

SEEDS OF SORROW, SHOUTS OF JOY

As preached on Sunday, October 24th

Read: Psalm 126

1. When was the last time you spent a while reminiscing about “the good old days” either alone or with family and friends. What was it like? How did it make you feel?
2. In vv.1-3 of this week’s text, the nation of Israel is engaging in joyful remembrance of a time in the past when God had rescued them. What was that occasion? Which descriptions are most vivid for you? Why?
3. Though the circumstances are unknown, it seems Israel now finds themselves in distress once again. What does this prompt them to do in v.4? What is the significance of the Negev?
4. Rescue and restoration have yet to arrive, but Israel engages in anticipatory celebration in vv.5-6 anyway. Why?
5. What is the relationship between sorrow and joy? How is it described in this psalm? How have you experienced the connection between the two in your own life?
6. We discussed the Hebrew word “*rinnah*” on Sunday. What is a better translation for that word in v.2, v.5, and v.6?
7. The solidarity of the nation of Israel is clear in Psalm 126. In what ways are we, as Americans, solidarity-challenged? In what way(s) have we experienced solidarity in recent years?