

## Mid-Week Devotion

### Dark Nights and Sun-Filled Mornings



#### Read Psalm 56

*“You put my tears in Your bottle...”*

Life is full of disappointments, failures, and loss, which of course are coupled with our tears. Have you ever spent a night trying to sleep, but all you seemed to accomplish was soaking your pillow with your tears? You stare at the ceiling, watch the alarm clock numbers slowly change, you try to put the worry, the hurt, and the pain out of your mind but it just won't leave and so the tears continue to flow. Your pain may have been as recent as today or as old as your childhood. It could have been caused by the sudden loss of a loved one, or the loss of a job. Maybe it's those bills that you just can't seem to get a handle on and as you ponder how differently your life has turned out than you expected, the tears continue to flow. The pain you feel deep in your heart, is it breaking; it is a hurt that resonates deep down to your soul and you feel all alone.

David had many nights like these during his life, yes David, God's anointed. Lonely nights are not reserved for just those who we think might deserve them. Often it has nothing to do with what we deserve; rather I have discovered that they are simply a part of life, at least on this side of the grave anyway. The Psalms are filled with people just like you and me who cry out to God, shedding their tears during the long dark nights that seem like they will never end. Psalm 58 is one of those special passages that I find myself drawn to when I experience those long, dark, and seemingly never-ending nights.

These moments, the late night ones are the worst kind, for no one sees them, no one shares them and worse yet, it seems that no one cares; no one except God that is. According to David, you are in fact not alone; God is so present that He collects every tear and puts them in His bottle. Why does God collect your tears? I honestly don't know, but it is nonetheless reassuring that He cares enough to be there with you and share your lonely nights of deep sorrow and pain. Perhaps He removes them so that in the morning, there will be no sign of sorrow to remind you of your worry or pain. Perhaps it is His way of saying, tomorrow will be a better day, I have taken all your tears away, just like I have taken all your cares, your hurt, and pain upon myself...see you are not alone, I am with you always, fear no more.

Because God is with you in the dark, gloomy nights when your heart is breaking, you can also be assured that He will be with you in the bright sun-filled morning that welcomes a new day. To paraphrase M. Craig Barnes, once you believe this, you can end your sleepless and lonely tear-filled nights the way David ends his psalm, confidently “walking before God in the light of life.”

Pastor Ed