

Lament...to Ascent – Psalms

Psalms 126

"God our Joy" – June 21st, 2020



Introduction

Psalms 126 points to a God who restores – who not only can make our lives a new creation but can transform a sin-sick world and make all things new. As the people of God sing this song we not only wrestle with our pain in the present...we look forward to a better future.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response. To help, use [Psalm 119:33-40](#) as a prayer for God to open His word up to you.

Sermon Outline

- I. Rejoice in God who's done great things for us (vv1-3)
- II. Persevere in doing good as we wait for the *final* restoration (vv4-6)

Read & Discuss

1) Read [Psalm 126:1-3](#)

After the people of God hardened their heart in sin and refused to return, God disciplined them with a foreign nation who would remove them from their homeland. Discipline is painful, but its aim is to restore, and God's heart is love (see [Hebrews 12:3-11](#)). When God's people confessed their sin and came back to Him – He forgave their sin, restored them to their home and graciously forgave their sin. As a result, it left them and the nations saying: God has done great things for us!

There are joy-crushing realities in a fallen world...but no matter what our trial we have the unchanging truth that though we deserve death, God has given us life in Christ. Can you rejoice in that today? One of our songs for Sunday is "Happy in Jesus". The first verse asks: *Are you happy in Jesus? Does the news leave you thrilled — That He carried the burden of sin, That we rightly deserved to feel?* Take a moment to [listen to it and sing](#) it.

God's grace is so amazing the nations took notice. What does Jesus say about our life together as a church that *still should* make the world pause and take notice – to say, God has done great things for them? How can we live together as a church family such that we share a corporate witness?

Additional Reading: Luke 7:36-50, John 13:34-35

2) Read [Psalm 126:4-6](#)

The gap between what the world *is* and what it *should* be can be a painful one. Though we can *always* sing with joy for what God has done for us in Christ – that doesn't mean we ignore life's painful realities. As Paul wrote, we can be *sorrowful yet rejoicing* (2 Cor. 6:10). Take a moment to reflect on the two images the psalmist paints to make his point. First a dry, arid wilderness in the Negeb turned into a lush land by sudden rain. Second, a farmer who plants his/her seed then waits patiently for the seed to grow and bear fruit. Why do we need both images when we look at life's painful realities?

Our morning's Scripture reading was from Galatians 6:9 "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." We define 'good' not by what we think or feel but by what God's word says is good. Think about where God has you today and your sphere of influence (parent, spouse, student, employee, boss, neighbor, etc.). What are the good works God has prepared beforehand for you to do? How does knowing we *shall* reap with shouts of joy one day help us keep planting even when there are days we must sow with tears streaming down our face?

Additional Reading: Ephesians 2:8-10, Revelation 21:5, 1 Corinthians 3:6

Prayer of Response

- 1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to *confess*? From what do I need to *repent*?
- 2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand*, *believe*, *desire*, or *do*?

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

*Next week's sermon text: we turn to Psalm 130 "God Our Hope"
