

Week 5
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

POETICS OF DIMINISHMENT

INTRODUCTION

When you lose something and profound change takes place, we must SPEAK OF IT. LOSS is change and Change is LOSS...even if the change is good and necessary.

DISCUSSION

What is the most profound change you have ever experienced in your life?

EXPLANATION

What is something you just want to write a 29E letter about?

Talk about what that would look like.

Is there any change in your life that you have not properly lamented?

Is there anything in your life that needs to be PROPERLY protested?

APPLICATION

How do you think you can help others to properly lament?

In Galatians 6:2 Paul says *Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*

What does that look like?

What is one area of your life where you feel the “gold has lost its luster?”

How do you think Jesus understands your sorrow?

How has Jesus understanding your sorrow enabled you to understand other people sorrow as well?



LAMENTATIONS

POETICS OF DIMINISHMENT

Isaiah 29:9

Lamentations 1:1, 12

Lamentations 2:1-2, 5,

7, 9, 18 - 19

Lamentations 3:22

Lamentations 4:1-2, 5,

7-8, 12-13, 22

Galatians 6:2

Matthew 23:37

Week 5 Notes

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



POETICS OF DIMINISHMENT

Isaiah 29:9 “Be stunned and amazed, blind yourselves and be sightless; be drunk, but not from wine, stagger, but not from beer.”

Lamentations is mostly about the absence of God. It is 5 poems in Hebrew where the city of Jerusalem has been smashed to pieces and her people hauled away. Those few who remained are mourning and grieving the absolute devastation they experience. The city itself gets personified as a woman...there is a narrator who **GIVES US THE STORY** *Lam 1:1 How deserted lies the city, once so full of people! How like a widow is she, who once was great among the nations! She who was queen among the provinces has now become a slave.*

Chapter 4 starts with the narrator again *V1-2 How the gold has lost its luster, the fine gold become dull! The sacred gems are scattered at the head of every street. How the precious sons of Zion, once worth their weight in gold, are now considered as pots of clay, the work of a potter's hands!* This is a different tone than the other poems of lamentations so far. This is less of anger and more of a sighing, a resignation...in technical terms this is what is called the POETICS OF DIMINISHMENT.

The fury is subsided and now there is stunned and spent silence.

When you lose something and profound change takes place, we must **SPEAK OF IT**. **LOSS is change** and **Change is LOSS...even if the change is good and necessary**.

Kathleen O'Connor

Lamentation names what is wrong, what is out of order in God's world, what keeps human beings from thriving... Simple acts of lament expose these conditions, name them, open them to grief and anger, and make them visible for remedy.

- **How the gold has lost its luster** In a marriage: a couple doesn't treat each other with the respect they should, how does this need to change?
- **How the gold has lost its luster** In a friendship: I think you take advantage of me, how can this change?
- **How the gold has lost its luster** In the workplace: You hate your job because you view it as a right and not a privilege, how can this change?
- **How the gold has lost its luster** In your relationship with God: You don't **FEEL** like you once did because you take Him for granted (because He has extended to you more grace than you even can comprehend), how can this change?