

Going deeper

In this passage, Jesus talks about the fact that 'his time or hour has come', i.e. that his death on the cross is imminent. Using an image similar to Psalm 126:5,6 he talks about his death as a seed falling to the ground and dying, so that it can produce many seeds.

Read John 12:20-36

4. What is the link between the 'Greeks' approaching Jesus and what he goes on to say? (cf. vs. 20, 23, 30-32)

5. What is Jesus referring to in this passage when he talks about the Son of Man being 'glorified'? (vs. 23, 30-32; cf. 3:13-16)

6. In what way does the death of the one seed (Jesus) produce many seeds? (vs. 24)

7. Why is Jesus's soul troubled? Why does he not pray for salvation from 'the hour' (i.e. the cross)?

8. What indications in this passage are there that followers of Jesus may have tears in this life, but joy for eternity?

Now do the applying it to our lives questions...



**Week Beginning
Sunday 7th October 2018**

Growth Team News

This week as it is Harvest we are focussing on a Psalm that uses imagery from sowing and harvesting to offer us spiritual encouragement: Psalm 126.

The evening Growth Team starts this week. If you can make Monday nights and would like to join this team for making friends, prayer support and study on the week's sermon theme, then please see Paul or Andrew Dawson.

**Growing in Christ
to glorify God
and enjoy Him forever**



When the joy is gone

Psalm 126 (page 623)

Space to take notes on the talk

- **Question:** _____

- **Answer:** _____ **with confidence**
 - **Confidence in** _____

 - **Confidence in** _____

 - **Confidence in** _____

Starter question

- ❖ Give an example of a time when God has given you joy in your life.

Responding to the talk

1. If you had to write a heading for Psalm 126, what would it be?

2. Read Psalm 126:1-3. Many think that vs. 1-3 is looking back to the Jews being allowed to return to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon. (cf. Ezra 1:1-7).
 - a. Why would this experience have felt 'like dreaming'?
 - b. Can you think of other examples of events that make people sing for joy?
 - c. What was the reaction of the other nations to this event? Why was that important?
3. Read Psalm 126:4-6
 - a. What in these verses suggests that things are different now to how they were in verses 1-3?
 - b. The Negev was a very dry region of Judea, where rain occasionally comes and creates rivers from dry river beds. What is the Psalmist trying to do with this imagery?
 - c. In what way is verse 5 true in a literal non-spiritual sense?
 - d. What Biblical stories give us confidence that God will turn our tears into joy?
 - e. Why can we be confident that this is eternally true for Christians? (cf. 2 Cor. 4:17-18; Phil. 1:6; Rev. 21:4)

You may like to do the 'Going Deeper' questions over the page.

Applying it to our lives

10. A Christian friend is going through a really tough time and is close to despair. How might you use Psalm 126 to encourage them?

11. Someone who has been involved in Christian work for many years but hasn't seen many people come to faith is wondering if it is all worthwhile. How might Psalm 126 encourage them?