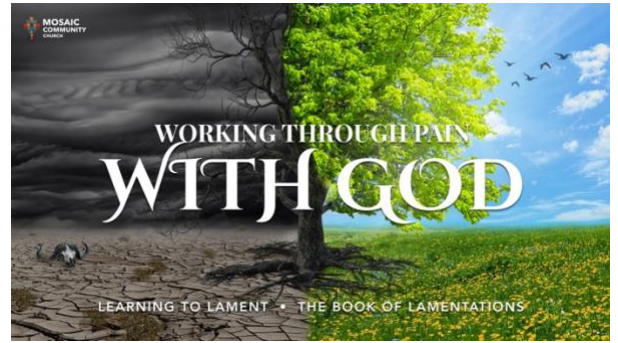


Part 4: Hard Life, Good God

Lamentations 3:25-39



1. How is the book of Lamentations like a God-centered blues album? _____

2. In the sermon we were reminded that God is SOVEREIGN (He has ultimate control over all human affairs, circumstances, and environments) but also that He is GOOD. Why is God's sovereignty over my suffering bad news if He is not GOOD? _____

3. Read **Lamentations 3:25-26**.
 - a. Because God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and GOOD, He will always give you what is best for you. How does this truth impact a specific pain or suffering you are experiencing today? _____

 - b. In the uncertainty of our suffering, why is it hard to wait on God? _____

 - c. In what ways can God be good to you while you wait on Him? _____

4. Read **Lamentations 3:27-30**.
 - a. What does this passage say about HOW we are to respond to our suffering? _____

 - b. What does responding in humility look like in your current suffering/pain? _____

 - c. In what way can realizing that God is good help you to respond to God and others with humility? _____

5. Read **Lamentations 3:31**. This verse teaches us that God puts a time limit on our suffering.

a. How can trusting God's sovereign timing over your suffering bring you hope? _____

6. Read **Lamentations 3:32-33**. These verses point us to God's sovereignty and His compassion in our grief. Because God is good, He takes pleasure in you healing (not in your grief) even when it comes through horrific circumstances.

a. How is this similar to a doctor not enjoying cutting you with a scalpel? _____

7. Read **Lamentations 3:34-39**.

a. How does God feel about injustice? _____

b. Why does lamenting over injustice make your heart more sensitive to it? _____

c. How does lamenting against evil in this world serve as a form of protest? _____

8. Read **James 4:8-10**. Lament and repent work together. What past and present sin do you need to lament over to bring about repentance? _____

9. We see God's GOOD purposes over suffering most clearly in the gospel – the GOOD news about Jesus Christ. As God sovereignly reigned over the suffering of Jesus to bring eternal GOOD, He reigns over your suffering to bring you and others eternal GOOD through faith in Jesus.

a. Other than through Jesus' suffering for you on the cross, share with your group how God has used suffering in your life to bring about good? _____
