

Daily Devotional, June 3, 2020 Love That Knows No Bounds

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul, ‘therefore I will hope in him.’ The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.” Lamentations 3: 21-25

The book of Lamentations was written by the prophet Jeremiah soon after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. to the armies of Babylon. Jeremiah grieved at the spectacle of the city’s destruction, the temple’s charred remains, the sight of its people being killed, tortured, and the remainder driven off as captives. Jeremiah had prophesied all that had taken place, and now his grief ran deep. Called, “the weeping prophet”, his tears flowed from a heart now broken.

Lamentations is Jeremiah’s expression of grief and suffering. It is also a reflection on God’s suffering, for when we suffer, God suffers and weeps right alongside us. For God loves us at all times and in all places.

Previous to this passage, Jeremiah has listed all his toils and troubles. He names the many ways that he has fought off all of the roadblocks and pitfalls strewn in his path, but he hangs onto the one thing that keeps his hope alive: God’s love for him is eternal, God brings new blessings *every single day*, and we can be certain of these things because God is faithful—no, not just faithful—*hugely* faithful!

God loves us because God wants to. God has chosen to love us. And this love is enduring, it never stops. The Hebrew word used for that love is hesed (Chesed), interpreted as, zealous love, kindness, or *lovingkindness*. This love goes far beyond the kind of superficial attraction that we might express for one another, though which we may sincerely profess our feelings, they lack the depth that only God, our creator, can truly fathom. How blessed we are to have such a devoted creator whose love is boundless!

Hesed love is God’s choice. It is steady, rock solid, and final. It never changes, is given freely and eternally by a God who has chosen us unworthy, sinful people, as those who receive this gift of “lovingkindness”. God loves us because it is God’s will to love us. God’s love was never assigned as a reward of recognition of excellence or integrity. We read in the book of 1st John 4:8, “Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” It is God’s nature. For God, love is not a mood, not some physical or emotional attraction, not a response to something special that we do. Love is God’s very being. It flows from a heart overflowing with longing for the good of God’s people.

God’s heart overflows with love. Nothing else can take its place. Evil won’t fit, nor dishonesty, nor hurt. There will be no abandonment, it is done. Loving us is God’s will and God’s favor. Because God loves us, God’s faithfulness is there for us every second of every day, year after year. It is no wonder that Jeremiah says: “Great is your faithfulness.”

We are blessed in many ways by God’s faithfulness. Even in the midst of the Coronavirus or riots, or other storms of life, we can celebrate a God who has chosen to love us, and a God who continues to be with us morning by morning. His love and faithfulness will be there for us tomorrow as well, as we walk by faith into a future designed by Him.

What “compassions” or “faithfulness” has the Lord shown you this week even in the midst of an unsettled way of life? How have you shown your love and gratitude to God? Show it to others!

Prayer: Loving and most compassionate God, please help me to faithfully serve you and care for other people. Do not let me practice complacency but let me be truthful in my endeavors. Let me act as your true representative on earth, sharing your abundant and eternal love with others. For in the name of Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.