

ULC Sermon Study Resource
His Mercy Is More // The Rod of His Wrath
Pastor Gabe Kasper
March 13, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is your go-to comfort food?

Reading: Lamentations 3:1-18

Outline:

- I. Darkness v. 1-6
 - a. Jeremiah points out that it's not a matter of if but when we face dark times in our life, and these trials can grow us deeper towards God, but drive many away from Him
 - b. When we do the former, it's painful because we are disabused of our disillusion of God
Q: How do we get in our own way of growing in the midst of pain?
- II. Disorientation v. 7-9
 - a. On top of the pain in our darkness, we often become disoriented because our understanding of God and his plan are no longer clear
 - b. Our happy illusion of God as love, good, and for us shatters in these times to reveal the reality of a God who meets us in our despair
Q: What illusions do or did you have about God?
- III. Despair v. 16-18
 - a. These verses reflect a point of raw emptiness, the lowest of lows... true despair. Yet this is where God is closest to Jeremiah and can reveal His character most
 - b. This world will never be void of pain and suffering, but that points us back to Christ because we're able to recognize what He went through and the true cost of our sin
Q: How does this reminder of our dependency on Christ's sacrifice ease our pain?

Reflection/Application Questions:

- 1) How have you ever been disappointed by God?
- 2) How can these disappointments be one of the biggest threats to our faith?
- 3) In what ways do you try to change God?
- 4) How does changing the view of our God change the view of our problems?
- 5) What memories of painful times do you have, and how have they shaped your faith?

Suggestions for further study:

- Job 19:21 **Q: How does Job not lose faith in the midst of a series of extreme trials?**
- Psalm 71:20 **Q: What does deliverance from past trials do for current trials?**
- Isaiah 53:3 **Q: How do our trials connect us to Christ's experience on earth?**

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, sometimes things get dark and hard. Sometimes you seem distant, far off, and an enemy against us. In those moments Lord, we're tempted to fall away and run from you. Yet as we look at the cross, we see that you're the one who has run to us and come for us. Lord, may you keep our eyes focused on our Savior. Even in our moments of darkness, may we hold on to the one who entered into that place to bring us into your light. In his holy name we pray, Amen.