



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sermon Title: Truth or Consequences

Speaker/ Date: Cameron Baker/ December 30, 2018

Psalm 81

On the verge of the New Year we look forward and ask "How can I live in a place of complete satisfaction? - As free from burdens as possible."

The answer is found in Psalm 81. After we look at it, you will realize:

BIG IDEA: GOD LIGHTENS YOUR BURDENS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR WORSHIP OF HIM

If I choose God as my everything, the ups and downs of life change to one simple path moving me closer and closer to the one I worship.

So...Make 2019 your year for Big personal worship!

This morning, we are going to look at psalm 81 to witness an example of:

1) WHAT WORSHIP LOOKS LIKE

Psalm 81:1-5

Notice: Demonstrative nature of the worship: they sing, they shout, there's music, it happens night and day, even in places where you are a stranger or a foreigner. Worship can be Demonstrative and Loud.

The Psalmist bases it on what we know about God, who he is:

...**God is strength**, strength independent of how we feel. In sickness, in cancer, in weakness, God is **STRENGTH**

...**God is our joy**, there is a knowing of permanence, whatever Human relationship bring you joy, God is all the more.

The closer you get to God, the more joy you will have. God establishes us in our worship. No matter where we are, that place, in worship, becomes his special ground.

2. WHAT WORSHIP CAN FEEL LIKE

Psalm 81:6-10

In this next section of the Psalm, God begins to recall what he did for the Hebrews in Egypt and bridges to the Jews of the Psalmist's day.

The Hebrews in slavery in Egypt fell down before God (worship) He heard them and moved them out. Took away their burdens of slavery and moved them on.

You will be satisfied, body, mind, and spirit when your heart of stone turns to a soft heart of flesh when you fall down before God in worship.

If you are a complaining you are not worshipping.
If you are worshipping you are never complaining!

Remember: Your burdens will not be lifted by chasing anything but God!

3. WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF WORSHIP

Psalm 81:11-16

The Psalmist writes:

¹¹ "But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me. ¹² So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices."

A consistent warning in God's word. It seems his favorite earthly consequence of leaving him, is giving us exactly what we want.

¹³ "If my people would but listen to me, if Israel would follow my ways, ¹⁴ how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes! ¹⁵ Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever. ¹⁶ But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

This is what God desires to do for those who worship Him!

Enemies? Who are yours? - Sickness, death, struggle, weakness, lust for control, poverty, abuse, ridicule? God will act against these things after we worship him in the middle of them.

Free of: hurt in the past, concerns for today, and fear of tomorrow.

This year, the choices are yours. God is the pilot, you are the passenger. You can choose to stay and ride with the master, or you can parachute out, but it will be into a war zone, because he wants you to stay with Him.

GOD LIGHTENS YOUR BURDENS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR WORSHIP OF HIM. Make 2019 your year of personal worship to God!

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **What are some appropriate ways to worship God?**
- **Are there any inappropriate ways to worship God?**
- **What role does personal preference play in worship, and what role should personal preferences play in corporate worship?**
- **Is it possible for one to worship even when the worship style is not in sync with his/her personal preference? Discuss times when you engaged in meaningful worship in a form other than your own personal favorite.**
- **Is there someone or something that you fall down in front of, or roll over for - other than God?**
- **What are some of the benefits to our own personal lives as we submit those things from the question above to the Lord in worship? What are some benefits to our families, friends, and community?**