

## Great is Thy Faithfulness

Lamentations 3:21-41

6/1/03

### Intro

- Pray for the family of pastor Ron Mehl
- He died Friday evening peacefully.

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This book was also written by Jeremiah as he sat on a hill overlooking Jerusalem sometime after the destruction of the holy city by the Babylonians.

The title comes from the first word found in chapters 1, 2, and 4. In Hebrew it literally means, "Alas!"

The book was read every year on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of the month of Ab to remember the burning of the temple.

This book is helpful to us because it gives us important lessons in how to respond to difficult and troublesome times.

The verses we are studying today are the verses where hope is seen the most clearly.

And that is the one thing we all desire in the midst of trouble – hope. If anyone knows anything about trouble, surely it would be Jeremiah.

***These verses give us what needs to come to our minds if we find our lives in a place of discouragement, despair, or depression.***

***Verse 21 – This I recall to my mind...***

### **I. The Lord's lovingkindness never ceases**

#### A. Because His compassion never fails

- compassion is part of His character

**Ps 25:6-7**, "Remember, O LORD, Your compassion and Your lovingkindnesses, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your lovingkindness remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.

**Def: of compassion; deep sympathy or sorrow for another's suffering, with a desire to ease the pain or remove the cause.**

#### B. He loves with "hesed" love

Vs 22

- His love is faithful
- He is not given to fits of temper and then later regrets what He says or does

#### C. This must be recalled in our minds

Vs 21

- This is what gives us hope
- We cannot **recall** to mind what we don't have in our minds in the first place

**Deuteronomy 6:4- 9**

### **II. His mercies are new every morning**

#### A. "Great is Thy faithfulness"

- He is true to His Word

**Psalm 111:7**, "The works of His hands are truth and justice; all His precepts are sure."

- His promises are sure

**Heb 10:23**, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;"

**Illus – Abraham’s wife, Sarah,** gained the ability to conceive far beyond the normal years for giving birth, because she considered Him who promised faithful.

B. “The Lord is my portion”

- Not, *the Lord gives me my portion*, but **HE** is my portion.

**Illus -** Jesus said, “I am the way...” not, *I’ll give you the way.*

- **The Lord is the fullness of my heart**

C. “Therefore I have hope in Him”

- When God is our portion,
- When our hearts are full of Him,
- That is when we have hope.

**Hope is the key to making it through the trouble!!**

**Ps 71:5, “For You are my hope; O Lord GOD, You are my confidence from my youth.**

### **III. The Lord is good to those who wait for Him**

A. He is **GOOD** to the one who seeks Him

- Having your heart turned toward Him
- Living for the Lord.

**Romans 8:32, “And we know that God** causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, and are called according to His purpose.”

Vs 26 B. Waiting on the Lord requires patience

- and faith
- Wait for the salvation of the Lord

Vs 39 C. It does no good to complain

- Why should anyone offer complaint in view of our sins?
- If we got what we deserved we would be in much bigger trouble anyway

**II Peter 1:9, “For he who lacks these qualities is blind or short sighted, having forgotten his purification from his former sins.**

### Conclusion

**There are two things the Lord would have us do;**  
- **Let us examine ourselves**

**Illus – Peter on the water – his eyes were on the storm**

- **Let us return with hearts and hands lifted to the Lord**

**Isaiah 61: 3, “Put on a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.”**

**Lifting hands, wave offering, clapping; these are things we do naturally, they’re just misdirected.**

**We are uncomfortable doing these for the Lord.**

**But it is in the action of praise that hope springs up within our hearts.**