

# As a Father Pities his Children

- *The Lord is merciful and gracious, Slow to anger, and abounding in mercy. 9 He will not always strive with us, Nor will He keep His anger forever. 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor punished us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us. 13 As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust. Ps 103:8-14*

# What Should we Learn?

- *The Lord is **merciful** and **gracious**, **Slow to anger**, and **abounding in mercy**.*
- *For as the heavens are high above the earth, **So great is His mercy** toward those who fear Him;*
- *As a father pities his children, **So the Lord pities those who fear Him**.*

# Blessed are the Merciful

- “In Greek, (mercy) is a **pathos** (strong emotion), ...emotion roused by contact with affliction
- Apathy– (**a-pathos**)– “a”– (alpha-privative) negates pathos – “feel nothing” – don’t care
- Sympathy– (sum -**pathos**)–“sum”–(preposition) “with,” (Latin: **com-passio**)– “feel strongly with”
- Empathy–(**em-pathos**)–“em” – (preposition “in” +pathos)– “feel strongly within”
- We choose our response.
- Contempt, Irritation, Frustration, Wrath, Anger
- Pity, Sympathy, Mercy, compassion, empathy

# When it is our Children

- *As a father pities his children, So the Lord pities those who fear Him. 14 For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.  
Ps 103:8-14*

# The Compassion for a Child

- *Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. 25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to one, and half to the other." 26 Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king, for she yearned with compassion for her son; and she said, "O my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him!" But the other said, "Let him be neither mine nor yours, but divide him." 27 So the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him; she is his mother." 1Kgs 3:24-27*

*I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, 19 and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants." 20 "And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. 23 And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; Luke 15:18-24*

# God's Pity for Cain

- *And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. 6 So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? 7 If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Gen 4:3-7*

# Jonah's Misplaced Anger

● *But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he became angry. 2 So he prayed to the Lord, and said, "Ah, Lord, was not this what I said when I was still in my country? Therefore I fled previously to Tarshish; for I know that You are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger and abundant in lovingkindness, One who relents from doing harm. 3 Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live!" Jonah 4:1-3*



# As a Father Pities his Children

- God still pitied and sought to help him.
- God Prepared:
- A gourd to shade him :5-6
- A worm to wither the gourd :7
- A sultry east wind to make him hot :8
- Jonah threw a tantrum :9
- God patiently explained :10-11

# As a Father Pities his Children

- *And the Lord God prepared a plant and made it come up over Jonah, that it might be shade for his head to deliver him from his misery. So Jonah was very grateful for the plant. 7 But as morning dawned the next day God prepared a worm, and it so damaged the plant that it withered. 8 And it happened, when the sun arose, that God prepared a vehement east wind; and the sun beat on Jonah's head, so that he grew faint. Then he wished death for himself, and said, "It is better for me to die than to live." "It is right for me to be angry, even to death!" Jonah 4:6-9*

# God Pitied Jonah and Nineveh

- *Then God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" And he said, "But the Lord said, "You have had pity on the plant for which you have not labored, nor made it grow, which came up in a night and perished in a night. 11 And should I not pity Nineveh, that great city, in which are more than one hundred and twenty thousand persons who cannot discern between their right hand and their left — and much livestock?"* Jonah 4:9-11

# God's Mercy to Saul of Tarsus

- *This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. 16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life. 1 Tim 1:15-17*
- Not the Exception ... This is the Rule.