

Great is your Faithfulness: Building Dedication Service - Lamentations 3:21-24
Notes, Family Worship, Bible Reading

Notes from the Sermon

I grew up in a church that had someone sing a special music every Sunday. Usually this took place right before the sermon, sometimes it was performed by the church choir, other times by soloists or ensembles. Most of the time it was pretty meh, with one exception. My mother was actually a trained vocalist with soprano voice that reached the heavens. Every time she sang she captured the hearts of those in the congregation, and every time she sang it brought tears to my eyes. To this day some of my favorite hymns are those she would sing when it was her turn to lead us into the sermon. But my favorite was the hymn, *Great is Thy Faithfulness*.

Great is thy faithfulness,
Great is thy faithfulness,
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hast provided;
Great is thy faithfulness,
Lord unto me.

The hymn is taken from Lamentations 3, which drives the beauty and meaning of the hymn so much deeper. Lamentations is an incredibly difficult book, written by the prophet Jeremiah in the days after the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple by the Babylonians. Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the message of warning and judgment from God to the Hebrews. But they ignored him completely, and even persecuted him for bringing so much negativity to the nation and city. His suffering was intense and two pronged. Rejected by men, he then had to flee for his life when the events he prophesied happened, the city was destroyed, and the place of God's presence was torn apart. Lamentations is his prayer of complaint and lament out of the intense pain he was feeling. Yet, in the middle of the book he finds light and hope by remembering the God who is faithful and by focusing on the faithfulness of God. He remembers the mercies of God, new every morning, and he is reminded of the never giving up, always pursuing steadfast love of Yahweh. In other words, out of his intense pain, Jeremiah reminds himself what is true about God and remembers the times in his life when he saw the faithfulness of God.

Ours as a church is not that moment. Rather, we gather today to celebrate the faithfulness of God as He has provided our building, a permanent location for our church family in our city. It's a long time coming. We planted Genesis over 18 years ago, meeting in public schools for most of that time. Meeting in a public space provided a connection that has allowed us to love our city while living on mission as a faith family. Yet, for the last 9 years or so we have been praying and searching for a place to call our own as a church. And for most of that time God has shut the doors to this prayer, and even pushed us into spaces where we had to trust him more. During the season of Covid we did not know where we would meet each week, ending up in parks, pavilions, and parking lots from week to week. Yet, God was faithful and gracious to this church family in that season. He was faithful the two other times we lost our gathering space and had to find a new place to meet. In fact, we can trace the story of Genesis as the story of God's steadfast love and faithfulness from the first days until now. He has blessed us far beyond what we deserve and has given us more than we can think, ask, or imagine!

So today we will tell the story of Genesis, from the spark that lit the flame in the

Manchester, MO Starbucks to this morning as we dedicate the building to Jesus. And as we remind ourselves of God's faithfulness, we will also be reminded that the building is a blessing, but it just a building, it is not the church. The church is a redeemed community of people, formed by the Gospel, and sent on a mission. The building is a tool for the mission, it cannot change the mission. We need to remind ourselves that the church is the only organization that exists primarily for the benefit of the non-members. We are in this city and region for Eureka/Pacific, and also for the nations. We cannot lose sight of that as a people. Genesis is Jesus' church, part of His grand purpose, a purpose that comes with a promise from Jesus' lips. "I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it." (Matthew 16:18)

Bible Reading for the Week

Daily Bible Readings

Sun	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Isaiah 18	Isaiah 19	Isaiah 20	Isaiah 21	Isaiah 22	Isaiah 23	Isaiah 24

Reading from this past week: Lamentations 3:21-24

Reading in preparation for this coming Sunday: Hebrews 7:11-28

Family Worship

Song - *Build Your Church*

<https://youtu.be/CFGcxD3r-Tw?si=tcHGRj-sXitZhPRG>

Gospel Project

Unit: God Delivers His People

Story: Moses Led the Israelites

Big Picture Question: Why does sin separate us from God?

Answer: Because God is holy, sin has broken our relationship with God.

Scripture: Exodus 17-18

New City Catechism

Question 3: How many persons are there in God?

Answer: There are three persons in one God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Verse: 2 Corinthians 13:14

Lamentations 3:21-24

- What are the great stories of God's faithfulness in your life? How has Genesis (or other churches) been a part of those stories?
- How did you and your family end up at Genesis? Can you see the love of God in this?
- How this text help us see the importance of remembering the stories of God's faithfulness in our lives?
- How can we as a church celebrate the building without letting the building redefine our mission and purpose?

Prayer

*Pray that God would use our new building for His glory and to help us make Jesus known in our city.

*Give thanks for your church and spend time praying for our mission.