



A CALL TO WORSHIP, PART II

**1 CHRONICLES 16:23-
39, 36 (B) NRSV**

***A Sermon BY
Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley***

**OCTOBER
20TH**

11AM



Date & Service October 20, 2024,
Preacher: Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley
Sermon Title: *A Call to Worship, Part II*
Scripture: 1 Chronicles 16:23-39, 36(b) NRSV

SERMON SUMMARY

In part two of Pastor Wesley's sermon series, "*A Call to Worship*," he emphasizes the importance of worship and cautions that in contemporary Christianity, we risk becoming people who enjoy church but neglect true worship. Pastor Wesley explains that worship should serve as an act of deliverance, freeing us from the things in life that bind us.

He recaps part one of the series, where David calls Israel to worship God in 1 Chronicles 16. David successfully returns the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem in this passage. Pastor Wesley reminds us that the Ark of the Covenant was the carrying case that held the tablets inscribed by Moses with God's Word. After its return, David commands all of Israel to come and worship. The three key points from part one were that worship is:

1. A Call to Reverence the Sovereignty of God
2. A Display of Defiance
3. Connected to the WORTHship of God

In part two, Pastor Wesley introduces three additional points about the significance of worship:

1. When We Worship, **We Request the Support of God**
 - a. Worship is an admission that we need God's help to navigate life's challenges, which first begins by reverencing who God is.
 - b. When we acknowledge who God is, it forces us to recognize the limitations of our humanity.

2. When We Worship, **We Realign Ourselves with the Sacred Word of God**
 - a. In 1 Chronicles 16, the call to worship follows the return of the Ark because wherever the Ark went, the power of God was revealed.
 - b. Like Israel, we come to worship seeking realignment after facing life's "potholes" like rejection, sickness, and trauma.
3. When We Worship, **We Rehearse the Salvation of God**
 - a. In verses 19-22, David reminds Israel of everything God had done for them.
 - b. Worship is a time of thanksgiving, where we reflect on God's salvation. As we gather in the sanctuary, we rehearse our worship and thanksgiving, so we can carry that praise with us throughout the week, remembering how God has guided and blessed us.

The sermon concludes with an illustration about visiting the doctor after unsuccessfully trying to self-treat a sinus infection. The doctor asked him, "How long have you been dealing with this?" Pastor Wesley explained that he had been suffering for three weeks and only decided to see the doctor after trying to treat it on his own. She then asked, "Why did you wait so long to come to me?" God asks us the same question. Before life falls apart, God wants us to bring our worries and concerns to God. As a sovereign and loving God, God listens to our requests, and because of who God is, He is always worthy of our praise.

KEY POINTS

1. Everything God does in your life is meant to lead you to a place of worship.
2. Worship is the act of surrendering control of your life to God.
3. The magnitude of God's sovereignty forces you to confront your human limitations.
4. Struggles with our personal worship often stem from an over-reliance of self.
5. The common cliché that "God will never give you more than you can bear" is misleading. God sometimes allows so much to fall in your lap, so that you realize just how much you need God.
6. God's stock in our lives increases each day, not because God's supply diminishes, but because our need for God grows daily.

7. You come to church to worship because the “potholes” of life leave you needing God’s word to realign your life.
8. Every once in a while you need to be reminded of what God has done for you and how good God has been in your life to truly worship.
9. Sunday worship in the sanctuary is rehearsal (practice) for how we are to live our lives beyond the church walls.
10. Instead of trying to handle things on your own, God is asking, “Why are you waiting so long to come to me?” You should turn to God first because God is sovereign.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU QUESTIONS

1. Pastor Wesley talked about how a tour guide at the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture points out the important things you might miss if you took the tour on your own. Looking back over your life, who have been the “tour guides” in your spiritual journey (i.e. the people who helped you see God’s hand at work and reminded you of God’s goodness)?
2. There are many expressions of worship; some dance, some shout, some sing, some cry. Please share your most recent memory of worship expression and why that particular experience resonates/is exceptional. Which form or worship do you want to use more in the future and why?

INTO THE BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. In [Daniel 6:10-23](#), Daniel's worship was an act of defiance letting King Darius know the limits of his power over him. By continuing to worship God, Daniel declared that God—not the king—had the final say in his life. How did Daniel's faith in God's sovereignty strengthen him to defy the law and worship? What "lion's den" in your life can you confront through an unwavering commitment to worship and trust in God's power?

2. In [2 Samuel 12:1-13](#), the prophet Nathan confronted David with his sin, and then David sought realignment through repentance and worship. David's worship in [Psalm 51](#) reflects his plea for a clean heart and a renewed spirit. How can David's vulnerability inspire you to seek God's Word for realignment after life's "potholes" knock you off track?

LIFE APPLICATION QUESTIONS

1. Just as Pastor Wesley delayed his medical visit, sometimes we delay asking God for help with our challenges. Reflect on a time when you were slow to ask God for help, comfort, guidance, etc. What practices can help us seek God's help sooner rather than later?

2. The sermon reminds us that God is worthy of our praise, not only because of what God does but because of who God is. How can you shift your focus from worshiping God for blessings to worshiping God simply for being God?

3. Pastor Wesley compares himself to a tour guide who points out meaningful things that one might otherwise miss. How can you lead others to see God's goodness in their daily lives? What practical steps might you take to remind others of God's faithfulness?

4. Recognizing the power of the word of God requires that we study the word. We have been advised to *"Read your Bible, it'll make you a better Christian."* How can we improve our practices of reading scripture to enhance our worship?

5. The message points to the prophet Isaiah who admitted he was a sinful man in need of God's support. We too must face our weaknesses and remind ourselves that God is BIGGER. How do we reconcile our 'smallness' in a world that demands our strength in the face of personal adversity?

***"CAN I PUSH IT?"* QUESTIONS**

1. In a world where we are often divided by politics and social issues, how does our worship of a sovereign God challenge us to love and seek unity beyond our differences? If we truly believe that God reigns over all, how should that shape the way we respond to those with whom we disagree?

2. How can remembering God's deliverance in the past empower us to challenge present-day systems of oppression, such as racism, economic inequality, mass incarceration, and discrimination?

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

1. In recapping part I of *A Call to Worship*, Pastor Wesley described worship as an act of defiance that declares to the enemy that he has no control over our lives. In what ways can worship inspire us to build new paradigms that actively confront and dismantle oppressive systems?
2. Like Uzzah, some of us have suffered the consequences of not following God's commands. Describe an occurrence where you and/or others suffered the consequences of a decision not to obey God's will. After facing the consequences, was there a realignment with God's Word?
3. As we navigate life's challenges, Pastor Wesley mentioned that God's "stock" increases in our lives, not because the supply of God decreases, but because our need for God grows. In what ways does your worship deepen as you realize God's significance in your life continues to rise with every challenge you face?
4. We are reminded that the sanctuary is set apart from the secular world. It is a special place for worship. Yet we also know that God tabernacles with us, thus we can worship at any time in any space. Aside from the walls of a traditional church building, where have you experienced authentic worship?

5. God has a way of getting us back on track when we drift away from Him. Describe a personal experience that you believe was God's way of realigning/redirecting/correcting you. Did the shift lead you to something new, away from something harmful, or both?

INDIVIDUAL OR VILLAGE STUDY

SPIRIT WORK/ACTIVITY

Realignment as a Form of Worship

This activity invites participants to reflect on the power of God's Word to realign their lives with God's will. It focuses on how worship is not only an emotional or musical experience but a realignment of the heart and soul to the holiness and truth of God.

Instructions:

1. **Identify a Pothole:** Reflect on a "pothole" in your spiritual life — a place where you feel spiritually misaligned or stuck. This could be a recent challenge, a difficult relationship, or an area of personal weakness.
2. **Activate the Word:** Spend time reading **Psalm 119:105 (or any other verse)** — "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of your life that need realignment through His Word.
3. **Write Your Prayer for Realignment:** Write a heartfelt prayer asking God to realign your life according to His Word. Be specific about the areas where you need His guidance and correction.
4. **Worship through Action:** In the days following this assignment, take a tangible action step in response to the alignment you seek. This might be mending a relationship, creating a new habit of devotion, or stepping out on faith in an area of fear.

OR

Hymn Reading and Listening Spirit Work

- 1) **Read the Lyrics:** Take a moment to read the lyrics of "Amazing Grace." Consider the following lines:
 - "Amazing grace! How sweet the sound"

- "That saved a wretch like me"
 - "I once was lost, but now am found"
- 2) **Reflection:** As you read, pay attention to the meaning behind each line. What emotions do these words evoke? How do they relate to your personal experiences of grace?
 - 3) **Listen to the Hymn:** [Play a recording of "Amazing Grace."](#) by Aretha Franklin, and as you listen, focus on how the melody complements the message of the lyrics. What feelings arise as you hear this hymn?
 - 4) **Reflection:** Take a few minutes to write in your journal. Use the following prompts to guide your thoughts:
 - What does grace mean to me?
 - How have I experienced God's grace in my life?
 - What moments of transformation can I identify in my journey?
 - 5) **Discussion:** Think about the following questions:
 - How does "Amazing Grace" inspire my worship?
 - How can I express gratitude for God's grace in my worship?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Video: Bible Project-Summary of the Books of Chronicles](#)