



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Monday, 05/30/2022

Scripture: Lamentations

TITLE - Lamentations - Remorse

Parenting is hard. It's a full-time job. Part of parenting is instruction but it's also correction. No matter the age of our kids, they all need warning, discipline, and correction to help them lead a life pleasing to God.

We as the children of God are no different. We tend to wander so God provides ample warning. And because He loves us, he delivers consequences to bring us back to Him. That's why we should study the Book of Lamentations. It's all about remorse, discipline, and hope.

The Book of Lamentations was written by Jeremiah. It was written between 586-583 B.C. It was written to the people of Jerusalem after the destruction of Jerusalem. Jeremiah predicted the fall of Jerusalem as punishment for their rebellion in the Book of Jeremiah. This book reflects on it.

You may remember that the people of God had this history of following God and then forgetting God to pursue their own desires. God always provides the opportunity to come back to Him but often it takes the warning of judgment, a season of waiting, and then right consequences to His people to bring them back to Him.

In the five sections of this book, you find three themes: mourning, confession, and hope. There is right mourning, not insincere apology. There is a deep grieving for what has transpired which leads to authentic confession of sin. It's right repentance – that turning from sin and turning to God. And then a brief picture of hope for the future of restoration.

Is Christ found in the book of Lamentations? The weeping prophet, Jeremiah, was a type of Christ. Jesus wept over Jerusalem in Matthew 23. Lamentations also includes elements that typify Christ's life and ministry as the Man of Sorrows who was acquainted with grief.

What's the main thing about Lamentations? It's remorse for sin. Many of us get caught in sin and we apologize because we got caught. That is not true remorse. True remorse contains grieving for one's sin against the one who loves us.

And because of His great love for us, through our repentance His mercies are new each and every morning. Lamentations 3:22-23 (CSB) says, *“Because of the LORD's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!”*

The mercies of the Lord are new every morning. So here's my challenge for you today: confess your sin and embrace God's mercy. I hate to disappoint you, but I still struggle with sin each and every day. There is no sin I am not capable of. The same is true for you. Even as a Christian, you still struggle with sin. The good news is if we confess our sins, God will remove our sins. He

gives us mercy, grace, and a hope for a future with Him forever. So clean your heart by confessing any unconfessed sin to Him. And then embrace the new mercy today.

When we confess and embrace God's mercy, we will win the day!