

Unpacking the Preach

Date: 20th November 2022
Sermon Title: Sing!
Bible Passage: Psalm 147

Introduction

Take time to read the passage from a couple of different translations.

- Highlight the key verses, repeated phrases or words from this passage. What do you think is the significance of these words?
- What is your favourite song of all time? Why this one?

Recapping the Preach

Singing is one of the most natural things for us to do. It is hardwired into us by virtue of the fact that we are made in the image of God. We sing when young, in love, out of love, need encouragement, at weddings, funerals and days of national importance. It is featured prominently in the Bible - consider that the longest book in the Bible is a book of songs.

- Why do you think singing features so prominently in Scripture?
- Make a list of your favourite Psalms? On what occasions were these songs sung?

Review Psalm 147

- Highlight the verses where the Psalmist explicitly tells the people to sing?
- Make a list of the attributes of God (ie. words that describe God)?
- Make a list of the things that the Psalmist says God does for His people?
- What stands out to you in this list?

The Lord desperately desires our praise because He knows if we are not singing to Him, we will be singing to something / someone else. This is for our good because when we sing to Him, when He is first, it leads to life. Stu made the following points:

- When we sing we obey God's command. Read Colossians 3:16 and Ephesians 5:19: why does Paul encourage the church to sing to one another?
- When we sing we renew our minds with truth. What is your favourite (currently) worship song? Think about the lyrics and the music - what truths does this song renew your mind with?
- When we sing we strengthen ourselves and build others up. Why do you think this is?
- Stu used the phrase that singing is a life-giving, soul-satisfying, hope-inspiring, God-honouring, battle-winning, church-strengthening gift. Do you agree? Why?
- When we sing we glorify God. How is it that God is glorified by our singing?

Amazingly when we sing, the Lord delights in us and blesses us.

- What do you think vs.11 means and what can you do to live it out in your everyday normal place?
- How is our praise both missional and prophetic?

Response

- Is there anything from the preach and passage that you will be taking away to reflect on or work on?
- What practical steps can you take to prepare for worship each week, so that you come with a heart that is ready to sing?

Prayer pointers

- Take time to share prayer requests and pray for one another.
- Pray that the Lord would open up opportunities for you to share your faith.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://bibleproject.com> (videos)
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>