

1. What *emotions* arise in you?
2. Whose voice do you hear? What is the imagery being used?
3. What is the primary complaint (lament)?
4. How is God perceived?
5. What is the primary request?

Sermon notes:



Listen
&
LAMENT

Lament gives credence to what people are actually experiencing in real life, and the space to either express it, or be present as a witness to it. The practice of corporate lament during worship services and other smaller gatherings, is also a way of acknowledging our collective shortcomings and wrong doings.

Lament confronts the sub-text of church-going, *Christians are happy and without care*, held up by the scaffolding of shiny shoes, well-groomed hair, effortful smiles, and hollow “how are you?” greetings.

To lament is not to be without hope. On the contrary, working through the many and varied aspects of biblical lament provides a deeper understanding of God and faith. Lament paves the way for hope.

If it is in these times memories are indelibly imprinted, perhaps new memories, of relationship, sacrifice, hope, Jesus and His cross, will form and be recalled, as we *Listen and Lament*.

This series is inspired by one of my professors, Soong-Chan Rah, and his book, *Prophetic Lament*.¹

¹ Soong-Chan Rah, *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2015), 224 pages.