

SERMON 7-12-26

MAIN IDEA – Worship is a response to the grace that has been given to us; to a God so perfect and so worthy of our response. Beyond that, our response of worship needs to drive and motivate us to tell the world and evangelize!

Opening Story –

- In my freshman year of college, a movie came out that absolutely took the world by storm – Avengers: Infinity War. I had gone to see the midnight premiere with a bunch of guys from my dorm hall. Being a three-hour+ movie, it led us to get back to campus well after 3:00 in the morning. Call it whatever you wish, but a large collection of people, including many from my dorm building, had done the same thing as I had. Our response to what we had just seen was shock and we wanted to talk all about it. For multiple weeks after, the conversation kept going – people were being encouraged to see the movie had they not already. Everyone was excited about it and were at the very least theorizing what would happen in the follow-up movie coming out the next year – Avengers: Endgame. Due largely in part to the radical discussion that people were having regarding Infinity War, the next movie, Endgame, went on to make \$357,115,007 in its opening weekend – the largest box office revenue for an opening weekend in history.
 - Why do I tell this story? I can imagine that many of us have had experiences, or have seen movies or read books, or whatever else that has brought us to do whatever we can to tell people about it. We let things excite us to the point of sharing it with whoever (or whatever) we can! It is our human nature.
 - Why do we not respond in the same way to our faith? Our Salvation? Our God?

MAIN SCRIPTURE – Isaiah 6:1-8

- This entire passage is an example of worship and what it should bring us to do.
 - Isaiah sees the Lord, high and lifted up, he responds to the Lord with repentance, and then is driven to evangelism (here I am, send me!)
 - Worship is so much more than the collection of songs that we sing on a Sunday morning and sometimes Wednesday nights; worship is not just a response (as seen here) but also a lifestyle. In a question form, how do you worship in your everyday life?
 - Worship comes from the Anglo-Saxon (olde with an E English) *woerthscipe*; which means worthiness, or an acknowledgement of worth. In other words, it is the worth that we proclaim towards God.
 - A.W. Tozer describes this with more harshness – *If you cannot worship the Lord in the midst of your responsibilities on Monday, it is not very likely that you were worshipping on Sunday!*

- When we fall into this in our everyday lives, we are likely secularizing Christ in a sense; our worship should never be impacted in this way!
 - How do we let the mercies and grace of God (which are new every morning!) impact our lives on the daily? How do we let Christ shine through every part of our lives, not just the parts at a church building?
- While worship is not limited to singing, we are still commanded to sing! Far more than this, we are commanded to sing praises to the Lord, sing the goodness of His gospel, and dwelling in all of this, sing scripture and that which specifically lines up with scripture.
 - Funnily enough, when we read scripture and follow its commands, it is undeniable that we are called to do far more than sit inside a church building, sing some songs, listen to a preacher for half an hour, give a little bit of tithes, and move along on our way. Instead our response should call us to ACTION!
 - *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. – John 13:34-35*
 - God is commanding us to respond to the love that He has given to us, with love for others! What better way to love, than by the action of sharing??

A RESPONSE OF EVANGELISM –

- Instances of declaring the goodness of God to the world are found throughout scripture; in the Psalms, in the major prophets, in the early church, in the words of Christ. It is all over! The command that we have to go and spread the good news to the world is an important part of our walk as followers of Christ. It reaches far and wide.
- A primary Psalm that brings about this importance is Psalm 96:2-3 –
 - *Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.*
 - Our call to sing, to proclaim His salvation, and then bring our words of His glory to all the nations! All tribes and all tongues.
 - The order of these verses gives us reason to believe that this was a common process or order of worship – gather to sing His praises and proclaim His salvation, then follow through and RESPOND to song with evangelism.
- In the early church, laid out in Acts, there is also an order to the worship that they participated in...

- *Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.* – Acts 2:46-47
 - Though not explicit in its evangelism push, this passage still follows the same order that we see in Psalm 96 – they gather to praise God and enjoy His salvation, and from there, their number grows; how does it grow? By spreading the gospel and the good of God!
- Matt Papa, a modern hymnwriter of today, wrote a few interesting ideas in a chapter he wrote for the book *Doxology and Theology: How the gospel forms the worship leader* that can help us shape our vision of letting our worship invade our lives and drive us to evangelism.
 - *The greatest injustice in the world is that there are people who do not believe in Jesus Christ* – Matt Papa
 - It is incredibly easy for us to find injustice in the world, it is easy for the church to place their focus and efforts onto these injustices. It is not wrong for the church to step in on certain injustices – our God is a just God! He is a perfect judge. However, when we cease to remember the greatest injustice of people being lost (which is what ultimately causes the vast number of issues in our world today), we may not find as much meaning in our lives to spread the gospel wherever, whenever, and with whomever we can...
 - We can also deduct that joy has multiple consummations, or “fullnesses” –
 - Praising
 - Sharing
 - We see this idea of a “complete” or “full” joy throughout the New Testament –
 - *These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.* – John 15:11
 - *Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.* – John 16:24
 - *And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.* – 1 John 1:4
 - “we are SHARING these things so that we may find fullness of our joy!!”
 - We ultimately find fulfillment in our lives when we PRAISE the Lord, and when we SHARE His goodness with others. These are realistically not two separate items – they work hand in hand!

- God calls us to reach people regardless of how, who, or when. He calls us to follow this process of repentance, worship/praise, and evangelism. It sounds so simple when stating it, but it calls us for so much more – this is true discipleship.
 - *I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.* – 2 Timothy 4:1-5
 - We fulfill our ministry in sharing the gospel and teaching others where complete joy comes from.
 - *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* – Romans 12:1
 - This passage tells us that evangelism and serving Christ with EVERYTHING that we are is our spiritual worship. So yes, worship is a response that leads us to respond once again with evangelism, but even that is a response of worship. It all works together hand in hand!
 - *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.* – 2 Corinthians 5:18-19
 - We have been entrusted with the message of reconciliation – so should we not share it with whoever and however we can? It is a message meant to be shared to the ends of the earth, as Jesus says in the Great Commission.
 - *but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect* – 1 Peter 3:15
 - Just as our worship is a lifestyle (how we live every single moment of our lives, not just those in church) our evangelism should always be at the ready. It needs to be a part of our everyday rhythm. Our walk, our talk, our families. It is so important!
 - *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”* – Romans 10:14-15

- Preaching is not something reserved to pastors – it is the call of EVERY believer. Preaching is what we are all called to do – it is evangelism! It is telling people the word of the Lord, letting them hear His beautiful salvation, inviting them into the fold to praise and worship, and have them follow through with the same response.
 - This is also a poignant thought to consider – when we think of the greatest injustice in our world being people who do not believe in Christ Jesus, how do we expect that to be remedied? Paul begs this question! How will people call on the name of the Lord if they have not been told, or they have not heard??
- Ultimately, if we truly believe and know that the gospel is good news, should we not be proclaiming it from the mountaintops??
 - Psalm 67 is a prime missional hymn, it is the perfect blend of praise and sharing culminating in all-around worship! It is also not the ONLY missional/worshipful Psalm!
 - *May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, Selah that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you! The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear him! – Psalm 67*
 - *Sing praises to the Lord, who sits enthroned in Zion! Tell among the peoples his deeds! – Psalm 9:11*
 - *I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth! – Psalm 57:9-11*
 - *Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! – Psalm 100:1-2*
 - If the Psalms, which is probably the biggest proponent and description of praise and worship in all of scripture, points us towards serving the Lord and being missional, how much more should we need to convince ourselves that it is a part of our worshipful duty?

REVELATION AND RESPONSE

- God's revelation of Himself in peoples' lives is enough to radically change them. The hope is that we have experienced this radical life change ourselves, and if we have, then we should be driven to respond.

- Throughout scripture, we are given real-life examples of people who experienced the radical revelation of the Lord, and completely changed from that moment forward –
 - Moses at the burning bush, the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 (who was directly driven to go and spread the word of what she had been told!!!), and Paul on the road to Damascus.
 - Our lives should follow this pattern – when Christ comes in to change a life, and we truly find worship in what we do in word and deed, we absolutely must continue to bring our worship into EVANGELISM!
 - Similar to this diagram



- If we refuse to respond in this way, and continue our response, how do we expect the world to hear? This is our call, it is our duty. Will you respond as Isaiah did? Will you follow wherever you are called to go? Will you let your worship lead into evangelism time and time again?

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” – Isaiah 6:8