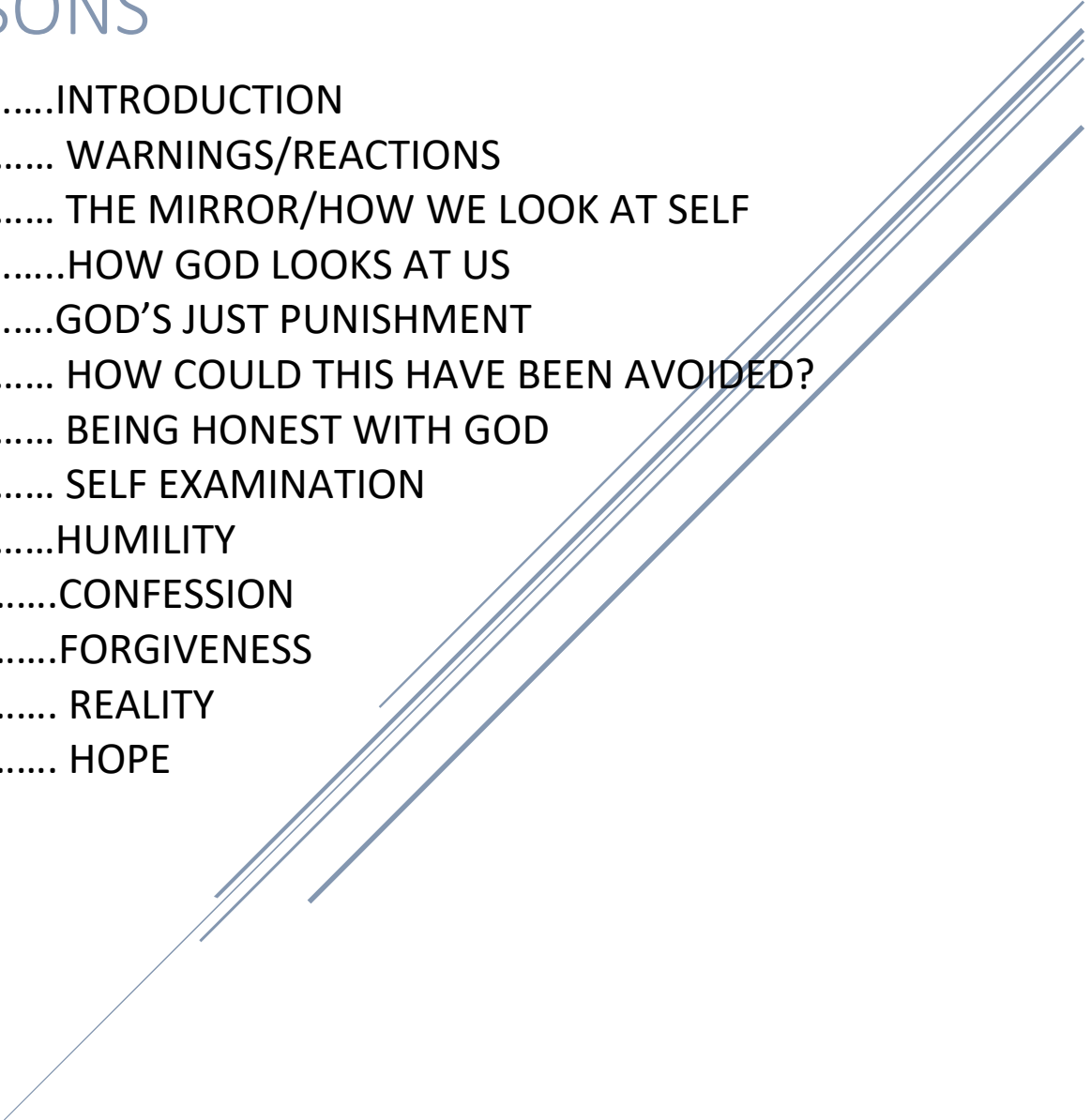


THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

FALL 2020

LESSONS

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THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION:

Welcome to this study on Lamentations, I must admit I have never studied this book like I have for this class and it hopefully will change our hearts to look at the healing that comes from lamenting.

**la·ment | \ lə-'ment **

VERB

: to express sorrow, mourning, or regret for often demonstratively : MOURN

: to regret strongly

NOUN

: a crying out in grief : WAILING

Three scriptures come right to my mind when I think about this topic:

1. Ecc 7:2-3

It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. (3) Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

2. 1 Pet 4:12-16 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: (13) But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. (14) If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. (15) But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. (16) Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

3. Ecc 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

Despite all the misery...IN THE END

Rom 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

"GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS" ~ LAM 3:22-23

I hope this lesson gets us deeper than saying "I am sorry for what I have done". And gets us to have sorrow for what we have done. 2 Cor 7:8-11

These lessons come to us by scripture, Kings, Chronicles, Jerimiah, Isaiah, David and even Jesus with a host of other writers, pouring their hearts on parchments, as they sat in the midst on the destruction of their people.

The lessons of these that went on before us were as horror stories, some of the things they resulted to do to remain alive, you can't believe some of them, but they really happened.

Rom 15:4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

1 Cor 10:1 *read to 11* Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Rather than take a history trip through one of the darkest times in Jewish history, the brutal overthrow of Jerusalem in 586BC (the carrying away to Babylon) let's look "through" Jerimiah's Lamentations and see this book about PAIN with HOPE in GOD, hopefully causing us to get answers to the Hardest questions that may arise during OUR TIMES of pain and suffering. Trying to understand and apply the expressions of these men who suffered so much, or witnessed so much suffering from sin.

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As we consider ourselves as Christians, the question is why do we need to go through suffering?

What does scripture teach, either directly or by example (like Job) that suffering can do for us?

I had mentioned the prophet Jerimiah was Lamenting, who was he lamenting for?

How did this effect the prophet?

Can you think of others in scripture who lamented, wept, or cried with tears?

Again, I want to emphasize that this lesson is for us to consider for today, not so much a history lesson of men of the past, what makes you weep today?

Do you think that if one weeps, laments or cries is a weak, emotional person?



Acts 14:22 Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

As we find ourselves “pressing on toward the mark” we will soon realize as we look back, we all have a book of Lamentations.

This series of lessons is very exciting to me as this is an area I would want to grow in more and more, seeing that our eyes can be opened to something that was always right in front of me, Forgiveness, the ability to be Rejuvenated, every day of my life. Lamenting over our sins causes us to change and it puts us back in Paradise here on earth, at peace with ourselves and most of all clean before our God.

I mentioned this book is about PAIN with HOPE in GOD.

Dan 9:9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;

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LESSON TWO

WARNINGS/REACTIONS:

Jer 1:4-10 Jer 2:1-3 Jer 3:12-14

Jer 5:20-25 Jer 6:19 Jer 9:13-19

Jer 9:1 *Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!*

We're not quite ready for the book of Lamentations yet we need to see why Jeremiah was lamenting....

These warnings were just a few excerpts from the first 9 chapters of Jeremiah. He does not stop there.

Jeremiah continued to warn them, not because Babylon, but because of their own sins that would eventually destroy them, *1 Pet2:11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;*

Consider the care he had for them and the compassion he had for the children of Israel, like a paternal father to them, warning them weeping for them *Lam 1:16 For these things I weep; mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water, because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my children are desolate, because the enemy prevailed.*

Jeremiah was there he seen how guilty they were and out of love, he continued to warn them, they ignored him and continued in sin.

Read Jer 25:15-29 about the punishment to come to ALL

2 Kings 25 and 2 Chr 36:11-21 destruction of Jerusalem

WHAT DID THEY DO WITH ALL THESE WARNINGS?



Reactions:

*Jer 16:10 And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, **Wherefore hath the LORD pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the LORD our God?***

*Jer 44:15-17 Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, (16) As for the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we **will not hearken unto thee.** (17) **But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil.***

This is the type of attitude Jeremiah had to deal with, hence he lamented, and was called the weeping prophet. God told him to not be afraid of their faces, and he touched his mouth and put his words in his mouth. (Jer 1:8-9)

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So there was nothing stopping him from warning them, but their utter rejection of God's warnings devastated him, causing the lamenting.

ZOOM to today.....

Are we the same? Lets look at some questions....

1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. (16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Familiar scripture, but do we still struggle with it?

1 Cor 6:9-10 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, (10) Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Paul wrote this to the church in Corinth, not to teach them, they already knew these things were sinful, he is teaching (warning them) not to deceive themselves...

Have you caught yourself trying to be deceitful and allowing yourself to partake in these types of things?

Warnings that went to Balaam (Donkey and the Angel) do we find ourselves kicking against the pricks?

What did I do wrong? What is my iniquity?

The history recorded in Kings & Chronicles, and by other prophets teach us valuable lessons ones we are reminded to learn from.... Lets read 1 Cor 10:1-14

What do you see as the main sin Paul is pointing out?

This is what I want to draw out of this lesson, sure Paul was writing to Corinth a city described as a seaman's paradise, a drunkards heave. Corinth was a by-word for evil and immoral living. World renowned for the temple of Aphrodite, with her 1,000 priestesses, who were nothing more than temple prostitutes.

And these were reading about in the book of Jerimiah, we can get so consumed with their idolatry, and other sins it's like watching a movie with sinful characters and does nothing to us, yet it was real and it caused Jerimiah to weep (Lament).

1Co 10:5-6 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness. (6) Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

Let's talk about idols of today, a refresher course to remind us this is still before us.

What would you call New Testament Idolatry?

What is the deadliest thing an idol can do to us?

What can we do for those who are blinded by being consumed by idols?

What did God do for those who were blinded by being consumed by idols?

What was Jerimiah's reaction to Gods children going after idols?

WE__ING C_YIN_ LA_ENTI_G

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LESSON THREE

THE MIRROR HOW WE LOOK AT SELF:

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Solomon wrote there is nothing new under the sun, we look at ourselves just like they did in the days of old, maybe just for a little while then we forget.

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. (23) For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: (24) For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. (25) But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.*

***Beholdeth, looks at self, see yourself**

James says we deceive ourselves as we look at ourselves by just hearing and not doing. Consider this thought.. I can trust in my own self by stating, I go to church on Sundays & Wednesdays? I go to hear, and I believe, we do hear things, but do we do anything with what we hear?

What happened when we did follow the LAW?

What did I learn?

Do we still say...“ I A M A C H R I S T I A N “ and are we still fighting the fight?

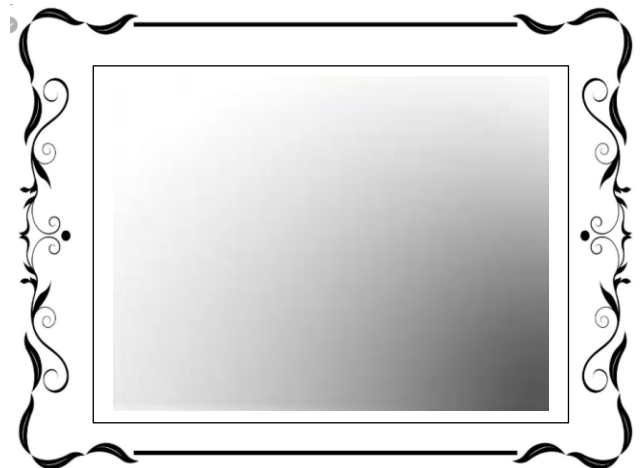
Lamentations 1 talks about God’s chosen people, those that loved Him. Just like John wrote in the book of Revelation, they let things slip. Lose Focus?

READ Lam 1: 1-9

This lonely city is now desolate, once striving but because nobody was watching, they thought they were still doing well, they were not doing well, and they were full of sin!

Again let’s be careful we don’t pride ourselves as to thinking were not as bad as they were...sometimes we may have been worse than they.

The Joys of Lamentations....how can we truly have joy when we see things in us we know we need to change.



Take a close look at self, what do I see?

Hey, Bud! How ya doing? “Living the Dream, Doing Great, Wonderful” R E A L L Y ?

If we can just pause for a moment and **ask ourselves how were doing** we may get a different “honest” answer.

Lamenting as we see our struggles now so we can overcome them will be much better than continuing in them. Paul wrote to Corinth how sorrow works repentance to salvation (2 Cor 7:8-11)

2 Cor 13:5-6 Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be

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reprobates? (6) But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.

Here we are in a book written after the fall of Jerusalem in 856 B.C. Jerimiah the prophet was mourning over the desolation of the city, it is essentially, the funeral of Jerusalem. It was used by the Jews as a reminder of the consequences of sin. Even so, they are reminded of the faithfulness of God who would eventually allow them to return.

Fast-forward to today in the middle of a pandemic

pan·dem·ic /pan'demik/

(of a disease) prevalent over a whole country or the world.

This one we call COVID 19 but there is something else widespread, prevalent, pervasive, and rampant this we must call SIN, all over the world.

Life events hit us all differently, one event can yield many thoughts, triggers our memories, and reminds us, of good things and bad ones.

When we look at ourselves and do not use Gods word as a benchmark (to measure) we feel pretty good, but when we do consider our ways because we know better... something kicks in **OUR CONSCIENCE** it is ok to reevaluate our standing before God.

What makes us think deeper?

Ecc 7:2-3 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart. (3) Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

Sometimes we just need to lay things to our hearts.

Thinking at how we look at ourselves,

Song from a play I was in a long time ago....

Got my tweed pressed, Got my best vest

All I need now is the girl

Got my striped tie, Got my hopes high

Got the time and the place, And I got rhythm

Now all I need is the girl to go with 'em

Think about how we can look to all we have and all we have accomplished, you know like the Rich Man in LK 12 and in a moment reality hits....I have not listened to God, I was too focused on self and what I have.

We let our guards down too.

Chapter 1 shows the horrors of the siege, desolate ruins, all due to Zions sins. Jerimiah, stunned, dazed, heartbroken, weeps with grief, inconsolable. Special emphasis of this chapter is that the people brought the catastrophe upon themselves by their sins.

Jerimiah specifically points out their sins in these verses in Chapter 1:1-9

What do you see in these verses?

Verse 5

Verse 8

Verse 9

Sin

will take you FARTHER
than you want to GO,
KEEP you longer than you want
to stay, and COST you more
than you want to pay.

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LESSON FOUR: HOW GOD LOOKS AT US.

Let's start this lesson with the Elephant in the room....WHY DID GOD ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN?

Let's talk about this for a while.

1Tim 2:1-4 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; (2) For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. (3) For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; (4) Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

This is the New Testament pattern we see when it comes to salvation, why did Zion's siege happen?

Do we believe God? Silly question to ask, but you need to keep asking yourself Do I believe what God's says is true?

List things God said he promises us.....

Does God love me?

You could insert your name in this title:
"_____ is Loved by God."

And the reason God loves us is not because we are serving him. Not because we are seeking to please him or be led by him. It's easy to forget that. We can start believing that we're super lovable because we're telling others about Jesus, or because we pray or read the Bible or go to church, or whatever. But this isn't why God loves us.

The reason God loves us is because it is his nature to love. He is loving. Always. "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases." Lamentations 3:22-23

Lam 3:22-23 It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (23) They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

I don't know if we can fathom the way God loves us, he is all loving, forgiving and full of compassion, every day we start over, and with God's help we can be holy.

1 John 4:7-11 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. (8) He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. (9) In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. (10) Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. (11) Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.



Whilst we know God loves us as he did those in Jerusalem in 586AD we see the punishment seemed grievous to those these and even to Jerimiah who was an eyewitness to these things.

God of correction, instruction

2Tim 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

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Ezek33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

God has no pleasure in his people being punished, as a matter of fact he send Jeremiah to warn them.

Job 37:5-13 God thundereth marvellously with his voice; great things doeth he, which we cannot comprehend. (6) For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain, and to the great rain of his strength. (7) He sealeth up the hand of every man; that all men may know his work. (8) Then the beasts go into dens, and remain in their places. (9) Out of the south cometh the whirlwind: and cold out of the north. (10) By the breath of God frost is given: and the breadth of the waters is straitened. (11) Also by watering he wearieth the thick cloud: he scattereth his bright cloud: (12) And it is turned round about by his counsels: that they may do whatsoever he commandeth them upon the face of the world in the earth. (13) He causeth it to come, whether for correction, or for his land, or for mercy.

Read Lam 1:10-22

Name a few things you see going on here with God's people....

How did the enemy look at Zion?

Was there anyone to help them?

Did they see now their ways were against God?

Share a verse or two about this.

Can you share what Jeremiah was feeling as he wrote this?

Do you think as they were mocking those in Jerusalem that God felt the same way? *Lam 1:21a They have heard that I sigh: there is none to comfort me: all mine enemies have heard of my trouble; they are glad that thou hast done it:*

A call for Justice to be done to all men?

Lam 1:21b thou wilt bring the day that thou hast called, and they shall be like unto me. (22) Let all their wickedness come before thee; and do unto them, as thou hast done unto me for all my transgressions: for my sighs are many, and my heart is faint.

This is where we need to remember the familiar scriptures like....

Isa 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*Eze 18:20-32 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him. (21) But if the wicked will turn from all his sins that he hath committed, and keep all my statutes, and do that which is lawful and right, he shall surely live, he shall not die. (22) All his transgressions that he hath committed, they shall not be mentioned unto him: in his righteousness that he hath done he shall live. (23) Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? saith the Lord GOD: and not that he should return from his ways, and live? (24) But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die. **READ TO 32***

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LESSON FIVE

GODS JUST PUNISHMENT:

Luke 23:39-42

And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, "If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." But the other answering rebuked him, saying, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly—for we receive the due reward of our deeds : but this man hath done nothing amiss." And he said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

Purpose of God's punishment? Heart change.

The Thief on the Cross, understood. He took responsibility for his sins. He did not **deny** nor **justify** nor **ignore** his pattern of sin. Therefore the punishment or "due reward" for his deeds, as he put it," worked to his eternal salvation. How I perceive and react to God's punishment upon me, determines my eternity as well.

Do a self-check. (2 Corinthians 7:8-11)

Look at my history of how I reacted to my sins.
When my conscience convicts me of sin or puts my deeds in question—was my immediate reaction denial? Justification? Or did I chose to ignore?

Or did you Acknowledge and Confess your wrong. *Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. ~ Psalm 51:2-3..*

*Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger for ever. **Only acknowledge thine iniquity**, that thou hast transgressed against the Lord thy God . . . , and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the Lord. ~ Jeremiah 3:12-13*

Our reaction to our sin is more dangerous spiritually than the sin itself. The sin is forgivable, God's Word repeatedly assures us of that—but refusing to humble myself, and acknowledge that sin before God and anyone I sinned against, leaves me in a very bad situation. There is no logical reason to remain in that condition.

Job 33:27-30

God looketh upon men, and if any say, "I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not."

God will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Lo, all these things worketh God oftentimes with man, to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living.

All Israel simply had to do was "learn by the things they were suffering" and turn to God.

What do you want in life? (Colossians 3:1-3)

The question is not, do I choose heaven or hell? The question is actually, Do I choose heaven or HERE?

In some ways Here is Hell in disguise. By choosing Here We actually choose Hell. Because once this temporary Here is dissolved, Hell is all that is left.

The two Thieves responded to Christ this way:

- * One by his own words wanted to be saved to stay here.
- * The other Thief did not want to stay here, but rather had his desire set on being with Christ in the next world. God's just punishment was what was needed to help that Thief let go of this world completely and turn his heart to the Kingdom of God . . . and just in time!

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If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth . For ye are dead, and YOUR LIFE is hid with Christ in God. ~ Colossians 3:1-3

READ LAM 2:1-10

God's Anger....

The Lord Has Destroyed Without Pity.

The devastation of Jerusalem is attributed to God's Anger (Vs. 1,2,3,4,6,20,22)

Jerusalem, situated on a mountain, surrounded by mountains was, for a physical situation, the most beautiful city known, "the perfection of beauty" v15 Well-fortified under God's special protection, deemed to be impregnable (4:12), but this city of God had become worse than Sodom (4:16)

The God of Love is also the God of Wrath this teaching is stated and illustrated again and again throughout the bible.

ANGER

We're seeing the word ANGER here a lot, what are your thoughts about this word?

What other scriptures come to mind with the word ANGER in them?



It has been said that this book is actually a book of five poems, which are acrostic, which begins with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet, in order...

Poems as this one have words that describe very clearly what the author intends to bring out in very few words were reading a horrific scene full of details, what pops out at you in these verses?

Look to these verses as well..

Matt 25:41

Rom 2:3

Prov 11:21

Matt 10:28

Matt 25:46

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LESSON SIX HOW COULD THIS HAVE BEEN AVOIDED:

Hindsight is 20/20

When things go wrong, and we look back and see that bad decisions were made, we often say, “Hindsight is 20/20”. Or “If I had seen that coming, I would have done things very differently!”

Well we can’t go back in time to change things, neither can we jump into the future to see what’s ahead. But we do have the 20/20 hindsight in the Scriptures to understand what lies ahead so we can make good judgements today.

*Through thy precepts I get understanding:
therefore I hate every false way.*

*Thy word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path.*

~ Psalm 119:104-106

Israel chose their own ways, rejecting God’s

We sing the song, “Thy Word is a Lamp unto My Feet”. We believe that the Word of God lights the way ahead, and shows us the path to take, as well as the paths to avoid. But to follow that good path requires **something quite difficult — not choosing my own way**. We are called to trust in God to show me the way.

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding**. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. **Be not wise in thine own eyes**: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.*

~ Proverbs 3:5-8

**Do we even realize when we choose our own way
We reject God’s?**

Paul said in Galatians 5 that if we “*walk in the Spirit, [we] shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*” **I have to be AWARE of what I am doing to walk in the Spirit.** Our “natural man” serves the flesh, it is so true that we have a proclivity to carnality. Walking in the spirit rises above my own natural reaction to life and opens up an understanding to choose the more peaceful and godly way to live.

We have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)

Paul told the Corinthians this. But having the mind of Christ was not given with a magic wand. It comes through decisions . . . lots of them . . . every day. Choosing the good over the evil, not serving self primarily but open to others. The right choices actually feel new! They are not mine! But I want them because they are quite pleasant. This is the experience of “*being enlightened, and tasting the heavenly gift, and being partakers of the Holy Ghost, and tasting the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come.*” We can discover and experience that God’s ways are better and more pleasant than mine.



READ LAM 2:11-22

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I want us to consider the effects of us fulfilling the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life, our own selfish ways, and what nightmares they bring along the way.

Lam 2:15 All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

My actions don't just hurt me, they have this ripple effect on all around me.

The weeping prophet lamented for the children, the virgins, and the young men, the old, and the mothers who cannot provide food for their little ones,
Lam 2:12 They say to their mothers, Where is corn and wine?

We have heard lessons about "If you see something, say something" and "sounding the trumpet"

How Could This Have Been Avoided?

Someone, somewhere should have spoken up, NOT just Jerimiah, but the people of God new better, they choose to follow the crowd to destruction.

We cannot see the future, but we can think ahead, if I do this....it will cause this thing to happen.

The continued description of the desolate Jerusalem is in this chapter, when we just want to do what we want to do **expect destruction!**

Besides the fact they were taken captive or destroyed, their integrity was shot, they were mocked in the streets. **The city was destroyed.**

Lam 2:8 The LORD hath purposed to destroy the wall of the daughter of Zion: he hath stretched out a line, he hath not withdrawn his hand from destroying: therefore he made the rampart and the wall to lament; they languished together.



And the people were bRokEn.

What became of the priest and the prophet?

What state were the elders in?

In what ways did the children suffer?

What happened to the virgins and young men?

How did this effect Jerimiah?

What do I need to do to avoid a train wreck in my life, and be mindful of all the damage I can cause because of my selfish ways?

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON SEVEN:

BEING HONEST WITH GOD

Wherefore doth a living man complain, a man for the punishment of his sins? Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens. We have transgressed and have rebelled: Thou hast not pardoned.

~ Lamentations 3:39-42

The prophet is saying, "Stop complaining! We brought this on ourselves! Let us be honest with God."

READ LAM 3:1-20

Taking the blame, taking responsibility, takes a lot of HONESTY. What are we saying when we say "honesty"?

Honesty inherently requires going deep into the human spirit. Manly because of all the stuff that is in the way to get to it — our self-deceit, our fear of being discovered, our long unfamiliarity with honesty.

Our fleshy mind has the constant proclivity to 'run for cover' and throw everything in the way of it being found out. The carnal mind is an ugly thing and fears being discovered.

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

~ Jeremiah 17:9-10

Being completely honest with God is the act of facing our inner self, both the carnal and the spiritual part of me. And DECIDING, what kind of person I want to be.

What's inside?

The Apostle Paul, a holy man, certainly. But with total and complete honesty, expresses the struggle and temptation he has within himself.

For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?
~ Romans 7:22-24

My weaknesses and temptations are a difficult thing to face, but to make an acceptable confession to God is IMPOSSIBLE without total honesty with Him and myself. Paul's words in Romans 7 explained this very well.

God sees everything within the heart of each one of us. We know nothing is hid from Him. But if your true self is hidden from you, know that God is willing to help even here.

David pleaded for God's help in this.

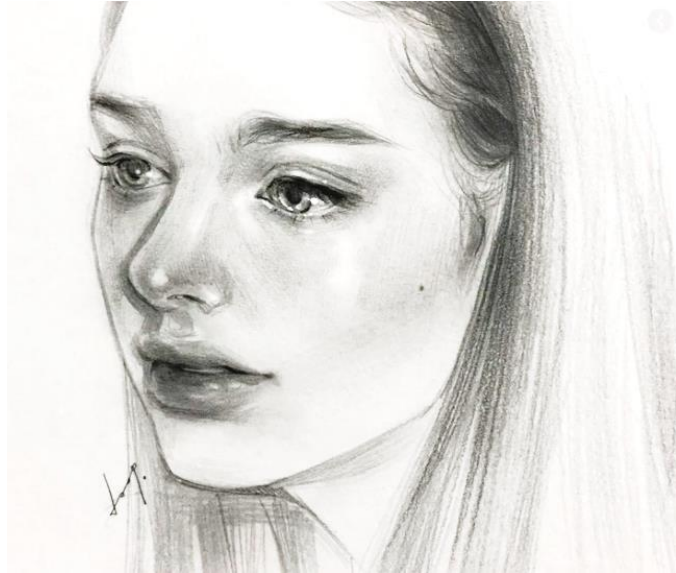
Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
~ Psalms 139:23-24

How do some find it so easy to blame God for things that happen, is not God's plan perfect? We as men are far from that, but we all understand that part of life is learning, and learning means changing, and when we change God is pleased.

Ecc 8:1-6 Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed. (2) I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard of the oath of God. (3) Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him. (4) Where the word of a king is, there is power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou? (5) Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment. (6) Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man is great upon him.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

When were honest with God, we will hearken to the Kings Commandment, and we will not complain.



Questions:

1. How could honesty have influenced the outcome of Israel's fate in Jeremiah's day?
2. What prevented Israel from being honest?
3. What are the benefits of being honest with God?

1 Peter 3:8-17 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: (9) Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. (10) For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: (11) Let him eschew evil, and

do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. (12) For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. (13) And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good? (14) But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled; (15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (16) Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ. (17) For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

Rather than saying I am doing fine, when asked the question how you are doing. We can be honest when there are things we need help with, I believe when were honest with self, we will be honest to others and honest with God.

This is another statement from Paul, the Apostle, him being honest....

Rom 7:15-25 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. (16) If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. (17) Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. (19) For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. (20) Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. (21) I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. (22) For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: (23) But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. (24) O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? (25) I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON EIGHT: SELF-EXAMINATION

Thus saith the Lord, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and noweth Me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth. For in these things I delight", saith the Lord

~ Jeremiah 9:23-24

We all have a certain perception of ourselves. For most, it is the image with us wearing a 'cape blowing in the wind'. The positive perception. And self-esteem is certainly a good thing.

But is my picture an accurate one? And if it is, is it the right one to be? The wise, mighty, and rich mentioned above were not faking it. They were exactly what God said they were . . . but God also said their "glory" was in the wrong place.

Let's begin where most, if not all men are with self-examination — right and clean in their own eyes.



All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

Proverbs 16:2

There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

Proverbs 30:12

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

Proverbs 12:15

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 21:2

In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6

This "right in our own eyes" is a spiritual handicap. We are at a disadvantage thinking like this. How can I get closer to God when there is nothing in me to change? Am I really "good as-is"? Actually, this what is "Lost" is.

Our Saviour comes to us with this advice:

"Because thou sayest, 'I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing'; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

Revelation 3:16-18

Our Saviour counsels thee to Self Examine. Check again thyself. And accept the way of honesty and change being shepherded by Christ Himself.

Instead of self-examination, we too often end up doing self-justification.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

King David's infamous encounter with Bathsheeba was so blatantly wicked that it is the one sin that permanently 'stained' David's reputation and heart.

See below how self-deception took dominion over self-examination, and paved the path to David's second great sin after his adulterous affair—murder.

His self-justification is cold and deceptive when he heard of the death of Bathsheba's husband.

"And the shooters shot from off the wall upon thy servants; and some of the king's servants be dead, and thy servant Uriah the Hittite is dead also." Then David said unto the messenger, "Thus shalt thou say unto Joab, 'Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him.

~ 2 Samuel 11:24-25

That self-justification ended up costing David immensely—as it eventually does us.

We can stop ourselves when we are in the middle of this, and turn the feelings within our spirit to the wisdom we possess from God's word. I.e., WE KNOW BETTER! It is always a choice.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

~ 1 Corinthians 10:13

To see the way of escape, we must be honest in our self examination. Know and acknowledge the weaknesses of the flesh. And choose that righteous path provided by God to peace and salvation.

In our lesson today we were going to consider how the prophet Jerimiah examined himself over and over as this was taking place.

When something happens to other people what does that make you think?

In Jerimiah's writings can you see him considering himself? (Lam 1:20)

He was able to see their rejection of God...

Jer 5:3-6 O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return. (4) Therefore I said, Surely these are poor; they are foolish: for they know not the way of the LORD, nor the judgment of their God. (5) I will get me unto the great men, and will speak unto them; for they have known the way of the LORD, and the judgment of their God: but these have altogether broken the yoke, and burst the bonds. (6) Wherefore a lion out of the forest shall slay them, and a wolf of the evenings shall spoil them, a leopard shall watch over their cities: every one that goeth out thence shall be torn in pieces: because their transgressions are many, and their backslidings are increased.

What blinds us from truth?

Am I immune to backsliding?

What's taking place in Matthew 5:1-5?

Examination is good but make sure we include ourselves.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON NINE: HUMILITY

Jer 9:19-26 For a voice of wailing is heard out of Zion, How are we spoiled! we are greatly confounded, because we have forsaken the land, because our dwellings have cast us out.....read to 26

*Jer 9:23 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his **wisdom**, neither let the mighty man glory in his **might**, let not the rich man glory in his **riches**:*

The lessons we learn are not always spelled out, these verses we just read don't include the word humility, but the message does,

What pops out at you in verses 25-25?

We have talked about sorrow and repentance in this class but here we can see a huge problem, even if words are spoken to the tune of "I am sorry" and "I will stop", God's judgement was on their hearts!

Anyone remember the purpose of this class?

(hint) First Lesson, First Paragraph...

How many promises and pledges have we made to ourselves, those we love, and to God, that we would change, and we find ourselves right back in the mire?

I seen an article on the 12 steps of humility, Fearing God, not pleasing self, submitting, endurance, confession, self-worth, inferior, respect, few words, sober, meekness, **Step 12. The final step is attained only when one can at all times show humility not only in his appearance and actions, but also in his heart.**

We can portray very humble outward appearances, we know how these are practiced, sad, forlorn faces, dressed poorly, speaking softly as if the pain and sorrow have overcome us, were in despair. .OUTWARDLY

This is not everyone, but we know the role and perhaps we have played it well ourselves.

*Isa 59:13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering **from the heart** words of falsehood.*

*Mat 15:18 But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth **from the heart**; and they defile the man.*

*Rom 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed **from the heart** that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

*Eph 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God **from the heart**;*

We cannot ignore this "like passion" to do things outwardly as our brethren of old did, God wants to see us change our thoughts, our deeds, our minds, and our hearts.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

READ Jer 17:1-13

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less. -C. S. Lewis

I think once we obtain humility our eyes are open to see where we have lacked, sometimes we just need to go down to get back up.

We need to realize to be humble we need to go through a process..all our hearts are alike, we behave just like these men/women of old, nothing new under the sun.

Pro 20:14 It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

Humility....it's a little walk to get there.

I need to give the Word of God permission to go into my heart....and I realize it may hurt!

READ Lam 3:21-38

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

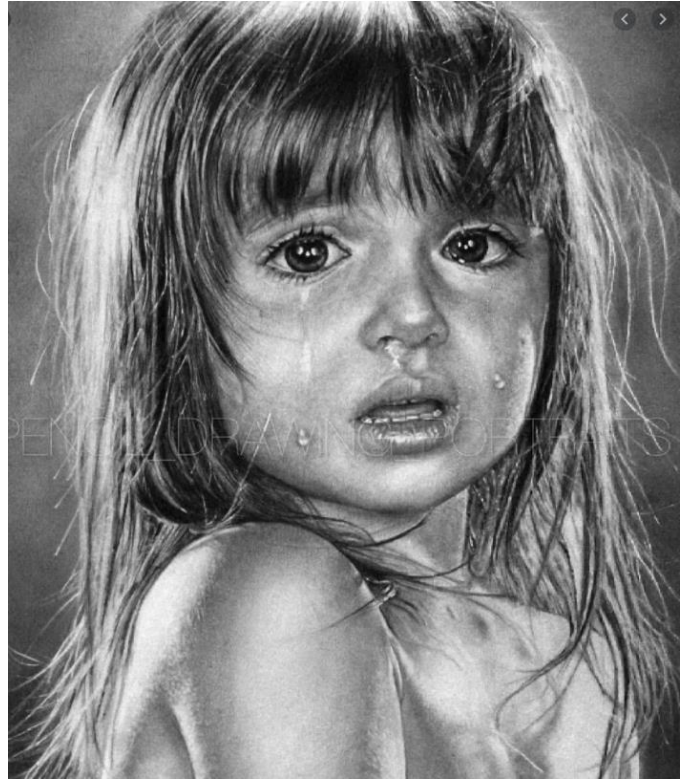
*Lam 3:21-23 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. (22) It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. (23) They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness.***

To finally get to the point where we understand there is **Joy in Humility** and we see God for who he is and we look way down and see who we are and understand God wants us to be humble.

Can we see the realization that has come to Jerimiah in remembering and rejoicing through all this pain he suffers through this that there is hope, compassion, mercies *Lam 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD.*

Lam 3:31-32 For the Lord will not cast off for ever: (32) But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

We are ½ way through the book at this time, what are the emotions we have seen from Jerimiah so far?



What kind of Lessons do we get when we humble ourselves?

I want us to picture a child who did NOT get their way, I know you have seen it, some of us may be looking at our own pitiful self's, the uncontrollable crying, wailing, like their dying, throwing a hissy-fit, then someone in the room says something that has a good point, something to consider, the tears still come down but the reasoning helped, the sniffles slow down, the runny nose is eventually wiped, and the breathing starts to get under control.

This had to be a scene from this era, but in many cases they were too late, God still punished them. And God had no pleasure in punishing them.

Lam 3:33 For he doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men.

2 Kings 22:19 Because thine heart was tender, and thou hast humbled thyself before the LORD, when thou heardest what I spake against this place, and against the inhabitants thereof, that they should become a desolation and a curse, and hast rent thy clothes, and wept before me; I also have heard thee, saith the LORD.

Tender hearts invite humility, humility gets God's attention.

2 Chron 12:7 And when the LORD saw that they humbled themselves, the word of the LORD came to Shemaiah, saying, They have humbled themselves; therefore I will not destroy them, but I will grant them some deliverance; and my wrath shall not be poured out upon Jerusalem by the hand of Shishak.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON TEN: CONFESSION

READ Jer 3:6-17

Jer 3:13-14 Only acknowledge thine iniquity, that thou hast transgressed against the LORD thy God, and hast scattered thy ways to the strangers under every green tree, and ye have not obeyed my voice, saith the LORD. (14) Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

God calls them backsliders, harlots, adulterers, idolaters

Jer 2:27 Saying to a stock, Thou art my father; and to a stone, Thou hast brought me forth: for they have turned their back unto me, and not their face: but in the time of their trouble they will say, Arise, and save us.

Habakkuk 2:19 Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

Confession, we all know what it is but do we understand the power of confession?

All these things we just discussed, and 100's more were the sins of these brethren, and you know CONFESSION could have cleared them of everything?

Ezr 10:10-12 And Ezra the priest stood up, and said unto them, Ye have transgressed, and have taken strange wives, to increase the trespass of Israel. (11) Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives. (12) Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

How can you not be moved by these brethren understanding their sin and so willingly turning from it, and this was a big deal, v44 mentioned that some of them had children too.

Rom 10:10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

This whole lesson has been about the heart, the weeping, the tears are real as long as it comes from the heart.

Anybody know what Crocodile Tears are?

That's not confession, that's not even lamenting, that's called being caught, and justifying ourselves, can we lament outwardly?

Psa 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

This is what true confession looks like, acknowledging sin, revealing self, believing God will forgive. To go to God with the understanding that he forgives when I confess, this should let us sleep better each night.

I believe the bottom line is we need to
acknowledge sin, repent, confess,
RINSE and REPEAT.

These teaching were not just for the Old Testament, nor would I say they were just for the New Testament, these things are for Eternal Teaching all the way up to 2020.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

READ LAM 3:38-47

Here we see a glimpse of hope, because there seems to be some acknowledgement taking place.

Can you share the words of Lament in these verses, where we see maybe even confession?

What is a Death Bed Confession?

Do you think this was happening here?

How do you consider this verse? *Lam 3:44 Thou hast covered thyself with a cloud, that our prayer should not pass through.*

Thou hast not pardoned.

Thou hast persecuted us:

Thou hast slain

Thou hast not pitied.

IS GOD A JUST GOD?

What do you think God's reasons were to not hear "confessions?"

Jer 30:15 Why criest thou for thine affliction? thy sorrow is incurable for the multitude of thine iniquity: because thy sins were increased, I have done these things unto thee.

Jer 5:25 Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you.

If we think confession is the card we can pull out of our sleeve and win the game, were wrong, if we decide to go headlong into sin, and tell ourselves we will just confess it to God later, were playing a dangerous game one were bound to get caught at.

This is what happened here, they played in sin and went too far. Did their gods of wood and stone save them? Were they spared a horrific siege, were women, men, children, babies killed, others taken hostage?

Confession is not a game we can play.



1 John 1:5-10 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. (6) If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: (7) But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. (8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON ELEVEN: FORGIVENESS

Psa 78:34-38 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. (35) And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer. (36) Nevertheless they did flatter him with their mouth, and they lied unto him with their tongues. (37) For their heart was not right with him, neither were they stedfast in his covenant. (38) But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Who remembers this OT account?

Even though their heart was not right, they lied to God, do not hearken to his covenant, God still forgave them.

Psalm 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah.

Who remembers this OT account?

What was different here? What was David confessing?

Jer 36:1-3 And it came to pass in the fourth year of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, that this word came unto Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, (2) Take thee a roll of a book, and write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the days of Josiah, even unto this day. (3) It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin. READ 20-23 also.

These are the people Jeremiah is working with, these are the ones he wept for, and yet they had no desire to be forgiven, as a matter of fact they were going to do Jeremiah harm, but the Lord hid them v26



Four years ago we had a three month study on forgiveness, what was one of the main lessons you were able to learn about God's forgiveness?

What is the golden rule about forgiveness? *Mat 6:14-15*

Joshua's last speech....Choose whom you will serve,

READ Josh 24: 14-24

What does this say about God's forgiveness?

Does God have a double standard?

What do these verses say about the heart?

Chapter 3 ends with Jeremiah reflecting on the events that led him to these thoughts

READ LAM 3:48-66

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

Jerimiah laments over the things he is seeing in his own live and the refuge he sees in God's love, he is a forgiving, loving, merciful God, but as Jerimiah notes he is also a just God.

Lam 3:59 O LORD, thou hast seen my wrong: judge thou my cause.

This looks like a turning point to me in this passage.

Lam 3:48 Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people.

He is weeping for them but now realizes they are a wicked generation with no intent to change, now it's as if he is telling God in vs60-66 **DO NOT FORGIVE THEM**

This is a book that shows us all how to process our emotions. Jerimiah is as a father to them all, and he sees their wrong, and warns them to change, and he knows of this loving God of Mercy, and how he is willing to forgive them all, but they do not want to change.

His emotions are flying all over the place, the fall of this nation is the most horrific catastrophe in Israel's history at this time. And Jerimiah is right in the middle of it all.

The Book of Jerimiah is a Book of Warning

The Book of Lamentations is a Book of Mourning

Our loving God allowed these event to talk place because the people choose not to be forgiven.

SEIGE OF JERSULEM

FAMINE IN THE CITY

BURNING THE TEMPLE, THE PALACE, AND THE CITY

BREACHING THE CITY WALLS

EXILE OF THE PEOPLE

LOOTING IN THE TEMPLE

EXECUTION OF THE LEADERS

COLLASPE OF EXPECTED FOREIGN HELP

And more.....



I want to keep reminding us this is just not for the people of the OT, or NT but for us to consider today.

I need to keep saying that for me, else I get wrapped up in their sin and not my own.

This is a point where I want to share one of the reasons for this title.

THE JOYS IN LAMENTATIONS if we Lament chances are we will Repent, not just a catchy phrase, but a truth, we can get so much when we see our sins and turn from them and ask for God's forgiveness.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON TWELVE: REALITY

READ CHAPTER 4

Enumerated and summarized, Jerimiah could not keep his mind off the horrors of the siege, cries of starving children (v4:4) women boiling their babies for food (v4:10) & (2:20).

Lam 4:9 They that be slain with the sword are better than they that be slain with hunger: for these pine away, stricken through for want of the fruits of the field.

Even with all the horrible suffering Jerusalem failed to learn its lesson. After the captivity it was rebuilt, and in Jesus' day had become a great and powerful city, and allowed sin to even rein even more by crucifying the Son of God. Then shortly the Roman armies took over the city on 70AD.

Before Jesus went to Jerusalem for his last time, he sat and looked at it, and wept.

Luke 19:41-44 And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, (42) Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. (43) For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, (44) And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

Eventually REALITY kicks in for all of us. The things we thought were not really going to happen, happen.

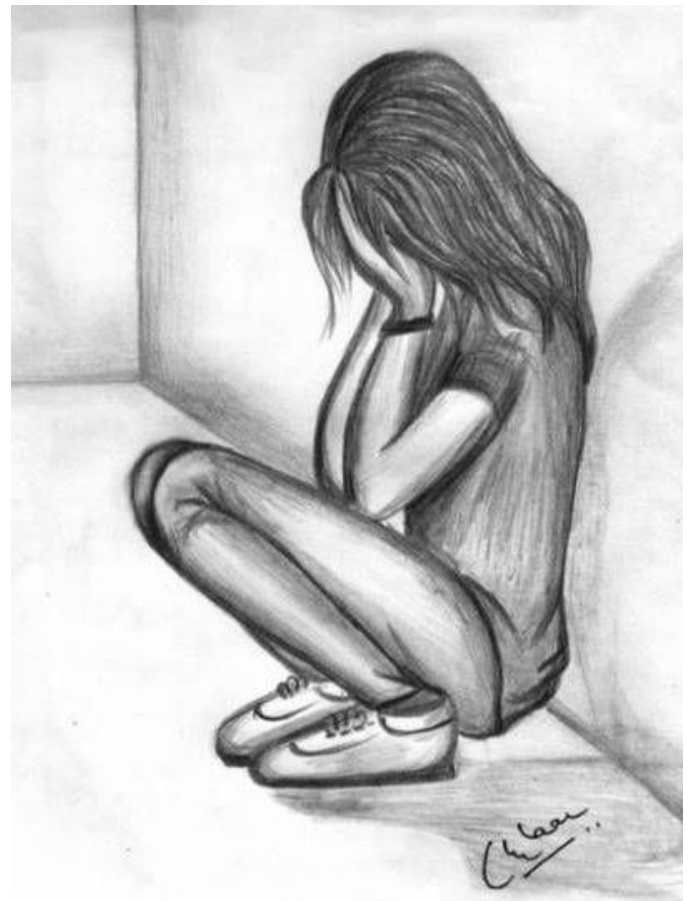
Eventually we realize that God says what he means and means what he says, and we need to consider his ways over my own.

How many of us have lamented over someone we love and they died without Christ in their life?

Jerimiah's love for these people was real, he said he cried rivers of water over they misbehaviors, to no avail, he cared more about them then they cared about themselves.

That's who Jerimiah was, he cared, do I? do you?

We can lament over things that others go through, this past few months I have seen parents crying at their child's funeral, and my neighbor teared up on my porch telling me his in-law just committed suicide. Besides all the deaths from COVID-19 and the foolishness of man and the riots, we've seen PAIN and we have seen sorrow in so many lives, and if affects us too.



Does that help change US?

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

What I want out of this class is that I would feel so bad about sin in my life I would lament, and have sorrow (the kind that leads to repentance) and that I would remember that God's wrath is just as real as God's love.

Instead of reflecting on scriptures that talk about me being in the flesh and I know I will sin at time, I need to be proactive and say to myself **NOT TODAY!**

*Gen 39:7-9 And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. (8) But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; (9) There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, **and sin against God?***

Do you see where he placed his mind? Not willing to sin against God.

If I can just place this thought before me I am sure I would sin less, not willing to sin against God.

Hebrews 6:6 talks about crucifying the son of God afresh. And putting him to an open shame.

This is reality....

God is Good,

Gen 1:31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Rev 21:21 And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass.

Hell is Bad.....

There is nothing, all the good stuff stays with God, no sun, moon, stars, no birds chirping, no smells of the spring, no soft breeze on your face.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

This is why we need to Lament today, we need to see our sins and the power they have on us.

Remember in Lesson One I shared this verse.

Ecc 7:2 It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart.

Ecc 7:4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.(amusement, especially as expressed in laughter)

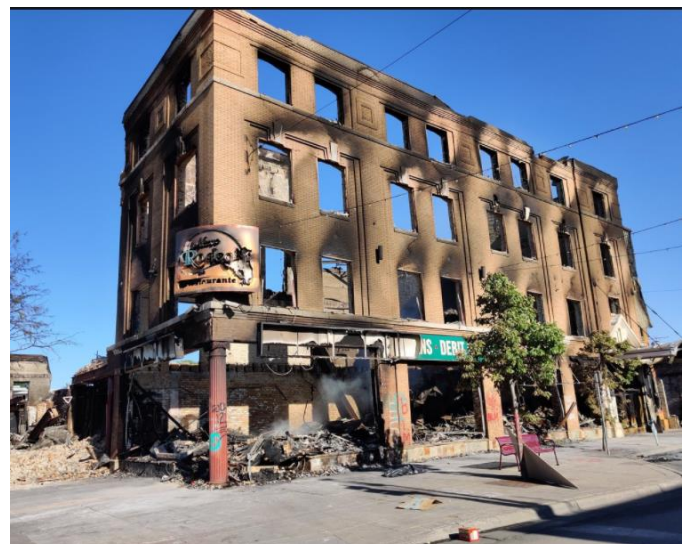
We get the Joys of Lamenting because it makes us think, lay it to our hearts.

Looking back to chapter 4 what punishments stand out to you?

Was God justified in doing this?

Do we think our world will never face this, even though sin is everywhere?

Recent riots in Minneapolis caused destruction..



THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

LESSON THIRTEEN: HOPE

“The good thing about hitting rock bottom, there's only one way left to go and that's UP!”

Jeremiah continues to pen down the events that took place and after some of the dust had settled down this is what he says.

READ LAM 5

When you see God providing us these details of the siege and destruction of this “HIS” great city and temple preserving these very graphic situations and the capturing of the emotions that were gone through when this was taking place, we need to remember this really happened.

The stones are still there...



We have read about the wickedness of man in the days of the prophet s like Jerimiah, Isiah & Ezekiel, and how God allowed the enemy to prevail, but there was a remnant that was saved, and the reason was so they, by this terrible punishment, come to know that God is God.

Ezekiel also writes about this horrific event that will take place, and he mentions a few times, that they shall know that God is Lord.

Eze 6:7-10 And the slain shall fall in the midst of you, and ye shall know that I am the LORD. (8) Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries. (9) And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations. (10) And they shall know that I am the LORD, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them.

Eze 7:25-27 Destruction cometh; and they shall seek peace, and there shall be none. (26) Mischief shall come upon mischief, and rumour shall be upon rumour; then shall they seek a vision of the prophet; but the law shall perish from the priest, and counsel from the ancients. (27) The king shall mourn, and the prince shall be clothed with desolation, and the hands of the people of the land shall be troubled: I will do unto them after their way, and according to their deserts will I judge them; and they shall know that I am the LORD.

So where does HOPE come into play here, death and destruction are ever before us on these pages, famine and persecution is a new way of life, labor and no rest.

Yet this verse is squeezed into the end of this book...

Lam 5:21 Turn thou us unto thee, O LORD, and we shall be turned; renew our days as of old.

This one verse, these eighteen words, these fifty-nine letters reveal their hearts can turn, that their God is a God of Hope, and can save them, the book ends with somewhat a sigh, kind of a realization that they may have gone too far. But still this glimpse of hope could have changed their whole world if they had listed to their God.

THE JOYS OF LAMENTATIONS

Remember at the beginning of this class when I said a few verses come to mind when I think of this book of Lamenting?

Ecc 7:8 Better is the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.

The siege ended, the captivity ended 40 years later (this 40 years may have denoted one generation)

536 B.C. almost 50,000 return from Babylon

The handwriting was on the wall, the proclamation that the Jews would return to Jerusalem after Daniel had declared the writing stated that Babylon would fall to Persia, which happened the same night (Dan 5:25-31) Cyrus allowed the Jews to return and rebuild Jerusalem

Ezra talked about the vessels that were taken would be restored to the temple.

Not for everybody, but these folks were talking about right here had their HOPE restored.

There were some that seen both ends of this siege. Tell me their HOPE was not restored.

Conclusion:

Many, many things that happened in scripture and in our own lives are results of sin. All this violence is against God, Cain rose up to kill his brother because Able was righteous, a rebellious people, full of violence, hatred, abortion, unnatural things, things God warns us about, all gone the way of Cain.

Psa_34:19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all.

Here is OUR HOPE, when these things happen God will deliver us from them.

Jerimiah had to ride through his own COVID 19 and the riots of the day but God delivered him, he was strong,

Jer 10:2 Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven; for the heathen are dismayed at them.

Isa 41:10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Appreciate NOW!

Be content with what you have

Count our Blessings

Be Ye Thankful

Heb 12:1-7 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (3) For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. (4) Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. (5) And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: (6) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. (7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth

Count it all a blessing as we are brought to our knees at times and we weep rivers of waters and we realize Gods chastisement is out of love, and it draws us closer to him, and we understand our HOPE at times comes from PAIN.

I have learned so much in this study about what these brethren endured, so much of it could have been avoided, so I look to myself and ask **Is my Sin Worth It?**

Thank You for being part of this study *Jaime Schuessler*

I do want to thank our Brother *Thomas John Collier* from Iowa for the long nights studying these things out with me and helping with the preparation of these lessons.