

The Lord is ALL I NEED? ~ Lamentations 3:24-33

→Scripture Reading Lam. 3:20-27

INTRODUCTION

²⁰ I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. ²¹ Yet I still dare to hope when I REMEMBER this: ²² The faithful love of the LORD never ENDS! His mercies never cease. ²³ Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each morning. (NLT)

God's Faithfulness speaks of His absolute reliability, which is seen in His daily MERCIES. NLT

The Lord is My ALL ~ Lamentations 3:24-30

²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in him!" ²⁵ The LORD is good to those who depend on Him, to those who search for Him. ²⁶ So it is good to wait quietly for salvation from the LORD. ²⁷ And it is good for people to submit at an early age to the yoke of His discipline: (NLT)

Psalm 16:5-6 (NIV) LORD, You have assigned me my PORTION and my cup; You have made my LOT secure. ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; surely I have a delightful inheritance.

God is GOOD... HCSB

- in His NATURE and Being
- to those who Learn to EMBRACE His Discipline
- to all who ACCEPT His Sovereignty

There are times when the only thing a sufferer can do is WAIT for God. But waiting is GOOD because God is WORTH waiting for. PTW

²⁸ Let them sit alone in silence beneath the LORD's demands. ²⁹ Let them lie face down in the dust, for there may be hope at last. ³⁰ Let them turn the other cheek to those who strike them and accept the insults of their enemies. (NLT)

Matthew 5:38-39 (NIV) You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' ³⁹ But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right CHEEK, TURN to him the OTHER also.

IMPLICATIONS

→The Lord is ALL I NEED - He IS ENOUGH

²⁴ I say: The LORD is my PORTION, therefore I will put my HOPE in Him. (HCS)

Psalm 73:25-26 (NIV) Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has NOTHING I desire besides YOU. ²⁶ My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and MY PORTION forever.

²³ Great is His FAITHFULNESS; His mercies begin afresh each morning. ²⁴ I say to myself, The LORD is MY inheritance; therefore, I WILL hope in him. (NLT)

→We Must Embrace God's DISCIPLINE

²⁸ Let him sit alone and be silent, FOR God has disciplined him. (HCS)

To Submit to God's Discipline means... LABS

- silent REFLECTION on what God wants vs. 28
- HUMILITY and Repentance vs. 29
- SELF-CONTROL in the face of adversity vs. 30
- CONFIDENT patience vs. 27

Jeremiah 42:18 (NIV) This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: 'As my anger and wrath have been poured out on those who lived in Jerusalem, so will my wrath be poured out on you when you go to Egypt. You will be an object of cursing and horror, of condemnation and reproach; you will never see this place again. (NIV)

^{43:1} When Jeremiah finished telling the people all the words of the LORD their God - everything the LORD had sent him to tell them ² Azariah son of Hoshai and Johanan son of Kareah and all the arrogant men said to Jeremiah, "You are lying! The LORD our God has not sent you to say, 'You must not go to Egypt to settle there. (NIV)

...⁴ So Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers and all the people disobeyed the LORD's command to stay in the land of Judah. ⁵ Instead, Johanan son of Kareah and all the army officers led away ALL the remnant of Judah... (NIV)

James 1:2 (JBP) When all kinds of trials and temptations crowd into your lives my brothers, don't resent them as intruders, but welcome them as friends...

Reflecting on God's CHARACTER ~ Lamentations 3:31-33

³¹ For no one is abandoned by the Lord forever. ³² Though He brings grief, He also shows compassion because of the greatness of His unfailing love. ³³ For He does not enjoy hurting people or causing them sorrow. (NLT)

³⁹ ...why should we, mere humans, COMPLAIN when we are punished for OUR sins? (NLT)

⁴⁰ Instead, let us test and EXAMINE our ways. Let us TURN BACK to the LORD. (NLT)

Judah's afflictions were NOT cruel acts of an impulsive unpredictable God who delighted in inflicting pain on helpless people. Rather the afflictions came from a compassionate God who was being faithful to His covenant. BKC

TAKE AWAY ??

³² Though He brings GRIEF, He also shows COMPASSION because of the greatness of His unfailing love. (NLT)

²² The faithful love of the LORD never ENDS. His MERCIES never cease. (NLT)

Isaiah 45:7 (NIV) I form the light and create darkness, I bring PROSPERITY and create DISASTER; I, the LORD, do all these things.

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father!
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not; Thy COMPASSIONS, they fail not:
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Summer and Winter and Spring time and Harvest
Sun moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all Nature in Manifold witness
To Thy great Faithfulness Mercy and Love

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own great presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today, and bright hope for tomorrow
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!