

“What To Do When It All Goes Wrong!”

Part 1

Identify...

- *Sometimes life goes wrong...
- *Cancer, divorce, abuse, natural disasters, etc.

Background of Lamentations:

- *Based on the destruction of Jerusalem by the Babylonians in 587 BC and it's aftermath.
- *Hard for us to realize how complete the destruction was.
- *Page 697 in the Expositor's Bible Commentary
 - Compare to the modern day USA
- *Somethings in life can't be recovered...

How do we deal with loss?

Lessons from Lamentations:

1. Mourn = Lam. 2:17-19 & Is. 61:1-3
2. Hope = Lam. 3:38, Rom. 8:28, Lam. 3:31-33 & 19-23
3. Wait = Lam. 3:24-33
4. Repent = Lam. 3:37-42 & 55-57

Mourn, don't medicate.

- *Medicate = “There's a pill for that!”
 - Sleep, wake up, lose weight, gain weight, get preg., keep from getting preg., etc., etc., etc.
 - No one seems to be interested in the root cause these Days. We only want to treat the symptom!
 - The same is true in our hearts and minds!
 - We often turn to food, fun, a new relationship, a shopping spree, etc. instead of allowing the pain of loss to set in.
 - We'd rather opt for the convenience of self medication than undergo real and deep healing.

- *But, there is something to be said for mourning...
 - God never intended us to carry our heartaches, pain and regrets into the future.
 - Mourning, really grieving and releasing the person or situation to God, is the only treatment that works on the root cause of our pain.
 - Read Lam. 2:17-19 = Preach!
 - Crying out and pouring our hearts out to God is true mourning.
 - Read Isaiah 61:1-3
 - Only when we mourn can God make the trade!
 - Don't skip this 1st step when it all goes wrong!

Hope, don't hate.

- *When disaster strikes, some people blame God and begin to hate him.
 - Hate = "to dislike intensely or passionately; feel extreme aversion for or extreme hostility toward"
 - We know in our hearts the truth of Lam. 3:38.
 - This passage shows the hand of God.
 - But, we often forget the promise of Rom. 8:28 and Lam. 3:31-33.
 - These passages show the heart of God!
- *Because of God's heart for us we can hope in the midst of disaster!
 - Read Lam. 3:19-23 = Preach!
 - Because of the Lord's love we're not consumed in the disaster.
 - Read 2 Cor. 4:8-9
 - "It's a new day!"
 - Problems are still with us but the Lord's compassion and mercy for us is as if it had never been tapped before!
 - When it all goes wrong, chose to hope in the Lord!

Discussion Questions...