

## 1-3-2024 – New Year, New Start, New Mercies

New year – new beginnings. God gives fresh starts. Just ask Peter... 3 x. Just ask the Prodigal Son... new robe. Ask Job. You can begin again.

God loves us – and sees the best in us.

English Standard Version - “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.” – **Lam. 3:22-23**

**Steadfast** means: firmly fixed in place. Immovable. Not subj to change.

God’s love won’t stop. Will never cease. Won’t vanish, dry up.

God’s mercy is tied to His love. Mercy is a **byproduct** of God’s love.

God’s mercy will never wear out... grow weary.

We have a hard time w/this b/c we do grow weary.

We make same failures over & over.

We get upset w/others for doing same things over & over...

“This always happens to me.” “He always does that...”

But God functions in an “**eternal**” world. An Eternal mindset.

Our “always” is hardly forever. His love is forever. Unending. Faithful. In eternity, **mercy never runs out**. Mercy is **refilled & refreshed** every a.m.

- Mercy is available... but must **access** it. **Prodigal Son** had to go home
- We have to be **willing** to have fresh start... move forward. Grow.
  - Too many get **stuck**... things never turn out right b/c I always screw it up... we **fixate on our failures**.
  - **Mercy doesn’t give us what we deserve**. Mercy withholds punishment. *Mercy is love, compassion, forgiveness all in one*. And grace gives us even more.
  - **Lamentations** written by Jeremiah. He laments over the fall of Jerusalem caused by their refusal to turn from their sinful ways. He has sorrow for what has happened, but there is still hope.
  - They suffered consequences, but God is always willing to pour out mercy when we come to Him, repentance.

- Mercy is found by hearts that are sorry, want to do better.
- The hardest, most sinful person can receive God's mercy.
- You'll miss mercy if you never want to do better; improve. . . keep living the same life, making same choices, not caring.
  - "This is just me." Nope.
- You'll miss mercy if you don't return to Jesus. Prodigal Son went home... Peter jumped out of the boat.

**2 Cor. 5:17** - "if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." – **2 Cor. 5:17**

- New creations happen gradually. Not overnight. 9 months! It took 6 days to create the world... it'll take longer for us. **Journey.**
- It took **4 months** for this house to be renovated... restored. And in the process, tile damaged... ceiling fan damaged. Better.
  - We'll make mistakes. **God is in the repair business.**
  - **God knows we'll fail ... that's why mercies new daily!**
    - Maturity takes time. **Mercy lets you mature.**
    - Tomorrow is a new start; clean slate. New beginning.

We're hard on ourselves. We replay mistakes, failures, should-haves.

God doesn't replay them at all. **Isa. 43:25** – "I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake and remembers your sins no more."

**Heb. 8:12** – "For I will forgive their wrongdoing, and I will never again remember their sins."

**Give yourself a gift** – drink in mercy. Jump out of the boat, run to Jesus.

**Psm. 100:5** – "The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting."

This is a new start. Clean slate. Every morning, new mercies.

**Song of the week:** **New Today** – by Micah Tyler

**Announcements:** **Tues, Jan. 16** – **The Color Purple @ CMX**