

## The Ministry of Worship – Part 3

### **Last week Review:**

- The role of worship at Reality (1<sup>st</sup> set, 2<sup>nd</sup> set)
- The worship leader is a servant. Not just lead worshipper but the worship leader.
- We talked about the 2 of the roles worship and the worship leader play in the church (1. Providing an atmosphere, 2. Shepherding the church into the presence of God)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> role of worship and the worship leader: Worship as an offensive weapon.**

#### *Turn to 2 Chron 20*

**Read vv. 1- 3** (*Note: We ought to follow his example. He feared, yes. But then he sought the Lord. (v. 3))*

#### **Read vv. 4-19**

- **Noteworthy:** These were men appointed by God to lead in song (**1 Chron. 6:31-48**). These were not just some random super charismatic guys who just broke out into song in the midst of their prayer meeting.
- **I love that they confronted their situation with praise. Not just with a song, but with praise.** (We'll talk more about that in a minute)
- **And I LOVE that it was LOUD and HIGH! (v. 19)**
  - o (*Chris Tomlin writing Famous One in Ab so people had to stand up to sing it.*)
    - There's something to be said about praising God with voices lifted LOUD and HIGH.

#### **Read vv. 20-22**

- **I don't know if God told Jehoshaphat to do this or if he just did it, but what a picture of the power of praise.**
- Now, Israel was up against an enemy that they could see. The enemy that we fight against is invisible (**Eph. 6:12** *"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."*)
- **When the people show up to a gathering, they could be in the midst of the heaviest battle and we would have no idea unless God revealed it to us.**
  - o **It could be any kind of battle**
    - Fear.
    - Bad Dreams.
    - Defeated by sin.
    - Depressed.
    - Doubt.
    - Pride.
    - Complaisance and laziness.
    - **Maybe it's just a battle for their attention or their passion** (*the "stooper" that sometimes comes over the congregation.*)
  - o **But there is power in praise.**

- **Amy Carmichael once said**, “I believe truly that Satan cannot endure it and so slips out of the room—more or less—when there is a true song.”
  - **God uses praise and worship in music to defeat the enemy. Period.**
- **We see a similar thing in the NT with Paul and Silas (Acts 16)**
  - **John Piper on 2 Chron 20** “God has appointed the use of spiritual songs as an effective weapon against his archenemy Satan... Paul and Silas had learned that singing to God is not merely a response to His grace but also a weapon of spiritual warfare.”
  - **On this subject John Piper goes on to say**, “The Holy Spirit is our great hope against Satan. But how does the Holy Spirit fill and empower us? **Ephesians 5:18–19** says, “*Be filled with the Holy Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, making melody to the Lord with all your heart.*” The fullness of the Holy Spirit is experienced as a heart filled with singing. So if we fight Satan by the fullness of the Spirit, we fight him with song.”
  - **Now**, I’m not sure that “the fullness of the Holy Spirit is experience as a heart filled with singing”, but there is no doubt that the Holy Spirit often empowers a song to defeat the enemy.
  - Notice that it wasn’t just a song, but a song of “**Praise**”.
  - **The weapon is not just in the singing or in the music (although the Lord can use that if He chooses), but the weapon is in the Praise.**
    - **The song they were singing wasn’t just any song. It was a song of PRAISE.** (V. 21 “*Praise the Lord. For His mercy endures forever.*”)
    - *Dealing with Demonized people. We call on God. We confront the devil and we sing praise. We **DECLARE** that He is good. Not just sing but declare!*
    - **In 2 Chron. 20** it wasn’t just the music but it was the type of music. It was music that was declaring God’s goodness and giving him glory.
  - **So the power is in the praise. That means that I have to enter into praise to see the victory.**
  - **I have to worship on the church’s behalf. Because in that moment, my worship is a weapon.**
  - **My guitar turns into a sword. When I enter into battle mode, I’m playing different type of shepherd.**
    - The worship leader is often changing roles. He may go from Saint, to a Shepherd, to Soldier, All in the same song.
      - The shepherd uses his rod and his staff for a lot more than just shepherding. Sometimes he’s stops leading the sheep for a moment to beat off a predator. That’s OK. It is for the benefit of the sheep.
      - So it is with my guitar. One minute it’s an instrument of praise, then it’s a staff or a rod, then the next minute it’s a sword.

- So sometimes you may be the only one who is entering in and declaring praise to wage war on the enemy. But you're doing it to tear down strongholds in the spiritual realm so the people too can enter in. At this moment your highest call is to be more of a soldier than shepherd.
- Now sometimes you *are* able to shepherd some or all of them in so that they themselves become the one's who are praising. And when they praise, the very strongholds that were holding them back being to be torn down.
  - Those people can be a part of gaining the victory without even knowing it.
  - And it's just like in **2 Chron 20:22** when it says, *"Now when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set an ambush against the enemy."*
- Now just because I'm fighting for them, doesn't mean I forget that I am their shepherd.
- I have to remember why I am fighting. It is not just to win. The victory is not the end. It is the mean to the end. The goal is not the victory, the goal is worship.
- Now, this does beg the question: How do I know when my guitar is supposed to be a guitar and when it's supposed to a sword?
  - It all comes back to being surrendered to the Spirit. There's also a responsibility on our part to be close to Jesus so we can hear His still small voice. (*Can't hear a whisper unless you're close*)
  - And then some of this just comes from experience.
- **NO WONDER WHY I'M SO TIRED ON SUNDAY AFTERNOONS.**
- Sometimes the Lord may show you that there's a battle beforehand
  - *Story of me walking by congregation to pray before service and just feeling a "stooper" and having to deal with it before hand.)*
  - So you act accordingly.
    - You inform the worship team. You battle in prayer before hand. Maybe you even change the set. (*You've got "Did you feel the mountains, Enough, and Lord let your glory fall. Maybe you change it to "How great is our God, We exalt Thee, and Awesome is the Lord Most High*)
- This is a different talk for a different class but every minister should know how to effectively deal with demons. Jesus gave His disciples authority over unclean Spirits. When God calls you to shepherd His church, He gives you a certain authority in the Spiritual realm. And everyone should know how to use that authority. (*Sometimes I*

*have to step back from the mic and rebuke the Devil or pray for God's intervention on the congregation's behalf)*

### **Another time when praise is used as a weapon is:**

- Like at Easter or Avo Fest prayer meetings.
  - o We're going into the enemies territory. We have to battle to win that ground.
  - o Some of that battle is won prayer and actually telling the enemy to flee but some of it is in declaring God's power in that place and using praise as a weapon defeat the enemy in that place so that when the people come to the service that ground has already been won for the glory of Jesus.
  - o We want to establish praise in that place.
  - o If we waited until Easter Sunday to start fighting for the victory in that place then we'd spend our whole fighting just to be able to stand and preach. This way, we've already got the ground to preach from. The battle's already been won in that place. We just go and claim it.
    - Now, if we believe God is calling us to battle at a time like that we need to be purposeful in choosing what "type" of song we're singing.
      - Again, "Purify my heart" may not do as much damage in the Spiritual Realm as something like "We exalt Thee" or "How Great is our God".
- **Now**, it is important to note that God had already told them that the battle was His and they would not need to fight.
- As Christians we don't fight FOR the victory but FROM the victory.
  - o **Eph. 1 & 2 – Jesus is exalted high above all principalities and powers. And we are seated with Him.**
- But God chooses to work not independent of His people but THROUGH His people. And so He may choose to use us and our song to thwart the enemy.
  - o **John Piper on 2 Chron. 20** "And I think that the writer of this book wants to make it clear that, even though the victory belongs to God, the human means through which God gives victory is the ministry of the choir. For it says in verse 22, "And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed."

### **Different Roles:**

I want to mention: I was talking about the worship playing different roles.

- Certain settings call for the worship leader to play certain rolls.
  - J. High verses a prayer meeting with all hard core Christians.

## **The relationship between the worship leader and the pastor/leader:**

- **The worship leader and his songs and the preacher and His sermon should be two peas in a pod.**
  - I said last week that “worship prepares us for the word of God, and the word of God prepares us to worship.”
  - If this is true then worship and the sermon should be closely knit together.
  - If you don’t have a good relationship with your pastor, you need to start developing one.
- If you are a worship leader, you need to submit to your pastor (homegroup leader, youth pastor, campus ministry leader) and the direction that God is leading them in.
- If you’re a pastor or leader of some kind, then you need to begin to respect the ministry of worship and view it as a vital part of your ministry.
- **Communication is key**
  - *Saturday nights (Britt and I talk)*
  - **To the Pastor (not just home group leaders, or a teacher):**
    - You need to hear from the Lord what role worship is going to play in your church and what that’s going to look like.
    - Then you need to communicate to your worship leaders:
      - What the vision is (if you don’t know, maybe the two of you should get together, pray and figure it out.)
      - What your preferences are (*music during prayer or no*)

## **QUESTIONS?**

## **PRACTICAL SECTION:**

### **Before we go into this practical section... 2 things:**

- 1) I’m sure I’ll leave something big out. So make sure to ask questions if I don’t cover something.
- 2) A lot of is going to sound black and white. But there is ALWAYS an exception to the rule.

## **The role of the musicians and the worship team as a whole.**

- You are a team. You are a band in the sense that you are to be banded together as one. (*We often pray, “Make us of one mind and one accord.”*)
  - **The primary job of the band is to be a supporter.**
    - In one song that may mean you’re taking the musical lead and in the next song that may mean that you only play 3 notes the whole song.
  - **It is very important that you respect the role of the worship leader and can follow him.** (*If you don’t then either learn how to, or get out*)
    - **You are there to support the worship leader in every way.**

- **Not because he's better than you, but because God has called and anointed the worship leader to shepherd the people.**
- It's like Moses. He wasn't better than Aaron and Hur but Aaron and Hur respected his position and so, supported him in it.
  - *Even if you're a better musician or even a better worship leader, you must respect the position or get out.*
  - Now, as worship leader, I'm not, and I have by no means, arrived as a worship leader.
    - You may be able to teach me something wonderful, but the question is, "If you never get the chance to teach me, will you still support me." It's really an issue of the heart.
      - Someone asked, "How is it for Britt being your boss and yet you being the leader in the band?" I said, "A true leader can follow."
        - *Luis Conte when he plays. Always watching me.*
    - That being said, sometimes we'll get done practicing a part and someone will say, "Dom that doesn't sound too good." THAT'S AWESOME. This is the body of Christ. And it would be arrogant to think that I always have the best ideas.
    - At the same time, we also want to believe that God will lead the worship leader in the right direction. And most of the time that direction is a direction that everyone agrees if of God.
- **So the band's job is to support.**
- **You have to remember that you too are a minister. You too are a servant.**
  - And remember like we talked about last week. You're offering as a part of the worship team is different than your offering and just someone in the congregation.
    - It is an offering of service. And God's accepts that as worship.
    - You are supporting the worship leader whose job is to usher the people into God's presence.
  - **It's not just a time for you to:**
    - Jam
    - Or have your own fun little worship time
    - Or try out that new lick you've been working on.
  - **Remember, worship is not about you. It's about God being worshipped.**
  - **You should be thinking**
    - 1) How can I make this vibe and this atmosphere better and more conducive for worship?
    - 2) How can I add to this song?
      - There is a difference between just playing your instrument and playing the song. (I'll talk more about it in a minute)
    - 3) How can I lighten the load for the worship leader



- Knowing the job and responsibility of the worship leader to lead the church into worship, you need to do all that you can do to ENABLE him to do his job.
    - Learn the arrangement. Try really hard to play the right chords, play the right rhythms and sing the right harmony. Stop when you're supposed to. Keep your eyes on the him. Etc...
- **In worship, the lyrics have the highest place.**
  - The other instruments should enhance the worship experience and create the right vibe no doubt, but they are there to support the vocals.
    - *The guitar player who doesn't listen to the lyrics because the singer's voice is "just another instrument". "We're all working together to make a beautiful song."*
      - That sounds nice, and if you're in an instrumental group then it works, but for worship (and even pop music) that's just doesn't work.
- **I want to talk about "PIE" for a minute.**
  - The body of Christ is many parts. And one of the coolest things is seeing how so many different parts can work together. It's really cool to see it play out in music and worship. *(You could give the same song to two different guys, and both of them will translate in differently. It's beautiful (Britt and Evan))*
  - So there may be many wonderful part of the body on stage at the same time. But it's important that each one knows his place and that he is submitted to the leader who is submitted to the Chief Shepherd, Jesus.
    - *Don't want knees bending while legs and feet are trying to walk.*
  - **PIE.** *(Explain the pie)*
    - I said that there was a difference between playing your instrument and playing the song.
- **I should also mention on more thing... Modeling worship.**
  - While you are still a servant and a minister, you may at times have opportunity to worship. (ie. Song ends and it's just guitar and vocals).
    - Maybe this is an opportunity for you to slip into the Holy of Holies with the congregation.
    - But while you're worshipping, it's important to remember that many of them will take their cue from you. If you look like you're engaged, it may remind them how good it is to be in the presence of the Lord.

The following statements are not directed at anyone specific. I am simply addressing generalizations that I have made from watching and playing with dozens, maybe hundreds of musicians and singers.

**A word to:**

**Drummers:**

- Like it or not. The band will dynamically follow you. So then, you have to be in tune with the worship leader. Know how to read him. Keep your ears and eyes open to him.

- Drums fills: don't do them every 8 beats. Use them to take the music from one place to another.

- Just slice bread. ("*I want to be like Stewart Copeland*"). Fine, but he was in a three piece band where the bass player was also singing the and guitar player was just skanking away.)

### **Bass players:**

- Listen to the drummer. (kick drum and bass relationship, if he's doing a fill, don't do one)
- You're not the lead guitar player.

### **Electric Guitar and Keyboards:**

- Don't step on the singers toes (When he's singing, you're not)
- **For everyone:** Space is music. You don't have to fill every open bar or beat with a note or lick. J
- You have the power to change the emotion of the song. So be wise and be dynamic.

### **Background Singers:**

- Listen.
  - o Listen to the worship leader (How he says words, when he ends his words, if he's singing breathy or strong, if you don't know the words, then learn them, etc...)
  - o Listen to the band. If everyone but the guitar drops out that doesn't necessarily mean it's time for to improv.
- Remember that your job is to support the lead vocalist and the song as a whole.
- Because you probably aren't playing an instrument, you become the best modeler of worship on the stage. However, this DOES NOT mean that you're primary job is just to go up there and worship. You're primary job is to support the worship leader and make his job easier.
- It's also noteworthy that if a guy is leading and a girl is singing backups that many of the ladies are going to try to follow the girl vocalist. So sing in a manner that's worthy of being followed.

### **Leading a band.**

- o Worship leader should have an idea of how the song is gonna go before he gets to practice. (*When drums enter, type of beat, when we get big, etc...*)
- o Own the song and the arrangement before he gets on stage (*Art Marillo not letting his people have music stands on stage*)
- o Practice beginning and ends of songs.
- o Directing on stage
  - Why? (Don't want to mess up, need to be on the same page...)
  - How? (*Hand signals, body language, vocal dynamics, lyric prompts, dynamic prompts, tempo prompts*)
    - You don't have to be sneaky. It's ok to say "just drums" if you're feeling it need be just drums.



## **Different song types:**

### **- Difference between prayer songs and praise songs**

#### **o Praise type Songs:**

- Where it is about God's goodness. Where it is about giving praise to God.
  - How great is our God
  - Awesome is the Lord most High
  - We exalt Thee
  - Even: Hosanna or You've stolen my heart (The subject is us, but it is about God Saving us)

#### **o Prayer type songs:**

- Where it's more about me and my response to God. (These aren't bad or less spiritual, they're just not praise songs. There's a time and a place.)
  - Empty me
  - Jesus draw me close
  - I surrender
  - We are hungry.
- These are still glorifying to God. They're just more of a prayer than they are a praise.

### **- When do I use what?**

- o Battle, establishing praise in a place, you just want to get the attention onto God:  
**Praise**
- o The Pastor just preached the gospel and is giving people a chance to repent:  
**Prayer**
  - *There's an exception to the rule ALWAYS.*

## **Music, emotion, and dynamics:**

### **- Play skillfully as unto the Lord.**

- o Sloppiness is distracting.
- o Do it unto the Lord with all your might.
  - If your best is broken guitar and a pitchy voice then do it the best you can (that was me).

### **- Keep a balance between musical excellence and a surrendering to the Holy Spirit.**

- o I know people who work out their arrangements in such detail that they wouldn't know what to do if God began to lead them in a different direction.
  - Memorize the arrangement and expect to change.

### **- Dynamics**

- Remember what **Martin Luther said**, “Experience proves that next to the Word of God only music deserves to be extolled as the mistress and governess of the feelings of the human heart”.
  - There is nothing that can move a person’s heart like music.
  - Use this to your advantage.
    - Allow the song to build. Leave some room to get bigger at the end.
- **Changing keys**
  - **Do I do all songs in same key or different keys?**
    - Practice it with different keys and see which one is right for that set.
  - **Modulate to change keys or end and start in a new key?**
    - Whatever you do, do it smoothly and without distraction.
- **Choosing a key**
  - If I can’t sing it with confidence, chances are the people won’t follow with confidence. More beneficial to sing in a higher key with confidence than in a lower key with timidity.
  - And remember: Sometimes it’s good to make the people “shout”
  - That being said, if you’re in a small prayer meeting or home group and you try to sing “Famous One” in Ab aint nobody gonna join you.
- **Silence**
  - When is it good? When is it bad
    - At the end of intimate song, it may be good. But not if you’re staying in same key (*example “Light of the world” to “Give us clean hands” v. “Light of the world” to “Lord you have my heart”* )
    - At the end of a rocker. May be bad (*example “Not to us”*)
- **Partial Capo vs. Capo vs. No Capo**
  - You are so good to me w/ Partial vs. Jesus draw me close w/ Partial
  - Lord you have my heart w/ Partial verses Lord You have my heart without Capo

### **Different settings:**

- Church service:
  - Hundreds of people (Unchurched, Hard core Christians, and the ones in between)
  - You’re shepherding or battling probably the whole time. You’re also leading your band.
- Home Group:
  - 10-30 people, pretty serious Christians

- A lot of times, even though it's mostly very serious Christians, there's still a struggle to really enter in, so you're still probably going to have to work quite a bit.
- Prayer meeting:
  - 10-100 people
    - If they're at a prayer meeting, chances are they're pretty hard core.
    - A lot of them are going to be like that Pastor I mentioned last week. All you have to do is be the lead worshipper and they'll follow you in. You're shepherding at that point turns from
      - Gathering them from the outer courts and encouraging them into the Holy of Holies
      - TO...
      - Being in the Holy of Holies spurring them on.
      - **You almost go from shepherd showing them the way to a friend saying, "Oh oh oh. I got it! Let's sing this now guys!"**

### **Preparation:**

- How to choose set list and set order
- How I personally work out a set
  - Start with one song. Worship through it and see where God leads me
- How I practice (Own the song, figure out the arrangement)
- Capos, key changes, dynamics
- Choosing the right key.