

## THE SONGS OF **W O R S H I P** EPHESIANS 5:17-20

Pastor Craig Smith • May 30, 2021

**Icebreaker:** *Think about some of your favorite songs. What makes them special? A favorite tune, a selection from a particularly eventful time in your life? Why do some of your favorite songs appeal to you?*

**There has always been worship through song on earth...**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD, "I will sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has hurled into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise Him, my father's God, and I will exalt Him... Who among the gods is like you, O LORD? Who is like You—majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?" (**Exodus 15:1-2, 11 NIV**). **The song of Moses is the first mention of corporate worship by God's people in Scripture through song. Why are the lyrics of this song so special? How does it set a precedent for future praise?**

**There will always be worship through song in heaven...**

And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name. They held harps given them by God and sang the song of Moses the servant of God and the song of the Lamb: "Great and marvelous are Your deeds, Lord God Almighty. Just and true are Your ways, King of the ages. Who will not fear you, O Lord, and bring glory to Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed." (**Revelation 15:2-4 NIV**). **The song of Moses is repeated again at the consummation of the age in heaven. Why do you think the same song is repeated at the beginning and end of the story of God's people on earth?**

**Learning to worship through song...**

- **Singing is an expression of the Spirit-filled life** – "Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit..." (**Ephesians 5:17-18 RSV**)
- **Singing is to be "with each other"** – "addressing one another..." (**Ephesians 5:19 RSV**). **The worship of God, especially through song with other believers, is key in the full expression of praise. Do you perceive the Holy Spirit when you are worshipping with the church body at TVC?**
- **Singing is to be "to the Lord"** – "...singing and making melody to the Lord..." (**Ephesians 5:19 RSV**). **Notice, Paul does not stipulate what our singing will be like. Maori, Watusi, Korean and Canadian song will all sound very different. How does it make you feel to be able to join believers all over the world in presenting our songs to Jesus?**
- **Singing is to be varied in its forms** – "...in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs..." (**Ephesians 5:19 RSV**). **Why are different sorts of audible praise important?**

"O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things..." (**Psalms 98:1 RSV**)

- ***Singing is to be from the heart – “...making melody to the Lord with all your heart...” (Ephesians 5:19 RSV). In Scripture, the “heart” is really seen as the seat of the soul. It is the aggregation of our thoughts, emotions, motives, desires and the catalyst for our behavior. So, why does God insist that we worship Him with all our heart?***
- ***Singing is to be a response of gratitude – “...for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.” (Ephesians 5:20 RSV) Why do you think song (or music in general) is a powerful medium for us to express our gratitude to God?***

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God. (Colossians 3:16 RSV)*