

## Reflection Questions: Lamentations 5

For the message, "Restore Us To Yourself, O Lord" given by Pastor John Ferguson  
at New City Church of Calgary on April 10, 2017

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*These discussion questions are designed primarily to help you apply the message from the Scriptures by helping you think through application to your personal life, your church life, and your city's life. You can use these by yourself for reflection, or with your family or small group for discussion. To review the sermon, go to [NewCityChurch.ca/sermons](http://NewCityChurch.ca/sermons)*

### **INTRODUCTION**

**Pray.** Take a moment to pray asking God to guide you in reflecting upon the Scripture text.

**Read the Scripture text:** Lamentations 5

**A summary of the sermon:** The Poet brings this book to a limping close with his 5th poem written in the wake of the destruction of Jerusalem in 587/6BC by the Babylonians. This occurred after decades of internal moral decay of the nation that God chose to bring blessing/salvation to this world. The Poet calls on God to "remember" how they have fallen, and gives voice to repentance for the nation. "Woe to us, for we have sinned....Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored."

### **Key Quotes:**

- Jeremiah 31:31ff, "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant... I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."
- RC Sproul, *The Holiness of God*, "The slightest sin is an act of defiance against cosmic authority. It is a revolutionary act, a rebellious act where we are setting ourselves in opposition to the One to whom we owe everything."
- Cf. Ps. 73, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire besides you."

### **Bottom Line:**

- "The way things are are not the way things have to be." ~ *The Justice Calling*

### **QUESTIONS**

#### **1. How does this text apply to your life?**

- What grabs your attention in this text? What do you see and hear that you find noteworthy.
- In verse 16, the Poet says, "Woe to us, for we have sinned!" One commentator said the these words are "perhaps the most concise condensing of the essence of repentance in Scripture."
  - How do these words help you to speak with integrity to the Lord?
  - What place should ongoing repentance have in the life of the follower of Jesus? What would that look like?
- How does verse 21, "Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored!" help you understand grace and mercy?

#### **2. How does this text apply to us as a church community?**

- How does this passage serve as a reminder that the church is called to be a "holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness and into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

- What is the cost if we are not a “holy nation”? In other words, what is lost if we ignore the message?

**3. How does this text apply to our city?**

- How would lament enhance our witness to our city?
- How does this text challenge the thinking of our city?
- What kind of me does God want for his mission?

**CONCLUSION QUESTION**

What is the one thing you want to take away from this study to remember or to make a change in your life?

**PRAYER**

What are some ways you can turn what you are learning into prayer? List them as bullet points....

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