

Getting Practical:

Pastor Larry and Pastor Tom have really challenged us to wrestle with the connection between our cities, our church, and God's plan of restoration. As you begin wrestling with these things you will find a plethora of confusing information on how these all connect. However, there are a few tangible things that we can begin doing in order to start making this connection more clear:

- **1. Do Something.** We begin to make connections between truths when we start experiencing God within them. God calls us to do justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him...start by listening/walking.
- **2.** Discuss how a group of you can impact your neighborhood in an effective way. Some thoughts may include: talking to people in your neighborhood (they do live close to you), having a neighborhood junk swap or block party, organize a community discussion group to discuss supporting your local neighborhood, help a hurting family in your community. There are so many options!
- **3.** Pray for God to give us opportunities to step out in faith.
- **4.** Be in the Text, within community, searching for guidance, being encouraged to continue, and to make sure we continue walking on the path God has called us to.

A Closing Word from Paul:

- "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with ONE heart, and ONE mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!"

Don't Miss

- Look at the "Love Your Neighbor" section in the weekly bulletin
- The Four Corners Offering during May is for Nichole Byker - Costa Rica.
- Consider your community this week...and then Do Something!

Lamentations 5:19-22 "Our Only Hope"



EverGreen
Ministries
June 6, 2020

message notes:

- **God's Greatness/Sovereignty**
- **Restoration/Hope**

Explore the Story, Discover Your Life *A Study for Small Groups and Individuals*

Remembering – “Our Only Hope”

- Look at your message notes. What part of the message made you wonder, want to know more, held particular meaning for your life, or just caught your attention?

Being Shaped by the Text: Lamentations 5

In chapter 5 we see a man (Jeremiah) who loves his city, his people, and his God. However, He finishes up the book by letting his audience know just how much conflict and disconnect there is between these three. After crying/lamenting throughout the chapter, in verses 19-22 Jeremiah articulates that God is the only answer to restoring these things.

- Read through Chapter 5:1-18 of Lamentations. What particular aspect of Jeremiah’s cry impacted you? Why?
- Why do you think it took so much turmoil for the people to recognize God as sufficient in all things? Do you think we, as a church body, believe this today? What areas do you think we’ve forgotten and slipped? What role do you play in this?
- Notice that Jeremiah is not the one who didn’t believe in or who forgot God, but it was his people. Do we lament for our community? Why or why not?
- What is our responsibility to our cities? Our brothers and sisters in Christ? And to God? *Look at the “Getting Practical” section for more thoughts.
- Do we feel the burden of this responsibility or do we carry it lightly?

EXPLORE!

Hedging Our Bets:

Read Matthew 19:16-30

*The Rich Young Ruler can’t help but hedge his bets. He begins by asking Jesus what he must do to get into heaven. Jesus tells the man to keep the commandments, thereby showing that he loves God. The man claims that he has kept all the commandments and the fullness of the law. Jesus turns the man to God’s true heart behind the law, *sol*i loving and following after His Father. Jesus knows the man has found his identity in his money, power, and way of life. Jesus finds the thing that this man values more than God and exposes it. When he walks away saddened by Jesus’ answer we see that his being (heart, soul, might) was never truly handed to God.

The Shema:

“Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, will all your soul, and with all your might.”

*The “Shema” is said each morning and evening and sometimes throughout the day by most Jewish people. The words come from Deuteronomy 6, and they remind us that every aspect of our humanity, our being, is Gods. It all belongs in service to Him. We are his instruments to use as He wills.

Questions to Discuss:

- What things do we have in our lives that allow us to “hedge our bets?” What things are we trusting in alongside of or in place of God? Why?
- We may not be the best people to analyze ourselves, Do we have people in our lives that we can assess the above question with? Why might that be important?
- Do you think there is some level of reckless abandonment in following after Jesus? Why or why not?