

The Incomparable God Who Hears Our Cry

Psalm 86

When adversity hits ...

- Where do you turn?
- Whose voice do you trust when fear or anxiety threaten?
- How do we worship in when life hurts?

Ps 86: Individual lament ~ A songwriter's appeal for God's mercy for deliverance from attack, both external and internal threats

1. From Weakness to Wonder: purpose of godly lament (vv. 1–4, 14–17)

- Key truth: Almighty, good God is attentive to the humble. He is compassionate and competent
- Image: Child running to parent and a first responder (see Pastor John's Aug 24 sermon)
- Application: be vulnerable before God; cry with confidence



2. From Distress to Devotion: process of godly lament (vv. 5–7, 11–13)

- Key truth: Lament moves from self-reliance to reliance on God, transforming divided hearts into devotion
- Image: Patient in rehab—pain leads to healing; distress leads to devotion
- Application:
 - Be honest in prayer, name your pain
 - Invite God to transform divided loyalties
 - Ask God to align your heart to and by his way

3. From Fear to Faith: fruit of godly lament (vv. 8–10)

- Key truth: Godly lament shifts fear to faith through humility under God's incomparable greatness. Fruit = seeing personal problems and God's solutions within His larger plan for the nations; submitting to His wise and good purposes

- Illustration: Puzzle piece - random, jagged, and maybe even meaningless, placed within the larger picture

Who is like you, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? (Exodus 15:11).

But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him! For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life! (Romans 5:8-11)

Big Idea

God—good and great—hears our cries, unites our hearts, invites all nations to worship Him

Application

- **In weakness** → Cry out honestly to the God who is both compassionate and competent.
- **In distress** → Walk the process of lament: bring your fears and anxiety, ask God to reveal and transform divided loyalties
- **In uncertainty** → Humbly trust His wise plan, even when the pieces don't fit — knowing Christ's death and resurrection secure our ultimate hope.

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. How do you respond when adversity hits in your life? Do you tend to rely on others or yourself? How does God factor into the mix?
2. How has God demonstrated his attentiveness and mercy in your past struggles? How does that influence your experience to current challenges?
3. David asks God to give him an 'undivided heart' (Ps 86:11). In what areas of your life do you experience divided loyalties—career, comforts, relationships, cultural pressures? What might God growing 'an undivided heart' in you look like in practice, especially amid adversity?
4. As a church community, how can we encourage and support one another in bringing our trials with honesty, vulnerability, and faith before God in prayer?
5. "All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord." (Ps 86:9) How does envisioning this affect your perspective on personal trials and the global church? How can this truth shape your actions and prayers this week?