

Psalm 96

Worship

Image Church // Summer in the Psalms// Week 10

Intro

Good morning Image family I hope you're doing well!

If you got your bibles go ahead and grab them and turn to **Psalm 96...**

One of our core values is **Worship**... And the way that we define it is *living everyday life in light of the gospel...*

IOW: Worship is a way of life... It's living in response to the finished work of Jesus...

This morning we're going to see some practical ways that this should play out in our lives...

Psalm 96

**1 Sing a new song to the Lord;
let the whole earth sing to the Lord.**

Ok, so what we see here is that one of the ways that we respond to the gospel is by **singing**... *The bible talks a lot about singing...*

Now: Worship is more than singing, but it's not less than singing¹...

And notice that this is an imperative which means that it's not a **suggestion**, it's a **command**... And it's not just an OT thing...

Ephesians 5:18-20 Paul's instruction to the church: *...be filled by the Spirit: 19 speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making music with your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

Singing is not something that's optional for you as a Christian or for us at our gathering here on the weekend... It's one of the ways that we respond to the gospel!

- Also, evidence that you're filled with the Spirit is singing...

Some of you are like well I can't sing...

- Well I have good news for you, no where does God command quality, it's not about how good you sing, **but that you sing!**
 - Praise God, because I can't sing a lick, just ask my wife...
 - Come sit by me up here... I know how to break mirrors!

Some of you are like I don't feel like singing...

- Heart issue...
- This is not about your feelings, it's about your faithfulness...
- It's about who God is not about how you feel on a given Sunday!

Others of you are like I don't like the song or the style...

- Well, the good news is we ain't singing to you! The text says **Sing a new song to THE LORD**, not to you!
- This may be helpful: What we do up here is not a service for you, this is not a performance...
 - Leadership and coordination...

Some of you, talking to my christian brothers and sisters, need to take a step of obedience and sing and watch as it begins to shape your heart...

¹ Joby Martin, *A New Song*.

I want to point out that the psalmist also says here to sing a **new song...** I love this... Not necessarily a literal new song, but a fresh response to foundational truths...

- **One Scholar says:** *it's a response that will match the freshness of his mercies, which are 'new every morning.'*²

Singing is not just a random activity, it's a reorientation... Look at verse 2:

**2 Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
proclaim his salvation from day to day.**

I want you to see the connection between **singing, and proclaiming...**

We sing to affirm the truths of God...

- You're owning the reality of what you sing...

We sing to be reminded of the truths of God...

- Rehearsing them as you sing...

We sing to celebrate who God is and what He's done through Christ...

- **Example:**
 - Fight song when you score a touchdown... *Glory Glory to old Georgia!*
 - Birthdays, Christmas... *Going potty (for my daughter)!*
- Talk about celebrating salvation...
 - Some of you don't celebrate because you don't think it's that great...
 - This Psalm will help you with that...
- **John Piper says:** *God has given singing to his people as one of the most precious and powerful expressions of our gladness in his glory.*

Captives are set free when when we sing...

- **Acts 16** Paul and Silas in prison praying and **singing!**

Something happens when we sing together...

- Brings us together around a common belief...
 - **Example:** if you're married you might have a song...
 - You and your friends might have a song...
 - *Mine is kiss me through the phone... but it's not that way that it sounds...*
- It unifies us around who we are...
 - **Example:** Hark the sound

***When we sing it is a testament to non-Christians...**

- They should watch us and see and hear something different...
- Which **BTW:** some of y'all have no problem standing with thousands of other people going ape crazy over sports but you come in here and are ho-humb... That's sad...
- **Example:** In the same way I could know if I was at a Braves game or ATL Falcons game without looking at the field by just listening and watching people, people should be able to tell that they are around people worshipping God!
- They may not believe it but they should see you believe it...
 - Kinda like the ATL Falcons

***And watch this, not only should our praise in here be a testament to non-Christians that come in, but our praise should bleed out there... Our singing should continue out there...**

- By that I mean yes literal singing yes...
- But mainly the reality of the truths that we sing about should bleed out there... The excitement and passion for who God is and what he's done should flow out there!
- The things that we sing about should sustain us and motivate us and encourage us in our mission out there!!

² Derek Kidner, *Psalms 73-150: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 16, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975), 379.

Example: one of my songs in college that would fire me up on the field... **Eminem Lose Yourself**... In college, I was in a different place in my sanctification journey... But the point is that it would motivate me out on the field...

What we sing about in here should motivate us out there!

Look at verse 3:

3 Declare his glory among the nations,
his wondrous works among all peoples.

Our declaration on the outside comes as an overflow of our declaration on the inside!

To declare God's glory and wondrous works to others, we have to have experienced them ourselves!

- Religion vs. relationship...
- Hear about what God is doing and seeing what God is doing...
- Being reminded of what God has done and is doing in YOU!

This is why what happens here on the weekends is so important...

- **Some of you lack motivation because you lack presence among the gathered body**...
 - Missing out on singing and celebrating the goodness of God!
- This is a rallying point for you each week to remind and motivate you... To help you remember the truths of God...

Hopefully, you leave here and want to listen to more songs and want to sing more songs, maybe even break out in song... This is the hope!

See, one of the best ways to remember the truths of God is to sing them... You learn to remember through repetition and recitation...

- This is a fact- this is how kids are taught, we still learn this way...

And listen: When you're down/discouraged/doubting his wondrous works... Listen to a Song...

Look at verse 4:

4 For the Lord is great and is highly praised;
he is feared above all gods.

5 For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

For some of you, here's the miss... These things are not true for you...

God is not highly praised... Part of this is evident in your lack of joy and singing... But more so in your approach to life...

You don't fear God above other gods...

- You're bowing down to them...
 - Job, money, status, approval, kids,

What differentiates your life from that of those that are worshiping idols?

Some of you don't come in here and sing because God is a thing on the mantle of your heart, not the only thing!

- **Again, God's not that great to you... Which is why you have a hard time worshiping him through song because you're not worshiping Him with the rest of your life...**

The beauty of the gospel is that you can repent... That's something to celebrate!

Verse 6: Splendor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

8 Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
bring an offering and enter his courts.

Ascribe means: to give... it's giving God what's due to Him... It's surrendering to the realities of who God is...

The Psalmist understands the magnitude of who God is... The question is, do you?!? Can you say these things about God and really mean them...

- Splendor and majesty
- Strength and beauty
- Glory and strength
- The glory of simply His name!

For some of you, the disconnect in your worship is a watered-down view of God...

- *Flesh out...*

The Psalmist also says here to bring and offering: this is a gift that is for the Lord... This is Ascribing to the realities of who He is and that He is worthy of your gift...

- He is the one who gave you everything you have, your gift serves as a reminder of the nature of God!

This is why we take up an offering at our gatherings... This is why when we do we say that *we're going to continue to worship through giving...*

And Christian, hear me on this... This call to bring an offering, this call to give isn't a suggestion... It is the natural overflow of a heart that's centered on God... It is living in light of who God is and what He's done...

This is a place where some of you really struggle to worship...

- Your generosity is a reminder of God's generosity towards you...

What does this look like? Get this a lot let me address really quick... It's important you have a healthy **biblical philosophy of giving**...

I'm Addressing the Christian **BTW**... Not a Christian this does not apply to you...

How do we think about bringing an offering?

- 10% to the local church...
 - Malachi 3... Jesus would affirm with the Pharisees in Luke 11, Matthew 23...
 - Giving your first and best **through the local church**: this is how Paul was supported...
- 10% is the baseline, not the finish line...
 - **Some of you are giving God a "tip" when you should be giving Him a sacrificial offering**...
 - **Note:** Some of you that are new to the faith or in a very difficult financial situation- start somewhere...
 - Less about the percentage and more about the sacrifice and the heart...

Pre or post-tax... Pre! Your income is your income... What you pay in taxes is just a bill like any other...

- Are you going to tithe after all your bills too?? Car payment, water bill? It should not get priority...
- Would you really consider reconciling with the government before you give to God?

The goal is first and best to your King... **AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP!**

- It's not your money anyway, it's God's- Giving to Him reminds you of that!

At the end of the day, **this is not about God getting money out of your pockets but Idols out of your heart!** Either Jesus is your King or He's not...

***Giving an offering is an act of surrender and worship!**

Verse 9, the Psalmist continues in the vein of worship:

9 Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

The holiness of God... See Him you die...

- **Example:** 1 Chronicles 13: Uzzah and the ark...

I think we miss this... We don't have a healthy tremble of God...

- Listen, it is the fear of the Lord that gives way to the beauty of your salvation...

What we have been saved from... The opportunity that God's extended to us **through Christ!**

This is what leads the Psalmist again to point outward... He points upwards and then outward several times in this Psalm...

Look at verse 10...

10 Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns.
The world is firmly established; it cannot be shaken.
He judges the peoples fairly."

11 Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice;
let the sea and all that fills it resound.

12 Let the fields and everything in them celebrate.
Then all the trees of the forest will shout for joy

13 before the Lord, for he is coming—
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his faithfulness.

The Lord will return and He will Judge...

- *Flesh out...*

We worship in song and with our lives in response to Christ's judgment in our place

Conclusion [VAMP]

The goal is that our worship in here would lead to worship out there ... in our **hearts, in our lives,** and in our **mission...**

Some of you need to become worshipers...

- In your singing...
- In your living...
- By participating in our mission...

Appeal to non-Christians: The Lord will return, He will Judge...

Pray