

Dig Deeper @Home – “Broken”

Complement to sermon on March 5, 2017 – “Empty and Alone”

MEMORIZE – Lamentations 3: 21-23

But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

READ Lamentations 1

Questions to ponder/discuss:

1. What is this passage revealing about God and what is it revealing about us as humans?

2. If the above is true, what needs to change in your life? What will that look like?

3. In verse 1, we are told that Jerusalem has become like a widow. What was life like for a widow in Old Testament times? What does this mean for God's people?

4. List the reasons given for the weeping in Lamentations 1. Also notice what isn't given as reasons.

5. Compare verse 22 with Jesus' prayer in Luke 23:34.
 - a. What is different?

 - b. Which one are we to follow? What does that look like tangibly?

 - c. Have you ever responded with a Lamentations 1:22 prayer or response? What steps can you take to change that to a Luke 23:34 prayer or response?

Bottom Line – Summarize Lamentations 1 in your own words.

Experiential

Sometimes activities help us to understand and process biblical truths. The ones below are a suggestion for how to experience the truths of Lamentations 1.

Last Idol Standing (2 or more people needed)

For this activity you will need play-doh. Each person take play-doh and construct an object. This object represents our idols. Give the object a name. After your objects are made position them so they are facing each-other. Command your object to knock over all the other objects. All you can do is tell your object to knock over the other ones. Call it by name. Encourage it. Shout at it. (Not surprisingly, nothing happens). After 30 seconds or so, you can use your own hands to knock over the other objects or defend yours. See which idol is the last standing.

Questions to ask:

1. How did you feel giving your idol commands?
 2. How did you respond when your idol got smashed?
 3. Why did you feel the need to guard your idol?
 4. Your idol was not able to do anything on its own. Why do we think real life idols and false comforts will be able to do anything?
- The takeaway is that idols can't do anything on their own. When we turn to idols, we end up looking silly and bad things tend to happen. Turn to Jesus.

SING (a suggested songs to sing. Use this or any song you might want to sing)

Ever Be - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BhasSpSBdEE>

Wonderful declarations of who God is and why praise should ever be on our lips

God, be Merciful to Me – Mennonite Hymnal #238

A plea for God's mercy in the midst of His wrath

PRAY

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

Sending prayer based on the lesson:

As you go, may you experience and receive the never-ending steadfast love of the LORD to fully comfort you and to enable you to pass on His never-ending steadfast love to those around you.