

Week 6
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

In what ways do you think God remembers the entire world?

In what ways do you think God pays attention to the entire world?

In what ways does God SEE the entire world?

How do you think you can explain those concepts to people who have experienced loss?



REMEMBER, PAY ATTENTION, AND SEE

Lamentations 3:25-26 *“The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.”*

We are people whose spiritual formation is governed by thoughts that should see God's work through His church in a serious manner. Part of that (with Lamentations) is seeing this week for what it is: the is the highest week of the year. It is a way for us as believers, and those around the world who believe, to acknowledge that Jesus, from Nazareth, came triumphantly into Jerusalem under symbolic representation riding a donkey. He knew full well it was for His own death, but in His resolve and love for His father He gave up everything for us. He would die and rise and live forevermore. Because of that fact, we look forward to a day where justice and peace reign forever, we will never die and all things are made new.

Lamentations takes place because the children of Abraham, those who had relationship with the God of ALL creation didn't live as the God of all creation called them to live. He sends discipline through the hands of the Babylonians to destroy their city and haul everyone into captivity. For some this appears to be a contradiction; The ONE TRUE God made a covenant with His people, but they wound up being so idolatrous and wicked, that they became slaves of an idolatrous, ruthless and wicked nation.

Simple truth: If you belong to Jesus, if you love Him, seek to live in community with His people, give of yourself and your time to His call and vision it is IMPOSSIBLE for you NOT to suffer.

5:1 Remember, O LORD, what has happened to us; look, and see our disgrace.

The verbs here are REMEMBER, LOOK, and SEE. These are great words to pray in preparation for this week.

- *Remember us Lord in our fallen state* – because HE is a God of covenant faithfulness,
- *Look upon our state as we are* – See me as I am, not as I want others think I am or what I feel I want to be

• *And see our disgrace* – See the truth of me and how I have marred Your image in me (I need redemption from ME).
These things summarize the entire book.

There will be a fight in your life between faith, what you see with yours eyes and what our Lord has declared. I think Jeremiah could pray this because he knew that even in the middle of this horror his God was not blind and had not forgotten.

The truth is this:

- **Sometimes our God will calm the storm** - He will calm it for His child
- **Sometimes our God allows the storm** - Sometimes there is no other way for us to learn something then to go through it.
- **Sometimes our God BRINGS the storm** - No matter how we may try, there are no shortcuts and if He wants us to go through it, no sort of running will get us away from it.

But God will BRING YOU THROUGH IT. This is what Lamentations is about.

You may suffer...but our God IS GOOD. He remembers, He pays attention, and He sees. He is the God of covenant faithfulness, steadfast love...and because of Him we will live forever.

