

# Great is Thy Faithfulness

Lesson for Sunday, June 29, 2025

TEXT: Lamentations 3:22-23

## INTRODUCTION:

- ⇒ If you were to ask a group of Christians to list their favorite hymns, “Great is Thy Faithfulness” would be on most listings.
- ⇒ The writer was Thomas Chisholm and life experiences deeply influenced the lyrics.
- ⇒ He described himself as “just an old shoe,” embracing an ordinary life marked by perseverance rather than dramatic events.
- ⇒ Chisholm faced significant health problems that forced him to leave the ministry after only a year, followed by years marked by financial hardship due to medical expenses.
- ⇒ Despite these challenges, he maintained an unwavering trust in God’s provision and steadfastness, consistently choosing to focus on God’s faithfulness rather than his own difficulties.
- ⇒ This is reflected in the lyrics themes which were drawn directly from his personal experiences of relying on God through ordinary and difficult times.
- ⇒ Rather than being inspired by a single dramatic event, the hymn arose from Chisholm’s lifelong, daily realization of God’s faithfulness in the midst of ongoing struggles and changes. The lyrics, based on Lamentations 3:22-23, express gratitude for God’s constancy – His faithfulness – something Chisholm experienced firsthand as he navigated health setbacks, career changes, and financial uncertainty.

## BIBLE STUDY:

1. God is faithful.
  - a. Do you recognize how much of what we believe depends on God’s faithfulness?
  - b. The bedrock of faith is the realization that God keeps all His promises according to His truthful, faithful character.
  - c. In our main text, Lamentations 3:23, Jeremiah states simply, “Great is Your faithfulness.”
  - d. Tozer writes, “Upon God’s faithfulness rests our whole hope of future blessedness. Only as we have complete assurance that He is faithful may we live in peace and look forward with assurance to the life to come.”
  - e. The word in Hebrew means firmness, fidelity, steadfastness, steadiness. It refers to something that is set or established. God’s faithfulness is the foundation for all His other promises.
  - f. Example: If you are a Christian, you believe that when you die you will spend eternity with God in Heaven.
    - i. Have you ever thought: “Why do I believe that?”
    - ii. You believe that because you have confidence in the Word of God that clearly explains the Gospel.
    - iii. You believe the Bible because it is God’s Word, and you believe that if God says it that it is true. You have confidence in God.
    - iv. You believe that God is faithful to keep His Word. God’s faithfulness is the foundation of our faith.
2. God always acts in faithfulness.

- a. Have you ever thought about what the Bible says God is faithful to do? Here are some of the key things the Bible teaches. Read each of these and briefly comment.
  - b. God is faithful to forgive (1 John 1:9).
  - c. God is faithful to deliver (1 Corinthians 10:13).
  - d. God is faithful to keep (2 Timothy 1:12).
  - e. God is faithful to save (1 Timothy 1:15).
  - f. God is faithful to chasten (Psalm 119:75).
3. God is always faithful, even when it seems He is not.
- a. When we quote Lamentations 3:23, we often get a warm fuzzy feeling inside. That would be a misunderstanding of the text.
  - b. Jeremiah writes “great is Thy faithfulness” over a dark and tragic landscape. Jerusalem laid in ruins. It was a war zone.
  - c. Yet, in the middle of the destruction, Jeremiah still says, “His compassions fail not...great is Thy faithfulness!”
  - d. This is a key principle we must learn to practice if we want to experience a blessed life.
  - e. Jeremiah didn’t lament his pain and disappointment. He uses his lament of sorrow to point his heart toward what he knows to be true despite what he sees.
  - f. In effect, Jeremiah says, “Even in the destruction of Jerusalem, God is still in control. Despite the circumstances, God’s mercies never come to an end. God’s faithfulness is still great.”
  - g. God’s faithfulness anchors our hearts to truths we believe even when dark clouds linger. As we rehearse what is true, hope can rise.
  - h. Hope does not come from a change in circumstances. Rather, it comes from what you know to be true despite the situation in front of you.

#### APPLICATION:

- ⇒ Is there an area in your life where you need to remember that God is faithful?
- ⇒ Discuss practical ways that you can remember the faithfulness of God, even in difficult times.
  - Make a list of Bible verses that address God’s faithfulness.
  - Save them in your phone or carry them on a card with you at all times.
  - Reflect on God’s faithfulness regularly.
- ⇒ Another angle to discuss: How is God faithful to you each and every day?
  - We often take God’s faithfulness for granted.
  - Spend a few minutes listing the common ways God is faithful to each of us.
  - Use the list you develop to encourage each other, and challenge your class to be on the lookout for God’s faithfulness as they go through the week.