

Speaking the Language of Hurt

Catherine Hallissey

Abstract

Speaking the Language of Hurt begins by investigating psychological responses to hurt and repression of emotions. Using individual case studies, it provides a practical guide to setting, listening and the value of storytelling, for those ministering to people suffering from hurt. It seeks a fuller understanding of God's acceptance of human reaction to hurt and promotes honest communication with God as witnessed in the Psalms of Lament. Acknowledging an unacceptance of theodicy in suffering, it attempts to place God in the heart of human suffering through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

Concluding with a definition of the Phenomenology of Compassion, this work investigates the final stages of processing hurt and healing in the hope of a new understanding of human relationships

The aim of this work is threefold;

- It seeks to assist those within pastoral ministry in a deeper understanding of human responses to hurt that they may be better equipped to accompany individuals towards healing through a new understanding of God's open acceptance of their condition and his presence in the heart of their suffering.
- It seeks to assist those suffering from hurt in the preliminary steps needed for processing hurt, leading towards a new relationship with God in which transformative change can take place.
- The chapters of this dissertation provide a template for a suggested five-week course on understanding and processing hurt in the light of God's presence.