

Title: "Stop Moping/Mourning and Reignite Your Praise & Thanksgiving to The Lord"

Scriptures: Psalm 105:1-7; 147:7; 137:1-6

Pastor: Dr. John Geeter

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Date: November 16, 2025

Summary Overview:

In this sermon, Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that as Christians, we are called to rise above spiritual discouragement and intentionally reignite our praise to the Lord even in seasons when life feels heavy or uncertain. By reflecting on Israel's captivity in Babylon, he shows how the people allowed their suffering to silence their worship, choosing to "hang their harps on the willows" rather than sing the songs of Zion. Pastor Dr. Geeter states that we often respond the same way today, letting stress, disappointment, or hardship weaken our praise. Instead of allowing circumstances to dictate our worship, he challenges us to remember God's faithfulness to stay rooted in the strength of the church community, and allow our gratitude to move us into action. His message centers on three essential points.

3 Key Points:

1. The Church, like Israel has the Assurance of God's Affectionate Care and Remembrance Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that Psalm 105 calls us to give thanks, call upon the Lord's name, and continually remember His works. He states that just as God remembered Israel through every stage of their journey, He remembers us as Christians now. God's care is personal, consistent, and grounded in His covenant love. When we take time to reflect on how far God has brought us physically, emotionally, and spiritually it becomes clear that His hand has always been on our lives. Pastor Dr. Geeter reminds us that our present hardships are temporary compared to the eternal joy God has promised. Remembering God's faithfulness is what fuels our praise, especially in the moments when life feels overwhelming.

2. We Should Not Hang Our Harps on the Willows Because We Have Mutual Obligations to One Another Looking at Psalm 137 Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that Israel stop singing because they were discouraged by their circumstances. He states that as Christians, we must resist the urge to pull away from worship or from our church community when things get difficult. Within the body of Christ, we have real responsibilities to each other praying together, supporting each other, sharing burdens, rejoicing together and offering comfort during times of grief. When one person in the church is hurting, the entire church is affected. For that reason, we cannot afford to "hang our harps" or isolate ourselves spiritually. Pastor Dr. Geeter encourages us to stay engaged, stay connected and stay faithful because our unity and love are some of the strongest ways we reflect Christ to the world.

3. Our Gratitude and Thanksgiving Require a Collective Effort for the Welfare of All, Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that true gratitude is shown through action. He states that thanksgiving is not just something we feel it is something we practice by serving others, helping our church, and participating in the work God has called us to do. He uses examples like Isaiah, Moses, Samuel, Abraham and Nehemiah to show how God's people responded to His goodness with a willingness to say, "Here am I, Lord - send me." When God has been good to us, the right response is to serve with purpose and unity. As Christians, our gratitude should motivate us to work together for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of those around us. The church grows stronger when our thanksgiving leads to service.

Conclusion:

Pastor Dr. Geeter explains that we as Christians must stop spiritually moping and mourning and instead reignite our praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. He states that no matter what challenges we face whether they involve finances, health, grief or uncertainty, God is still worthy of our worship. We have the assurance of His love, the responsibility to stand by one another, and the calling to serve together for the good of the church and community. This sermon encouraged me to reflect on God's faithfulness in my own life, resist the urge to pull back during difficult seasons and let my gratitude show through my actions. Ultimately, Pastor Dr. Geeter encourages us to respond with a heart that says, "Here am I, Lord - use me," as we live each day with renewed praise and thanksgiving for all God has done.