

“Seeking the Lord’s Abundant Mercy in Adversity”

Lamentations 3:1-66 5/10/2020

Lamentations- Drawing Near to God in Life’s Disruptions

Big Idea- This chapter of Lamentations gives us apex of the entire book. The writer expresses his own anguish, but remembers the amazing mercy of God which helps rekindle his hope in God’s redeeming power and compassion.

Key Verse:

Lamentations 3:22-24 Because of the Lord’s mercies we are not consumed; his mercies never come to an end; ²³ they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. ²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

Application- We live in a fallen world and God has appointed His children to endure difficulty in this world in order to make us like His Son and our Savior, Jesus (Philippians 1:29-30; 1 Thess 3:1-5; Rom 8:17-18)

Paul the Apostle (2 Cor 1:8-10; 4:7-18; 11:21-28)

LESSON 1- Seeking the Lord’s mercy involves being REAL

- A. Expressing that we feel **lost** (3:1-6)
- B. Expressing that we feel **trapped** (3:7-9)
- C. Expressing that we feel **torn up** (3:10-12)
- D. Expressing that we feel **hopeless and anxious** (3:13-18).

LESSON 2- Seeking the Lord’s mercy involves REMEMBERING

- A. Hope is rekindled when we remember God’s **mercy** (3:19-24)
- B. Hope is rekindled when we remember God’s **goodness** (3:25-27)
- C. Hope is rekindled when we remember God’s **justice** (3:28-36)
- D. Hope is rekindled when we remember God’s **sovereignty** (3:37-38)

LESSON 3- Seeking the Lord’s mercy involves REPENTING

- A. Repenting involves a great level of **humility** (3:39-54) **Vv. 39-40**

LESSON 4- Seeking the Lord’s mercy involves RECOGNIZING

- A. Recognizing involves God’s presence and **avoiding fear** (3:55-58)
- B. Recognizing involves the sense of **justice** in God’s world (3:59-66)

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

Philippians 1:29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

1 Thessalonians 3:1 ¶ So when we could bear it no longer, we decided to stay on in Athens alone. ² We sent Timothy, our brother and fellow worker for God in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen you and encourage you about your faith, ³ so that no one would be shaken by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. ⁴ For in fact when we were with you, we were telling you in advance that we would suffer affliction, and so it has happened, as you well know. ⁵ So when I could bear it no longer, I sent to find out about your faith, for fear that the tempter somehow tempted you and our toil had proven useless.

Romans 8:17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs-- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ ¶ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. (Rom. 8:17 NIV)

2 Corinthians 1:8 ¶ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ¹⁰ He delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again. (2 Cor. 1:8 ESV)