

THE SONG OF THE LORD

By

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Scripture Readings: 2 Chronicles 29, 1 Corinthians 14:12, Colossians 3

I hope this morning that you have seen a different picture of worship if you can picture the scene, the rubbish dump, with all the idols and all the lucky charms and religious oracles. Brought out and thrown into the rubbish dump. The doors of God's house reopened, the smell of burnt flesh. The ministers, the Levites duabbed in blood. Rivers of blood flowing down the middle of the sanctuary. The contortion of dead animals, the blast of the trumpet, the clash of the cymbal and the shout of the worshipper. What was happening? God was restoring his people; He was giving them back THE SONG OF THE LORD. Have you lost your song? Have you lost the song of the Lord in your life? There are people and you only have to look at their faces to see that they have lost their song.

Hezekiah the newly appointed King, one man, brought back one nation to the song of the Lord. God raised up one man to reform and to restore a nation. His evil father had taken the nation away. But now his Godly son, and I want to say this to you, I don't care where you are coming from today; Hezekiah's daddy was evil, but God raised him up for good. So don't let you background or your family situation rob you of what God has planned for your life.

- He made a Godly choice.
- He was prompt in his action.
- He was unafraid to do the necessary as well as the enjoyable.
- He spoke with conviction.
- He acted with authority and he demonstrated the power of God in his life.
- He was earnest in what he was doing.
- He became expressive in his praise, extravagant in his worship and exemplary in His commitment.

As I read this chapter I said, "God I want to sing for you". In this chapter there is only one line that stands out, THE SONG OF THE LORD also began. But I want to make sure that when I am singing there is nothing blocking, there is nothing stopping the flow, there is no idolatries in me, nothing filthy in my life, there is nothing to rob me of singing my song for the Lord. Brother and sister I would say this to you this morning Hezekiah demonstrated to me the **pathway of praise**.

The pathway of praise, [verse 1 – 2] **he was right in the sight of the Lord**. [Verse 3], **he opened the doors of God's house**. [Verse 4 & 5], **he brought in the church cleaning team**. [Verse 5], **he shared his heart that he had made a covenant with the Lord**.

I have made a covenant with the Lord. I have made a covenant in my heart to say Lord as long as I am the minister of this church I want it to be Christ Centred, people friendly, spirit filled and people reaching. 'Christ centred people reaching people for Christ', that is the covenant I have made in my heart.

[Verse 10], **he called for personal sanctification**. Praise band have you got a walk with God? Welcome team have you got a walk with God? People in ministry leadership - is your walk with God what it ought to be? Because if it isn't filthiness is still in the house. Do we want revival? Or do we want convenient religion? If we want revival we need to cleanse the temple and sanctify ourselves.

[Verse 15], **he consulted the word of God**. [Verse 17], **he cleansed the temple**. [Verse 20], **he consulted the God of the word**. **He took the people up to worship**. Can I say this to you worship is ascending, not descending, you're ascending to the throne of God. Worship is an ascent you're rising in you worship to praise God. So he went up to God's

house with the people. **He made a sacrificial offering, he positioned the praise team** to be ready to start praising God. The sacrifice of praise was expressed in the whole temple and then when they praised the Lord it says that “they generously gave of willing hearts and it brought back order to the house of the Lord”.

Finally, they praised God for speed of assistance and helping them to do it quickly rather than slowly. Folks there are things we need to do promptly when God puts them on our heart. And the longer we take to get them done the longer we are robbing God of his breakthrough in our lives. I have heard people say yes I am thinking about tithing, that’s 10 years ago and they are still thinking. They are robbing themselves of the joy of obedience and the prosperity of God, who said “prove me do it prove me now that I will open the windows of heaven”.

Brother and sister when the burnt offering began, the song of the Lord also began with trumpets and with instruments. As soon as the sacrifice was made simultaneously the song of the Lord began. I’ve written this **No song without sacrifice**. “I will not offer Him, David said, that which costs me nothing”.

You heard about the wee lad sitting at the dinner table after the church service. The mummy says, “ I didn’t like the preaching this morning he really rabbited on didn’t he?” The daddy says, “Aye that praise band was rubbish.” The big sister says, “Aye them young people don’t talk to you.” The elder brother says, “Aye they’re rubbish, those people just make a noise.” The wee lad says, “Well what do you expect for 10p.”

“I will not offer Him that which costs me nothing.” Brother and sister in order to sing the song of the Lord you have got to set your house in order. Start by having the right heart, “he set his heart right in the eyes of the Lord.” **He set his attitude right**, “let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.” **He opened the temple doors**, by the way you have got doors in your heart and your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. So you can open your hearts door and let the Holy Spirit come in and make you a temple of praise. And then **he knew the word of the Lord**; He sought Gods agenda for true worship. “The Father seeks those who worship Him in spirit and in truth.” So he was looking for the right worshippers so Hezekiah sought the Lord and he knew the word of the Lord. He did a bung out, he threw out all the baggage and the filthiness in his life and the idolatries (worship of self and other gods). He made prayer a priority he rose early to seek God, he stood in the right position and he got others to stand in their place.

God has set some in the church, the word set there means God has an order for where we are to stand in His presence and He has people positioned in order to function in ministry. He made a sacrificial approach he was offering a sacrifice for sin and a sacrifice for offering on the altar. Altar always speak of death, self-denial and surrender. He also told the people to get ready to praise. Finally he had generosity in his heart and his spirit to give more.

So brother and sister as they began to offer the burnt offerings simultaneously the song of the Lord began. With trumpets, cymbals and voices raised and it filled the house. Brother and sister they also sang prophetically because Hezekiah said “sing the songs of David, sing your prophetic songs”. There was a prophetic input there as well. Have you sung prophetically in the meeting? Has He given you a song, not just tongues but a song of prophesy for the assembly in the name of the Lord? So the song of the Lord also began. That tells me that praise has to be expressive. Praise is an exercise, you’ve got to flex your spiritual muscles. If you want to be a praiser and a worshipper it will not happen if you don’t do anything. You’ve got to exercise and praise the Lord yourself. Praise is an excitement, because when you start to praise the Lord. Something happens.

Praise brings excitement, as the burnt offering began the song of the Lord began. When the praise band begins to introduce the worship that is where our hearts should be. Praise is effective when it comes from a willing heart. You can't force praise on a grump. It won't happen, because it will kill them. Praise should be excellent. We want excellence. God deserves the best. He deserves our best in every area of our lives. If you are cleaning this church you clean with an excellent spirit. Don't go for second best and leftovers.

Then we see the exuberance because as they began the song of the Lord began and it says "that all of the congregation worshipped". We allow our emotions to dictate how we serve God that is not right. You should enter church bringing your sacrifice of praise and worship. They were willing to give and give. They gave so many offerings of bullocks and lambs, they just constantly gave, it's called a generous spirit.

And then when the song of the Lord began there was ecstasy. Folks when you worship God you should be on another planet. "I was in the spirit on the isle of Patmos on the Lords day." John the Revelator in exile on a desert island with nobody around for miles. He was put there out of the road to shut him up. He said there was no one else on the island "but on the Lords day I was in the spirit", and I saw things I had never seen before in my life. Brother and sister when you sing the song of the Lord, it's not just to lift you up, it's to lift everybody up. The spiritual gifts are for the edification of all.

I have found that when you start to sing you encourage someone else to sing, and then someone else wants to join in and before you know it there is about a half a dozen of you. Then somebody finds a guitar, then somebody finds two sticks or a tambourine and then somebody gets an accordion out. Then what started as a solo becomes a duet and before you know it you've got an orchestra worshipping the Lord with the song of the Lord in their hearts. Any conductor can tell you what instrument is not playing at a certain time. When you're not singing God knows why you're not singing. And he says what's wrong with you? Am I not good enough? Am I not big enough? Have I not loved you enough? Have I not demonstrated that I think you are the best? By the time I'm finished with you, you are going to be the greatest in my eyes.

Brother and sister would you start singing your song. Take this as an example of how to come to worship. Jesus went into the temple, he didn't like what he saw. So he went out and spent a night in prayer. The next day he came back in again and he took a whip. And he chased out the people that shouldn't have been there and he cleared out the things that should not have been going on in there. And it says that when He did that, He said, "My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves." And it says that when he cleansed the temple and when he reinstated the house of God as a house of prayer the power of God fell. And the blind came and were healed. And they all started to praise Him and the Pharisees hated Him for it.

When you breakthrough into the place of the song of the Lord not everybody is happy for you. Because you are breaking into the spiritual realm, you're breaking through the superficial into the supernatural. You're entering the place of Holy Ghost intimacy, where the power of God is evident in the very words you sing, even the instrument you play will touch chords in hearts and give people hope.

It's time to sing the song of the Lord. So do your own bung out, set your own house in order. When you sing the song of the Lord you can deal with anything.