

A Song of Joyful Worship

1. Intro & Context

- I want to start off asking you ... what do you worship?
 - What do you worship?
- That's a little bit of a hard question to answer ... so why don't we ask it another way
 - What's the thing / person you talk most enthusiastically about?
 - If we were to ask the person next to you ... what would they say is the thing YOU talk most enthusiastically about?
 - There's a good chance that's one of the things you worship
- We're going to come back to these a little later
- Because the psalm we are looking at today is a psalm about joyful worship
- Book of Psalms
 - Like Israel's iTunes or Spotify list
 - If you're like me from the dark ages, it's like their Top 100 countdown
 - Book of songs and poems used by God's people both in church and at home to help them worship God
 - Like modern day poems and songs ... they express emotions and truths that God's people could say or sing ... to help them talk to God
- Psalm 66 is a song of joyful worship ... meant to be sung by the congregation AND the individual
- Psalm of 2 halves
 - Verses 1-12 ... starts off with the **congregation** calling on the whole earth to praise and worship God in light of God's great power in saving them
 - Verses 13-20 ... is a call by an **individual** worshipper calling on God's people to praise God in light of what God has worked in his life
- Psalm is like taking a photo and looking through the lens and seeing the big picture of a vast group of people worshipping God... switching lens and zooming right in on one person and their worship
- The picture we are seeing through this psalm is the joyful worship of God by his people
 - As we look at it ... we're going to see why?
 - What is it about God that makes his people want to joyfully worship him?

- He brings them through their trial to a place of abundance – literally, a place of overflowing and blessing ... just as God brought Israel through the Red Sea to the blessing and abundance of the Promised Land
- And so the writer of this psalm wants the whole world to know ...
 - How powerful, good and kind God is
 - He did it in the past with his people saving them out of Egypt through the Red Sea
 - He's done it again in saving them from this recent time of trouble and blessing them abundantly
- And he wants everyone, everywhere to see that ... and see how amazing God is ... and give God the praise and worship he deserves
- **Illustration – Star Wars Fan**
- Be like if you were a massive Star Wars fan and you wanted all your friends to know how amazing the film series is
- And you've just seen the latest film in the series - The Last Jedi - and you loved it
- But you not only tell your friends how good this film is ... you tell about the original Star Wars ... filmed waaaay back in the dark ages of 1977!
 - Our kids far older now than we were when we saw it back then!
- And you're telling them all this because you want them to become a fan of Star Wars just like you
- And this is what our psalmist is doing
 - He's calling people everywhere to look to what God has done in the past and in the present to save and preserve his people through times of great trial and testing ... and so give God the praise and worship he deserves
- **Application**
- If the psalmist was writing today ... what type of things would call on the people of the earth to 'Come and see' so that they too might praise and worship God
- He might say ...
 - Come with me to Australia in 1959 and see Bill Graham preaching to
 - 150,000 people at Sydney Showground
 - 143,000 at MCG
 - 80,000 Exhibition ground, Brisbane

- v5 - *Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf!*
- Come and look at the cross and the awesome work God does on our behalf
- Come and rejoice in his great power to deal with your sin and save you for eternity
- Come and praise and worship him

- This is what we are on about at C@P
 - Our vision is to see everyone in Peakhurst and beyond be transformed by the good news of Jesus
 - We want what the psalmist wants
 - Worldwide worship of the God who is powerful to save through the cross of Jesus

- Next Sunday we have an excellent opportunity to do that
 - Next Sunday want to see 60-80 visitors here at church ... who we are praying will come to see how awesome are the deeds of God
 - Yes we are going to
 - have some fun activities > jumping castle, face painting, bubble soccer, basket ball
 - look back on the past 10 years
 - showcase some of our ministries
 - But the most significant thing we will do next Sunday is share the gospel
 - We will point everyone to how awesome are his works on our behalf in Christ

- The question is ... will you invite others to Come and see?
 - Don't waste this opportunity
 - Who can you invite?
 - What families do you know can you invite along?
 - Who are your mates can you extend an invitation to?

- Because next Sunday ... we want to say to everyone, everywhere ...
 - *Come and see what God has done, how awesome his works in man's behalf in Christ!*

3. Personal worship of the God of love

- In v13-20 ... the psalm suddenly zooms in on the individual writer of the psalm
 - Instead of calling people to praise God for what has done in the life of the nation of Israel ...

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- Here the psalmist is calling on people to praise God for what he has done in his own life
 - For as he says in v14, like the nation Israel, he too found himself in a time of trouble
 - We don't know what it was ... but he invites others in v16 to 'Come and **listen** to what God has done for me'
 - In other words ...
 - "Come and hear my testimony"
 - "Come and listen to how amazing God has worked in my life"
 - And he testifies to how in his time of trouble he cried out to God
 - And that God listened to and heard his prayer
 - And so he praises God for this and how God has shown his love to him
 - So one of the ways the psalmist praises and worships God is by telling others about the way God has worked in his own life
 - The other way he praises and worships God is in the way he offers sacrifices in the temple
 - See this in v13-16
 - The sacrifices he offers are incredibly generous – rams, and bulls and goats
 - That's a lot of sacrifices
 - That would have cost him a lot to offer all those sacrifices to God
 - But he's so grateful to God for rescuing him
 - And he's so relieved that the threat he was facing has now been taken away ... he sacrifices generously and joyfully to God in response
 - **Application**
 - So for our psalmist, praise and worship of God is both vertical and horizontal
 - Vertical as he offers sacrifices to God
 - Horizontal as he tells others about the way God has heard his prayers and shown his love to him
 - This is one of the great joys of praying 'Our Father in heaven'
 - God is like a father who loves to give his children the good things they need

- brought you to faith
- provided for you in financial hardship
- sustained you through tough times
- given you hope in times of despair
 - is powerful in witnessing to the power and love of God
 - and God uses these experiences of the things God has done for you ... to lead you and other sothers to praise and worship him
- And as you're reminded of and reflect on Gods power to save and God's love and provision for you ... then that will lead to praising and worshipping God by sacrificing to him
- As we stand this side of the cross ... there's no longer a temple to go to, to offer sacrifices
 - That's because Jesus has replaced the temple because he is the true temple
 - Which means you no longer have to go to a building to meet with and worship God
 - You go to a person ...
 - You go to Jesus ... because he is God
- And therefore the sacrifice we offer is not a ram, bull or goat ... although it's just as costly
 - It's us!
 - It's our life
- Paul says in Romans 12
 - *I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship.*
- The way you and I are worship God is to sacrifice ourselves ... not as dead animal sacrifices
 - No, we give ourselves ... we give our life to God as LIVING sacrifices
 - That is, we give up living life for us ... and instead live our life for Jesus
- That's how you worship him
 - You give him your life
 - That's what you Zac vowed at his baptism two weeks ago
 - That's what every Christian vows when they turn to and follow Jesus
- Therefore, everything about your life ... ought to reflect your joyful worship of God
 - How you love your spouse

- How you disciple your kids
- Your attitude and approach to work
- Your sex life
- How you use your finances
- How you use your time
 - Are all part of the joyful worship of a disciple of Jesus

4. Conclusion

- What do you speak most enthusiastically about?
- What is it you worship?

- Friends our psalmist urges calls on all people everywhere to worship God
- For when you
 - Come and see what God has done and how awesome are his works
- When you
 - Come and hear what God has done in the lives of individual believers ...
- Then you cannot but help but
 - Shout with joy to all the earth and sing the glory of his name
- But not just worship him enthusiastically with words
- But also worship him joyfully in your life ... as you sacrificially offer it to him who powerfully preserves your life through Jesus

PRAY