

### Darkness without any light

Closing your eyes to play hide-and-seek won't do it. Dropping your lids while doing repetitions on the exercise machine can't accomplish it. Stepping outside on a moonless night may give a smidgeon of it. Just ask your guide for a sample when you visit a cave next time - total darkness.

And that's easy compared with a darkness of mind, a darkness of spirit, a darkness of soul, a darkness of attitude that can grip us in the wake of any good loss. Lamentations has it all - city destroyed, king captured, family members starved to death, temple obliterated, priests unemployed, troops decimated, people removed, prophets silenced, and beggars too - at the command of God. It's the God-thing that turns the stomach of the Lamentations writer. God planned, carried out and is happy with the results of God's elimination of Jerusalem. All is hopeless, worthless, meaningless, senseless, useless, . . .

Or is it? I remember it all—oh, how well I remember—  
the feeling of hitting the bottom.

But there's one other thing I remember,  
and remembering, I keep a grip on hope:  
God's loyal love couldn't have run out,  
his merciful love couldn't have dried up.

They're created new every morning.

How great your faithfulness!

I'm sticking with God (I say it over and over).

He's all I've got left. *"Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright ? 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group."*  
[biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=65](http://biblegateway.com/versions/?action=getVersionInfo&vid=65)

Holy Saturday has no traditional liturgy, no long-standing prayers, no worship services - to celebrate the darkness. One side of it is simply the invitation to join those who are in darkness - for whatever reason. Jesus does in the grave.

And the other is the 'but' of Lamentations 3:19 - God's loyal love couldn't have run out. Even in the midst of devastation, hope comes. Hope comes not from the facts, not from the projections, not from the wishes, not from the calculations. Hope is just counting on God being God, on loyalty being loyalty, on love being love. It has no end. Thank you, God.

#### A Way to Pray – Darkness

- Manufacture, create, put yourself in the dark
- Stay alone, quiet, for at least 10 minutes. Listen
- Start making a list of all the people you know who are in the dark
- Where will they find hope?

