

**Sermon Series: Intentional Disciples—Purposeful Worship—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—1/22/2006**

**Title:** “Developing daily patterns of worship”

**Text:** Psalm 119: 164-168

**Intro.:** *Ills.:* Acknowledging the Creator

**Theme:** Because of what God has done for us through Jesus, our response of praise cannot be confined to one, one-hour time-frame a week; rather it becomes part of the rhythm and pattern of our daily life.

***Building worship into the schedule of the day (Print vs. 164)***

- A practice of believers from ancient times
  1. Old Testament believers understood life is impossible to live without God’s continual presence
    - a. David (*Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice. Ps 55: 17*)
    - b. Daniel prayed 3x’s a day (*Now when Daniel knew that the document was signed, he entered his house (now in his roof chamber he had windows open toward Jerusalem); and he continued kneeling on his knees three times a day, praying and giving thanks before his God, as he had been doing previously. Daniel 6: 10*)
  2. Peter and John going to the temple in the “9<sup>th</sup> hour” to pray (*Acts 3: 1*)
  3. Early Christian church’s canonical hours (noon through evening every three hours held worship)
- Setting the discipline and habit of regular prayer time throughout day
  1. Bringing God into every hour by communing with him and dwelling in him
    - a. Intentional dwelling in God — worship CD’s, radio, family devotion (am/pm)
    - b. *And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. Phil4:7-8*
  2. Bringing God’s name on your lips into every daily circumstance (family, work, relationships, conversations)
    - a. *They shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power; To make known to the sons of men Your mighty acts and the glory of the majesty of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations. Psalm 145:11-3*
    - b. **Ills.: Reflected glory**

***Establishing hourly peace oases to quench a thirsty soul (Print vs. 165-168)***

- Often with parched souls we try to navigate the waste lands of life without our Creator
  1. **Ills.: “Come thirsty” quote**
  2. Signs of parched souls are: no peace, guilt laden, constantly stirred-up, living in fear
  3. If you have time to be consumed by it, worry about it, be angry over it, you have time to bring it back to the Father
- David says that we come back in worship throughout the day that the Lord grants peace
  1. Word generated worship —when you read something in a devotional, stopping and talking with God about it
    - a. Devotional reading which leads to a thought, a confession, an expression of love to God — take time to do it
    - b. **Print and read Psalm 139: 1-6** --Praying through a Psalm passage -- (demonstrate how to)
  2. Practice the worship of letting go so that you can receive Jesus’ peace in its place
    - a. **Ills.: example of opening hand during a meeting**
    - b. *"Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful. John 14: 27*
- Not afraid of the worship of silence (**Print 166a** *I wait for Your salvation, O Lord*)
  1. We are uncomfortable with being alone with God, when deafening silence ensues
    - a. Allowing for God to bring to light my sin and need (*For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength. Isaiah 30:15*)
    - b. Being willing to listen for what God brings to the table for our life (*The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the person who seeks Him. It is good that he waits silently for the salvation of the Lord. Lament 3: 25-26*)
  2. It is O.K. to be alone with God in worship . . .
    - a. **Because he is your savior** — opening the door for you through Jesus and inviting you in
    - b. *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 1 John 2: 1*
    - c. Because God is your Creator — knowing you better than you know yourself — so be intimate with him
    - d. *O Lord, You have searched me and known me...such knowledge is too wonderful for me. Psalm 139: 1-6*

### Acknowledging the Creator

My wife and I recently went on vacation, and as is our habit we brought along a camera and several rolls of film. Upon our return my wife began proudly showing off our latest set of vacation photos, and then each day she'd relate her coworkers' reactions to me. After a few days of this I noticed a recurring theme in her friends' reactions. Invariably, people would say, "Wow, your husband must have a really nice camera!" Even though people liked my photos, I was disappointed. I wanted them to acknowledge what a good photographer I am, not what a good camera I have. After a week of this I ranted to my wife: "Why do people do this? Nobody looks at a painting and says, 'Nice brushes!' Nobody looks at a skyscraper and says, 'Nice drafting table!' Nobody looks at a sculpture and says, 'Nice chisel!' What's wrong with these people? It felt good to get that off my chest. Until my wife reminded me, "So, how often do you look at creation and say, 'Nice work, God!'" **Richard Tatum, Christianity Today International Web Project Manager, Carol Stream, Illinois**

### Worship doesn't satisfy

Worship does not satisfy our hunger for God; it whets our appetite. **Eugene H. Peterson. Leadership, Vol. 16, no. 1.**

### God-absorbed life

We are called to an everlasting preoccupation with God. **A.W. Tozer, That Incredible Christian. Christianity Today, Vol. 41, no. 5.**

### Reflected glory

The other night I took a walk. It was a full moon, so bright that I cast a shadow as I walked along. But of course the moon has no light of its own. It shone, and it lit us up so brightly, because the sun was shining on it. It merely reflected the sun's light. In the same way, we have no glory of our own, only such as is reflected from the light of Christ that shines upon us. That is what we live for: to bask in that radiance, to reflect it, to bring it to the world around us, not for our own sake but for the praise of his glory.

### Come Thirsty

Your body needs water the same way a tire needs air. In fact, your maker wired you with thirst—a "low-fluid indicator." Let your fluid level grow low, and watch the signals flare. Dry mouth. Thick tongue. Achy head. Weak knees. Deprive your body of necessary fluid, and your body will tell you. Deprive your soul of spiritual water, and your soul will tell you. Dehydrated hearts send desperate messages. Snarling tempers. Waves of worry. Growling mastodons of guilt and fear. You think God wants you to live with these? Hopelessness. Sleeplessness. Loneliness. Resentment. Irritability. Insecurity. These are warnings. Symptoms of a dryness deep within...View the pains of your heart, not as struggles to endure, but as an inner thirst to slake—proof that something within you is starting to shrivel. Treat your soul as you treat your thirst. Take a gulp. Imbibe moisture. Flood your heart with a good swallow of water. "*Come Thirsty*," by Max Lucado. Wpulsishing group (division of Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 2004, pp. 11-12.

### **Psalm 119:164-168**

<sup>164</sup>Seven times a day I praise You, because of Your righteous justice.

<sup>165</sup>Those who love Your law have great peace, and nothing causes them to stumble.

<sup>166</sup>I wait for Your salvation, O Lord, and do Your commandments.

<sup>167</sup>My soul guards Your written instructions, and I love them exceedingly.

<sup>168</sup>I guard Your precepts and Your written instructions, because my whole life is in front of you.

### **Psalm 139:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, You have searched me and known me.

<sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; You understand my thought from afar.

<sup>3</sup>You scrutinize my path and my lying down, and are intimately acquainted with all my ways.

<sup>4</sup>Even before there is a word on my tongue, behold, O LORD, You know it all.

<sup>5</sup>You have enclosed me behind and before, and laid Your hand upon me.

<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is *too* high, I cannot attain to it.