**Lamentations**

**Holy laments for sinners**

*For these things I weep, my eyes run down*

*with water; because far from me is a comforter,*

*One who restores my soul 1:16*

*My eyes fail because of tears, my spirit is greatly troubled,*

*My heart is poured out on the earth*

*Because of the destruction of the daughter of my people,*

*When little ones and infants faint in the streets of the city 2:11*

*When He approached Jerusalem, He saw the city and wept over it,*

*Saying, if you had known this day, even you, the things which make*

*for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.* Luke 19:41 -42

**Focal Truth: It is the character & duty of believer’s to spiritually lament for the sinfulness of others**

**The holy man of God was grieved deeply for the sinfulness of Israel**

1. He wept because of Israel’s sinfulness

 *For these things I weep, my eyes run down with water; because far from me is a comforter, one who restores my soul 1:16*

He saw their distress

He saw their shame

He saw their comfortlessness

He saw their helplessness

He saw their pains

He saw their aloneness

1. His sorrow was painfully deep

*My sorrow is beyond healing, my heart is faint within Me!* Behold, listen! *The cry of the daughter of my people from a distant land; is the Lord not in Zion? Is her King not within her? Why have they provoked Me with their graven images, with foreign idols?* Jer.8:18,19

1. He wept because of the pain of pain in their suffering for sin

*For the brokenness of the daughter of my people I am broken, I mourn, dismay has taken hold of me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?* Jer. 8:21 – 22

Ps. 119:135 – my eyes shed streams of water because they do not keep Your law.

**The holy man of God was afflicted with grief for the judgment of God on sinful Israel**

1. He sorrowed because of the God’s judgment on their sinful ways

*My eyes fail because of tears, my spirit is greatly troubled, My heart is poured out on the earth because of the destruction of the daughter of my people, when little ones and infants faint in the streets of the city 2:11*

1. He sorrowed for the innocent who suffered under the judgment of God on sinful Israel

*when little ones and infants faint in the streets of the city 2:11*

1. His desire was to continue to sorrow for the sinners who have been judged by God

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

*Oh that I had in the desert a wayfarers lodging place, that I might leave my people and go from them!* For all of them are adulterers, and assembly of treacherous men. They bend their tongue like their bow, lies and not truth prevail in the land, for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me, declares the Lord. Jer. 9:2 -3

1. He confesses his sorrow to sinful Israel for their judgment by God

*You will say this word to them, let my eyes flow down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people has been crushed with a mighty blow, with a sorely infected wound*

**The nature of spiritual lament for sinners**

Jeremiah the prophet expresses the true nature of spiritual lament for sinners in their sin

“the more holy, the more plentiful are our tears” – Latin saying

* The believer laments the sinfulness of sinners with its consequences
* The believer laments the nature of sinfulness in sinners
* The believer laments the sinfulness that remains in himself

*he fell today – I may fall tomorrow*

* The believer laments other’s sinfulness to keep himself pure from sinfulness
* The believer laments the sinfulness of sinners because their sins crucified the Lord
* The believer laments the dishonor & hatred of sinners toward God
* The believer laments the sinfulness of sinners as an intercessor on their behalf

*Have you completely rejected Judah? Or have you loathed Zion? Why have you stricken us so that we are beyond healing? We waited for peace, but nothing good came, and for a time of healing, but behold terror! We know our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our fathers, for we have sinned against You. Do not despise us, for your own name’s sake, do not disgrace the throne of your glory, remember and do not annul your covenant with us. Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O Lord our God? Therefore, we hope in You, for You are the one who has done all these things*

Jer. 14:19 -22

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. Put on a heart of compassion – lament over the sinfulness of the lost world
2. Weep with those who weep – Rom 12:15
3. Ask God to give you a heart like Jesus Christ who lamented the unbelief of sinners

Luke 19:41 -42

1. God blesses & comforts those who spiritually mourn over their own sin & the sins of others

*For these things I weep, my eyes run down with water; because far from me is a comforter, one who restores my soul 1:16*

*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted* Matt. 5:4

**To the praise of the glory of His grace. The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**