

Going to look at several Biblical principles you will be able to take home and search out more fully but since there are so many concepts in this song (which we will not be able to get to all of them) I am going to give you a lot of information for you to meditate on and search out over the next weeks and months.

We are going to look at some of the Biblical underpinnings for the song Jeff has given us as the theme for this year.

The song is built out of a concept found in **Exodus 20:25** where God is giving instruction on the building of an altar suitable for sacrifice to Him.

Since it is built off of **Exodus 20:25**, let's turn to **Ps 45**

Ps 45 deals with the marriage of the King to the bride and the reciprocal, the back and forth nature of their relationship. And it begins with, first of all, the revelation of, the presentation of, the Groom.

Ps 45:1 I address my verses to the king;

Here are some of the things it says about the Groom

Ps 45:2 God has blessed you forever.

Ps 45:4 In your majesty ride out victoriously

Ps 45:5 Your arrows are sharp

Ps 45:6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever

Ps 45:7 you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Ps 45:7 anointed you

Ps 45:9 daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; (quite the entourage)

Ps 45:9 at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Everything we do with God, begins with Him. If He had not revealed Himself to us we would never have found Him.

Abraham. Ancient cultures clacking stones and bowing to wood and stone. HE began this conversation. And this is what the conversation says about HIM.

Worship is not at our initiation. Worship is the response of the bride to the majesty of the King.

Worship is His song bouncing off our hearts back to His ear. And His song causes our heart to beat in sync with His

Here is the response expected from the bride.

Ps 45:10 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house,

NOTICE HIM!!! Females complain "guys don't notice me." (Wah wah). NOTICE THEM!! Male birds preen for the female birds!! Male fish preen for the female fish!! Men would like to be noticed as existing and noticed in a good way!!

As the King presents Himself, the natural response in the heart of the Bride is to "**consider. . . incline. . . forget. . .**"

"But that sounds so terrible!!" By relative worth. . . There is no comparison!!! Here are the results of her choosing him WITH ABANDON!!

Ps 45:12 The people of Tyre will seek your favor with gifts, the richest of the people.

Ps 45:16 In place of your fathers shall be your sons;

Ps 45:16 you will make them princes in all the earth.

Ps 45:17 I will cause your name to be remembered in all generations;

Ps 45:17 therefore nations will praise you forever and ever.

The consequence of her responding to the King as He presents Himself is THE WORLD WILL NOTICE **HER!!**

In relative worth, THERE IS NO COMPARISON.

Let's go back to vv. 10-11

Vv 1-9 the glory of the King is revealed. In response to His revelation, **Ps 45:10-11 Hear, O daughter, and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house,**

And as the bride gives herself to the King, He reciprocates in v. 11 with **11 and the king will desire your beauty.**

Her turning toward Him because of her realization He has already turned to her causes Him to be further drawn in by the "desiring her beauty" which causes her to be more enthralled which causes the cycle to deepen and deepen, falling in on itself as the 2 fall into relationship with each other.

It is a continually revolving, falling in on itself, giving of themselves to one another. And when one ceases to give in to the other, the divine dance is stopped and the traffic in the round about slams on their brakes!!!

So worship is our response to His initiation of inviting us into relationship. And when we respond, IN THE MANY AND VARIED FORMS OF THAT RESPONSE!!! we are worshiping Him!!

Is singing worship?

Is all worship singing worship?!?!?

Is art worship?

Is service worship?

Can worship be found in even the most mundane of engagements?!?

Bro Andrew. Practice the Presence

PROOF that God had given His HS to Bezalel and Oholiab: Ex 31:1-5 The Lord said to Moses, 2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, 3 and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with ability and intelligence, with knowledge and all craftsmanship, 4 to devise artistic designs, to work in gold, silver, and bronze, 5 in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, to work in every craft.

"Oh, I'm nothing for the Kingdom. . . all I can do is lay carpet." And my back and my knees scream out, "PRAISE GOD!!!" Your gift and your skill, WHICH YOU ARE PRACTICED AT, causes met to worship WHOLEHEARTEDLY!!!"

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

1 Cor 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

In these meetings we are addressing ourselves, specifically, to the responsibility of leading in corporate worship. What are some guidelines, direction, the Bible might give us on how to best do that?

Remember our song is out of **Ex 20:25** so let's turn next to **Ps 33:1-5**

vv. 1-5 tell us 5 things to do in worship as well as some reasons WHY and some explanation of HOW.

Ps 33:1-5 A) Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous!

Why **Praise befits the upright.**

B) 2 Give thanks to the Lord with the lyre;

C) make melody to him with the harp of ten strings! What is the harp of 10 strings? One really simple explanation which nearly all of us have. . .

D) 3 Sing to him a new song; Many of the Psalms were spontaneous utterances uttered during a worship service in the Tabernacle of David recorded by scribes designated and appointed by David. It was a new song, a fresh utterance, a spontaneous offering of worship provided, **IN THE MOMENT!!**

One fascinating benefit of practice is. . . the more prepared you are, the more spontaneous you can be!

The more you are proficient on your instrument, the more easily you can improvise and go off on some solo which will cause SOMEone in the crowd to go deeper into worship.

“I’m afraid someone might think I am trying to show off.” Yeah, the people who like to show off might think that. There is only one Voice which matters!!

E) play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

And then He gives 4 reasons for “Why”

A) 4 For the word of the Lord is upright,

B) and all his work is done in faithfulness.

C) 5 He loves righteousness and justice;

D) the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord.

These are all the reasons we need for bringing our best to worship.

Finally tonight let’s deal with that 5th command in v. 3. . . **“Play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.”**

And here is the tension. . . when do we limit who is on the worship team based on ability versus heart?

Had a brother who couldn’t sing worth a flip, but he was on the worship team, **HOLDING A MIC HE KNEW WAS TURNED DOWN!!!**, because he showed a physical expression of worship which taught the people.

He was on his face. He was raising his hands. He was doing whatever physically expressed his response to God, and he was not doing it to be weird, noticed or bragged on. He was expressive in his worship **BEFORE** he was on the worship team, **WHICH IS WHY HE WAS ASKED TO BE ON THE WORSHIP TEAM!!**

“Teach us what it means to be expressive in worship!!” And he did!!

“Herbie can’t sing but he has such a good heart and he really wants to lead.” Well, Herbie just might be disappointed!!

At some point there has to be an ability to bring excellence to the gift! A 3 year old’s scribbled drawing on the refrigerator is cute. A 23 year old’s drawing which has never progressed past the 3 year old stage, is going in the drawer!!

Ability is no substitute for heart and genuineness. . . but heart and genuineness are no substitute for not making dogs howl when you sing!!

There is a tension and there must be a balance. If you want to sing, TAKE SINGING LESSONS!!! And if you don't want to take lessons because you are afraid they might say you can't sing, THEIRS IS NOT THE FINAL WORD ON THAT!!

But if you refuse to even take lessons because of fear of what they might say, you are not properly equipped to be in a place to lead others!! The centurion said, "I am a man UNDER authority, and I am a man OVER others." There must be a constant reaching UP to improve as we seek to reach OUT to give. TAKE LESSONS AND PRACTICE!!

BE GOOD AT SOMETHING!!! 1 Chron 15:22 And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was over the song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful.

1 Chron 15:22 Chenaniah, leader of the Levites in singing, was put in charge of carrying the ark and lifting up song. He instructed about these matters because he was skilled and able.

"Because he wants to" and "because we need a warm body up there" is NOT a reason to have someone lead!! There has to be an element of ability and skill in the LEADING, balanced with the heart and expressiveness in the DOING.

FIND BALANCE IN THE TENSION!!! When Jesus said, **Matt 11:29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me**

Rev 6:5 I looked, and there before me was a black horse! Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.

There is balance in this message between excellence based in ability and work and a heart of worship. If you can't sing, DON'T!! If you are a wonderful singer but do not/cannot worship, DON'T!!

"But I am not as good as Hillsongs or Bethel." "How to un-Hillsongs your songs" should be aMAZing!!!

You are not called to be "like them!!" You are called to be who God created YOU to be, at the very best of your ability, and if the "lid" of your ability just isn't up to par, then either get on your face and show them HOW to worship or get off the stage!!

"We have to do it just like it is on the album!!" NO, YOU DON'T!! You be YOU and allow that song to be a tool to express YOUR worship!!

You will NEVER sound like the album (unless your church has auto-tune). Quit trying to be someone else and risk being who God created and gifted YOU to be WITH EXCELLENCE!!!

David heard about the challenge of Goliath and his first response was: **1 Sam 17:26 "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?"**

"This guy is a reproach on God's people and needs to be addressed. He wants a fight?!? I'll give him a fight!!!" And why?!?

For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

WHO DOES HE THINK HE IS?!?!? HE IS OUTSIDE THE COVENANT!!! God's promises are for US they are NOT for THAT guy!!!

And as soon as David said he would fight Goliath, what did Saul try to do?

1 Sam 17:38-39 Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, 39 and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them.

Saul, who did NOT have courage enough to go to the battle, determined he was qualified to tell David, who WAS willing to go to battle, how the battle had to be fought. “You have to do YOUR thing, MY way!!”

And David’s response was, “No. . . I don’t!!!” **1 Sam 17:40 Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.**

“Aren’t you going to need a sword to finish the job?!?” “No, he’s got one. I’ll just use his!” AND HE DID!!! BECAUSE HE WASN’T TRYING TO DO GOD’S CALL ON HIS LIFE THROUGH SOMEONE ELSE’S POWER!!!

The goal is not the sound. . . The goal is the environment. A place where He can be enthroned. The goal is to create an environment where relationship, love and intimacy can be expressed because He is enthralled in HER beauty, and she is enthralled in HIS being enthralled by HER. . . **and sometimes love colors outside the lines.**

We are broken stones, fashioned together to create a place to offer a sacrifice. And the sacrifice offered on the altar of our corporate lives is **Heb 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.**

As worship leaders it is our responsibility, not to reproduce an album, but to facilitate the expression of the Holy relationship of YOUR fellowship in worship.

And it begins with YOU. How much have you been distracted by the album? By the appearance? By the fancy lights or the smoke machines?

There were no lights, there were no smoke machines, there were no really cool effects being thrown on the screen on the Day of Pentecost when the greatest invasion of the HS into the Church took place.

But there was honesty, willingness and Spirit filled ABILITY. . . and the world was changed!!!