

OPEN BIBLE CHURCH

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SERMON TITLE New in 2022 part 3

SERIES New in 2022

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KEY SCRIPTURE Lamentations 3:19-26

SYNOPSIS God's mercies are new every morning. There's always a chance at a fresh start.

HIGHLIGHTS



☞ **New in 2022**

New Mercies

God is already up to something new. It's already budding and springing up. He is pouring out his Spirit and we will see the mighty works of God. New in 2022 starts with the mind. We need to compare our thoughts with Scripture and then cast down our own imaginations whenever they don't align with God's Word. It's going to take effort and it will be an ongoing process, but let's begin today and continue tomorrow to change the way we think and be new in 2022.

☞ **Lamentations 3:19-26**

19 I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. 20 I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. 21 Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: 22 Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail.

☞ 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." 25 The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; 26 it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

☞ **The Problem** v. 19-20

This guy had some real problems. Jeremiah is known as the weeping prophet. He lived during a very troubling time for Israel and as he spoke on behalf of God, his own people rejected and persecuted him. He had some real troubles.

I remember. Nowhere in the Bible are we told to pretend we don't have any problems. Some think that by ignoring their problems, they will magically go away. That typically does not work. Rather, the bible writers were quite frank about their problems. They voiced their complaints to God. They admitted their needs. Besides, when you've gone through especially difficult times it's not realistic to pretend they never happened. Those thoughts tend to linger ☞ and haunt us. So, **acknowledge them** and then you can begin to move on.

Affliction = trouble; misery; depression

Wandering = straying; destitution

Bitterness = wormwood = poison; curse

Gall = poison; venom

The problems were overwhelming. Troubles, misery, depression, destitution; it was like poison or a curse had come upon Jeremiah. Have you ever felt that way? In fact, earlier in the chapter he describes what feels like God has attacked him. In verse 8, it's like God isn't even listening. Do you know that feeling? In verse 11, he feels all alone in his troubles. Verses 17 and 18 reveal that he had no sense of peace and he had lost all hope. That's an incredibly miserable place to be.

Downcast = sink down; depression; humbled



Because of all his troubles and the feelings that were overwhelming him, Jeremiah was depressed, about as low as you can go. He admitted his problems.

☞ **The Perspective v. 21-23**

In verse 21, we see a shift in the narrative. The verse starts with, “**Yet.**” This is the beauty of the heart of the bible writers. They were blunt and outspoken about their troubles and how it made them feel. But they didn’t stay in that place. Here’s an important reminder for us all – **you can’t allow yourself to stay stuck in the muck of all your troubles. You have to make a shift and then you can begin to be made new in 2022.**

Call to mind = return; bring back

He makes a conscious effort to shift his focus onto the goodness of the Lord. He felt as if the ☞ Lord had brought all this trouble upon him, but now he is **focusing on the character of God.**

Great love = loving-kindness; grace; mercy; faithfulness

Compassions = mercies

New = renewed; fresh

Faithfulness = certainty; fidelity; stability

These describe who God really is. Psalms 103:8 says, “The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.” This same phrase is used multiple times in the Bible. It’s the most common series of words used to describe God.

Your life might feel like God is not very loving. You might feel like God is holding a grudge against you, or that he has abandoned you. But those are characteristics of sinful people, not characteristic of God.

God is filled with love and grace for you. Even if you deserve the troubles you are going through, God offers mercy which is fresh and new every day. And, God is faithful – you can rely on his stability and trust that he has your best interests in mind, regardless of the circumstances.

Later in this chapter, Jeremiah says that God doesn’t cast us away forever. There is always hope. He also says that God does indeed answer prayer. God is paying attention and he knows what the enemy has done to you. God does come near and defend his people.

This is the perspective that we need. Remember who God really is!

☞ **The Practice v. 24**

I say to myself = say in one’s heart; think

You ever talk to yourself? Often, that is seen as a sign of mental health problems, but it’s ☞ actually a good practice. As has been said, “sometimes you have to **preach yourself happy.**”



Last week we talked about the importance of our minds and thoughts. What we think about can actually reshape our DNA.

Proverbs 23:7

As he thinks in his heart, so is he.

☞ We need to **think about what we think about** and intentionally focus on godliness. We should talk to ourselves and **remind ourselves of God's goodness**.

The Lord is my portion = share; inheritance

--Joseph Prince...When we have Jesus, we truly have everything. My friend, when you need wisdom, Christ is your wisdom. When you need righteousness, Christ is your righteousness. When you need sanctification and redemption, Christ is both to you. When you need faith, He is your faith. When you are fearful of the odds against you, He is your favor. When you are weak, He is your strength. When you are troubled and anxious, He is your peace. When you feel vulnerable, He is your shield. When you are lonely, He is your faithful companion. And when you are sick, He is your healing and health. Beloved, you are truly rich because you have Christ.

I will wait for him = be patient; hope

Once we begin to embrace the truth about God and get our focus on him instead of our troubles, then we are better able to hang in there. We have hope and can be patient.

☞ **The Process** v. 25-26

Often, when we are going through hard times, we can get ourselves focused properly on the Lord, but there is still a waiting period for everything to change. There is often still a process we must go through.

Hope in him = expect; look for

Seek him = tread out; search; ask

These two words describe what our daily routine should include. We should **expect to meet ☞ with God** in one way or another. Perhaps he will shed light on a particular bible verse you read. Maybe he will speak to you through a worship song you're listening to. Maybe a friend will give you an encouraging word or prophesy to you, even if they are unaware. And, maybe you need to be the friend who speaks truth into someone else's life.

☞ So, **seek the Lord**. Pay attention to what's happening and ask God to speak through you to others. Seek him out. Search for him in your daily bible reading. **Listen** for him in that worship music. I'm talking about that Rhema word – when God brings something to light and life that is inspiring and encouraging. You've got to seek that out.

Wait quietly



☞ One of the important ways you are going to hear from God is to **be silent and still**. Verse 28 talks about sitting alone in silence.

Psalm 46:10
Be still and know that I am God.

When Elijah was in the cave on Mt. Horeb, it was the still, small voice, or the whisper that God spoke through. It wasn't the tornado, the earthquake or the fire. It was that quiet voice. So, you have to get quiet and tune out the distractions in order to hear God. This is becoming a lost art in today's world. We are so bombarded by data overload that we don't know how to just be still and listen. It actually makes most people uncomfortable. But if you really want to hear God's voice, you have to learn to handle the quiet, alone time.

Even Jesus, who was as close to God as a person can get, took time to be alone and silently listen for the Lord. If he needed that, how much more do we?

☞ **The Product v. 26**
Salvation = deliverance; rescue; **victory**

The old hymn says,
*Earthly friends may prove untrue; Doubts and fears assail
One still loves and cares for you; Jesus never fails...
Jesus never fails; Jesus never fails
Heav'n and earth may pass away; But Jesus never fails*

Then, in the 80's Gary Driskell wrote a similar song:
*Sometimes this world brings trouble I find so hard to bear
I know I could not make it without Jesus being there
It's so encouraging to know how ever deep we're in despair
Jesus never fails...
Jesus never fails, Jesus never fails
You might as well get thee behind me, Satan
You cannot prevail, because Jesus never fails*

☞ Here's the ultimate truth. **God always wins**. No matter what may come your way, if you hold onto faith, trusting God, you will prevail. **You will get through**.

So, acknowledge your problems, but don't stay focused on them. Change your perspective by focusing on the goodness of the Lord. Practice some self-talk and remind yourself the truth of the word. Preach yourself happy. And, remember, there is a process that may take some time, but it's worth it because Jesus never fails. With this in mind, you can realize the end product ☞ and be **New in 2022**.