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Willerup United Methodist Church
Sermon Notes
Pastor Marvin Singh



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Come and Worship

Psalm 95

John 4:24 – “God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the spirit and in truth.”

Psalm 95 is basically made up of two parts.

1. An invitation to worship
2. A reminder of the history of those who refused to worship as expected of the Lord.

1. Invitation to Worship

To Sing, Praise, Worship, Give Thanks, etc.

What is the church, the *ecclesia*? The church is made up of those who are **called out to assemble together**.

Why did God call Moses, and give him the pattern to build the first Tent of Tabernacle? The temple was built to help us understand the heavenly temple of God. It is a place of worship.

Let us Worship

How? We are instructed to sing for joy to the Lord. Shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Who is the Rock? “For their rock is not like our Rock, as even our enemies concede.”

Deuteronomy 32:31

We can worship prostrate, actually lying down before him, which is the highest act of worship – acknowledging and adoring the supremacy of our God.

Let us bow down in worship. Bow down, *Nicharah* – crouch down, bending the legs under, as a dog in the presence of his master, which solicitously waits to receive a command.

Let us kneel before the Lord our maker. With our knees to the ground we put ourselves in the posture of those who supplicate, who ask or beg.

In worship – hear his voice, concentrate your thoughts and mind on Jesus.

God has intended that his people come and spend time with him in worship. Worship includes - listening to him, talking to him, telling him what you are doing, and reciting and remembering what He has done in your life.

We Worship in the Presence of God:

a. Garden of Eden: There was a meeting place with God, Genesis 3:8

b. Altar by Abraham. Genesis 12:7

c. Moses met the Lord: The burning bush and then Mount Sinai. God asked him to make the Tent/Tabernacle. Exodus 3:4-5; 19:20; 20:24; Genesis 26

d. David collected the material, but Solomon made the temple. 2 Samuel 7:3ff

So the Lord expected his people to come and worship him, and give thanks, sing his praises and give their offerings to him.

The New Testament – Jesus called us out to assemble together for worship and fellowship. We call this *ECCLESIA*. Why do

we have to come together? Together we sing praises, experience fellowship, and pray.

Acts 2:42, “They devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”

2. Remember The History Of God’s People

The church is not just for worship, but also to remember how God truly cares for his people. His expectation is that we will trust him at all times and in all situations.

Warnings were issued:

a. Do not harden your heart as it was at Meribah. Do not tempt me says the Lord, as it was at Rephidim (also called Massah). The Israelites saw the miracles in the land of Egypt and how God brought them out of slavery.

They saw His work, and that nothing is too hard for the Lord. Yet they showed their unbelief, insolence and blasphemy. They had to pay for forty years, waiting for the generation which came out of slavery to be completely wiped out, because they could not enter into God’s rest in the Promised Land.

They knew God’s ways well enough, but they did not like them and would not walk in them.

“You call Him Master or Lord, then be willing, obedient people. Hear the voice of his doctrine, his law, and both, of his Spirit, hear and heed, hear and yield, Christ’s voice must be heard today. ... Hardness of heart is the bottom of all distress of the Lord.”

Matthew Henry’s Commentary in One Volume, pg 534-5

Songs, shouts, gratitude and praise are expected, but also times of silence and stillness. “Be still and know that I Am God.”

Psalm 46:10.

A hardened heart is as useless as hardened lump of clay.

Exodus 17:7 “... because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the LORD saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’”

They doubted, they lost faith.

They began murmuring, complaining, asking, “Who will provide us water?”

If you keep on resisting Him, He will throw you out. Do not take advantage of him – He is slow to anger and plenty in mercy.

He does not appreciate ungrateful hearts. When we do not submit to him and are not worshiping him, He gets upset.

When I show I believe **my** will is supreme, not **his** will, see the result. What does the history show? Hebrews 4:5-11. People were not allowed to enter his place of rest. They were delivered from slavery but could not enter Canaan, the Promised Land.

Today if you hear his voice, do not resist, but say, as Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.” 1 Samuel 3:10