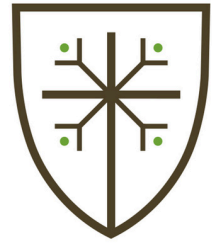


SERMON NOTES



PRIMARY
PSALMS SERMON SERIES
PRAYER

August 4, 2024

SERMON INFO

TITLE

“Greater & Lesser Glory”

PREACHER

Rev. Brent Baker

TEXTS

Psalms 29

Romans 11:33-12:1

Matthew 8:23-27

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What “less glories” most often distract us from the glory of God?
2. How do we respond to God’s magnificence with our “whole person” in our worship service?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week in worship we took a closer look at worship itself. Brent gave us the definition of worship as “a whole person response to magnificence.” As humans, we are hard-wired to worship. And so the question is not if we will worship but what we will worship. All too often we exchange the glory of God for lesser glories and we need something to wake us up, to interrupt us. And the Psalm we looked at gives us two ways that God regularly reawakens us.

Storm

The backdrop of Psalm 29 is likely David witnessing a terrifying thunderstorm. This storm was so powerful that it broke what was thought to be unbreakable; it moved what was impossible to move; and it shook the silence and interrupted the desolate places. It was the Lord himself who commanded this storm. He was the cause and the power. It’s His storm. Sometimes only a storm will do to awaken us to glory. Like with Jesus and his disciples on the sea, Jesus commands the storm with his power, but only commands it to cease after it has done its work to reopen the eyes of his followers.

In the Psalm, finally, at the end of the storm, we hear the voice of men crying out together, “glory!” The storm culminates in glory, the glory of the one who commands it, and the human response to that glory which is worship.

Glory

The temple was the place where heaven and earth collided and interacted. It was where God resided with man, his throne room on earth. And in this Psalm, that is where we see worship happen, in the place where God’s people gather and witness his glory. All our other activities are meant to be a compliment to the worship of God’s people. The Psalms emphasize this over and over again. If you want to taste and see the glory of God, worship with his people.

Our experience of God’s majesty and glory can sometimes be diminished. Often, we might come to worship focused on what we will get out of it instead of what we give in worship. But the Bible presents worship as a kind of throne room session. You’ve been invited into the throne room of the king. And in the throne room, our first thought is, “I’m not supposed to be here. How did I get invited to this place?” someone great had to give up something great to make it possible.

When Jesus died, there was a storm, the temple veil was torn in two, giving access to the throne-room of God in the temple that had previously only been available to God’s high priest. Through Christ’s death, the distance was finally closed and we received our invitation to gaze on the glory of God.

Paul calls the people of Christ “the temple of God.” You have become the sacred space where heaven and earth collide, where God dwells on earth. And in that temple, whatever we encounter, we strive to do it to the glory of God.