

## Setting your heart free to Sing to God

### I. Slide1 **Announce:**

- A. Slide2-4 Lar: Couple's Pizza. VBS Volunteers. Cars 3. Child's Min summer Volunteers needed.
- B. Slide5a Nate's men's Tues night study *taking a break*.
- C. Slide5b \* Next Sun Night - prayer at 6:30pm.
- D. Prayer: *Don't come with a **thimble** when God has nothing less to give you than **the ocean of Himself***. B.Manning, The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus, pg.208

### II. Slide6 **Intro:** Setting your heart free to Sing to God

- A. Slide7a In 1977 Barry Manilow sang, *I've been alive forever, And I wrote the very first song, I put the words and the melodies together, I am music and **I write the songs**. I write the songs that make the whole world sing. I write the songs of love and special things. I write the songs that make the young girls cry. I write the songs, I write the songs.*
  1. What I found was humorous is that he **didn't** write that song...*Bruce Johnston did.*
    - a) Slide7b Bruce Johnson was a member of *the Beach Boys* filling in for Brian Wilson.
    - b) Johnston stated that, for him, *the "I" in the song is **God**, and that songs come from the spirit of creativity in all of us.*
- B. Slide8a **Songs** are an important part of our lives.
  1. They are key for **expression** (we **express** heart & life through them).
  2. They are key for **instruction** (they **impact** us deeply).
    - a) Songs help us *say* what we wanted to say.
    - b) We put words to the things of our **heart**. **Or**, they help us to guide our heart into what we should be expressing (**i.e.** worship).
- C. Here is David's **Song of Victory**.
  1. **But** keep in mind that he often sang to God **in the midst of** his trials.
    - a) It's easier to sing **after** the victory. It takes faith to sing **during** battle.
- D. This song is repeated, with slight variations in **2 Sam.22**.
  1. **2 Sam.22** was intended to reveal David's heart as he recalls God's Faithfulness.
  2. **Ps.18** seems to have been *modified later* for use as an **aid** in **public worship**.

- a) *Its like*, if I shared one of my poems on a blog & then used it later in a sermon in a different context.
- 3. This is the *longest quote* attributed to David in the whole bible.
- 4. We learn a lot about *watching his life*, but here, the *sweet psalmist of Israel* shares *his very soul*.
- E. *Slide8b Outline: David's Delight, Distress, & Deliverance*. Then *David The Warrior & Worshiper*

### III. *Slide9* **DAVID'S DELIGHT (1-3)**

- A. (Intro/Superscription) Saul was not listed as an *enemy* but was in a different category. *What grace*
- B. (2a) David *did not* take credit for any of his victories; he gave the glory to **God**.
- C. (1,2) *My* - occurs 9 x's in 2 vs.
  - 1. May all of our prayers start off with *praise, adoration, admiration, exaltation*.
    - a) It's simply *setting your heart free* to *sing to God*.
    - b) How *multifaceted* our God is. We can pile 1 expression upon another, but they are all inadequate in *trying* to explain Him.
- D. **Rock** - strength & stability, think *El Capitan*. *eg. River swift current in Burma; I remember getting to the other side & holding onto rock side w/finger tips.*  
*Fortress* - stronghold, *matsada*.  
*Shield* - *magen* (small shield, to block blows & other forms of attack). **Stronghold**.
  - 1. Each are speaking of **God's security**.
  - 2. In every **storm**, David found a *shelter in the Lord*.
- E. *Are you trudging through rough storms/tough times?* Comfort your heart w/David's *images* of God.
  - 1. What images would **you** use today to describe your God? [just getting back from a few days up in Mammoth I would say...snow top *majestic* mountains, huge pines *standing strong, abundant* water from snow melt, etc]

### IV. *Slide10* **DAVID'S DISTRESS (4-6)**

- A. (4-6) David now begins with *the depth* into which he sunk.
  - 1. Mark R noticed the most Psalms were in the **Lament** category (59).

2. **Yet, David could cry & God would hear.** (6)
  - a) There is no *distress so deep*, no *flood so high*, but our cry may rise *like a balloon* right to *the ear of God*.
  - b) God was no distant deity, preoccupied w/other galaxies or concerned w/the changing of the seasons. His God *heard* his voice.
3. **What do you do when your'e drowning in a flood of opposition?** (vs.6 call/cry)

B. **Ex:** In my old *salt water fish tank* there were 3 options for **protection**:

1. **Slide11a Protect yourself.** some carried their protection around with them. *However* doesn't always work. [lil hermit crabs were dying off. Finally I caught a bigger crab I bought, w/his claw down the shell of a hermit crab eating him *like ice cream from a bowl*]
2. **Slide11b Find the protection in others.** Symbiotic relationship (clown fish/Nemo & anemone) which is great, till my anemone died.
3. **Slide11c Find your protection from above.** (in my *salt water tank world* that was *me*, from up above) This *other-worldly* help, that sometimes steps in, *yet always watching*, & removes mean crabs, & deals w/green algae, before it takes over their world.
  - a) This **3rd option** is the best option. It seems foolish at 1st because it is trusting in what you *cannot see*. So **faith** is involved. Its what **activates** this protection. It is *divine*.
  - b) **And** as you begin to place your faith in a **Protection you cannot see**, you begin to experience your faith. Your faith is proven out in experience.
  - c) What we are talking about is *faith in the Living God*.

V. **Slide12 GOD'S DELIVERANCE (7-27)** *David's Theophany* (descriptions sound Ex.19-ish)

A. **THE LORD ARRIVES** (7-15) *The Lord Assists*

B. David describes **God's intervention** as *an earthquake, followed by His arrows of lightening, fire, smoke, darkness, thick clouds, His voice like thunder, winds like the angry breath of His nostrils. God was angry.*

C. Doesn't this make you look at **storms in your life** a little different? When you find out...dark thick black clouds...*He likes to ride on as His chariot.*

- D. **What's God doing?** He is **responding** to those cries. **He's bringing rain** (2 Sm.21:1 cuz a 3yr famine) He's **answering** the call for help in the drought & the famine.
1. **Can you picture Him coming in the same way to answer your cries?** (powerful!!!)
- E. **Slide13 Eg. Icebergs:** In the frigid waters around **Greenland** are countless **icebergs**, some little **and** some **gigantic**. If you'd observe them carefully, you'd notice that sometimes the **small ice floes** move in **one direction** while their **massive counterparts** flow in **another**. The explanation is simple. **Surface winds** drive the little ones, whereas the huge masses of ice are carried along by **deep ocean currents**.
1. **When we face trials and tragedies**, it's helpful to see our lives as being subject to two forces - **surface winds and ocean currents**.
  2. The winds represent everything *changeable, unpredictable, & distressing*. **But** operating *simultaneously* with these gusts & gales is **another force** that's even more powerful. It is the **sure movement** of God's wise & sovereign purposes, the deep flow of His unchanging love.
- F. **Slide14 THE LORD ASSISTS** (16-27)
- G. **With His Provisions** (16-24)
- H. (16) God not only **came down** (9) he **reached down** & plucked David out of dangerous waters
- I. (19a) **He also brought me out into a broad place** - PTL, no longer *tight places*.
1. Ps.46:1 **God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble...or, an abundantly available help in tight places.**
- J. **Slide15 Madame Guyon** (17th cent. French mystic) And what is this "*large place*"? What can it be but **God Himself**, that **infinite Being** in whom all other beings and all other streams of life terminate? God is a *large place* indeed. And it was *through humiliation, through abasement, through nothingness* that David was brought into it.
- K. **Slide16** (19b) **He delivered me because He delighted in me** [Thats the whole message of *Grace*]
1. **Delivered** = rescued. To save from ruin, destruction, or harm.
  2. **Slide17 He delighted in me...Can you say that? Do you even think that?** Oh, not that you were so lovable in *yourself*. **NO**, because **He choose to love you**.
    - a) **Ex:** We all have a friend who choose the **ugliest dog**. You don't see *anything* lovely *at all* in that dog. **But they** really love him. *They're even part of their family now.*

3. Moses told the Israelites, **The Lord did not *set his heart on you* and *choose you* because you were more numerous than other nations, for you were the smallest of all nations!** <sup>8</sup> **Rather**, it was simply that **the Lord loves you.** Dt.7:7,8a

L. Hang on that truth in the midst of your calamity.

1. *Caring for you, He feels your ache. Delighting in you, He will be your security.*<sup>1</sup>
2. Believe it! He *delights in you* saints. Believe it.
3. The battle endures & exhausts you. **But remember**, He rescues you because **He delights in you.** [if you don't hear anything else...hear this!]

M. I remember reading back in 10/31/2011 when the population of earth hit **7 billion**.

1. **Slide18a** I saw a web site (world population cock) that celebrated this event w/a **tee-shirt** that read **Oct.31st,2011 6,999,999,999 + ME** [7.5 bill now]

N. **Slide18b** (20-23) The **theological center** of the poem is found here, as David revealed the reason for his deliverance. **It is because** David was careful to follow the law of the Lord.<sup>2</sup>

1. These verses are **not** a declaration of *sinless perfection*...for David was a sinner like any man. These describe David's **integrity of heart.**

O. **With His Perfect Justice** (25-27)

P. (27) **You will save the humble people** - (lit.) *the grievously afflicted*. (Dict. of Biblical Languages) *the oppressed, poor, i.e., pertaining to being a lowly, needy state, as a class of persons of low status in a society, usually of persons in fiscal poverty, implying a lack of resource.*

1. So we at CM have reached out w/finances & resources & traveling to help **the Rohingya's, the Kurds, the Refugees. The Unaccompanied Minors** who had to flee their countries.

## VI. **Slide19 DAVID THE WARRIOR (28-45) and the Worshipper**

A. The picture here is that of a **courageous warrior** letting nothing stand in the way of **victory**.

1. He's running through a troop **or breaking through the enemies barricades**, even **scaling a wall** to take a city.

<sup>1</sup> Charles Swindoll, David, pg.179.

<sup>2</sup> Shepherd's Notes, 1 & 2 Samuel, pg.88.



- B. (28) You will light my lamp - David could say, **The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?** Ps.27:1 [**Fear???** Uhh, how about *life, failure, the unknown, financial disaster; being laid off, loosing someone you love, a broken heart.*]
1. In the **darkest** times, David found a **Lamp** to light his way.
  2. When days are dark, **the Lord** is our only Light.
- C. (30) His Word is...proven - What is God's Word to you?
1. Are you more concerned with Getting His Word **right**, or getting it **lived out**?
  2. Are you more concerned with stacking your theology in neat piles like **crackers**, or is your desire to squeeze His Word like **grapes** seeking after its **juice**?
  3. Are you more concerned with taking His Word into the laboratory to **dissect** it, or taking it into your soul & **assimilating** it.
- D. (32-34) It is God who...He makes...He teaches - David was a gifted warrior, **but** it was **the anointing power of the Lord** that enabled him to **succeed** on the battlefield.
1. In the strength of the Lord David was invincible.
  2. **Slide20** George Whitefield quote, **We are immortal until our work on earth is done**
  3. **Slide21** or this one...(read slide)
- E. (33) God became David's *Strength, Song, & his Salvation*.
1. If my legs were shaking, I probably would be looking for a place to sit down... **not** bounding up the side of a mountain, like a **deer**.
  2. The Lord gives us **bounding feet** so we can overcome the **obstacles** of life.
  3. God doesn't always change the **circumstances**, **but** He can change **us** to **meet** the circumstances.
  4. **Faith** gives you the ability to stand **sure-footed** like a deer, **&** to be able to **run-swiftly & go higher** than ever before.
  5. Like the **eagle** & like the **deer**, God made us for the **heights**.
    - a) They both will go down into the valley **but** that's not where they **live**. (us too)
    - b) Jesus didn't come to make **life easy** **but** to make **men/women great**.
- F. (35) When you look back on **your** years of difficulties & struggles, do you see **the hardness of life**, or **the gentleness of God**?

1. David affirmed that **his yoke was easy & the burden was light**. Mt.11:28-30
  2. **Your life today may seem hard, keep trusting & obeying. One day God will give you your own victory song**. (Warren Wiersbe)
  3. **Your gentleness has made me great...**is David's amazement that the Lord would **stoop down** to make him great.
    - a) **God the Father condescends** to work in our lives & to fit us for the work of His choosing. Is.57:15 **I dwell in the high & holy place, w/him** who has a **contrite & humble spirit**.
    - b) **God the Son stooped down**, when He came to earth as a man;  
**God the Spirit stooped down**, when He came to live in the lives of the people of God.
- G. (36) **So my feet did not slip** (*turn an ankle*) - w/the Lord as your Lamp in a dark forest you don't see all the trees, **but** you do see a few steps ahead of you. (*Burma night hike/red head-lamp*)
1. **As the Lord lights your path, He may not shine **all** the answers to your shadowy questions in your mind, **but** He will give you the light you need to scale life's obstacles w/confidence & agility.**
- H. (37-45) You might **cringe** as we read his description of his victories (ie. **stepping on their necks**. vs.40)
1. But these are truly **battles of the Lord**. What we really can term "**Just War**."

## VII. Slide22 **DAVID THE WORSHIPER (46-50)**

- A. David's **shout of praise** was his bold witness, to these subjected peoples, **that** their **dead idols** could **not save nor protect** them.
1. Only Jehovah, the God of Israel, is the true & living God. **God was his Champion**.
- B. Slide23 Review:
1. **What thrilled the heart of David? God Himself!** (mentioned at least **19 x's**)
  2. David saw **God** in the affairs of his life, **both sunny days & in stormy seasons**.
  3. David saw God's **purposes** in his life, w/Israel & **rejoiced** to be a part of it.
  4. David saw God's **gentle hand**, despite **trials, troubles & trauma** along the way.
    - a) David's **battleground** turned into his **proving ground** for his faith.
      - (1) **And this can be our experience as well**.

- C. Slide24 David, a *Warrior that fights on his feet; but equally comfortable as, a Worshiper falling on his face.* [Warriors & Worshipers]
- D. **Pray:** Lord, whom have we but **You**? Only **You** can satisfy our *thirsty souls*...**You** are an endless spring. Your water is free, all other streams are dry.
- E. \* Try setting time aside this week to *set your heart free to sing to God.*  
Maybe jot down how *multifaceted* your God is.