

Harvest Eyes (4)
“A Harvest Journey”
Psalm 126

INTRODUCTION

Luke 19:13...Occupy till I come...The church is called to “occupy” [stay open for business] till He comes. His Business?...Luke 19:10 For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

But it seems that something is missing in too many lives...Hannah - I Samuel 1:6 [Peninnah = rounded pearl]...provoked her in order to irritate her. v.10 She was in bitterness of soul. [same word in II Samuel 17:8 ... chafed in their minds, as a bear robbed of her whelps in the field...] There seems to be an underlying irritation today... that something’s missing...perhaps it’s time take a serious look at our priorities, as believers.

Psalm 126 is a song of degrees or ascents [elevation, a journey to a higher place, go up]. Psalm 120-134 are commonly called “Songs of Degrees.” There is a myriad of explanations, including songs sung and chanted by pilgrims coming up to Jerusalem. Others have connected these fifteen Psalms to the priests journey up the steps to the Temple. Regardless, Psalm 126 is full of revelation and instruction. Come, let’s take a journey to a higher place ...the church today, needs to take this journey.

I. THE PROCESS

A. Like Them That Dream.

1. When the Lord...
 - a. Turned Again. [returned, turned back]
 - b. The Captivity. [captivity, a return of property] Turn back the captivity...that’s salvation!
2. We Were Like...
 - a. Them That Dream. Too good to be true! Think about the salvation He gave you. *John 3:16...eternal life!*

*****To many people, being saved is the epitome of the Christian experience...they never move beyond that awesome, initial, transformative salvation.*****

B. Then...Our Mouth Filled With Laughter.

1. Laughter. [joyful laughter]
 - a. Joy? *Lamentation 5:15, Joel 1:12, Joel 1:16, Isaiah 24:11*

b. Joy! *Nehemiah 8:10, Psalm 51:8, Psalm 51:12, I Peter 1:8...Psalm 32:11, Psalm 35:27, Psalm 67:4, Psalm 132:9, Ecclesiastes 2:26, Isaiah 12:3, Isaiah 65:14, Habakkuk 3:18, Acts 13:52, Romans 5:11, Romans 14:17, Romans 15:13...Psalm 16:11, Psalm 30:5*

****Many believers experience the “joy unspeakable” power in their faith, but never choose to move beyond in their faith and spiritual growth.****

C. Then...Our Tongue Filled With Singing.

1. Tongue. [tongue or language]
2. Tongue Filled With Singing. [crying, singing, shouting, proclamation of joy and praise, triumph]
 - a. Proclamation of Praise. *Philippians 4:4, I Thessalonians 5:13... Psalm 18:1-3, Psalm 34:1-3, Psalm 40:1-3, Psalm 98:1, Psalm 100, Psalm 103:1-3, Psalm 150*
 - b. Proclamation of Triumph. *Psalm 41:11, Psalm 47:1, 92:4, II Corinthians 2:14*

****There are very many believers, who will praise and exalt the Lord in their living, but never grow beyond that experience...to impact the lost.****

D. Then...They Said Among the Heathen.

1. Among the Heathen. [gentiles, nations, heathen, people]
2. They Said...HE Has done Great Things. [make great, powerful, advance]
 - a. For Them. They see God's people as blessed!
 - b. For Us. They see themselves blessed...because of Him!
 - 1) We are glad! [joyful, glad, showing joy]
3. His Plan...Light in Darkness! *Ephesians 5:8...Ephesians 3:9-10*
 - a. A Model. The church is meant to be put on display for all the world to see love, unity and commonality...among diverse peoples!

****It is easy to hide in the corporate and collective church, feeling good about the work of the group...but God invites every individual to put on Harvest Eyes****

II. THE PURPOSE

A. The River...Turn Again...Do It Again.

1. Streams in the South. Most scholars believe he is referring to the great Nile river that rose up in Lake Tana, in Ethiopia, and flowed through the broad plains of Egypt...and every year (until the dammed it up) it would reach a certain season where it overflow it's banks and flow in the valley...bringing life to what was dead...irrigating the valley.
 - a. The River. *Ezekiel 47:1-12* *Afterward he brought me again unto the*

door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. **2** Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side. **3** And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles. **4** Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. **5** Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. **6** And he said unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen this? Then he brought me, and caused me to return to the brink of the river. **7** Now when I had returned, behold, at the bank of the river were very many trees on the one side and on the other. **8** Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. **9** And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh. **10** And it shall come to pass, that the fishers shall stand upon it from Engedi even unto Eneglaim; they shall be a place to spread forth nets; their fish shall be according to their kinds, as the fish of the great sea, exceeding many. **11** But the miry places thereof and the marishes thereof shall not be healed; they shall be given to salt. **12** And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine.

- 1) The Door. Jesus...*John 10:7 & 9*
- 2) The Temple. The Church...*1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19*
- 3) The Water. (Out of the Temple) *John 4:14-15, John 7:37-39*
- 4) The Desert. *Psalm 102:6* [Desert Owl = cup, cup-shaped]
 - a) Desert. [barren, wasteland, decaying]
- 5) The Sea. A new metric...going to the fish...diverse fish.
- 6) The Healing. Waters Healed. [cure, heal, completely whole]

B. The Reaping.

1. The Walking. [to go, walk, come, to carry forth] *Mark 16:15*
2. The Weeping. [make lamentation with tears] *v5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. We will joyfully reap! Lamentations 3:51*
3. The Word. [*Luke 8:11...The seed is the word of God.*]
 - a. Precious. [a precious possession, of great price]

C. The Rejoicing.

1. Sheaves. [stems of grain cut and tied together...(fig.) a harvest reaped!]

a. The reason Christ died! For lost humanity.

“Our joy is that we have to deal to-day with lost souls who are not yet hopelessly lost.”

(Charles Spurgeon) In reference to *Luke 19:6* (*And he (Zacchaeus) made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully*) “From this text, it appears that, when sinners receive Jesus, they receive him joyfully, so that there is joy on both sides. It is a joyful business altogether; the Savior is glad to save, and the sinner is glad to be saved.”

CONCLUSION