

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

February 17, 2008

Worship from the Heart

Alan Smith

A little boy asked his father what was the highest number he had ever counted. Replying that he didn't know, the father asked his son his highest number. It was 973. "Why did you stop there?" wondered the father. "Because church was over."

I suspect that you have probably sat through worship services where your mind was focused on something just as trivial rather than on God. It's easy to let the mind wander. "I can't wait to see the ball game this afternoon." "I wonder what we're having for lunch." "I've never noticed before that the carpet down there is starting to unravel a bit." Is it any wonder that we so often leave the worship assembly with the feeling that it wasn't very meaningful?

Worship should be a time when we are confronted with the majesty and glory of God. As we reflect on God's power, we realize how much we need Him in our times of weakness. As we reflect on God's wisdom, we realize how much we need Him in our times of indecision. As we reflect on God's holiness, we are made aware of our own sinfulness and the need for forgiveness. As we reflect on God's love, we realize the effort God has gone to make that forgiveness available.

It's not a ritual we go through every week. It is an opportunity to express our praise to the One who means more to us than all the earth. As we truly worship and praise God from the heart, we become more aware of how much we want to live close to Him. We leave with the challenge to "be holy as He is holy."

"For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth" (Psalm 96:4-9).

David's Family: Marred by Sin

Frank Himmel

In many ways King David's name is synonymous with greatness: the gentle shepherd, the humble servant, the valiant warrior, the great king, the sweet psalmist. He was a man after God's own heart (**1 Sam. 13:14**). What a blessing it would have been to grow up in his family. Or so it would seem. History says otherwise.

David's oldest son was Amnon. He was a half-brother to Absalom and Tamar. (David had at least seven wives who are named in the Bible [**2 Sam. 3:2-5**].) Amnon lusted for beautiful Tamar. Carrying out a plot devised by his friend Jonadab, Amnon raped his half-sister. David was angered but did nothing about it. Two years later, Absalom took matters into his own hands and avenged his sister by killing Amnon (**2 Sam. 13**).

Absalom fled, but in time he returned to Jerusalem. Through flattery he "stole away the hearts of the men of Israel" and openly rebelled against his father. David was forced to flee the city. As part of his rebellion, Absalom pitched a tent on the roof and "went in to his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel." Ultimately, David's forces prevailed. Absalom was killed in the conflict (**2 Sam. 15-18**).

Of David's sons, God chose Solomon as his successor. But another son, Adonijah, aspired to the throne. While his aged father lay bedfast, Adonijah plotted with some long-time supporters of David and made his move. He failed and was eventually executed (**1 Kings 1-2**).

What a disaster! One can only imagine how many sleepless nights David spent.

Folks, we do not live in a vacuum. What we do affects others. Greatly. No one more than our family members. Whether it is sins of the flesh, sins of the tongue, or sins of the heart, wrong attitudes and conduct destroy happiness. Make no mistake: whether they realize it or not, the single greatest source of anguish in families is sin among its members.

David, however, had an even greater burden than we have depicted. You see, amidst all his family troubles, David had to live with the fact that he is the one who started it. It all began with his well-known "affair" with Bathsheba, an event in which David lost yet another son.

God sent Nathan the prophet to expose David's murder and adultery. He warned, "*Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife... Behold, I will raise up evil against you from your own household...*" (**2 Sam. 12:10-11**). How often those words must have rung in David's ears!

When David first saw Bathsheba, he could not have imagined the lifetime of trouble he was about to unleash. Remember David the next time you are tempted.

"May my meditation be pleasing to Him; I will be glad in the Lord." –
Psalm 104:34

News and Notes

There will be a brief **teachers' meeting** today after the evening worship for all current and prospective teachers.

Frank Chumley has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer and is at home (1738 Highway 31W; Goodlettsville, TN 37072) receiving Hospice care.

Quinton Coppage fell and fractured his hip. He is in Skyline, room 703, and will have surgery Monday. His brother-in-law, **Noel Martin**, had a brain aneurism and is in Vanderbilt at the point of death.

Sandy Heyboer is doing well after foot surgery last week.

Nancy Read had the rest of a cataract removed but still has stitches that are bothering her.

Eli Sheahen, 2-year-old son of Jonathan and Shawna Sheahen of Broadmoor, is at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital with abdominal pain, and the doctors are not sure what the cause is.

Ame White is not doing well this weekend.

Randy Williams says, "We miss you all!! Please give our love to everyone at Lakeview." Their daughter Elizabeth has been in touch with them in the last few months.

Out of town, traveling, or visiting: **Michaela and Macy Nicholson** (AL).

New Reports from men we support: **Edward Rangel** (Puerto Rico).

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know by Saturday night.
Thanks! – Troy

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).