

CENTERED

Celebration: Return of the Ark

2 Samuel 6

Pastor Daniel Hahn

July 27/28, 2019

MESSAGE NOTES**Bringing it home:**

1. As the ark moves toward Jerusalem, a parade of praise erupts and follows it.

"In God, David had access to life that exceeded his capacity to measure or control. He was on the edge of mystery, of glory. And so he danced...when we're beside ourselves with love, charged with excess of meaning, shaken out of preoccupation with ourselves, we dance... He was responding to the living God. He was open to the life of God flowing around and through him. — Eugene Peterson, Leap Over A Wall

"Worship is to feel in your heart and express in some appropriate manner a humbling but delightful sense of admiring awe and astonished wonder and overpowering love in the presence of that most ancient Mystery... which we call Our Father Which Art in Heaven. — A.W. Tozer

2. Then the ark enters the city, Michal, David's wife, despises David for his outrageous joy.
3. Finally the ark arrives home in the tabernacle, David leads the people in sacrificial worship.

Genuine praise:

... is a big deal to God.

To worship is to awaken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God. — William Temple

... rises out of loving relationship.

... is preoccupied with God, not with the process.

When I worship, I would rather my heart be without words than my words be without heart. — Lamar Boschman

We're never wholly ourselves until we're open before God, attending to the reality of God, responding to the action of God in us, receiving the Word of God for us. A worship service is a time and place by which we interrupt our preoccupation with ourselves and attend to the presence of God — time and place devoted to deliberate attentiveness to God. — Eugene Peterson, Leap Over A Wall

... shouldn't hinder others or hinge on their impressions.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before Him with thanksgiving and extol Him with music and song. ... Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. — Psalm 95:1 – 6

... always changes us to be more thankful and generous.

Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Ephesians 5:19 – 20

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom — 2 Corinthians 3:17

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Share with each other what you recall from last weekend's message.
- What was the significance of the Ark of the Covenant?
- Who had captured the Ark and why was it such a big deal to have it returning to Jerusalem?
- Why do you think David stripped off his kingly robes, looking more like every other worshipper that day?
- Who was indignant that David was dancing and looking undignified and how did David respond?
- Thinking about our own posture of worship, what does this scenario teach us about real praise to God?
- Have someone read Psalm 95:1-6 and take some time to weigh in on what that Psalm teaches us about praise.
- What are some of the ways we show our praise and adoration to God? In what way is God praised when we're serving other people (See Hebrews 13:15-16)?
- In your own life, how would you describe the ways that you praise or worship God? What tends to inspire you to praise God? Why is it an important part of your life as a follower of Jesus?
- How would you like to grow in the area of being more focused on praise? What steps could you take that would help you grow in that?