyed a meaningful relationship with their father, but we all have the opportunity to enjoy a personal, meaningful relationship with the Lord.

Some consider our text today, a psalm of David, as his "hallelujah chorus." It is a psalm of thanksgiving and praise for the merciful blessings of God. David sets the tone for the psalm in verse 1: [Bless the LORD, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name](#). Having received so much from the Lord, David was compelled to praise Him for His many blessings. We too ought to offer praise and worship to our Lord for His many blessings in our lives. This should be done every day, and today offers a special opportunity to praise our heavenly Father. I want to examine the [details](#) of God's merciful dealings with humanity as we consider: [The Provision of our Father](#).

**I. The Attributes of His Mercy (8-10)** – David describes the mercies of God offered toward humanity in these verses. We discover:

**A. The Characteristics (8)** – [The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy](#). David had experienced the mercies of God. He declares that He is merciful toward us. He withholds from us what we rightly deserve. Mercy is one of the divine attributes of God. He is also very gracious toward us. Grace is unmerited favor, offering that which is not earned or deserved. The mercy and grace of our heavenly Father is amazing. His mercy withholds the wrath and judgment we deserve, while His grace offers favor we could never deserve. [Rom.5:20 – Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound](#).

- Such grace and mercy is available to all who will look to Him, receiving Christ Jesus, the only begotten Son, as Savior and Lord. The mercies of God have no bounds or limits. He is plenteous in mercy. It is impossible to exhaust the grace of God in our lives. He cares for us like no other. I rejoice our Father is a God of mercy and grace!

**B. The Constraint** (9) – *He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever.* David knew he was undeserving of God's abundant mercy and grace. He knew he deserved judgment for his sin, and had nothing to boast of in himself. He praised the Lord for His constraint in judgment and patience with us. The word chide in our text is significant. It means "to contend or strive." It also has the idea of "conducting a legal case, with all the ramifications involved in the proceedings." David knew if he was asked to stand accountable for his sin, he would be declared guilty. God had every right to condemn him and judge him for his sin. However, God chose to pardon his guilt, withholding judgment, while offering grace!

- Isn't that a blessing! We were just like David. Our guilt was clearly proven before the Sovereign, and we had no means of escape or exoneration. God had every right to declare us guilty and pass His divine judgment upon us. However, in His great mercy and grace, He chose to make a way for our cleansing and pardon. Our sin had to be atoned, and we had no way of making such an atonement, but He sent His Son to bear our sin and die in our place. Sin declared we were guilty, but Christ Jesus cleansed us from sin and removed all guilt! Our Mediator pleads our case and we are cleared of all charges through His gracious sacrifice.

**C. The Compassion** (10) – *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.* Again David was aware of his guilt. He knew he deserved to endure the wrath of God, but he had not been dealt with in justice. God had not brought the judgment he deserved or rewarded him according to the iniquities in his life. David did not receive payment for the works he had done. Rather than judgment, he was offered grace. This was nothing but God's merciful grace!

- Aren't you glad we haven't been dealt with according to the deeds of the flesh or the iniquities we have committed? God had every right to condemn every one of us. We were guilty of transgressing His righteousness and rebelling against His grace. He could have sent us all to Hell, and He would have been right in doing so. He could have, but He didn't! Rather than forcing us to face the due penalties of our crimes, He sent His Son to endure His wrath in our place. Jesus provided for our atonement as He died on the cross. All who receive Him by faith have their sin and condemnation traded for His righteousness and acceptance before God. We stand justified before our Father because of the sacrifice of the Son!

**II. The Abundance of His Mercy** (11-12) – Here David describes the vast abundance of mercy bestowed upon us by our heavenly Father. Notice:

**A. The Perspective** (11) – *For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.* David knew the mercies of God toward sinful men were beyond comprehension. The

heavens were so far above the earth, they were unimaginable. The distance between the two was unreachable and impossible to navigate. David knew God's mercy was much the same way. The heights of the heavens could be used to describe the great heights of God's mercy and grace toward us. It was so vast and wonderful that it was beyond comprehension or description.

- I also believe David realized the massive difference between a holy, gracious God and sinful men. Although we would never be able to obtain any measure of His righteousness in ourselves, through His great mercy, God bridged the impossible divide!

**B. The Pardon** (12) – *As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.* Although David lived prior to the cross and the great sacrifice of Christ, he understood the abundant grace of God. Those who found pardon and forgiveness in the Lord were secure in Him. His gracious cleansing forever removed the guilt and condemnation of sin. Those who enjoy the favor and acceptance of God, are no longer accountable for sin. He has removed it as far as the east is from the west. They will never be remembered against us!

- Every believer in Christ can rejoice in His abundant pardon. He provided atonement for our sin as He offered Himself the substitutionary atonement for sin. He completely and eternally atoned for the sin of all who receive Him by faith. My sin has been forgiven and forgotten! They are gone, never to be brought up again! *Isaiah 43:25 – I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.* *Heb.7:25 – Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

**III. The Affirmation of His Mercy** (13-14) – Here David reveals his confidence in the mercies of God. Consider:

**A. The Comparison** (13) – *Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.* David was a father, having many children of his own, and he knew the love and compassion he had for them. The pity which David speaks of reveals “*a deep sympathy and sorrow for one who has been struck with affliction or misfortune.*” David experienced pain and suffering when his children faced pain and suffering. He longed to help bear their burden. He also realized that God expressed and showed the same pity toward us. He knew God was aware of his situation, and always longed to help in his time of need. The love and mercy of God was always apparent in his life. He knew he could depend on the Lord in times of need.

- Every father who cares for his children as he should is loving and compassionate toward them. We hurt when they hurt. We share their burdens and long to ease their difficulties in any way

we can. So it is with our heavenly Father, just on a grander scale. If we who are sinful and undeserving show compassion, how much more will our Father pity us? [Mat.7:11 – If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?](#)

**B. The Connection** (13b) – [Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.](#)

David knew he was the recipient of something too wonderful to describe. He praised the Lord for His abundant grace, but he also knew many did not enjoy the blessing and mercies of God. The grace and mercy of God was reserved for those who fear Him. Those who had no regard or desire for the Lord could not expect to receive His blessing.

- I am aware there are general blessings that all people enjoy. God makes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the just and the unjust alike. The air we breathe and health we enjoy are blessings from God regardless of our spiritual condition. However, there are blessings that are reserved for the children of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. The unsaved can't claim the many blessings we have discussed thus far. They don't have the promise of their sins being removed as far as the east is from the west. They don't enjoy the good favor of God as the saved do. They don't have the hope of heaven and eternal life. These are available to whosoever, but they are only available in Christ. One must know Him in the free pardon of sin, having received Him as Savior and Lord to claim the mercies and grace of God.

**C. The Consideration** (14) – [For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.](#) David rejoiced that although God knew us, He continued to show compassion toward us. He is our Creator and knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows our shortcomings and failures. He knows our sinful tendencies and rebellious ways. He knows we are incapable of securing our own righteousness. He knows we are utterly dependent upon Him. He also knows our needs and our fears. He knows the struggles we face and the help we need. God knows us!

- When I consider all of this, I am amazed. God is not obligated to us in any way, and yet He continues to provide for us and meet our needs. He knew we needed a Savior and He sent His Son to purchase our redemption. After salvation, we continue to face struggles and weaknesses. Our Father is always there to lovingly provide for our every need. We are blessed beyond measure to experience the gracious mercies of our loving God and Lord.

**Conclusion:** As we celebrate our fathers today, I pray we will take the time to worship and celebrate our heavenly Father. Apart from Him we would have no hope and live a miserable existence. He provides for our every need. If you know Him personally, worship and thank Him. If you are yet unsaved, respond to the call of salvation and receive Christ as your Savior by faith!