

The Questions we ask God  
Or How to pray when things don't go well  
October 27, 2017

- Evening prayer.
- The Psalms of Lament: The questions we ask God or how to pray when things don't go well.
- Two misconceptions.
  - Theological.
    - \* Isn't lament like the grumbling of Israel?
    - \* Exodus 17:1-7. Psalm 95.
  - Imaginative.
    - \* What is a pious person?
    - \* Hebrew 5:7-9.
- Lament is praying when life is raw.
  - Psalm 42. Psalm 13. Psalm 142.
- Lament is dwelling in that space between God's goodness and the mess we are in.
  - Lamenters ask questions: Ps 10, 30, 88, 22.
  - How often do we pray like this? Ps. 55
- A personal story of Psalm 6.
- A caution: be prepared for God's response.
  - Job 38:1-7

Questions for discussion:

- What, if anything, did you hear tonight that you really liked?
- What, if anything, did you hear that you didn't like?
- Were there things you heard that were new to you?
- Were there things you heard that were similar to what you thought?
- Are there moments when you have prayed like this?
- Is there anything you'd like to put into practice from what you've heard tonight?