

Worship in Spirit and in truth

Session 1

Debbie Chaney

4/2020

“Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshippers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24 NIV

We are living in days that are calling for true worshippers; those who’s desire is to worship Him in the beauty of holiness, extoling Him before the throne, experience his manifest presence, bask in his glory, hear his voice, sing his songs, extend His kingdom and crown Him King.

Those who’s only delight is in pleasing Him, pouring out to Him, waiting on Him, serving Him and hearing from Him.

That is the audience we seek to address in this teaching, as we set the scriptural foundation for today’s Worship in Spirit and truth and its place in our congregation.

Let’s begin by looking at our text from the top of the page, **John 4:23-24**.

Here is a brief, Greek word study:

true - “alethinos” = truthful; real genuine; ideal. Taken from a root meaning = true, not concealing, manifest

worshippers – “proskeutes” = an adorerer, worshipper; taken from a root = to kiss like a dog licking masters hand, to faun, crouch, fall prostrate; to do reverence; to kiss

worship – “proskuneo” = to make obeisance, do reverence; to kiss

Spirit – “pneuma” – a current of air; breath, breeze; Spirit, soul.

truth – “aletera” = truth; the reality lying at the basis of an experience, the very essence of the matter

seeketh – “zeteo” = to seek, to worship; to seek for and find, to ask for and have answer, to knock and it be opened

1. How then would you transliterate those powerful verses, based on the eye-opening meanings behind the words?

Write it out-

What strikes you here? What stands out?

Is this the cry of your heart? Because it is the cry of The Father's heart, the kind He has longed for and asked for, and now finds in you.

As we come before Him in worship, we are coming before our Master, lavishing love on Him (licking his hands), who is the very essence and reality of the matter. He is the object of our love, worship and every expression we bring. THAT is TRUE WORSHIP.

That is what belongs in every worship service. It is all about Him.

In Matthew 15:1-9, Jesus addressed another kind of worship. Worship by tradition. He was asked,

"Why do your disciples break the traditions of the elders?"

He answered, "you nullify the Word of God for the sake of your tradition. You Hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he said, these people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship in vain; their teachings are merely human rules."

Jesus was addressing worship that simply went through the motions, met all the past expectations but had no genuine value. In fact, He said it was in vain. Empty. He said it even nullified the Word of God.

In Acts 17:23 – Paul addressed those who "ignorantly" worship. That word "ignorantly" in Greek means "to be pious, dutiful. An obligation of children to express dutifulness to family."

So here, we see worship from a sense of obligation or duty. The kind that comes from a proud or pious heart.

What do you think Jesus would say about that kind of worship?

You see, worship must be in truth – true to the Word of God. Worshippers must worship according to the Word of God, the Truth. It must come from a genuine heart of adoration and reverence for His presence. Prompted by love not obligation.

God help us and deliver us from a tradition of vain worship or ignorant worship but release us into worship that is genuine adoration as found in scripture and before the Throne of God.

Worship in Spirit and in truth
Session 2
The Heart of David
Debbie Chaney
4/2020

Acts 13:22 – “...he made David their king. God testified concerning him, “I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”

1 Samuel 13:14 – “But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart...”

Clearly God’s selection of King David is based upon David’s heart being like God’s very own heart. As **The Message paraphrase puts it, “He’s a man whose heart beats to my heart.”**

God saw in David a heart like His.
David longed for God and His presence. God longed for a man to share His heart with.
They had found each other.

What a wonderfully visual depiction of the heart of a true worshipper!

1 Samuel 16:14-23 reveals to us that David was a skillful musician, who when he played his lyre, evil spirits would leave and people would be healed. King Saul needed deliverance from an evil spirit and David was sought after. When David played and worshipped on his lyre, he was anointed by The Spirit, and all other spirits had to leave.

David had discovered the secret of worship on his instrument as the key to victory both in the natural and in the spirit realm. Remember, he defeated a lion and bear with his own hands and in the Valley of Elah he singlehandedly struck down Goliath. Worship was his strength. Reliance on the Spirit his victory.

David was then given a position in Saul’s army and eventually became king himself.
As king, his hunger for the presence of God never waned. He desired to establish God’s presence in the center of his kingdom.

1 Chronicles 11:5-9 – he captures Zion, which becomes the city of David and where he takes up residence.

1 Chronicles 13 – David desires to bring back to Jerusalem, the Ark of the Lord that had been captured by the Philistines.

v. 7 – David and all the Israelites were celebrating with all their might... with songs and harps, lyres, timbrels, cymbals and trumpets

- this reveals what could be called the heart of Davidic worship

v. 9, 10, 14 - what it also revealed was that God’s presence could not be carried on a man-made cart. Uzzah was killed and the Ark remained at Obed-Edom’s house WITH the Lord’s blessing.

Man's desire or best efforts and structure are not what God blesses. They bring death and separation, not life and intimacy.
Disobedience to God's prescribed order will never bring God's presence. Judgment must fall.

1 Chronicles 15

v. 2, 13, 15 - David realizes that the presence of the Lord (the ARK) must be carried on the shoulders of the priests. Not on a man-made cart.

He appoints the Levites to carry the Ark on their shoulders, with poles.

v. 1,3,12 – David prepared a place for the Ark (presence of the Lord)

v. 16 – he appoints Levites as musicians to make a joyful noise on instruments: lyres, harps, and cymbals

v. 17-24 – also appointed were leaders of musicians, singers; musicians & door keepers.

v. 25-29 – David and the elders, accompanied by Levites and appointed musicians, singers, choirs and music leaders all brought back the Ark of God with singing, shouts of joy, celebrating, and dancing.

David's wife was disgusted by his acts of loving abandonment in worship to His God.

What David institutes here, is true worship. This is his true heart. A heart of lavish, extravagance in outpouring to His God. A heart of abandon. Real, genuine, not concealing expression to His God.

Additionally, he instituted the use of instruments, musicians, singers, choirs, dancers and praisers in true worship. These musicians and singers sang and played in worship and created an atmosphere in which new songs and revelation could be "birthed" (spontaneously sung and played).

Before the Ark, were sounds of praise and worship by true worshippers.

But maybe more importantly, he was reminded and therefore reminds us, that the Ark of God, the very presence of Almighty God must be carried on the shoulders of the priests.

It is our responsibility (for we are a holy priesthood, 1 Peter 2:5) to carry the presence of the Lord. We bring Him along. We lift Him up. We carry His presence. When we come to church, we are to carry His presence with us. It is our responsibility, no one else's. We don't come in, sit down and "wait" for the presence of the Lord to show up. We bring Him, release Him and then move with Him. Worship is a fellowship is a offering. Both God and us are involved.

1 Chronicles 16

Here's where David breaks with tradition and reveals God's heart.

v. 1 – They brought the Ark of God and set it inside the tent David had pitched for it.

David did not set the Ark back in Moses Tabernacle, although it was still standing and very much functional.

He set it inside an open-air tent.

There alone, in a tent, was only one piece of furniture – The Ark of the Covenant, the presence of God.

No walls, barriers, separations, partitions or exclusions. The presence of God was left in open access for all to both see and experience.

BAM!

David just broke all the traditions of man and revealed the heart of the Father. Unhindered access for all before His presence. Maybe this is why God said, "David's heart beats to mine."

The remaining 42 verses of the chapter reveal how ministry before the Ark is to be conducted. They reveal how true worship is to be conducted, applied, lived, sought and modeled.

v. 2 burnt and fellowship offerings are brought

- Burnt offerings always represent a cleansing of our sin and the forgiveness purchased by Jesus blood.

- Fellowship offerings were the only offerings that the offerer was allowed to eat.

This denotes that worship is a mutual, heavenly exchange and engagement. We are actively involved and God is actively involved. We are fellowshiping in worship with Him and He with us. We speak, sing – He speaks, sings = true worship!

v. 4 David appointed 10 ministers to thank and praise and extol the Lord, to play instruments and praise regularly before the Ark.

v. 7-36 David appointed Asaph and his associates to praise the Lord "in this manner...."

He then goes on to sing a song of thanksgiving

** This song was sung, accompanied by instruments and other voices, under Asaph's hand as the conductor, as he cued in and out instrumentalists in keeping with the mood or style of the song (of the Lord)

On his cue cymbals would sound, or trumpets blow. Rhythms played and voices raise. (modern day worship leader or instrumental conductor??)

This was true worship!

This was worship in Spirit and in truth.

This is what David had learned on the hills with his harp and the sheep.

This is what David set up in the center of his kingdom, on the hill of Zion, as the acceptable form of worship of God.

This is what should be in every House of the Lord where true worshippers are.

v. 37-43 David left Asaph and his associates before the Ark, to minister in music and worship and song every day there. They were to worship there, before the Lord on Mount Zion.

- He left Zadok at Moses Tabernacle over in Gibeon, where he and the priests were still to offer AM and PM burnt offerings.

- Heman and Jeduthan were left with Zadok to sound the trumpets and play other instruments for sacred song at the gates.

NOTE

What a sad reality, here was a place where the very presence of God was readily available to all who would seek it, and yet, over on a nearby hill, they were pretending the Ark was still there and they were going through the motions.

Going through the motions would be akin to “singing through the song list”.

Did God show up? Was He even invited? Waited on? Ministered to?

Was there pressing into Him? Release of the song/Word of the Lord?

Was the manifest presence of the Lord present, obvious, felt, seen?

David’s heart shows us that God is looking for those who will worship with loving abandonment. Those who are skilled on instruments, and in song and who will minister to Him; allowing His Spirit to flow through them in words, sounds, visions and shouts of victory, revelation, and intimacy.

God’s heart is yearning for those instrumentalists, singers and worshippers to whom He can speak, inspire and give his revelatory songs, melodies and words. He is calling for true worshippers, now.

He is yearning to manifest Himself to those who are genuinely worshipping.

Worship in Spirit and in truth
The importance of Mount Zion
Debbie Chaney
4/2020

Mount Zion was the hill on which King David pitched the tent for the Ark. It is the place of God's presence, choosing and blessing.

"Zion" in the Hebrew is "tsiyon" (6726) and means permanent capital, a mountain of Jerusalem. It is the same as 6725 which means = the sense of conspicuousness – a monumental or guiding pillar.

Here are some key verses about Zion:

2 Sam. 5:7 – David took the stronghold of Zion

1 Chron. 11:5 – David took the stronghold of Zion

2 Chron. 5:2 – The City of David, Zion

Psa. 2:6 – I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill

Psa. 9:11 – The Lord is enthroned in Zion

Psa. 20:2 – may he strength you out of Zion

Psa. 48 – great is the Lord ... in the city of our God, on Mount Zion, the joy of the whole earth

Psa. 50:2 – from Zion, the perfection of beauty, God shines forth

Psa. 51:18 – may it please you to prosper Zion

Psa. 76:2 – his dwelling place is in Zion

Psa. 84:7 - ... til each appear before God in Zion

Psa. 87:2,5 – the Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling of Jacob.

Of Zion it shall be said "this and that man were born in her..."

Psa. 97:8 – Zion heard and was glad

Psa. 99:2 – the Lord is great in Zion

Psa. 103:13 – the Lord has chosen Zion

Psa. 103:16 – the Lord will build up Zion

Psa. 125:1 – those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion which cannot be shaken

Psa. 132:13 – the Lord has chosen Zion

Psa. 134:3 – the Lord bless thee out of Zion

Psa. 135:21 – blessed be the Lord out of Zion

Psa. 146:10 – the Lord reigns forever out of Zion

Psa. 147:12 – praise your God, Oh Zion

Isa. 28:16 – I lay a stone in Zion, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation

Isa. 31:9 - ... the Lord, whose fire is in Zion

Isa. 35:11 – they will enter Zion with singing, everlasting joy will be on their heads

Isa. 51:11 – those the Lord has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with everlasting joy

Jer. 8:19 – Is the Lord not in Zion?

Joel 2:1 – Blow the trumpet in Zion, sound an alarm!

Joel 3:16 – the Lord roar out of Zion

Joel 3:17 – then you will know that I, the Lord your God dwell in Zion, my holy hill

Amos 6:1 – woe to you who are complacent in Zion

Amos 9:11 – In that Day I will restore David's fallen shelter, I will repair its broken walls and restore its ruins, and rebuild it as I n the days of old

Micah 4:2 – the law shall go forth from Zion

Micah 4:13 – arise oh daughter of Zion

Worship in Spirit and in truth

Session 3

David's Tabernacle

Debbie Chaney

4/2020

David's tent has become known as The Tabernacle of David.

In it, instrumentalists played under the anointing of the Lord, as singers sang under that same anointing. Prophetic insight was revealed, spiritual strategies unveiled, victories won. God was honored, blessed, lifted up and He in return blessed and released His worshippers.

The Book of Psalms is said to be the songbook of David's Tabernacle.

Therefore, it is vital we have a thorough understanding of what is in it and what it was used for and came from.

Many of the Psalms were birthed in those times around the Ark by the singers. Ps. 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 22, 32, etc.

Many of the Psalms were written in daily life situations and then brought into the Tabernacle and submitted to the Chief Musician for orchestration. Later to be sung at the Tabernacle. Ps. 3, 7, 17, 18, 27, 30, etc.

The title (**) of the Psalm is actually verse 1 in the Hebrew bible.

PSALM 41

**** *For the director of music, A psalm of David.***

v. 1 – Blessed are those who have regard for the weak...

Many of the titles include musical instructions to the Chief musician and were intended for notes regarding instrumentation, mood, and specific sounds for that song.

Alamoth Ps. 46 – high sounds, pitches

Gittith Ps. 81 – perhaps a popular tune of the day

Higgaion Ps. 9 – perhaps a musical interlude

Mahalath Ps. 53 – perhaps a song or style of song

Maskil Ps. 32 – a song for teaching

Miktam Ps. 59 – uncertain musical technical term

Selah Ps. 3 – a pause or change in mood, orchestration

Sheminith Ps. 6 – an 8 stringed lyre

Shiggaion Ps. 7 – uncertain

Often a common songs tune was adapted and applied to the spiritual words in the Tabernacle.

There were Psalms that were sung as the Jews went to Jerusalem. (Songs of Ascents) 120-134

There were many authors of the Psalms: Asaph, sons of Korah, Solomon, Moses, Ethan, Heman, and King David, who wrote 73 of them.

The key point on the Psalms, David's Tabernacle songbook is that although we read them as only words, **THEY WERE SUNG** or sung in responsive reading or **song, with instrumental accompaniment!**

The Psalms were musical expressions of worship, accompanied by musical instruments and vocal arrangements. All was orchestrated by the Spirit, and under the direction of a lead musician who was anointed by the same Spirit.

In that environment, a spiritually charged worship service, musicians lead, vocals followed or vice versa wherever the spirit was leading. They all sought the Spirit's leading, anointing and inspiration to birth songs of deliverance and bring many to the hill of Zion in worship

This was true worship in Spirit and in Truth!

There were string, wind and percussion instruments used in psalms:

- Trumpet
- Lyre
- Pipe
- Strings
- Cymbals
- Timbrel
- Harp

These instruments created an underpinning, musically for the song of the Lord. As they played, and all waited, the Spirit stirred and songs were birthed. The foundation was a musical one.

This is where the use of worship chord progressions is a helpful, anointed and vital tool for instrumentalists. As they learn to play these, while "waiting", the Spirit is stirring/hovering, and songs are "birthed" by the anointing.

A new song was to be sung: 33:3; 40:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1

All of this singing and playing instruments was done as true worship to the Lord.

This worship in Spirit and in Truth before the Ark, was led by hungry worshippers who sought to pour themselves out in adoration to Him.

Their sacrifices were **spiritual** ones not animal. 1 Peter 2:5

- Fellowship (previously mentioned)
- Bodies Romans 12:1
- Joy Ps. 27:6
- Broken spirit Ps. 51:17
- Thanksgiving Ps. 116:17
- Praise Heb. 13:15

The Book of Psalms records many and varied expressions of worship, here are some:

Standing Ps. 135:2
Kneeling Ps. 95:6
Bowing down Ps. 95:6
Dancing Ps. 30:11; 139:3
 In war: Ps. 18:34, 40; 144:1
Lifting hands Ps. 28:2; 63:4; 44:2; 143:6;
Clapping hands Ps. 98:8; 47:1
Solemn procession Ps. 68:24
Laughing Ps. 2:4
Shouting Ps. 5:11
Loud voice Ps. 98:4
Singing Ps. 47:6 – this is the number 1 form of worship in the Bible
 The new song – we already mentioned
 Song of deliverance – Ps. 32:7
 Song of war – 2 Chron. 20:20-21
 Song of healing – James 5:13
 Song of praise – Ps. 04:33
 Song in the night – Ps. 23
 Song of the Bridegroom – SoS
 Songs of Zion – Ps. 137:3
 Song of the Lamb – Rev. 15:2-4

 Banners Ex. 17:15; Ps. 20:5; 60:4; SoS 2:4

We see then, modeled from David's God-shaped heart, the truth about worshipping before God and His presence.

The truth of unrestrained, open access to God, by all those who carry His presence and seek more of Him before His Throne.

The truth of anointed musicians, music and singers who worship God in the Spirit and beauty of holiness.

May the Word of God instruct us and enlighten us to walk (and worship) in the fullness of the Spirit and in all of His Truth.

Colossians 3:16 – “Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.”

2 Timothy 3:16 – “All scripture is God-breathed and is profitable for teaching, ... and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

1 Corinthians 10:11 – “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the ends of the world has come.”

John 4:23-24 – “Yet a time is coming and has now come when true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is Spirit and His worshippers must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

Acts 13:22 – “I have found in David... a man after my own heart...”

May we be the people who worship Him in Spirit and in Truth and as David, desire to dwell in His presence forever.

May we be spoiled for His presence alone and settle for nothing less as we bear the responsibility of carrying His presence and worshipping Him in Spirit and in truth.