

CALL OUT

A STUDY OF THE PSALMS

HOMECOMING

June 22nd, 2016 1.3 million people crowded the streets of downtown Cleveland to celebrate the NBA Champion Cavaliers homecoming. A 52-year drought ended when the Cavs overcame a 3-1 deficit in the finals to beat Golden State. Many of the long-time Cleveland faithful longed for this day. They waited so long, how could they not celebrate?

For the past six Weeks (5-10), we've looked at our response to God in various circumstances. We've seen the psalmist call out to the Lord as his Comforter, Shepherd, Healer, Helper, Rescuer, and Purpose. More than likely, we won't call out to him to take all of these roles in our life at the same time. Different situations motivate us to recognize the Lord in fresh ways. *He* never changes, but our response to him and relationship *with* him may change.

In these last two Weeks, we'll look at God's revelation of himself and our worshipful response. We'll see how God's greatness and rule over the Earth should lead us to proclaim his greatness and rule to others. Although we still long for the day when our Champ will return, we don't have to wait to celebrate his greatness. We can start inviting others to join the party now.

The greatest gift you can give your friends and classmates is to share this opportunity to worship.

PSALM 96:1-9

¹ Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ² Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. ³ Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. ⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. ⁶ Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts! ⁹ Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness; tremble before him, all the earth!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

"So I throw up my hands, And praise You again and again, 'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah, Hallelujah. And I know it's not much, But I've nothing else fit for a King Except for a heart singing hallelujah, Hallelujah."

In these final two Weeks, we seek to respond to all that we've seen in the only way we can, through worship. Scan the QR code to worship the King with joy. *Get up and praise the Lord.*



DISCUSSION

What is the best song to loudly sing in the car?
Is anyone brave enough to demonstrate?

1. What does the psalmist command 3 times? To whom? (1-2a)

2. What word describes all other gods? (5a)

3. What 4-word command is given three times? (7-8a)

4. In what sense are other gods "worthless"? (5a)

5. In what way(s) does "worship" of God (9a) relate to "tremble" before God (9b)?

6. What about God motivates you to worship him?
What would it take to increase your worship?

Who is there in your life that, if you invited them, would join you to church, Bible study, etc. What's holding you back? If you have questions, talk to your Coach today.

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

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STUDY NOTES

JUST SING

In China, a godly pastor faced a 20-year imprisonment for his faith. During that time, his daily responsibilities included cleaning out the latrine—where all the prisoners relieved themselves. The stench was disgusting, offensive, and totally repugnant. However, this pastor thanked God for this assignment! Why? Because his captors never came anywhere *near* that awful stench. Remarkably, the persecuted pastor called this place “his garden” because, while alone, he could sing spiritual songs passionately...without any fear of persecution. His praise rose above his circumstances, focusing on his Lord’s greatness rather than the immediate circumstances.

We don’t know the author or circumstances through which Psalm 96 was written. However, throughout our study, hopefully it’s clear that circumstances do not determine worship. A person’s view of God is the only factor in a worshipful heart.

This psalmist showed a big view of God. He cried out, “***Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!***” In Week 8, we discussed how for millennia, great victories have been immortalized by poets who put them into song for future generations. Our songs record and remind us of God’s victories. We sing to remember all that he has done. ***Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.***

THE KING DESERVES PRAISE FROM EVERYONE

The psalmist has already mentioned it, but more clearly, he states, “***Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!***” That phrase, “the nations” may just sound like a big goal to our modern ears. After all, McDonald’s exists in most nations, right? However, in the ancient context, this is slightly more scandalous than a happy meal.

In the New Testament, one of the major issues that caused great confusion was that Gentiles could be included into God’s people. The confusion was in the Jewish leadership, not with God’s plan. “Gentile” simply means a person who isn’t Jewish. As we see in this passage and elsewhere, their inclusion had been a part of God’s plan the whole time. The phrase in our passage, “among the nations,” was understood as “among the Gentiles.” Jesus gave those exact marching orders in the Great Commission, “***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,***

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19).

The psalmist continued, “***For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Splendor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.***” Why do we need to take the message of the gospel to those who don’t yet believe? Because salvation does not exist apart from Christ. All other gods, and religions, are “worthless idols.” They may teach moral principles or other “good things.” However, they’re worthless because they cannot and will not save you.

This is an incredibly unpopular opinion in today’s world. However, we believe that Christ is *the way, the truth, and the life* and *no one comes to the Father except through him* (John 14:6). If that’s true (and it is), then Buddhism, Islam, and any other tradition that believes anything less than faith in the risen Christ sends people to Hell. The Bible is clear, all religions *do not* lead to the same place.

CALL OUT TO GOD AS THE KING

Isn’t it really harsh, narrow-minded, judgmental, etc. to say that there is only one way and everyone else is wrong? It may sound that way at first until we realize it’s the most loving thing we can do. God *wants* people to be saved. We *want* people to know him. Like the psalmist said, we want the ***families of the peoples, to ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!*** “Ascribe means to “give.” We aren’t giving the Lord glory and strength. Instead, by ascribing it to him, we’re recognizing the glory and strength he already possesses— ***the glory due his name.***

Hopefully, throughout this study you’ve been able to ***worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.*** The greatest gift you can give your friends and classmates is to share this opportunity to worship. One day, every person (***all the earth***) will witness his power and ***tremble before him.*** On that day, we don’t want to look at those we love and hear them ask, “How come you never told me?”

Jesus died, was buried, and after three days rose from the grave. He walked around and was seen by more than 500 people. He’s the only person to have ever defeated death. It’s not harsh to believe what he said about salvation. The fact that he came and died so that we can have a relationship with him, so that we can sing a new song to him, that’s something worth sharing!