### Monday 3rd August

### Isaiah 30: 18, 19

### Yet the Lord longs to be gracious to you;     therefore he will rise up to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice.     Blessed are all who wait for him!

### People of Zion, who live in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. How gracious he will be when you cry for help! As soon as he hears, he will answer you.

We sometimes sing a song at Breakfast Church called 'What is your God like?'

(by Dave Godfrey).  It goes like this:

Does the Lord make you sad? Does he make you really mad?  
Does he worry you and fill you with despair?

Is he full of lies and greed? Does he keep what you need?

Does he laugh at you and say he doesn't care?  
No way!!  
  
Cos he is gracious, compassionate, Slow to anger, rich in love  
Always good to all, Compassionate to all that he has made  
  
Does He make you jump for joy? Does He love each girl and boy?  
Does He know how many hairs are on your head?   
Is He gentle, is He wise? Is there goodness in His eyes?  
Can you trust Him and the things He says?  
Oh yes!!!

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We often need reminding of the character of God. Especially so in a world that largely doesn't know Him and has Him consigned to myth or fairy tales, or cast Him as a benevolent but impotent old man in the sky, or even a tyrant who is waiting for an opportunity to throw a thunderbolt at you! No way! As Dave Godfrey would say! These two verses in Isaiah are one of the many places in Scripture that we get a clear picture of what God is really like – the God who has revealed Himself through Jesus. He is just looking for opportunities to show grace and compassion! He is a God of Justice who will one day right all injustice and has a heart for those suffering as a result. He is a God who brings comfort and does not remain silent when we call to Him for help. Of course, the character of God will take all of eternity for us to begin to comprehend His goodness! But as today is the first day of the rest of eternity, meditating on these verses is a good place to start! He's better than you think!



*Lord, thank you that you are full of compassion and mercy, that you hear us when we cry to you, that you holy and just. You are such a good Father! Please help us as we seek you today – bring us revelation of your character. And we ask that you would help us to demonstrate your goodness to those around us. Amen*