

sermon notes

WORSHIP

Love Expressed

We have been looking at the parables of the lost being found (sheep, coin, prodigal son) – in each case there was a celebration party!

Look at Luke 15:23-32 - the party after the prodigal son returned home. In verse 32 the Father says: "We had to celebrate this happy day. For your brother was dead and has come back to life! He was lost, but now he is found!"

Celebrating in this context means expressing our love to God – and God has a love language – Praise!

The Hebrew Old Testament has 7 words for praise:

hallel To boast, to rave, to celebrate and even to act clamorously foolish
All who seek the Lord will praise (HALLEL) Him. Their hearts will rejoice with everlasting joy.

Psalms 22:26b NLT

yadah To publicly acknowledge with lifted hands the greatness of God
I will praise (YADAH) You with my whole heart;

Psalms 138:1 NKJV

barak To bow down or kneel as a sign of gratitude and humility
Let all that I am praise (BARAK) the LORD; with my whole heart, I will praise His holy name.

Psalms 103:1 NLT

zamar To make music with stringed instruments

Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, praise him with timbrel and dancing, praise him with the strings and pipe, praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

Psalms 150:3-5 NIV

shabach To shout

Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise (SHABACH) you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Psalms 63:3-4 NIV

towdah To praise by lifting our hands

Whoever offers praise (TOWDAH) glorifies Me; and to him who orders his conduct aright I will show the salvation of God.”

Psalms 50:23 NKJV

tehilah A song from the heart

I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise (TEHILAH) shall continually be in my mouth.”

Psalm 34:1 NKJV

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts.

Ephesians 5:18-19 NLT

Putting this all together, we can describe God's love language as:

**Acting clamorously foolish with hands raised,
playing loud music, shouting and singing with our
whole hearts!**

Consider and Discuss

- Read Psalm 149. Which of the seven aspects of praise discussed in the message are referred to in verses 1 to 3?
- At Harvest's services, we begin with a concentrated time of corporate worship. What factors drive or affect your engagement in the worship time? (For example, your church background, your personality, pride, fears, children, distractions, etc.) What can you do to improve it?
- Are any of the aspects of praise that Pastor Roy shared with us a challenge for you? i.e. Do you have to leave your "comfort zone" in order to participate? Is there a time when you did step out and experienced a new level of engagement in worship?
- How can these worship principles be applied in your personal devotional life? Share with the group personal worship habits that work for you.
- If we make the effort to fully engage in worship, including perhaps leaving our comfort zone, how might that affect other areas of our Christian walk such as obedience, faith, evangelism, etc? If you have a testimony in this area, share it with the group.

Notes
