

October 6 | Sermon Notes



Message discussion: What stood out to you in this week's message? Questions? A way God moved you to respond?

Passage reflection: Acts 8:1-8; 2 Corinthians 1:3-7; 2 Corinthians 4:7-11. What stands out to you in these verses? Is there something you hear God saying to you? How can you respond to what He is saying?

lament: a passionate expression of grief or sorrow; a prayer expressing sorrow, pain, or confusion

Some devout men buried Stephen, and made loud lamentation over him. (Acts 8:2)

1. There are many songs of lament in the Book of Psalms. Read Psalm 42. What complaints does the psalmist bring to the Lord? Is it okay for us to bring our unfiltered complaints to God, or is that a lack of faith in His goodness?

2. If Stephen was a leader in your church and was brutally murdered because of his faith in Jesus, how would you respond? Would you try and make "sense" of what happened, or would you lean into lament?

3. The men who buried Stephen lamented <u>together</u>. Is there a trial in your life that you still carry in your heart and need to lament with God and other believers?

...cast <u>ALL</u> your anxieties on Him, because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7) Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you... (Psalm 55:22)

4. Paul said that we are "perplexed, but not driven to despair." If there is a burden that still leaves your heart perplexed because it is just not the way things should have happened, express your feelings in writing to the Lord as a prayer of lament.