



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – June 13, 2024

The Lord be with you.

Tears are a language God understands. Those are the words of a worship song. I learned a few years ago and, and words that have come to mean a lot to me. Tears are a language God understands. I want to talk with you for the next few moments about tears and how God does understand and God cares. Your tears might, might be tears over the death of someone that you love so much. They might be tears over a child in trouble. They might be the tears that you or that you can understand that you could explain to anyone else. Tears are a language. God understands. God get you.

I'm looking at Psalm 56 verse eight, a Psalm of David where where David says to God, you have kept count of my tossing but my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record? In Psalm 56 David is going through. What is one of the darkest, most painful, most confusing times in his life as the enemy, the Philistines, they, they have captured David. David is a prisoner of war. He has every reason to cry to be sorrowful. David begins psalm 56 crying out to God, be gracious to me. O God for people trample on me all day long. Those oppress me.

Now, I just want to say here that it is never wrong to cry. David wept, Jesus wept. God does not dismiss your pain, your sorrow. God does not say get over it. I love how it says of our Lord Jesus Christ in that beautiful servant song of Isaiah chapter 53 verse four, it says that surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows in the midst of the pain that is captured. David. David is sure that God knows all about it. That God cares so that David says to God, you have kept count of my tossing.

Lord, I know that you keep track of every tossing and turning on my sleepless nights like a parent watches over a child. So God watches over us with love and concern. Then David says to God, he says, you put my tears in your bottle. It's interesting language, isn't it? You put my tears in your bottle in the ancient world. People mourning would often put their tears into a bottle as a sign of love and grief. The ancient Romans had a, they had a custom that had a funeral. A close friend would wipe the tears from the mourner's eyes with a piece of cloth and squeeze those tears into a small bottle. And, and that was preserved as a memorial of love and sorrow.

Where during our own American civil war, there were, there were wives who would cry into a tear bottle and, and they would save those tears until their husbands returned home from the war to show them how much they love them and miss them. What David is saying here in beautiful poetic language is it the tears you shed God puts him in his bottle when life is hard and we cry. God puts every one of those tears in his bottle as they are precious to



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Him. You've kept count of my tossing but my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your record? Nothing escapes God. God cares. He's keeping track of your sleepless nights, your tossing, your tears. They are in God's scrap book of remembrance as they are precious to Him.

The song is right. Tears are a language. God understands no one else might understand right now your tears, but God understands the great English preacher Charles Haddon Spurgeon said tears are the diamonds of heaven. God not only knows, knows your pain, but God remembers and God will in perfect time act and He will bring you into that place where there is no more pain, no more sorrow, your tears of the day. They, they are not the end of the story.

The last book of the Bible Revelation chapter 21 verse four, assures us that God will wipe every tear from her eyes. But until then as we go through life's challenges, life's trials, we will remember that we are not alone that God sees God cares. He's keeping track and that one day He will bring us into His perfect peace, an eternal joy. May you today, tonight find peace in God's loving presence with you. He cares.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listening. Until next time.