

## **Thought for the Day Wednesday May 20<sup>th</sup>**

### **Lamentations 3:23 New International Version (NIV)**

**23 They are new every morning;  
great is your faithfulness.**

At the time of writing this (Monday) I am recovering from a night of troubled sleep; I had a nightmare last night. You know one of those where you can't get to where you're supposed to be and you are going to badly let someone down and be in trouble if you are not there. I also know that Jen is not in a very good place. I guess approaching the 10th week of lockdown is getting to, not just us but lots of others. Not the best place for preparing a "thought for the day".

Jen suggested that the thing in her head is the hymn "Great is thy Faithfulness".

When I looked up the hymn it is based on the above verse from Lamentations. If you read the previous verses in chapter 3, it's all about feeling very sorry for yourself, in verse 20 it actually says "my soul is downcast". So it seems very fitting for my mood. And yet! Verse 22 says "because of the Lords great love I am not consumed, for his compassions never fail"!

If you look up Compassion in the dictionary it says "sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others".

Further down it says "Compassion motivates people to go out of their way to help the physical, mental, or emotional pains of another and themselves"

So God's compassions never fail me and that compassion shown by God motivates me to think about others. The amazing thing is that when we take the focus away from ourselves and on to others it does us good.

This is very much passing on something God given to others. In Alan Johnsons sermon on Sunday he talked about "Paraclete" which means advocate helper, used to describe God's Holy Spirit. Alan said how Jesus asked Simon Peter if he really loves him, not physical love, but love that gets alongside, love that helps, and love that perseveres. That Love of Jesus that passes on not just for you, but for you to pass onto others. If we don't, if we hold it to ourselves it ends there.

Think of it as when you light a candle from the front at church and then pass the light on to each other. You and I when we do that are bringing God's light and love into the world. What other clip could I play at the end than the Eurovision contestant's rendition of "Shine a Light". Did you watch Eurovision on Saturday? I thought it was lovely.

Guess what? I feel much better now and I hope you do too.

God Bless you all.

## Let's pray

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you so much that you love us unconditionally. It doesn't matter how we feel, however much we let you down, you still love us.

Help us Lord Jesus to be so filled with your love that we just have to share it with others, or we would burst!

Not to bottle it up, because you can't bottle up something so vast.

So Lord we pray at this time for all those who are struggling with this coronavirus pandemic and those who are ill or have lost their lives. Receive them into your loving, compassionate care. Thank you for those who are putting themselves at great risk caring, working, sharing at this time. Grant those in authority, wisdom, discernment and compassion to do what is right. And help us all to trust in You Lord because "Great is your Faithfulness"

We asked these prayers in the power and Love of Your Holy Spirit.

Amen

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 will be

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
And all I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me

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 ten thousand beside

Great is Thy faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
And all I have needed Thy hand hath provided  
Great is Thy faithfulness  
Lord unto me. *(CCL Licence No.16660)*

[https://youtu.be/R\\_xmJcg1iBU](https://youtu.be/R_xmJcg1iBU)