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Kevin Sneed

Lamentations 4

Introduction

Lamentations 4 returns us to the ruins after the brief hope of chapter 3. The poet is exhausted, limping through a systematic stripping away of everything Zion once trusted — wealth, religion, politics — each collapsing under judgment. From the rubble, a single line of hope emerges, pointing toward a love that cannot be exhausted. Kevin's central question: *Where are you placing your hope?*

Key Texts: Lamentations 4:1-22; Lamentations 3:22; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 2:1-5

Icebreaker

What's the most disappointing "this will fix everything" purchase you've ever made?
OR What's an app, gadget, or life hack you were sure would be a game-changer — and wasn't?

Discussion Questions

1. Kevin opened with Gerard Manley Hopkins — a devoted Jesuit priest who, in a season of spiritual desolation, asked "*Comforter, where is your comforting?*" and never found an answer in his lifetime. Have you had a season where God felt absent despite your faithfulness? What did you lean on during that time?
2. **Read Lamentations 4:1-2 together.** The "potter and clay" language carries deep covenantal meaning — see Isaiah 64:8. What does it mean to you that God claims you as the work of his hands? How does that identity get obscured when life unravels?

3. Kevin walked through three collapsed institutions — wealth (vv. 1-10), religion (vv. 13-16), and politics (vv. 17-20) — and argued that none were designed to bear the weight of ultimate hope. Which of these do you find most tempting to anchor your security in, and why?
4. **Read Lamentations 4:13 together.** Kevin connected the failure of Jerusalem's religious leaders honestly to church scandals today. How have you experienced the church letting you down? How do you hold the tension between needing Christian community and not placing your ultimate hope in it?
5. **Read Lamentations 4:11 and Lamentations 3:22 side by side.** God's wrath is "fully used up" in 4:11, while his compassions in 3:22 never run out. What does it mean to you that his wrath has a bottom but his love does not?
6. **Read Lamentations 4:22 together.** One line of hope out of forty-four. Kevin closed with Augustine: "*The heart is restless until it finds rest in you.*" Where is your heart currently resting? How can your Community Group pray for you as you sit with that question?

Key Takeaways

- Lamentations 4 dismantles every misplaced hope — wealth, religion, and politics all collapse
 - God's wrath has a bottom; his love and compassion do not
 - The repeated phrase "my people" suggests God himself is grieving — the judge weeping over his own verdict
 - The church is meant to *point* toward hope, not *be* the object of it
 - The question is not *whether* we hope, but *where* we place it
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Notes