Tears In A Bottle
Psalm 56:1-8 (NKJV)

Our scripture text comes to this morning from Psalm 56:1-8.

Psalm 56:1-8 (NKJV)

1 Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up;
   fighting all day he oppresses me.

2 My enemies would hound me all day, for there are many who fight against me, O Most High.

3 Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You.

4 In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust;
   I will not fear. What can flesh do to me?

5 All day they twist my words; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They gather together, they hide, they mark my steps,
   When they lie in wait for my life.

7 Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God!

8 You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle;
   Are they not in Your book?

PRAYER
INTRODUCTION

Its the very first thing we did on the day we were born. Shortly after we made our exit from our mother's womb, the doctor spanked us on the bottom so we would take air into our lungs and let out a cry. And for the very first time our eyes welled up with tears, just the first of many tears we would shed over the course of our lifetime.

The Bible teaches us there are three things that cause us to shed tears.

(A) Sometimes we shed tears because of PHYSICAL pain.

After Job lost all his possessions and all his children and his body was covered in painful boils, Job cried out to God, “For my sighing comes before I eat, and my groanings pour out like water.” (Job 3:24)

(B) Sometimes we shed tears because of EMOTIONAL pain.

Remember after the birth of Jesus when Herod decreed that every Jewish male child two years old and younger in the town of Bethlehem was to be killed, Matthew 2:18 tells us, “A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they were no more.”

(C) Sometimes we shed tears because of SPIRITUAL pain.

On the night of His betrayal, Jesus had warned Peter that “Before the rooster crows, he would deny Him three times.” Peter didn't believe he was capable of such a thing, but before dawn the next morning Peter did exactly what Jesus said he would do. And Luke 22:62 says, “So Peter went out and wept bitterly.”
Our God, who created us knows there is healing in the shedding of tears. Through the shedding of tears we release toxic emotions such as stress......sadness......grief......anxiety......and frustration. Contrary to what many people believe, tears aren't a sign of weakness, tears are a sign of strength. The Bible tells us that even “Jesus wept.” (John 11:35)

In verse 8 of this 56th Psalm, David reveals a wonderful and comforting truth about God.

He writes, “You number my wanderings; put my tears into Your bottle; are they not in Your book?”

The ancients who lived in David's time had a practice of putting tears which were shed for someone who had died into a little bottle called lacrymatorles. (lah-krim-ah-torle) And when they buried their deceased loved one they would place these lacrymatorles or “bottles of tears” inside the tomb. The ancients believed this practice actually helped begin the healing process of losing a loved one.

Archeologists who have unearthed ancient graves commonly come across these “tear bottles” inside the tomb, which tells us this widely practiced in ancient times.

So what does David mean when he says of God, “Put my tears into Your bottle?” Does he mean God actually has a “real glass or clay bottle” that He stores our every tear in? Or does this have a deeper meaning?
For one thing it means......

I. The Lord SEES Our Every Tear

1. David wrote many of the Psalms. And when you carefully read these Psalms you soon learn that David experienced many highs and lows in his life. There are times when his lips are filled with praise and thanksgiving, but there are also times when David's heart is crushed and his eyes are filled with tears.

2. Follow along with me in your Bibles as we hear David cry out to the Lord and how he takes comfort in knowing God sees his tears.

* Let's begin with Psalm 6:6-8 (NKJV)

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\begin{align*}
6 & \text{ I am weary with my groaning;} \\
   & \text{All night I make my bed swim;} \\
   & \text{I drench my couch with my tears.} \\
\end{align*}
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7 My eye wastes away because of grief;
   It grows old because of all my enemies.

8 Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity; (now listen carefully)
   \text{For the Lord has heard the voice of my weeping.}

*Then turn over to Psalm 30:2-5 (NKJV)

2 O Lord my God, I cried out to You, and You healed me.

3 O Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.

4 Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His, and give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning. (Isn't that beautiful? God doesn't promise us that we won't go through “seasons” of tears and sorrow in this life.......but He does promise us that He will turn our “seasons of tears” into “seasons of joy” if we will just trust in Him.)

* Let's look at another............Psalm 42:3-5 (NKJV)

3 My tears have been my food day and night, while they continually say to me, “Where is your God?”

4 When I remember these things, I pour out my soul within me.
   For I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept a pilgrim feast.

5 Why are you cast down, O my soul? And why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance.

David is acknowledging that even though he can't do anything but cry right now, he is confident God will restore his joy and he will once again praise God.

* Next turn over to Psalm 69:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Save me, O God! For the waters have come up to my neck.

2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing;
   I have come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.

3 I am weary with my crying; my throat is dry;
   my eyes fail while I wait for my God.
3. All of these passages teach us this one very important truth and that is, *you and I have never shed a tear that GOD didn't see.*

God has seen every tear we shed on our pillow at night and every tear we have cried behind closed doors.

God has seen every tear we have shed when hurtful or hateful words were spoken to us and crushed our spirit.

God has seen every tear we have shed when someone has betrayed us or trampled all over our heart.

God saw every tear we shed when our loved one died, and every tear we have shed since then when we think of them.

God has seen every tear we shed when we have miserably failed and lost all hope in ourselves.

God has seen every tear we have shed over a wayward son or daughter who has gone astray.

*God has put your tears and my tears in His bottle and recorded them in His book.*
4. **Ruth Bell Graham**, the late wife of Billy Graham, once said......

   “In every pew sits a broken heart.”

5. I think there's a lot of truth in that statement. We may come here each week and hide behind a cheerful smile, but many of us are hurting inside. We have shed tears that no one, but God Himself has seen.

6. To every broken heart here this morning, realize **God has put your tears in His bottle and recorded them in His book.**

   Yes, “weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.”

There is another wonderful truth we need to learn regarding our tears and that is............
II. The Lord Will One Day WIPE AWAY Our Every Tear

1. Turn with me to that beautiful passage in Revelation 21:1-4 (NKJV)

1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.

4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”

2. Think back to when you were a little child and you came crying to your mom or dad after you fell and scraped your knee, or you fell off your bicycle. Lovingly they took you in their arms and “wiped away your tears” and assured you everything was going to be alright.

3. One day our heavenly Father is going to “wipe away every tear from our eyes.” What does that mean? It means that in heaven there will be nothing to cry about. Everything that caused us to cry in this life will be absent in heaven.

(A) All the OUTWARD causes of TEARS will be absent.

In verse 4 John mentions two outward causes of tears that will be absent in heaven: One is DEATH, the other is PAIN.
Never again will we shed a tear over losing a loved one or a beloved family pet. Never again will we weep by the casket or graveside of a departed family member.

Never again will we shed a tear for a loved one or friend who has been taken from us by cancer or heart disease or a stroke, for these are the former things of this life that will pass away. Never again will we hear the tragic news of someone dying in an automobile accident or drowning in a flood or being killed by a tornado or being murdered or committing suicide. Never again will we see a flag-draped casket of a soldier who lost his life in a war.

Never again will we experience the pain of a burn......a cut.......a broken bone.......a kidney stone.....a migraine headache......a broken rib.......a stubbed toe......a mashed finger......or arthritis.

God is going to “wipe away all of our tears” that were caused by the outward things in this life.

(B) God will wipe away all the INWARD causes of tears.

There will be no more tears of LONELINESS.
No more tears of DEPRESSION. No more tears of FRUSTRATION. No more tears of GUILT and SHAME.
No more tears of REMORSE. No more tears of DISAPPOINTMENT.
4. Brothers and sisters, one day the Lord is going to take “the bottles of tears” that you and I shed over the course of our earthly life time and throw them away, never to be remembered again.

C O N C L U S I O N

THE WEAVER’S SHUTTLE

My life is but a weaving between the Lord and me;
I may not choose the colors—He knows what they should be.

For He can view the pattern upon the upper side
While I can see it only on this, the under side.

Sometimes He weaves in sorrow, which seems so strange to me;
But I will trust His judgment and work on faithfully.

‘Tis He who fills the shuttle, nd He knows what is best;
So I shall weave in earnest, and leave to Him the rest.

Not ’til the loom is silent and the shuttles cease to fly
Shall God unroll the canvas and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needed in the Weaver’s skillful hand
As the threads of gold and silver in the pattern He has planned.

~ Benjamin Malachi Franklin

Brothers and sisters, you and I will never understand WHY we had to go through some of the painful experiences we went through in this life. But let us take heart that GOD KEEPS OUR TEARS IN HIS BOTTLE, AND HE RECORDS OUR EVERY SORROW IN HIS BOOK, AND ONE DAY ......ONE DAY SOON, HE WILL WIPE AWAY EVERY TEAR FROM OUR EYES.