Songs in the Night

The path to maturity

Suffering is an essential and normal experience as we mature in our relationship with Jesus Christ

Hebrews 5:8

Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered.

Hebrews 5:7

In the days of His flesh, <u>He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears</u> to the One able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His piety.

Lament

a prayer in pain that reaffirms our trust in God

Mark Vroegop, "Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy"

Elements of a lament?

1. A point of anguish

2. An "extended" complaint

3. A petition to God to act

4. A declaration of confidence in God

Psalm 10

The point of anguish

Psalm 10 vs. 1

Why, Lord, do you stand far off?
Why do you **hide yourself in times of trouble**?

Two ways to live

1. <u>**independence**</u> **from God**

2. <u>**dependence**</u> **on God**

The complaint

Psalm 10 vs. 2 – 11

2. In his arrogance the wicked man hunts down the weak, who are caught in the schemes he devises.

3. He boasts about the cravings of his heart; he blesses the greedy and reviles the Lord.

4. In his pride the wicked man does not seek him; in all his thoughts there is no room for God.

5. His ways are always prosperous; your laws are rejected by him; he sneers at all his enemies.

The God-<u>independent</u> person

The prosperity of the wicked seems to contradict the promises of God

(Joshua 1 vs. 8)

6. He says to himself, "Nothing will ever shake me." He swears, "No one will ever do me harm."

Songs in the Night

Your hands and feet gives expression to what your heart believes

7. His mouth is full of lies and threats; trouble and evil are under his tongue.

8. He lies in wait near the villages; from ambush he murders the innocent. His eyes watch in secret for his victims;

9. like a lion in cover he lies in wait. He lies in wait to catch the helpless; he catches the helpless and drags them off in his net.

10. His victims are crushed, they collapse; they fall under his strength.

11. He says to himself, "God will never notice; he covers his face and never sees."

The God-<u>independent</u> person

1. Governed by their appetite

2. Ends justify the means

3. False confidence

The petition

Unbelief is our greatest temptation in times of pain and anxiety

The God-<u>**dependent**</u> person

1. Turns to the Lord in all situations

12. <u>Arise, Lord! Lift up your hand</u>, O God. Do not forget the helpless.

13. Why does the wicked man revile God? Why does he say to himself, "He won't call me to account"?

14. But you, God, see the trouble of the afflicted; you consider their grief and take it in hand. The victims commit themselves to you; you are the helper of the fatherless.

The God-**<u>dependent</u>** person

1. Turns to God in all situations

2. Calls on God to intervene

15. <u>Break the arm of the wicked man; call the evildoer to account</u> for his wickedness that would not otherwise be found out.

The confidence in God

The God-<u>dependent</u> person

1. Turns to God in all situations

2. Calls on God to intervene

3. Is confident that God hears them

16. The Lord is King for ever and ever; the nations will perish from his land.
17. You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you **listen to their cry**,

18. defending the fatherless and the oppressed, so that mere earthly mortals will never again strike terror.

Songs in the Night

16. <u>The Lord is King for ever and ever</u>; the nations will perish from his land.

Hebrews 5:7

In the days of His flesh, He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to the One able to save Him from death, and <u>He was heard</u> because of His piety.

How will you lament?

1. Do you see the injustices?

2. How will you cry out to God?

3. What are you asking God to do?

4. Do you trust that God will act?