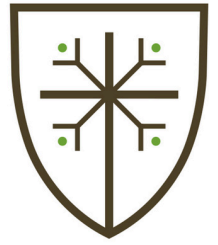


SERMON NOTES



July 28, 2024

PRIMARY
PSALMS SERMON SERIES
PRAYER

SERMON INFO

TITLE

"The Necessity of Lament"

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Psalms 13

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

Mark 4:35-41

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why are we often afraid to lament before God in the way that we see in the Psalms?
2. How does lament help lift our eyes from our selves and our own emotions to the suffering of the world around us?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

How should we speak to God amidst the troubles of this world? That is the question Tim asked in this week's sermon, continuing our series in the book of Psalms.

A Complaint to God

This week's Psalm, Psalm 13, is a lament. And laments almost always begin with questioning God. How long? The psalmist is not in an acute situation, but rather an incessant, ceaseless experience of pain. He asks, "will you forget me forever?" To forget in the Bible is not something cognitive, like forgetting to pick up the dry-cleaning. To forget something or someone is for it to no longer have sway over your life, to no longer love it. David is asking the Lord, "do you not love me any more?"

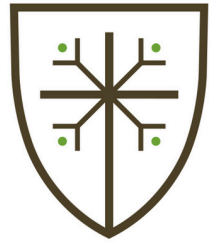
Our culture offers two options in the face of emotions – to repress them, ignoring, denying, or numbing them; or to express them and make what we are feeling all-important, the driving factor in our life and the only reality we live by. Psalm 13 is a protest against these two worldly options. It gives us a third option – to bring our complaints before God. David is angry in this Psalm and rails against God. He not only asks God to look at him and pay attention to him but to enlighten him, to allow him to see and understand why these things are happening.

A Cry of Faith

Laments begin with a question which is followed by a desperate cry. David demands God's attention in this Psalm. How can he be so bold? He trusts God enough to speak to him like this. He knows and has faith in a God whose love is bigger than any complaint we can raise. And he trusts that even if he doesn't receive an answer to his questioning, that God knows the answer. As the poem (printed on the next page) Tim read states, we are only able to see the underside of the tapestry, with all the crossed threads and knotted ends. It looks a mess. But God sees the finished design. In the midst of my suffering, I trust. The Lord has done something in my past that enables me to trust him now.

Jesus' last four cries on the cross are quotes from Psalms of lament. Jesus laments which means that God laments. We can't answer the question "why" but we can lament and we can know God laments with us. Jesus took all of our laments on himself at the cross so that even in our pain we would know and trust that victory has already been one and that one day all our laments will cease and the world will be made new again.

SERMON NOTES



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Life is but a Weaving

- attributed to Corrie ten Boom

My life is but a weaving
Between my God and me.
I cannot choose the colors
He weaveth steadily.

Of' times He weaveth sorrow;
And I in foolish pride
Forget He sees the upper
And I the underside.

Not 'til the loom is silent
And the shuttles cease to fly
Will God unroll the canvas
And reveal the reason why.

The dark threads are as needful
In the weaver's skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver
In the pattern He has planned

He knows, He loves, He cares;
Nothing this truth can dim.
He gives the very best to those
Who leave the choice to Him.