



As a result, “When the LORD brought back the captivity of Zion,” the author of Psalm 126 says, “We were like those who dream” (Psa. 126:1). Having spent so many years in oppression, their deliverance seemed too good to be true. Thus, the aged, who had been taken captive as children, the young, who had known nothing but captivity, and everyone in between laughed from joy and lifted their voices in song with rejoicing so great that others noticed (Psa. 126:2). A people who had neglected all the blessings provided by God in the land flowing with milk and honey finally had come to their senses and proclaimed, “The LORD has done great things for us, And we are glad” (Psa. 127:3). Their release and opportunity to return home came to them as suddenly as a far off rainstorm can flood the land upstream and turn a dry riverbed into a life-giving stream (Psa. 126:4). And yet their return had not come in a moment, as some had originally hoped. It had taken decades of humbling sorrow and spiritual renewal to produce the joy of the moment (Psa. 126:5). And this was the most important lesson to learn. The best, most important lessons often are the most difficult on us—painful in the moment, and yet rewarding in the end. That is why, like a farmer sowing seed and waiting on harvest, it is to our benefit to develop patience and endure chastening and discipline in order to reap the harvest of growth and self-discipline and all their attendant blessings in the end (Psa. 126:6). As some translations indicate, these lessons transcend the captivity and have far broader implications. However, as a Song Of Ascent reminding future generations of Jews of a difficult lesson learned the hard way and not to be repeated, the context of captivity offers a depth rooted in Israel’s history that a mere psalm about the benefits of hard work could hardly capture.

Christians should certainly not wish for the harsh conditions of captivity endured by the Jews in Babylon. However, to the extent that we recognize some of the challenges of living in a vulgar and immoral age, of feeling like outcasts in the land of our birth, and of experiencing a constant sense of rejection and humiliation from a secular society, we should come to appreciate the lessons of patience and humility, of compassion and care, and of virtue and value. For only by responding to the challenges of our day—whatever they might be—with a heart for God will we gain a true sense of appreciation for His blessings. We take so much for granted today. The Jews did in their day too. And that is why we need to learn from them.

## Order of Service

Opening Remarks		Don Petrosky, Sr.
Song Leader		Tom Barr
Song #275	I Love to Tell the Story	
Song #180	<i>God Is Love</i>	
Prayer		Clay Bond
Song #916	<i>Come Share the Lord</i>	
Communion		Leonard Meredith Luke Haydon
Song #287	<i>I Love the Lord</i>	
Song #783	<i>Will You Not Tell It Today?</i>	
Sermon		Clay Bond
Song #272	<i>I Have Decided to Follow Jesus</i>	
Offering		
Closing Remarks		Don Petrosky, Sr.
Song #242	<i>How Beautiful Heaven Must Be</i>	
Dismissal Prayer		Dylan Petrosky

### Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Southwest Annual Ladies Day - see bulletin board for info.
- Sept. 23-26 Lake Country will host a Gospel Meeting with Wade Webster
- Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> – Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> Johnson City Church of Christ will host a Gospel Meeting

### ...Prayer List...

*Gay Kyle, Eugene & Barbara Haydon, Don Walker, Gary Schneider, Kathy Ivanciw's mother Shirley, Butch Crownover, Chris' cousin Tyler, Melvin Wright*

Remember our college students who are away at school: Jarrett & Luke Haydon, Emily & Courtney Meredith, and Dylan & Steven Petrosky

Shut-Ins: Robbi George

### Wednesday Devotional

Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> Ray Parks  
Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Attendance: Sunday AM: 45 PM: 31 Wednesday: 24 Contribution: \$2701.00