

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Grace for the Disgraced

### Speaker:

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### Date:

October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

### Scriptures:

Lamentations 5

**Theme:** Take your disgrace to the Lord and cast yourself upon his mercy.

**Introduction:** We are not meant to be comfortable with God's wrath. It should unsettle us. There are two very different varieties of discomfort with his wrath. The first is discomfort with the judgment of God and the seeming injustice of it, through a therapeutic and feminist lens. The second kind of discomfort comes from faithfully reading God's Word, as sinners recognize that God's wrath is just and is aimed at those outside of Christ. The book of Lamentations has pressed this kind of discomfort upon us, and it calls us to face the reality of our sin.

Lamentations 5 can be broken into three parts:

### 1. Disgrace, one by one (1–10)

- Verse 1 begins with a cry to the Lord with three imperatives: "*Remember, O Lord...look and see...*"
- Verses 2-9 then give us a list of the disgraces they are enduring: their inheritance is gone to strangers, they have become orphans and widows, their pursuers are at their necks, slaves rule them, and they starve.
- In every category of life, disgrace was evident in Jerusalem.

### 2. Disgrace for all (11–18)

- The communal lament turns to how various groups are suffering.
- The victims are women, nobles, elders, and young men. The parallels to modern day America are numerous.
- Verse 15 summarizes the condition of all: "The joy of our hearts has ceased; our dancing has been turned to mourning."

### 3. Mercy to the disgraced (19–22)

- Life is hard—everyone has difficulty of some kind.
- When hardship comes, our hope is always revealed.
- Two things are certain: (1) you will turn somewhere in your troubles, and (2) there is only one true Savior who can deliver you from every evil.
- Verse 19 is the foundation of all hope for those who know the Lord.

### Questions:

1. What parallels do you see between Jerusalem and America?
2. Where do you turn when life is hard? What does this reveal about your hope?
3. What does Christ's mercy offer you in your hardships and disgrace?