

The More Beautiful World

A REFLECTIVE JOURNEY IN FOUR MOVEMENTS



MOVEMENT TWO:

Lament

What is the more beautiful world your heart can imagine?

Introduction

In Movement One, we looked back over the last year in gratitude to notice the goodness in our lives and glimpses of the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible. And now we turn to Movement Two: looking back in lament.

In what ways over the last year did we see the vision of a more beautiful world crumble? In what ways did last year smash our hearts to bits?

Looking Back in Lament

*Pain in my chest, unrest. At best couldn't get any worse.
Verse by verse, blow by blow. Suffocating, slathering on an ointment but no relief
Eyes heavy and no sleep. Blood spilled in our streets.
Unhealthy fixations and infatuations, privilege and domination, the majority rule
A year of failures that felt fatal, like pregnancy without prenatal
Or love without lovers. A divorce of values, a kind of blue
In the last hour, who knew? A chain of command, no lines in the sand.
A free-for-all of evil plans, humanity fallback, drawback,
Raising arms and not love, devastating headlines terrorizing our sense of peace.
Lingering grief, and beneath the surface of it all,
An ache, a longing, a call for justice, a cry for relief in concrete communities
And under-glossed over in a haze, the shame in past days.*

Moment of Reflection

Take one minute now to humbly name your lament. It can be on behalf of our broken world, or it can be very personal. Or maybe it's both. May this become a safe space for you to honestly cry out...

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Guided Space to Confess

Not only have we been bruised by the brokenness of the world, but we must confess that we have also contributed to the breaking. Our hands are not clean. As an act of solidarity and humility, name one way that you have not embodied this more beautiful world...

What is the more beautiful world your heart can imagine?

Conclusion

As we go forward today, may we carry the reality, deep in our bones, that things are not OK. They are not yet as they should be, yet we never lose hope for a more beautiful world.

Go in peace.



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