

Devotions Friday 18 March – walk humbly

Psalm 103: 7 – 12

7 He made known his ways to Moses,

his deeds to the people of Israel:

8 the Lord is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

9 He will not always accuse,

nor will he harbour his anger for ever;

10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

12 as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

In our world, if we commit a crime and we confess we are subject to the laws of the country and we will face punishment accordingly, whether it be a fine, community service or time spent in jail. We have to pay the price for our transgressions and that is just the legal side. Depending on what we have done, there may be many people who are very angry with us and who might even try to take revenge. In the Old Testament God even institutes “an eye for an eye” policy, not as a law but as a limit to the amount of retribution that takes place, you may not go beyond what was originally done, because things were getting so out of hand. This is the way of humans but not God.

God is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in love. God has an incredible amount of patience with us as we do the same stupid things over and over again. He does not stand waiting to accuse us every time we do wrong and he does not punish us as our sins deserve. Rather he loves us so much that when we come to him, humbling ourselves and praying to him he forgives us time after time and he not only forgives us but he removes our sins from us as if we had never done them.

When I was at school we got stars when we were good and dots when we were naughty and the stars and dots would accumulate and when you got to a certain amount you would either get a reward or a punishment. With God every time we confess our sins, he removes those dots and you have a clean slate again. Those dots get passed on to Jesus, who has already paid the punishment for them. Humbling ourselves before God, makes us right again with God.



## Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you so much that you are not like us. We would never be able to come before you if you kept record and punished us for all that we have done wrong. Thank you for your never ending grace and that through Jesus' death on the cross we have been justified, made right with you.

In Jesus name we pray,

Amen.

Rev KS Brown