

Lamentations

Jeremiah IV: "Alas"

Mourning ...

I. Grieving Intensely

- A. Jeremiah's Lament
- B. Jesus' Sorrow
- C. A Vale of Tears

II. Trusting Fully

- A. The Prophet Remembers
- B. The Son Entrusts
- C. The Child Has Hope

... to dancing.

Children, Listen ...

1. What does it mean to "lament?"
2. What were some things that made Jeremiah, who wrote Lamentations, sad?
3. Was Jeremiah able to have joy and hope even in very troubled times?
4. Jesus was often sorrowful. From what you know from the Bible, what are some things that made him sad?
5. Life can be really hard for God's children sometimes, but how can we have hope and joy even in times of trouble?

Joy in Our Mourning

If we were to begin to recount to ourselves all the things we can legitimately lament over we would certainly be overwhelmed by a flood of tears. The brokenness of mankind in general, as well as sin in the ranks of God's people is cause for great sorrow. It is a healthy thing to lament over the grievous condition we have gotten ourselves into. Jeremiah felt that when he saw the self-inflicted demise of Judah. Jesus felt that when he experienced first-hand the ravages of sin in the world to which he came. We weep and mourn as well ... but we must not despair. First of all for most of us it is not all gloom and doom. We experience rich spiritual blessings in the Lord, but we also enjoy the many good things of life in our "pursuit of happiness." Yet many of us have, may currently be, or will find ourselves in situation of deep anguish. But if we remember who God is and how He cares for us – if we embrace His bigger plan and perfect wisdom and providence – and if we regularly recall His deep love and unbending devotion to us – we can still experience the joy and peace based on firm hope that only our God can give. May the Lord grant you in Christ and give you blessed assurance, solid joys and lasting pleasures that none but Zion's children can truly know.

*Psalm 30:5 Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.*