

READING GUIDE:

DAY 1: II Sam. 1.

DAY 2: Lamentations 1.

DAY 3: Lamentations 2.

DAY 4: Lamentations 3.

DAY 5: Lamentations 4.

DAY 6: Lamentations 5.

1. What in your mind makes for a “good” funeral? Identify some positive elements that you have observed at funerals.

2. Confronted with the News:
 - A. What did David and his men do in reaction to the news of the death of Saul and Jonathan, and the corresponding defeat of Israel’s army (see II Sam. 1:11-12)?

 - B. How do you think they felt?

 - C. How did you react the last time you received news that someone you knew had died?

3. The Power and Benefit of LAMENT.

Lamentation gives voice to sorrow. In Israel’s tradition, the poem was a powerful vehicle to express the grief a soul experienced. A poem, crafted by an individual, publicly presented, and then offered to God as an act of worship becomes a tool to integrate an individual with the harsh realities of life. A poem of lament is spoken to God, so it is both a venting of sorrow and an expression of faith.

Read through David’s lament (II Sam. 1:19-27) then answer the following. . .

 - A. How does David express his respect for the Saul, and the tragedy of his death?

 - B. How does David express his love for Jonathan and the sense of loss he feels?

 - C. What benefit would be gained by teaching this lament to the men of Judah (vs. 18)?

4. Grief in the Light of Christ.
 - A. Note what circumstances led the Lord Jesus to grieve in the following references.
 1. Matt. 14:12-13:
 2. John 11:33-35:
 3. Matt. 26:36-46:

 - B. Jesus said, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Matt 5:4)
Might we assume from this passage that without mourning, comfort is delayed?

 - C. As believers, we are not, “To grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.” (I Ths. 4:13) Why?