

Series: Pathway Through the Psalms

# SOW IN TEARS – REAP IN JOY

## PSALMS 126

Text: Psalms 126:5

### ***Psalm 126:5***

<sup>5</sup> *They that sow in **tears** shall reap in **joy**.*

Introduction:

This psalm speaks to us of what the Lord has done for us in saving us and it also reminds us that God has a plan to bless us and use us for His glory.

Often the last two verses in this psalm are used to challenge the church to be active in outreach, and it certainly speaks of that, but I want to consider all six verses.

There are three very powerful lessons that we will consider this evening.

Notice

Sermon Content:

# 1. THEIR WORD OF PRAISE (VS. 1-3)

## ***Psalm 126:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. <sup>3</sup> The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.*

This psalm begins by remembering:

### A. Their Deliverance (vs. 1a)

They remembered how they had been oppressed and held captive by their enemies, and how God in His great power had delivered them.

They praise Him for the day He set them free and brought them back to their homeland.

Note:

It should be our constant practice to remember where we were when the Lord found us.

## ***Ephesians 2:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the*

*prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

We should remember how the Lord delivered us by His matchless grace.

### ***Ephesians 2:8-9***

*<sup>8</sup> For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Not only did they speak of Deliverance but also:

#### B. They Speak of Their Delight (vs. 1b-3a)

### ***Psalm 126:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> When the LORD turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. <sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them. <sup>3</sup> **The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.***

They couldn't hardly believe what had happened to them.

They were amazed at the grace, love and power of their God.

They were filled with joy and they lifted their hearts and their voices in praise to the Lord.

Note:

What a lesson – we have been delivered from death and Hell by the grace of God.

We have a reason to rejoice.

The Bible teaches us praise honors the Lord and we should be involved in praising Him.

***Psalm 47:1***

*<sup>1</sup> O clap your hands, all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph.*

***Psalm 113:1-3***

*<sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD. Praise, O ye servants of the LORD, praise the name of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Blessed be the name of the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. <sup>3</sup> From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD'S name is to be praised.*

**Psalm 135:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> Praise ye the LORD. Praise ye the name of the LORD; praise him, O ye servants of the LORD. <sup>2</sup> Ye that stand in the house of the LORD, in the courts of the house of our God, <sup>3</sup> Praise the LORD; for the LORD is good: sing praises unto his name; for it is pleasant.

**Hebrews 13:15**

<sup>15</sup> By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Not only did they speak of Deliverance and Their Delight but also:

C. They Speak of Their Decision (vs. 3b)

**Psalm 126:3**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.

As these people think about all they have received from the Lord, they make a decision and say, “Whereof we are glad.”

They make a conscious decision to be happy in the Lord Who redeemed them.

Notice not only Their Word of Praise but also:

## 2. THEIR WORD OF PRAYER (VS. 4)

### ***Psalm 126:4***

*<sup>4</sup> Turn again our captivity, O LORD, as the streams in the south.*

As these pilgrims ponder their past and as they deliberate their deliverance, they also lift their voices up in prayer to the Lord.

They pray that just as the spring rains fill the southern streams with floods of water, that God will also deliver others from their captivity and restore them to their homeland.

They have a burden to see others delivered as they have been and they call on the Lord to see they others are set free as well.

They want other captives to enjoy the deliverance they have experienced.

Note:

Those who have been delivered from their sins should carry a burden for those still lost in sin.

Let us consider not only Their Praise and Prayer but lastly:

### 3. THEIR WORD OF PROMISE (VS. 5-6)

#### ***Psalm 126:5-6***

*<sup>5</sup> They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. <sup>6</sup> He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.*

There seems to be a total change in the direction of this Psalm at this point.

These verses continue the thought of the previous verses.

When these people returned to their homeland, they found it decimated and totally destroyed.

The fields upon their arrival were fallow and there was no harvest and little food to eat.

All they had was a few precious seeds and these seeds held the promise of a future harvest.

Taking these few seeds, they involved themselves in the backbreaking work of sowing the fields.

They take those few seeds, and with tears, they sow those seeds into the earth.

With faith and patience they wait, and in a few weeks, there is life in the fields!

When harvest time comes, those few seeds have been transformed into a great harvest, and the workers return from the fields this time with great rejoicing, carrying their sheaves in their arms.

Their tears and turned to joy.

Notice:

#### A. The Task of the Sower

The sower is to “go forth” and sow the seed.

This speaks of a continual, consistent going and sowing.

When the Lord gave His men the Great Commission, He said to them “*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,*” Matt. 28:19a.

That word “Go” has the idea of “*as you go.*”

In other words, your testimony is not something you should be able to turn on and off like a light switch, but we are to be constantly going and telling a lost world about Christ.

When the Bible says, “Bearing precious seeds,” that little phrase has the idea “of leaving a trail of seeds.”

Notice not only the task of the sower but also:

### B. The Tears of the Sower

Notice that this farmer goes out to sow and as he sows he is shedding tears.

Why does he weep?

Because he knows that everything depends on the next crop.

He has a burden for the harvest and he wants to see the seed multiplied so that his people might live!

Therefore he sowed with tears.

Notice also:

### C. The Triumph of the Sower

The sower went to the fields, he worked and he sowed, now he returns with rejoicing, bearing in his arms the fruits of his labors.

He has a great harvest to show for the investment of his time and his tears.

The seed is called “precious.”

Why?

There are several reasons, but the main one is the fact that the seed contains within it life.

When it is sown into the ground, and the conditions are just right, that seed will germinate and new life will be the result.

Close:

If we have been saved by His grace we have been given much.

Let us be reminded of Luke 12:48:

**Luke 12:48**

<sup>48</sup> *But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. **For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.*

Let us be challenged this evening to:

1. Remember where the Lord found us and what He did for us when He saved us.
2. Seek the Lord for the kind of burden you need for the souls of the lost.
3. Decide that by the help of the Lord we will continue to sow the precious seed.