



Mustard Sermon Discussion Questions - July 25, 2021

Scripture Passages:

Proverbs 13:12 (NLT) Hope deferred makes the heart sick.

2 Corinthians 1:8 (NLT) We think you ought to know, dear brothers and sisters, about the trouble we went through in the province of Asia. We were crushed and overwhelmed beyond our ability to endure, and we thought we would never live through it.

Matthew 26:38 (NLT) He told them, “My soul is crushed with grief to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

Lamentations 3:18-20 (NLT) I cry out, “My splendor is gone! Everything I had hoped for from the Lord is lost!” The thought of my suffering and homelessness is bitter beyond words. I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss.

Jeremiah 17:9 (NLT) “The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?”

Lamentations 3:21 (NLT) Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT) ...You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body.

Lamentations 3:21-24 (NLT) Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Jeremiah 3:24 From childhood we have watched as everything our ancestors worked for—their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters—was squandered on a delusion.

Psalm 42:11 (NIV84) Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Lamentations 3:18 (NIV84) So I say, “My splendor is gone and all that I had hoped from the Lord.”

Lamentations 3:24 (NIV84) I say to myself, “The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him.”

Warm Up:

Throughout this series we have been talking all about faith. Who are some of your biblical heroes of faith? Why? Who are some of your current heroes of faith? Why?

Discussion:

1) Pastor Tom described faith as *his connection to God* and *his direction from God*.

Do you think you could have connection to God and receive direction from God without faith? Explain. What are some ways you experience faith impacting these two areas of your life?

2) In the beginning of his message, Pastor Tom talked about how important hope is—even to the extent of life or death.

What are some things you naturally put your hope in? What are some things you think our culture places its hope in? How might faith and hope be connected?

3) Read Lamentations 3:18-20.

What stands out most to you? Why? Has there been a time in your life when you could relate to the words of Jeremiah?

4) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

There is a connection between faith and our emotions... I am talking about paying attention to what I am feeling so I can love myself, love others and love God, through faith.

How have you seen your emotions effect your love? How might acknowledging your emotions make a way to lean into your faith and hope in Jesus?

5) Pastor Tom said, *“If hope is going to be found in our power, our ambitions, our plan, our will—then we have no hope.”*

What passages of scripture do you see supporting this idea? How have you seen this in your own life?

6) Excerpt from Pastor Tom:

I think sometimes I lose hope because I lose faith. I get turned around. I start to attach faith to my requests.

What requests might you be attaching to your faith? How do you see this in the culture around us? How might hopelessness be a result of faith attached to requests?

7) Read Lamentations 3:21-23. Where is Jeremiah placing his hope? What encouragement might you find in these verses?

Next Steps:

In his message, Pastor Tom taught the SASHET exercise for identifying emotions.

Sad

Angry

Sensitive

Happy

Excited

Tender

Take some time this week while you're alone, with family, or with friends to talk through the SASHET exercise of identifying current emotions. How might the emotions you're feeling be impacting your love of yourself, love of others and love of God?

Lamentations 3:21-23 Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the Lord never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness; his mercies begin afresh each morning.

Take some time to read over this passage this week. Let it be your prayer.