

“Pressing in to the Character of God”

Lamentations 4:1-22 5/17/2020

Lamentations- Drawing Near to God in Life’s Disruptions

Rom 15:4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Big Idea- This chapter of Lamentations reminds us that grieving is a process and should be allowed to run its course. It also reminds us of God’s justice and mercy (the hard and soft attributes of God- Romans 11:22).

Key Verse of book:

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."

THEME 1- We press into God’s character through HUMILITY

- A. Humility requires us to be honest and open with SIN
(Lam 4:1-12; Isaiah 66:2; Hebrews 10:31; Genesis 6-9; Isaiah 6:3)
- B. Humility requires us to be recognize there is an ACCOUNTING
(Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 12:36; Rev 20:11-15)
- C. Humility requires leaders to confidently share God’s WORD
(Lam 4:13-17; Jeremiah 19:9; Lev 26:29; Deut 28:50-58; 2 Tim 4:1-5)

THEME 2- We press into God’s character through GRIEVING

- A. Grieving is a process that leans on God’s tender COMPASSION
 - 1) Sometimes, our culture doesn’t allow grieving. “Sadness is weakness”; this can lead to escapism through unhealthy habits.
 - 2) Sometimes people grieve too fast- Lamentations 4 reminds us that the poet was not done.
 - 3) Sometimes, we can get stuck in grieving for too long.
- B. Grieving recognizes that with God there is always HOPE
(Lamentations 4:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Ephesians 2:13)