

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

LAMENTATIONS 3:21-26

Text: Lamentations 3:23

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²³ *They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.***

Introduction:

The book of Lamentations is a series of songs of mourning that were written against the backdrop of the Babylonian invasion and destruction of Jerusalem.

In the verses of this book, we can see the awful sufferings endured by the people of that city at the hand of their enemies. Still, even in the midst of all the pain and the turmoil, God had His man in Jerusalem to record the events and to bring honor to His Name.

The writer of the book of Lamentations is believed to be Jeremiah. He was known as the Weeping Prophet.

A study of Jeremiah's life reveals a portrait of unending sadness and deep depression.

Note the background of this man of God.

1. Received an unwanted call to minister - Jer. 1:5-6.
2. Called to a ministry of preaching nothing but judgment - Jer. 1:9-10.
3. He was forbidden to marry so that he might give himself more fully to his ministry of proclaiming the impending judgment of God - Jer. 16:1-13. As a result he was very familiar with loneliness.
4. He was a man of deep sadness and he wept openly about the sins of his people - Jer. 9:1.
5. He endured depression as the result of his message going unheeded for so long. He even came to the point where he tried to get out of the ministry, Jer. 20:9. His pain is understandable, because in a ministry that spanned some 50 years, there is no record of even one convert.
6. He suffered imprisonment by King Zedekiah because the king did not approve of Jeremiah's preaching - Jer. 32:5. Even while the Babylonians are invading the city in fulfillment of his prophet declarations, Jeremiah is sitting in the dungeon - Jer. 32:2.
7. After Jerusalem falls and many have been killed or taken captive, the prophet does not gloat or take an "I told you so" mentality. Instead, he becomes broken

with the remnant and enters into suffering with them -
Lamentations 1-5.

After enduring a life like this; after being rejected, hated, mocked, imprisoned, ignored; after seeing his beloved Jerusalem ransacked, desecrated and destroyed; after experiencing the horror of war, the brutality of the enemy and the pangs of hunger, Jeremiah was still able to stand forth amid the rubble of the city and the bodies of the dead and lift his voice in praise to God for His great, unfailing faithfulness to His people.

How was this possible? Despite his trials and his troubles, Jeremiah had gotten a good grasp on the reality of just Who God is! Jeremiah knew that whether things went well, or whether everything fell apart, God would still be God and that God would be eternally faithful to His people,

Note Lamentation 3:21

Lamentations 3:21

²¹ This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope.

Jeremiah was still able to find hope in a hopeless situation because he believed in the faithfulness of His great God.

Like Jeremiah, we all go through times when life seems to fall apart at the seams. When these times come we also need the blessed assurance that God is faithful! Thankfully the Bible gives overwhelming evidence of the unchanging faithfulness of our great God.

Notice what these words teach us about the great, unfailing faithfulness of the God of the believer.

1. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GRACE (VS. 22)

Lamentations 3:22

²² *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

Mercies - This word is translated “loving-kindness” over 30 times in the Old Testament. It is a very expressive word that conveys all the ideas of “love, grace, mercy, faithfulness, goodness and devotion.” This word pictures God as the Divine lover of men. It finds its New Testament equivalent in the idea of God’s love and grace. Notice a couple of quick thoughts about the amazing grace of God.

Jeremiah seems to be remembering that it was the pure grace of God that brought Israel out of their slavery in Egypt. It was also grace that had kept them a redeemed people in spite of their failures and wanderings.

Note how this applies to us today:

A. His Grace Saves Us

Only grace could have reached us in our lost, doomed condition.

Ephesians 2:1-4

¹ And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; ² Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ³ Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

We could not get to God, so God came to us! He came in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ to die for our sins.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

He came in the Person of the Holy Spirit to draw us to God so that we might be saved.

John 16:7-11

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

John 6:44

⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

B. His Grace Secures Us

Grace not only sought us out when we were lost in sin; grace keeps us in our saved condition. We are prone to failure. We are prone to spiritual wandering. If our salvation resented upon our ability to be faithful to the Lord, none of us would ever be saved. Thankfully, salvation is the Lord's arena and not ours! We are saved by His grace and we are kept by that same grace.

1 Peter 1:5

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Psalms 37:23-24

²³ The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way. ²⁴ Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth him with his hand.

Psalms 37:28

²⁸ For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off.

John 4:13-14

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

2. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GIFTS (VS. 22-23)

Lamentations 3:22-23

²² It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. ²³ They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Compassion - This is a word that literally means “womb”. It means “to be moved in the heart out of

love for another.” This word is a picture of the grace of God actively moving in the life of the believer.

As we pass through our storms and our valleys, we do not do so alone! God observes our path and His grace gives us all we need for our journey.

A. God’s Gifts are Faithful

God did not promise an easier road, but He promised that His grace would be sufficient for the need.

2 Corinthians 12:9

⁹ And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Think about Paul and his battle with that thorn in the flesh.

Grace is usually defined as “The unmerited love and favor of God toward sinners.” It carries that idea, but this is a word that has come to mean so much more than that. It has come to refer to “the strength of God to face battles and to bear up under times of difficulty.”

We should always remember that regardless of what life sends our way, we can be confident of the fact that the Lord will give us the necessary strength to face the

trying times of life. You'll never face a situation as a believer that God will not give grace to help you make it through. Notice the promise given in Isaiah 43:1-2.

Isaiah 43:1-2

¹ But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. ² When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

- The Gift of His Presence

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Matthew 28:20

²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

These verses, along with others reveal the great truth that God is always present with His children. Even when He cannot be seen, He is there. When you cannot trace God in your life, I challenge you to come to the place where you can trust Him fully.

- The Gift of Performance

Ephesians 3:20

²⁰ Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

Note the word “able”! If this verse is to be taken at face value, and I am certain that it is, then it becomes plain that our God is greater, by far, than any problem we have, or will ever face.

God will take care of you!

- The Gift of Provision

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Matthew 6:25-33

²⁵ Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? ²⁶ Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? ²⁷ Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? ²⁸ And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the

lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: ²⁹ And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? ³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Psalms 37:25

²⁵ I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

God has promised to take care of His children, and He will! It may be that His idea of taking care is different than yours, but that is where faith in the trustworthiness of God comes in. We must come to the place where we are willing to trust the Lord to take care of us in any way that He sees fit.

- The Gift of His Person

Hebrews 13:8

⁸ Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Malachi 3:6

⁶ For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

God's nature makes Him reliable at all times. He does not change! God is the same today as He has been forever, and the same as He will be forever. He was faithful in the beginning and He will be faithful in the end.

B. God's Gifts Are Fresh (vs. 23a)

The grace of God is as fresh as the new day. We do not have to worry about there not being enough for us to make it through, for God's grace in our lives is as fresh as the new day.

Matthew 6:34

³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Just as every new day brings with it its own set of burdens and problems, so each day witnesses a new, unfailing, all-sufficient, supply of God's marvelous, matchless, wonderful, amazing grace.

3. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GOODNESS (VS. 24-26)

Lamentations 3:24-26

²⁴ The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will

I hope in him. ²⁵ The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. ²⁶ It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.

The word “good” has the idea of “pleasant, agreeable and excellent.” It refers to the character of God. This word reminds us that God is ever engaged in that which is best in the lives of His children.

A. He Satisfies

God is described as the soul’s “portion.” This word means “share or booty.” It refers to “the spoils of war.” Jeremiah is saying, “In the battle of life, God is my reward, my share, and my portion.” When the Lord is viewed in this light, He will be all that a person needs to be satisfied in their soul.

Psalms 103:5

⁵ Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalms 107:9

⁹ For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

B. He Sustains

God will never fail those who place their trust in Him.

Isaiah 49:23

²³ And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: they shall bow down to thee with their face toward the earth, and lick up the dust of thy feet; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD: for they shall not be ashamed that wait for me.

Romans 10:11

¹¹ For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

He will sustain you through this life and into eternity.

Close:

Great is the faith that can stand amid the wreckage of life and declare the praises of God. Jeremiah was that kind of a believer.

During the early years of missionary activity in China, four members of one family accepted Christ as Savior, but the youngest, a little boy, did not. Later he came to his father and said he wanted to confess publicly that he had received the Savior. The father felt he was not old enough, so he explained to the lad that he might fall back if he made a profession when he was so young. To his well-meaning, concerned father, the boy gave this touching reply: "Jesus has promised to carry the lambs in His arms. I am only a little boy. It will be easier for Jesus to carry me." The simplicity and genuineness of the boy's faith made a profound

impression on the father, and he quickly sensed that his son knew what he was doing. Soon the youngster made known his faith in Christ and followed the Lord in believer's baptism.

As you and I face the battles, burdens, valleys, storms and trials of life, we must always remember that we are His little lambs and that He is well able to carry us safely through.