

God Is Faithful

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

A. Lam. 3:21-23

1. How was it possible for Jeremiah to say this, in view of how much sorrow and loss he experienced?
2. He had a good understanding and strong conviction of the reality of Who God is.
3. Jeremiah knew that whether things went well or fell apart, God would still be God and would be eternally faithful to His people.
4. Jeremiah was able to find hope in a hopeless situation because he believed in the faithfulness of God.

B. Like Jeremiah, we go through times when life seems to fall apart. When these times come, we also need the comforting assurance that God is faithful.

1. What do the scriptures teach about the great faithfulness of the God?
2. Psalm 89:1-2, 5-8, 36:5; Deut. 7:9; Zeph. 3:5; Titus 1:2; 1John 1:9

I. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GRACE

A. Lam. 3:22 - Mercies - translated "loving-kindness" over 30 times in the Old Testament. It is an expressive word that connotes love, grace, mercy, faithfulness, goodness and devotion.

1. Jeremiah tells us it was the grace of God that brought Israel out of slavery in Egypt.
2. It was His grace that kept them a redeemed people in spite of their failures and wanderings.

B. His grace saves us - Eph. 2:4-5

C. His grace secures us - 1Peter 1:5

II. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GIFTS

A. Lam. 3:22-23 - Compassion - literally "the womb"; means "to be moved in the heart out of love for another"

B. God's gifts are faithful - God did not promise an easy road, but He promised His grace will be sufficient for all needs on the road - 2Cor. 12:9; Isa. 43:1-2

1. The gift of His presence - Heb. 13:5; Matt. 28:20
2. The gift of His performance - Eph. 3:20
3. The gift of His provision - Phil. 4:19; Psalm 37:25
4. The gift of His Person - Heb. 13:8; Mal. 3:6.

C. Lam. 3:23 - God's gifts are fresh - Matt. 6:34

III. GOD IS FAITHFUL IN HIS GOODNESS

A. Lam. 3:24-26 - Good connotes "pleasant, agreeable, excellent." It reminds us that God is ever engaged in that which is best in the lives of His children.

B. Lam. 3:24 - He is a satisfier - Psalm 103:5, 107:9; Rom. 8:32

C. Lam. 3:24-25 - He is a sustainer - God will never fail those who place their trust in Him - Matt. 5:18; Isa. 40:8

D. Lam. 3:26 - He is a Savior - Job 23:10; Psalm 34:17-19

IV. THE PRODUCT OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- A. Two consequences of the faithfulness of God
 - 1. The faithfulness of God moves us to trust Him and therefore obey Him, which leads to blessings and true prosperity - Lam. 3:22-24
 - 2. The faithfulness of God presses us to be faithful as He is, which should become characteristic of all Christians - Matt. 25:23
 - 3. The salvation of Christians is dependent on their faithfulness in response to God's faithfulness - Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17
- B. How does God's faithfulness produce faithfulness in us?
 - 1. Faithfulness defined: "To be trustworthy, trustworthiness, dependable, consistent, firmness, constancy, loyal, steadfastness, stability"
 - 2. Faithfulness is an attribute of God. He is the personification of faithfulness. It is the nature of God to be faithful.
 - 3. Types of faithfulness:
 - a. Personal faithfulness. A person who is faithful in character is intrinsically faithful in all circumstances. This person would be faithful or trustworthy on his or her job, in school, and at home. All the people that are associated with a characteristically faithful person in any of his or her environments would consider that person trustworthy.
 - b. Selective faithfulness. Someone who is dependable in a certain environment, social setting, etc. For example, a person might be well known to be faithful at their place of employment but not at home. A person might be considered a trustworthy person in the church environment but not among his or her family and friends. For the most part they tend to be faithful at work because there are undesirable consequences for unfaithfulness.
 - 1) Humans tend to be motivated by pain. A person who is not characteristically faithful will operate in a faithful capacity because not doing so would bring negative or undesirable consequences.
 - c. Faithfulness in word. Integrity is manifested by the consistency of what you say and what you do. The keeping of your word is the first and probably most common indicator of your faithfulness. A person who consistently keeps his or her words would become known as faithful - Matt. 5:33-37

V. THE MEASURE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

- A. The Bible declares that God is faithful. This means He is true to His word. Faith in God, for example, means that we completely trust Him to do what He says. God has proven Himself faithful.
- B. However, on a personal level we must learn to trust God. Of course we should obey God as a matter of fact. But when relationship is involved, it is expedient to have a reason to obey so that obedience is of the heart and not by compulsion or force.
- C. Three ways that trust can be created or learned:

1. Credentials - the word of God
 2. Testimony of others - Jeremiah, et al
 3. Experience - His care for us
- D. The measure of our faithfulness. Faithfulness (trust) is earned. How does one become faithful?
1. Do what you say you are going to do. The key is to control what comes out of your mouth.
 2. Repent of unfaithful conduct and then do what you say you will do.
 3. Be frugal in the giving of your word until you are certain that you can make good on your word.

Conclusion:

- A. Our problem is that we measure God's faithfulness based on what He has or has not done for us today. Our short term, instant gratification thinking blinds us to the faithfulness of God and turns us into unfaithful people in turn
1. "The common man prays, 'I want a cookie right now!' And God responds, 'If you'd listen to what I say, tomorrow it will bring you 100 cookies.'" -- Crissjani
- B. You want to understand the faithfulness of God, you need to understand His love for you. And to understand His love for you, try loving someone who is unfaithful to you in spite of how faithful you are in your promises to them.
1. "Some people don't understand the promises they're making when they make them. But you keep the promise anyway. That's what love is. Love is keeping the promise anyway. That's how our faithful God loves you." -- John Green