**BE STILL, PEACE IS POSSIBLE/Week 7 notes/God is worthy/ 2 Chronicles 28-29, Psalm 139**

David’s life is certainly fascinating, but God’s interaction and care for David is even more compelling. Out of this intimate relationship, David gives us many of the psalms. While David is a warrior, a creative musician, and brilliant writer, above all of that, David is a worshipper. So, in closing out this study we want to explore the heart of a worshipper. Let’s begin with a few definitions.

**Worship**: In the Hebrew it means to bow down, to show respect, to honor, to revere, to submit.

In reading the psalms, we almost always find the idea of worship accompanied by two other words. Praise and Thanksgiving.

**Praise:** To speak out, to acknowledge who God is what He has done. The Hebrew word “*halel*” is often translated “*prais*e”, especially in the Psalms. It has the idea of radiance, to shine, to glory, to boast or to celebrate. Often, we see and use the Hebrew word *hallelujah.* Do you see the word *halel* coupled with the last letters *jah?* The *jah* is a letter grouping representing the name Yahweh. So, *Hallelujah means glory to God.*

**Thanksgiving**: gratitude as an act of worship.

All three of these words are connected. It is impossible to separate them out and only “do” one at a time. It is like the ingredients of a cake, all baked together becoming one. While in the psalms there are songs of praise, within those songs you will also find thanksgiving and the heart of a worshipper. Read Psalm 138:1-2.

**Why was worship so important to David? David had always been a worshipper.** From his days as a young shepherd until he took his last breath, David’s heart was always tuned to worship. He worshiped because he knew God and had a very clear understanding of God’s might, majesty, and power. But David also knew God’s tender care and God’s loving ways. David understood that relationship with God was sacred, holy, and God-centered. The relationship David had with God was God driven, God chosen, God empowered. Yahweh, Israel’s God, was David’s heartbeat, the center of his entire life. Even in his failures David understood that his greatest purpose was to honor God and serve Him.

Early on in David’s kingship, David wanted to honor God with a temple. He wanted a beautiful structure to house the Ark of the Covenant, which always represented the presence of God. Certainly, the magnificence of God could not be contained in a building, but a temple would be a visual, physical representation for the people, turning their hearts toward God in worship. A temple would by its very structure, design, and furnishings represent and reflect the holiness, beauty, and distinction of Israel’s God.

But God said no to David’s plans of building a temple. However, God would graciously allow David to prepare for the one who would build the temple. The builder would be Solomon, David’s son by Bathsheba, God’s choice as the next king.

**Read 1 Chronicles 28.** David is in his last days. Chronicles gives us a different perspective of events since First and Second Chronicles are written from the perspective of the priests. The Temple is emphasized more in Chronicles than the 2 Samuel events of David’s last days. It is obvious, David does not go out in a whimper. He goes out as a king and a worshipper. This is the David I want to remember!

As you read chapter 28, still your heart to sense the depth and gravity, and reverence of these verses. The Temple is important because God is important. He is worthy of our worship.

David has gathered the leaders of Israel and those closest to him. He gives a charge and a challenge, reminding the people of God’s choice of David as king followed by God’s choice of Solomon. He also gives a personal charge to Solomon in verse 9.

**The Plan.** 1 Chronicles 28: 11 is exciting. “*Then David gave to his son Solomon the plan….”* The following verses describe the temple. Verse 20 says that God wrote these plans on David’s heart. These are not David’s plans. They are God’s plans, and He has allowed David to be an important part of the forthcoming Temple. God has told David the design of the courtyards, the rooms, the storehouses, the Holy of Holies, the utensils that will be used, the furnishings, the organization of the priests and Levites. God designed it all and by grace David was allowed to give the plans to Solomon.

**The Provision**. David was also allowed to provide materials for the building of the Temple. Read 1 Chronicles 29:1-9. Every city David had captured, every people he conquered, every military victory he won, David was always thinking ahead to God’s temple. He took the spoils of war and amassed them into a treasury that would be used for the building of the Temple. Gold, silver, precious stones, iron, and bronze—saved for years, waiting to be used in God’s Temple. David even provided materials from his own wealth. He inspired the people, and they too participated by giving from their own wealth (Verse 8-9). This contagious excitement would help young Solomon undertake the important task of building the Temple.

**The Prayer. 1 Chronicles 29:10-19** is a stirring prayer of dedication. Read with a stillness of heart and hear the worshipper pray.

Verse 22 tells us that Solomon was anointed king for the second time. Not a hurried anointing to secure the kingdom, but an intentional, public, worshipful anointing. Solomon reigns in David’s place. *Verses 25-30 are a farewell to David. He leaves us strong, a true king, a mighty warrior, and worshipper of Almighty God.* His heart of worship is what makes daivd a man after God’s own heart.

**Why is worship vital for us? Psalm 29:9 says,** *And in His temple, everything things says, “Glory!”.* The study of the temple is fascinating. Everything in the temple—every alter, every utensil, every piece of furniture, every courtyard, every lampstand, the shewbread, EVERYTHING depicted something about God. Likewise, everything in the temple points to Christ. Jesus IS the mercy seat. Jesus is the sacrifice. Jesus is the lamp. Jesus is the bread. Jesus fulfills everything about the Old Testament temple. In the New Testament wea re under anew covenant. The old has been fulfilled in Christ. There is no longer a need for sacrifices because Jesus is the permanent sacrifice. (Read the book of Hebrews) So, what about the temple? The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:16, YOU ARE THE TEMPLE. The Holy Spirit of Christ lives in us. Our bodies are the temple—not a building. *Does everything in YOUR temple say, Glory?*

**Worship alters our spiritual posture.** Worship still means to bow down. It is a posture of our hearts. It is an attitude of complete surrender to Christ. Jesus chirst is the focus of our worship, and we bow to him, we submit and abandon ourselves to Him. That means we let go of our agenda, our ways, and our will. We trust hm enough to submit and obey. Certainly, our physical posture can be altered as we worship—bowing, kneeing, raising our open hands as a sign of surrender. But God is not interested in a physical show that does not reflect the attitude of the heart. Corporate worship is not the music part of the service. It is a day in and day out attitude of the heart to bow in submission to Christ. Most of our worship is done privately. A time of personal worship is a time to Be Still and Know that He is God. To bend our hearts in trust and obedience. If we are worshipping privately, our corporate worship with other believers will be an overflow of worship, praise and thanksgiving. And it won’t be an empty exercise in showmanship. We were created for worship. But because worship is hardwired into us, we must always be alert and spiritual careful to avoid giving our worship to lesser things. Read Psalm 8. It is beautiful song about the majesty of God and the dignity of man.

**Worship adjusts our focus.** When we worship, we turn from the temporal to the eternal. We let go of our limited supply and embrace His unlimited provision. Worship leads us to entrust ourselves to Christ. We begin to see His greatness, knowing He is worthy to be praised and He is faithful to supply our needs. Worship will always illicit praise and thanksgiving from us. It is personal. He has done so much for us, and our words and our hearts will overflow with gratitude. *To Bless the Lord* is to give thanks. Thanksgiving is an ongoing, moment by moment act of worship. Worship causes the things of this world to fade and pale in importance.

**Worship transforms our living.** Romans 12:1, *I urge you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, to present your BODIES a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* Worship is not confined to a building. You are a living act of worship. Your very body is a sacrifice to God. Your words, thoughts, actions emotions, and your service to others. Warren Weirsbe said, *True worship is service. And true service is worship.* Worship permeates our lives, changing us, compelling us to serve others. Read Philippians 2:3-8. God is not interested in perfunctory religion. He wants life altering worship. A life that proves we are worshippers. (Read 1 Samuel 15:22, Micah6:8, Zechariah 7:9) Dear woman, may you like David always be remember as a worshipper—not simply a church goer or religious person—but a bowed down, surrendered, obedient worshipper.

**Psalm 139**. I hope you have read this by now! While you will not find the word *worship* within the psalm, you will hear the heart of the worshiper. The psalm is organized into stanzas. Let’s look briefly at each stanza.

Verses 1-6. God searches us with great care and pain. He knows us intimately, better than we could ever know ourselves. He puts our life to the test. He hems us in—guard us lie a valuable object. He is not restricting us, rather He is protecting us and guiding us. When we soak in these thoughts, it is too magnificent to fully comprehend.

Verses 7-12. God is everywhere. Omnipresent. There is nowhere we can go that He is not already there. Verse 10, he leads us like the Good Shepherd in Psalm 23, and He lays hold of us with His mighty right hand. The right hand in Scripture is always a picture of power and authority. If God has laid hold of us with His mighty right hand, He is not letting us go—even if circumstances threaten to crush us. Even if everything around seems like darkness. God is undeterred by darkness; He is authoritative and able to guide. Daylight and darkness are the same to God.

Verse 13-16. God is creator and designer. Every human life has value because God is the creator. He is there at conception and birth, life and death. He has woven every part of us. There are not mistakes and no accidents. God also ordains our days. He designs our days, predetermines them. Not just the number of our days but what our days contain. He has made us with talents and ablites, He has given us spiritual gifts. He has allowed circumstances that He will use for His glory. Nothing about our lives takes God by surprise—not even our sin. He has ordained our days.

Verses 17-18. The psalmist is aware of God’s presence and God’s intimate knowledge of each of each of us, but the psalmist says that God’s thoughts are important too. The psalmist, David, wants to ponder the thoughts of God, a deep well that can never fully be accessed.

Verses 19-22. Difficult verses to the modern reader. Keep in mind this is ancient song in a very literal culture. A person who hated God and worked against God and His people was the embodiment of evil. Hatred of evil had a face; it was not simply a theological concept to the Hebrew people. This may not seem to square with New Testament theology, but it does more than you might think. We are to hate the things God hates. Whatever is an enemy of God is our enemy too. Satan wants to kill, steal, and destroy. We must be spiritually alert and discerning to recognize what is sinful in our world and even in our lives.

Verses 23-24. Favorite verses of mine. After those few verses about hating evil, David is quick to say, “Search me! See if there is anything in me that needs to be dealt with.” Search my heart, my inner nature. Try the integrity of my thoughts. In verse 24, a hurtful or grievous way is anything I have allowed to form in my life that cause pain to me, others, or the Lord. It could be habit, a lifestyle, an attitude, an addiction. Anything that I have allowed to become an idol, anything I am bowing to instead of God. Only God can uproot these hurtful things in our lives. Let Him search you and expose anything that needs to be eradicated from your life. The Holy Spirit will use the word of God to expose anything in our lives that need to be torn down.

I am going to miss this study! I am sure I will refer to it often in my own life and studies. I hope you will too. We have seen God’s faithfulness, His mercy, His grace, His goodness, His plans, His sovereignty…and more, through David’s life. He is the same God today. Be still and know Him. Peace is possible as we know, bow down, and obey the loving Lord, Jesus Christ.