

Sermon Notes – September 16, 2018

The Gift of Lamenting (*Lamentations*)

Lament: A memorial dirge for a ruined society. (Jeremiad)

Dictionary definitions: to express sorrow; mourn; crying out in grief; wailing; dirge; complaint.

Three gifts of lamenting can be identified in the book of Lamentations:

- I. The Release of Grief.
 - A. Accounting of what has happened. (All five chapters are poems of laments)
 - B. Many of the Psalms are laments of a grieving heart.
 - C. Tears, emotions, etc. are a release and a relief in expressing grief.

- II. The Opportunity to Repent.
 - A. The kindness and patience of God are for the purpose of repentance. (Romans 2:4-5)
 - B. Tragedies happen to all people but repentance is the important outcome according to Jesus. (Luke 13)
 - C. Jeremiah knows the reason for the sacking of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. (Lamentations 1:5)

- III. The Reality of Hope.
 - A. Even in the midst of sorrow, God's faithfulness can be seen. (Lamentations 3) Great is Thy faithfulness!
 - B. Even in a moment of anger with God, the compassionate fire of His calling shines through. (Jeremiah 20:7ff)
 - C. Even in the midst of tragedy, hope is not lost.
 1. We don't have to grieve as those with no hope. (I Thess. 4:13ff)
 2. We understand that faith is an inward reality not based on outward circumstances. (Hebrews 11:112)



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