

June 2, 2024

“Facing Change”
Lamentations 3:22-24

FCF: Our struggle with “change”

PROPOSITION: (anchor) The LORD continuously brings change into our lives.
(magnet) To face it, we must look to Him.

SCRIPTURE INTRODUCTION:

Change can be difficult. I was reminded of this in reading a Jane Austen biography. In late 1800, her father retired and took the family to Bath. Jane fainted at the news. She was 25, unmarried, and had to move with them. For her, this meant the loss of her childhood home and the beloved countryside - the garden, the woods, the fields. She stopped writing for 10 years.

Change can be difficult. This is a season of change - graduations, moves. New chapters and stations, chances and challenges. How might God’s Word speak to us as we face change?

SCRIPTURE READING: [Lamentations 3:22-24](#)**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION****SERMON INTRODUCTION:**

Life means change. A sperm and an egg came together and, nine months later, here you are. That’s change. We change our address, the channel, the subject, our minds, our tune, our habits, and our ways. As the years go by, we can have a change of heart, pace, or scenery. People change. Our children grow up and move away. Our bodies age, wear out, and change.

Life means change. And God is in the business of change. Creation - first nothing then everything. Regeneration - from death to life. Adoption - from helpless orphan to beloved child. Sanctification - becoming more like Jesus. Glorification - one day, all things being made new.

God is in business of change. Which brings us to our text. The year is 586 B.C. The army of Babylon has laid waste the city of Jerusalem. Jeremiah is dismayed by what he sees. His people had brought this on themselves. The devastation was horrific. Yet somehow hope for a restored relationship with God bursts through. And with that, we learn how to face change.

The LORD continuously brings change into our lives. To face it, we must look to Him. And what do we see as we do that? Three things. First, a love unceasing. Second, a mercy unending. Third, a faithfulness abounding. These three give us a practical theology of change.

I. A LOVE UNCEASING

First, Jeremiah points us to a love unceasing ([READ Lamentations 3:22a](#)).

A) What It Is

1. Definition

This is God’s *hesed* - His loving-kindness, grace, and favor. It is an unmoving covenantal love.

2. Source

And it is of the LORD, the God of the covenant, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

B) How It’s Shown

1. Never ceases

And how is this love shown? It never ceases. It never stops, perishes, ends, or expires. It is never consumed, completed, or interrupted. It (He) never says, “That’s it. I’ve had enough.”

2. Despite what’s deserved

Despite what we deserve. Despite our foolishness and waywardness. It’s a wondrous thing.

Change comes. But we can look to God's unceasing love ([READ Lamentations 3:22a](#)).

Application:

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases. How does this help in facing change? His love passes all stress tests. It does not give out. It does not give way. So no matter what the change may be, no matter how disruptive it may feel, no matter how unsettled our hearts, as we search for the reason, we can know it can’t be that His love has run out. For it never ceases.

The LORD continuously brings change into our lives. To face it, we must look to Him.

II. A MERCY UNENDING

His is a love unceasing which brings a mercy unending ([READ Lamentations 3:22-23a](#)).

A) What It Is

1. Definition

This is compassion to those in need, real and practical kindness to the helpless and suffering.

2. Source

And, again, it is of the LORD. It is the mercy of the Alpha and the Omega. He is the One whose heart is moved by this thing that speaks even of the womb. And He is without beginning or end.

B) How It’s Shown

1. Never ending

He is without end. And so too are His mercies. There is no ceiling, no bottom, no limit.

2. Always new

And they are always new. Each day brings yet another wave, more evidences and expressions.

Change comes. But we can look to God’s mercy ([READ Lamentations 3:22-23a](#)).

Application:

His mercies are unending, fresh and coming with each new dawn. How does this help us in facing change? Sometimes everything seems to be shaking around us, shifting under our feet. To where do we look? To the One with us whose mercies towards us are endless and forever inexhaustible, to the One whose compassions are continually rising up to meet our every need.

The LORD continuously brings change into our lives. To face it, we must look to Him.

III. A FAITHFULNESS ABOUNDING

Love unceasing, mercy unending, faithfulness abounding ([READ Lamentations 3:22-23](#)).

A) What It Is

1. Definition

Think about this. An unyielding steadfastness and trustworthiness, an unqualified reliability.

2. Source

A faithfulness coming from the immutable, unchanging God. He is the one true constant.

B) *How It's Shown*

1. Other uses

Such a faithfulness is greater than any other. He is said to be “great.” As is all He does.

2. Implications

So too is His faithfulness. Not just big but a rich, manifold, multi-dimensional faithfulness.

Change comes. But we can look to God’s faithfulness ([READ Lamentations 3:22-23](#)).

Application:

His faithfulness is abounding. It is beyond our comprehending, beyond our deserving, rooted in the very core of His character. How does this then help us in facing change? Listen again to these words from Thomas Chisholm’s hymn. We sang it earlier ([READ first stanza](#)):

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

There is no “shadow of turning” with the LORD. There is no darkness. There are no capricious, fickle movements. We may find that everywhere else we turn. But never with Him. Ever.

The LORD continuously brings change into our lives. To face it, we must look to Him.

CONCLUSION:

When we know nothing else, we can know this. When all else gives way, we can hold to this. Think with me here. Why do we dislike change? What is it that can disturb even the most free-spirited among us? Uncertainty. A fear of losing something we cherish. A fear of gaining something we dread. And out of that fear, we will either attack the person or thing bringing the change or we will retreat and hide from it. Why? Way down deep, we can’t handle the change.

So where do we go? Where can we turn? It has to be outside ourselves. We need a fixed point, something or someone that cannot change to face the change. Some of you may know the film, *Apollo 13* - the true story of 1970 lunar mission that was NASA’s most successful failure. As the crew was on their journey home, a course correction was needed. The flight computer had been powered down so this all had to be done manually. Here’s the exchange ([READ](#)):

JIM LOVELL - Houston. What's the story with this burn?
CAPCOM GOLD - We're trying to hash something out down here, Aquarius. Stand by.
JIM LOVELL - Well. Now look, Houston. All we need to hold attitude is one fixed point in space. Is that not correct?
CAPCOM GOLD - Yeah, roger that, Jim.
JIM LOVELL - Well, Houston, we've got one! If we can keep the Earth in the window, fly manually, the co-ax crosshairs right on its terminator. All I have to know is how long do we need to burn the engine... (to CREW) The shorter, the better.

All they needed was a fixed point in space - something that could not change to face the change.

As we make the LORD that fixed point, we can relax. We can breathe. The fear and anxiety begin to subside as we look to Him. And the attacking and retreating fade with it as well.

Hold to the LORD's love, mercy, and faithfulness. To face change, let us look to Him.

PROPOSITION: (anchor) The LORD continuously brings change into our lives.
(magnet) To face it, we must look to Him.