

When Disaster Strikes
Lamentations 3:1-24

Review:

1. When we suffer because of the sins of others, we can remember Jesus had the same experience.
2. We must not let go of the fact that God is sovereign even over the worst of our sufferings.
3. Our hope is not in changing our circumstances, but in the Lord's compassion, faithfulness, and covenant-keeping love.

Reflect:

1. Have you ever suffered because of other people's sinful decisions? How did you feel about that?
2. How does the knowledge that Jesus suffered the consequences of other people's sinful decisions help to put your own difficulties into perspective?

Go Further: Read Daniel 3

1. Describe the image that Nebuchadnezzar set up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon.
2. Who did Nebuchadnezzar summon to the dedication of the statue?
3. According to verse 5, what signal would be given to the assembly? What were all the people to do when they received the signal?
4. What penalty does verse 6 describe for those who refused to comply?
5. Who does verse 8 say made an accusation?
6. Who does verse 12 say were accused? What were they accused of failing to do?
7. How did Nebuchadnezzar threaten the three men in verse 15?
8. Who did Nebuchadnezzar think could deliver the three from the power of his threats?
9. According to verse 16, what did the three insist they did not need to do?
10. According to verse 17, who did the three friends insist could deliver them from Nebuchadnezzar's punishment? What did they predict would happen to them?
11. According to verse 18, what did the three refuse to do even if the Lord did not deliver them?
12. How does verse 19 describe Nebuchadnezzar's reaction to the three friends' statements?
13. What did he command be done to the fiery furnace?
14. What did he order to be done to the three friends?
15. According to verse 22, what happened to the men who carried out Nebuchadnezzar's orders?
16. What did Nebuchadnezzar and his officials see inside the furnace in verse 25?
17. What did Nebuchadnezzar order the three friends to do in verse 26?
18. According to verse 27, what affect did the fire have on the three friends?
19. According to verse 28, Who did Nebuchadnezzar give credit for the three friends' deliverance?
20. How did Nebuchadnezzar describe the faithfulness of the three friends?
21. What command did Nebuchadnezzar make concerning the God of the three friends?

Summary and Application:

1. The three friends said they did not need to answer the accusations leveled against them. How does this foreshadow Jesus' experience when He stood before the religious and political rulers who accused Him? What does this say about the power of God when compared to human authorities?

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2. The three friends suffered because of their faithfulness to God, but the Lord protected them in the midst of their suffering. How does their experience help to explain your own sufferings? What hope does it give you?