

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8) – June 30, 2024

*“²²The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end;
²³they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

–Lamentations 3:22–23–

The prophet Jeremiah had been disobedient to God, and because so, Jeremiah had endured much suffering. And so leading up to these verses, Jeremiah has lamented over his suffering. Boy, has he lamented! “I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath; he has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me he turns his hand again and again the whole day long” (Lam. 3:1–3). And those are only the first three verses. Jeremiah continues on for some time about the suffering he had to endure. But now he begins to list off the ways God is faithful, most especially through his unfailing, steadfast love.

As human beings, our love fails over and over again. And so it can be hard to imagine that God’s love for us is unbreakable. There’s nothing that can separate us from his love (see Rom. 8:38–39). I can remember as a kid playing games with my siblings and if something didn’t go right, one of us would call out, “Do over! Can I have a do over?!” In a way, God gives us the opportunity to have a “do over” every day. And that’s what Jeremiah is praising and lifting up in these verses from Lamentations, chapter 3. God’s mercies are new every morning. There is no end to them. Each day, you and I have an opportunity to have a “do over.” Now it’s a highly good chance, that we will still mess up throughout the day because, well, we’re sinners. We’re not perfect. But along with God’s mercies we also receive his forgiveness.

Jeremiah got to a point where he realized that instead of disobeying God and working against God, if he only did what God asked of him and believed and trusted in God, life was so much better! Did suffering end for Jeremiah? Definitely not! And it doesn’t end for you and me just because we do believe and place our trust in God. But what it did for Jeremiah, and what it does for us, is it strengthens our relationship with God. God’s mercies are new to us each and every morning; his faithfulness is great!

Prayer: Gracious, heavenly Father, forgive us for not obeying your commands and doing as we please. Have mercy on us. Forgive us of our sin and brokenness, and remind us of your steadfast love for us. Thank you that nothing separates us from your love and that your mercies are new to us every day. May we share this love with others. In Jesus’ name, amen.

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