

Psalm 33: Worship and Wait on our Creator King

Tyler Velin | March 3, 2013

If you have your Bible's with you, open them up to Psalm 33. If you need a Bible you can probably just steal your neighbor's phone, or look at the screens.

For one of my classes I had to visit a Catholic Church service last weekend, and I was kind of nervous, I am a bred, born and raised protestant. I had Martin Luther action heroes, growing up. I named my son after John Owen, who fought against the Catholic Church in 17th century England. The only think I knew about Catholic services are things I read in church history books or saw on the Boondock Saints. So going into this place I was a little out of my element.

But there were certain aspects of the formal model of their Church service which I thought they did well. Now as a whole there are many things the Catholic Church does un-well, but one thing really stood out to me as I was there.

Whether it was a sheer formality or not, or whether the people heeded it or not, there was an extremely high view of scripture being read. When the scripture reader came to the pulpit, the congregation stood, he proclaimed, "The word of the Lord from the gospel of Luke," read the passage, then looked around to kind of gage the response of the crowd, and said "The word of the Lord." Then we all said, "Thanks be to God," and sat down.

What I liked about this was that there was a sense of anticipation and reverence towards the word of God in scripture. And I lead with this because I don't want to be outdone by the Catholics. We should have a high view of scripture, we should expect a response to the word, we should anticipate a reaction within ourselves and we should hold our attention to the word of God in scripture. What I am going to do is I am going to read through Psalm 33 to start the sermon and I want you to really listen. I want you to expect God to speak through his word. I want you to respond to this word, because it is a living word.

Psalm 33, pray

We don't know who wrote this Psalm, but we can probably assume that it is David since it is sandwiched between two Psalms of David. And he opens up this Psalm with a call to worship. Much like what we did earlier between the second and third Psalm, David addresses his people with a call to worship.

Vs 1-5

These verses be convicting to some and encouraging to others. Shout to for Joy in the Lord, O you righteous. Praise him, give things to him with the lyre, make melody with the harp of ten strings, sing to him a new song, play skillfully on the strings with loud shouts.

For many of us this is a worship service we wish to avoid. Most people do not struggle with the instrument aspect of worship. We come and enjoy the instruments the skilled players and new songs, but we often hide behind the instruments and band, rather than shouting and singing on our own.

Men I'm looking at you here. I have noticed a specific worship deficiency inside of male culture today when it comes to singing. I know men who love to sing, and do it with heartfelt passion, I know other men who don't sing. Here is why I want to challenge both of you, both the singer and the non singer. John Calvin, an old Swiss Reformer played a big part in brining instruments back into the church, but one thing he did was he always had a choir on the stage as well because he wanted to emphasize the human's role as an instrument of worship.

David encourages us to praise with instruments, but instruments are inanimate objects outside of redemption, they have little to praise about, it is the human soul which brings worship to the strings. Many men, and women, come to church and acknowledge worship.

The see the bands, they may love to sing the words. They may feel more comfortable not singing. But they are observers of others worship. David is demanding us to be participators in worship.

David is demanding an emotional worship. God has built us in different ways, with different temperaments and different passions. We will portray emotion differently. Some will shout, some will sing, some will clap, some will not sing and worship silently, but true worship is emotional.

And if we look at **vs 4-5**, we see what roots that emotion. We worship emotionally, with heartfelt passion because of who God is. Worship is work. While we ought to worship emotionally, our emotions do not dictate our worship. I can't tell you how many times I come to church and I fail to worship. I blame it on Leon, I blame it on Pastor John, but it is not their fault, it's my fault.

My emotion isn't connected to the music or presentation of the gospel, my worship is tied to God's faithfulness and steadfastness. God's steadfast love is all around us, God is faithful just and upright in all he is. **Heb 13:8** says it is not God who is the problem, it is me. Our hearts are weak in worship. If we have faith in a faithful and steadfast God we have grounds to worship.

Worship is emotional, but worship is not emotion. If we fail to worship because our emotions are not stirred, we are saying that our heart is stronger than God. I hate to break it to you but worship is not based in who you are, it is based in who God is. God is faithful, God is upright, the earth is full of God's love. The emotions of God give us grounds to worship regardless of our emotional state.

And the faithfulness of God is what changes our heart to worship him in emotional spirit and truth. Now David shows us why God is over our worship.

Vs 6-9

By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, by the breath of his mouth all their hosts. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap, he puts the deep in storehouses, Let all the earth fear the Lord, the all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him for he spoke and it came to be he commanded and it stood firm.

God gave no explanation or introduction of himself in scripture he just created, if that's your business card, you don't need an introduction. If God created everything he doesn't need to justify or explain who he is, he simply is. In the book of Job, Job gets on his high horse and charges God. God just points back to his creation. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth, where were you when I placed it on its pedestal and stretched the heavens across the sky. Where were you when I said to the waves, this far shall your proud waves roll and no further.

David says the whole world looks at God and stands in awe of his power as revealed in creation. He spoke and it happened. He breathed and we took shape. You can't keep your driveway clear of snow in the winter, you can't keep our grass alive in August, God holds the oceans in their place.

God makes flowers bloom so that you can cut them and give your wife dying flowers and feel good about yourself. You spend all summer trying not to let your newly planted garden, the Lord brings up forests with nothing but sunlight, water and deer poop.

There is a big hubbub in the NBA right now because LeBron James refuses to do a slam dunk contest yet during all his pregame routines he throws down these jaw dropping dunks and people are in awe of them. God looks at the awe we give LeBron and says, "Your atmosphere is three hundred sixty seven thousand and three hundred and sixty feet tall. It is one billion two hundred and sixty one million, one hundred and sixty four thousand and nine hundred and sixty feet to the moon. It is three hundred and seventy two times that amount to get to the sun. That distance of 92 million miles from the earth to the sun is called an AU and Astronomical unit, and it is 39 Astronomical Units to Pluto. Stand in awe America, you just watched a 6'8" man dunking on a ten foot hoop."

Aristotle, while not a Christian, acknowledge that there must be what he called an "Unmoved Mover" which orchestrates the vastness of creation. Something over and outside of it. We worship that Unnamed and Unmoved Mover and his name is Yahweh. Yahweh is not an uninvolved God.

Vs 10-12

God brings the counsel of the nations to nothing. America can place their eyes on the presidential election every four years, but God is over America. God is not only over America, we are not God's favorite country, God is over all nations and all peoples everywhere.

While the best laid intentions of mice and men often go awry, the counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plan of his heart to all generations.

God's plan since day one was the cross. **Eph 1:3-4**. Before man even sinned, God's plan was to redeem his creation through Jesus on the cross. God's plan was to take the broken pieces of humanity and restore them back to himself through the sacrifice of his one and only son.

God's goal is to take a covenant and saved people and bring them to a place where one day every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That plan has endured through the captivity of his people in Babylon, through the murder of Jesus on the cross, through the persecution of the apostolic church, through the garden parties of Nero where he lit his courtyard with the burning corpses of believers, through the coliseum of Rome where Christians were fed to beasts and gladiators, through the middle ages where the power of the church was separated from the power of Christ, through the various splits in church history, through the reign of Hitler, through the genocide in Africa, through the gender specific abortions in China, through the suppression of the Evangelical voice in modern America and it will continue until the end because nothing will frustrate the will of the creator God.

Is 40:8

The beauty of God's plan is that it is good for us. God has an agenda. God is constantly working for his glory, but because God loves righteousness and justice, we are beneficiaries of his pursuit of glory. When God is made much of, we are impressed every more in his love and beauty, joy and righteousness.

David shows the personal component of this powerful God in **vs 13-19**

The Lord looks down from heaven as a creator King. He fashions our hearts and he observes our deeds. No matter how powerful, secure or confident you feel. No matter how isolated, weak and alone you feel. God is actively interested, involved and present in your life.

I love where David destroys the hope of man. The King is not saved by his great army, the war horse is a false hope. Because it is so easy for us, as a physical people at the accomplishments of man and take hope in them. That's what happened at the tower of Babel in Genesis 11. In this story which most you have heard there is this large group of people wandering around without a home and without an identity, they lack roots, they lack guidance, they lack power. So these people get together and begin to make a tower to the heavens, this was their rationale: **Gen 11:4-5**.

The people of Babel saw salvation in the name of man. If man is made much of, if we have great city's huge walls, heaven high towers, certainly we will be safe.

God came down and did this: **Gen 11:6-7**. This verse always confused me. Because we just saw how God is over everything his plans endure from generation to generation and here it almost seems like God is threatened by man.

But what God meant when he said that was, "Nothing they do in the name of man is impossible, but nothing done in the name of man is beneficial for salvation." God knew the power of unity. He knew that when men got together and worked, much would be accomplished, he built us that way.

But he also knew that if men saw the name of man as their ultimate salvation, they would never be saved. So God hindered their communication in one sense to curse them and frustrate them, in another sense to bless them as they realized that no human effort can ever bring salvation.

God forced man to turn to him. We may look at our finances, our careers and our relationships when they are in good standing and say that is the key to our joy. We may look at the absence of relationships, the lack of income and the uncertainty of the future and say "If only I had that." But it is not the King's army, the war horse or the income that saves, Jesus saves.

In verse 19 David says that God gives them a hope in his steadfast love, so that he may deliver their souls from death.

The cosmic powerful, creator, kingly God exercises all his power, energy and plans in the redemption of humanity. The God who painted the beautiful sunset in the sky holds you so that you may be delivered from death into life.

That's why Jesus came, Jesus came to glorify and worship his father by saving those who hope in his steadfast love. To save those who will worship in objective faith.

Who look at the works of their salvation, the wonder of their God and stand in awe of what he has done for them. I love the closing of this Psalm **vs 20-22**.

So we wait on the lord and our heart is glad because we trust in his holy name.

In the last verse David asks the Lord to cover us with his steadfast love, his permanent objective love even as we hope in him.

We are not called to wait on the Lord because we doubt his plan. We are not called to wait on the Lord as if we need him to prove himself first.

We wait on the Lord by resting in his promises. David does not connect waiting with passivity, doubt or uncertainty. David connects waiting in a faith of who God is, in a certain hope of the promise of redemption. In all the chaos that surround us in our world today wait on the Lord. In the circumstances which seem to overwhelm wait on the Lord. Know that the Lord is working and is bringing a certain salvation. Know that nothing that happens will shortchange God's goals for his glory and your gladness of heart.

Our hearts are glad in the waiting. Our hearts rejoice in the waiting. Our hearts worship in the waiting. That is what Sovereign Hope Church is all about. Worship and waiting. We want to testify to the God of the Bible. We want to testify to the redemption from sins through the cross of Jesus Christ and we want to work while we are waiting. We want to worship while we are waiting.

We recognize that it is only through God's plans that his mission will be accomplished. Because we know that God brings salvation, God is bringing salvation, to you, to me, and to this city. And our hearts are glad in that hope.

I want to close with two stanza's of a hymn by a guy named Carl Daw Jr., I have to think that Mr. Daw was reflecting on Ps 33 as he wrote this hymn. Leave here with this today echoing in your heart and shaping your worship:

**"Sing to the Lord no toothless song, no timeworn toothless hymn; no sentimental platitude no empty pious whim; but raise a song just off the loom, fresh woven strong and dense; As new as God's eternal now transcending time and sense
Let earth's diverse melodic tongues, declare in telling phrase; the glory of the only God who merits thanks and praise; All other hopes will disappoint the brittle luster fade; But sure and strong remains the Lord by whom all things were made."**

Pray