

Friday Reflections

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassion never fails. They are new every morning; great is Thy faithfulness. I will wait upon the Lord. - Lamentations 3:22-24"

Boom! And just like that, we are into a new year! Are you ready for it? While 2020 has been difficult at times, we know that God is already anticipating all the challenges and blessings we will experience in 2021. And regardless of how 2020 treated you or your family, we can always look back and see times that God moved and took care of us even when we couldn't see it or understand it.

God has promised that his compassion will not fail us and his mercies toward us are new every morning. That means every morning, no matter how rough or difficult the previous day was, or how badly we feel we have done, we can have a fresh start with Him.

Did you fail him yesterday? His forgiveness is available today.

Are you sad or feeling anxious today? His compassion is here for you.

Does the future seem a bit scary? He is faithful and will lead us forward.

My encouragement to us all as we enter a new year is to look back at 2020 not just with dread and bitter memories, but also to see the places where God blessed and helped us. And moving forward, let's realize that God's plans and purposes for us are good. Remember that his faithfulness is great; let's wait upon Him and see what is in store!

Father in heaven, thank you for always being there, even when we didn't see it at the time. And thank you that moving forward we can trust you will be with us throughout 2021 with fresh mercies and compassion. Amen.

- **Dr. Doug Shafer**, M.Div., D. Min., Caraday Chaplain