

EC05
the lost language of lament - Michael Card
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thoughts on:

Job

- Job is a book we back flip into traditionally
- the bible is a journey
- Psalm 1 - a celebration of the law, if i'm good God blesses me, if i'm bad God disses me
- with my daughter being 18 wouldn't it be tragic if our relationship was still based on if you do wrong i whack you, if you are good i'll give you an m&m, but that is what our relationship with God stays at
- Psalm 1 to 150 are mostly laments
- "blessed is the man who bathes his feet in the blood of the enemy
- gotta deal with, no more back flips
- Psalm 1 to 150 is the same journey of Job
- all of a sudden, he's been righteous and not being blessed.. the equation is not working
- he enters into Lament
 - anger
 - confusion
- he loses his children and the first thing he does is "worship"
- in the context of, they are all gone, he still falls down to worship
- mc: "i still don't know what worship is"
- worship - his worth-ship
- "let my people go so that they may worship me in the wilderness"
- Israel found out what God was worth in the wilderness
- i am glad that there's stuff about the bible that bothers me
- read Job not about who's right and who's wrong, it's about faithfulness
- see it as a frustrated lamenter
- Job changes talking too God and begins more and more talking about God
- new name for God, You
- it's not about wisdom, it's about the inadequacy of wisdom
- Job is about the inadequacy of the equation, he's righteous and he's suffering
- miracles of Job
 - the movement of God is a miracle, he's moved by Job's tears
 - Job's realizations, as he struggles with his sufferings and theologizes his friends, whom become his enemy... Job 9:33 if only there could be someone who can stand between me and God and lay a hand on both of them. 16: 19 out of his suffering he said "i know my advocate is on high"
- the throne room scene
 - Jesus says, peter "i pray for you" ...
 - paul: you can't take the place or touch what he's (Jesus) has done
- lament becomes the means by which, he holds onto God
- the worst thing i say to God is not, i don't love you, the worst thing is "i don't need you" ..
- lament is how we hold onto God

David

- wilderness

- gallatin road is the major road and a wrecker burst into flames and i said “i didn’t do it”
 - connect with David emotionally
 - when Samuel comes to anoint David, he finds David, just like cinderella.. they hadn’t even called for David, he’s in the wilderness watching the sheep. God tells Samuel, that’s him.. Man looks at the outside, but God looks at the heart, shaped in the wilderness
 - sad life, surrounded by enemies
 - in his lament songs, enemies are always there
 - David’s friends are telling him the same thing as Job
 - so he laments, the hate for his enemies
 - 2 Samuel 1, he writes for two enemies the same as friends who’ve died
 - David had offered up the worst hatred he had in his heart up to God
 - we can’t love our enemies unless we recognize our enemies, and we do have enemies
 - we offer up our hate to God, as Jesus says to love our enemies
- Suffering through Contrition
 - Psalm 51 - bathsheba, the journey from realization to where the equation doesn’t work
 - Psalm 51 - a lament of contrition, he’s incomplete, You create in me a clean heart
 - he says, the only thing he has left is what God always wanted, a broken spirit and contrite heart
 - all the laments (except one) become praise (88 is the only one)
 - all laments eventually turn into a life of praise, they resolve, but there is not formula
 - confusion, the person who wrote the first four or five verses, are these the same that wrote the last ones??
 - they lament and lament and then they go into the house of God and praise
- there is a whole group of people that have been unable to connect in our worship services. and that is why stuff like this is important. they are in our churches and we have got to make a place for us. not to be made 2nd in our circle. must make a place for those who need a lament.
 - can we start to sing laments
 - read laments
 - in the black church their is some place for lament, in the old spirituals
 - don’t just send to the counselor
 - make a place because we have something to offer God, and if we read the psalms right, God wants it
- Jesus
 - paul in colossians says everything holds together in Jesus
 - anything that is true or has meaning comes together in this one perfect life that we will have a look at
 - if anything is ultimately true i can flee to the life of Jesus and find it
 - Presence
 - if the answer is not in lament then it is in presence. God is with us, it’s incarnate his presence to us, fully God
 - his contemporaries continually asked for provisions. you did this last week can you do that this week?
 - he provides for people to the point of exhaustion
 - mark 3 & mark 6 he’s so tired and hasn’t eaten
 - most never understood that he came to give them himself
 - didn’t come to give us truth, he came to make us truth
 - hessid - the beloved life

- when the person from whom i have the right to expect nothing gives me everything
 - when David describes Jonathon's love he describes it as hessid(?)
- Jesus spends most of his ministry defining this word, good samaritan, the prodigal son.. he had rings on his fingers and cloaks before he was even done with his speech.
- the equation doesn't need to work anymore
- the threads of Lament come together in Jesus. the presence of God. Logos, is really another name for hessid(?)
- closing image: triumphal entry, he's on his way and they stop long enough to find a colt. if he were to have a war horse then you are in trouble. it's an ancient symbol. they can't imagine the death of Christ. the scene of the crowd of people who are very religious and very enthusiastic, but in the midst is Jesus and he is away of a reality that no one else is aware of. Jesus is weeping as they are worship, he's lamenting. "come be with me in the garden, i'm so sorrowful that i am about to die.."
- there is a lot of religious enthusiasm around us, but not enough of us are aware of or we would be lamenting to worship God well.
- Q&A
 - laments in intercession prayer, soldiers, children, etc.
 - lament is hard to enter into.. how can we reintroduce lament?