



Psalm 145:8

Sermon Summary

Thinking about God is our joy and it strengthens our faith. God is gracious and compassionate in heart, not cold and indifferent. This disposition is the basis on which the Psalm writer prays for favour (but also on the basis of his past actions and future promises!). This attribute is not opposed to his other attribute of justice. We can think wrongly about God's compassion by thinking a) we don't need it b) we deserve it c) we are beyond it. God doesn't just have a moved heart he also puts his compassion into action through Jesus. Seeing God's heart and actions cannot leave us unchanged; compassion in speaking and serving in Jesus name.

1. Do any of us struggle to see God this way? Why do we think that is?
2. Can you think of an example in the Old Testament scriptures where God's compassion is clearly on display?
3. Why is important for our faith to set our minds not just on God's gracious and compassionate heart but more importantly (?) on the effectual historical work of Jesus?
4. What areas could we ourselves grow in graciousness and compassion? What might this look practically?