



**A  
LETTER  
FROM YOUR  
PASTOR:  
MAY 2020**  
*by Lee Shipp*

**A CHOIR OF THANKSGIVING**

The call of Psalm 95 is not to *“them.”* It is to us – to you and me! *“O come, let us sing unto the Lord!”* Let us ... *“Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving.”* Let us sing. Let us make a joyful noise. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving. Let us make a joyful noise unto him with singing songs. Let us lift our hands and shout joyfully to God. O beloved, how can you excuse yourself from the choir? The only person who can refuse to join the choir are those who do not know God’s rest, they do not know the majesty of God in redemption. Their hearts are hardened by murmuring and complaints.

The call here is to a choir of worshippers. A choir means a company organized and employed (engaged) in the church service. A choir of worshippers are those who have organized themselves together to employ themselves in adoring, praising, and thanking God with triumphal declarations of God and with extended hands unto the Lord. No one could ever say that is not their ministry! This is the glorious result of Jesus’ salvation! This is the most natural posture of redeemed people. Beloved, you cannot escape this; you are to go to God and offer Him praise. Your lips are to give Him thanks. You are to do it in front of people. You are to bear His reproach and adore Him openly and publicly!

At the start of every service there should be the gathering of the choir of worshippers. I am not simply referring to the choir or worship team, I am referring to the redeemed who are gathering together in front of the congregation (in the altar) for the purpose of declaring praises and thanksgiving to God. While the choir and worship team sings, the other choir gathered in the altar is declaring the glory of God!

The demand for composure before God has come from God’s enemies. The need for composure and quietness has spawned a religion that lacks life and the presence of God. This is a tragedy in our day. God demands our praise! In the New Testament it was the enemies of Jesus that demanded the crowds to remain silent and not praise Jesus. Jesus rebuked the enemies and assured them that if the people held their praise, the rocks would cry out! In the Old Testament, we find David’s wife Michal scorn him for his praise of the Lord.

2 Samuel 6 depicts the return of the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem. David danced before the Lord with all of his might. He brought in the presence of the Lord with shouting and trumpets playing. When his wife Michal saw this, she *“despised him in her heart.”* Michal went to David and told him how awful he was. She let him know that he was undignified and did not behave in a way that kings should behave. She was mad. She did not appreciate his praise. She wanted this behavior of David’s to stop! She told David he acted like some disgraceful foolish man.

David told her, *“It was before the Lord.”* And David said that furthermore, *I will play before the Lord, “... and I will yet be more vile than [this], and I will be base in mine own sight ...”* and I will do this in

front of the servants of Israel. *“Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.”*

*“Therefore,”* Michal had no children. The *“therefore”* refers to her attempt to shut down praise. Her embarrassment of those who dance and shout before the Lord. Because she despised David for praising God, she was barren her whole life.

We must not abandon the pattern of worship that God has appointed. We must not design our services to please the people; instead, our services must attract the presence of God. The church is filled with Michals today who despise praise; those who cannot be base before God, and they are embarrassed by those who are. We must not cower to these barren people. We must become viler for the Lord. Let us be more concerned for God’s presence than people’s opinions of us.

Come on, somebody dance for the Lord. Let them look on us as obnoxious. Let them scorn us and seek to rob us of our love and liberty, let them tell us how obnoxious we look to them. Then, as David, let us boldly declare that we shall be viler still for the Lord.

**DO NOT LET THE RELIGIOUS KEEP YOU QUIET**

Religion is dominated by a pharisaical system that does not tolerate an enthusiastic praise of the Lord, unless it bows to their own image. Religion is barren. Oh, it has attendees, but only forms of godliness with no power within. Void of life. Void of victory. People are embarrassed by praise. They are embarrassed to praise. And like Michal, they are barren.

**“IF THE PRAISES OF ANGELS ARE LIKE  
MANY WATERS, OURS SHOULD BE  
LIKE TEN THOUSAND OCEANS.”**

The effects of this barren religion are seen everywhere. Our children are embracing communism. Our culture is lost. Society has lost its identity. Gender is no longer defined by biological evidences. Atheism is on the rise. However, churches are everywhere! Religious books, shows, and movements are extremely popular. Everyone seems to enjoy some aspect of deity, but don’t dare let God come into the midst of people. Talk about God. Preach about God. But don’t praise Him. Do not allow His presence to be manifest.

So, what caused David to be so enthusiastic about God? He recorded in Psalm 116 that he loved the Lord because He heard his prayers. David loved the fact that God would put His ear to David’s mouth. David said he was drowning in death, hell held him in its grip, trouble and sorrow were everywhere. Then he called upon the Name of the Lord and God delivered his soul. He said the Lord is gracious, and righteous, and merciful. David reveled in the God who actually helped. David rejoiced that God delivered him from death, his eyes from tears, and his feet from falling. David exulted that God is my rest. Then David says, *“What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me”* (Psalm 116:12)? How would David repay the Lord’s goodness? He said he would take God’s salvation. In front of the people he would pay his vows. He would offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the Name of the Lord. That in the house of God, in the presence of all the people, in the midst of God he was going to praise the Lord.

God has prescribed praise! In heaven, praise is one of the chief occupations of all the citizenship. Angels, men, and women stand before the throne, before the Lamb, and cry with LOUD voices, *“Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.”* They fall on their faces and worship God SAYING, *“Amen: blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen”* (Revelation 7).

Oh beloved, are you base before God? When was the last time

you fell on your face in worship in front of everybody? Are you too proud? Could this be the reason you are barren?

Again, we find a scene in heaven where the citizens are giving glory and honor and thanks to the one on the throne. There, they cast their crowns before Him SAYING, *"Thou are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created"* (Revelation 4:11).

And still, another scene in heaven depicts the multitudes around the throne of God SAYING WITH LOUD VOICES, *"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing. And EVERY CREATURE which is in heaven ... [I heard them saying], blessing and honor and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever"* (Revelation 5:13).

If this is going on in heaven, then why is it not going on in our churches? Seriously, pay attention to these scenes in heaven. Don't tell me you cannot praise God like this. John is looking into the future when he saw these scenes in heaven. In other words, this is you he saw in heaven praising God. If you can do it in heaven, then why can you not do it on earth? Please believer, let us bring heaven to earth by our praise! Notice the posture, notice the volume, and notice the focus. There is movement in the people, they are not stuck in pews. There is volume – it is loud! And they are arrested with the worth and glory of the Living God.

## BE VILE FOR GOD

We are barren of revival because we are surrounded by an attitude similar to Michal's who despised praise. Defeat this attitude with the bold love for God. Be base for God. Be vile for God. Be a disgrace for God. Let us go outside the camp and bare His reproach and draw near to Him with our affectionate praise (Hebrews 13).

God prescribed this praise on earth. When the priests were ministering to God they did so with cymbals, psalteries, and harps. Trumpeters were blasting away as singers were singing. All of it was to make one sound. A sound that was intended to BE HEARD IN PRAISING AND THANKING JEHOVAH (2 Chronicles). And when the singers sang and the instruments joined in, then multitudes began to praise by SAYING, *"For He is good; for His lovingkindness endureth forever ..."* (2 Chronicles 5:13). And what happened by this loud praise? God came. Heaven came down. The house was filled so that the priests could not stand to minister for the glory of God filled the house.

David said the Lord is worthy to be praised. As a matter of fact, David said it was by praising God that he was saved from his enemies (2 Samuel 22:4). Isaiah said, *"God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the Lord Jehovah is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore, with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation"* (Isaiah 12:2-3).

Isaiah calls upon all of the saved to *"... Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. Sing unto the Lord; for he hath done excellent things ... Cry out and shout ... for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee"* (Isaiah 12: 4-6).

Beloved, God prescribes this! Psalm 55 says to call upon the Lord, to pray, to cry LOUDLY. And if you do God will hear you. Psalms 63 says to lift your hands in His name. Psalm 134 says, *"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord."* Psalms 141, David declares his prayers to be the like incense and the lifting up of his hands as the evening sacrifice. Jeremiah said, *"Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens"* (Lamentations 3:41). 1 Chronicles 16 says to give thanks to the Lord; to call upon the Lord so His deeds can be known among the people. The people are to sing and talk about how magnificent He is. Psalms 9 instructs us to be glad and rejoice in God. Psalms 18 says to give thanks to the Lord among the lost. Psalms 59 says to sing of

His power. Sing LOUD of His mercy. Psalms 95 invites us to come and sing to the Lord. To make a joyful NOISE to the Rock of our salvation. The Psalm compels us to come with thanksgiving and to make a joyful noise with songs, to come and worship and bow before God. Psalms 96 is a call to sing, to bless His Name, to declare His glory to the heathen because the Lord is great, and HE is greatly to be praised. Psalms 113 is a call for all of God's servants to praise Him. To bless Him. Psalms 138 is a call to praise God before the gods, to sing praises to Him. Psalms 149 tells us to praise God in our church services, to rejoice in Him, and to be joyful in the King. Here David tells us the Lord is very pleased in His people and all the saints are to be joyful in glory.

Isaiah says, *"I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee. Sing, O ye heavens; for the Lord hath done it: shout, ye lower parts of the earth: break forth into singing, ye mountains, O forest, and every tree therein: for the Lord hath redeemed Jacob and glorified Himself in Israel"* (Isaiah 44). This is to be done publicly, not in some secret closet for no one to see. Praise is to be seen by the people, by the lost and in front of false gods. No wonder the church world is barren today for you will not find this expression of praise in most churches.

## GOD IS TO BE CELEBRATED

God is to be celebrated. Not because He is an egomaniac but, because He is, in Himself, in His essence and being – Absolutely Glorious! Marvelous! Beautiful! Delightful! Happy! Benevolent! The Lord is an eternal fountain of goodness. Unending goodness pours out of Him, joy surrounds Him, never ending delight is His presence. His presence is rich with healing, benefit, and benevolence. His desire to bless us is way beyond proportion to what we deserve.

How highly should we honor Him? Oh, redeemed ones, the angels know not what it is to have been hell-deserving, to be lying under mountains of sin, to be plucked as brands from the burnings of hell. They know not what it is to be washed in the blood of God's dear Son and to be carried on his shoulders.

Oh, if angels adore him, how much more should we? If the praises of angels are like many waters, ours should be like ten thousand oceans. Oh, prize Him who has made such a difference, who has glorified God in saving you.

How glad are those who give glory to Jesus Christ. The angels adore him, the very devils tremble before him.

But let the redeemed come with loud songs no angel can sing. Let us shout the praises of the Lamb as no other created thing can.

Lee Shipp  
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