

St. John's Baptist Church
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Senior Pastor: Rev. Dr. Larry Edmunds,
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PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF LAMENTATIONS

The book of 'Lamentations' teaches how to face suffering, grief, and pain that are the result of punishment for sin.

The book of "Job" teaches us how to face suffering, grief, and pain that are undeserved or is not related to sin. This suffering, grief, and pain is purposed to refine our character in Jesus Christ.

But, we are people of questions and curiosity and when experiencing suffering, grief, and pain we usually seek to learn and understand WHY or WHY ME! We want to make "human sense" out of what is happening. Thus, we ask God questions such as:

- What did I do to deserve this?
- Where is this trouble coming from (God; It is of my own doing; or Satan)?
- Why is this happening? Why is God allowing this to happen to me?
- When will it stop?
- How can I stop the hurt?

In God's economy (His system of power to dispense perfection that we as Christians are required to follow and become) He knows what is best for us and provides it or allows it. Sometimes His perfecting of us (making us like Jesus Christ) brings about suffering, grief, and pain. But in all of these, God is with us. We are not alone.

The reasons for undeserved suffering, grief, and pain are:

- **TO ALERT US**
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- **TO DIRECT US**
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- **TO SHAPE US**
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- **TO UNITE US**