

Gentle and Lowly Study Guide

Lesson 7

He does not afflict from his heart, Lamentations 3:33

1. What presuppositions do you have about the difference between the OT and the NT? What differences and similarities do you see in God's character as revealed in the OT and the NT?
2. Lamentations describes the devastating consequences of the rebellion of the Israelites – the punishment of God for their sinfulness. Yet, what does Ortlund consider the literary high point of the book? (pgs. 136-137)
3. In what ways does Lamentations 3:32-33 affirm divine sovereignty (God's supreme control of everything that washes into our lives)? (pgs. 137-138)
4. What does it mean that God does not afflict his people "from his heart" (Lamentations 3:33)? (pgs. 138-141)
5. What does it mean for your own heart and life that judgment is God's "strange" work and mercy his "natural" work? Have you thought of God like this before? (pgs. 142-144)

6. What do you think of when you hear the phrase “the glory of God?” Read Exodus 33:18-19, along with 34:6-7. How does God himself apparently define his glory? How does a text such as Psalm 138:5-6 clarify the point? (pgs. 145-147)

7. Have you considered before that God is said to be “provoked to anger” time after time throughout the Old Testament, but never “provoked to love” or “provoked to mercy?” What does this mean for you right now as you navigate life? (pgs. 148-149)

8. What is the relationship between “keeping steadfast love for thousands” and “visiting the iniquity of the fathers. . . to the third and the fourth generation” (Exodus 34:7)? How does this comfort you? (pgs. 149-150)

9. As you are reading this book, are you letting your own “natural assumption about who God is” melt away? If so, what is replacing it? (pg. 151)

10. How is Exodus 34:6-7 fulfilled in the New Testament? (pgs. 152-153)