ABSTRACT: A common criticism of Christian Theism is that even if there is some supernatural being responsible for the creation of the world, he is at most an ‘absentee landlord’ and not the loving Father portrayed by Jesus of Nazareth. This charge is at its most forceful in the context of what I’ll call “the problem of apparent indifference”, which directs attention to the fact that our earthly well-being is apparently at the mercy of forces of nature which are not directed toward our flourishing. A common Christian response to the problem of apparent indifference is an insistence that the indifference is merely apparent. God is in fact directing all of the events of our earthly lives, though he does not do so according to any reason or principles we can make sense of. This response has problems, some of which I will highlight briefly. My main concern, however, is to explore a different response. Critics and Christians alike would do well to acknowledge that the ‘absentee landlord’ analogy has its origins in the teachings of Jesus. I maintain that our earthly well-being is at the mercy of indifferent forces of nature (and so that God is, in that respect, like an absentee landlord or a dispossessed king), but that there remains a relevant sense in which God is a Father to us.