

New Year's Message

What People Do When they Get Set Free

Worship, Connect, Serve – Psalm 126:1-6

Introduction: When you experience joy in your salvation, you band together with fellow Christ-followers, and you work for the salvation of others *by serving them*, in the context of community.

1. *WORSHIP* – Authentic worship is the product of understanding God's great work on our behalf. *Psalm 126:1-3*

- A. Historical context – The returning exiles experienced great joy in their salvation.
- B. Theological significance – The returning exiles saw their return as national salvation. 126:1
- C. Personal significance – When we get delivered there is tremendous joy. 126:1b-2a, 3
- D. Ministry significance – When you get delivered people will notice. 126:2b

2. *CONNECT* – Authentic worship leads to committed relationships for the sake of mission. *Psalm 126:4*

- A. Notice that this is a corporate prayer. "Restore our captivity O, Lord."
- B. What this prayer meant back then.
- C. What this prayer means now.

3. *SERVE* – Worship and connection leads naturally to service toward those whom we would like to see saved. *Psalm 126:5-6*

- A. The problem back then (and now): How do you motivate people who come back?
- B. The primary action is sewing. 126:5a
- C. The first emotion is pain. Note the terms "tears" and "weeping." 126:5b, 6a
- D. The secondary emotion is joy. Advancing God's kingdom will result in happiness. 126:5c, 6b
- E. The ultimate result is fruit. God is going to work.