

SORROW + HOPE

AUGUST 22

A STUDY OF JEREMIAH & LAMENTATIONS

Sermon Outline

Key verse

Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children, who faint from hunger at every street corner.

Lamentations 2:19

1. Our hearts break because of sin

Why does Jerusalem always turn away? They cling to deceit; they refuse to return. I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. None of them repent of their wickedness...

Jeremiah 8:5-6

2. Our hearts break because of suffering

My eyes fail from weeping, I am in torment within; my heart is poured out on the ground because my people are destroyed, because children and infants faint in the streets of the city.

Lamentations 2:11b

3. Our hearts break because of lost souls

"So they will fall among the fallen; they will be brought down when they are punished," says the Lord.

Jeremiah 8:12b

LET YOUR HEART BE BROKEN

Opening Thought

No one is immune from heartbreak. Life is filled with sorrow and suffering. The young prophet Jeremiah watched the downfall of Jerusalem and lamented Israel's enslavement to Babylon. Our world is in turmoil today, but when you find yourself crying out because things are so wrong, be encouraged to look to the one who is perfectly right.

Icebreaker

- When was the last time you cried?

Discussion

- What is one thing that stood out to you from this week's message?
- What breaks your heart?
- Jeremiah 8:10 says, "From the least to the greatest, all are greedy..." How can we avoid this pitfall that is so prevalent? (see also 1 Timothy 6:9-10)
- How can sin lead to misery, either in a person's life or the life of someone they know?
- Though not every bad situation we find ourselves in is because we sin, the brokenness of sin more broadly causes the brokenness in our world. What are some examples of things going wrong in the world that are happening because of the fall?
- How does the brokenness of the world make us long for home?

Closing

- Where have you fallen short of God's standards? Have you confessed and repented?
- Have you prayed and fasted about the brokenness in our world?
- How might you offer the healing balm of Christ to someone who is suffering this week?