

Psalm 126:1-6

A song of ascents.

¹ *When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.*

² *Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.*

Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

³ *The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

⁴ *Restore our fortunes, LORD, streams in the Negev.*

⁵ *Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.*

⁶ *Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.*

Through today's scripture, let us find why our Father God is so great.

1. God Unties Our Bonds

- **Psalm 126:1-3**

- ¹ *When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed.*

- ² *Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy.*

- Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."*

- ³ *The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.*

- Return to Zion refers to the event in the biblical books of Ezra–Nehemiah in which the Jews returned to the Land of Israel from the Babylonian exile following the decree by the emperor Cyrus the Great, the conqueror of the Neo-Babylonian Empire in 539 B.C. It was our Lord Father who liberated the Jews to the Land of Israel.
- Similarly, Korea was also liberated from Japan's colonial rule on August 15, 1945. August 15 marks one of the most important public holidays in the Korean calendar, Independence Day or Gwangbokjeol as it is known locally. Translated literally, it means "Restoration of Light Day", and celebrates the victory over Japan which liberated Korea from 35 years of Japanese colonial rule.
- Just as what the Jews went through in 539 B.C. and just as what the Koreans went through in 1945, we are currently experiencing the difficult bond due to COVID-19. Only the Lord can untie these bonds and only the Lord can save us.

2. God Receives Our Tears

- **Psalm 126:4-6**

- ⁴ *Restore our fortunes, LORD, streams in the Negev.*

- ⁵ *Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy.*

- ⁶ *Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.*

- So when does the Lord receives our tears?

(A) When We Repent

- **Psalm 6:6**

- I am worn out from my groaning.*

- All night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears.*

- **Story of Young Indian - Tears of Repentance**

- For a long time, this one Indian student lived away from religion. One day, he was hospitalized due to severe suffering from eye disease. After several examination, they found out that he was suffering from poisonous infection in his eyes. In order to save his life, he needed to remove his eyes immediately. After finding this out, he struggled with sadness and despair. His friend asked him to come to church and ask for repentance. When he arrived to church, tears began to flow and he cried out to the Lord. The next morning, the doctor who was performing the surgery, was startled to examine all of the infection/bacteria disappeared. The young Indian man was freed by his repentant tears and the Lord untied his bond.

(B) When We Give Thanks

- **Luke 7:50** *Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

(C) When We Resolve

- **2 Kings 20:5**

"Go back and tell Hezekiah, the ruler of my people, 'This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the Lord.

- **Story of Walter - Father's Tears**

Walter Wangerin is a famous author. When his son was 9 years old, Matthew was caught stealing a cartoon book from the library. Walter scolded his son and made the son return the book. Matthew repeated stealing the book from library again. Matthew was scolded and was put into the corner to reflect. When Walter left the room and closed the door, Matthew heard his father sobbing for a long time. The next morning, Matthew's mom was asking how he was, Matthew told his Mom he will stop stealing. After hearing his father's crying, Matthew felt his father's sadness and tears...those tears became tears of gratitude and determination.

- **Psalms 56:8** *Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll - are they not in your record?*

***Let us remember only Our Lord...**

1. Unties Our Bonds
2. Receives Our Tears When We
 - Repent
 - Give Thanks
 - Resolve

Father, untie our bonds and receive our tears. Help us to repent, give thanks and resolve difficult challenges.