

Good morning, Church. Daily Reading, Psalm 138.

Psalm 137:1-4 "By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.
For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
"Sing us one of the songs of Zion!"

How shall we sing the Lord's song
in a foreign land?" (ESV)

One rule the NFL seems to have focused on the past few years is the "No Taunting Rule." No standing over your opponent in a demeaning way, taunting them by putting on a display that will cause ill will between the teams. The league expects sportsmanship and respect for all players and personnel on the field.

But taunting goes back centuries. After the Babylonians took captives their Jewish neighbors, they taunted them to sing them a song from Zion. But who wants to sing a song in the midst of mourning and weeping. The Babylonians knew they had just dominated their neighbors. They knew Judah was mourning the destruction of their homeland. They knew Judah felt lost and alone. They knew their captives were intimidated in every way, and so they taunted them by requesting a song from home.

Many times, we feel the world is cruel and taunting us about our faith, our beliefs, and our trust in God. And yet, it is our faith, our beliefs, and our trust in God that get us through the rough days we face.

As the psalm moves along, the psalmist says, "If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!

Let 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!" (Psalm 137:5-6 ESV)

His statement was, may he never forget where he came from and all he had been taught to hold true. The same thing is true for us. When facing difficulties, we trust in the One who loves us, died for us, rose again, and now intercedes for us every day. We should not let our circumstances rob us of the joy Jesus has for us. Focus on Jesus, not your rivers of Babylon.