

Spectator, Participator, or Agitator?

Psalms 150 | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

Are you watching praise happen, or are you helping stir it up?

I. Praise Is the Point

Key Text: *Psalms 150:1-6*

- The psalm moves through praise in the sanctuary, then praise with trumpet, harp, timbrel, dance, and cymbals, ending with “let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.”
- This psalm closes out the entire book of Psalms.
- David likely wrote it late in life, looking back on everything he’d walked through: exile, running from Saul, his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah, the wars.
- After all of it, David sums his whole life up in one word.

II. Hallelujah: The Word Everyone Knows

- The word crosses every language barrier. Even in a country where you can’t understand anything being said, people still recognize “hallelujah.”
- It’s the word David picked to close out the whole book.

III. Three Kinds of People in Church

Key Text: *Hebrews 10:23-24*

Spectators

- Come to watch. Often end up criticizing.
- Easy to get your eyes off what matters when you’re just watching.
- Illustration: his son sidelined at a football game in full pads, not allowed to play, just watching from the car.

Participators

- Keep a church running. They pray, fast, show up early, sing.
- Not worried about the audience, worried about the kingdom.

Agitators

Word Study: “Provoke” in Hebrews 10:24 sounds like a bad word, but it means to stir one another up, not to make angry.

- Illustration: a paint agitator keeps the solids in a barrel stirred up so they don’t settle and go heavy.
- Agitators in church don’t just show up. They stir up the praise in the people around them too.

IV. Don't Miss What's Down the Street

A boy is given money for a parade. He spends it early on something small, a clown handing out a dollar, and goes home. He never finds out the real event, a big tent with everything going on, was just down the street. How many times do we come to church, put in a small effort, and walk out right when God wanted to do something bigger?

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. Would people watching you in church call you a spectator, a participator, or an agitator right now?
2. What's keeping you on the sidelines instead of stirring up your praise?
3. David's life included exile, war, and serious failure. What's stopping you from ending your story with "hallelujah" too?
4. Like the boy in the story, is there a blessing you've walked away from too soon?
5. What would it look like this week to stir someone else up to love and good works?

Scripture References: Psalm 150:1-6 | Hebrews 10:23-24