

Sunday, June 27, 2021 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Lamentations 3:22-33 – Great is thy faithfulness

Jeremiah, who is known as the Weeping Prophet, lived during the time leading up to and after the destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.

You can tell what is going to be the mood of this book from its title – Lamentations.

But while it is filled with so much sorrow, there is this bright moment of hope.

How has your faith in Christ given you bright moments of hope in the midst of much sorrow?

22-23 - The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

How has this been your experience?

Comment made by the song leader during my college class' celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of our graduation.

25 - The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him.

26 - It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

27-28 - It is good for one . . . to sit alone in silence when the Lord has imposed it.

31-33 - The Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love.

33 - He does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Psalm 30 – Lord, you lift me up

1 - I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up
and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

2 - O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

3 - You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead;
you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

5 - God's wrath is short; God's favor lasts a lifetime.
Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

8-9 - I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,
What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?

*Cf. Exodus 32: 11-14 - Moses' intercession for Israel after the golden calf incident.
Verses 7 and 11 – "Your people, whom you brought (up) out of the land of Egypt."
Moses pleaded with God on the basis of God's reputation and God's promises.*

2 Corinthians 8:7-15 – Excel in generosity

At the end of 1 Corinthians Paul began his efforts to get the Corinthians to join in the ingathering of aid for the Christians in Jerusalem.

*In 2 Corinthians he works to motivate them to resume and complete what they had started.
2 Corinthians 8 and 9 contain the most complete description of stewardship principles in the Bible.*

8:5 – (The churches in Macedonia) gave themselves first to the Lord.

8:7 - Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

8:8 - I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love.

8:9 - For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

8:12 - The gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have.

8:13 - I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need.

9:6 – The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

9:7 – Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

9:8 – God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.

9:10 – He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

9:11 – You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity.

9:15 – Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Mark 5:21-43 – Jesus heals a woman and Jairus’ daughter

22-23 - One of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

24 - So he went with him.

25-26 - Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. She had endured much under many physicians and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. *Cf. Luke 8: 43.*

27-29 - She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” Immediately her hemorrhage stopped.

35-36 - Some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.”

37 - He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John.

40-41 - He put them all outside and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” *Cf. Peter in Acts 9: 40 – “Tabitha, get up.”*

Why does the Master sometimes seem to delay? Why isn’t He quicker to respond to my needs? Doesn’t He know that my matter is urgent? Why does He sometimes put me on hold? He must be responding to someone else because He certainly is not responding to me.

Whenever we feel put on hold is when we need to hold on even tighter to the promises of God. Whenever you feel put on hold, do not let go of Him, who will never let go of you.