

Series Title: **Refreshed and Restored: A Summer in the Psalms**

Message Title: **'Shine'**

Scripture Text: **Psalm 150**

Speaker: John Garner

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Singing Praises

We do it often...we sing someone's or something's praises. A restaurant, a movie, a book, an experience, a friendship...we sing the praises with passion, enthusiasm, and almost always with details. Illustrate:

Is there a restaurant you have ever heard me speak highly of? _____
Is there a church leader that I think highly of? _____

We sing the praises of athletes, celebrities, politicians...and the list goes on. We are hard wired to put the 'spot light' on what we deem admirable, virtuous, worthy of praise. Our lives can be wonderfully enriched by certain people and settings. We can be inspired and shaped by specific people. Illustrate: a parent, a teacher, a well known person

And Then There's God: Psalm 150

This last song in a richly textured 'book of songs' is a passionate, exuberant call to 'sing the praises' of God. Read from the Message rendering. There is nothing staid and predictable about this holy and happy invitation. Let's look a little more deeply and expectantly at these action oriented words...words that shimmer with life and spirit.

The first big word is 'praise'...it is used 12 times by my count...always as a word that describes an engaged action to, for, and with God. What does this word actually mean?

"to shine, to make shine, to give forth a clear and distinct sound, to make illustrious, glorious, celebrate" At the heart of praising God...the eternal, unchanging, and faithful God... is this stunning privilege and responsibility to make God's character and conduct known...by how we live, speak, act, work...and worship in community, with music. That's the focus today.

Music Moves Us

Music is an incredibly powerful force in our lives. Certain songs stir something deep with us...a memory, a yearning, a regret, a thank you. Illustrate: Les Miserables: rich and real lyrics, played and sung with passion and skill does something to us and within us. Should that not happen with music played and sung in what we call 'worship services/gatherings'? Should we not experience a stirring of the heart as well as an educating of the mind and a challenge to the will to act, in some way with and for God? Hold that thought!

Texture

There is nothing boring about the worship gathering described here. Far from it! There is purpose, collaboration, enthusiasm and personal engagement throbbing in this passage.

There is 'texture' of location: Vs. 1 here and there, everywhere

There is 'texture' of purpose: Vs.2 Note the word: 'for'...praise God for what He has done on the behalf of humanity.

There is 'texture' of collective and interdependent worship music Vss.3-5...seriously this is amazing.

Check out the roster of instruments and movements: trumpet, "harp and lyre:12 strings played by hand...expressing joy or sorrow...tambourine (timbrel) thin wooden rim covered with a membrane,

Nahum 2:7, expressing joy or sorrow...ok, now it gets interesting...'praise him with dancing...to twist, to turn, perhaps with music...strings and flute...various kinds of music mixed together in symphony...wind instrument, with one pipe or many pipes (organ)...cymbals, to make heard, to produce a loud, clanging sound."

Within this amazing 'texture' of sounds and sights is the singular focus: the living God...his character and conduct, many expressions recorded in Scripture and revealed ultimately in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. God shines forth when his people sing, play and worship Him with humility, heart, skill, and passionate enthusiasm.

Historical Examples of Skilled and Passionate God Worship

The Jewish nation is delivered from captivity and then experience the miracle of the parting of the Red Sea. Exodus 14:29-31. After the miracle, a worship song. On another occasion, David offers a praise song to God...God shine forth in David's words and action. 2 Samuel 22:1-51. Skill and passion matter: 1 Chronicles 15:16-22, 16:4-36, 24:6-8. There is no room for just 'winging it' because we haven't invested time, heart, and energy to praise God well.

What shines in these songs? Truths about who God is and what he has done for people. It is not complicated, but it does require thought and reflection upon God's 'acts of power' and his 'surpassing greatness.'

Time to Shine

We are called to worship God with song, movement, purpose, heart and action. Hebrews 13:15-16, Colossians 3:16. And as we learn to 'make God shine' we are refreshed and restored along the way, over and over again. Here are some things that happen within us and amongst us...experiences that await us.

1. A Perspective Shaping experience – see God more clearly for who he is and what he has done and can do. See life and ourselves more clearly and accurately.
2. A Hope Infusing experience – we are reminded that God is faithful, powerful and loving, including when life is hard, and hope is rekindled. He can be counted on to guide and provide for us in the journey. When we remember how Christ Jesus has saved us from the power of sin and is enabling us to mature, we are infused with hope, again. Romans 15:13
3. A Character Refining experience- humbled, led to repent at times, led to change and grow, to become more like Jesus
4. A Response Oriented experience – All of life to be lived with purpose, resilience, and enthusiasm, so that the grace and truth of Jesus shine brightly and consistently from our imperfect yet learning to trust God lives.

What About You? Vs. 6

"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD." Are you helping with your life and participation, helping make God shine, 'clearly and distinctly' in a world hungry for grace and truth? And as we join together, Sunday to Sunday, God will touch broken lives, feed hungry souls, in part as we 'shine' in worship...singing His praises with heart and purpose.

Psalm 40:3-4 "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to God.

Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD."

And that delights the heart of the One we yearn to see shine forth, through us, that's you and that's me, and that's us, together...shining! And in our shining, Jesus is seen by the seeking heart and is found to be all we sing and say He is.