

Turkey 2009
S-Session #1 The Practicality Of Praise
1/23/2009 8:13 AM

***BANNER PROCESSIONAL

Use at the beginning or conclusion of worship segment in this session (or Thurs.Nite teaser)

JULIE

A few years ago the Chicago Tribune reported the story of a New Mexico woman who was frying TORTILLAS when

SLIDE #: she noticed that the skillet burns on one of her tortillas resembled the face of Jesus.

SLIDE #: Excited, she showed it to her husband and neighbors, and they all agreed that it truly looked like Jesus. (It kind of looks like Adam Sandler to me!)

Mrs. Rubio went to her priest to have the tortilla blessed. She testified that the tortilla had changed her life, and her husband agreed that she has been more peaceful, happy, submissive wife since the tortilla had arrived. The priest blessed her Jesus tortilla

SLIDE #: Mrs. Rubio quit her job as a maid to attend full-time to the hastily constructed "Shrine of the Holy Tortilla" in her home. She mounted the relic in a wooden frame under glass, amidst a puffy wad of cotton making it appear as if Tortilla Jesus was just inside the Pearly Gates.

Within a few months, more than eight thousand people came to the shrine of the Jesus of the Tortilla.

The image has faded to a half dozen brown spots and a wiggly burnt blotch.

In 2005, Mrs. Rubio's granddaughter took Tortilla Jesus to school for Show and Tell and dropped it. The shrine has been closed and the remains retired to a drawer in the Rubio's home.

By the way,

SLIDE #: Here is the fish stick Jesus.

SLIDE #: Here is the French Toast Jesus

Everybody worships. When men reject the true God, they will worship gods of their own invention.

ROGER

SLIDE #: Stone images (Acts 17:29-30)

SLIDE #: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (Acts 19:27-29)

Worship Diana, ugly, gross, black cow looking beast who fell from heaven from whose paps the whole world was supposed to suck its life.

SLIDE #: Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

Worship beast and false prophet; great whore riding on the beast; their own economy, money and politics; and it will all come crashing down (Revelation 13:3-4). The whole world was astonished and followed the beast.

If an alien were to come to earth from Mars to U.S., what would he say is America's god?

Depends on what day he arrives! Especially on Sunday in the Fall!

SLIDE #: Balls. We worship footballs, ping pong balls, baseballs, hand balls, basketballs, beach balls, racquet balls, tennis balls, volley balls!

SLIDE #: Gods of War

SLIDE #: God's of Sex

JULIE

SLIDE #: Josh and Emily

Josh says you are the best thing that ever happened to Him.

Josh says marrying you was the wisest thing he ever did.

Josh says your eyes sparkle like diamonds.

Both newly weds tingling with delight.

God loves to have His heart tingled.

We tingle it through praise.

SLIDE #: ISAIAH 43:20-21: The wild animals honor me, the jackals and the owls, because I provide water in the desert and streams in the wasteland, to give drink to my people, my chosen, the people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise.

SLIDE #: Psalm 104:1: Praise the LORD, O my soul.

I know of no greater thought to enter the mind of man than this: I can bless the Lord.

DRAW SLIDE #: Worship Experience: Tend to think that you in the congregation are the audience and that the Preacher and the Song Leader are the Actors and God up in Heaven is the Prompter or Director.

We need to change that perception entirely. God is the Audience. You are the actors. We up here are the Directors or Prompters in public worship.

People say, "Well, I came to church and I didn't get much out of it today." To a large degree, we are not here to get something out of it. We are here so that God gets something out of it.

Not getting much out of my quiet times - there to give!!!!

ROGER

Let Me Give To You THREE SUGGESTIONS AS TO WHAT PRAISE IS.

SLIDE #: 1. PRAISE IS RECALLING GOD'S MIGHTY ACTS OF POWER (WHAT HE HAS DONE THROUGH HISTORY AND IN OUR LIVES).

VIDEO SLIDE: (CARDBOARD TESTIMONIES VIDEO)

One of the best reasons for studying the Old Testament is so that we can recite in praise what we have learned about Him.

Highlight Psalm 77 to see an example of someone praising God for His actions in the past.

Let me show you a wonderful way to praise God when you get up in the morning.

Maybe you have a problem or some anxiety and so you start like this:

"Lord, I want to praise you for a few moments. You are the God who always was and who always will be and you're the God who exists as three persons in one and one day you stepped out on the edge of nothingness and scattered the stars and you are the God who created the world and you're the God who made man you are the God who began his redemption in the garden and you brought Israel out of Egypt and parted the Red Sea and guarded Israel by the pillar of fire and brought water out of the rock and provided manna from heaven and you're the God who protected the people with angels and you're the God who did this and that and you keep marching through history.

"You're the God who raised the dead and sent the Messiah and raised the Messiah from the dead and gave power to the Apostles. And God, I have this problem. I can't decide whether to wear the brown pants or the blue ones."

SLIDE #: 2. PRAISE IS RECITING THE MARVELOUS ASPECTS OF GOD'S CHARACTER (HOW HIS PERSONALITY AND CHARACTER TRAITS ENHANCE OUR LIVES).

In Exodus 33:18 Moses was returning from Mt Sinai. Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

Glory manifested as Light (transfiguration of Jesus)

Exodus 33:21-23; Exodus 34:5-7: Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand Then the LORD came and he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished ...

JULIE

God's care and protection for my life-First song I ever wrote was at the age of three. I played it upon my toy piano for hours. The words were "Little angel, Little angel Mine." Even at that young age I believe God was showing me He had a guardian angel meant just for me.

SLIDE #: We met Brie's guardian angel when she was 6 months old. (bathtub story)

ROGER

A constant recitation of the characteristics of God in the midst of trouble brings great peace.

David gets into a problem. He is fleeing from Absalom or Saul or the Philistines or someone and he crouches under a plant and begins to pour out his heart about all of his troubles to God. Invariably he stops in mid sentence and begins to recite the attributes of God: "God, you're powerful...mighty...kind...loving...all seeing...all knowing...and on and on he would go on down the line talking about the attributes of God's character.

After a while, although there had been no change in his circumstances, he would begin to say, "This is terrific God; I am so excited about you and how you are going to solve my problem!"

Reciting the attributes of God was such a tremendous sustenance to him. We need to teach our minds to think in patterns like that so that our praise is on the character of God.

That is what Habakkuk did. Won't ask you to turn to the little book of Habakkuk. Happiness is sitting next to someone who knows where Habakkuk is.

SLIDE #: Habakkuk prays, "How long will I cry God and you won't bring a revival in Israel? Do something, God. Do something! Bring Revival!"
God says, "I am doing something. I am bringing the Babylonians to wipe you guys out."
Habakkuk says, "Wait a minute. I didn't ask for that! How can you send those nasty Babylonians? They are worse than the Israelites. We are at least more righteous than they are!"

Then, he stops and begins to recite God's attributes. "Wait a minute, God. You're a mighty God. You are a God that we can trust. You are eternal. You were here before it all began and you will be here long after it is all ended. After all, you are loving and you always have our ultimate best interests at heart. All right. I believe that you know what you are doing. Go ahead and handle it your way. I don't care if the storms come and the crops fail. I still will trust and believe in you."

You see, the recitation of the attributes of the character of God becomes a strength in any trial.

JULIE

SLIDE #: 3. PRAISE IS THANKING HIM BOTH FOR HIS ACTIONS AND FOR HIS CHARACTER.

Praise rises out of a thankful heart.

Luke 17:11-19: Jesus heals ten lepers; sends them into town to priests.
Only one in ten came back to give thanks - "thus glorifying God."

Saying "thank You" is not natural to us.
For example, most pastors teach Psalm 31 as a report card for women.
It is actually a praise card for the great job she does.

Proverbs 31 written by Lemuel's mom to appreciate the godly women in his life.

Turkey Baster Story

When we recite His attributes and recite His works and thank Him for everything, we discover that that is praise. As we praise God we find a resource that provides incredible strength for our own lives.

Focus on the thanks in this story: (My father is a remarkable man. He is a faithful man, and God has shown His faithfulness to me through my father. Five times he had a heart attack and the doctors said he wouldn't live, and he always came back. He would have strokes (sending little blood clots to his brain) and they said he would never see again and he not only sees, but makes beautiful pottery. We gave my parents a party for their fortieth wedding anniversary because everyone was sure he would never make it to a fiftieth anniversary. My parents are still serving God and just celebrated their sixtieth anniversary! God has showed Himself faithful to my godly father.

ROGER

When Moses returned from Mount Sinai, he was bathed with God's shekinah glory, and spoke these revealing words about praising God in

SLIDE #: Deuteronomy 10:14-22: "To the LORD your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it. Yet the LORD set his affection on your forefathers and loved them....For the LORD your God is ... the great God, mighty and awesome. He is your

praise; He is your God, who performed for you those great and awesome wonders you saw with your own eyes.”

EXERCISE SLIDE #1: Choose one of the three ways mentioned above to honor God and spend time praising God together around your table.

You may praise God for powerful acts that He has performed in your life or country,
You may praise His attributes (His holiness, His unconditional love, etc.)

Or you may thank Him both for what He has done and who He is. Be very specific.

Every person at the table should share one of these: acts of power, attributes, thanksgiving for both.

For example,

- “God, I praise you that you kept me from being arrested by the secret police last week. You protected and delivered me.”
- “God, I praise You because you are all-knowing. No sin of mine, no failure or lack of faith surprises You. You know me and provide forgiveness for my failings.”
- “I thank you that You called me to serve you in this country. You have empowered me with Your boldness to share the gospel even when I am afraid and unsure of myself.”

JULIE

SLIDE #: PRAISE WITH THANKSGIVING OPENS THE DOOR INTO THE THRONE ROOM OF THE LORD (PSALM 100:4).

PSALM 100: 4: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

There is a gate into the worship experience, whether private, personal, public, or corporate. Trying to come into worship without praise is like trying to crash through the courtyard fence. The gate is thanksgiving and praise, and it ushers us into the mid-court of God's glorious presence.

ROGER

DRAW SLIDE: TEMPLE DIAGRAM

Worship from insight – out.

Temple diagram: Body, Soul and Spirit.

Matthew 5:8: Pure in heart see God.

PRAISE AND WORSHIP ARE NOT THE SAME.

Praise is unidirectional - we praise God; He does not praise us.

Praise requires no response from the one who is being praised; it is one-way communication.

Worship, however, is relational; it is not only our licking His hand, but His response to us.

JULIE

SLIDE #: PRAISE OFTEN PRECEDES MIRACULOUS DELIVERANCE.

READ PSALM 50:23

ROGER

Three choice examples:

Jehoshaphat informed that coalition of enemies is advancing against him in such numbers that there was no possibility of survival. READ 2 CHRONICLES 20:15, 18-24. "Give thanks" in verse 21 is "yadah" which means to life hands to the Lord. This they went into battle.

See Jonah in the belly of the great fish. As soon as Jonah prayed and praised, the fish vomited him out. READ JONAH 2:9.

Paul and Silas are in prison and stocks in Philippi. At midnight they sing and pray and the earthquake comes. READ ACTS 16:25.

JULIE

One of our missionary friends to Mexico is named Larry Hagberg. God told him many years before that he would suffer a life-threatening illness but that God would raise him up. When he contracted a very serious form of cancer, the Holy Spirit gave him this verse: I shall not die but I shall live and declare the works of the Lord. His wife would walk by his hospital room and hear him shouting that verse at the top of his lungs. Nancy believes God heard Larry's unwavering faith in his promise and kept him alive.

Another story-maybe more relevant. Larry and Nancy are trapped in a car crash. His neck is broken, the mom was in a coma. Their three children knew what to do-the oldest put the two younger in her lap and they started to quote scripture and sing praise songs. Mom and Dad were spared to serve God again. They were miraculously delivered from death. Have you taught your children the power of praise?

ROGER

SLIDE #: PRAISE IS OUR CHIEF WEAPON AGAINST SATAN.

READ PSALM 8:2: From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger.
(Jesus quotes this in Matthew 21:16).

JULIE

Why is this true? In his original state was the praise leader in Heaven. Pride got him and he and his hosts lost the rebellion and have been in Hellish misery ever since.

Praise, the continuing exercises of Heaven, is clearly etched into the memories of every fallen angel. The memory of the aborted rebellion in which they lost their lofty positions is hauntingly clear in their minds.

As very few creatures do, they know the power, joys, and delights of Praise. When they hear Biblical praises they are irritated and devastated.

Praise to them sounds like metal scratching glass. Their influence is neutralized and their lies are exposed by praise.

(We once had a drummer on our worship team who played with such power and fervor. I asked him what he felt when he was playing his drums, he said "I feel like my praise is beating back the demons in the church that are trying to keep us from worship. Some tribes of African drummers believe they can summon demons with their drums, but our drummer knew the truth. His praise was silencing the enemy.

Psalm 150 says to “praise him with the timbrel and dance, with stringed instruments and organs. Timbrels were drums. God likes the sound of them when they are played in praise.)

ROGER

SLIDE #: Donna Bone demon egg story

EXERCISE SLIDE #2: Practical Ways to Praise

Write four sentences you can read to the group: (four sentences, not paragraphs!)

SLIDE #:

- Praise God for a moment when you felt you were “in the throne room of heaven” –you experienced God’s presence in a real and personal way.
- Praise God for a time when you experienced victory over Satan in a spiritual battle.
- Praise God for a time when God delivered you from a dangerous situation.

Read the list to your tablemates. When everyone has read their list to the group, clap, shout, say a prayer of praise together.

JULIE

SLIDE #15: PRAISE ALLOWS US TO EXCHANGE OUR CLOTHES OF DESPAIR FOR GARMENTS OF JOY.

READ ISAIAH 61:1-3: The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me ... to provide for those who grieve in Zion — to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

Notice that Praise is a garment. We may consciously choose to put it on like a shirt, or skirt, or coat. We put it on and it will ward off the spirits of depression, discouragement, and despair. The choice is left totally up to us.

ROGER

DRAW SLIDE #: DRAW Brain lock to safe place—praise!

Three parts of the brain are involved in obsessions.

The orbital frontal cortex detects mistakes. (located just behind the eyes). Once it fires it sends signals to the cingulate gyrus (located in the deepest part of the cortex). The cingulate gyrus triggers the dreadful anxiety that something bad is about to happen unless we correct the mistake and sends signals both to the heart and gut, causing the physical sensations we associate with dread.

The “automatic gearshift,” the caudate nucleus, sits deep in the center of the brain and allows our thoughts to flow from to the next—unless, as happens in OCD—the caudate gets stuck. It doesn’t shift gears—perhaps because the other two areas are overactive. This is brain lock.

Genetic

Infections in the caudate

Learning during development.

Stop it—Don’t go there. Repattern in the brains plasticity.

Safe place to go—tree—praise!

JULIE

SLIDE #: Have you ever seen a hamster wheel? We have. At one time we had thirty little hamsters. Bronwyn thought she brought two boy hamsters for a science experiment, but learned really quickly that “Ricky” the hamster was not a boy but a girl. That is where all the little hamsters started coming from. Our whole house smelled like hamster. A hamster wheel is a little toy designed to keep the animals happy. They run and run on the wheel, but they never go anywhere. We can get “hamster Brain” and keep focusing on negative thoughts rather than positive praise.-By the way, Bronwyn’s husband is named Ricky, just like her favorite hamster. Take off old clothes and put on new clothes

ROGER

SLIDE #: PRAISE, OR THE LACK OF PRAISE, SOMETIMES DETERMINES WHETHER THINGS DO, OR DON'T, HAPPEN ON EARTH.

READ PSALM 67:5-7

It is more than an empty adage to say, "Things go better with praise."

The absence of praise permits an atmosphere in which all sorts of germs foreign to spiritual health are allowed to proliferate. Productivity is stifled... fulfillment is limited... man is frustrated... God is grieved.

When we praise, productivity is maximized... fulfillment is realized... and frustration is neutralized.

The presence or absence of praise is pivotal in any situation.

Why Praise and Pray?

Safety deposit box with 2 keys

God’s will and our prayers mix to accomplish His will on earth.

Do you mean that some things I would like to see don’t happen through lack of prayer? Without a doubt.

“You have not because you ask not.

This very fact should lead us to our knees every single day.

JULIE

SLIDE #: BEWARE OF SLIPPING INTO GRIPE-PRAISE.

The tongue is a powerful too. Be careful how you use it.

Jorge Rodriguez was the meanest bandit on the Texas-Mexico border. He often slipped across the border to raid the banks of South Texas. Stealing them blind.

Finally the Texans decided to put the toughest Texas Ranger they had on the case. After only a few days of searching, the Ranger found the bandit in a dingy, dusty saloon south of the border. He bolted into the bar, pulled both guns, and yelled, “Okay, stick ‘em up, Jorge; you’re under arrest! I know you’ve got the money.”

Suddenly a little guy over in the corner butted in. “Wait, wait... just a moment, senior,” he said. “Jorge does not speak English. He’s my amigo, so I’ll translate for you.”

The Ranger explained, "Look, we know he's the bandit we've been looking for. We know he's stolen over \$50,000 US dollars. We want it back NOW. Either he pays up or I'll fill him full of holes. You tell him that!"

"Okay, okay! I'll tell him." So the fellow turned to Jorge and repeated in Spanish everything the Ranger had said.

Jorge listened, frowned, then responded in Spanish. "Okay, I give up. Tell him to go down to the well just south of town, count four stones down from the top of the well, then pull out the one loose stone. All the money I have stolen I've hidden behind the stone."

The translator turned to the Texas Ranger and said, "Jorge says, 'Go ahead, you big mouth; go ahead and shoot. I'll never tell where the money is.'"

● SLIDE: Proverb 26:24: A malicious man disguises himself with his lips, but in his heart he harbors deceit.

ROGER

DRAW SLIDE #: Two kingdoms: Light and Darkness

Kingdom is an area over which a king rules

Kingdom of Light: God's will is done. His influence is felt. "The Lord's will be done. Basic rule of Kingdom of Light is "Let's do it God's way!" Perfect harmony, peace, no arguments. "Let's do it God's way. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven..."

Kingdom of Darkness: Self and/or Satan rules. Basic rule of the kingdom of darkness is let's do it my way. "My will be done. I want to live independent from God."

Satan says, "I will exalt my kingdom above the stars! I will... I will..."

Language of Kingdom of Darkness is G-R-I-P-E.

"I've been swindled, I've been swindled, I been gypped, I been gypped, cheated out of everything, cheated out of everything, yes I am."

Gripe about everything: weather, job, family, God, ...

Language of kingdom of Light is P-R-A-I-S-E.

In everything give thanks for this is the will of God for you.

I will bless the lord at all times, his praise will continually be in my mouth.

Always tell who is living in the kingdom of God. Always praising God.

Can't get much lower than Job: "The lord gives the lord takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord.

Too many of us are living too close to the border.

"I wish you were hot or cold and not luke-warm."

Border town, don't speak any language well.

Many Christians like that! Trouble is, living too close to the border!

Start speaking a language called Gripe-Praise.

"I feel terrible—but praise the Lord anyway."

Only trouble with straddling the fence is that it always hurts in the middle.

God wants us to get away from the Border and start living on the Glory side.

JULIE

EXERCISE SLIDE #3: Write three sentences you can read to the group: (three sentences, not paragraphs!)

- Praise God for a time when you were discouraged and depressed and God gave you His joy.
- Praise God for a time when you committed “gripe praise.”
- Praise God for a time when He answered a specific prayer you prayed.

Read the list to your tablemates. When everyone has read their list to the group, clap, shout, say a prayer of praise together.