
Part 1 Sermon, February 11, 2024

Lamentations 1:1-22 – *The Language of Lament*

Discussion Questions

1. Lamenting is not complaining but purposeful sharing of a current reality with God. How can we know when we have crossed the line into merely complaining? Lament is a special prayer language; a gift from God to the believer to help us trust in Him, to keep us trusting in Him. Consider your prayers to God when in the midst of suffering. Where is your focus? Ask the Holy Spirit to help you reorient your gaze from self to our great God.
 2. Grief and suffering are unavoidable realities in our brief sojourn on earth. He gives us the language of lament to *protest, process* and *purge* our grief. How do you reconcile the promises of God with the pain we experience? What are some of the ways you seek comfort? Where do you turn when, like Jerusalem, you have “none to comfort” you (see vv 2, 9, 17, 21)?
 3. The siege and destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BC is the setting for this book. The people of Judah had forgotten God’s warnings against sinfulness. Look back at Leviticus 26:14-18, 33. Babylon was sent by God to judge the people of God (see vv. 5, 12-15). Someone has said, “True repentance is when we can justify God and condemn ourselves.” Verse 18 states, “The Lord is in the right, for I have rebelled against His word. . . .” Spend a quiet moment in prayer, asking God to reveal sinfulness in you and your own rebellion.
 4. Lament is not a sign of weakness but a sign of deep trust to reach out to God in our anguish. We must acknowledge His sovereignty and pray in our pain. Think about this typical format for lamentation: Direct your complaint to God; Describe your feelings of discouragement; Depend on the Lord; Dwell on God’s faithfulness and His attributes. Think about a past or current situation which is a cause for lament. How can this process lead you from complaining/despair to praise for God’s great mercy?
 5. God’s people are to reflect the character of our holy God. How can a proper understanding of lament help us minister to others? What does Paul say about this in Galatians 6:2?
-