



Part 6: The Stewardship of Praise

Associate Pastor
Sam Middlebrook
February 14 & 15, 2009

Mark 12:41-44

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. ⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. ⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."

Throughout the entire Bible, inner expressions are matched with outer expressions:

1. Lifting up our hands

I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. – Psalm 63:4 (Psalm 134:2, 141:2; 1 Timothy 2:8)

2. Clapping our hands

Clap your hands all you nations... – Psalm 47:1

3. Playing of instruments

Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre... play skillfully, and shout for joy. – Psalm 33:2-3 (Psalm 150:3-5a)

4. Standing

Stand up and praise the Lord your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting. – Nehemiah 9:5 (2 Chronicles 5:12, Psalm 26:12)

5. Kneeling, bowing and prostration

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. – Psalm 95:6 (Revelation 19:4, Ephesians 3:14, Philippians 2:10-11, Nehemiah 8:6)

6. Singing

Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.– Psalm 47:6 (Psalm 66:2, Acts 16:25)

7. Dancing and leaping

Let them praise his name with dancing. – Psalm 149:3 (Exodus 15:20-21, 2 Samuel 6:14-16, Psalm 30:11, 150:4, Acts 3:8)

8. Shouting

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. – Psalm 100:1 (Psalm 47:1, 66:1, 66:8, 95:1-2, 98:4)

(Continues on back)

Four things that get in the way of worshiping in a biblical way:

1. We don't know what the Bible says about it
2. We allow our pride to get in the way
3. We allow fear of what others might think to stop us
4. We have an incomplete view of tradition

What stands in the way between you and biblical praise?

Small Group Discussion Questions



1. What do you remember about learning to ride a bike or helping someone to ride a bike?
2. What helped you or the person you were teaching push through the awkwardness of it?
3. Which of the eight expressions of worship listed in this weekend's sermon are awkward for you?
4. Are you willing to push through the awkwardness?
5. How can we pray for you today?