

Summer In The Psalms II - #3 - "As Dreamers"

Psalm 126:1-6

God's playlist for the soul today is Psalm 126.

Have you ever awakened from a wonderful dream and wished you could stay there just a few minutes longer?

Psalm 126 evokes memories of that experience that we have all probably had and uses them as a springboard to something greater.

"Like them that dream..."

Israel wasn't waking from a dream. They were living one.

"As Dreamers"

I. Proclamation of Wonder. Vs. 1-3

A. "turned again the captivity"

Whether this references **Babylon, or another** great deliverance, we are **not sure**. What we do know is that everyone who sang this Psalm knew captivity. We do, too.

- **The bonds of sin so absolute** that nothing we could do, and nothing in this world, could touch them.
- **Addiction**
- **Fear**
- **Bitterness**
- **Shame**
- **Grief and Loss**
- **Guilt**
- **Anxiety**

Every one of us is different, but somewhere, somehow, we relate.

- **Ever been lost?** Do you remember?
- Ever had that time – and you may be there right now – that though you are **saved, you're stuck**. Captive. No solutions. Just a bad place?
- Maybe you feel like Humpty Dumpty – Broken in pieces?

B. "like them that dream"

Imagine the very best of dreams. That is the imagery of the Psalmist.

But there is something better...

- Dreams can be great (i.e. "Living the dream!" Or nightmare!), but, even the best dreams **disappear when we wake.**
- Dreams **fade.**
- Dreams **leave us wishing.**

In Psalm 126, We find something better than a dream. Better than even a dream come true.

It is real!

Do remember trusting Jesus as your Savior? What was it like?

Ever been places in life that were just so incredible it didn't seem real or possible?

Life. Relationships. Blessings. Peace.

That is where God's children are in the Psalm.

C. **"the LORD hath done great things for us, and we are glad."** Vs. 3

II. The Product of Worship

What should result from lives so blessed?

- Vs. 2 - Mouths filled with **Laughter?!**
- **Vs. 2 - Singing?!**
- **Vs. 2 - Such a change that even the heathen take note in wonder:**
The world often ignores our theology
but it cannot ignore transformed lives.

Jesus- you'll be my witnesses!

Cf. Acts 2 - What meaneth this?

Worship should always follow our wonder of Him!

III. Their Petition. (Prayer through song). Vs. 4

A. "Turn again our captivity"

They have already been delivered and are rejoicing in it. SO, **what can this mean?**

The human element within us is always present, seeking to have its way rather than God's, and always leading us to bondage and regret. They had been brought out of Babylon, but they still needed God's help with the forces of bondage lurking within..

Psalm 126 is a "**song of degrees**".

They would sing it as they made their journeys to and from Jerusalem for the feasts.

Over and over - they would sing this song and **be warned, be led to examine their hearts.**

Their request was essentially: **Lord help us; deliver us from ourselves!**

David – Psalm 139 -

23. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

24. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 85

6. Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?

Let's ask a few diagnostic questions -

- **If you have been redeemed, if you know you know Him, are you singing?**
- **Is there an obvious joy -Does the laughter of His love flow out of you?**
- **Are you living in the wonder of Him and what He's done?**

Or... Maybe,

- **Have you let a root of bitterness grow and it is poisoning you and maybe even others?**

- **Have you committed, and are maybe even hiding or indulging some secret sin?**

“He that hideth his sins shall not prosper”

“Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.” -Adrian Rogers

- **Have you listened to pride and rebelled in your heart to something God has asked, and you’re miserable for it? God’s child but living in the pig pen of our rebellion?**

Captivity? Bondage? Misery? Lost the joy of your salvation?

We could go on all day. The danger is real. The prayer needed:

Revive us again, fill each heart with thy love

May each soul be rekindled with fire from above!

B. “as the streams in the south” – “desert; Negev”

Most of the year those streambeds are nothing but cracked earth. Then suddenly the rains come, and dry valleys become rushing rivers.

Petition: Raging rivers of refreshment in the desert.

Kings 18- Fire from heaven fell and consumed the sacrifice!

Revival!

IV. The Principle.

As far as I can remember, I have only heard this text preached in the context of witnessing and winning souls. While it can apply as a metaphor, that is not the primary meaning. **We move from wonder... and worship... to work.**

Cf. Isa. 6:1-8

A. The Principle of the Harvest – “sowing and reaping”

Cf. Galatians 6:7-9.

“they that sow... shall reap”

1. Work flows from our Worship.

“They **that** sow... He **that goeth forth and soweth...**”

I teach regularly that there are three disciplines that once experienced by believers almost always become turning points in future growth...

- Faithful attendance
- Giving
- **Serving. Working. Those busy working are growing!**

Jesus spoke of His works and ours. In John -

10:25. Jesus answered them... the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me.

14:12. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Negative: **Little Red Hen** illustration: Sow not, reap not, eat not!

Working for Jesus results when we Worship Him and Walk with Him. If we're not working, what does that then say?

2. The “seed” – what we sow – matters!

“What we sow... we will reap.”

Negative: Israel- sowed the wind, reaped the whirlwind!

“Bearing precious seed” - In context -

The word of God.

The works of God.

The wonder of God.

Sow the right things!

Truth... kindness... forgiveness... the love of God... the gospel!

3. Our attitude affects our actions and results: **“and weepeth”**

- The burden we carry as we move on all of life's seasons

Context: Israel had been through rough times. Times when they wept and couldn't imagine anything beyond...
But they kept praying. Hoping. Living. And God rewarded them with joy!

If you find yourself in one of those places::

Don't give up though the tears flow and you carry on, doing what is right moment by moment, *maybe breath by breath*, knowing that there is more! Joy comes in the morning!

- **The burden that He carried and has given to us!**

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost!

Jesus wept!

Jesus died!

Jesus now lives in each of us who have trusted Him and sends us to carry on His passion!

- **Are we *bothered* a little by the lost and broken around us?**
- **Maybe... *burdened*. It really weighs heavy on us.**
- **Or – are we *broken*, as He is, for those around us for whom He died?!**

B. The Promise of the harvest.

“shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him”

****The negative is true. Galatians 6 – “he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption”**

Here: It is a joyful, positive harvest!

- ***“shall reap in joy.”*** Not “may”; “shall!”
- ***“shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him”***

What does that mean?

Sheaves were bundles of wheat: *We always reap more than we sow – Maybe not immediately, but inevitably!!*

John 15: Jesus said He works in our lives that we bring forth *much fruit!*

Not only are we promised that what we do for Him will never lose its reward, but the little that we each do for Him will multiply exponentially!

We are invited... over and over... to sing of and reflect on

- **The Wonder of what He's Done...**
- **The Worship of the One** Who has been so good!
- **Our genuine, willing request for Him to show us our sin, to keep us close, to keep us from straying...**
- **The Work He is leading and enabling us to do –**
Which benefits us, pleases Him, and sows seed for which one day we will doubtless be glad!

"like them that dream" - Just call me a dreamer! Better –

- **Every day with Jesus is better than a dream come true; It is the real-life stuff dreams can only imagine!**
- **Every day with Jesus isn't escaping reality. It's finally discovering what reality was always meant to be.**

It's kind of like the words of a country song from years ago -

"I'll do my dreaming with my eyes wide open!"

Today, and every day, in Jesus!