

Sermon Series “Worship as a Lifestyle”

Sermon Title: “Blessed by the Presence of God”

Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:11-12 (NIV)

Where: Saint John, Prospect Ky

When: July 14th, 2024

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"The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household. Now King David was told, 'The Lord has blessed the household of Obed-edom and everything he has, because of the ark of God.' So David went to bring up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the City of David with rejoicing."

Introduction

Good morning, congregation. Today, we delve into a captivating passage from 2 Samuel 6:11-12, which highlights the profound impact of hosting the presence of God. Our theme is "The Blessings of Hosting God's Presence," and our focus will be on understanding how Divine Favor, Spiritual Enrichment, and Personal Renewal manifest when we host God's presence in our lives.

A concise word study on the word "worship" in Hebrew and Greek.

Hebrew: שָׁחָה (shachah)

Meaning: To bow down, prostrate oneself.

Usage: This term appears frequently in the Old Testament to describe an act of reverence, submission, or humility before God or sometimes a king.

Psalms 95:6 "Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker."

Greek: προσκυνέω (proskyneō)

Meaning: To worship, to bow down, to kiss toward.

Usage: Found extensively in the New Testament, it indicates the act of showing deep Reverence or adoration, particularly towards God or Jesus.

John 4:24 "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

Main Points

1. Divine Favor:

2 Samuel 6:13 ¹³When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had **taken six steps**, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf.

Hosting God's presence brings blessings and favor beyond measure. The story of Obed-edom illustrates this truth vividly. When the Ark of the Covenant, symbolizing God's holy presence, was placed in Obed-edom's house, **the Lord overwhelmingly blessed him and his entire household. This blessing was so evident that even King David noticed it.**

We must understand that **God's presence isn't just about physical proximity but about an intimate relationship that transforms us and our surroundings.** When we invite God into our lives, His favor flows abundantly, impacting every facet of our existence. Just as Obed-edom's home flourished, our lives too can experience divine favor when we value and revere God's holy presence.

2. Extravagant Worship:

¹⁴Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, ¹⁵while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

¹⁶As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him.

Beyond material blessings, hosting God's presence results in profound spiritual enrichment. David's desire to bring the Ark to Jerusalem stemmed from his understanding that Israel's spiritual life would be enriched by centering worship around God's presence. The Ark was a continual reminder of God's covenant, laws, and promises.

Similarly, our spiritual lives are enriched when we host God's presence. We are drawn deeper into prayer, worship, and studying His Word. **Extravagant worship is not a one-time event but a continuous transformation that aligns our hearts with God's, helping us grow in faith and understanding.**

3. Personal Renewal: **Every Step with the Ark in mind.**

Hosting God's presence also leads to personal renewal. We see this in King David's actions when he brought the Ark to Jerusalem with great joy and reverence, recognizing the need to adhere strictly to God's commands in this holy endeavor. It wasn't just a physical act but a spiritual renewal, recommitting himself and the nation to God's ways.

In our lives, personal renewal occurs as we host God's presence. We experience revival, a return to our first love, and a refreshing passion to live out our faith genuinely and passionately. God's presence rejuvenates our spirit, heals our brokenness, and sets us on a path of righteousness and purpose.

Application: David, filled with the fear of the Lord, asked:
How can the Ark of the Lord ever come to me? **Vs. 9**

Personal Spiritual Development Questions

Do you thirst more for God?

- Are you increasingly governed by Scripture?
- Are you more sensitive to God's presence?
- Are you growing more concerned with/ other people's needs?
- Do you delight in prayer seeking his presence?
- Are disciplines such as prayer and fasting becoming more important to you?
- Do you grieve over sin?
- Do you long to be with Jesus?
- Are you more loving, particularly toward people you don't like?
- Are you a quicker forgiver

The three-month challenge: "The ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-edom the Gittite for three months, and the Lord blessed him and his entire household. 2 Sam 6:11

Principles for bringing God's Ark to our lives and households: Based on 1 Samuel 6

1. Worship affirms God's presence. It is a form of recognition and acknowledgment of His existence and significance in our lives.
2. "I turn into what I worship" emphasizes the transformative power of worship. The focus of our worship shapes us and influences our thoughts, actions, and character.
3. Creating an atmosphere for God to deposit a seed can be associated with nurturing a receptive environment through worship. This can be compared to the process of rain on Earth, where certain atmospheric conditions are required for rain to fall.
4. Referencing **Genesis 1:1 and Gen 2:1-6** and drawing a comparison to the atmosphere, it stresses the significance of creating the right spiritual atmosphere through worship to receive blessings from God.
5. "When worship comes up, glory comes down" implies that worship leads to the manifestation of divine glory, suggesting that a genuine and heartfelt expression of worship can lead to spiritual blessings and holy presence.

6. Relating worship to the process of rain falling selectively in certain areas (e.g., Lexington and not in Louisville) highlights the idea that worship creates a specific spiritual climate, which can lead to different manifestations in different places.

7. Connecting rain to worship could suggest that just as rain is essential for growth and sustenance, worship is crucial for spiritual nourishment and growth.

8. Referring to **Salmo 115:5-8** emphasizes the active role of God in responding to worship, further underlining its importance in connecting with the divine.

9. Exploring the concept of sound and light in **Genesis 1:3** and linking it to worship implies that worship involves the transmission of spiritual "sound waves" that can lead to the manifestation of divine "light."

These thoughts collectively emphasize the importance of worship as a transformative, influential, and spiritually nurturing practice that can create an atmosphere conducive to receiving blessings and divine presence.

Call to Action

As we reflect on these blessings, here are practical steps we can take to host God's presence in our lives:

1. **Create a Sacred Space:** Designate a place in your home dedicated to personal worship and prayer. Let it be a space where you meet with God daily, fostering intimacy with Him.

2. **Practice Hospitality:** Open your home to others, inviting them to share in experiencing God's presence through joint worship, Bible study, or prayer groups. Hospitality reflects God's love and opens doors to communal blessings.

3. **Serve Others:** Look for opportunities to serve and minister to those around you. By extending God's love and grace to others, His presence flows through you, making you a conduit of His blessings.

Quote from Church Father

"As you worship God, let the beauty of the place be in the heart rather than in the walls." - Augustine of Hippo.

Conclusion

In conclusion, hosting God's presence brings profound blessings, divine favor, spiritual enrichment, and personal renewal. It transforms us into vessels of His grace, setting us apart for His purposes. Like Obed-edom and David, may we earnestly seek to host God's presence.

Prayer

Lord, may we be blessed by hosting your presence in our lives. May your favor shine upon us as we seek to honor you in worship. Please help us create sacred spaces, practice hospitality, and serve others, allowing your presence to transform us. Amen.

Benediction

May the blessings and favor of hosting God's presence enrich and renew your life, leading you into deeper communion with Him. Amen.