

Book Tour 2018 (Lamentations)

I Have Hope

Lamentations 3:19-26

God's Word is true. God's Word is sharp and good. I will tell others of its great power **so that He will receive all worship and power in our life.**

Introduction: The Book of Lamentations is written by Jeremiah and is roller coaster ride of emotion and thought.

- A. In the 18 verses before our text this morning Jeremiah laments.
 1. He has witness the destruction of Jerusalem he has seen God's people distance themselves from fellowship.
 2. Jeremiah has seen God chastise Israel for turning away from Him.
 - There is a distance in the relationship between Israel and God because of their disobedience!
 - It is not unlike circumstances that we may find ourselves!
 3. Have you ever been in a position where it seems as if there is no hope?
 - It seems as if every single thing you touch, every single life you reach out to, and everything that you try to do just doesn't work?
 - We get discouraged and too often we turn toward things of world to find our way.
 - That is what happen to Israel and they had suffered greatly at the hand of God for their disobedience.
- Remember my affliction and my wandering, the wormwood and bitterness. Lamentations 3:19
- B. Jeremiah is lamenting, the wormwood is a plant that grows in the desert in the waste land. It is bitter and of no value.
 1. In the desert there can seem as if there is no life!
 2. In the desert of life there can seem like wherever you look there is no way out so you end up just wondering around.
 - Too often we find ourselves looking and looking for a way out of the desert that eventually we just give up hope of ever finding life again.

Transition: Jeremiah writes that he remembers where he is at in life just wandering around in bitterness.

- A. But then something else comes to his remembrance!
- Surely my soul remembers And is bowed down within me Lamentations 3:20
 - There is a precious thing that comes with having a heart that is bowed down or humbled before God.

- Hope! Church the believer has hope, doesn't matter the depth of the problem or difficulty we have hope!
- Doesn't matter if cannot see it we have hope because we are in Christ and in Christ we have a relationship with God that is that of His child and a child of God always has hope!
- And the message this morning is Jerimiah's inspired words of why there is still hope regardless of circumstance!
 - Jerimiah remember somethings about God!
 - First we have hope because of God's lovingkindness!

I. Hope in the Lovingkindness of God Verse 22

- A. This Hebrew word lovingkindness is used 250 times in the Old Testament to describe God. It is a term that encompasses all the attributes of God's love!
 - 1. We have hope because of Grace! God's love extends to us grace in other words He loves not because we deserve it but because He chooses to!
 - Finish this sentence: God should love me because I _____!
 - Because I mostly a good person?, Because I do a lot of good things?
- Church there is no good reason for A holy God to love us other than because He chooses to and extends His grace to us!
 - 2. We have hope because of His forgiveness! God's forgives us through Christ!
 - The wages of sin is death that is what we deserve! Why? Because we have sinned against God and the only way that can be rectified is to be forgiven and the only way to be forgiven is through Christ!
 - Not by getting our act together but by confession and repentance!
 - Forgiveness is an attribute of God extended to us according to His lovingkindness! But doesn't happen until we confess that He is right and we are wrong!
- 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:9
 - B. Let's stop for a second in the midst of our hopelessness and discouragement and realize the through Christ the God the only true and living God loves you!
 - 1. He sees you, He knows you, You are in the palm of His hand even when it doesn't feel like it!
- When Jerimiah remembered the loving kindness of God it gave Him hope!
 - 2.