

9.22.2024 Sermon

Lifestyle of Praise & Worship| 2 Samuel 6:14-22

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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SPEAKERS

Rev. James Bady

Good morning. Let's settle in here today.

I do have an assignment for today, and that is to first thank all the speakers and ministers who took their time, effort, and study to talk through and walk us through the different ways of having faith in this life. Faith that helps us through the tough times, in the rough times that we all seem to have. But if we stick with it, we get to the other side. That if we continue to trust our God, somehow we find our way through the gap. We go from the unknown in our past in the moment, to our beautiful new future, if we stick with it.

So as Sophia was outlining today, we're going to start into a new series that'll go for a little while, and it just talks a little bit about who we are as we think about praise and worship. You've commonly heard churches consider themselves the hospital for the broken. They consider themselves a hospital. The challenge with that is, most of us, once we get a little bit better, want to get out the doors of the hospital, right? And we will only listen to our doctor when we're in the hospital.

I want to offer to you another parallel, and that is, are we a fitness? Are we a fitness? Because as long as you come, you can get better. As long as you come, progress can be made. And the other part is mostly your learning is not done by the physical fitness trainers. It's about other people who are working out at the gym at the same time as you. We keep talking about we learn from each other, and there's always getting better in a fitness center, and the beauty of it is most of their learning came from the community that they worked out with every day, once a week. It's a very different environment, and you never can tire of being there because there's getting better, and then there's maintaining. There are certain things that no longer bother you if you stay consistently going.

There's certain illness that you eliminate or that you skip through faster if you consistently go, I think it's the same in the church. There are certain traumas, there are certain issues, there are certain stresses, there are certain things that are minimized if you're consistently around your family. That's who I hope we will be, right? Consistently coming together to learn about God in ways that propel us forward and reduce some of the traumas that some of us unfortunately have already experienced in our lives. So, what can we do differently going forward, that we minimize these traumas as we repair ourselves and prepare the next generations to be better than we were?

It's not about the immediate, the immediate that's a hospital. If you're about long-term sustainability, growth, development, and being, that's who we hope to be here for you, right? So that's where we're headed, and kind of the shaping that we're about to take and some of these other topics here over the next few weeks. So today, I have praise and worship, and others will speak about it too. Before jumping into that, one more announcement: it's our podcast. Any of you guys our podcast, and all of those, so I'm getting some good feedback.

You know, we go through these series and so we're on one topic, but you want to learn more about different topics as it relates to your Christian walk. I offer you to listen to our podcast, and we hit on every topic imaginable, even some of those topics that you're like, ain't no way they talking about that in Church. Yes, yes. Why? Because that's life. It's life. So, let's talk about it, right? The podcast is called Staying at the Table. Thank you. And our new episode is released every two weeks, right? So, I've delayed long enough. Let's jump in.

Dear God, I thank you for today. I thank you for the opportunity to speak today to your people. I thank you for the opportunity to hear from you in a new way. I thank you for the words that you will speak through me today to hopefully help others in their walk with you. Give us ears to hear and wisdom to interpret and the dedication to apply everything that we hear today in Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Okay, so praise and worship is what we're going to talk about today. I'mma use a scripture to open this up, Second Samuel, six verses 14 through 22, and it is a, for those that grew up in church. You've heard this story many times, and so I will try to get through it and pull out a few things that hopefully we can apply today as it relates to praise and worship. It starts like this, I'm reading from Bahrain Study Bible. And the reason I'm using this is it has a bit of smoother language to it than what King James that I grew up on. So, I got rid of the these and those, and David wearing a linen ephod danced with all his might before the Lord while He and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and a sounding of a ram's horn as the ark of the Lord was entering the city of David. Saul's daughter, Michal, looked down from a window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her

heart, so they brought the ark of the Lord and set it in a place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the Lord. When David had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts.

Then he distributed to every man and woman among the multitude of Israel, a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake, and all the people departed, each for his own home. As soon as David returned home to bless his own household, Saul's daughter Michal came to meet him. "How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today," she said. You can sense the sarcasm. He has uncovered himself today in the sight of a maid servant of his subjects, like a vulgar person would do.

But David said to Michal, "I was dancing before the Lord who chose me over your father and all his household when he appointed me ruler over the Lord's people Israel. I will celebrate before the Lord, and I will humiliate and humble myself even more than this." So, you may notice in this section of Scripture, there were two words missing, praise and worship. And isn't that the topic for today? Yes, it is, and you're right. But it just mentions this event that it appears that everybody should be happy about.

Right? There's this monumental event of the Ark of the Covenant entering the city of David for the first time. This is a great victory, and even there were challenges, even getting the Ark after they had recovered it from their enemies, of getting it into the city. But now it's here, and now their celebration. But everybody's not happy. Everybody's not happy. So before going into this, so just by way of poll, we're in the election season. So, we always taking polls. How many of you think this was praise going on, right? And how many of you think it was worship going on?

Alright, a little more on the praise than the worship side, but all of it going on. So, let's, let's stick a pin in that, and let's see, as we get to the end of the story, do we have an answer as David is going into the city making sacrifices with the people singing and dancing with all his might what's going on, and how should we see this? Because there's this different opinions of what's happening, and there's, I'll call it, David's side and Michal's side. So, for David, just for those of you that may not know his history is not your traditional king.

He didn't come from a background where he was groomed to be king. In his household, he was formerly a shepherd keeper, a sheep keeper. He was a shepherd, so he's out here in the field doing what you do when you got sheep, your hands get dirty, you stink a little bit, and that's what you do. And throughout his time of keeping the sheep, he also had to kill a bear to protect his flock. I'm not in the bear keeping killing business, but I imagine that was rough. And then later on, he also had to then kill a lion protecting his flock.

And after he'd done all of that, you know, he killed this guy called Goliath, and this is when he was still technically a boy. So, by 12 years old, I have sons. I'm very proud of them. Neither have killed a bear nor a lion nor a giant, and they are grown men. I haven't either, by the way. So, you're starting to see David's a pretty tough guy. He's a pretty experienced guy.

Something's different about him, and he's kind of a 21st century well-rounded man, because he can play a leir, which is a small harp, and play it so well that people who are sick become well. It ensues their mind in their ears. But if that wasn't enough, he's led armies through major victories, and has now done what no king in Israel has ever done, and that is brought the Ark back in. But he's also a humble man, because he was once the armor bearer for the previous king that he then took over from. And they said he was also a person of skilled words, and he had a presence to him, so he looked the part of a king, all the elements, all the pieces that we can fathom in our mind, that you want in your king, David had.

But one thing David didn't have is this mindset that there was something beneath him in his praise to God; there was no boundary there. On the other side was Macabre, who is the daughter of the first king of Israel, Saul, who she was brought up in royalty, she was a constant and considerate of the protocols of what it means to be royalty. So, when she sees David acting unbecomingly in an ephod, just a linen shirt with no sleeves on it, it's not something that a king would ever be seen in public with. But if that wasn't bad enough, he has the nerve to be dancing out there. That's not how kings do. We sit very stately when we're excited, we go, that's what she expects out of him. And so, I wasn't going to do this, but you all brought this out of me this morning. Do you have the song? Okay, come on up.

So, we don't have a ram's horn to kind of explain, so you can get the feel of it. But can you bear with me? I'm going to talk you through it. And there's this, there's this music and celebration going on. Play it and turn it up. You got it? Oh, see, I should have practiced. Come on, come on. So, you come to church and anything could happen. There we go.

So, the Ark is coming in, and, you know, people are excited. And I can imagine, in the beginning, it was just kind of Hallelujah, let the art come through. But at some point, David started getting excited. Whoa, listen. But then David really got excited, and then somebody really turned up the music. You then hit him with the Charlie Brown. And Michal's like no, I gotta say something, yeah, that's a first. That's God right there. That's all. That's God right there. You God, there was no boundary for the king. There was no stop. And so, she's disappointed in him. You it. But do you see the difference? Because she saw the act. David is seeing what the love of God has done for him. These are different. So, these are the different views of what is happening in this moment that at times our praise can get misinterpreted, because what you can see are my actions, my movement. It my voice, whatever I do, that's what you see. What you cannot see is the intent of my actions, that no matter where I am and

what I've been through, why am I doing this? And so, if I'm trapped into my position as king or as pastor or as speaker, I can't do this.

But if my greater concern is showing my love to my God, I can do many things, and I am transformed in my movement. So, I we, I want to give you a parallel that we, that we talk about and we, do. Anybody who's been through baptism here you've heard this, and that is, baptism is an outward showing of an inward work, right? So, when we come up and we submerge people or we sprinkle people, that is what you observe. But what is really happening is a marker in time of an inward work that has already begun and we hope will continue for eternity, that inward work.

So, though we observe praise from David, which you are also seeing is the worship of David that he does not care about his position. He does not care that the people around him think he's now foolish because he has humbled himself to God above all else, and that is the difference between praise, what you observe, and worship my intent, my intent, even if you look at the Bible In its original text, in its original languages of Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic. They all use these words, and I won't put them on the screen, because it's just going to confuse it. Well, some of you love it. See me afterward, I'll give you the words.

But they all communicate two things. They communicate that I am submitted in service to God, not what you did, but you were submitted in your actions to God. And you're sitting there, thinking, "Oh, XYZ worshiped." So, for example, in I think it's First Kings 16, it says that God was provoked to anger with the king, with the priest in Israel, because he served and worshiped Baal, right?

And in every example, almost every example that exists in the Bible that talks about worship, it always puts a word about service right next to it or two words over. It's a word about submission. It's a word about doing for others. It is a word about reverence and adoration that always happen when you look at the word worship in its original form.

So, worship is the lifestyle that we lead. Worship is the heart position that we need to have. Worship is the service that we need to be about. And what's more powerful, or equally powerful about it is this: you can do it anywhere, anytime, about anything. It is a lifestyle. It is what you do. It is how you connect, and it's how people recognize that you're different.

Because let's be honest, in this life, especially here in Western society, there are always going to be opportunities for us to be selfish and self-centered. And people are always watching you, I find, when you mind your own business.

And so that can be either very good or very bad. If you want to go out and do some things that you didn't want somebody didn't. Know you're in trouble, and now, more than ever, because everybody has a cell phone camera, you will be taped, and they will hold on to that tape until you least expect it. Right? But what if in those moments, you were also doing good? What was in those moments, people could see something in you that they wanted to emulate, because they're always watching, and they will wonder why you decided to be generous. They will wonder why you decided not to take the selfish role, and that is your opportunity to tell them why.

That is why, when they mention worship in the Old Testament, they always say it is not specifically what was done. It was the context of what was happening. Where was the heart? What was the intent? What are we trying to accomplish? See, that's how new people to church can get confused when we use this word because we say, "Oh, I'm going to worship service." What is that? Let's enter into praise and worship. We're going into silent worship, corporate worship, individual worship, because we're trying to communicate. Let's all in the sincerity of our heart, join together to do this thing, all together in the sincerity of our heart and the reverence of our heart, do this thing.

And the key part is it has to be submitted, because what did I say? We are in a selfish society. So, there's this tension between being submitted and being selfish. Do things that benefit me right now, and do things that God said will be beneficial for me in the future. And for all these are tensions that keep going and going. And so now we have, if we talk about Christians today embracing this word that is problematic in the 21st century, submission and service. Servant, submission. And some of you just checked out on me because of that word you said, you know, I was with you with the dancing part. I was with you on the praise part.

But let me tell you, to be honest with you, I have been pretty successful in my life already. To be honest with you. I'm pretty intelligent, and I got a few things going on, and yeah, I think I'm going to roll with that, because depending on others has harmed me. Submitting to others scares me. Submitting to systems scares me, and I say, I agree. I'm so happy God isn't people. I'm so happy that God isn't systems. And that type of thought reminds me or of a movie I saw some years ago. It was an old Tom Cruise movie called "Night and Day," all right? Long time ago, stop telling my age. Stop, right. So, Tom Cruise and Cameron Diaz, right?

And one of the themes or threads of the movie is Cameron Diaz is escaping Tom Cruise's character just throughout, and Tom Cruise's character is there trying to rescue her and save her from these dangers, but because she doesn't trust him, she constantly runs away and she constantly disobeys what he asked her to do. Does that sound familiar? And so somewhere along the movie, there's this scene where Tom Cruise's character gets pretty frustrated and says, "Okay, stop. I want you to know this—the dangers you are facing are real. And I need

you to listen to me, because your potential of survival with me are here without me. They're here with me, here without me, here with me, without me, with me, without me, right?"

And I tell you, Christians that are thinking this way, the troubles of your life are real. They are very real, whether you are going through them right now, if they're on the horizon, or they're just in your rear-view mirror. The troubles of your life are real, and your opportunity for success with God is here, without God, here with God, here, without God, here. And for some of you here, this is our reality. You know, I think about this area that we're in. So, we're in eastern Pennsylvania, for those that will be viewing on the line later, and just a little bit west of here, we had the steel mills, right? And I think about the generations who formed their life for success based on working at a steel mill.

I am originally from Michigan, so there's tons of generations that model their life for success around the auto industry. And you can go further west down in Texas and others, it was about the oil industry. Or in West Virginia, it was coal industry. Pick your industry of the last 100 years, and just think about it for a moment. So those people's logical pathway to success was those industries very made a lot of sense, and they depended on it. They submitted themselves to it. I dare say they worshiped it, and it turned them down. It turned them away. It destroyed their opportunities. And at some point, some of them recovered and some of them didn't. At some point, God kind of gives you a heads up. I can only tell you about the type of life I've lived, but there hasn't been one major crisis in my life that God didn't give me a heads up. Doesn't mean I didn't listen. That would be a lie, but I got a heads up. So, what? How does that all work together?

I'm telling you that when we worship God, we walk with God, and when we walk with God, we walk with God through our submitting every day, through our listening every day. I can't tell you the specific activity and how that looks because the Bible doesn't give us that—it talks about it is within your heart and your communication with God daily. And to be fair, it is returning to pre-Saul of when God spoke to God's people, one to one, gave you daily bread. It talked about fire by night and cloud of for shade by day, your daily needs. So how and why does this go all the way back to David, entering David, up to his point in his life, had lived a life of worship, of daily seeing how to operate, and in the end, all we see is David's praise.

So, what I'm hoping is that when I see you coming in here on Sundays and doing your praise, that it is a true signal to me that all week that you have been trying to worship your God in all the ways that you know how and how are those things, those is just you and God working through those things. It could be. I'm teaching my child the ways of the Lord. It could be I'm just a solid, solid employee at my job that is changing the environment from one of chaos to peace. People are watching you worship every day, and so I pray as we open this whole series up for all the different speakers that you. You in your life, will find ways to worship God more

sincerely in every form of your life, so that your praise will not care who despises you, who thinks differently of you or has yet to be transcendent by the peace and love of God. Amen.