

Far From Zion

Psalm 137:1-6

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By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

²On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.

³For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

⁴How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a foreign land?

⁵If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!

⁶Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!

1. To live in this world is to be in a perpetual state of suffering and trial
2. We all have an inherent recognition that the way things are is not the way they ought to be.
3. Faith and hope are distinct but inter-connected concepts
4. The Christian life is a communal life, and the hope that we experience is a communal hope.
5. Hope in earthly circumstances is a blessing, and a gift from God; but it's only a shadow of the eternal hope that we have through Christ's death and resurrection.

On Your Own (better with others)

1. What event in your life made you feel furthest away from God's blessing and joy? In other words, what was your exile experience?
2. How did God use that exile experience to bless others, either during or after?
3. Why is it not irrational to have hope in God for the future?
4. How have you been part of a community that restored hope to others?