

Making Prayer Your Second Language
Service Elements – Sermon 1

Scripture Reading

Reader 1: In 1st Chronicles 16 the scriptures tell us to ...

Reader 2: *Sing to the Lord, all the earth; proclaim his salvation day after day.*

Reader 1: Why?

Reader 2: *For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise.*

Reader 1: The writer is King David, and the occasion is the bringing of the ark of God into Jerusalem.

Reader 2: *Ascribe to the Lord, O families of nations,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength
ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name.*

Reader 1: That's what we are doing. It's many generations later, but the words of Israel's king are still appropriate.

Reader 2: *Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;
Let them say among the nations,
"The Lord reigns!"
* Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.*

Reader 1: Sing with us (Great is the Lord)

* Music begins

Benediction

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Psalm 150:6

Bulletin Insert

This week's praise assignment:

1. Read Psalm 145 a number of times.
2. List at least a dozen characteristics of God mentioned or implied in this psalm.
3. Each day this week think about one of these attributes and praise God for being this way.
4. Come up with three to five attributes or characteristics of God not mentioned in Psalm 145.
5. See if you can praise God in a way he has never before heard.
6. Get a prayer journal and begin using it.

Mood Setter
(Graphic)

Worthless – without value, useless, contemptible

Worthy – having great value, honorable, meritorious,
syn. trustworthy (like a worthy vessel), virtuous, praiseworthy.

So here I am to worship
Here I am to bow down
Here I am to say that you're my God
And you're altogether lovely
Altogether worthy
Altogether wonderful to me

Call to Worship

In Jesus time Capernaum was a city of some importance. I believe one of the gospel events that took place there can help us today in our worship.

A Roman centurion, an officer over 100 soldiers, was stationed for some time in that city. He had befriended the Jews and even built a synagogue for them. Hearing that Jesus had entered Capernaum this man sent some of the Jewish elders to him, that's because a servant he valued highly was near to death.

Reading from scripture Luke 7:6-10: *Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.*

"Lord ... I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you."

* Today we are praising God that he alone is worthy. Like this Roman centurion, let our words be underscored with a keen awareness of how great a gulf there is between ourselves and our Lord. Sing with me ... "So Here I Am to Worship"

*Introduction to music begins

Hymn Introduction

In what does the world place great worth?

- Power?
- Gold?
- Fame?
- Beauty?
- Weapons?
- Investments?
- Luck?

Christians see these as fleeting. The Lord is the one to whom they attribute the greatest Worth, and their relationship to him is that around which they center their lives. Sing with me ...

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Prayer

(Sometime Following the Sermon)

What are some of the qualities about God that you like the most? (PAUSE) Would you like a minute to think about that, to think about some of the remarkable qualities about God that you like the most? Take that minute now, and then be prepared to participate with me in sentence prayers of praise.

(Silence for 60 seconds)

Listen to us now Lord, as from this congregation our people express some of the character qualities about you that they most appreciate.

For example, I praise you that you are a most patient God. At least you have certainly acted that way toward me.

(Participation of congregation)

As the coming week unfolds, teach us to be better at praising you, because you certainly deserve our words of commendation.

Amen

Word Origins

(Graphic)

Applaud or **applause** comes from the Latin *plauder*, "to clap".

Thus a **plaudit** is an expression of praise, a kind of verbal clapping

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Poem

(Before Singing a Response Hymn)

My Song

Thou whom seraphs joy in praising,
Thou whom heavenly hosts adore,
Can my stammering tongue be silent
When I owe Thee so much more?

Ever have they known Thy beauty,
Ever stood before Thy throne;
But I wandered from Thy presence,
Separated and alone.

All undone by sin and evil,
Child of condemnation, I.
Yet Thou laid aside Thy glory
And for me came down to die.

Heir of heaven Thou has made me,
Bought me with Thy precious blood;
Took the form of man upon Thee
That I might be child of God.

So, my song must swell the chorus
While the angels' praises ring;
I, a sinner, saved and pardoned,
Have more cause than they to sing.

--Bob Jones, Jr.

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Praise Music

Thou Art Worthy
Here I Am to Worship
Worthy of Worship
O Could I Speak the Matchless Worth
Great is the Lord
You Are My All in All
Worthy is the Lamb
You're Worthy of My Praise

Response Hymns

As the Deer
Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Blessed be Your Name
We Come, O Christ, to You
Glorify Thy Name
Praise the Name of Jesus

(Plus countless others)