

# St Martins C3 – September 3, 2023

## A Grandfathers Heart

### **Sermon Summary:**

When you think of an ideal Grandfather, what qualities come to mind? – Maybe, wise, or loving, or patient? Qualities that we should all have, but maybe granddads have had time to refine them a little more.

The Bible often refers to God as our Father. Or to be more precise, He is more like a Greaaaaaaat Grandfather. God is a Great Granddad with some wonderful qualities that He passes on to us.

Prophets like Zephaniah would communicate God's heart for His people. The context here is around 600 years before Christ. Zephaniah is sharing what is on God's heart to the nation of Israel (God's people). Even though this was written over 2500 years ago, it still applies today, because it is still God's heart for His people now.

### **Read: Zephaniah 3:14-17**

This is an amazing example of God's heart for His people. It reveals what God wants us to experience. We also need to keep in mind, these experiences of God's nature can also be passed on to others, so that they are also blessed by God's grandfather's heart.

### **1) God is NOT distant – He is PERSONAL – He cares.**

God wants to be WITH His people. He wants a relationship with us. He really cares for us. God wants us to be aware of the presence of His Holy Spirit, in us and among us.

This isn't the only place this is communicated. God being present with His people is a major theme of scripture. For example, in Hebrews 13:5 God says: *"Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

With God's presence, comes God's peace. That peace is a sustaining peace that empowers us to overcome life's challenges. Much like the assurance of a Father's presence brings a sense of peace to His children.

## **2) God's love will bring REASSURANCE to His people.**

The ancient world was a fearful place. Your families security was constantly at risk. In this context, God reassures them that He is in control, so there is no need to fear.

Reassurance means removing someone's doubt's or fears. God (and good Granddads) can bring reassurance because they have overcome bigger things than what their children are currently facing.

## **3) God will rejoice and celebrate with you.**

Celebration brings value to something. That is why we celebrate birthdays and graduations, etc. It is acknowledging that we value you and what you have achieved. God truly values us and the masterpiece of His character, He is forming in us. (Ephesians 2:10)

So, let us consider today, the depth of God's Fatherly love for us. How it brings peace, reassurance and celebration to our lives. Then let us take that sense of peace, reassurance and rejoicing and share it with others, so they may be drawn to God's life.

## **Suggested Questions for Connect Groups:**

*What qualities come to mind, when you think of God's Father's heart?*

*When considering the three attributes of God that we looked at on Sunday, which stood out to you, Peace, Reassurance or Rejoicing?*

*How might a deeper appreciation of these attributes, lead us into a deeper experience of God?*

*How might internalising God's peace, reassurance or joy empower us to help others who are looking for those things in their lives?*