

Part 7: False Hopes to the Hope

Lamentations 4



1. In this sermon we learned it is our sinful tendency to put our hope in people or things other than God. What people or things other than God do you tend to put your hope in? _____

2. Why does suffering, unlike anything else, unclenches our hearts from false hopes so we can find fresh hope in God? _____

3. Read **Lamentations 4:1-6**.
 - a. What does this passage say about how the people of Israel were suffering? _____

 - b. Why is the suffering of Israel said to be “greater than the punishment of Sodom?” _____

4. Read **Lamentations 4:7-8**.
 - a. Why is it important to understand that this passage is not saying humans with darker skin are unhealthy or ugly? _____

 - b. What is this passage saying about the Israelites with a particular skin type? _____

5. Read **Lamentations 4:9-12**.
 - a. These verses express a severe suffering and yet God ordered all of it to accomplish His eternally wise and good purposes. What feelings, thoughts, and questions does this prompt in you that you can take to God right now? _____

6. Read **Lamentations 4:13-16**.
 - a. Why does God used the Babylonian attack on Jerusalem to remove the spiritual leaders from His people? _____

- b. This passage teaches us to not put our hope in spiritual leaders. In what ways, have you put false hope in spiritual leaders? _____
- _____
- c. What is the proper way for believers to respond when spiritual leaders fall? _____
- _____

7. Read **Lamentations 4:17-19**.

- a. In what was Israel looking for to save them? _____
- _____
- b. In these verses, we see that we should not hope in alliances (families, siblings, friends, doctors, etc.) to deliver, defend, heal, and comfort us. In what ways have you put false hope in people? _____
- _____

8. Read **Lamentations 4:20**.

- a. In this verse, in whom is Israel putting their hope? _____
- _____
- b. This teaches us that we should not put our hope in government. In this pandemic season, how, specifically, have you been tempted to put false hope in our government? _____
- _____

9. Read **Lamentations 4:21-22**.

- a. What do these verses tell us about God's justice toward the Edomites (bitter enemy of Israel) and His love toward the Israelites ("daughter of Zion")? _____
- _____
- b. In what ways do knowing that God is just and loving help you to lament during suffering and put your true hope in Him? _____
- _____

10. **LAMENT DELIVERS FROM FALSE HOPE TO TRUE HOPE IN GOD.** What is your main take away from this lesson and how will you apply it? _____
- _____
- _____