

New Day, New Mercies

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;

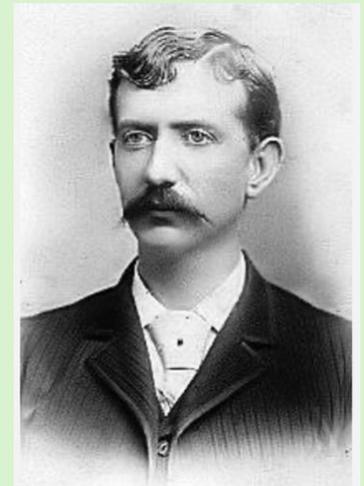
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;

great is your faithfulness”

(Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV)

Thomas Chisolm was born in Kentucky in 1866. He was a very intelligent, articulate young man and by the age of 21 had become a teacher and editor of his local newspaper. He also loved to write poetry. At the age of 27 he became a follower of Jesus and decided to become a Methodist minister. In 1903 he was ordained and began serving as a minister in the Methodist Church. His tenure lasted one year. Ill-health forced him to resign from the pastorate. Instead of becoming bitter with God, Thomas chose to look for all the different ways God had been faithful to him throughout his life.



Using his poetry writing skills, Thomas penned the words to the now famous hymn, “Great is Your Faithfulness” based on Lamentations 3:22-23. (You can listen to the hymn here at this link: <https://youtu.be/NT0HcAr9ael?si=BFWv25OHpu2awqhD>)

Take some time to reflect on the different ways God has shown His faithfulness to you.

As we sit at the beginning of a New Year, it can be timely to remind ourselves of the different ways God has shown His faithfulness to us. Life is full of disappointments. We live in a broken world, dealing with broken people and our own brokenness. But God, in His infinite kindness and mercy, reaches down into our lives and shows us His great love. We just need the eyes to see it.

Is there an overwhelming disappointment that stops you from seeing God’s faithfulness? Invite Jesus to meet you in that disappointment.

“Burn-out” is a term that is used a lot today. Another similar term that I hear frequently in the charity sector is “giving fatigue”. Both terms suggest that there is a limit to how much we can do and give. So how did Catherine McAuley, with all her disappointments, challenges and demands keep going?

Mary Sullivan writes that “friendships appear to have sustained the human heart of

Is there someone you can share both your joys and disappointments with?

Is there someone you can be that person for – a safe place for them to share their burdens with?

Catherine McAuley. Though they did not completely heal the accumulated suffering that the repeated losses of her life had afflicted...they did help her to transcend her private pain in response to the pain of

others.”ⁱ Catherine shared her pain and her joy with those close to her, but even more dear to her was what Catherine dared to call her friendship with God. “As she often said, ‘We may address God as we would a dear friend to whom we owed a great deal.’”ⁱⁱ

Just as Catherine cultivated a friendship with God, so can we. Just as Thomas Chisholm focused on the faithfulness of God, so can we. As we enter into a New Year, may we also determine to embrace each new day of this year, knowing that with each new day, comes the promise of God’s new mercies...

What are some ways you can cultivate a greater friendship with God?

What one change can you make in 2025 to see your friendship with God deepen?

...unlimited mercy from the immeasurable faithfulness of an everlasting God.

ⁱ Mary C. Sullivan. (2012). “*The Path of Mercy: The Life of Catherine McAuley*. p.251.

ⁱⁱ Ibid, pp. 250-251.