

A Song of Joy

Songs For The Road - 3

Joy isn't a requirement of Christian discipleship, but joy certainly is the result (Galatians 5:22-23). Joy is what comes as we are walking in the way of faith and obedience to God. As Jesus put it, *"If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed by Father's commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete"* (John 15:10-11).

The one who wrote, and those who sang this psalm were not strangers to pain and hardship. Yet, they couldn't forget the incredible way in which God orchestrated (almost overnight!) their return from their long, tough years of exile in a foreign land. If God did the unbelievable once, there was every reason to believe He could do it again. The memory of what God had done in their past, and the anticipation of what He would do in the future, gave joy to the present.

LOOKING BACK:

What do you look back upon as "the happiest days of your life?" Were those days free from hardship?

LOOKING DEEP:

Read Psalm 126

1. The psalmist's joy (vs 3) is nurtured by reflecting on the past (vss 1-2) and anticipating the future (vss 4-6). *What are the "great things" the Lord has done in your life? Has God ever done something in your life that just seemed "too good to be true?"*
2. *What is the basis of the psalmist's confident request in verse 4?*
3. Respond to the following statement: *"Joy doesn't come from feeling good about self, or one's circumstances. Joy comes from feeling good about God."* Consider passages like Hab. 3:17-18.
4. *How could joy be regarded as a matter of one's choice, and not one's circumstance?*
5. *How could the message of this psalm encourage you in your faith journey--right here-and-now, as well as in the future?*

*PRAYER REQUESTS
AND REFLECTIONS*