**R908 Rumination for June 19, 2022 (Father’s Day Rumination) by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **Like as a father** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

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

The **T**hots:

Intro. Today is celebrated as **Father’s Day**.

It is indeed **G**racious of **G**od, the **E**ternal Father, to **E**xemplify His **C**haracter and **C**ompassion for us by **C**omparing it with our **E**arthly father putting him up as an **E**xample to **E**xpound Who and What He is.

Thus, ideally, we should be able to see the **C**haracter of God in the **C**onduct of our earthly father. Hence…

1. **The Earthly Father should always Be A Good Example…**
2. For God to Use to **E**xemplify His **C**haracter, e.g., God is **C**ompassionate.
3. Show **C**ompassion to his **C**hildren, as God does to those who **F**ear Him. Psa. 103:13, NRSV

*As a father has compassion for his children, so the LORD has compassion for those who fear Him*

1. As the **F**ather of the prodigal son who **F**ailed him: Lk. 15:20-22

*And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him,*

*and had* ***compassion****, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him,*

*Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

*But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet:*

1. As the Lord who taught His **F**ollowers to **F**ear and **F**ollow His **F**ather. Jn. 14:21

*He that hath My commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth Me:*

*and he that loveth Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.*

1. Show the **C**haracter of God, the Father, e.g. God **C**ommunicates with His **C**hildren Psa. 103:3-5
2. **F**orgive them when they **C**onfess their **F**ailures and **F**railties.

* (He) *forgiveth all thine iniquities;* (He) *healeth all thy diseases;*
* (He) *redeemeth thy life from destruction…crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;*
* (He*) satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.*
* Reflect on how you can show these qualities as a Father to your Children.

1. Teach the **C**hildren to **F**ear (Respect) and Honour him and in turn to honour God: Deut. 5:16; Eph. 6:1

* *Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee.*
* *Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith…for them that honour Me I will honour…* I Sam. 2:30

1. For God to Use to **E**xemplify His **C**onduct, e.g. God is **C**onsiderate. Psa. 103:6-13
2. *The LORD executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.* 103:6
3. *The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.* 103:8
4. *He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger for ever.* 103:9
5. *He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.* 103:10

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

1. For God to Use You to **E**xemplify His **C**hastening – Educate the **C**hildren to obey God’s **C**ommands. Deut. 4:10

*When the LORD said…Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.*

**C**hasten your **C**hildren –

*God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?* Heb. 12:7

Note:Chasteneth (*Paideuō) is* from (*pais*); to train up a child, i.e. educate, or (by implication) discipline (by punishment): - chasten (-ise), instruct, learn, teach. Strong

Thus, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* Cf. Pro.22:6

1. **The Earthly Father should be Gracious for God to refer to him to Exhibit Who He is.**

**The Earthly Father should…**

1. Give his **B**est to his children – when **C**apable do not be **C**apricious. Lk. 11:13

*If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish,*

*will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?*

*If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children:*

1. Admittedly he can be **G**ood and **G**enerous but he cannot out**B**id God in His **G**enerosity and **G**reatness!

***How much more*** *shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?*

**G**od is Consistent with His **G**enerosity!

On this **Father’s Day (and Lord’s Day)** let all Fathers and Children join together and… Psa. 103:20-22

***Bless the LORD****, ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments,*

*hearkening unto the voice of His word.*

***Bless ye the LORD****, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure.*

***Bless the LORD****, all His works in all places of His dominion:*

***Bless the LORD, O my soul****.*

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 908**

1. The Role and Responsibility of the modern-day father has changed Radically from those in biblical times and from God’s Standard of what a godly father should be.

Contrast this with a description of the modern-day father as defined in Wikipedia –

[*https://www.google.com/search?q=The+Modern+Day+Father&rlz=1C1CHBF\_enMY876MY876&oq=The+Modern+Day+Father&aqs=chrome..69i57j33i160.6895j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8*](https://www.google.com/search?q=The+Modern+Day+Father&rlz=1C1CHBF_enMY876MY876&oq=The+Modern+Day+Father&aqs=chrome..69i57j33i160.6895j1j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8)*,* as follows

***What is a modern father?***

*“Today's father is no longer always the traditional married breadwinner and disciplinarian in the family. He can be single or married; externally employed or stay-at home; gay or straight; an adoptive or step-parent; and a more than capable caregiver to children facing physical or psychological challenges.”*

Examine carefully how the modern-day father is defined above, and reflect if God can ever use him as an Example to Expound and Explain His Character, Concern and Conduct of Himself towards Man.

Note, the Modern-day Father …

* is **no longer** always the traditional married breadwinner and **disciplinarian** in the family;
* he **can be** **single** or married;
* externally employed or stay-at home;
* **gay** or straight;
* an adoptive or **step-parent**;
* and a **more than capable** caregiver to children facing physical or psychological challenges.”

Can God, the Eternal Father, ever point to any of the above traits of a Modern Day Father (especially the highlighted items) as a reference for us to know Who God is from what we can see from the character and conduct of the earthly modern-day father?

Can you, when you want to refer to God’s character quote Psalm 103:13? (***Like as a father*** *pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear Him*) to prove who God is in the following way:

***Like as a father (is…*** [fill in with an item from above of the modern father]

***so the LORD***[***is***…]**)**?

That God is like, and behaves like, the modern earthly father today?

Is this the father you want to be in this modern day? **REFLECT**.

1. The children are also reminded of their duties and responsibilities to their father, as a pointer to the relationship between God’s children and God, as their Father. The motto is:

**Matt. 5:16** – *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works,*

***and glorify your Father which is in heaven.***

Thus, reflect on these biblical admonitions to the children with respect to their father:

Exo. 20:12} – *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land* Deut. 5:16 } *which the LORD thy God giveth thee*.

Pro. 6:20 – M*y son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother.*

Eph. 6:2-3 – *Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with*

*promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth*.

Today is Father’s Day.

Fathers on Earth are Reminded of their Roles and Responsibilities to their Children;

and Children are Reminded of the Respect and Reverence they need to show to their Father on earth to Glorify their Father in Heaven. **REFLECT.**

**Points To Ponder:**

*God* ***R****espects the Father on* ***E****arth to use him as an* ***E****xample of Who He is that he might teach his children to* ***R****evere his Father in Heaven.* (Psa. 103:13)