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Pastor's Corner

God's People Find a Way
Psalm 137:1-4

During the exile, Israel had no temple to worship in. Nevertheless, they created places of worship in their homes and elsewhere and continued to hold the sacredness and awesome power of God true to who they were as a people of God. The temple was not available to them yet they found places to worship. They worshipped in study groups; they worshipped when they read the Torah. Even while they could not offer sacrifices in the Temple, they *found ways to pray and worship*. The Psalmist speaks to the anguish of not being able to worship in the place they are accustomed to worshipping in. Psalm 137:1-4 says:

> **By the rivers of Babylon - there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion on the willows; there we hung up our harps. For there our captors asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's son in a foreign land?**

Church, we are being called to sing the Lord's song under strange circumstances. It is always tempting to allow the circumstances that are in front of us to lead us to diminish or even ignore the necessity of creating a place and space to worship God. It is important in our time of exile that we find, even create that time that we devote to God. It is important that we find that place in the closet - it does not matter where. What matters is that sanctuary be found.

It is certain that many of us have cultivated habits during this period. But none will be more important to and for your spiritual survival than prayer and the study of God's Word and

truth. God and having a space and place for God in our lives is what the Psalmist tells us took place. It may not sound like it, but it is. The Psalmist says “by the rivers of Babylon my captors demanded a song.” It is in that place that prayer was lifted. It was in the most difficult of moments that prayer was raised. It is out of those moments of trying and testing that God grew a people and **it will be out of these moments of trial that God will grow us as well.**

It is probably more important today than it has been in many years that we do not lose sight of the sacred, the holy and the omnipotence of God. In this pandemic, it is important that we continue to trust and find a place for God. It is important that we realize that God continues to deliver us and impact our lives in a significant way. Just because many are not in the physical church does not mean we are a part of a religious community and family where the miracles of God do not manifest themselves. While Israel was in exile the Babylonians demanded of them a song. Their response was “how can I sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” Yet they found a way to pray in the midst of their social and political pandemic. They found a way to worship in the midst their exile. They found a way to keep the sacredness of God before them. They found a way to keep the trust in the power of God always in front of them. They found a way to continue to trust, worship and believe in God. While going through their trial they kept believing in the power of God.

Church, we must continue to worship. We must continue to believe. We must continue to give our praises to God who keeps us in the hollow of His hand.

God Bless and remain safe,

Pastor Gool