

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. ***Enjoy discovering more about Him!***

"NEW EVERY MORNING" | LAMENTATIONS 3 | CAMERON SEELY

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- Are you a morning person or evening person?

"We Will All Feel the Consequences of Sin" Lamentations 3: 1-18

The writer expresses deep agony over the affliction he has seen and the punishments God is allowing because of sin.

- Which line or phrase grabs your attention? Why?
- What are other ways people experience the consequences of sin?

"Remember the God of All Mercies" Lamentations 3: 19-24

The writer then refocuses and remembers God's love is steadfast and His mercies are new every morning.

- What are ways to refocus and remember God's love and faithfulness?
- What are examples of God's faithfulness in your life this past year?

"We Get Daily Resurrection" Romans 6:5

Jesus died for all sin so all people can be raised with Him. That makes His mercies new every morning in a powerful way.

- What does this show about Jesus?
- What does it look like to live with new mercies every day?

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

All people experience brokenness and suffering because of their sin and the sin of others. Yet God's love is everlasting and His mercies are new because Jesus paid the price for all sin. We can have new life because of Him.

- Have you been stuck, struggling or broken lately?
- Have you confessed and lamented over sin you've seen and done?
- Have you expressed this to Jesus and allowing Him to make you new?
- Reflect on God's faithfulness and ask Him to restore you and your relationships this week.

New Every Morning (A New Year's Sermon)

Welcome/Announcement -

- Hello Everyone, Merry Post Christmas and Happy Almost New year!
- Intro Myself, welcome those online (2nd Service)
- One quick announcement, next Sunday is our monthly prayer meeting at 1:30pm in the Agape. An incredible way to start your year off if you have the time to join us in praying for our church, community, nation and world.
- Also, it wouldn't be right for me not to mention that 678 and RISE Winter Camp is coming up in about 2 months! Our church has always been incredible in their generosity towards helping students get to camp. So for starters please pray for us as we plan and get set to travel, but if you feel led, we do have students in need of sponsorships for camp. All donations are an immense blessing.

Opening - (Pray and Open to Lamentations 3)

- Alright I'm done, now I'd love to get into God's word together this morning. Please turn with me to Lamentations 3 as I pray!

Backdrop of Lamentations -

- Lamentations is a collection of 5 poems of lament, repentance and remembrance.
 - These are poems of deep lament, as the southern nation of Judah and Jerusalem itself has been besieged and destroyed. (586 B.C.)
 - After continued rebellion and rejection of God, the Lord has allowed Babylon to overthrow the city, conquer the people and as a result they are in mourning. Seeing their once full and beautiful city empty and ransacked because of their own sin.
 - No author is identified, but both Jewish and Christian history attributes the authorship to Jeremiah, the weeping Prophet as He is coined.
 - Regardless, this book is incredibly important because it details what it looks like to when God's people are in rebellion, what it looks like to mourn, and how God responds to those who seek Him in their mourning.
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- I was charged with giving a New Year's Message, and some of yall are like....What a depressing start. Its gonna get worse no worries lol

- But fear not, it only gets better! But first we gotta dive right into the sadness!
- As we look to Israel's sinful state, I want us to consider our own state.

1. We all will feel and experience the consequence of sin! (Lamentations 3:1-18)

- We see the writer in a place of deep hurt and honesty about where He is at in Life and with the Lord...notice verse 1

“I am a man who has seen affliction, under the rod of HIS wrath.” - Lamentations 3:1

- He expresses the agony He has witnessed, he says I have SEEN affliction. With his own eyes he witnessed the downfall and destruction of his home. And even having the spiritual understanding to see GOd has allowed this. He is under God's wrath.
- The Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem was not peaceful or merciful, as a direct result of King Zedekiah's rebellion King Nebuchadnezzar brought the weight of His whole army onto the city. This was disastrous and we hear it in our author's words.
- This is not how you probably thought this message would go, this man is lowkey depressed. Listen to Him:
 - **He has driven me out and brought me into darkness**
 - **He has made my skin and flesh waste away**
 - **He has broken my bones**
 - **He has walled me up so I can't escape**
 - **He has made my chains heavy**
 - **He has bent His bow and made me His target**
 - **He has filled me with bitterness**
 - **Check this out...He is a bear and a lion in waiting**
- Has anyone ever felt this way? Ever felt like God is dealing with you this way? Like everything that is happening before you and around you proves He's against you?
- Our author potentially Jeremiah is experiencing the consequence of sin, the sin of the community and the personal choices of the people.

**“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
Romans 6:23**

Whether directly or indirectly sin has a consequence and people will feel it!

- The children of Israel are experiencing the weight of their choice to rebel against God time and time again.
- Jeremiah and other Godly people within the nation are too feeling this consequence even if they aren't directly to blame.

Side Question:

Directly: And maybe that is us today? Maybe in this last year we have felt the consequence of our own sin? Maybe God is allowing the decisions we have made to catch up with us

Indirectly: Or maybe your current state or circumstance is difficult not because of sin you have committed, but maybe was the choice of others? Or maybe its just feeling the brokenness that sin has brought upon this world. Your suffering not because of your own sin but because of sin itself?

Could it be that the one writing these poems is in a way expressing how your heart has been feeling? How has this last year left you feeling:

- **Stuck?**
- **Isolated?**
- **Distant from God?**
- **Failing?**
- **Doubting?**
- **Grieving?**
- **Apathetic?**
- **Broken?**
- **Discontent?**
- **Hopeless?**

There is no doubt sin touches each of our daily lives. And I'd dare to say has probably even had an effect on most of our year.

But it's vital that we realize that our current feelings or discouragement can't be allowed to distract us from what is true! Our Poet keeps writing...

2. Remember the God of All Mercies (Lamentations 3:19-24)

- **Do you feel that immediate change of tone? Can you sense the hope?**
- In a beautiful display of brokenness and devotion our lamenter turns His eyes upon the one and only True God. And there He finds hope!
- His next words are some of the most quoted in all of scripture, yes amidst this little depressing poetry book a beckon of hope.

But this I call to mind (I captured the memory) **and Therefore I have hope** (my heart can escape the dread of my current circumstance)

- Let's not forget everyone, this man is experiencing the judgment of God, His city is destroyed, His culture, His family scattered, and His people hopeless.
- But something happens, something turns His heart to rejoicing, something brings hope to the hopeless. But what?

The Steadfast Love of the Lord NEVER CEASES, HIS MERCIES never come to an end. They are NEW EVERY MORNING, Great is YOUR faithfulness! (3:22-23)

- He remembers His God. He recalls the God who called Him.
- Our lamenter remembers the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God who is absolutely bringing this judgment.
- But who at the same time has so many times brought MERCY (Kheh-sed) or Kindness to His people.
- The God who has never given up on them, never forsaken them.
- The God who as it says in just a few verses "Does not afflict from His heart" (Lamentations 3:33)
- God does not bring correction or judgment out of spiteful anger. It's not from His heart that He brings judgment.
- No, the Lament keys in on God's most natural part of His nature. Mercy. This is the God who:
 - That gave His own Son for the sins of the World
 - That was faithful to a people who were faithless towards Him
 - The one who comforts the brokenhearted
 - Sets the captive free
 - Forgives the sinner
 - And associates with the lowly.

- But He doesn't cry out simply asking God to remove the trouble. (Again sin will have its affect), But he cries out to find mercy, to find comfort, to find grace and help in His time of need (Hebrews 4:16)
- No matter what your circumstance is today, and in a room this size there are many troubling situations and states of being.
- Who are you seeking for mercy right now? Who is giving you hope for tomorrow?
- The best part for you and me get to have a connection with this God that the author here never could have imagined. He was looking forward to the Messiah, we know what He is like....

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His nature, upholding all things by His powerful word..."
Hebrews 1:3

Pastor Brian quoted this last week, but I love this. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory and the EXACT representation of His nature.

When you come to Jesus broken from whatever came about this year, you come to God Himself. You come to the God of all Mercies.

Listen to this quote from Dane Ortlund's book Gentle and Lowly:

Meek. Humble. Gentle. Jesus is not trigger-happy. Not harsh, reactionary, easily exasperated. He is the most understanding person in the universe. The posture most natural to him is not a pointed finger but open arms ... You don't need to unburden or collect yourself and then come to Jesus. Your very burden is what qualifies you to come. (19-20)

The burdened heart should most naturally come to Him. Because He most naturally comes towards that type of heart.

So today, be broken and contrite in heart he won't despise you, be humble and lowly He won't reject you, confess whatever is burdening your heart and receive mercy and cleansing!

3. We Get Daily Resurrection! (Romans 6:5)

- God's faithful in His nature to bring fresh Mercy to you and me everyday!
- And this is never more realized than when we reflect on the Resurrection.
- We must realize this on a personal level. What the resurrection means for you and me on a daily basis.
- That Idea of New every morning really isn't speaking of a 24 hour time period, but rather that every moment of our lives is touched by resurrection power.

“For if WE have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a RESURRECTION like His.”

Romans 6:5

- If the one who follows Jesus by faith no longer lives under the requirements of His own righteous ability.
- Then no matter your current circumstance, struggle or failure.....I ask you this question.
- Is Christ alive today? Then you live.
- Have you failed in sin, Christ died so that you might be dead to sin, and now He lives, believe it and know there is hope for tomorrow.
- Does your current life have suffering and trouble, Christ experienced suffering and trouble to identify with you, He has overcome the world, He lives, believe it and find hope today!
- He lives so that we might live. He lives so that we might know there is hope. There is a future for the one united to Him.

I want to take a moment to reflect on some lyrics of a song I heard a year back...meditate on these words for me for a moment. Bow your heads and believe them with me.

New Every Morning

By The Porter's Gate

You are not what you have done
Or what has been done to you
You are something like the rising sun
Can't you see that you are new

You might have your father's name
Or bear the shame he left behind
But there's new life flowing through your veins
Leave some room to be surprised

You are new every morning
You are new every morning
Each day a resurrection waiting to break through

You could try just for a start
To put the judge back on the shelf
All the lovingkindness in your heart
Have a little for yourself

You are new every morning
You are new every morning
Each day a resurrection waiting to break through
You are new

You think hope is lost but it's just underground
The flame might be an ember but the fire won't go out
All the evidence is pointing to the truth
That daily resurrection is still happening in you

You are new every morning
You are new every morning
Each day a resurrection waiting to break through
You are new

