

Summer Series: “Vital: Churches Changing Communities and the World”

Sermon #5: “You and I Were Made for Worship!”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:14-19 (CEB)

Text: “Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name.” -Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

Theme: God created followers of Jesus in every local church to be genuine, fully engaged worshippers!

Blurb: You and I were made to worship! Fully worshiping God involves our physical selves, our emotions, our money and our ministry. As followers of Christ, when we worship, we interact with the Holy Spirit in Christian community. Are we vital and engaged? Would someone coming for the first time want to come back next week? How can our worship together change us?

Gathering Song: “Here I Am to Worship” - Sanctify

Welcome - Pastor David

Welcome - Introductions, Welcome Center

New web site

Turn off cell phones but like us on Facebook first. Can from our website.

Songs: Call to Worship

“Better Is One Day” - Sanctify

“How Can I Keep from Singing”

“O Worship the King”

Worship Prayer & Prayers- Andrew

Faith Sharing: Wildfire Mission Trip

PPs: Slide show of pix.

Sandy Coley

Tess Walker

Thank you card.

Kid’s Invited to Kid’s Church - Pastor David

Prayers of Blessing for Fish Campers

PPs: Slide show of Lac Suel Lake, Canada

Dan Hair Safety and that nothing breaks up there.

Randy Coley 100 north into Canada, Lac Suel Lake, near Sioux Lookout

Darrell Benson

Jim Letourneau

Hospitality Training

PPs: Hospital Training

Greeting someone new

5-10 Rule (Eye contact & smile with 10 feet, verbal within 5 feet)

10-5 Rule (For 10 minutes before and after worship, talk to 5 *different* people)

Opening Video - For the sermon series “Vital”

PP#1: “Vital: Churches Changing Communities and the World”

“You and I Were Made for Worship!”

“Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name.” -Hebrews 13:15 (NLT)

“Vital: Churches Changing Communities and the World.” “You and I Were Made for Worship!” Hebrews 13:15 “Therefore, let us offer through Jesus a continual sacrifice of praise to God, proclaiming our allegiance to His name.”

PP#2: *Image of Søren Kierkegaard*

Two hundred years ago there was a famous Danish pastor and philosopher named Søren Kierkegaard, who thought that worship in churches was all wrong. As I read this again, it seemed to me that his criticism was surprisingly fitting for our time as well! He said that churches were making Sunday morning worship into a performance. The pastor and other worship leaders were the actors, who were being directed by God, for the focus of the audience, the congregation, who were passive observers. Worship, then, can become about how much the congregation likes it, or how much we get out of it, or how much we are able to experience something that touches us.

Now, this hits us home here at Forest Hills rather hard. As you look around our sanctuary, it looks a lot like a theater. There’s a raised stage, plain furnishings, pews, yes, but they are sloped in theater style. There’s nothing really in here that marks this as a Christian sanctuary, besides the hanging cross and the moveable altar table we put up front.

Part of this is the modern design of this space, and part of it is because we lend this space three or four times a year, to be used as a theater for Youth Performing Arts. Because we see YPA as an important ministry for youth and for our wider community, we purposefully keep our sanctuary fairly plain and simple.

So, it can be easy for us to slip into thinking about worship as a performance, like Kierkegaard said. Besides, like good, reserved, Scandinavian Minnesotans, we tend to sit quietly on a Sunday morning, once or twice standing up, and occasionally breaking out of our comfort zones to clap or—gasp!—someone may actually raise their hands in worship, while they sing!

PP#3: Biblical Worship: Divine Drama (Kierkegaard)

	<u>Actors:</u>	<u>Directors:</u>	<u>Audience:</u>
Wrong:	Pastor/Leaders	God	Congregation
Right:	Congregation	Pastor/Leaders	God

Well, we need to hear from our new buddy, Kierkegaard. He’s talking to us. He said that worship is, in fact, a drama, but we have to be careful not to get it backwards. You see, in biblical worship, God, and only God, is the audience. It’s about how much God likes it, how much He gets out of it, how much He is able to experience something that touches Him.

The pastor and the worship leaders up front are the directors. The congregation, you all, are the actors. God is the audience. See how this is flipped around? The focus of worship is not us, it’s God.

So, biblically, it’s not if you feel worship is “worth it,” or if you get something out of it. You don’t get to choose if you want to go to worship on any given Sunday. Biblically, we are commanded

to gather in worship, and it's about what God gets out of it. Kind of changes things, a bit, doesn't it?

Now, this may be weird for us who swim in an individual and egocentric culture, and I don't want to portray God as an egomaniac, either. Actually, God doesn't need our worship. He deserves, it, for sure, but He has all the angels who praise Him and honor Him rightly. Even the very earth itself proclaims God's glory. No. It is we who need to worship, for it is only when we do, that we are centered and whole. We are made in God's image, and so it is only when we worship God authentically that we live into our identity. God commands us to worship because we need to do it. Again, God's commands are for our benefit, for He wants us whole. We need to worship.

PP#4: The WORK of WORSHIP

Physical Work
Emotional Work
Financial Work
Sacrificial Work

In Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, the words "work" and "worship" share the same root. The two are connected. Worship is not something that happens to us, or we find ourselves just caught into, although that can happen. It is certainly not something we stand back and observe. It requires investment from us. We have to intentionally "work at it." We can't just come in here, plunk down, and say, "OK, impress me." When we come here and gather with others to worship, we need to prepare, to get in the right zone, to focus, to put our best worship forward. We need to invest our bodies, our attitudes, our finances, our resources, our giving. That's why Andrew gives us a call to worship - it's to help us focus and put our hearts and heads right. We aren't the audience. We're the actors.

But the divine drama of worship doesn't just happen here when we gather to worship.

PP#5: *Image of the book* Vital: Churches Changing Communities and the World

Our church leaders are reading this book together. It's about how churches can be vital. Vital means full of life. Jesus has come so that we may have life, vital life. *Vital: Churches Changing Communities and the World*. What does it mean for churches to be vital, Jesus-vital? The book talks about the five biblical characteristics of vital churches. First we learned about the importance of vital leadership - faithful, fruitful, accountable. Last Sunday it was about unleashing the Body of Christ: God's dream in us, unleashed by the Holy Spirit, lived out as we mature in Christ. Today it's about authentic worship, and how we are a people made to worship!

PP#6: The *where* of worship:

Gathered together in community
Sent out on the streets of everyday life

Well, the author tells the story of a college student who went home to visit his grandmother. Now, he, like many college students, didn't go to church much. But she, like many grandmothers, did. So, when he was visiting, she woke him up and took him to church. Now, that was a Pentecostal church, and they did a lot of hand waving, shouting, dancing, and emotional worship. He had never seen that before. On the way home, he asked his grandmother, "What was all that jumping and shouting about back at church?"

The wise saint answered, “Sweetie, it doesn’t matter how loud they shout or how high they jump. What matters is what happens when their feet hit the floor.”

You see, she got it. Real worship is not just about what happens when people gather together. Real worship happens when people move from the seats to the streets. Remember? We are people of the road. And we take our worship—real worship, vital worship—also out *on the road*.

PP#7: *Image of the Ark of the Covenant*

Let’s take a look at a great story deep in the Old Testament that shows us what this kind of vital worship looks like. How can we worship more the way we were created to worship? Turn to 2 Samuel 6.

Before there was a temple in Jerusalem, the Israelites gathered for worship around a holy box, or chest, called the Ark of the Covenant. It was a focus and a reminder for them, that they worshiped the one true God. Well, when David became king, he moved the Ark into the new capital.

PP#8: *Image of David dancing and worshiping as the Ark was brought back to Jerusalem.*

Well, when King David brought the Ark back into Jerusalem, he was so overjoyed that he burst out in worship. And if we look closely, we can see how we can worship God in ways God thinks is awesome.

PP#9: You and I Were Made to Worship!

1. Worship with your body

“And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment.” -2 Samuel 6:14

“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.” -Romans 12:1

When I was on choir tour in college, we went down to Georgia. We sang in this all black church, and we were rather nervous, because a whole set of our songs were Negro Spirituals. We were all white...singing in a black church! Well, they received us graciously. But after the concert, I was riding home with my host family. The mother, a big, black woman, turned to me and asked, “How is it that you white folks sing standing so still?” We laughed about this, because, she was part of her church’s choir. And instinctively, when the music starts, her whole body starts to move. For her there is no singing standing still. And I think she did a much more biblical form of worship than we white Mid-Westerners.

David is so excited in His worship, that he puts on a priestly garment—see, he’s in a worship leadership role here—and he worships with all his might. He’s really getting into it! Now, cultures are different, and so are personalities, but what would it look like for you to worship with all your might? Do you ever do that? In our culture, we get wild at baseball games, at wedding receptions, at clubs. But we get stoic in worship. A Presbyterian friend of mine called his church “the frozen chosen!”

It would be OK, it would even be biblical, for us to worship more with our bodies. I want you to know that it is always OK here to worship, if you want to, by moving your arms or legs, or whatever. But remember, as Methodists, we want our worship to not be wild, or disruptive, or disrespectful.

And remember, our worship with our whole bodies is not just in this sanctuary. It's when our feet hit the street! Romans 12:1, "And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him."

PP#10: You and I Were Made to Worship!

1. Worship with your body

2. Worship with your emotions

"So David and all the people of Israel brought up the Ark of the Lord with shouts of joy and the blowing of rams' horns." 2 Samuel 6:15

"I've kept my feet on the ground. I've cultivated a quiet heart. Like a baby content in its mother's arms." Psalm 131:2

2 Samuel 6, "And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the Lord's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts."

How can we worship more biblically? Worshiping more with our whole bodies. Worshiping more with our emotions. They were excited! They shouted. They blew their horns. Sometimes people complain to me that the worship music is too loud. Sometimes those people are right. Other times those people need to engage their emotions more. They want it quiet enough to not engage them so fully. But here, we're excited to worship.

But biblically, that doesn't always mean more noise! Authentic worship can be in quiet, too. Psalm 131 says, "I've kept my feet on the ground. I've cultivated a quiet heart. Like a baby content in its mother's arms." That is a great position of worship, too.

Neither is biblical worship about emotionalism. Some people feel that worship should bring an emotional feeling, an emotional experience, a worship buzz. But this is making worship about us, isn't it? "I just love that feeling I get in worship!" Worship needs to be emotional, but not emotionalism.

How about you? How can you engage your emotions in worship more? What would that mean for you? How can you steer clear of emotionalism in your worship?

PP#11: 2 Samuel 6:14-16

"And David danced before the Lord with all his might, wearing a priestly garment. This is how David and the entire house of Israel brought up the Lord's chest with shouts and trumpet blasts."

"As the Lord's chest entered David's City, Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David jumping and dancing before the Lord, and she lost all respect for him."

2 Samuel 6:16 "As the Lord's chest entered David's City, Saul's daughter Michal was watching from a window. She saw King David jumping and dancing before the Lord, and she lost all respect for him."

Michal was a stoic, Mid-Western, mainline church goer! She thought David was acting very ridiculously. He should be more self-controlled! But God thought David's worship was awesome!

PP#12: You and I Were Made to Worship!

1. Worship with your body
2. Worship with your emotions
3. Worship with your finances

2 Samuel 6:17 “The Lord’s chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered entirely burned offerings in the Lord’s presence in addition to well-being sacrifices.”

A third part of biblical worship is worshiping more with our resources.

“The Lord’s chest was brought in and put in its place inside the tent that David had pitched for it. Then David offered entirely burned offerings in the Lord’s presence in addition to well-being sacrifices.”

Giving to God is part of worship. That’s why here we always include an offering time. It’s not because we want money to run our church. Now, it might look like that. But actually, that’s not the reason we have an offering. We include an offering each and every service because we need to give. We need opportunities to share from the resources God has given to us. If we didn’t include giving, it would be so easy to make it all about us. This giving, however, comes from a heart filled with gratitude. When we encounter God, we are moved, and we desire to give. Imagine people in love. They look for ways to give, long to, ache to give. When we worship authentically, we have that same compulsion.

Then, as God’s way always, amazingly, mysteriously, interconnects, God matches our need to give, with other people’s need for help and for hearing about God. Giving to this church is not giving to simply maintain this church, to keep it going. The moment this church become about self-maintenance, I’ll close the doors, or I’ll leave. You’re not paying me to entertain you, right? Giving to this church is a way to fuel the outreach, the helping, the sharing of God’s love with others that this church exists to do. Look how the monies given to the mission trip were invested! Look how the monies invested in the Blue Grass Festival were invested! Look how the resources invested in our children’s programming are invested! Take a look. I think you’ll be very impressed!

PP#13: 2 Samuel 6:18-19

“When David finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces. He distributed food among all the people of Israel—to the whole crowd, male and female—each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.”

One more. “When David finished offering the entirely burned offerings and the well-being sacrifices, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of heavenly forces. He distributed food among all the people of Israel—to the whole crowd, male and female—each receiving a loaf of bread, a date cake, and a raisin cake. Then all the people went back to their homes.”

PP#14: You and I Were Made to Worship!

1. Worship with your body
2. Worship with your emotions
3. Worship with your finances
4. Worship with your ministry

Don't just fund the ministry, invest with what you do, too. David sent the people home with gifts, food, fuel to serve God, blessing. David did outreach! This past week, on the mission trip, I saw money at work, but more importantly I saw people's hands and feet at work. Yesterday, I saw people come early, stay long, and leave late. I saw people's hands and feet at work. Yes, it might have been laminating paper, or setting up tables. But all of this created an event where people were able to encounter God—and God's family—in a way that will make an impact. It's a good tired feeling. Worship isn't just what you do in here. It's also when your feet meet the street.

Vital worship. Vital Jesus-followers. Vital Church. You are the actors. God is the audience. You and I were made to worship.

Closing Song: "Be Thou My Vision" - Sanctify

Announcement & Benediction - David

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR JULY 26, 2015

Summer Series: “Vital”

Sermon #5: “You and I Were Made for Worship!”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:14-19

Opening prayer

Introductions:

Introduce yourself and briefly share an impactful worship experience you’ve had.

Context: Skim 2 Samuel 5-6. What is going on in these chapter? Explain the context.

Read: 2 Samuel 6:14-19

1. Vs. 14. What does “dancing with all his might” mean? What do you think that looked like?
2. What would it mean for us, today, to worship more like this?
3. Vs. 14. An ephod is a priestly garment. David is taking a worship leader role. What would you have done if you were there in the streets watching David?
4. Vs. 16. Why did Michal not like what David was doing? (Hint: Look down to verse 20.)
5. What are some of the worship norms (dos and don’ts) of our culture? What norms and styles of worship do you not like? Why? What would God think about them?
6. How do you distinguish between authentic worship and a lot of emotionalism?
7. Which is better, to be more quiet and reflective in worship, or to be loud and exuberant?
8. Vs. 17. Why do you think is giving offerings so important for authentic worship?
9. Vs. 19. Why might David have given the breads to the people as the end of worship?
10. Application: What will you take away from this passage? How will you live it out?