October 18, 2026 New Mercies Every Morning

(Series Info)

Burning Words

We live in a world full of voices competing for our attention. But volume doesn't equal truth. In Burning Words, we'll hear from voices in Scripture whose messages still speak to the struggles we face today-calling us from compromise to conviction, fear to faith, and wandering back to God. Because God's truth doesn't change with culture... and some messages are too important to ignore.

This week's message will be given by Pastor Spencer Piercefield.

(Personal Fun Facts)

What gets you through a bad day?

(Takeaways)

What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

(Big Idea)

Our circumstances may change, but God's character never changes. Even in our deepest pain, we can be honest with God, trust His faithfulness, and discover that His mercies are new every morning.

(Discussion)

Scripture: Lamentations 3:19–21 Be Honest With God

One of the most important things we can learn from Lamentations is that lament is not the opposite of faith. Lament is an expression of faith. The writer isn't pretending that everything is a bed of roses. He isn't painting a religious smile on an otherwise difficult circumstance. He isn't even offering a shallow spiritual explanation for why things happen. He is acknowledging the reality of his suffering. He is remembering the bitterness, the pain, and the devastation, and he tells God exactly how he feels.

- 1) Why do you think Christians sometimes feel pressure to appear happy or spiritually strong even when they are hurting?

- 2) What might change in our relationship with God if we became more honest with Him about our disappointments and fears?

Scripture: Lamentations 3:21–23 Our Circumstances May Change, But God's Character Never Changes

His compassions never fail … great is His faithfulness. These words are not on the heels of great spiritual victory. They don't come once Jerusalem's wall and Temple are re-constructed. They are not words people proclaimed when they went back home from being in exile and life returned to normal. These words are those that find themselves placed right in the middle of lament. Things have gone wrong, but the writer (Jeremiah) remembers something about God … He is faithful. Our hope is not rooted in our circumstances, but in the God who has revealed Himself to us.

- 3) How does understanding God's steadfast love and faithfulness change the way we interpret our suffering and hardships?

- 4) Sometimes we want God to prove His faithfulness by changing our circumstances; but God invites us to discover His faithfulness in the middle of our circumstances. **Does this change the way we pray?**

Scripture: Lamentations 3:24–26 Hope Learns to Wait

Now we come to an interesting part in this passage; "the Lord is my portion." What does this mean? To understand this, you need to go back to ancient Israel, when the land was divided among the tribes of Israel. The Levites did not receive any territory

like the other tribes did. Instead, the Lord Himself was their portion and inheritance. The Levites (the priestly tribe) found their hope and security, not in land, but in the Lord Himself. Now, centuries later, Jerusalem is in a heap … there is no city, no security, no familiar way of life, no stability … but the writer can say, "The Lord is my portion." He has lost everything that mattered deeply, but he hasn't lost the God who sustains him. When God is our portion, our identity is not defined by our circumstances … what we have (careers, relationships, health, accomplishments, plans, etc.) but our identity is anchored in the hope we have in the Lord.

- 5) What does it mean to you personally to say, "The Lord is my portion?"

- 6) What are we supposed to do when we wait upon the Lord? Nothing?

- 7) What does waiting tend to reveal about your relationship with God? Impatience? Fear? Desire for control? Or perhaps a growing trust?

Personal Application: The Mercy of Today

- What are you waiting on God for right now?
- What if God's invitation today isn't to figure out tomorrow, but to receive the mercy He has provided for you today?
- Practice this week praying honestly
- Remember God's faithfulness and acknowledge that in your life
- Begin each morning with a declaration of trust

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that we don't have to pretend when we come into Your presence. You know our struggles, our disappointments, our fears, and the questions we sometimes don't know how to ask. Help us to remember Your faithfulness is not dependent upon our circumstances. When life changes, remind us that Your character never does. Teach us to wait upon You with hope. When we cannot see what tomorrow holds, help us trust the One who holds tomorrow.

In Jesus' name.

Amen.