

Great is Thy Faithfulness

Devotion 3-23-2020

Hello Friends! I hope this finds all of you healthy and well. Thank you for taking the time to listen today. Pastor Terry and I are praying that you will be encouraged by our words over these next weeks as our country is caught in the grips of the covid-19 pandemic.

These are sure troubling times and it is easy to get overwhelmed and fearful, especially when there seems to be so little that we can do prevent what is happening all around us. Whenever I feel like things around me are spiraling out of control, I turn to the third chapter of the book of Jeremiah for hope and encouragement.

The first three chapters of this book are basically Jeremiah complaining or lamenting over the state of God's people. Jeremiah's list of complaints is long as he has a pity party for himself. He feels as though his prayers to God have gone unheard and unanswered. He is about to give up. His hope is almost gone.

And then, in the midst of all his weeping and complaining, Jeremiah remembers something very important. He says, "Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope:" While everything around him was pushing him towards despair, Jeremiah forced himself to bring truth to the forefront of his mind and that truth gave him hope.

The truth that Jeremiah called into his mind was this "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Friends, each morning when you wake up to more bad news about the pandemic; when it seems to be getting closer and closer to home; when fear and anxiety start to fill your heart and mind, I want you to bring this truth into mind, and have hope.

The truth is that because of the Lord's great love for us WE ARE NOT CONSUMED, God's compassion, His mercy, His great love for us will never fail us. Every morning we have a brand-new opportunity to experience God's love and grace toward us. Great is His faithfulness to us, His children. No virus can take that away from us. No financial difficulties caused by the current chaos our society is in can change God's love and care for us, His beloved children. We can count on it! We can depend on Him to see us through.

Trouble in this life, in this world, is a given. We live in a fallen world. Apart from the grace of God, we are a fallen people. Jesus said "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart, I have overcome the world." He did that on the cross. Because of the cross we do not have to be consumed by the difficulties and sorrows of this life. Because of the cross we can have hope in the midst of our troubles. Because of the cross we can face whatever this life throws at us with courage and hope, knowing that God has the last word in our lives and that He gives us victory over all that life throws at us.

Our God is a loving and compassionate, and yes, faithful God, even when the circumstances of our life seem to say differently. He can be no other way and because of God's love and compassion and faithfulness, the sorrows and struggles we face don't have to consume us. God is committed to us. He is steadfastly devoted to each one of us and is looking to pull us out from under the rubble of our life. Because He is faithful, He will walk with us through these difficult times, just as He walks with us through the good times. No matter what happens in the days and weeks to come, God is right beside us, walking by our side, carrying us through. Our

emotions may say otherwise. We may feel despair and fear and hopelessness but like Jeremiah, we need to look to the cross and remind ourselves over and over again of God's faithfulness to us through his son Jesus Christ.

Friends, we've got this! Because of the cross we have victory in this life, no matter what comes our way. God is always faithful to work His love and compassion in our lives for our good and for His glory. No matter who we are. No matter how we feel. No matter what happens. We can trust God. Great is His faithfulness. Amen.

Will you pray with me please? Good and Gracious God, we give You thanks and praise for Your faithfulness to us. In the midst of this pandemic please remind us often of this truth. Remind us that You are in control and because of that we do not need to be consumed by the fears and worries of our current situation. Help us to reach out to others in need in these troubling days and share Your love and faithfulness with them. Protect and defend the men and women; the doctors and nurses and health care workers. Give them good health, strength and encouragement. Give our leaders wisdom and discernment as they make decisions that affect so many people. Provide for those whose jobs are at risk or lost because of the chaos our world is experiencing and, in every way, may Your great faithfulness be revealed to the nations. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.