**Lamentations 3:22 -23**

**God’s faithfulness in our suffering**

***The Lord’s lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail***

***They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness***

How does the believer sorrow & lament in their suffering?

Jeremiah teaches the practice of holy lament in suffering which produces hopefulness in God’s great faithfulness

**Holy lament remembers God’s faithfulness in the suffering – 3:21**

*This I recall to my mind, therefore I have hope*

1. Unbelievers set their minds on their sufferings – **hopelessness**
2. Believers recall God’s faithfulness in their suffering – **hopeful**

**Holy lament trusts in God’s faithfulness in the suffering – 3:22 -23**

1. God’s lovingkindnesses never cease
2. God’s compassions never fail
3. God’s love & compassion are new every morning

Deut. 7:9 - *know therefore that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God, who keeps His covenant and His lovingkindness to a thousandth generation with those who love Him and keep His commandments, but repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them, He will not delay with him who hates Him, He will repay to his face.*

**Holy lament hopes in God’s faithfulness in the suffering – 3:24**

*The Lord is my portion, says my soul, Therefore I have hope in Him*

1. Hope in God’s faithfulness produces confident expectation of God’s help in the suffering

**Consider: In your suffering do you focus only on the pain & troubles?**

 **Is your mind able to consider God’s faithfulness in your pain?**

**Holy lament rests in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ in the suffering – Heb. 2:17 – 18**

*Therefore, he had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted*

1. The Lord Jesus Christ became a man
2. The Lord Jesus Christ was tempted as He suffered
3. The Lord Jesus Christ suffered death as the innocent one for the guilty ones
4. The Lord Jesus Christ is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted & suffering
5. The Lord Jesus Christ is a merciful & faithful high priest for tempted suffering believers

**Consider:**

1. Jesus Christ learned to obey God from the things He suffered - believers must obey God in their sufferings

 Heb. 5:8 – *although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things He suffered*

1. Jesus Christ was faithful to God in His life of suffering – believers must be faithful to

 God in their suffering

 Heb. 3:6 – *but Christ was faithful as a Son over His house…*

1. Jesus Christ in His sufferings became the example of how to trust God in His

 sufferings - believers must trust God in their sufferings

 1 Pet. 2:21 – 23 – *who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in His mouth, and*

*while being reviled, He did not revile in return, while suffering, He uttered no threats,*

 *but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously…*

***Holy lament lives on the promises of God in the suffering***

1. God is faithful to help us in our sufferings with a way of escape *1 Cor. 10:13 – no temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man, and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.*
2. God is faithful to sustain us in our sufferings because of our relationship to Jesus Christ

*1 Cor. 1:9 – God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord*

1. God is faithful to preserve us in our sufferings until the Lord Jesus comes again

1 Thess. 5:23 -24 – *may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely, & may your spirit & soul & body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass*

1. God is faithful to protect us in our sufferings from the evil one

2 Thess. 3:3 – *the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one*

1. God is faithful to His promises in our sufferings

Heb. 10:23 – *let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful*

Heb. 11:11 – *by faith Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.*

1. God is faithful to forgive us in our sufferings

1 John 1:9 – *if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, & to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **God’s great faithfulness is greater than your sufferings**
2. **God is greatly faithful in great sufferings**
3. **Great sufferings bring us to the Lord Jesus Christ – the Faithful One**
4. **God’s great and precious promises encourage us in great sufferings**

2 Pet. 1:4 – *He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

1. **Jesus Christ our Great High Priest is faithful to help you in your sufferings**

Heb. 4:14 -16 – *since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore, let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

1. **Glorify God in your sufferings**

1 Thess. 5:16 -18 – *rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*

**Great is Your faithfulness!**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**