

## PRAISE FIT FOR A KING

- ❖ When I think of a lion, I think of a roar. A lion with no roar isn't really a lion
- ❖ Last weekend, Em and I were at a friend's wedding in Joburg. The thing about a wedding is that: there's celebration, there's emotion, there's anticipation. The favourite moment of a wedding for me is when the groom lays eyes on his bride for the first time as she walks down the aisle. There's such emotion and expression.
- ❖ We are the bride of Christ, God has created us to express our love to him
- When we taste good food
- When we are surprised with a present
- When someone hurts us and we get angry

### **2 Samuel 6 New International Version (NIV)**

The Ark Brought to Jerusalem

David again brought together all the able young men of Israel—thirty thousand. <sup>2</sup> He and all his men went to Baalah<sup>[a]</sup> in Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name,<sup>[b]</sup> the name of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim on the ark.<sup>3</sup> They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart <sup>4</sup> with the ark of God on it,<sup>[c]</sup> and Ahio was walking in front of it. <sup>5</sup> David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets,<sup>[d]</sup> harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.

<sup>6</sup> When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. <sup>7</sup> The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God.

<sup>8</sup> Then David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.<sup>[e]</sup>

<sup>9</sup> David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, "How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?" <sup>10</sup> He was not willing to take the ark of the Lord to be with him in the City of David. Instead, he took it to the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite. <sup>11</sup> The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household.

<sup>12</sup> Now King David was told, "The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-Edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God." So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing. <sup>13</sup> When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. <sup>14</sup> Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, <sup>15</sup> while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

<sup>16</sup> As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

<sup>17</sup> They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before the Lord. <sup>18</sup> After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. <sup>19</sup> Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

<sup>20</sup> When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!"

<sup>21</sup> David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. <sup>22</sup> I will become even **more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes.** But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor."

<sup>23</sup> And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

There are a couple of things to note here:

- We see the reverence that God requires, We see this juxtaposed with David's sheer celebration and his almost foolish act of worship to God.
- **Here's the point:**  
We are never to lose our awe for God in Worship, but we are also never to lose our passion and expression towards God in our worship.
- Sometimes I think we can fall in the legalistic camp if decided what is pleasing and what isn't pleasing to God. I think David's actions would have offended me at first. But you know what this boils down to. Praise and worship is all about the heart!

I think in some ways, the world we live in has forgotten about what it means to celebrate God with all our might. Because we think it's offensive. When really it's all about the heart.

**There is power behind Praise**

### 1) Praise gets our focus off ourselves and back on God

If there's something that has defined society in the last couple of years, I would have to say it's the 'SELFIE'. A photo that is taken of oneself. And we've become very good at it through much practice. With many of us pressing the lock button instead of the camera. We have selfie sticks, now even drones used for selfies.

How sad it is! In 2015 alone, there were 27 selfie related deaths around the world.

Now selfies are good, and they're fun. But the point is that, we need to put emphasis back onto God and his glory and worth!

*"And my tongue shall speak of your righteousness and of your praise all the day long." Psa. 35:28*

### 2) Praise makes the enemy flee

*"As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated" 2 Chron. 20:22*

- When God gets the glory, when he is exalted, he moves in our life. He doesn't want the glory because he's big headed or prideful. No, God is the only one worthy of receiving our praise, it fits perfectly on him.
- If you're generally quite negative and critical, how much are you praising in your life.

Praise affects you, it affects the devil, and it affects God. It shifts our focus onto God, it scatters the enemy, and it blesses God.

### 3) Praise is rooted in thankfulness

There is this song that we sing:

Let our praise be your welcome, let our songs be a sign, we are here for you, we are here for you.  
We welcome you with praise

Praise begins with a thankful heart. It's the fuel of praise.

## DIFFERENT EXPRESSIONS IN PRAISE (Going to go fast here)

### OUR MOUTHS

#### 1. SPEAKING

Psalm 34:1 says, "I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."

#### 2. SHOUTING

Psalm 27:6 says, "Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord."

#### Shabach

**Shabach means, "to shout, to address in a loud tone, to command, to triumph."**

#### Joshua 6

<sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "**Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!**

<sup>20</sup> **When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.** <sup>21</sup> They devoted the city to the LORD and destroyed with the sword every living thing in it—men and women, young and old, cattle, sheep and donkeys.

- **Shouting commands authority**
- **We shout when we know who's behind us**
- **Like when you're about to do something courageous, like jumping into a really cold swimming pool, or bungee jumping.**
- **Sometimes a shout can release something, it can break a heaviness in a room.**

#### 3. WE SING TO GOD

Psalm

47:6 says, "Sing praises to God, sing praises to our King, sing praises."

- When we sing, it unifies us. – think of when rugby supporters sing our national anthem!
- When we sing, we are using our voices to make beautiful sounds to worship. You might think, well no-one wants to hear my voice, well God loves your voice just as it is.
- We join in with God as he sings over us! Imagine what the voice of God sounds like.

➤ **Zeph 3:17**

*The LORD your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing."*

- When you lead worship you notice that not everyone sings in church. Not everyone sings in church, If you're one of those people, step out and try and sing!  
Sometimes the team will sing freely, we don't always need to sing a song, there's freedom. As it says in Ephesians, sometimes we song spiritual songs as God leads us  
So we use our mouths, next we use...

## **OUR BODIES**

### **DANCING**

- Psalm 149:3 says, "Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp."

- In fact way back in [Exodus 15:20](#): "Miriam the prophetess, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing."
- Now tambourines can be an issue  
In 2 Samuel 6 where we read earlier, it says that David was Leaping before the Lord. This is one of the most extreme bodily expressions.
- As I mentioned last week, David danced in front of the israelites in his underwear.
- Dancing expresses this relentless passion towards God.  
Now I know we aren't all dancers, but we are all human. And I'm not going to sing the song. We aren't all as expressive as others, could there be more in our expression than just standing still in praise. When we look at the Israelites, absolutely!

### **WAVING FLAGS**

- It's a declaration. And colours have different symbols
- Red symbolises the Blood of Christ
- Purple speaks of royalty
- White speaks of purity
- ...

## **OUR HANDS**

### **1. PLAYING INSTRUMENTS**

- Psalm 33:2, 3 says, "Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy."

#### **Hebrew word: Zamar**

**Zamar means "to pluck the strings of an instrument, to sing, to praise; a musical word [Ps 21:13](#)**

God has given us abilities and skills. All of this should be used to worship Him!  
Sometimes one of the instruments will take prominence in a place in worship, sometimes someone on the band will feel led to minister through their instrument.

### **2. CLAPPING**

- Psalm 47:1 says, "Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy."

Clapping again talks of unity. It says we're together in this, and it sounds great ... when done in sync. *A lot of this hand clapping issue revolves around culture. In the Western world, hand clapping is out of appreciation, a recent motive for clapping. However, in non-western parts of the world, clapping is a part of cultural rhythm. When people sing and rejoice (in celebration for something) they clap, stomp their feet, and shout.*

*Clapping in worship can also be done in appreciation. A way of saying, "Thank you." When we clap in worship we say, "Thank you for doing \_\_\_\_\_."*

### 3. LIFTING HANDS

- Neil enlightened you on the different hand gestures last week

- Psalm 63:4 says, "I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands."

- We're showing our full bodily expression in reaching to God. In saying, you have the glory. Its saying, my whole body is worshipping.
- Being open to the Holy Spirit touching us
- We're blessing God with our hand gestures

#### **Hebrew word Yadah**

**Yadah is a verb with a root meaning, "the extended hand, to throw out the hand, therefore to worship with extended hand."**

#### **2Chr 20:21**

***Give thanks (yadah) to the Lord, for his lovingkindness is everlasting.***

So we have all these expressions, so what is it that stops us from expressing our praise?

### **OBSTACLES TO EXPRESSION:**

#### **1) COMPARING OURSELVES TO OTHERS**

This is really a self-confidence issue

- We can so easily compare our way of worshipping to someone else's as a way of seeing if we're doing well or not.
- Worship expression is an individual thing. The big one for me is sometimes judging other people's heartfelt worship response.  
Celebrate others worship to God
- ❖ Story at Lighthouse about lady who sang. Don't quench someone else's worship, don't judge them.
- ❖ Sometimes we can think that we worship maturely, but mature worship is obedient and heartfelt worship. Sometimes mature worship will look childish to others, sometimes it will offend.

#### **2) INDIFFERENCE**

Sometimes during worship we actually just don't care, why should I lift my hands? I don't really feel like singing?

- Expression is an outward action of the heart within

#### **3) LACK OF REVELATION**

Seun Feucht – the head of the Burn 24/7 movement said it like this a while ago:

*Worship Theology 101*

*The greater your revelation OF God*

*The greater your worship expression TO God*

*Those who see more are those who worship more*

*God, Open up our eyes today, Amen*

How is your revelation of God? Who is he to you? What new things is he revealing to you?

- When we have no new insight about God...When we haven't sought him out or inquired of him.
- **Revelation puts the wonder into our worship**
- Lack of revelation of the GOOD news of the Gospel! Not the fake news, not the bad news, but the unchanging news. Sometimes in our minds, God can seem like such old news, but if we are truly transformed, The good news will continually be burning in our hearts.

## CLOSE

- When I look at praise and worship in the Bible, I sometimes think that that praise in the Bible wasn't as orderly as it is today. I'm not saying it was chaotic, but I think there was such expression and passion. And sometimes our need for a program and orderliness can limit our praise. I'll end with one or two stories
- ❖ Em and I were blessed to be able to go to Universal Studios a few years back in Florida. And they have rides right. Coasters, and 4 dimensional rides, food, every ride is themed. It's awesome. I think sometimes when we come to worship and it's a little too familiar, it's almost as if we're climbing into a horse carousel ride. Round and round and round, eventually it becomes boring. When we come in anticipation and with expectant and grateful hearts, I think it's more like one of these 4D rides. Universal has the Spiderman 4D ride. And you're constantly surprised in worship, you're curious about the next turn. You shout, you close your eyes and pull all kinds of faces...
- This is how worship should be, an exciting ride where we don't always know how God is going to respond. Where we express ourselves and we see him move amongst us. Where someone's healed, or touched by God
- Wouldn't you rather want a ride that's awesome and full of adventure?  
Can our church follow after what was said about David.  
*David and all Israel were celebrating with all their might before the Lord, with castanets,<sup>[d]</sup> harps, lyres, timbrels, sistrums and cymbals.*

## David sets the scene for our worship

- Why were they so passionate? Because the ark was being returned to its rightful place. God was being glorified and his presence was returning to Israel.
- Every Sunday we get to glorify God and put him in his rightful place in our hearts, and we get to celebrate his presence with us.
- I'll end with this. You know when you go to a concert, and you're waiting for the main act. There is such an anticipation, such excitement. The thing too is that you get to a concert with plenty of time to spare, because you want a good seat. That's how it should be for us. That we come on a Sunday so excited to Praise, so excited to lift God up. But we shouldn't always get here rushed and flustered. I want to encourage us to come prepared, or to come and prepare our heart for worship.
- May we be a church where the church expresses their praise in freedom. But it starts in our hearts. I was to encourage you all this morning. Next time we worship, how can you step out of your comfort zone and express your worship in a fresh way. As God leads you.

**2 Samuel 6**  
**Psalm 35:28**  
**2 Chronicles 20:22**  
**Psalm 34:1**  
**Psalm 27:6**  
**Psalm 47:6**  
**Zeph 3:17**  
**Psalm 149:3**  
**Exodus 15:20**  
**Psalm 33:2-3**  
**Psalm 47:1**  
**Psalm 63:4**  
**2 Chronicles 20:21**