

8-23-26 Message

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God's faithfulness, Truth, Trust, Salvation, Gospel, Jesus Christ, Lamentations, Jeremiah, Hope, Scripture, Grace, Suffering, Temptation, Eternal life, Faithfulness

SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer, Speaker 1

Well, we are going to do something new for the next few weeks. I like to balance things, so we've been kind of laying some doctrinal foundation the last few weeks as we've been talking and leading up to our dispensational study last week. And so, what I want to do for the next few weeks, I want to talk about the faithfulness of God. I want to be able to tie in some practical things for us, because I know that there are times when you're sitting here in the congregation, and you know I hear I hear it because I've been there too, you know for for many years. But it's like, all right, well, all right, give me some stuff that can help me with my family or help me with what I'm struggling with during the day, and so want to be able to stay balanced with things like that. So I thought this would be good for the next few weeks to be able to talk about this. Next couple weeks specifically, we're going to focus on the faithfulness of God in temptation, or through temptation, and the faithfulness of God through suffering. And so, be thinking about that in your head. Think about who you might want to invite or who you know right now in your lives who's like, man, they could really, they really need to hear this. And so, I want to give you a roadmap of where we're going. But we're going to start things off with this week talking about the faithfulness of God, and hopefully we build a good foundation from this. I'm going to jump right into this today, but when we think about the faithfulness of God, you know, we start a couple of words start really, I guess, being found in every definition that you can find. Or everybody who tries to explain what does it mean that God is faithful. And so when you really go back and kind of even look in the Greek, the Greek word for faithful is pistos, and it means trustworthy, trustful, believing, faithfully sure, true. It gives the idea of one who kept his plighted faith, one who is worthy of trust, one that can be relied on. And you look like in a Webster's 1828 dictionary. It also kind of gives this idea. See if you kind of see, especially in these last few portions here, and see if you see a trend of a specific word. So the first part says true, exact in conformity to the letter and spirit as a faithful execution of a will. True, exact in conformity to the letter and spirit that we talked about there just for a second ago, but also true to the marriage covenant. Talking about somebody who's like a faithful husband, as a faithful wife, and it says conformable to truth as a faithful narrative or representation, constant not fickle as a faithful lover or friend, true worthy of belief, and this talks about in Second Timothy two two. What you see when you're talking about the faithfulness of God or the definition of faithful are two words that are intertwined, and it is trust and truth. See, the reason God is faithful to us, and we consider Him faithful, is because He is to be trusted and He is true. And so, when you think about the faithfulness of God, it really starts with those things. You can trust Him because He is true, and what He says is true. You know, when we doubt the faithfulness of God, we're essentially saying, "God, you're not true. God, you are not to be trusted, and that really is, that really is at the crux of whether or not you think or believe that God is faithful. It's whether or not you can

trust Him and whether or not He is true. So let's talk about this for just a couple of minutes, and this will make sense when we kind of delve into things a little bit deeper in Lamentations here in just a few moments. But in John 114 it says the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld his glory the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth John 533 ye sent unto John and he bear witness unto the truth Juke eight Juke, I just made up a word, right? Luke, there's no Juke in the Bible. Luke eight, there is a Luke 832, but that's not where we're going. All right, John 832. Wow, I think the bang messed me up a little bit in that. John 832. You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. John 844. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and he abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it. Now, see what's being contrasted there. This is why Satan can't be faithful, because the truth is not in him. He is not to be trusted. You know. So next week when we start talking about temptation, think about that. How many times? He lied to us, right, right, and as he appeals to our flesh, that if we do this thing, we'll be happy. He's not to be trusted. He is not true. And then you do the thing, and then how do you feel? You don't feel happy. You feel low. You feel this guilt. You feel disgusting in some in some senses of the word you were you were lied to by an untrustworthy source. See the contrast here, but God is truth. John 14 six. Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man cometh unto the Father by me. So the book of John establishes God As truth, the word of God is true, and then today, as we were kind of looking at our chart last week, we think about what Paul says in Ephesians 113. We find both of these words in the same verse, and it deals with God's faithfulness. It says, "In whom ye also trusted, after that you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, in whom also, after you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. So, as he's describing and summarizing the gospel in Ephesians here, he says that it requires us trusting God and believing truth, and for you to be saved today, God has to be faithful. And what He says, right? And here is what He has said regarding your soul: is that each and every one of us has sinned and come short of the glory of God. That's a truth. That is a reality. It says the wages of those sins is death. That also is true. Every funeral that you attend is because there is sin, the curse of sin on this earth. A truth. We all sin, and the wages of sin is death, but there's also the spiritual death, which is a disconnection from God for all eternity as a result of our sin. But Jesus came down and lived on this earth, was born of a virgin, lived on this earth 33 years, and didn't commit a sin. And when He shed His precious blood on the cross, that became payment for your sin. And here's the thing: today, you can choose to pay for your sins yourself. God will not force you, and the only way to do that is in a real place called hell for all eternity. Or you can accept the payment that God has made on your behalf with the blood of His precious Son Jesus Christ, and Jesus not only died on the cross, but He rose again from the grave three days later, proving that He is God. Now, what I just told you can be trusted because it is true. God is faithful. If He has saved you, He will keep you, and he will seal you until that day of redemption, because God can be trusted. And even right now, while I was talking about that, if in that moment you were like, "Yes, that's me, and I'm placing my faith in that alone, no more me trying to do it on my own, but that alone, I believe, then you are sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, and now you will have eternal life. And it's because God is faithful; He can be trusted. It is truth. So God's faithfulness is how we can trust Him for salvation. It's important that we understand that so much we make of our faithfulness, and the Bible certainly talks about that. But what about the faithfulness of God? It really starts there. Now, I think that was important for us to look at today. But if we go back in time a little bit, there was a prophet by the name of Jeremiah, and he wrote the book of Jeremiah, and the book of Jeremiah was all about telling, basically telling those in Jerusalem, telling Judah what was going to happen in some grisly detail, and then he was even talking about what's going to happen in the future. And as he's telling them this, he's he's weeping. He's telling them to repent. Lamentations is a little addendum to Jeremiah that he writes afterwards. It's really a series of five melancholy poems. It's really interesting because there are five chapters in the book of Lamentations, and chapters 124, and five are all exactly 22 verses. There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet. Each one of these poems is an acrostic. Chapter three has 66 verses. It also is an acrostic, but if you were

looking at our alphabet today, it would be like. Verses one through three would be like a a a b b b. So that is really the climax of Lamentations is chapter three. What's interesting about chapter three is that this poem in chapter three, this he's talking about the destruction of Jerusalem. But in verse one, he says, "I am the man that hath seen affliction by the rod of his wrath. Imagine this, and sometimes as parents we get this. I think my parents probably got it in me, but you know when parents see that their kids are headed down the wrong path. They're about to make a really stupid decision, and they've done everything they can to tell their kids, "Do not do this. And the kids are like, "Ah, well, I'll just-I know what's best. That's not going to happen to me. And then the father is in the situation, or the mother is in the situation where the kid went and did the thing, and the consequences they said was going to happen have happened, and now you're stuck, kind of right here in this situation. I know I'm not the only one. Anybody else felt that before? Yeah. Well, your dad told me different about you. So the hardest part, though, in that situation has to be watching them go through the thing that you tried to prevent them from going through. You're like, why didn't you listen? You know, in my case, when we talked about the speeding ticket or the different a lot of the dumb things that I've done, I'm sure there's times where my my dad was probably thinking, why didn't you just listen? And now I'm thinking, why didn't I just listen? I sure wasn't thinking that back then because it's about what I wanted. So here Jeremiah not only had to give this prophecy about the people he loved, he had to see it. He sees Jerusalem now at the pinnacle of of Jeremiah. We still we have this beautiful temple. You know we got walls. We've got protection. We know that things are headed downhill, but we still have this. But he had to watch it all get destroyed right before his eyes. He had to watch his people suffer in affliction right before his eyes, and I think to me that this is one of the hardest things about social media today is what you see in real time. I mean, we used to have to. Gosh, I'm I'm now in that club, aren't I? I mean, we used to have to read the newspaper, or maybe CNN might cover something back in the day, you know, that that seemed honest and fair, or whatever. And say what you will about any of that stuff, but but we'd have to read the newspaper. Now it's like, man, one scroll, two scrolls, and we've all seen stuff we weren't really wired to see. Now we have watched the things we love get destroyed right before our eyes. We have watched decay right before our eyes, and many of us thought, "Man, this could have been avoided. You know, Jeremiah is sitting in this spot, so I think we can relate to him, even though we are removed from it by quite a bit of time, but what's interesting is in the next several verses. Not only does he says that I am the man who has seen this, but then he says this about God: He brought me to darkness. He turned against me. He's broken my bones. He builds against me. He hedged me about, and I can't get out. He shutteth my prayer. He made my paths crooked. He he set me as a mark for his bow, and his arrows entered me. He made me bitter. He broke my teeth. He removed my soul from peace. I have forgot prosperity as a result of that. My strength and hope have perished. He remembers his affliction and misery. This is what Jeremiah says as he's sitting watching all of this. This is how he feels, and it's just stuck out to me this week that I think sometimes when our eyes have seen these things, maybe that we've loved, that we didn't want to see get destroyed, or our loved ones that immediately we sit and focus about how we feel. These were real feelings. Jeremiah was heaven. There's probably a reality for a lot of people in this room that you're like, hey, I I wasn't a prophet to Judah, but I feel that way today. I feel broken. I feel like God is nowhere to be found. I feel like my path is crooked. I feel like my prayers are not being heard. I think there is some relational. There, even though Jeremiah was a prophet in a different dispensation, I also think the next verse that we're going to look at is the same thing that changes things for us. In verse 21, he says, "This I recall to my mind. Therefore, have I hope? All these verses, 20 verses of no hope, but then he recalled something into his mind, and he has hope. This is why the word of God is so important. This is why studying it, remembering it, memorizing it, right, putting it on your walls. I'll never forget when Rachel was going through a really tough time with with Libby. I think get all my kids straight here, right? But with Libby, that her doctor put her on some medication, and then she had to wean off this medication. It was so hard for her, and it's really part of part of her story and her journey. But there were times in our house, and I'd be like, "What in the world's going on? But there would be posted notes everywhere of Bible verses. It's because she was dealing with something very

real about how she felt inside and about chemically things that were going on in her brain, and she knew that what had to happen is she had to recall the Word of God so that she could have hope. Her hope wasn't going to be in medication. Her hope wasn't going to be in a therapist. Her hope wasn't going to be found in a counselor. Her hope wasn't going to be found in me. It was going to be in God and God's word and His truth. And I watched her crawl on the ground, so to speak. I watched her dig out of the pit by God's word alone, by recalling His Word in her mind. At this point, Jeremiah—I mean, it wasn't just a switch, and he didn't feel these things anymore, but he recalled in his mind a truth, and it preserved hope inside him. I think we spend way too much time focusing on what we feel like and what we want, and it pulls us away from what truth is. And then we're trying to intersect why what we want and how we feel didn't actually produce something in our lives, and so then we start questioning whether or not we have faith. It's really interesting that he says, "I recall to my mind, and we know in this dispensation of grace, Paul warns us in Romans 12 one and two. He says we cannot be conformed to this world. He says we are transformed how by the renewing of our mind that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. We're told in Ephesians 4:22 through 24. He says put off the old man which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and he says but be renewed in the spirit of your mind. And he says put on the new man. We're told in Second Corinthians 10:4 and 5 to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. We're told what to think about in Philippians 4:8 when he's talking about those whatsoever things are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report. If there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. It is about the mind, people. It is about neural pathways. I mean, even psychologists recognize about changing thinking and creating new habits and changing things back into a neural pathway. And now we're trying everything from medication to do that for us, right? We're we're trying special drugs to do this for us versus different kinds of weird therapies, things. But the reality is, the Word of God can do that if that's the thing we are recalling in our mind. If that's the thing that we are putting in our mind over and over again, every time we feel something, it's straight to the Word of God, and then our hope gets renewed. Listen to what he says next. These are the famous verses. He says, "It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning. Great is Thy faithfulness. In the midst of seeing the destruction of the temple, the people in despair, he can say, "Great is Thy faithfulness. And my challenge today, as we start kind of moving towards the meat here of the service, what is it that you're thinking about when everything is in despair around you? Is the thing that's recalled out of your mind as great is God's faithfulness? And if not, then there needs to be a change in our thinking. It is interesting that Lamentations is one of the five books or poems that are read publicly on national holidays, even today in Judaism. It's called the Megalith, right? And here's why. It's really interesting. It's because the temple was destroyed on the ninth day of Ab in 586, and supposedly the ninth of Ab in AD 70, the temple was destroyed again. So from the Jewish history today, that as a it's red because it's short. It's one of the five short ones that's read, but it's also read because it is a reminder of God's great faithfulness. Even today, it's still held in that regard, and so this book of Lamentations gets overlooked a lot. It's just kind of an addendum, but this is a very important passage here. Now, let's talk about a couple of things as we started, I think, unpacking this and making it really awesome. And the first thing is this: He didn't just say, "Good is God's faithfulness. He didn't just say, "God is faithful. But the words that were used as the Holy Spirit was moving through Jeremiah to give us these words is great is God's faithfulness, and here's some significance behind this. In Deuteronomy 10:17, it says, "For the Lord your God is God of gods; He's the Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward. When Scripture puts the word "great, it gives the idea of awe or awesome. It is talking about not just good, but better than good. When it's talking about the faithfulness of God, it's not just God's faithful. It is great is God's faithfulness surpassing good? It's not collecting \$200 to pass and go, right? It went straight to great. Great is God's faithfulness, and it says this in Psalm 86, 8:10. It says, "Among the gods there is none like unto thee, O Lord. There are neither are there any works like unto thy works. All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord, and shall glorify thy name, for

thou art great. That's the God that we serve, and this attribute of faithfulness isn't just good; it is great. And since it involves trust, and since it involves truth, it means that God isn't just faithful; He is greatly faithful. And I think it's important that we remove Him from like a human standard. Humans can be faithful. A husband can be faithful. An employee can be faithful. God has great faithfulness, especially in light of people that did not deserve God's faithfulness, much like us today. But yet we can declare great is God's faithfulness, much like Jeremiah did, and Ezekiel 989. Just to kind of give you the idea of great, it also works the other way and described in Scripture. It came to pass while they were slaying them, and I was left. I fell upon my face and cried and said, "Ah, Lord God, will Thou destroy all the residue of Israel and Thy pouring out of Thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, "The iniquity of the house of Israel in Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness. For they say the Lord hath forsaken the earth, and the Lord seeth not. Even when this description to let us know how much Israel and Judah was sinning, it was exceeding, meaning the the reward, the recompense for their efforts of being put into captivity was deserving. Their sinfulness was exceedingly great. Does this make sense? What we're saying here. And another place to look: Genesis 12 one through two. This is the Abrahamic covenant. Now the Lord said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land will I show thee, and I will make thee okay nation, great nation. He didn't just say I will make a nation. He said I'm going to make a great nation, and we're and one day when Jesus is sitting on the throne and the 12 are helping him basically rule, right? And all nations are being blessed through Israel. They're going to say that is the greatest nation. So you understand the word great here and the importance. You could do a long study into this. I just wanted to show a couple snippets, if you will. So now let's talk about the word faith. This is kind of interesting too. This word "faithful" is only used after the law was given. When you look at Scripture, first time attributed to God was Deuteronomy seven nine. In fact, it says, "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, He is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy. Remember, I said trust and truth. So it's important that we understand that yes, there was promise, right? There was the seed was going to come. There was the promise going to Abraham. However, this covenant, right off the bat, Deuteronomy means second law, so he's given it a second time, right? But the thing is, God is faithful, as it's attributed to here, and they're going to break this covenant. By the way, there's going to have to be a new covenant, but yet the word God is faithful is right here in the middle of this. Psalm 89, one talking about the faithfulness and how long says, "I will sing of the mercy of the Lord forever with my mouth. I will make known thy faithfulness to all generations. That's the other thing: is it wasn't just that God had great faithfulness at one point in time. It says the faithfulness of God all generations. This is what the psalmist believed. Psalm 119 80, which Psalm 119 is commonly the psalm about the word of God and of the law, and it says, "Thy faithfulness is unto all generations. Thou hast established the earth, and it abideth. Or Isaiah 25 one, "O Lord, thou art my God. I will exalt thee. I will praise thy name, for thou hast done wonderful things. Thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. What Jeremiah was recalling in his mind was a God who was declared faithful, and declared faithful for all generations. And not only that, knowing that the word faithful requires trust and truth, let's not forget that Jeremiah was given some verses talking about the new covenant, which he hadn't seen yet in his life. But he has to trust that God is truthful in saying that these things are going to happen, so in Jeremiah 3131, through 34, it says, "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, which my covenant they break, although I was a husband unto them, saith the Lord, but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts and write it in their hearts, and will be their God, and they shall be my people, and they shall teach no more every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, for they shall all know me; for the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Even though Jeremiah is in the face of seeing his people struggling and in reproach, and he has seen the temple destroyed and things are on fire, he remembers that I was

given these words. These things have to happen because God is true, and they have not happened yet. So I know this: that God is going to be faithful, and that what I see before my eyes today is not what will be. Now I hope you understood what I was saying there, because if we live today, just going by what we see, we're sometimes going to question whether or not God's faithful. But what did He say? Because that is what is true. That is what we can trust. Jeremiah in chapter three is expressing how he felt, what he physically saw, what was happening to his people. But not only did he prophesy that it was going to happen in the book of Jeremiah, he had to see one of those prophecies come true. But this other prophecy he knew would come later. In the great, in the midst of his great mourning and the feeling that God was nowhere to be found, there was a recalling of his mind, and therefore he had hope. He knew it wasn't going to be in his lifetime, but God made a promise, and God is to be trusted. He cannot lie. I think this is important for us today. It is really easy. The algorithms I always talk about, but the algorithms hate you. They want you to fight. I promise you. If you're on Facebook too long, you watch one video, it's going to flood you with those videos, and it's going to flood you with counter videos because they want you to get angry and fight. It's a reality that we live in, and then you lose hope. You're discouraged. You're just stuck there. Now an hour has gone by, and you feel terrible. You feel like there's no hope in the world. And what you didn't do at all during that hour is recall the Lord in your mind, and you saw the damage that happened from one hour of putting God out of it and letting other things infiltrate your mind, and it can be depressing, can be discouraging, but not if we know what is coming and what God has promised. I think that is the important thing. We see the same thing today: hopelessness with every election, the price of groceries, price of gas, hopelessness in every news cycle, struggling to make ends meet, health diagnosis everywhere, the loneliness that we all experience. We're going to trust AI to be our best friend because we can't make friends. We don't know how to be social. Will I ever meet someone? Do I really want to raise kids in this kind of world? I'm reminded of what the psalmist said: God is faithful in every generation. His faithfulness doesn't end when your time on this earth ends, so I would say have kids, populate the earth because the world needs ambassadors. Don't be afraid to bring kids into this world because God is faithful and there's things that He has said about what is true, right? That is going to come true, and we need people to be able to share the gospel. Don't be afraid to bring them into this world. I'm sure every generation before said, "Do I really want to bring my kids up in this world? And we're still here. And what if you don't meet someone? What if your groceries don't go down? What if in your lifetime you don't see those things, like Jeremiah wasn't going to see. Does that mean that God wasn't faithful? And that really is the issue, isn't it? I remember when Michelle Gentry passed away, and I was at her funeral at Emmanuel, and I remember talking to George Fields. He came up to me and he said, "He said God answered our prayer. And I took me back for a second. I'm like, we're at a funeral. He looked at me. He said, she's healed now. And I thought about that with my dad, and I'm like, God was faithful to my dad. You're like, well, he died, and he had cancer. Yeah, but think about God's great faithfulness with my dad. We're told in Second Corinthians five eight that we are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. My dad will never ever have another cancer treatment, ever. He's in the very presence of God. God is going to hold him for all eternity. Even if he would have maybe overcome it for a few years and then maybe died at the ripe old age of 85 or 90, he still was going to die at some point. He doesn't ever have to worry about death again. He doesn't ever have to worry about being tired or being fatigued or how he feels ever again-that's because God is faithful. He can be trusted. He is true. What he says is, the moment we stop here, we begin all eternity with Him. The very moment that we stop, and that's why we have to remind ourselves: it's not that we are going to usher in the kingdom of heaven here on earth. We're not going to become so righteous that God can't take it anymore and come down. That's not for us today. That is not going to be our story. But what our story is is that we are citizens in heaven, right? And He has given us eternal life, and He cannot lie, Titus one two, and that we're going to be given a new glorified body, right? And we are going to be seated in the heavenlies where we've been given all spiritual blessings. And why all that is important is because God is faithful. I would say great is God's faithfulness for us today in the body

of Christ, because there is nothing the moment we get saved, that takes us away from that inheritance. But we get so focused on today, and how we're living, and our encouragement needs to be to recall in our minds God's great faithfulness and what is to come. Remember, in Ephesians 1:13, we said, "In whom you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Whom also you were, after that you believed, you were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise. The next verse says, it is our earnest of our down payment, so to speak, as an earnest of our inheritance. The Holy Spirit, that's God's down payment. Saying you get this now, you get me for all eternity. The moment that you are saved, it's so important to know what is coming next, so that we're not discouraged about the what is. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, "We walk by faith, not by sight. But so many of us are just looking. We're looking for God to do something physically in our lives today. We're looking for the miracle, right? We're looking for the flashing sign as we're driving down the interstate to tell us where we're going to work, and then we get discouraged when we don't see it, and we think God's not faithful. No, God is faithful. You're just looking in the wrong places. We walk by faith, not by sight. First Corinthians 12:22 says the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom. Next verse says, but we preach Christ crucified. Romans 10:17 says that faith cometh by hearing, hearing by the word of God. Faith in the word of God that has to be studied even regarding God's faithfulness, so often God gets accused of not being faithful in things that He never promised or didn't promise to you. Your lack of a desired outcome didn't prove God wasn't faithful; just that you didn't understand His faithfulness in this dispensation. And you're only going to know that if you're in the Word of God, you have to be recalling the right things that God has said to you in the Word of God, so you know how do you live your life. That's how you're going to know if God is faithful, right? You can't be pulling promises everywhere from Scripture, saying, "Well, God wasn't faithful. He promised if we would, if we would just bow our bow to our knees and if we would pray and we repent of our sins, that He would heal America in Second Chronicles 7:14. That was not a promise to America. We could do all that, and spiritually, individually, we can become stronger and be walking in the Spirit. But there is not a promise that a nation will have an abundance of earthly blessings as a result of that kind of corporate lifestyle, you won't find it. So I think it's important that we rightly divide God's faithfulness as well, so that we understand what is true and what can be trusted. As we wrap this up, Thomas Chisholm was born in 1866 in Kentucky, he was a teacher at the age of 16. He was a poet. He got saved at age 27. Became a United Methodist preacher. He was married in 1903. Had two daughters. In 1923, he wrote a poem. We talked about Jeremiah's poems. This man wrote a poem. The name of this poem, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness, he wrote this poem and then he sent it to William Runyon and he put it to a hymn. It kind of caught on a little bit with Moody, but it rose to fame in the 50s with Billy Graham during the Crusades. And once it was all put together, the words of the poem were, "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 will be. Great is Thy faithfulness. Great is Thy faithfulness. Morning by morning, new mercies I see. All I have needed, Thy hand hath provided. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me. Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love, pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow blessings all mine with 10,000s beside. The interesting thing about that poem is that all those highlights that I gave of Thomas Chisholm were at the first part of his life. Between 1909 and 1923, he had to step down from being a preacher. His health had gotten so bad; he had to take a secular job in life insurance to meet the needs for his parents or for his kids. The rest of his life would be struggling to make ends meet, not knowing how he's going to pay hospital bills, and dealing with this this increasingly poor health. And it was then, with all the struggles, that he writes this poem. It wasn't in the greatest time of his life. It was really through some of the most difficult times in his life. He writes, "Great is Thy faithfulness. But no matter the struggle, Thomas always chose to see God's faithfulness. I love how he says, "Blessings all mine, with 10,000 besides. And I was thinking about this. I was like, "Did." It didn't sound like he had a blessed life. Had to give up the ministry, so he had to kind of. He still wrote poems. He tried to do

things that way, dealing with this physical ailments. What are these blessings he's talking about? Did he just learn to be content? Was it his wife and his children? What are all these blessings that he was talking about, and then he says 10,000 beside, given the idea that there was going to be many more blessings, and it reminded me of Ephesians one three as we wrap this up. It says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places In Christ, the reason that even in our lowest point, when things look the bleakest, when the new cycle has discouraged us the most, that we can say, "Great is Thy faithfulness, isn't because of all these earthly blessings that we have received or the 1000s that we are promised, but it is about that we have all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ-they cannot be taken from us. They are not attributed to our good behavior. They are given freely by His grace, the riches of His grace. It is important. We hope you received a blessing from today's service. We would love to have you visit with us in person. For more information, please visit our website at gpindy.net or contact us by phone at 317-535-3512. For more options to watch, just click on demand on the website. Until next broadcast, may God bless you. Is our prayer. We will be faithful. In fact, you'll be able to say, "Great is Thy faithfulness, in whatever circumstance that you're going through, because you'll be able to trust God and know that He is working something together for your good, even if you never see it on this earth. That starts changing your life and starts changing other people's lives around you as they see your response to things in a more mature way than they deal with things. They want to know how can you, how can you be joyful in the midst of sorrow, and you share with them your God who is faithful, who can be trusted, who is true? Next week we'll talk about temptation. So, good good week to bring a friend. Good week for you to show back up. So I'm gonna have everybody stand at this time. We're gonna pray, then we're gonna sing, then we'll dismiss you. At this time, if you have questions about what it means to be a member at Grace Point, or have questions about the different things that we have going on, or how to get involved in a small group, or maybe you got saved today or recently, and you want to know what your next steps are. We'll have some people up front who can kind of help you, point you in the right direction. But right now, I give you that opportunity if you want to slip out while we're praying, so that way, maybe you have to fight the crowd as much. Let's pray, Heavenly Father. Thank you for this day, Lord. I proclaim the same way Jeremiah did. Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord. You are trusted. What you say is true, and Lord, we believe that today, and we can say, "Great is Thy faithfulness. Lord, as we look in these weeks to come about the different places where, where You show forth Your faithfulness in the areas of temptation and the areas of suffering, and as we move on through this series, Lord, I pray that we would be reminded of just how great You are how great your faithfulness is, Lord. I pray that if there's anyone here today who's still struggling with what they believe and they're not sure if this, if this is for them, Lord, they're not sure if if you dying on the cross is is I guess enough, Lord, as they still feel like they have to do something. Lord, I pray today they'd be set free from that and they'd realize that we are saved by grace through faith alone, not of ourselves, is the gift of God. Lord, you demonstrated or commendeth your love toward us, and that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. You made the way. We just have to accept it. We have to accept the payment. We have to accept the gift. Lord, I pray that if there's anyone in here who's still on the fence about that, that they would not leave today without placing their faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, I pray you would encourage the hearts of the people today, Lord. If they're discouraged or going through something, Lord, to recall to their mind the truth of Scripture, the truth of what you say you're going to do during this dispensation of grace. Lord, help us to be able every time that we feel a certain way to to combat that with your word and truth, Lord. I pray you be with our people now, Lord. I pray next week as we talk about temptation, Lord, that they'd be encouraged, that they would be here, that they'd invite somebody, Lord, and that it would be something that would help them grow in their faith next week. We love you and praise you in Jesus' name, Amen.