

2 Samuel 6:12–23 / for prayer, read 20–23

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!”

21 So David said to Michal, “It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD.

22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

PRAYER: We don’t want to miss out on the moving of the Holy Spirit

Last week: Lance’s message was a PART 1 on worship in 2 Samuel 6. We’ll be doing a PART 2, as this theme continues in a powerful way in the rest of the chapter.

Last week, we learned:

David attempted to bring the ark up to Jerusalem, after 100 years of storage / by ox cart / like the Philistines / forgot God’s instructions

God was displeased / dishonored / stuck down one of the attendants, Uzzah, even in the midst of a fantastic spectacle of music, shouting, & dancing

Big Lesson EXCITEMENT, ENERGY, or SINCERITY doesn’t make a worship experience AUTHENTIC.

Music, celebration, participation, noise, etc. doesn’t mean God is pleased / We must come to God as He INSTRUCTS—NOT by our own means or effort / As Jesus taught = worship must be in spirit & IN TRUTH

But, 3 months later, the family housing the ark was being blessed / David knew God was saying it was time to bring the Ark up to Jerusalem / this time, David was totally successful. Let’s find out what was different...

12b... So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness.

As we lead up to the key LESSON found in Michal’s story, we are going to list **7 KEYS** to successful worship...

1st KEY GLADNESS & CELEBRATION

Worship should involve JOYFUL CELEBRATION! We are worshipping a God who loved us, died for us, saved us, rescued us, and blessed us beyond measure. We should worship in GLADNESS!

13 And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD

Those “bearing the ark” = this time the ark was being carried properly, on poles on the shoulders of the Levites

They had done their homework. They had gone to God’s word & realized what they had done wrong the first time

2nd KEY REPENTANCE / they turned from the old way and walking in obedience to God’s instructions

...when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep.

3rd KEY / “They sacrificed after six steps” = Worship must involve SACRIFICE

There was no mention of sacrifice in the first attempt / this shows us that no amount of sound, lights, production, talent, excitement, etc. in church will matter without SACRIFICE in worship.

Later in his life, David says this: *How can I offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God with that which costs me nothing?* Or, I’d say it this way: *If it costs me nothing, then it isn’t a “sacrifice of worship!”*

My friends, we always stress that SALVATION is a FREE gift from God—by grace & through faith—right? Because of Jesus’ work on the cross...

But WORSHIP isn’t free, cheap or easy! Worship should demonstrate how VALUABLE God is to us = so, we to give Him our best!!! When worship costs nothing, then it isn’t worship.

14 Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod.

There are 3 keys to worship packed into the short verse...

4th KEY: worship is BEFORE THE LORD / not “before the audience”

Psalm 115:1 • Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

When we are focused on what people think about us in our worship, we are missing the point!

This is especially hard for those on the platform leading worship! As a musician, I can say—please pray for your worship leaders, that they will always worship BEFORE THE LORD, and not worry about performance to please the audience!

5th KEY: Worship should involve our whole being / including our bodies!

David danced with all his might. = We are to love God with our heart, soul, and *strength* = our bodies / Now—you might not be much of a dancer (like me) but God has given you hands to raise, knees that can bow, a voice that can sing / or even, strength to serve here at CCO

But, according to Romans 12, giving our bodies as a living sacrifice in holiness is the HIGHEST form of our worship to God

and David was wearing a linen ephod.

Now, you may have heard that David was dancing in his underwear. This isn’t really correct. Here is the same scene described in 1 Chronicles 15...

27 David was clothed with a robe of fine linen, as were all the Levites who bore the ark, the singers, and Chenaniah the music master with the singers. David also wore a linen ephod.

David wasn’t dancing in his underwear as we often hear = He is wearing the simple linen garment of the Levite. Later in the text, David will explain that his simple linen garment speaks of humility before God.

6th KEY: Worship must involve HUMILITY.

We must never make worship about us. It is never to exalt ourselves or serve ourselves. It is about lowering ourselves, but raising God higher.

We'll dig more into this later. For now, let's finish the scene...

15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

16 Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

So, here is Michal—TOTALLY MISSING OUT. She couldn't enter in. She couldn't participate. / And as a result, her SPIRITUAL barrenness will be demonstrated by barrenness in childbearing!

The Bible is full of people who missed out on powerful movements of the Holy Spirit because they were being like MICHAL. We could talk for the rest of the morning about folks like...

Mary worshiping Jesus with her precious oil & wiping His feet with her hair, but the disciples totally missed out, as they judged her, even saying she was being immodest. Sounds like Michal & David, right?

Or, think of *Cain & Abel*. God visit the boys in the field, and spoke to them, yet Cain ends up killing Abel in his jealousy. Talk about making it all about you in your worship!

Or *Jesus*, preaching His first sermon in Nazareth. People didn't like it, & they tried to throw Him off the cliff. Yet, the people walked out thinking, *I didn't get anything out of that sermon today. God just isn't in this church.*

Or, what about the many *people in the wilderness* with Moses, experiencing manna from heaven, fire by night, cloud by day, and miraculous water from the rocks. They all grumbled that it had been better in their previous church, back in Egypt.

Or *Ananias and Saphira*. As the Holy Spirit was filling the church with God's powerful presence, they tried to claim some glory for themselves. They were more focused on their SOCIAL STANDING and REPUTATION, like Michal in our story today. And the result was they dropped dead. Talk about spiritual barrenness.

Realize this: Every week at church...

...no matter how bad the preaching or how messy the music or sound, people ALWAYS come up to us to tell us how powerfully God moved in their hearts and lives.

God is answering prayers. God is healing. God is setting people free from bondage...Because God's word is powerful and effective, no matter who is upfront sharing it.

But at the same time, we hear of people complaining that GOD IS ABSENT / JESUS ISN'T HERE / THE SPIRIT ISN'T MOVING / How can both of these be happening at the same time?!?

The POINT IS that worship is YOUR responsibility—not the pastor, the worship team, the church, or the people around you.

The church leaders can't make the HOLY SPIRIT come or move in this place, like flipping the right

switches. It is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to seek Him, and invite Him to move in your life, and to surrender to Him in your worship.

This is the lesson of Michal, and the other spiritual party poopers in scripture!

VS 17–19 • David adds to the joyful celebration by sharing a gift of food with his people in Jerusalem. I'll get back to this later. The point is that this adds to the CONTRAST with Michal's attitude!

20 *Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"*

So, David came to bless his household, but Michal is completely out of touch with what is happening! She is being a DEBBIE DOWNER /or, a MOPEY MICHAL

What was going on with Michal? Why was she in a funk? Here's a clue!

Notice in vs 16, Michal is in a high building, since she is able to see David in the midst of a crowd. Which means —

- She refuses to lower herself and join in with the common people.
- She is looking down and passing judgment on David's worship,
What is the worst seat in church / where it is all but impossible to worship in? = The JUDGMENT SEAT!
- It is safe to assume: Because she can't lower herself to worship WITH David, and probably out of a sense of her guilt, she DESPISES him
SO = she is UNABLE to experience God's amazing presence!

What was Michal so IRRITATED about? The text describes two things = the FIRST is David's EXUBERANT worship:

21 *So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD."*

David talks about *playing music*, which of course involves singing, dancing, & shouting

David answers Michal this way: He says that his worship was BEFORE THE LORD

David was extremely aware that it was God who had put him on the throne by His great mercy and grace. David could take no credit for it. So, David's worship was FOR THE LORD—and not for any person on earth, including his own wife.

What he is implying is this: *It was for God, Michal, not for you. So why are you letting it bother you? It had nothing to do with you!*

Hey—if you ever complain to a pastor: *I just didn't get anything out of the worship service today*, his reply should be: *That's great! The worship wasn't for you! It was for God.*

You see, if you think you are supposed to receive something in the worship, then it is going to the wrong direction. Our worship is BEFORE THE LORD and intended for him. Don't be a worship CONSUMER, because you will always be disappointed! Be a worship CONTRIBUTOR!

And then David mentions Michal's SECOND irritation: his ATTIRE

22 And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

In vs 20 = Michal accused David of shamefully disrobing before the women, which was shameful, scandalous and immodest.

But, as we saw before David was just wearing the humble garment of a Levitical priest. He wasn't baring his body in some immoral way.

So, when Michal accused David of near nakedness and shameless immodesty, she was exaggerating! She was being dramatic and blowing it out of proportion.

But David defends his worship: He says here that he HUMBLED himself, by removing his ROYAL ROBE, to worship in a plain linen shirt before God. He was UNDIGNIFIED but he wasn't IMMODEST.

He didn't want to be DISTINGUISHED. He sought to LOWER HIMSELF before God.

The point is this: Personal dignity and honor matter nothing to David!

He had been taken from the fields and caves to sit on the throne of Jerusalem. He didn't need a royal robe or crown to feel significant. His significance was found in loving God / giving GLORY to GOD ALONE & stealing none of it for himself.

In fact, in this situation, wearing his ROYAL ROBES while worshiping God would have been more INAPPROPRIATE and SCANDALOUS than the simple garment of the Levite!

But, Michal cared more about DIGNITY and HONOR more than she cared about God's holiness and reverence.

WHY? = I suggest: *She still had a little bit of her father Saul in her!*

Like Saul, Michal's identity was based on her royal position in society. She was focused on her personal reputation. So, her husband David should be dressed in his finery and royal robes, because this reflected on her!

7th KEY to successful worship: Don't worry about your DIGNITY = Don't worry about your personal honor / reputation / social standing / even your composure

These are worthless values when you are standing before God

How can you connect with Him if you are putting up a front? TRUE WORSHIP means we are UNDIGNIFIED before God / just be yourself! Be as UNDIGNIFIED as necessary to meet with God without any walls or barriers

Finally: Notice this phrase in David's reply to Michal...

But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.”

Even as David lowered himself and sought no attention for himself, He knew that God would honor him before the people

David lowered himself, but God raised him up in due time.
Michal raised herself up, but God lowered her with a divine rebuke.

Just as God promises in James 4:10: Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

And again in 1 Peter 5:5–6: God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,

Are you ready to PUT GOD'S PROMISE into effect? Are you ready to worship in Humility / with a passionate sacrifice of praise? / As unto God, and not unto man? / without concern for your personal reputation or dignity?

It is time to take a STEP OF FAITH in your worship. It is time to TRY something new. To go DEEPER in worship! PRESS IN to God. Give Him a greater SACRIFICE of praise!

Allow GOD TO MOVE IN YOUR LIFE like He never has before!

Don't be the Michal who stands back judging at a distance, failing to enter in, and then complains about lack of the Holy Spirit present.

So, we skipped over vs 17–19. I saved them for this part of our worship time, when we are going to share in communion together.

17 So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And when David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

One way that David and the people worshiped God together was to eat a meal together.

David wants everyone in Jerusalem to be blessed in a practical way / everyone in Jerusalem is involved with the worship / they are blessed / they are FED / they are full of JOY

I love how God often involved FOOD in worship services in scripture. He loves to involve our senses, and even our taste buds.

The word COMMUNION means “common union” / we have Christ in common / this reminds us that we are ONE in Jesus / we worship in COMMON UNITY

The BREAD and CUP remind us that Jesus paid a precious price to save us. We weren't CHEAP to God. This is why our worship must involve sacrifice!

The ushers are going to come and distribute the ELEMENTS OF COMMUNION / please hold them and we'll eat together in REVERENCE AND WORSHIP before God

After communion, we will be having a final song. Realize this: the SONG isn't WORSHIP. Your ATTITUDE and ACTIONS directed to God are worship!

Don't worry about your DIGNITY.

Don't worry about what people will think.

We aren't here to JUDGE, like Michal looking down from her tower.

We are here to worship God TOGETHER IN UNITY AND LOVE.