

Family TableTalk

Conversation 91

Remember And Hope!

read

Lamentations 3:19-24

think

My dad was known for giving directions through little sayings and proverbs he would repeatedly use to hammer home lessons on life. “Privileges come with responsibility”, he would tell me when directing me to complete some kind of unpleasant work assignment around the house. “Don’t put off until tomorrow what you can do today” was a constant reminder against procrastination. The two words “immediate obedience” usually came after I had ignored him, which also wound up being right before announcing some kind of punishment.

“Sow the wind and you will reap a whirlwind” is a proverb from Hosea 8:7. It means that if you engage in habits that are foolish (“sow the wind”), you will find yourself lost in a storm of negative consequences (“reap a whirlwind”). Because they forgot God and engaged in the worship of idols, the people of Jerusalem suffered the whirlwind of being overrun in ways that destroyed both their city and the temple that had been central to their worship of God. The short Old Testament Book of Lamentations recounts these events and their consequences. It is a book filled with expressions of lament (sorrow, grief, loss, pain, and regret), thus the name. The book was recited, prayed, and sung by the people as a way to express their sadness and confess their sin.

But it doesn’t stop there. It is also a book filled with great hope. In Lamentations 3:19-24 we find an expression of truth for all time and all lives. . . including for you and for me! In the midst of reaping the consequences of loss and grief that come from sowing foolishness in our lives, God does not turn His back on us. The writer asks God to remember all that he has suffered as a result of his sin. He is haunted by it all, and he can only bow down before God in humility (v. 20). Then, he remembers the unceasing love, mercy, and faithfulness of God and he is able to look past his difficulties and focus with hope on his future. Here’s the great news: God never changes, and His forgiveness renews and restores those who repent by admitting and turning from their sin!

apply

- The writer of Lamentations did not have the advantage or knowledge we have of living life under the Lordship of our risen Redeemer, Jesus Christ. Discuss this question: How should living now change our perspective on God’s love, mercy, and forgiveness?
- Have you ever been in a circumstance or period of life where you felt that hope was lost? Describe the circumstance. Were you able to “call to mind” any truths about God’s mercy, and faithfulness? And if so, how did that change your perspective? How can you prepare now to lean into God as the only source of hope in the future?
- Go to YouTube and find a version of the old hymn, “Great Is Thy Faithfulness.” Play it and listen carefully to the words. Then, play it again, this time singing along as a family. It might be a bit awkward at first if you’ve never done this before, but give it a try!

pray

Almighty God, we confess that far too many times we fail to remember that you are, in fact, Almighty God. We recognize that because we live in a sinful and broken world, we are prone to wander and leave You, the One we claim to love. Help us to fill our minds with the truths your word speaks about you, and may your Spirit bring to mind those truths in ways that reap great hope. In the name of our Rescuer, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

by **Walt Mueller**

Walt Mueller is the President of the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. To access Walt’s blogs, podcasts, and other resources, visit cpyu.org.

cpyu.org  **CPYU**
CENTER FOR PARENT/YOUTH UNDERSTANDING

© 2020 Center For Parent/Youth Understanding