



Grain

“Seems to me every day I have the blues. I have the blues every day.” B. B. King

Field

1 How lonely sits the city that once was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she that was great among the nations! She that was a princess among the provinces has become a vassal. 2 She weeps bitterly in the night, with tears on her cheeks; among all her lovers she has no one to comfort her; all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they have become her enemies. 3 Judah has gone into exile with suffering and hard servitude; she lives now among the nations, and finds no resting place; her pursuers have all overtaken her in the midst of her distress. 4 The roads to Zion mourn, for no one comes to the festivals; all her gates are desolate, her priests groan; her young girls grieve, and her lot is bitter. Lamentations 1:1-6

Thoughts

Why do people like the blues or any type of music filled with sadness? Sometimes I want to hear words that pull me in to the lament already buried in my heart. What about you? Do you remember music you listened to repeatedly after a loss? The lyrics maybe unearthed grief or a concern. Country and pop songs do the same for some people, the music in classical for others. For entering into communal grief how about folk music? Peter Mulvey wrote in 2014, “I’m asking you to have some compassion for young dead Michael Brown, and for his family, and for his city, and for the man who shot him down... and most especially for the next child we know will fall.”

We seek voices that create openings for us to realize our personal loss and sense of injustice in our communities and world. The book of Lamentations provides that kind of space. After Jerusalem had been destroyed and many were forced into exile, some remained in areas surrounding Jerusalem. The remnant still experienced profound displacement and vulnerability to being forced into servitude. They joined together in lament over the destruction, but with hope as people whose God remained with them regardless of their circumstances. Lamentations is a book we can return to today as we are bombarded with problems and suffering in the news or in our own lives. Recently, at our rally on anti-sex trafficking, we heard about the immense trauma victims experience; and so, someone caught in prostitution under 18 should not be re-victimized with jail. We need lament over the injustices of trafficking, and responses that reflect that children matter. At the rally, Dana World-Patterson spoke with the refrain, “She matters” when talking about how so many children are treated as though they do not.

I want joyful music in my life and at other times the blues. Sometimes we need space to recognize our own grief and the traumas holding back children of God from knowing who they are. May you be graced with the scripture and music you need to hear. Happy Monday!

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy