

Psalm 122:1-4 – Worship with Excitement

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PW Emerson – 07/14/2019 – Ten:27 Ministries

We're doing a series on Psalms this summer

- First week we looked at Psalms 1 – about the blessings God has for us
- Last week we look at Psalm 119:105 – how God's Word is to guide us

Today we're looking at Psalm 122:1-4

Psalm 122:1-4

¹I rejoiced with those who said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the LORD."
²Our feet are standing
in your gates, Jerusalem.
³Jerusalem is built like a city
that is closely compacted together.
⁴That is where the tribes go up—
the tribes of the LORD—
to praise the name of the LORD
according to the statute given to Israel.

This is all about worship.

Worship services held today are not biblical. They're not bad; nothing is wrong with them.

It was something developed hundreds of years after the time of Christ, hundreds of years after the most recent part of the bible was written.

There were 2 occasions, during this time, that have some similarities to the worship we have today.

FIRST

The sabbath

They would have a sabbath gathering ... sabbath being from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown.

Leviticus 23:3

There are six days when you may work, but the seventh day is a day of sabbath rest, a day of sacred assembly. You are not to do any work; wherever you live, it is a sabbath to the LORD.

Their sabbath gather would be the “sacred assembly”

Even modern Jewish communities have a sabbath service on Friday night and Saturday morning

During biblical times,

- There was nothing akin to a minister or rabbi
- It was a gathering of the believers
- The male members would take turns each week, reading the next piece of the Torah, and they would talk about it.
- People would share their
 - Thoughts
 - Experiences
 - Beliefs about the piece of the day/week

Most scholars would say that historically this is not worship, not in the modern sense. Rather it is more like a bible study ... regardless, it is a holy gathering.

That's why today

- I asked different people to lead different areas of worship
- I asked people to share ... their experiences ... the life with God.

It's biblical. And it's relevant.

SECOND occasion somewhat akin to our modern worship ...

3 times a year, for specific occasions, all Jews would travel to Jerusalem

- Passover
- Shavuot (in late spring / early summer)
- Sukkot (in early fall)

During these times, since all Jews would be in Jerusalem, it was normal that there was "no room in the inn" thus many experts believe the birth of Christ happened during one of these feasts or occasions.

While in Jerusalem for these occasions, Jews would worship at the temple – worship in our modern sense.

Priests at the temple would carry out the duties of the running the house of God

- Light this candle here at this time
- Offer this sacrifice at this time
- etc

They were not like priests in the modern sense that they had studied and would teach others.

It seems like one of these occasions is what the writer is referring to ...

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David wrote this Psalm.

He is excited for the opportunity to worship God!

God woke you up this morning

- He clothed you in your right mind
- He put food on your table
- clothes on your back
- shoes on your feet and
- A roof over your head.

You have Something to Be Excited About!

Everyone likes new things

- New clothes; we cannot wait to wear
- New car; That smell
- New baby; Everyone has just got to hold

Why?

- Because they are fresh
- They are untarnished

When we made our way to God we were:

- Dirty
- Stained
- Abused by the sin of this world

God didn't just apply some BONDO on our dents!

He didn't just give us some fresh duct tape

He didn't just slap some KILTZ over the stains and scars that sin had left on our lives.

He didn't cover up rather He *removed* the imperfections and replaced them with his Spirit!

ISN'T THAT EXCITING?????

Our Sunday morning worship is an opportunity when we get excited about ALL God *has* done for us and *continues* to do for us!

When I see people living according to God's word, I can't help but get excited!

I hear about times when God excites people and I get excited!

That's part of the reason why worship is a communal event.

People of God, come together, share their experiences, hear about what is going on with one another and make plans to reach out and do more in living out God's word!

Do you know how much ***MORE*** we do as a ***BODY*** of believers??

One person can only do so many oil changes on any given Saturday.

But when we come together, we have a greater impact!

Snowflakes are frail, but if enough of them get together they can stop traffic.

Vance Havner

As the Hebrews approached the promised land, God told Moses to have 12 men go check out the promised land, one man from each of the 12 tribes.

Ten scouts reported problems

- People are giants
- Land is fortified
- We can't take it

They were pessimistic and gave reports of doom & gloom.

Two scouts came back excited. They said

- It's ripe for the taking!

They saw the

- Same land
- Same people

But they were excited about what God would deliver into their hands!

Just because you are excited with God does not mean you will not face battles

- Attacks will come against you
- Hard battles will stand in front of you

But the way you handle these battles will change

When you are excited about God

- Gloom
- Depression
- Fear
- Doubt

Will find it hard to bring you down.

I am not saying that you will never have a bad day; we are not in heaven yet.

- Moses had his days of anger and frustration
 - He broke the tablets that God had written on Himself
 - He Struck the rock
 - He missed going into the promise land
- Elijah had Jezebel, chasing him, trying to kill him
- Jeremiah had that day that he wanted to quit
- Abraham –God tested him with his sacrifice
- Jacob had his Leah
- David had Goliath
- Paul had the Philippian jail
- John had the Isle of Patmos experience

- Jesus was faced with the temptations and the cross

But you can face those battles and those bad days with an attitude of excitement for God because you know that God is in control!

So we come together and share our excitement with God in praise and worship!

The word “worship” comes from an old English word “worthship”, meaning that God is worthy; He deserves our praise.

Worship is our response to all God is and says and does.

When we really believe God deserves our worship, nothing will keep us away from church.

Church worship is a matter of priorities.

Worship has been described as “the most urgent, the most glorious action that can take place in human life.

Why is David glad when he’s told, “Let’s go to the house of God” (vs 1)?

- He knows that he will find his true spiritual family there.
- He knows that He will learn more about how life really works
- He knows he’ll gain strength for the days ahead.

Nothing’s going to keep him from worship. How can we know a person’s priorities? By what that person does willingly, voluntarily.

Nehemiah 8:10

Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.

In our Father's House, there is Love, Peace, and Joy. He is always wanting you to come. He is always listening for your prayers, and He is always ready to show you how much He loves you.

Let us go into the house of the Lord...with Gladness...in Fellowship... and in Worship, to meet with the Lord our God.

That's what David is expressing in Psalm 122