

**Learning to Lament**  
**4. Idols exposed! (Lamentations 4)**

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**Introduction**

- *The Bible Project*
- **Four points** as we continue to *learn to lament*:

**Lament doesn't always lead to an easy resolution (ch4)**

- Continuing to lament...

**Lament helps us listen to everyone's story (v1-10)**

- Princes
- Children

**Lament mourns the failures of the church (v11-16)**

- *"The sins of her prophets..."* (v13)

**Lament exposes misplaced trust in our lives (v17-20)**

- Financial security
- Political leaders
- External religion

**Conclusion**

- A note of hope (v21-22)

**Lamentations 4 (NIV)**

- <sup>1</sup> How the gold has lost its luster,  
the fine gold become dull!  
The sacred gems are scattered  
at every street corner.
- <sup>2</sup> How the precious children of Zion,  
once worth their weight in gold,  
are now considered as pots of clay,  
the work of a potter's hands!
- <sup>3</sup> Even jackals offer their breasts  
to nurse their young,  
but my people have become heartless  
like ostriches in the desert.
- <sup>4</sup> Because of thirst the infant's tongue  
sticks to the roof of its mouth;  
the children beg for bread,  
but no one gives it to them.
- <sup>5</sup> Those who once ate delicacies  
are destitute in the streets.  
Those brought up in royal purple  
now lie on ash heaps.
- <sup>6</sup> The punishment of my people  
is greater than that of Sodom,  
which was overthrown in a moment  
without a hand turned to help her.
- <sup>7</sup> Their princes were brighter than snow  
and whiter than milk,  
their bodies more ruddy than rubies,  
their appearance like lapis lazuli.
- <sup>8</sup> But now they are blacker than soot;  
they are not recognized in the streets.

Their skin has shriveled on their bones;  
it has become as dry as a stick.

<sup>9</sup> Those killed by the sword are better off  
than those who die of famine;  
racked with hunger, they waste away  
for lack of food from the field.

<sup>10</sup> With their own hands compassionate women  
have cooked their own children,  
who became their food  
when my people were destroyed.

<sup>11</sup> The LORD has given full vent to his wrath;  
he has poured out his fierce anger.  
He kindled a fire in Zion  
that consumed her foundations.

<sup>12</sup> The kings of the earth did not believe,  
nor did any of the peoples of the world,  
that enemies and foes could enter  
the gates of Jerusalem.

<sup>13</sup> But it happened because of the sins of her prophets  
and the iniquities of her priests,  
who shed within her  
the blood of the righteous.

<sup>14</sup> Now they grope through the streets  
as if they were blind.  
They are so defiled with blood  
that no one dares to touch their garments.

<sup>15</sup> "Go away! You are unclean!" people cry to them.  
"Away! Away! Don't touch us!"  
When they flee and wander about,  
people among the nations say,  
"They can stay here no longer."

<sup>16</sup> The LORD himself has scattered them;  
he no longer watches over them.  
The priests are shown no honor,  
the elders no favor.

<sup>17</sup> Moreover, our eyes failed,  
looking in vain for help;  
from our towers we watched  
for a nation that could not save us.

<sup>18</sup> People stalked us at every step,  
so we could not walk in our streets.  
Our end was near, our days were numbered,  
for our end had come.

<sup>19</sup> Our pursuers were swifter  
than eagles in the sky;  
they chased us over the mountains  
and lay in wait for us in the desert.

<sup>20</sup> The LORD'S anointed, our very life breath,  
was caught in their traps.  
We thought that under his shadow  
we would live among the nations.

<sup>21</sup> Rejoice and be glad, Daughter Edom,  
you who live in the land of Uz.  
But to you also the cup will be passed;  
you will be drunk and stripped naked.

<sup>22</sup> Your punishment will end, Daughter Zion;  
he will not prolong your exile.  
But he will punish your sin, Daughter Edom,  
and expose your wickedness.