

080418

- I. My Notes... WWC message 080518
- II. Series: A Summer of Psalms
  - a. Title: Sing, Sing, Sing
  - b. Text: Psalm 96: 1-13 MSG
  - c. Quote: *"But just as your body needs sleep, your soul needs time to rest in God. To learn more about Him. To talk to Him. To worship and praise Him. To fellowship with other brothers and sisters."*—**Craig Groeschel (Pastor, Author)**
- III. Introduction
  - a. By the time we gather for this service, I will have participated in The Relay for Life- the annual walk/fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. It's a 24 hour walk to celebrate cancer survivors and raise funds for cancer research. Over the years I have found ways to support this event, but I have never gotten fully involved. I am looking forward to discovering how I will feel on Sunday morning, as the event wraps up. We have things that are near and dear to our hearts. We should support those kinds of things. Remember, as believers, we are called to make a difference – to allow our light to shine, everywhere.
  - b. We, as believers, are given the task of allowing our "light" (our faith and sense of purpose) to shine in this world. "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16 NASB). As we allow our faith to be observable in the way we live – act – interact, it is a testimony of all that is important to us. The things we do, our behaviors, must reflect what we believe. Words don't testify as loudly as action. Additionally, these actions and choices we demonstrate show who we choose to worship and honor. Godly actions bring glory to the

Lord through the words of everyone (even the non-believer). This is what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount... The Apostle Peter made a very similar point in his letter: "Conduct yourselves honorably among the Gentiles, so that when they slander you as evildoers, they will observe your good works and will glorify God on the day he visits." (1 Peter 2:12 CSB). Our actions, the way we live, speaks to others – no matter what

- c. "Worship is love on its knees before the beloved; just as mission is love on its feet to serve the beloved" – (N. T. Wright, *For All God's Worth: True Worship and the Calling of the Church*, p.12, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing, 2014). Prayer and service go hand in hand. To love God and others means more than just paying lip service. It often calls for us to get into some uncomfortable places and then trust the Lord to work out the details. We, the Church, need to change our view about "worship". Too often, we think, worship and music/entertainment go hand-in-hand. Our lives are a song that is sung every day. And this song, as many songs do, speaks of love and focus on someone important. Who are you singing about today?

#### IV. Text

- a. As I began this message, I was just going to use the first 3 verses. But as I read this Psalm over and over I realized that this entire Psalm should be the message
- b. Psalm 96:1-13 (MSG)

Sing GOD a brand-new song! Earth and everyone in it, sing! Sing to GOD— worship GOD! Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea, Take the news of his glory to the lost, News of his wonders to one and all! For GOD is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs. His terrible beauty makes the gods look cheap; Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags. GOD made the heavens— Royal splendor radiates from him, A powerful beauty sets him apart. Bravo, GOD,

Bravo! Everyone join in the great shout: Encore! In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might. Bring gifts and celebrate, Bow before the beauty of GOD, Then to your knees—everyone worship! Get out the message—GOD Rules! He put the world on a firm foundation; He treats everyone fair and square. Let's hear it from Sky, With Earth joining in, And a huge round of applause from Sea. Let Wilderness turn cartwheels, Animals, come dance, Put every tree of the forest in the choir— An extravaganza before GOD as he comes, As he comes to set everything right on earth, Set everything right, treat everyone fair.

- c. What did you hear? The first 3 verses are a call to praise, the next 3 give reasons that we should praise, the following 3 repeat the summons to give God glory, and the final verses are challenge for the heavens and earth to celebrate because what is right and what is truth will be seen by everyone
- d. All the people, all of nature, all the earth is invited to worship the Lord, to give Him glory, and praise Him because of His great love and works

#### V. A New Song

- a. Singing is something we all do. Whether it's around others, in the confines of the car - a shower – empty room, or for accolades... we sing
- b. I may be a bit off... but "sing" or a form of the word are mentioned around 218 times in Scripture. The phrase "Sing Unto The LORD", the phrase that opens this Psalm, shows up on 16 occasions, 10 of them are in the Psalms.
- c. What is your response to the following statement? God is good. \_\_\_\_\_ (all the time).
- d. If He is always good, shouldn't our lives be telling about it?
- e. "I sing because I'm happy. I sing because I'm free. His eye is on the sparrow, and I know He watches me" (His Eye is on the Sparrow, Civia D. Martin, 1905)

- f. "Sing to the LORD a new song, Sing His praise from the end of the earth!" (Is. 42:10) .... "And they sang a new song" (Rev. 5:9)
- g. The earth began with worship and praise. And throughout eternity worship and praise will be central (key)
- h. Today, the reasons we should sing and celebrate revolve around one word - GRACE
- i. Grace, grace, God's grace, grace that will pardon and cleanse within; grace, grace, God's grace, grace that is greater than all our sin. (Grace Greater Than Our Sin, Julia Harriet Johnston, 1911)
- j. Ok. I've brought to your attention some older hymns.
- k. What is the new song you sing?
- l. Let me share a Scripture you have heard more than once...
- m. Romans 12:1-2 (NCV)

So brothers and sisters, since God has shown us great mercy, I beg you to offer your lives as a living sacrifice to him. Your offering must be only for God and pleasing to him, which is the spiritual way for you to worship. Do not change yourselves to be like the people of this world, but be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.

- n. Obedience is the way we worship (individually) and allowing God's Word to permeate our mind honors (sings to) the Lord

## VI. Why (a question I don't normally ask) Worship?

- a. The psalmist says, (Pardon my paraphrase here), God is great and awesome – He is better than all other gods; God made it all – He is the highest, the ultimate; He is coming for His Church

- b. YHWH, God - the name brings some incredible expectations
- c. And He has continued to rise to the occasion
- d. Psalm 149:1,4 (NASB)

Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the congregation of the godly ones... For the LORD takes pleasure in His people; He will beautify the afflicted ones with salvation.

- e. "Worship must focus on God, not on us, and it must be enrichment, not entertainment. The experience of true worship can help us experience deliverance from the bondage of sin and the world." Bible Exposition Commentary (BE Series) - Old Testament - Wisdom and Poetry.
- f. True worship – that new song we are to be singing, will take us to places we might not be able to imagine
- g. We will feed the less fortunate, listen to the lost and hurting, go to jails and hospitals
- h. And those are just the easy places. Worship, singing, may cost us everything – family – friends- even life
- i. This message isn't new, but it is timely and much needed
- j. The message of God's love and grace brings hope to the hopeless, wholeness to the broken, and peace/perspective to those in distress
- k. The true Gospel message brings us together in worship, because of this truth people find a reason to praise and sing of the Lord's goodness, and people find a reason to live God-honoring lives because of Gospel truths
- l. Coming together to celebrate our relationship with the Lord God brings with it the chance to sing about His goodness and mercy. We can remember the Cross and all that He has done so that we can continue in our relationship with the Creator King.

- m. "Jesus, be the centre. Be my source, be my light. Jesus; Jesus, be the centre. Be my hope, be my song. Jesus" (Michael Frye, 2002)
- n. Why worship? Because all the Lord has done – His kindness and compassion, His protection, His care for us - is worthy of our praise, our adoration, and our focus.

## VII. He is Worth It!

- a. Bring gifts – are you doing something to show your love? You have abilities and talents that no one else possesses
- b. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (CSB)

Now there are different gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different ministries, but the same Lord. And there are different activities, but the same God produces each gift in each person.
- c. Bow to your knees – it's not about you. What does it mean to be humble?
- d. Matthew 20:26-27 (MSG)

It's not going to be that way with you. Whoever wants to be great must become a servant. Whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave.
- e. Follow the example of Jesus... Matthew 20:28 (NCV): "In the same way, the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people."
- f. Serving and putting others first is a "new song" ... it's different from what the world teaches
- g. Follow the example of the Apostle Paul... 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 (BBE): "For you have the memory, my brothers, of our trouble and care; how, working night and day, so that we might not be a trouble to any of you, we gave you the good news of God. You are witnesses, with God, how holy and upright

and free from all evil was our way of life among you who have faith; Even as you saw how, like a father with his children, we were teaching and comforting you all, and giving witness, So that your lives might be pleasing to God, who has given you a part in his kingdom and his glory. And for this cause we still give praise to God, that, when the word came to your ears through us, you took it, not as the word of man, but, as it truly is, the word of God, which has living power in you who have faith.”

- h. Paul taught others by his work (effort), his walk (belief), and his words (faith)
- i. Share the Gospel – tell of God's love and mercy
- j. “Singing takes our faith in every direction imaginable. Our praises go up to our God, they go out to our neighbors, they run wild in the world and they spring into eternity as we sing with the faithful both past and present. So let us all sing to the Lord a new song. Let all the nations of the world ascribe God glory. Let the trees of the forest sing for joy. And let our praise resound as an announcement of the risky work of those who have built up the kingdom of God and those faithful workers who are still to come.” (<https://signonthewindow.wordpress.com/2011/08/08/why-we-sing-a-sermon-on-psalm-96>)

#### VIII. Last Words

- a. Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face, And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His glory and grace (Helen H. Lemmel, 1922)
- b. I wanted to make this message something personal, something I hope each of us can connect with. Singing, music, is something that reaches to the depths of my soul.
- c. It would be awesome if our life song became so evident that others began to sing with us.

- d. My taste in music is eclectic (varied and wide-ranging) ... There are many songwriters that express God honoring principles in their gifts to us
- e. Singing is communication in a creative way. It is approaching the Lord in a manner that says we want to connect and touch Him with everything we are
- f. We have so many reasons to sing... even in the hard times there are incredible blessings. We can see the Lord's love and grace.

- i. Psalm 57:7 (NJB)

My heart is ready, God, my heart is ready; I will sing, and make music for you.

- ii. Psalm 13:5-6 (CSB)

But I have trusted in your faithful love; my heart will rejoice in your deliverance. I will sing to the LORD because he has treated me generously.

- iii. We have reasons to sing!

- g. Let's pray

- h. Today, may you find a reason to sing – no matter what the circumstance or situation. May you rejoice because the Lord has blessed you with His abundant love. And may the light He has given you shine brightly in this new song