

Saturday & Sunday, April 14 & 15, 2018 - "Hope Restored Week 3" - Gerald Coleman

Key Passages: Psalm 137:1-9, Lamentations 3:19-26, Psalm 126

- Feel free to read the passage(s) out loud as a group
- Allow the group to share freely about what stood out to them from the passage or from Sunday's message

Main Ideas

- The Psalms are the hymn book of scripture
 - Psalm of orientation: Everything is going as it should and were praising God and living in His goodness
 - Psalm of Disorientation: Reaction of the faithful when the world they know is broken, LAMENT)
 - Psalm of New Orientation: disorientation is past and singing God's praise for salvation/deliverance/rescue
 - We are called to sing songs in the hard and sad times as well as the good times
- Historical Background
 - God chooses and leads the Israelites to reflect his goodness to the nations
 - They go from faithful → unfaithful → faithful → unfaithful and eventually want a king like everyone else
 - David → Solomon (Israel at it's peak, BUT there is idolatry
 - Ultimately Israel is exiled and is in captivity (this is the context for Psalm 137)
- Psalm 137:1-9
 - The psalm comes out of great sorrow and pain
 - God's people didn't know what to sing, but God did not leave them and does not leave us alone
 - We need to cry and be broken so that God can reveal a greater depth of himself
- Lamentations 3:19-26 (written by Jeremiah "the weeping prophet")
 - In exile and without hope (BUT GOD IS GRIEVED WHEN WE ARE GRIEVED)
 - Steadfast Love (Hesed) of the Lord never ceases. God is up to something even in all of this
- Exercising the practice of Memory
 - We remember that out of nothing God brought forth creation. We were slaves and when there was no way, God made a way
 - The past reminds when the future is unsure (we can trust God and have hope
- The people of Israel forgot what God had called them to
 - They were made to reflect God to the nations (and so are we, called to be a ROYAL PRIESTHOOD)
 - Sometimes we get caught up in our "own song" and God shakes us up
 - We need to feel and experience the pain to acknowledge that GOD has to change things
 - When our hearts are broken that's a heart that God can use
- Through Baptism we are ordained into a priesthood of believers
 - We are new and united with Christ
 - We are a part of God's new creation and making all things new but we operate from a place of brokenness to we rely on Him
- Psalm 126 (New Orientation)
 - Tears of sorrow are the seeds of hope for tomorrow
 - The Holy Spirit helps us know what to pray even when we don't have or can't say any words

Questions (Feel free to use all of these, some of these, or none of these)

1. Have you ever had an experiencing with lament? When was a time God broke your heart?
2. What have you learned about seeking God through the hard and the sad times?
3. What are some things you can remember when the future us unsure?
4. What does it mean to you that you are ordained into a royal priesthood?
5. How is God calling you to be more in touch with the pain and brokenness in yourself and in the lives of others?
6. What is God inviting you into as a result of this passage or message?

****15 Minutes with God Reading Plan-**

Mon: 1 Thessalonians 1 Tues: 1 Thessalonians 2 Wed: 1 Thessalonians 3 Thurs: 1 Thessalonians 4 Fri: 1 Thessalonians 5

Worship Set from this weekend:

"Glorious" - BJ Putnam "Gorious" - Martha Munizzi "Made A Way" - Travis Greene "Let Revival Come (Revive Me) - People and Song "Here As In Heaven" - Elevation Worship "What A Beautiful Name" - Hillsong Worship