God Remembers What We Forget
Psalm 103:13,14 (NKJV)

INTRODUCTION

Did you ever leave one room to go to another room to do something and when you got there you couldn’t remember why you were there?

I don’t know about you, but that seems to be happening more and more to me lately. In fact, the older I get, I seem to be getting more forgetful about a lot of things.

*Sometimes I forget where I laid my keys.
*Sometimes when I wake up I forget what day it is.
*Sometimes I forget people's names, including people I see frequently.
*Sometimes I forget where I parked my truck at Wal-Mart.
*Sometimes I forget my pin number when I’m using my debit card.

Do any of you ever forget things like that? If you are like me, perhaps there are times you are concerned that your “forgetfulness” may be the early warning signs of alzheimer’s; when in reality most of our forgetfulness is due to “mental overload.” Sometimes our lives are so hectic and our minds are bombarded with so much information, we throw a “mental breaker” and forget simple, every day things we ought to remember.

The title of my message this evening is: “What God Remembers That We Forget.” If you and I will take this message to heart God can use it to transform our lives.
Please turn with me to **PSALM 103**. And our “key” verses in this passage are **VERSES 13, 14**.

**Psalm 103:13,14 (NKJV)**  
As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.

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One of our biggest barriers to growing close to GOD is that we think GOD feels the same way towards us that we feel towards ourselves.

*We know the sinful thoughts we think that Christians ought not think.*

*We know the sinful words we say that Christians ought not say.*

*We know the sinful deeds we do, that Christians ought not do.*

We know **WHEN WE SIN.......WHERE WE SIN.......and HOW OFTEN WE SIN.** And because we know GOD also knows our deepest, darkest secrets, we think He feels the same way towards us as we feel towards ourselves.

But He doesn’t. You see, **GOD REMEMBERS SOMETHING ABOUT US THAT WE FORGET.**

**(A)**  
For one thing, **GOD REMEMBERS THE MANNER IN WHICH WE ARE MADE.**

**v.14a**  
“For He knows our **FRAME.**”

That simply means, GOD knows how we are **CREATED.** He knows how we are “put together,” after all He is the One who created us and put us together.

**Psalm 139:13-16 (NKJV)**  
For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed, and in Your book they all were written,The days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.
Now what does all that mean? It means GOD knows how we THINK. He knows how we FEEL. He knows how we REACT. He knows our personality. He knows our temperament. He knows our LIKES and DISLIKES.

He knows our greatest INSECURITIES. He knows our greatest FEARS. He knows our greatest WEAKNESSES. And He knows which TEMPTATIONS we struggle with the most and which SINS we are most vulnerable to.

But not only does GOD remember the MANNER in which we are made.

(B) GOD remembers the MATERIALS we are made of.

v.14b “He remembers that we are dust.”

Isn’t that beautiful! God knows He didn’t make us out of iron or steel or granite. He remembers we are dust! He remembers we are dust! He remembers we are dust! He remembers we are dust!

He knows we are WEAK. He knows we get TIRED. He knows we get FRUSTRATED. He knows we are easily DISTRACTED. He knows we struggle with worldly LUSTS and worldly DESIRES. He knows how our FLESH wars with our SPIRIT.

Now let’s stop and think about something. Would a good father be harsh and cruel towards his children because they are weak? Would a good father demand perfection out of his children when he knows they are incapable of perfection? NO, a good father would KNOW and UNDERSTAND THE LIMITATIONS OF HIS CHILDREN.

How much more true is this of OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

Verses 13,14 As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame (the manner in which we are made). He remembers that we are dust. (He remembers the materials we are made of.)
If you and I could see ourselves through the loving eyes of our heavenly Father, we might not be so hard on ourselves and so hard on other people.

How should this transform our relationship with our Heavenly Father? Let me suggest three ways:

First of all, I can know...........

I. My Father Would Rather FORGIVE Me Than CONDEMN Me

Psalm 103:1-3a (NKJV)

1 Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

2 Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

3 Who forgives all your iniquities,

1. Many of us can remember the “old vinyl records” that you played on a phonograph or a record player. Remember how the needle would get stuck and repeat the same line of the song over and over again?

2. Just like a broken record, many of us replay our sins, over and over and over again. And we think because our sins stay on our mind that must mean GOD hasn’t truly forgiven us. Nothing could be further from the truth.

3. Listen carefully! When the memories of your past sins keep replaying over and over again in your mind its because Satan, “the accuser” keeps reminding you of those sins.
4. The God of the Bible is a FORGIVING God, but we must never take that lightly as though “It’s OK to sin over and over again, because I know GOD will forgive me.”

The only basis upon which GOD can forgive you and me of our sins is because of the terrible TRAGEDY of the CROSS.

“For without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22)

5. **Verse 10 (Psalm 103:10 NKJV)** here in our text says, “He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor punished us according to our iniquities.”

**Verse 12 (Psalm 103:13 NKJV)** says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.”

**Isaiah 43:25 (NKJV)** “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”

That doesn't mean GOD is forgetful or that He has a bad memory and can't remember what I did twenty or thirty years ago. What it means is HE CHOoses NOT TO HOLD MY SIN AGAINST ME. “For there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.”

**FOR HE KNOWS OUR FRAME. HE REMEMBERS THAT WE ARE DUST!**
But not only can I know **MY FATHER WOULD RATHER FORGIVE ME THAN CONDEMN ME.**

I can also know............

II. **My Father Would Rather Show Me MERCY Than To PUNISH Me**

*Psalm 103:4 (NKJV)*  
Who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.

*Psalm 103:8 (NKJV)*  
The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in mercy.

*Psalm 103:17 (NKJV)*  
But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him, and His righteousness to children’s children.

**Illustration**

One day when I was around thirteen years old, my dad and I were playing “pitch and catch” with a baseball in our big side yard. Dad was standing near our driveway where his brand new, 1968 Plymouth Fury III was parked. I was standing about thirty yards away from him out in the middle of the yard.
Dad threw a real high fly ball to me and after catching it, I threw him a “real high fly ball,”.......I mean a “real high fly ball” that sailed right over his head and crashed right through the passenger side window of Dad's new Plymouth Fury.

As I stood there in horror watching him stare at the damage, I knew he was going to say those familiar words I had heard many other times: “Ok, let's go the bedroom.”

But you know what? When dad turned around he didn't have a look of anger on his face. Instead he had a big smile. You see, dad “knew I was made of dust” and his little “dirt ball” of a son had made a big mistake. **He chose to show me MERCY rather than to PUNISH me.**

1. Sometimes we get the idea that GOD is sitting up there on His throne just waiting for us to “mess up” so He can punish us. In fact, a lot of times when we start having some real tough trials and troubles, we actually think that's GOD'S way of getting back at us for something we did.

2. Brothers and sisters, **GOD KNOWS OUR FRAME. HE REMEMBERS THAT WE ARE DUST. AND HE WOULD RATHER SHOW US MERCY THAN TO PUNISH US.**
3. Now that doesn’t mean GOD won’t ever discipline us when we have sinned.

**HEBREWS 12:5b, 6 (NKJV)** “My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; for whom the LORD loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”

4. We need to understand that in His divine wisdom, our loving heavenly Father knows when we need MERCY and when we need DISCIPLINE.

Because God knows my frame and He remembers that I am dust, I can know **My Father Would Rather FORGIVE Me Than CONDEMN Me..........**and I can know **My Father Would Rather Show Me MERCY Than To PUNISH Me.**

And finally, I can know........
III. My Father Would Rather Be At PEACE With Me Than Be ANGRY With Me

Psalm 103:9 (NKJV) He will not always strive with us, nor will He keep His anger forever.

1. Satan’s goal is to “drive a wedge” between us and GOD. And one of the ways he does that is he tries to convince us that GOD is an “angry father” who can never let go of our sins and mistakes.

2. Satan knows if he can distort our view of GOD that we will keep our distance and not draw near to GOD.

3. Do you think GOD is still angry with you over sins you committed 25 or 30 years ago? Do you even think GOD is still angry with you over sins you committed yesterday?

4. If that’s how you view GOD you need to change your view.

YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER KNOWS YOUR FRAME, HE REMEMBERS THAT YOU ARE DUST. AND HE WOULD RATHER BE AT PEACE WITH YOU THAN BE ANGRY WITH YOU.
HE'S STILL WORKING ON ME...

He's still working on me to make me what I ought to be.
It took Him just a week to make the moon and stars,
The sun and the earth and Jupiter and Mars.
How loving and patient He must be, He's still working on me.

There really ought to be a sign upon the heart,
Don't judge me yet, there's an unfinished part.
But I'll be perfect just according to His plan
Fashioned by the Master's loving hands.

In those times when you get discouraged and you're ready to quit and throw in the towel, just remember your loving, merciful heavenly Father understands. He understands that you and I aren't perfect. He understands the temptations we face every day in this fallen world.

GOD REMEMBERS WHAT WE SO OFTEN FORGET!

“He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust.”