

Sermon Mar.19.2023 Psalm 100, Title: Sacred Song (Hallelujah)

Psalms 100

- 1. Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.**
- 2. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**
- 3. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**
- 4. Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.**
- 5. For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

Celtic Music and Praise

I'd like to talk a little bit about Celtic music First.

Celtic music originated around the 5th century AD, when the Celts first began to inhabit Britain. The Anglo-Saxon rule spread the music as the Celts dispersed throughout England. And as missionary Columba built a monastery on the island of Iona, Ireland, which is called the root of the Celtic faith, Celtic music was used and developed as a means of conveying the gospel along with literature and art. At this time, we know hymn "Be thou my vision." That song was created by Celts. Later, Celtic influenced polyphonic music in the 15th century and developed into church music. As much as Celtic originates from Christian thinking, it has had a considerable influence on modern CCM singers such as Michael Card and Fernando Ortega. Celtic melodies make us feel familiar and comfortable. In particular, there is an instrument called the Celtic harp. Harpists call this a level harp. But more importantly, the heart of a Celtic sacred song is praise. We call it Hallelujah. It means "Praise the Yahweh."

What is Glorifying God?

We say we give glory to God. What does it really mean to give glory to God? Many years ago, when my second daughter, Elizabeth, was 3 months old, she fell and I caught her before she fell to the floor. I didn't think and move, but acting was my instinct as a parent. Rescuing Elizabeth, I hit my head on the concrete floor and my right knee hit the corner of the concrete wall. After the accident, my head was hit and my speaking speed was much slower than before. My knee was completely broken, but I continued to work as a hospital chaplain. It was my duty as a husband and father of two children. A hospital Chaplain walks a lot a day. Eventually, my knee is completely ruined and my right leg turns purple. I couldn't walk anymore, so I ended up quitting Chaplain. My supervisor told me to come back whenever my knee was healed and that she would hold my hospital badge. I had 3 surgeries on my right knee in the same spot, and after that the doctor told me "You are disabled and you can no longer walk properly." I was shocked, being disabled was not part of my life plan. I drove and parked my car alone, because I worried about my family would hear my prayers. I confessed to God in the car. Why should I be disabled? Disability was not in my life plan. I am a person who likes running. I questioned and complained to God, **"What do you want from me?"** Then the Holy Spirit spoke to me. **"Do you regret saving your daughter and losing your knee?"** I replied **that "I have absolutely no regrets."** At that time, God said through Holy Spirit that **"I did not regret when I exchanged my life for yours on the cross."** Then I confessed. I told God **"I don't think I can do ministry anymore."** At that time, God spoke to me. **"Ministry is not yours. Ministry is mine. The shepherd I set up just follows me and my ministry, and that is your job."** At that time, I opened my eyes and the burden of my ministry had disappeared. What I realized at that time is that God's real concern is not to glorify God by what we do, but to glorify Him with our lives as worshipers of our lives.

It is looks like as parents look at their children, even if they do nothing, even if they are good or bad, the children are precious and valuable to their parents. **God's main focus is not our acts or doing something for God; God's focus is on us and our lives.**

The faith

Faith is conceived in the life of Christ. Glory to the true God is to walk with God, breathing with God, and sharing our lives with God and open all of our lives to God. That's holy breath by the holy spirit. Don't wrap our lives before God. In front of God, we neither need or we do not have to wrap our appearance holy. That's impossible because God is the one who watches our hearts. God speaks to us today. Come to me just as you are. He tells us to come to me with your broken heart and broken life and bring your failed. And lay it down before God. God will touch it and turn it into His restoring hand. That's God's holy touch, like as water turn to the wine. When we talk about Worship and Praise, we talk about musical skills and faith. That's right. However, true worship and praise is given with our inner heart. Even if you don't have musical skills, the hymns you offer to God are offered with your own heart. This is what true praise looks like. This is what life is to offer as a worshiper and to glorify God. God's minstry is to give first with our heart, not our actions first. This is the true starting point of Worship and Ministry. Long years ago I had experienced God's holy presence when the choir sang in church. That was normal sunday services. The choir only sang praises, but there was a history of healing that brought tears to people's eyes and healed their diseases. When this praises God, all chains and evil powers are broken and gone. The holiness of God shines strongly on us. This is Worship. Worship is like a field of spiritual battle where our spirit is restored and God is alive. What we need to do is exalt God with the fear of God.

Conclusion

God speaks to us through the Bible. "Be holy because I am holy." How can we be holy? When we dwell in God's presence, we can become holy only when His holiness shines upon us. However, if we look at ourselves, we may think that we are not holy. But we can choose to be kosher. We cannot say that we are holy, but in this wicked generation, in the wicked age, and in this modern culture, we can choose to be clean before God. This is our holy choice as God's chosen ones in this generation. God is speaking to us today. If we are good or bad, successful or unsuccessful, you are my holy child whom I gave my life for, and you are mine you are chosen by me. This is God's declaration to us today. When Jesus was crucified, he engraved our present image and name on his heart. Be strong and courageous. God never gives up on us.