

My Faithful Love

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***"The Lord appeared to him from afar, saying,
'I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.'" (Jeremiah 31:3)***

I must have been in a hymn-writing mode one Thanksgiving my family celebrated in Kansas City. I wrote "My Faithful Love" and "Behold the King" over the same stretch of days with Bryn's folks that November.

It was during that holiday break that three different friends were calling me up to unburden their hearts over the difficult pain and dark trials they were currently experiencing. None of them were related. It got to the point that I didn't want to answer my phone from friends for fear of what more bad news I would hear! Whether it was strife in the home or attacks in the church, the conversations were similar...brokenness, pain, exile, anger, and tears.

My Bible reading during that time was in the middle of Jeremiah. God's people had been exiled to Babylonia. Jerusalem was in ruins. They felt betrayed, forgotten, and set aside by God. Yet in the midst of their banishment, God had a word for them. He had not abandoned them. He still had good plans for their future. His love for them was an eternal love. They were to rest in the faithful love of their God *while in the middle of the pain!*

So with my heart breaking for my friends in their various difficulties, I wrote "My Faithful Love." I spent much time meditating on Jeremiah 29:11-13 and 31:3. It was my first ever attempt at composing a hymn from God's perspective. To avoid "putting words into the mouth of God," I wrote at the top of my notebook, "What might Jesus say to _____ if He were to write a letter to them now?" I worked at staying as close to what He has said in Scripture.

Each of the stanzas has elements of the pain my friends were going through at the time. But to be fair, these are the trials all of God's people experience at various times. May we all learn to trust the heart of God and rest in His faithful love.

It was a wonderful joy to team up with James for the first time in creating music together. His tune is meditative, fresh, and full of hope!