



CrossRoads Notes:

Turn your Bibles to 1 Chronicles 25:1, 6-7

Title: Singing Faith

Theme: The Character of the Song Service

“David, together with the commanders of the army, set apart some of the sons of Asaph, Heman and Jeduthun for the ministry of prophesying, accompanied by harps, lyres and cymbals.” Let us now go to verses 6-7 “All these men were under the supervision of their fathers for the music of the temple of the LORD, with cymbals, lyres and harps, for the ministry at the house of God. Asaph, Jeduthun and Heman were under the supervision of the king. Along with their relatives—all of them trained and skilled in music for the LORD...”

Introduction: *In 2 Chronicles 29 we read of a king by the name of Hezekiah. The Bible says that he “...trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him.” (2 Kings 18:5) His first official act was to cleanse the Lord’s temple of its pollutions. (The Expositors Bible Commentary) After the purification process, the Bible says, “He stationed the Levites in the temple of the Lord with cymbals, harps and lyres in the way prescribed by David and Gad the king’s seer and Nathan the prophet; this was commanded by the Lord through his prophets.” (2 Chronicles 29:25) Hezekiah was putting together a gathering of the city officials and they were having a public worship service in the temple and Hezekiah was following the directions given by God through King David so as to have a service that was pleasing to the Lord.*

(Acts 13:22)

(2 Samuel 7:2)

(2 Samuel 7:5-7; 1 Chronicles 22:8)

(1 Chronicles 22:1-19; 28:1-29:9)

(1 Chronicles chapters 23-26)

Proposition: *I would propose to you that that when the Body of Christ takes seriously the preparations of the song service, she will then be able to cast off traditionalism, legalism, denominationalism and faddism that is choking the life out of the song service.*

(Psalms 98:1,4-6)

Interrogative Sentence: *Just what are some Biblical truths that express the character that is pleasing to God and is beneficial to the Body of Christ through the song service?*

Transitional Sentence: *God does not work through buildings, plans or fads; He works through the Children of God who are sold out to His will and purposes. It is His will that we praise Him in song and proclaim His truths with music. (1 Chronicles 25:1) The character of the “**Song Service**” is to reflect singing that praises God in such away that it prepares the spiritual heart for the presence of God.*

“Prophesying” (*naba*) here means to speak by inspiration. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary, Old Testament) Prophecy is not always the sense of new revelations, but in 1 Chronicles 25 “prophesying” is used for praise through singing the psalms of David or the psalms of other holy men of God and proclaiming revelations that have already been revealed. (The Expositors Bible Commentary: John Wesley Notes; The Pulpit Commentary; Matthew Henry)
(1 Samuel 10:5)

These prophets were most likely coming from the place where sacrifices were made unto the Lord and where there was worship and the teaching of God's Word. Samuel had established one of his schools of the prophets near Gibeah of God and they had been singing the praises of God with psalms that proclaimed His goodness. As they were leaving the high place it is very likely that they were continuing to sing. (The Pulpit Commentary; Bible Answers.com; Matthew Henry; John Wesley Notes)
(1 Samuel 10:6)
(1 Samuel 10:10)
(1 Samuel 10:6)

It is safe to conclude that one of the character traits of the song service is to sing songs that please the Lord and proclaim His mighty works. When this is done right by the devoted children of God, they can expect the presence of the Holy Spirit to empower others to sing praises to the Lord Jesus and of the mighty works of God.

Transitional Sentence: *Another character trait of the public song service is that they are often led by people who are trained and skilled in music for the Lord.*
(1 Chronicles 25:7)

It is just as vital today and so utterly important that people who have the gift of music be appointed for the song service unto the Lord, just as David set musicians apart for this ministry. There should be the making of time for preparation for the song service, which includes training, developing talent and the purchasing of the proper equipment. Leading in the song service is much more than just getting up and singing or performing some music. The church that will enjoy the blessings of the song service is the church that expects their musicians to spend as much time in preparation as the preachers and teachers of God's Word do.
(1 Chronicles 25:8)
(1 Chronicles 25:6)

Every church that regularly enjoys jubilant life-giving song services are churches that protect the time of their worship leaders. They allow them time to prayerfully prepare and work with the pastoral staff so as to create a song services that go with the theme of the message the Lord has for the church. They are given time to work with others in the church so as to allow them to grow in the ministry of music.

Illustration: Jukka Palonne

King David had a heart for the song service and he was a musician, writing songs that glorify the Lord and proclaim God's mighty works. He had it in his heart to have a public song service in the temple of God. God raised up musicians for him to appoint because of his heart. When he was old and full of years God made available 288 song leaders (1 Chronicles 25:7) and there were 4,000 who could praise the Lord with musical instruments. (1 Chronicles 23:6)

The church that is truly hungry as David was for music in the house of God may pray and ask the Lord for music ministers that are trained and skilled. How is your hunger for praising the Lord in song? Are you praying for and what will be your response to those whom the Lord places before you as song leaders?

Transitional Sentence: *Those who lead in the song service are God's music ministers and there is another vital truth to expressing "Singing Faith."* The song service that has Biblical character is the service that has songs which are theologically literate.

(John 4:23-24)

Steve Camp wrote, "Those who have the privilege to represent Jesus Christ in the arts should be galvanized by mission, not by ambition; by mandate, not by accolades; by love for [Jesus Christ], not by allurements of this world."

(Psalm 119:54)

(Psalm 119:72)

Steve Camp wrote powerfully in his call of "Reformation in the Contemporary Christian Music Industry." He writes, "Scripture speaks to all of life-therefore, our music may speak to the very aspect of living. However, it must be based upon and not contrary to God's Word in principle, ethic, content and conduct."

(Colossians 3:16)

(James 3:1)

Transitional Sentence: *The character of the song service is to be Biblically accurate and a faithful response to God involves a broad range of songs.* Ephesians and Colossians tell us to speak to or admonish one another in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. (Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:20)

With "psalms" we are to sing songs that consist of short sentences expressing praise for the Lord's character or actions. Many of our choruses fit into this category and they should be sung by all no matter what age and sung with the purpose of pleasing the Lord Jesus. At times when appropriate we are to sing psalms of that express lament (Psalms 12; 44; 74; 79), confession (Psalm 51), of thanksgiving (Psalm 30; 66; 116; 138), psalms of wisdom (Psalms 1; 37; 49; 119) as well as other types of psalms.

With "hymns" we are to proclaim the wonderful works of God. Many say a hymn is an anthem. A hymn can also be a proclamation of the promises and works of God.

We are to allow time for "spiritual songs" which are brought forth as the Holy Spirit moves upon the Lord's congregation.

Transitional Sentence: *The character of the song service is to be that of one that is worship unto the Lord in accordance to that which brings glory to God. Psalms 29:1-2 says, "Ascribe to the LORD, O mighty ones, ascribe to the LORD OF glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness."* (Spurgeon; Vernon McGee; The Expositors Bible Commentary; The Pulpit Commentary; Matthew Henry says that this verse can pertain the mighty men of power on this earth are to worship the Lord.)

These verses are a call to adoration and it is to be proclaimed with a clear appeal, such as like the sound of thunder. (The Treasury of David) The opening of the song service should be with that which draws attention to all in ear shot that now is the time for singing the praises of God. Unbelief and distrust, complaining and murmuring are not to be found in or about the song service for they rob God of His honor.

Therefore, the children of God make all the sacrifices that must be made in order to give true worship to God. Christians are not to sing what they want but what the Lord wants and the song leaders are live in such a way that reflects a heart that is able to catch God's will for the song service. They should be Holy Spirit-led so the congregation will have a trust that the songs they are singing are what God wants them to sing. When the church is Holy Spirit-illuminated of the truth that God's guides His surrendered servants to what songs to sing, they will be singing the songs for the Lord's glory in a manor due His Name. These Christians want the holiness of God put into their hearts and lives.

What is your heart attitude about the Lord's song leaders? Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to bring the Lord presences into your heart and causing you to sing the praises of God in spirit and truth? Are you laying down all at Jesus' feet so you can have a heart that is receptive to what God has for you in the worship service?

In Closing: *The Holy Spirit moved Steve Camp to write, "Music is a powerful tool from the Lord Jesus Christ to His church intended for worship, praise, encouragement, edification, evangelism, teaching, admonishing and exhorting God's people to holiness.*

Illustration: Gordon MacDonald

A good song leader is a precious gift. The congregation that treats and responds to their song leaders in such a manor will know and enjoy God's presence and people will leave the service saying, "This is what heaven is going to be like." The choice is ours.