LEARNING TO LAMENT 2 SAM. 1:17-27

2 Samuel 1:11 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: 2 Samuel 1:12 And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.
2 Samuel 1:17 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son:
1:11-12
1:17

Why lament? What is the purpose of lament?
1. Lament(ing) gives us language for our grief!
Grief = sorrow, loss, pain, suffering…
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2 Samuel 1:18 (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.)

“...It is a vehicle for the mind as well as for the emotion…an expression of thoughtful grief…the intensity of one’s emotions unite with the discipline of one’s mind…In words that convey our anguish, in images that picture our despair, in written prayers that verbalize despondency.”

Dale Ralph Davis

I not only feel something – I can say something about my feelings!

2 Samuel 1:19 The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: How are the mighty fallen!
2 Samuel 1:24 Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, Who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, Who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. 2 Samuel 1:25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 2 Samuel 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: Thy love to me was wonderful, Passing the love of women. 2 Samuel 1:27 How are the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!

Lamentations 2:14 Thy prophets have seen vain and foolish things for thee: And they have not discovered thin enemy to rejoice over thee, He hath caused thine enemies to rejoice over thee, He hath set up the horn of thine enemy to rejoice over thee, He hath set up the horn of thine enemies against thee, And they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places, How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 2 Samuel 1:25 How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. 2 Samuel 1:26 I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: Very pleasant hast thou been unto me: Thy love to me was wonderful, Passing the love of women. 2 Samuel 1:27 How are the mighty fallen, And the weapons of war perished!

Lamentations 2:15 All that pass by clap their hands at thee; They hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth? Lamentations 2:16 All thine enemies have opened their mouth against thee: They hiss and gnash the teeth: they say, We have swallowed her up: Certainly this is the day that we looked for; we have found, we have seen it.
Lamentations 2:17 The L ORD hath done that which he had devised; he hath fulfilled his word that he had commanded in the days of old: He hath thrown down, and hath not pitied: and he hath caused thine enemy to rejoice over thee, He hath set up the horn of thine adversaries. Lamentations 2:18 Their heart cried unto the Lord, O wall of the daughter of Zion, let tears run down like a river day and night: Give thyself no rest; let not the apple of thine eye cease.
Lamentations 5:11 They ravished the women in Zion, And the maidis in the cities of Judah. Lamentations 5:12 Princes are hanged up by their hand: The faces of elders were not honoured. Lamentations 5:13 They took the young men to grind, And the children fell under the wood. Lamentations 5:14 The elderis have ceased from the gate, The young men from their musick. Lamentations 5:15 The joy of our heart is ceased; Our dance is turned into mourning. Lamentations 5:16 The crown is fallen from our head: Woe unto us, that we have sinned! Lamentations 5:17 For this our heart is faint; For these things our eyes are dim. Lamentations 5:18 Because of the mountain of Zion, which is desolate, The foxes walk upon it. Lamentations 5:19 Thou, O L ORD, remainest for ever; Thy throne from generation to generation. Lamentations 5:20 Wherefore dost thou forget us for ever, And forsake us so long time? Lamentations 5:21 Turn thou us unto thee, O L ORD, and we shall be turned; Renew our days as of old. Lamentations 5:22 But thou hast utterly rejected us; Thou art very wroth against us.
Lamentations 5:23 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. Lamentations 3:22 It is of the L ORD’s mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. Lamentations 3:23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:24 The L ORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. Lamentations 3:25 The L ORD is good unto...
them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. Lamentations 3:26 It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the LORD. Lamentations 3:27 It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. 

| O sacred Head, now wounded, with grief and shame weighed down, Now scornfully surrounded with thorns, Thine only crown; O sacred Head, what glory, what bliss till now was Thine! Yet, though despised and gory, I joy to call Thee mine. | What Thou, my Lord, hast suffered, was all for sinners’ gain; Mine, mine was the transgression, but Thine the deadly pain. Lo, here I fall, my Savior! ‘Tis I deserve Thy place; Look on me with Thy favor, vouchsafe to me Thy grace. | What language shall I borrow to thank Thee, dearest friend, For this Thy dying sorrow, Thy pity without end? O make me Thine forever, and should I fainting be, Lord, let me never, never outlive my love to Thee. |

2. Lament(ing) gives us time for our grief

Ecclesiastes 3:1 To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
Ecclesiastes 3:2 A time to be born, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; Ecclesiastes 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to break down, and a time to build up; Ecclesiastes 3:4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance; Ecclesiastes 3:5 A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; Ecclesiastes 3:6 A time to get, and a time to lose; A time to keep, and a time to cast away; Ecclesiastes 3:7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; A time to keep silence, and a time to speak; Ecclesiastes 3:8 A time to love, and a time to hate; A time of war, and a time of peace. Ecclesiastes 3:11 He hath made every thing beautiful in his time....

Esther 9:27 The Jews ordained, and took upon them, and upon their seed, and upon all such as joined themselves unto them, so as it should not fail, that they would keep these two days according to their writing, and according to their appointed time every year; Esther 9:31 To confirm these days of Purim in their times appointed, according as Mordecai the Jew and Esther the queen had enjoined them, and as they had decreed for themselves and for their seed, the matters of the fastings and their cry.

Nehemiah 2:6 And the king said unto me, (the queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time.

Ecclesiastes reminds us about:

- About time
- An appointed time / set time
- Formal time(s) that replace informal / spontaneous times
- That God makes everything beautiful in His time!

3. Lament(ing) gives us closure for our grief

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Thoughts:

- Many struggle with closure
- It might be because they are pressured to find closure / stop...
- Most don’t understand closure
- Most think closure is stopping
- Actually closure is transition:
  From spontaneous to formal
  From outbursts to intentional lamenting
  From this primarily being about you to being primarily about the other person

- Closure is transitioning from 2 Samuel 1:11-12 to 2 Samuel 1:17-18