

Psalms 126-130 – Thursday, June 20th, 2019

Psalm 126 -- A Song of Ascents. 1 When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. 2 Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." 3 The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad. 4 Bring back our captivity, O LORD, As the streams in the South. 5 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him.

- Psalm 126 is a Psalm about coming back to the Lord after being in exile and as such is a song filled with magnificent rejoicing.
- I suppose this Psalm could be seen as a song related to those who go through a period of backsliding then return to the Lord.
- The take away is that the Lord will always be waiting with open arms to embrace those who repent and return to their first love.

Psalm 127 -- A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. 1 Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, The watchman stays awake in vain. 2 It is vain for you to rise up early, To sit up late, To eat the bread of sorrows; For so He gives His beloved sleep. 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate.

- Psalm 127 is a very interesting Psalm for a number of reasons not the least of which is that it speaks to every aspect of our life.
- First, the Psalmist starts off with the building of a house, then it's that of our occupation, then it's our family and then parenting.
- To me, the lesson to be learned from this Psalm is that every part of our lives needs to be built on the foundation of the Lord.

Psalm 128 -- A Song of Ascents. 1 Blessed is every one who fears the LORD, Who walks in His ways. 2 When you eat the labor of your hands, You shall be happy, and it shall be well with you. 3 Your wife shall be like a fruitful vine In the very heart of your house, Your children like olive plants All around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed Who fears the LORD. 5 The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life. 6 Yes, may you see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel!

- Psalm 128 provides us with a rather lengthy list of all the blessings and the benefits for those who walk in the fear of the Lord.
- First, there's a satisfaction from the labor, second a blessed wife in the home, third, children and long life to see grandchildren.
- It seems that the Psalmist who pens this Psalm may be writing from his own experience in life as it relates to his blessed life.

Psalm 129 -- A Song of Ascents. 1 "Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth," Let Israel now say— 2 "Many a time they have afflicted me from my youth; Yet they have not prevailed against me. 3 The plowers plowed on my back; They made their furrows long." 4 The LORD is righteous; He has cut in pieces the cords of the wicked. 5 Let all those who hate Zion Be put to shame and turned back. 6 Let them be as the grass on the housetops, Which withers before it grows up, 7 With which the reaper does not fill his hand, Nor he who binds sheaves, his arms. 8 Neither let those who pass by them say, "The blessing of the LORD be upon you; We bless you in the name of the LORD!"

- Psalm 129 is a Psalm about the confidence of God's people in God's deliverance when they face of affliction and persecution.
- While the Psalmist is speaking chiefly about the affliction and persecution of Israel, this truth applies to us as Christians today.
- This because, God always has the final word when it comes to the persecution of His people for the sake of righteousness.

2 Corinthians 4:8-9 - 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Psalm 130 -- A Song of Ascents. 1 Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD; 2 Lord, hear my voice! Let Your ears be attentive To the voice of my supplications. 3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? 4 But there is forgiveness with You, That You may be feared. 5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, And in His word I do hope. 6 My soul waits for the Lord More than those who watch for the morning— Yes, more than those who watch for the morning. 7 O Israel, hope in the LORD; For with the LORD there is mercy, And with Him is abundant redemption. 8 And He shall redeem Israel From all his iniquities.

- Psalm 130 is a beautiful Psalm packed full of guidance and encouragement for those who find themselves in a difficult trial.
- First and foremost, the best thing we can do is go right to the Lord in prayer as we cry out to him as the Psalmist does here.
- The good news is that God will always hearken unto the voice of our cry and answer us despite the fact that we are sinners.