

The Lord of Song

The Word

Read together Psalm 135

The Big Idea

Along with prayer and reading the Word, Singing praises to God is a large part of what it means to live the good life. God has given us this great gift of music as a way to connect back to him. He loves it and he wants us to love him through it. Let us forever praise him.

Questions

1. How has your relationship with music/worship been traditionally (on Sunday and during the week) and how would you like to see it expand in the future?
2. Share stories of how music or a song has impacted your spiritual life?
3. If you had to write a song to praising the Lord, what would you choose to write about
4. There were several applications on Sunday (see notes below). How can you incorporate music as part of your spiritual growth?

Suggested Homework

Discover a new song this week that helps you worship God and spend time reflecting on the lyrics and tone of the song. Bring the song to group and share what about the song spoke to your soul.

Digging Deeper: Sermon Outline

First off, if you are reading this, I wanted to direct you to *The Wonderlands*, an Ep series totalling 24 songs by Jon Foreman from Switchfoot. I believe you will be inspired by these songs. In these songs you will find truth, beauty and community.

For something more upbeat, try Crowder's *American Prodigal* album.

Now onto the outline:

v.1 Praise the Lord // Hallelujah

Finishing up the 4 week series of the Psalms

Week 1: Rick Langer on Psalm 27: WAIT
Week 2: Dave Gundlach on Psalm 57: REFUGE
Week 3: Davey G on Psalm 32: CONFESS

Psalms 120-134 are 15 psalms called the Ascents. They are very beautiful psalms and I think, in a way, they have been ramping up to today's psalm.

The structure of Psalm 135 itself is ramping up - v.1-3 calls us 3 times to praise the Lord.

God has given us a GIFT, and we had it in all of our 4 psalms, but today we are going to talk specifically about that gift.

- Ever given a gift you were excited about? - Its perfect, you'll both enjoy it, they need it, its an experience that they two of you can do together?
- That's God. He is excited. He has given us something that we'll both love and enjoy together. **It'll help us. It's perfect for us. Like the perfect concert tickets, or getaway to Napa.**

God's GIFT: MUSIC. God loves music! **Have you ever thought about that?**

Psalms are SONGS! Look at this call from God from our series:

Week 1: **Psalm 27:6**

Week 2: **Psalm 57:7-9**

Week 3: **Psalm 32:11**

- God has dedicated whole books of the Bible to Songs. Lamentations / Song of Songs.
- **First song** is recorded after the Israelites walked through the Red Sea.
 - Exodus 15. It's called Moses Song or Moses and Miriam's Song.
- God let Israel win battles through music:
 - 2 Chronicles 20 (Jehoshaphat) and Battle of Jericho (Joshua 6).
- **Jesus loved music.** Remember Jesus' last meal? **(Mt 26:30) (Mk 14:26)**
 - He breaks bread, they eat, sing a hymn and then go to the garden to pray.
- **Music is eternal.** We know songs are going to be in Heaven.
 - Revelation 15:2-4 mentions two songs: Moses' song and the song of the lamb.
 - Songs of salvation.
- **We are commanded to sing in the NT:** **James 5, // Eph. 5:19**

One of the main tenants of our faith is that the word of God is the inspired word of God.

Looking at the psalms, he wrote songs to himself and calls us to sing these songs.

God loves music. Amos Lee has a lyric that says, "Sometimes all you got is a song."

- Even though we can't give him anything, all we have is his, he loves when we come to him with a song.

And it benefits us.

V.3. Sing praise to his name --> good. **(also Psalm 147:1, 7)**

What is it about Music?

Music, as a form, is a gift // **It's a powerful Gift.**

Barna study shows that **Music is #1 Cultural influencer.** - The world uses music everyday to steer our hearts.

- Music is for all people because we are all made in the image of God and God is a musical God.

- Whether you can sing well or not, all people are music people.
 - It's in everything, all around us, in every culture and every religion.

- **Music is wholistic - Mark 12:29-30 - Greatest Commandment.**

“The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’”

- **Music brings them all together. Music connects the truth of the words, and the emotion of the heart as well as the movement of the body.**
- **God wants our emotion and passion, not just our thoughts and actions.** We are in a love relationship (a covenant) with him. Music has been given to us to respond to our God in this way.

Jon Foreman, from Switchfoot, says that he is looking for songs that have “Truth, Beauty and Community”

- **Music Connect us** - The Bible uses the analogy of the church as a connected body. When we sing as a choir we come together and make a beautiful noise to the Lord. We work together in harmony’s as if we are a symphony. — it doesn’t matter the quality of the voice, but the number of voices.
 - No song was ever sung in isolation. - Its made for others.
 - There is always a singer and a hearer - God always hears.
 - God also speaks through the truth of the music.
 - Lisa’s story: 2007 - Going to Vegas, Lord Have Mercy-Chorus, Arrive Quit, Start TLF
- **Music is beautiful and life giving** - God is a creator and made many beautiful things. Music being one of the best.
 - **Songs are a form to reflect his creativity.**
 - **Of course there are more general benefits to Music**
 - Helps us remember - How many of you have memorized scripture through song?
 - Reduces stress - next time you are in traffic, turn off NPR—-> Music
 - Found an article - “Scientists find 15 amazing benefits to listening to Music”
 - Increases happiness, reduces depression...

William James sings, “I don’t sing because I’m happy; I’m happy because I sing.”

No wonder God has called us to sing, it's a beautiful art form that gives life!

Martin Luther Quote:

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music.”

• **This Psalm is calling us to sing praises to God.**

In Psalm 135 in the first three verses call us 3 times to Praise the Lord. The last three verses of the Psalm call people to praise the Lord 5 times.

Think about it - The Bible calls our body a “temple” - What happens in a temple?

Clearly this is a Psalm of Praise.

Why is God worth singing about? The answer and the better question would be, “Who better to sing about?” The body of our song tells us why:

V.3-4

Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good; sing praise to his name, for that is pleasant. For the Lord has chosen Jacob to be his own, Israel to be his treasured possession.

- The LORD is Good.
- We sing because: **He has chosen us and we are loved by him.** (covenant relationship)

V. 5 (note personal tone)

I know that the Lord is great, that our Lord is greater than all gods.

- Launches into 3 parts on how God is greater than anything and everything
 - **V.6-7:** Greater than **NATURE:** heaven/earth/seas. Owns clouds, lightening, rain, wind.
 - **V.8-14:** God rules over all earthly authorities,
(this is the story of Israel's **SALVATION** - God rescuing them and bringing them into the promise land) This is our redemption story (v.4 &14)
 - **V.15-18:** Contrast our wonderful, good, caring and powerful God VS what the world offers.
 - No one made God, he made everything
 - Our God speaks to you
 - Our God see you
 - Our God hears you.
 - **V. 18** - *Those who make them will be like them, and so will all who trust in them. //*

Everyone is worship something, because their spirits are hungry. **Those who are worshipping idols are becoming blind and insensitive to the one true God.**

We worship the one true God. **The same is true for who we worship:**

- Singing songs and worshipping God is heart shaping. We are what we focus on.
 - God wants to make us more like him - so worship him. It forms us.
- Trust in the Lord and sing to the God who:
 - hears you,
 - sees you
 - and speaks to you,
 - loves you and cares for you. (read more about this in Is. 44 - redemption/creation sings!)
- We have nothing to bring God, but our breath. He owns everything and delights in the gift of song given back to him.

Application

My Goal: awaken you to this beautiful / powerful / much needed gift. That we would use that Gift in such a way that it pleases him and helps us shape our hearts to delight in him.

The invitation is to Sing - that is our word for this psalm.

(example) I think it would be odd if someone said they followed Christ and only prayed on Sundays. I think it would be odd if someone said, I'm a Christian and I don't read the Bible, or I "follow Jesus" but I'm not into serving others." - To be embody the life that God has for us, he is calling us to sing.

Sing corporately - Bring your full self to worship with others. Bring your voice (heart/emotions) and your body and mind (reflect on the words).

- Let us swell with praise for our God as one collective voice.
- Try bringing a song into your home group or meal gathering.
- Attend our Tim Timmons Concert on June 23rd

Sing by yourself - Whether you rock **out loud or in your heart** - sing songs that draw you into devotion to God.

- **Discover new songs.** In this day and age we have no excuse, with 50 million songs in our pocket. Take a few hours to find songs that lyrically and sonically help you worship God // Share those songs with friends!
- **Or write your own song.** **Psalm 149: 1-6**
 - Your story
 - Copy / Paste scripture.

Summary: **Fill your week with praise / Fill your House with praise / Fill your car with praise**

- Especially when going through hard times. It could be physically/emotionally/spiritually trying - Music and the practice of gratitude in the praises of God will combat those dark feelings (**v. 5**)
- **All we ever have to offer him is a broken Hallelujah.**
- **The psalms are clear - Bring your whole self to God.**

V. 19-21.

O house of Israel, praise the Lord;
 O house of Aaron, praise the Lord;
 O house of Levi, praise the Lord;
 you who fear him, praise the Lord.
 Praise be to the Lord from Zion,
 to him who dwells in Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord.

Let's Pray.

Psalm 135 is a ramped up song of praise that leads directly into Psalm 136. Psalm 136 is the only call/response Psalm recorded. It's a rehash of 135 as a way to respond to the abundant goodness and love of our God.

Psalm 1:2 has a command to Delight in the law of the Lord.
 Psalm 150 ends with a break out dance party concert. No better way to delight in the Lord than to dance and sing to music.

The Psalm ends with - Let everything thing that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah.