

## Lamentations – Suffering and Hope

### Beauty Will Rise

#### Lamentations 3:1-33

#### Intro

- Reminders from Week 1 and Week 2
  - Week 1: Sin Leads to Suffering
  - Week 2: The godly response to suffering is lament
- Lamentation Quick Hits
  - Destruction of Jerusalem
  - People of God had been warned repeatedly about this consequence if they continued in disobedience.
  - Severe suffering through being exiled, starved, raped, etc.
  - Five acrostic poems (funeral dirges) – Hebrew alphabet consists of 22 letters
- Chapter 3 Overview
  - Begins with more personal lament from Jeremiah
  - 3x as long as the other 4 poems – Still in the acrostic form
  - Crescendos to verses 22-24 – The glimpse of hope in the midst of suffering

#### Main Idea

**While suffering tempts us to lose hope, God's faithfulness teaches us to choose hope.**

#### Suffering tempts us to lose hope as we experience some of the following feelings:

1. Abandonment
2. Worn down and weary (v. 4)
3. Bitter (v. 5 and v.15)
4. Walled in (v.7)
5. Like God no longer hears us (v. 8)
6. The target of God's wrath (v. 10-12)
7. Humiliated and objectified (v.14)
8. In turmoil (bereft of peace – v. 17)
9. Like we can't continue on (endurance has perished – v. 18)
10. HOPELESS (v.18)

#### Key Takeaways:

1. Temptation: To follow our feelings
  - Truth: We ***don't forget*** our feelings, but we also ***don't follow*** them
2. Temptation: To remember only the worst
3. Temptation: To Lose Hope
  - ***Truth: Hope is not gained by denying reality but by turning our minds to the Lord (v. 21)***

## Reasons that God's faithfulness teaches us to choose hope:

### God is Faithful to His promises, people, and plan

- Steadfast Love = Hesed – Covenant Love
  - “God preserved the world through Noah, initiated redemption through Abraham, formed a special people through Israel, promised a shepherd-king through David, and then fulfilled all of his covenantal promises through Jesus. With each covenant, God’s promises and plans to save the world through the seed of the woman become clearer and clearer until we finally see that redemption can only come through King Jesus.” – Whitney Woolard from The Bible Project
    - Just as this group of verses is the climax of Lamentations, Jesus is the climax of covenants
- Promises and faithfulness of God are rooted at the center of this book
  - Similar to Jeremiah lamenting but being **centered** by these truths
- Hebrews 10:23 - Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.
- “None of the promises of God become null and void because you are suffering” – Dr. Paul David Tripp
- **Also faithful to His character**
  - 2 Tim 2:13 – “...if we are faithless, he remains faithful -- for he cannot deny himself.”
  - Malachi 3:6 - For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed.
- V. 24 - When everything is stripped away, including land, Jeremiah clings to the fact that “The Lord is my portion”

### God's mercies are not based on man's merit

- This is great news!!
- The plural of “mercies” denotes that they are continuous
  - He withholds what we deserve, and we can be reminded of that every morning
- Quote: “Let us rise from our beds every morning with a deep conviction that we are debtors, and that every day we have more mercies than we deserve.” – J.C. Ryle

### God still accomplishes His will in times of suffering and waiting

- “It is good” theme of v. 25-27
  - Creation when “God saw that it was good”
  - Psalms 92:1-2 -- It is good to give thanks to the Lord,  
to sing praises to your name, O Most High;  
<sup>2</sup>to declare your steadfast love in the morning,  
and your faithfulness by night,

- Quote: “By affliction He teaches us many precious lessons, which without it we should never learn. By affliction He shows us our emptiness and weakness, draws us to throne of grace, purifies our affections, weans us from the world, makes us long for Heaven” – J.C. Ryle

### **Hurt and Hope can coexist (v. 31-33)**

- Jeremiah’s similarities to the suffering of Jesus
  - 1:1 – I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of his wrath;
  - 3:8 – though I cry for help, he shuts out my prayer
  - 3:13 – He drove into my kidneys the arrows of his quiver (?)
  - 3:19 – the wormwood and the gall
  - 3: 30 – let him give his cheek to the one who strikes, and let him be filled with insults
- Most of us want to identify and feel like Jeremiah
  - We are the people of Judah
  - We reject God
  - We create our own idols and pursue them
  - Yet, He is faithful to us, not casting us off forever, as promised, and offers us hope through the true Suffering Servant, King Jesus.