



Sermon-based Guide Questions for Reflection and Discussion Week of March 14

With

Scripture: Lamentations 4:1-4, 13-15 and Matthew 22:35-40

Summary

In chapter 3 Jeremiah says,

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

The reason Jeremiah can say this, in the midst of all the pain, is because he is **with** God. He has an intimate relationship with God. He knows God's heart and that gives him a proper perspective.

This week, in chapter 4, we see a pivot in which Jeremiah is also **with** the people. He is able to come alongside the hurting people because he is also with God. He can do this because he knows the source of hope. Jeremiah does two things in being with the people: He speaks for those who are dispossessed and he allows them to have their own voice; to tell their own story.

If we are maturing in our faith, we are both with God and with those who hurt. This is not just a call to Jeremiah, but a call to all Christians. We are called to listen when we find ourselves among those who are hurting and a choice we must make to go and be with those who need to be heard.

Questions

1. Share a time when you came alongside someone who was hurting. How did your relationship with God call and empower you to do this?
2. How do you listen so you can go and be present to where God is calling you to go?
3. Is your heart open to where Jesus might be calling you to intentionally listen to a person or group of people who are experiencing injustice?
4. What keeps you from responding to go and be with someone who is hurting?
5. Why is it important for us to listen to those who are experiencing injustice? How do we cultivate a stance of listening so we can recognize injustice?
6. Are you aware of people with deep need whose voices are not being heard? How is God asking you to respond?