

**Sermon Quotes**  
**June 17, 2007**  
**Father's Day Message**  
**Father of Mercies and God of All Comfort**

**Point # 1** - The Bible always assumes afflictions to be a normal part of life in this fallen age.

**John 16:33** (Jesus speaking) "...In the world you **will have** tribulation..."

**James 1:2** "Count it all joy, my brothers, **when** you meet trials of various kinds..." (Notice it says "when" not "if.")

**1 Thessalonians 3:3-4** "...For you yourselves know that **we are destined** for this. For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we **were to suffer affliction**, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know."

**Two Kinds of Afflictions in Life:**

1. Those that come just by living life in a fallen age.
2. Those that come because of sinful or unwise choices we have made.

**Point # 2** –God responds to our afflictions in a very different way than most earthly fathers do.

**Luke 15:18-20** I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants." And he arose and came to his father.

*But what is the Father's Response?*

"But while he was **still a long way off**, his father saw him and **felt compassion**, and **ran** and embraced him and kissed him."

**Point # 3** – God wants us to comfort others—including our children—with the comfort we've received from Him.

*"Sinner, you know that God sees you this morning; sitting in this house you are observed by the God of heaven. There is not a desire in your heart which he hasn't read, nor a tear in your eye which he does not observe. I tell you he has seen your midnight sins, he has heard your cursings and your blasphemies, and yet he has loved you notwithstanding all that you have done. You could hardly have been a worse rebel against him, and yet he has noted you in his book of love, and determined to save you, and the eye of his love has followed you wherever you have gone. Is there not some comfort here? Oh! what a wonder is this? Consider the Prodigal. Fresh from the pigsty was he not?"*

*“... Yet now in a father’s embrace; fresh from the swine with their gruntings in his ears, and yet now he hears a father’s loving words... What a change, and all at once. I say there is no gradual process in this, but the thing is done at once... He was not forgiven on conditions; he was not received to his father’s heart if he would do so-and-so. No, there were no ‘ifs’ and no ‘buts;’ he was kissed, and clothed, and feasted, without a single condition of any kind whatever... His father had cast his offenses behind his back in a moment... He was not, for instance, allowed to call himself a child, but to think of himself an inferior. No; he wears the best robe; he has the ring on his finger; he has the shoes on his feet; and he joins in eating the fatted calf; and so the sinner is not received to a second class place, but he is taken to the full position of a child of God.”*

—Charles Spurgeon