

Life Group Notes

Sunday 12th June 2022

Speaker: Liz Green

Title: Worship in Spirit

What does it look like to be a community of the Spirit who worship?

Paul talks about using our whole lives as an act of worship, to present our bodies as living sacrifices, but Sunday was focused on what the spirit filled community of God's people should look like when they gather together.

Psalm 73 – Asaph encounters God in the temple (v17), the dwelling place of God. He goes from being a man bemoaning life around him to fresh dedication to God.

John 4 – Jesus announces to the woman at the well one of the most radical statements of his teaching (John 4:23) as he declares that the physical temple is now obsolete. Jesus is the new temple. The temple is walking the streets and touchable! The dwelling place of God is Jesus.

Upon the death, resurrection and ascension of Christ, the temple became the church. God's people are the new spiritual house of God, where God's presence is felt and known. It is in our corporate gatherings that we can expect to see and encounter God together.

God's people are to worship in spirit AND truth. They are inseparable. The spirit always leads to truth. And the spirit applies truth to our hearts. The spirit helps us to ELEVATE the truth (Jesus!) and the spirit enables us to ENCOUNTER truth.

How do we **ELEVATE** the God head when we gather in sung worship?

- **Praise and Thanksgiving** – 'Enter his gates with thanksgiving and courts with praise'. It requires cultivation! Realigns our focus and hearts.
- **Freedom** – God's people have much to sing about. Freedom has been won for us; from power of sin, shame, guilt, the law, captivity, slavery to sonship, life everlasting, family, friendship with God.
- **Faith** – Declaring truth together strengthens our hearts (think King David).

The Spirit applies truth and **ENCOUNTERS** us in many different ways. 3 are;

- **Comfort/Strength** – Worship is a defiant declaration of God's authority in the midst of desperate circumstances. As we elevate Him, faith & trust grows, comfort is given.
- **Courage** – '*Abraham grew strong in faith as he gave glory to God*' Rom 4:20. Battles which require courage are often won in worship as we are encouraged by God's faithfulness, authority, grace, sovereignty...
- **Adoration** – Worship takes us up close and personal to Jesus. It's excessive. We often encounter Jesus as we lavish our devotion on him. He in turn encounters us and calls us deeper in our obedience, surrender, relinquishing of our lives.

Suggested questions

- What was new/fresh/hit you again from Liz's talk?
- Articulate 10 things from today that you can give thanks and praise to God for?
- Share a time when you have encountered God during worship? What changed as a result?/What did God ask of you?
- When was the last time you did something for the first time in worship? Eg. Lift hands, sang in tongues, danced, bowed down?
- Where would you like to grow in worship? Pray for each other for this.