

2020 Vision (7): Living as God's Family: Praising

(Psalm 68:1-4)

I. Introduction

- A. When I was a youth minister, preacher did sermon on worship etiquette.
1. Several things bothered him on how people behaved during worship
 - a. His text was **Psalm 89:7**, which like many only works in the KJV
(God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints and had in reverence of all them...)
 - b. Text refers to the angels around God's throne (tend to behave)
 - c. Nothing messes up a good sermon point like more Bible study!
 2. Anyway, he covered a litany of things people do wrong in church
 - a. Coming in to worship late (we always *begin with a "praise set"*)
 - b. People coming in-n-out during service ("*bladder size of walnuts*")
 - c. Whisper or pass notes during his sermon (*were hard to get thru*)
 - d. Checking Instagram, Snap Chat or YouTube (*wait, that's my list*)
(You think I assume you're using a Bible app, right? Do I really look that stupid?)
 - e. Falling asleep during his sermon (*I think that was basically on him*)
 - f. Last thing on Garland's list, "*Clipping your toe-nails in church.*"
 - 1) Guy sat on back, took off shoes and socks, and clipped away
 - 2) I've always wondered why people insist on sitting in back
 3. Worship focuses on God and encourages others— cut down distractions
- B. Let's read a text and see if recognize it at all (**Reading: Psalm 68:1-4**)
1. That's the text the song we just sang a moment ago is based up on
 - a. Let God arise so that enemies run for sure! God is a God who saves
 - b. And what happens when God arises to save us from our foes?
 - 1) Righteousness are glad and rejoice! They're happy and joyful
 - 2) We can only worship, "*Sing to God, sing in praise of his name*"
 2. Sometimes people say, "*I just don't enjoy worship all that much*"
 - a. David see that as not knowing that God is a God who saves!
 - b. When you realize that you have been saved by God... you worship
 - 1) Drop down a bit; David repeats the praise chorus (**68:19-20**)
 - 2) Our God is a God who saves; we can do nothing but worship
 - c. Sometimes all we can do is to worship and be amazed (**68:32-35**)
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- C. We continue with *2020 Vision: Living as God's Family Under the Cross*
1. As we use our Vision statement, we come to the part about “praising
 - a. Last week we focused on serving; we call this a service, it's not
 - b. Service is what takes place out there; our in here prepares us
 2. Today it is PRAISE, and we bump into something a bit inconvenient
 - a. We have come into God presence to worship. That's inconvenient
 - b. Because we must approach the unapproachable? (**1 Tim 6:15-16**)
 - 1) We can't hope to approach One that powerful or that majestic
 - 2) What if the light is that bright and the king is that powerful?
 - c. There's only one thing that you can do— fall on your face in awe
 - 1) There happens to be a Greek word for falling on your face
 - 2) Word is προσκυνέω, most common Greek word for “worship”
 3. Before we go in direct I've chose, let's take detour— 4 points
 - a. **First**, this is a safe place to express yourself in worship... or not
(*Not judge you for not lifting hands if you won't judge me because I must*)
 - b. **Second**, worship is something to do/share, not critique/criticize
(*Different churches have different worship styles, personalities, traditions*)
 - c. **Third**, worship always leaves us a little bit full and little bit empty
(*Today will be pretty good, I picked the songs; next week we back to Roger*)
 - d. **Fourth**, worship focuses on God, but point is to encourage others

II. Who Will Lead Worship: Two Biblical Models

- A. **Giftedness:** Choose those to lead worship that demonstrated a gift
1. In **Psalms 68**, professional singers led worship of God (**68:24-26**)
 - a. There's no assignment sheet where next week you're on tumbrels
 - b. David assigned certain men the job of music (**1 Chron 6:31-32**)
 - c. By the time you get to the temple, worship was around the clock
 2. Praise team was at times pressed into service as security team
 - a. Jehoshaphat was attacked by Ammonites, Moabites, other-ites
 - 1) His army was pretty weak, but His God was anything but
 - 2) What do you do? Lead attack with worship (**2 Chr 20:20-22**)
 - b. Lonnie, there's what we do if there's an active shooter scenario...

3. Worship is best when led by those who are gifted and prepared
 - a. The “Hallelujah Chorus” is a powerful piece, right? Let’s do it...
 - 1) Roger would say, “What?” Keri would want time to prepare
 - 2) Kati would just ask me what key I would like that in (kidding)
 - b. When you sacrificed a lamb, which one did you offer? *Best one!*
 - 1) It might not be the best lamb in Israel, but was your best lamb!
 - 2) When we offer God our worship, it should it not be our best
4. We certainly expect that to apply to the preaching part of worship
 - a. There is something to be said for giftedness in other aspect too
 - 1) Who gives certain gifts to certain people? (**1 Cor 12:4-6**)
 - 2) Now the church decides whether a person has a gift or not
 - a) I don’t decide I have the gift of singing; you undecide that FAST
 - b) But if Spirit really does gift someone, we’d better lewt them use it
 - b. When I was a youth minister, we had deacon over announcements
 - 1) **Gifted:** Retired radio announcer; sounded lot like Don Pardo
 - 2) **Work:** Spent hour writing editing them each Sunday morning
(*People would come to church to hear this guy do the announcements!*)
5. **Summary:** Worship is led by those who are both gifted and prepared

B. Participation: Try to include as many people as possible in the worship

1. This is really the model we have used most often in the past, right?
 - a. You get as many as you can reading, praying, passing trays, etc.
 - b. The more involved you are in the group, the more a part you feel
 - c. Think about that one more time– the more involved someone is...
2. There is actually scripture backing this up as well (**1 Cor 14:26**)
 - a. Problem at Corinth is confusion as people argued over their gifts
 - 1) Tongue-speakers and prophets thought theirs was best gift
 - 2) **Real Issue:** Went all FOX/CNN and spoke all over each other
 - b. Paul: Each sing hymn, teach lesson, give revelation, etc.
 - c. What if person who wants to sing a hymn couldn’t carry tune?
Is the restriction, “Everything must be done so that the church may be built up”
3. **Point:** Should include many as can in worship to make them a part

III. Conclusion

A. But there is a third option– that would be “C” both of the above

1. **Table Talk:** Some creative, prepare, good speakers, focus on cross
 - a. Not every is created or gifted; not everyone will put in the time
 - b. Maybe while we will use everyone, we lean on the gifted but more
2. We’re God’s family under the cross; worship is special family time
 - a. We should look for ways to include all that we can in family time
 - b. Youngest Jewish child had a special part in the Passover liturgy
(They went to the door to look for Elijah; asked about the unleavened bread)
3. **Brass Tacks Time:** Summary of two models we looked at today
 - a. **First:** Worship is best when led by those gifted and prepared
 - b. **Second:** Worship is best if all are included and made to feel part
 - 1) We don’t believe either one unless we add the word “MAN”
 - 2) You might not get to use your gift in Sunday if not a man
 - 3) You don’t get to feel a part on Sunday unless you’re a man

B. **Caveat:** This isn’t THAT conversation... about male spiritual leadership
(That’s a conversation we may need to have one day; this isn’t that conversation)

1. This is about why we want 10-year old boys serving once baptized
 - a. We want them to develop and use gift and feel a part of church
 - b. Right! It’s time we want the same for their Mama/s and sisters
 - 1) If 10-yr-old does it, it’s nothing to with leadership or authority
 - 2) Reading a text, starting a song, word a prayer, make announce
 - 3) Maybe even passing communion trays *(serve every other meal)*
2. Why would women want to say a prayer or start a song or read Bible
 - a. Edward Fudge was champion of grace and a giant of our tribe
(only Church of Christ preacher to have a movie made about his life... yet)
 - b. Edward was fired in 1960’s when asked black man to say prayer
 - c. He was asked why he’d want to let a black man to pray in church
 - 1) He said you can’t have equality in Christ and keep people quiet
 - 2) He’d later serve one of 1st of our churches to give women voice
 - d. You can’t have true equality and keep people quiet (**Acts 2:17-21**)