

## “The Path to Restoration with God”

Lamentations 5:1-22 5/24/2020

### 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 we all sin and the path to restoration with God (and others) is always available to us. If we humble ourselves, acknowledge God’s sovereignty, and confess our sin, God is eager to restore us. Additionally, we sometimes must humbly live with the consequences of our sin. Yet God is ever gracious and merciful (3:22).

#### 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; <sup>23</sup> they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup> "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

#### LESSON 1- The path to restoration begins by seeking GOD

- A. Seeking God involves intimately recounting our CIRCUMSTANCES (Lam 5:1-16; whether because of sin or not, we need to not ignore)
- B. Seeking God involves not making EXCUSES (Lamentations 5:7; Jeremiah 31:29; Ezekiel 18:2; Pass the buck? Gen 3)
- C. Seeking God involves avoiding pride and embracing HUMILITY (Lam 5:16-17- confession is a good thing. How often do you say sorry?)
- D. Seeking God involves acknowledging His right to rule and JUDGE (Lam 5:19; We trust in God’s character to be fulfilled)

#### Some final takeaways from the book of Lamentations

- 1) Suffering is inevitable. God would have us press into Him and trust in His mercy and grace. We should not suffer in silence and avoid escapism methods that harm us. Isolation, alcohol, drugs, despair.
- 2) They wanted to go back to “normal”. Lamentations 5:21  
What was their new normal? Jeremiah 29:1-13. What is our new normal? Is there such a thing? Luke 18:1-8
- 3) There is never a place that where God might lead you or send you that He doesn’t also go with you (Hebrews 13:5).