

BUMC Weekly Bible and Sermon Study

Sermon: “Called to Worship” from the “Called Together” sermon series

Scripture: Psalm 150

Key take-aways from the Scripture

In these sections from Psalm 150 is the closing hymn/psalm in the Book of Psalms and is a psalm of praise to God.

Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

The Shepherd’s Notes: Psalms 101-150 points out the following: “In these six verses the psalmist answered four questions: where, why, how, and by whom God is to be praised.”

Let’s take a look at these questions...

- *Where do we praise God (150:1)?* “In His sanctuary” or the Temple in Jerusalem.
- *Why do we praise God (150:2)?* He is due honor “...for His mighty works.”
- *How do we praise God (150:3-5)?* These verses list several instruments that were used in the times of the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible. These included: a ram’s horn (used like a trumpet), lyre and harp, tambourine and dancing, strings and flutes, the clash of cymbals.
- *By whom is God to be praised (150: 6)?* This psalm reaches its climax here with “Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord. Praise the Lord!”

The psalmist is telling us to not only praise God, but to do so with ecstatic and joyous praise!

Key take-aways from the Sermon

- We are continuing our series “Called Together”. Last week we discussed carrying tradition into our future with the story of carrying Jacob and Joseph’s bones out of Egypt and into Israel. This is a metaphor for carrying our spiritual DNA from the past into our future.
- For the next five weeks, we are examining what we as a faith community are called to do together. We are first and foremost called to *worship!*
- Today’s reading in Psalms is located in the middle of the Bible and our primary purpose of our existence is to praise God. The chief end is to glorify God! In Genesis, praise and worship are rooted in creation.
- The Book of Psalms are full of praise and the Hebrew for “Psalm” is praise. The purpose of which is for worship.
- In Psalm 150, there are three prepositions that are key to the text: (1) the word *in*, as “Praise God *in* His sanctuary” (holy space); (2) next is the preposition *for*, as in “Praise Him *for* His mighty deeds, and *for* His surpassing greatness” and finally; (3) the preposition *with*, as in “Praise God *with* trumpets, etc.”
- Consider the doxology as a song of praise: “Praise God for whom all blessings flow...” It is a song of praise and feels like Psalm 150 is fulfilled when we live by this.
- John Wesley gave instructions for singing and praise, one of which was “sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.”
- Praise has the power to realign our spirit with God’s Spirit! Praise and worship are not about skill, it is about the mental, ethical and spiritual maturity of human life.
- God inhabits the praises of God’s people. The writer of Hebrews concludes his book with, “through Christ Jesus, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise, which is the fruit of lips that openly profess His name.”
- This is our calling and our reason for being. When we do this together, you become a temple of the Holy Spirit and a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God.

Questions for Personal Reflection or Group Discussion

- What were your key take-aways from the sermon? How can you apply this to your everyday life?
- Why do we praise God? Why do you feel the need to praise God?
- How can you incorporate praise for God in your everyday life?
- How does the Psalter close the Book of Psalms? What is the climax?
- What are some of the things that we, as a faith community, are called to do together?
- Read John Wesley's "Directions for Singing" located on page vii in the United Methodist Hymnal. Which of these stands out/resonates with you? Why?

