

Sermon Title: My Worship Will Not Be Silenced**By: Pastor Ross Owens**

Scripture: [Lamentations 3:19-24 NIV] - *I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore, I will wait for Him."*

Definitions:**BIBLICAL LAMENT:**

A faithful response to suffering that brings our pain honestly into the presence of God. It is not the absence of faith. It is faith refusing to walk away from God in the middle of suffering.

GRUMBLING:

Unlike lamenting which brings the complaint to God, grumbling fixates on what is wrong.

PROCESSING:

Processing pain with God means naming what hurts, bringing it honestly into His presence, and allowing the Holy Spirit to meet us in our weakness. "Lord, that hurt me more than I want to admit. Help me respond in a way that honors You."

THE HEART (in Scripture):

More than only the seat of emotion, the heart is the inner person, one's thinking, will and understanding.

HESED LOVE:

Steadfast, loyal, merciful and covenantal love and faithfulness.

HOPE:

In Lamentations 3:21, 'hope' carries the idea of waiting. See also verse 24.

HOPE-FILLED WORSHIP:

Based not on an easy life, but on the truth that God is faithful. It does not require a resolution; we worship not because we can see the outcome, but because we know the One who holds us in the middle of it. We worship not because every question has been answered, but because the steadfast love of the Lord has not ceased. It does not wait for life to get easier before it praises God.

FAITH STILL HAS A VOICE.

My Worship Will Not Be Silenced
Discussion Questions
September 27, 2026

WARM-UPS:

1. What do you enjoy about autumn? How do you celebrate the fall season?
2. Which book of Scripture do you find most comforting? How do you utilize those verses to help you worship in tough times?

DISCUSSION:

1. What did you learn about handling difficulties when you were young? Has your perspective changed? What brought about that change?
2. Why is grumbling dangerous?
3. What is the benefit to 'remembering one's affliction' or 'calling it to mind'? What is your practice to ensure that you are not consumed when you do so?
4. Pastor Ross reminded us that "Hope filled worship does not require a resolution." What does that mean to you? Can you cite an instance when the Holy Spirit enabled you to respond with that type of faith?

IN THE WORD:

Examples of lament:

- Psalm 13:1 *How long, Lord...?*
- Psalm 22:1 *My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?*
- Job 10:1 *I speak out in the bitterness...*
- Psalm 142:2 *I pour out before Him my complaint...*

Examples of worship while in distress:

- Psalm 27:5 *For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe.*
- Psalm 27:13 *Surely, I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.*
- Psalm 23:6 *Surely goodness and mercy will follow me.*
- Isaiah 25:4 *For you have been a refuge...a shelter...a shade.*
- Romans 5:3-5 *We rejoice in our sufferings...*
- Philippians 1:20 *Christ may be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.*