

"INVITATION TO LAMENT"

Date: June 28, 2020

Speaker: Danny Clinton

KALEIDOSCOPE
a kessid teaching series

****IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT****

"Please be aware that this weekend's message will involve difficult topics that may require additional conversations and processing."

The goal of our Kaleidoscope Series is to build upon the existing foundations that have already made Kessid into a 'House of Conversation', and as a community sit together in, and learn about the always controversial topic of injustice, racial injustice specifically.

Definition:

Laments - "Prayers of Petition rising out of need."

- Lament is inviting God's presence to the present...

The Bible records several reasons why people lament...

- We lament when we grieve over the loss of someone or something dear to us.
- We lament in prayer when our hearts are broken.
- We lament when we feel helpless in our situations.

We have all these reasons and more...

- We even have an entire book in the Bible called "Lamentations."
- Full of verses like... (Vs) Lamentations 3:39-40 - *"Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins? Let us test and examine our ways and return to the Lord!"*
- And yet, we are often quite bad it.

Rachael Denhollander said..."One of the areas where Christians don't do well is in acknowledging the devastation of the wound. We can tend to gloss over the devastation of any kind of suffering... with Christian platitudes like 'God works all things together for good,' or 'God is sovereign.' Those are very good and glorious Biblical truths, but when they are misapplied in a way to dampen the horror of evil, they ultimately dampen the goodness of God..."

“Goodness and darkness exist as opposites. If we pretend that the darkness isn’t dark, it dampens the beauty of the light.”

Jesus laments, hanging from the cross, He cries out...

- *“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?”*
- In those words, we find the peace to embrace our own fear of abandonment and despair.
- If Jesus can cry out to the Father, I can too.
- (Vs) John 20:24-29 – “Jesus and Thomas”
- In Jesus’s revelation of His wounds to Thomas, we find the courage to share our own.

The revelation of Jesus’s wounds is an invitation for us to lament and bear witness to our own wounds, and to continue naming the systems of harm all around us.

- This is why it is so important!

“It would seem that, quite possibly, the ultimate measure of health in any community might well reside in our ability to stand in awe at what folks have to carry rather than judging how they carry it.” – Gregory Boyle

There will not be a quick end to the stories of abuse...

- The question is, “How will we as a community care for the wounds that have been inflicted?”
- How will we hold onto the glorious truths of goodness while also holding those who weep close to us?
- Sitting with questions like these allows us as Christ followers to take some of the very first steps forward INTO community with others who hurt, and so, in a sense, pour the Lord’s Blessings over both our lives and theirs.
- Are you able to receive that blessing for the things in your own life that need lamenting...?
- Are you able to pour that same blessing, through lamenting, into the lives of others?