



SONGS FOR A BROKEN WORLD

7. When we need a
perfect Father
Psalm 103

- Fatherhood designed to be a picture of God – a challenge to parents
- He is the ultimate Father we all need, and long for

1. **A Father who understands our frailty & still loves us – v13-14**

- a) He loves his kids deeply** - ‘As a Father has compassion...’
 - ‘compassion’ = a deep emotion, see Is 49:15
 - He is not distant or unaffected, but close and intimate
- b) He understands his kids’ frailty** - ‘for he remembers we are dust’
 - Doesn’t love us because we are gifted, but because we are broken
 - ‘He knows our frame’ – doesn’t ask what we can’t give
 - When we fail, he doesn’t stop loving his children

2. **A Father who is compassionate enough to get angry – v8-10**

- Two ways to destroy children – Too angry/Never angry
- We need a father who loves us enough to get angry when we do wrong
- His anger is real, but under control, temporary, and for our good
- We need to learn from his anger – it always has the purpose of growth

3. **A Father who acts in grace to rescue and transform – v1-7**

- Sometimes it is outside a father’s power to help – but not this one
- He has the passion and power to rescue and transform his kids
- His heart isn’t motivated by our abilities, but by his grace
- v2-5: 4 pairs of blessings – 1st in each is present, 2nd is present and future
- He doesn’t hold our sin over us, he forgives & transforms until we are home

4. **A Father who provides an everlasting home v15-17**

- Man is quickly forgot, but not by God
- No place left on earth, but God provides an everlasting place

5. **A Father who cares for his children’s children v17-18**

- The children of believers have a special place in God’s heart
- They enjoy special privileges – Baptism is a mark of God’s blessing
- Doesn’t make child a Christian, but encourages parents to be faithful and trust God to keep his word. Immense comfort in an uncertain world

Applications

- Fathers – what portrait of God are we painting for our children?
- How do we enjoy this fatherly care? Need to accept God’s terms (v18).
 - It took the Son to take our sins so we could become sons/daughters
 - We need to ask the Son (Jesus) to make us acceptable to the Father
- Christians: Our problems come from forgetting the benefits of having God as a Father.
 - We need to work hard at delighting in this truth

Milford RPC

www.milfordrpc.org

Sabbath 21st June 09

Welcome

This morning we will have the sacrament of Baptism at the close of the service. We welcome family and friends of Robert & Sharon, and any other visitors with us this morning. Please note: If parents need to take infants out, the service is relayed through to the Kitchen, just off the porch.

Notices

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| Sun 21 st | Evening service @ Mark & Judiths
Story of John Laing - Christian & Multimillionaire Builder | 8pm |
| Wed | Bible Study at the Church - 9th Commandment | 8pm |
| Sat 27th | Annual CY (Covenanter Youth) summer outing and BBQ
Gosford Forest Park, Markethill, Armagh
Lunch will be at 12.30pm, followed by games, a BBQ and an epilogue, finishing around 7pm. The cost is £5. | |
| Sun 28th | Church Lunch
Outreach Talk @ Day Centre - What’s the Big Picture of the Bible? | 8pm |

Tearfund - The Forgotten Children

What does it take to transform a child’s life? Timothy Gaikwad, an acclaimed film-maker and manager of Tearfund partner IMCARES will share about their work with vulnerable children on the streets of Mumbai, India and how they work to stop sex trafficking. Monday 22 June, Ray Presbyterian Church, Manorcunningham, 8pm

Holidays

Mark & Judith will be away on holidays for the first three weeks in July. The services will be as follows (no evening services):

5th - Rev Wallace McCollum 12th & 19th - Robert McCollum

If you would like to offer hospitality for Robert McCollum please speak to Mark

If you need a minister during this period please contact: Rev Stewart McMahan 074 9139468

Sunday 28th - Psalms for a broken World - Psalm 96

Opening Psalm: 74:17-22

Minister: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@milfordrpc.org

Interim Elders: Fergus Marshall: 048 7139 8351 Samuel Buchanan: 048 7134 2685