



Sermon Series Notes

AN IRREVERENT ATTITUDE IN WORSHIP

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I Samuel 3:1; 3:21-4:1... the word first came to Eli the priest. Eli was a failure as a priest and a parent; his sons were wicked and he did nothing to restrain them. Eli's family reflected the spiritual climate of the day. In I Sam. 4 the Israelites go out to fight the Philistines; Israel loses and 4,000 Israelites die. They go and get the ark of the covenant... but they try to use it more like a good luck charm; they go to battle against the Philistines and this time 30,000 Israelites die, including Eli's two wicked sons Hophni and Phineas. When Eli gets word, he falls off his chair, breaks his neck, and dies. His daughter-in-law, wife of wicked Phineas, is pregnant, but in giving birth is overcome by her labor pains and dies. She names her baby boy "Ichabod" meaning "no glory" because the glory had departed from Israel.

The Philistines take the ark to Ashdod, set it up beside their chief god Dagon. Next day Dagon is found fallen on his face before the ark. They pick Dagon up and put him back in his place. (NOTE: if you have to help your god up when he falls, you might want to consider worshipping a different god!) The following morning they again found Dagon fallen face down before the ark. This time his head and hands had been broken off. God afflicts the people of Ashdod with tumors (hemorrhoids), so they sent the ark to Gath; same thing happens to them. So they send the ark to Ekron—same results.

So they put the ark on a cart... it heads to Beth Shemesh (6:19). So the people of Beth Shemesh asked the Israelites in Kiriath Jearim to come and take the ark. They take it to the house of Abinidab, appointing a man named Eleazer to guard it. And for the next 20 years that's where it remained (7:2).

Fast forward 20 years... II Sam. 6:1-16, 20-23.

The difference in David's first attempt vs. second... see I Chron. 15:1-2, 11-15.

Three irreverent acts in this story:

1. Abandoned worship without walking in the truth.
2. A critical family member who ends up barren.

* Michal not only did not participate in the public worship with the rest of the congregation, but her attitude suggests there is something not right in her heart toward the Lord. Could I Samuel 19:13 be a clue?

3. A leader who failed to investigate and instruct his people in reverent worship according to the word of God.

Prerequisites to Reverent Worship:

1. Repent of a casual attitude (which is irreverent).
 - a. As I sat in the back last weekend during Mike and Pam Rozelle's presentation, I noticed how many people came in late. If you treated your job that way, you would not have a job for long. Most people I know do not show up late for a date, a movie, a concert.
 - b. *Living in His Presence*, p. 128.
2. As a Christian, realize how much you've been forgiven (Luke 7:36-47).
3. Become more God-conscious than self-conscious.
 - a. David
 - b. Mark 14:1-9; John 12:1-8
 - c. Don't allow criticism to curtail your abandoned adoration... sometimes the critic is your spouse, a family member; sometimes it's other disciples!
4. Practice biblical expression in worship.
 - a. Bowing (Phil 2:6-10; Ex. 4:29-31; 12:26-27; 34:5-8a; I Chron. 29:20; Neh. 8:5-6; Job 1:20-21; Ps. 95:6; Matt. 2:11a; Rev. 5:6-14; 11:16)

b. Lifting hands in prayer (Psalm 28:2; 88:9; 141:2; 143:6; I Tim. 2:8). But the Bible also mentions lifting hands in praise (Ps. 63:4; 134:2).

c. Clapping (Ps. 47:1)

d. Shouting (Ps. 24:4-5; 33:3-4; 35:26-27; 66:1-2; 81:1; 95:1; 100:1-5; Isa. 12:6; Zech. 2:10-11; 9:9)

e. Dancing (Ps. 150:4; II Sam. 6:14)

Benefits of a Church Filled with Reverent Worshippers:

1. Heaven's pleasure (John 4:23-24; Deut.6:5).

2. Increased ministry

a. Eph.5:19-20

b. The power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:25-26).

3. People set free

CONCLUSION

* Giglio p. 99-100