

Series: Lamentations

Sermon: Hope In Darkness

**Passage: Lamentations 3 & 5**

Illustration:

Need: Faithful followers of Jesus will, at times, find themselves in great darkness and despair, but they will never be without a far greater Hope.

**I. Righteous Sufferings (3:1-20)**

- Faithful Jeremiah suffered along with the guilty community and did not disconnect himself from it.
- Faithful Jesus suffered FOR guilty humanity by intentionally connecting Himself to us!
- Faithful believers suffer along with this broken world and, at times, in spite of and even for their faithfulness to Christ.

**II. Hope Over Despair (3:21-27)**

- In the middle of Jeremiah's pain he expresses his confident assurance in the LORD - His loyal love, His mercy, His promises, His goodness, & His salvation.
- Prior to and throughout His suffering, Jesus rested in and on the eternal purpose of His Father.
- Peter reminds believers that their suffering is only temporary and God provides deliverance for His own glory. (**1 Peter 5:6-11**)

**III. Prayerful Endurance**

- Jeremiah's lamenting concludes with a personal prayer of Remembrance (**5:1**), Repentance (**5:16**), Recognition (**5:19**), & Renewal (**5:21**).
- In hope, we prayerfully endure and remain engaged in our call to go and tell. (**Eph: 6:18-20**)

**IV. In times of great darkness we still possess the Light!**

- Suffering, sadness, pain, trouble, difficulty - these are an unavoidable reality, even for the faithful.
- The risen Jesus IS our hope, Jesus IS the light that darkness cannot extinguish.
- Our calling is sure and remains our priority until Jesus returns.
- We endure come-what-may along the way prayerfully honest and completely confident in the faithfulness of the One who called and redeemed us! (**Psalm 30:4-5**)