

Navigating Uncertainty

Lesson 11

Jeremiah 38-45; Lamentations 1-5

November 22, 2020

Experiencing God's Grace in the Midst of Sadness

Introduction

The people of Israel witnessed the fall of their beloved city, Jerusalem. The Babylonians came and conquered the city and took the people into exile. This event was predicted by prophets of the Lord, like Jeremiah. But the people had not listened and heeded the call to repentance. Thus, God had to act to bring justice on His people because of their sin.

Yet, there is a glimmer of God's grace. Even though His people grieved these events, God still has never-ending compassion and is good to those who hope in Him. His faithfulness was not gone, and His grace was not absent from those who would repent of their sin.

We often feel as if God has abandoned us during times of deep grief, but what we need to learn is that the opposite is true. He is ever-present, always available, and eager to show grace to those who humble themselves before Him.

Memory verse: "Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."—Lamentations 3:22-23

Pray and read Lamentations 3. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

What does the passage say?

1. List 3 statements from the author about what he felt the Lord did to him. (Lamentations 3:1-15)
2. What are the two things that the author felt were gone? (Lamentations 3:18)
3. What about God never fails? (Lamentations 3:22-24)
4. To whom is the Lord good? For what is it good to wait patiently? (Lamentations 3:25-27)
5. What does the Lord do, despite bringing grief? (Lamentations 3:31-33)
6. What comes from the mouth of the Most High? (Lamentations 3:37-39)
7. What did the author recommend the people of Judah do? (Lamentations 3:40-42)
8. What did the Lord do in response to the author's prayer? (Lamentations 3:55-60)

What does the passage mean?

1. Despite their grief over Jerusalem, the author of this passage declared, "Great is Your faithfulness." What makes God's faithfulness great? (Psalm 91:4; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Timothy 2:13; Hebrews 13:8; 1 John 1:9)

2. The author displays a faith in this passage similar to Job. He trusted God in the ups and the downs. How is God gracious through our grief and sorrow? (Job 1:21; Romans 8:28; Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; James 1:2-4)

3. How does God respond when we bring our griefs to Him? (Psalm 34:18, 145:18; Matthew 11:28; John 11:33-35; 1 Peter 5:7)

