***JON’S SERMON OUTLINE….***

IT IS SOMETHING TO US

*In the days of her affliction and wandering Jerusalem remembers all the treasures that were hers in days of old. When her people fell into enemy hands, there was no one to help her. Her enemies looked at her and laughed at her destruction. Jerusalem has sinned greatly and so has become unclean. All who honored her despise her, for they have seen her nakedness; she herself groans and turns away. Her filthiness clung to her skirts; she did not consider her future. Her fall was astounding; there was none to comfort her. “Look O Lord, on my affliction, for the enemy has triumphed.” The enemy laid hands on all her treasures; she saw pagan nations enter her sanctuary—those You had forbidden to enter Your assembly. All her people groan as they search for bread; they barter their treasures for food to keep themselves alive. “Look, O Lord, and consider, for I am despised.” “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was afflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of His fierce anger?”* Lamentations 1:7-12

Introduction: The Babylonian siege of Jerusalem left the city in ruins. It was a dreadful day. Jeremiah recorded Jerusalem’s funeral song in the book of Lamentations. The eulogy pictures the remains in all its bitterness and misery. Making matters worse was the taunting and humiliation by her enemies. The question arises from the smoldering ashes, “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by?” (Lamentations 1:12). A relevant question that echoes through the annals of history. So, let’s dare to ask it today.

1. THE SUFFERING OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Lamentations 1:1-2):

 a. The taunting from those who pass by (2:15-16).

 b. The taking (plundering) from those who pass by (1:10).

 c. The tragedy of it all is the sin of indifference (1:12).

2. THE SUFFERING OF \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Isaiah 53:3-5):

 a. The agony of our Savior, knowing deep sorrow and grief.

 b. The added pain of our Savior, knowing comfort was available.

 c. The aggravation of our Savior, knowing many do not care.

 d. The aftermath of Jerusalem, knowing people remain indifferent toward suffering.

CONCLUSION: Is it something to you?

Answers: 1. Jerusalem 2. Jesus