

## Take 5!

5 Verses, 5 Questions, 5 Minutes!

Wait, Seek and Hope!



By Mary Kane

Please take a moment to ask God to cleanse your heart from any unrighteousness and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you afresh with His presence.

(The Book of Lamentations was most likely written by the prophet Jeremiah during Nebuchadnezzar's siege of Jerusalem in which most of the people of Jerusalem were carried off into exile.)

Now please read Lamentations 3:22-26.

**Based on verse 22, what does the Lord give us every day?**

He demonstrates His great love and compassion for us. The original word for *mercies* in this verse is the Hebrew word *hesed*. God's *hesed* love for us is the basis every covenant that He has made with mankind. The original word for *compassions* is *racham*, which means, interestingly, "womb, tender love, to love deeply, to have tender affection" (*BLB*, emphasis mine). From this definition we see a hint that God has compassion for us because we are His children, created by His hands while we were still in our mother's womb. He has tender compassion upon us because He remembers that we are dust.

**How often can we receive God's mercy and compassion?**

Like the manna in the wilderness, God's mercy and compassion are fresh every morning—we need only to gather as much as we need!

**Why did the people of Jerusalem have great hope (verse 24)?**

Because God was their *portion*. *Portion* was an important concept in the lives of the Hebrew people. Every tribe was given a *portion* of land in Israel. This land was passed from generation to generation, always remaining within the same tribe. The land was sacred to the people because it was their inheritance from God. The real reason that the land of Israel was sacred was because the Presence of God resided there. While the people had lost their portion of land, they did not lose what was truly important—their *portion* of God!

**According to verse 25 what two things are we to do concerning the Lord?**

In the original language, *wait* means to look eagerly for, to hope or expect, to endure. It also means to stretch, strength, a cord of rope, threads or twisting. We are to wait expectantly for the Lord to act according to His Word. From the definition we can infer that at times, waiting will cause us to grow in our faith, stretching us beyond what we thought we could endure.

We are to wait:

- For His will
- For Him to act
- For His leading
- For His Wisdom
- For His voice
- For His Word
- For His Redemption

The original Hebrew word for *seek* used in the verse is *darash* which means the following (exciting!) things: to read repeatedly, to study, to

frequent a place, to consult or inquire of the word of Yahweh, *to seek with application, practice* (emphasis mine). We are to seek God so we can learn from Him and *apply* what we have learned to our own lives.

**What has God been teaching you that you need to apply to your life?**

Please go back and read verse 26 one more time. God said that we are to *quietly* wait for Him. We are not to fret, complain or whine to others. Our *quiet waiting* is evidence of our faith and trust in God. He will act on our part when it will benefit us the most and bring Him the greatest glory.

By Mary Kane

All rights reserved

Copyright 2010