

Let Us Illustrate 2 Lessons from Solomon

(Proverbs 13:12)

Introduction:

1. In this verse Solomon wrote 2 statements that are especially appropriate for the situation that we are facing.
2. These statements teach 2 important lessons.
 - a. First, "*Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.*"
 - 1) A delay in receiving something we hope for causes anguish of heart.
 - 2) We are filled with uncertainty while we deal with coronavirus.
 - b. Second, "*when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.*"
 - 1) When dreams finally come true, there is life and joy.
 - 2) How happy will everyone be when this illness is over!
3. These 2 lessons are illustrated in the Psalms.
 - a. Psalm 137 illustrates the first lesson.
 - b. Psalm 126 illustrates the second lesson.
4. True hope will help us make the transition from a state of disappointment to a state of joy.

Discussion:

- I. PSALM 137 ILLUSTRATES THE FIRST LESSON
 - A. This Psalm was written while the Jews were in captivity in Babylon.
 - B. We learn from vs.1-4 that the captivity was a trying time for the Jews.
 1. According to vs.1-2, the Jews were unable to praise God.
 - a. They had assembled "*by the rivers of Babylon*" [perhaps for worship].
 - b. Their memories of Zion caused them to sit down and cry.
 - c. They placed their harps on the willows.
 - d. To further show how the captivity was such a trying time, . . .
 2. The Babylonians insulted the Jews (vs.3-4).
 - a. They wanted the Jews to sing "*one of the songs of Zion*" to them.
 - b. How could the Jews sing songs of praise under these circumstances?
 3. To survive this difficult period [70 years -- Jeremiah 29:10] the Jews had to maintain their hope of returning to their homeland.
 4. Notice the change that takes place at this point.
 - C. Vs.5-9 show us how maintaining their hope sustained the Jews.
 1. We learn from vs.5-6 that the Jews remembered Jerusalem.
 - a. They knew from the writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah that the captivity would not last forever -- they would eventually return to their homeland.

- b. They did not want to forget Jerusalem while they were in captivity.
- 2. We also learn from vs.7-9 that the Jews were confident that God would take vengeance on their enemies.
 - a. (vs.7) They asked God to remember the deeds of *"the children of Edom."*
 - b. (vs.8-9) They expressed their confidence that Babylon would eventually be destroyed.

II. PSALM 126 ILLUSTRATES THE SECOND LESSON

- A. In vs.1-3 the Jews reflected upon their release from captivity.
 - 1. The time element is revealed in vs.1a -- *"when the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion."*
 - 2. Notice how the Jews felt at this point.
 - a. (vs.1b) *"We were like them that dream."*
 - b. (vs.2) They laughed, and they sang.
 - c. (vs.3b) They were glad.
 - 3. God was praised for what He had done.
 - a. (vs.3a) The Jews said, *"The Lord hath done great things for us."*
 - b. (vs.2c) The heathens said, *"The Lord hath done great things for them."*
 - 4. God had sustained the Jews until the captivity was over, and they praised Him for His greatness.
 - 5. The need for maintaining their hope was not over for the Jews.
- B. In vs.4-6 the Jews made an additional request of God.
 - 1. The request is in vs.4a -- *"Turn again our captivity, O Lord."*
 - a. When the Jews returned to Jerusalem, they found devastation, the land needed to be planted, and the land needed rain.
 - b. (vs.4b) They asked God to return their captivity *"as the streams in the south."*
 - c. After making this request, . . .
 - 2. (vs.5-6) The Jews expected to rejoice again.
 - a. They might have to sow in tears (vs.5a, 6a).
 - b. However, they were confident they would reap in joy (vs.5b, 6b).
 - 3. As they asked God to bless their land, they were confident He would do so.
 - 4. It certainly appears that the Jews had learned to appreciate the value of maintaining their hope.

Conclusion:

- 1. These 2 Psalms illustrate the lessons that Solomon taught in Proverbs 13:12.
- 2. Let us remember the principles we have covered as:
 - a. we wait for the virus to end
 - b. we wait for heaven to become a reality (Romans 8:18-25).