

Series Title: **Refreshed and Restored: Summer in the Psalms**

Message Title: **An Uncensored Prayer**

Scripture Source: **Psalm 137**

Date: Sunday, August 10, 2014

Speaker: Stephen Mason

### **The Censored Psalm**

- Psalm 137 – “An Imprecatory Psalm”
- An “imprecation” is a calling upon God for judgement against the wicked.
- At least 18 Psalms contain imprecations (eg. Psalm 10:15; 11:6; 58:6; 109:9; 139:19)

### **By Babylon’s Streams**

- Ps. 137:1-3
- Historical context – 2 Chronicles 36

### **How Can We Sing?**

- Ps. 137:4-6
- The Psalmist is not ready to abandon his faith in God

### **Repay**

- Ps. 137:7-9
- Obadiah 1:11-14

### **Surviving**

- The story of Simon Srebnik – ‘Shoah’
- “The ferocious parts of the Psalms serve as a reminder that there is in the world such a thing as wickedness and that it is hateful to God.” (‘Reflections on the Psalms’, C. S. Lewis)

### **Lesson: The Honesty of Psalm 137**

- “The absence of anger, especially that sort of anger which we call indignation, can, in my opinion, be a most alarming symptom. And the presence of indignation may be a good one...If the Jews cursed more bitterly than the pagans this was, I think, at least in part because they took right and wrong more seriously.” (C. S. Lewis)
- “It is easy to be honest before God with our hallelujahs; it is somewhat more difficult to be honest in our hurts; it is nearly impossible to be honest before God in the dark emotions of our hate...But the way of prayer is not to cover our unlovely emotions so that they will appear respectable, but expose them so that they can be enlisted in the work of the Kingdom.” (Eugene Peterson)
- “In order for us to love our enemies, we must pray our hatred first.” (Eugene Peterson)
- “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” (Karl Barth)

### **Between Sundays**

- Visit [www.ijm.ca](http://www.ijm.ca)
- Pray Psalm 10