

# ***Amity Bible Church***

*"Knowing God and Making Him Known"*

## **Sunday Bible Study**

**Series: God is \_\_\_\_\_**

**July 16, 2017**

**Text: Lamentations 3:1-20**

**Theme: "God is Faithful"**

### **Central Message:**

The central message in this lesson: No matter what's going on in your life right now - stress, health problems, finances that have you in a vice, desperately wishing you had never married, desperately wanting to get married, children who have set an ache in your soul, the death of someone you love - whatever pain you are in, God's steadfast love for you will never, ever end. Every day, He has brand new supplies of mercy. There is a dawn that is coming after the night. And it is all captured in the sentence, "God is Faithful." Our text gives us three reasons why we can trust the fact that God is faithful.

**Reason #1: We can know that God is faithful because of what He has done in the past. (Lamentations 3:19-22)**

We often judge God by what is going on in our lives instead of judging God based on His character. We need the bigger picture and that bigger picture is revealed in Scripture. How could Jeremiah praise God for His faithfulness in the midst of all that he suffered? He could do it because he had the bigger picture...he had a clear picture of who God is. When you have already lived through difficult and desperate circumstances, and God has shown you that He can keep you, all you need to do is remember this fact the next time life throws you a curve.

1. Jeremiah struggled with his role as a prophet. He did not want to be in ministry. (Jeremiah 1:5-6)
2. Jeremiah was forbidden to marry because of the desperate circumstances that would befall the nation of Israel. (Jeremiah 16:1-13)
3. Jeremiah endured depression and tried to get out of the ministry. (Jeremiah 20:9)
4. We may not know how God is going to get us through the various circumstances in our lives but we know that every time we have had a need, God was there.
5. Through every circumstance, Jeremiah never lost sight of one thing about God that kept him going. He raised a weapon of truth against the despair and the sadness that he felt. After pouring out all his anger, sorrow, and shock, Jeremiah adds this in his letter to the survivors, "Yet I call this to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for His mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!" (Lamentations 3:21-23)
6. Our hope for today rests firmly on our confidence in the fact that God has sustained us in the past and He will continue to do so.

**Reason #2: We know that God is faithful because of what He is doing in the present. (Lamentations 3:21-23a)**

We are so busy looking at the magnitude of our problems that we lose sight of the magnitude of our God. There are days that leave us broken, beat-up, and barely alive. That's okay. We survived. There was enough mercy for that day.

1. One of our greatest challenges is that we don't sense God's presence when we lie down at night or when we get up in the morning. The reason...because we keep all of our appointments except the appointment to spend time in God's presence each day.
2. We should never forget that a fresh supply of God's mercy is available for us each day. We may not accomplish all that we desire or circumstances may prove more difficult than we expected, but God will get us through. We may have to crawl out but God will bring us out in His time.

**Reason #3: We can know that God is faithful because of what He will do in the future. (Lamentations 3:22)**

God's mercies never cease and His compassion never fails. This is a wonderful promise and when we add to this promise the fact that God cannot lie, we have a rock-solid hope for the future.

1. Numbers 23:19 states, "God is not a man that He should lie, nor a son of man that he should repent. He has said it and will He not do it? Or has He spoken and will not make it good?" The message in this passage is clear. If God said it, that settles it. He will do exactly what he said He would do.
2. Deuteronomy 7:9—"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands."
3. I Thessalonians 5:24—"The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it."
4. Hebrews 10:23—"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."
5. In Jeremiah 29:11, we find this message, "I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you a future and a hope". God does not promise that the road will be easy. God does not promise that we will be exempt from trouble, but He does promise that He will keep while we are in the storm, and in His time, He will bring us out. That is faithfulness.