

BELPRES CHURCH

Scott Dudley

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Transcript:

Well this summer, we are doing a sermon series on the Psalms. And last week, I said there are nine different types of psalms that we're going to be looking at and ... Do I need to move because of feedback? Okay.

I said last week there are nine different types of psalms that we're going to be looking at this summer, and each of those show us nine different ways to pray. And one of those types of psalms is psalms of praise. And when it comes to praising God, there are few people who know more about that than the gentleman to my right here, Pastor Alexis. You know him by his hallelujahs and when he jumps up here and starts dancing during worship, so he's going to teach us a little bit about praise. I'm going to ask him some questions and we'll have a little bit of a dialogue. So Pastor Alexis, what is praise?

That's a good question, Pastor Scott. I always need, I always want, because the energy I want to always stand up. No sitting. Scott will be okay. We talk both.

I'm fine down here.

Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

Yesterday, I was in Detroit city, my wife and the family, everyone was there and when end of, we was trying to drive it, coming back, very excited to preach in the morning, when my car has the problem for the boot one.

The truck.

The truck. Then, I couldn't-

Couldn't close the truck.

Close the truck. Then, we tried to do almost an hour fixing. It doesn't work. Then I said, "My God, how can I ... I need to maybe send the sermon and Scott is going to preach without me." He was like, "No." "God, how are we going to make it?" Then I told him, my wife and my kids, "Let me drive to find someone who's going to help for me." Then, I went to the first

dealership, they said, "No, we can't fix." Then he told me, "You have to go to the dealership for the Toyota." Then, I went to the Toyota. It took almost a second to do it. Then the guy said, "Do you know this book?"

This is my Toyota I have been on for, four, five years. I have never opened. I never opened. That means the whole information truth about my car is hiding in this. The poor man, Alexis, he have never opened that. So why? This Psalm we'll be talking about, 139, is talking about God, the truth about God and the truth about you. Amen. When we're reading, you want to make sure I you understanding, really, who's God? Who's me?

It's because the reason, why we are living the culture, try to hide and manipulate and changing who God is in our life. Don't miss that information. Prayers is when we are talking to God in a way for thanksgiving. And what he has done in a second also was declaring his victory over in our life every day. If you want to live the life effectively, the prayers is for you, it's not for God. God can never praise himself. He's not telling you, "Do it for me. You are in shape. You need to initiate it to God and say, "Because of what you have done, I have so many gratitude I need to come to You. Praise is for You."

Question: does God really need us to tell how great It is? Yes or no?

Jake, is that right? What do you think?

No.

Does God really need us to tell Him how awesome or how good is? He need that? Does God really need to tell Him what He has done in our life? It's your job. It's our job to tell all things what God He has done for us. Everyone have something, your life, you can say, "God, thank You, thank You, thank You, thank You." That's the praise. Amen.

Amen. Hallelujah.

So when we read, the Bible say in Psalm 150 verse 6, it says, let's say everything that has [inaudible 00:04:54]. Including us, praise the Lord. Everything, whatever you own, your life, your family, the community, anything God have been creating, you should, we are obligated. We have to praise God. Everything. Sometimes, we say, "What I have to be praised?" No, you have everything. You, when you see yourself, you need to dance in the glory and say, "God, thank you." You have something you always need to praise God. When we praise, our heart overflows with joy. We're raising our voice and the lifting the spirit to talk to the Christ and say, "God, thank you. We raise our voice into the spirit. Thank You for what You did for me. Thank You for good things you have given to me." You have a reason. You have a reason. You have a reason. Amen.

Amen.

When we praise, it gives us opportunity to see God how big He is. Psalm 16. When we praise, also, He gives us, we become a vessel. We become a tool for God to use through the love and the kindness and to change the world, to change the community, to change the way we are. When we pray, it give us that ability to see the life that God has given to us.

16, "You will show me the way of life. Being with You is to be full of joy. In Your right hand, there is happiness forever." God, listen, when you praise God, He will show you the way of life. I missed this opportunity. I missed this opportunity, seriously. Four years, I missed this opportunity. I should learn it and know it. I can drive in my Corolla Toyota when I have the full information.

I think that's a great point. God doesn't need us to praise Him. God doesn't need us to tell Him how great he is. We need to praise God. Because when we praise God, that is part of how we experience His presence and His power in our lives and that's part of what gives us joy. So it's for us more than it is for God. Alexis, what do we have to praise God for? I bet you have three things. I'm just guessing.

That's how Americans, they do, right? Let's go on the points, right? Three things. Thank you, Pastor Scott. I have the three things. Not four, right?

Not four.

Not four. Not four, please. So number one, okay, let's go on top. Number one, He knows all things about us. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

That's enough. When you read from verse 1, Psalm 129, "Lord, you have looked through me and you have known me. You know when I sit down, when I wake up. You know, you understand my thought from far away. You look over my path, my lay down. You know all my ways very well. Even before I speak, Lord, you know it. All you know is too great for me. It's too much for me to understand." Another version of the story. "Your knowledge is amazing to me. It is more than I can understand." What God knows about you, it's enough. He knows everything about you. Whatever the thing you try, you have been hiding, I don't want to nose about this, He knows that, he's seeing that.

Which is a scary thought.

Yeah. He knows that. He knows that. Because the reason why, He is your resource. Toyota, He knows all information. They took a second when I spent one hour. I was like, "Poor man, this is not good for me." God knows everything about you. The reason why, when you read that, when I go from my spirit where I can learn from where you are. In this one, David's talking about how God is big. Everyone, God is so big. Could you say that?

God is so big.

God is so big.

God is so big. The reason why, He knows everything about you. He knows when you are down, when you are up. When you are sad, when you are happy. When you have a job, when you don't have it. When the things doesn't go well, when things change, He knows it. Everything's about you.

Our big challenge today is our culture. Culture tries to teach us, I know everything about you. I have everything about you. Especially when we go to the background check, is that right, Scott? I have-

Background check?

Yeah.

Background check.

Background check. You know what that means, right? Everyone knows that. Let me explain. The background check knows only everything you, what you have done, right? They know criminal, they make sure all information, some of them busy, they want ... But God knows you before background check happens. He knows you. Amen.

Amen.

When I read Isaiah 55, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts. And then, my ways are not your ways, said the Lord, for as heaven I have done Earth. So my ways are then your ways. And then my thought then your ways." Listen, this is a prayer. It is a necessary Christian live life with prayer. Amen. Are you doing that?

If you're not doing that, let's do it. Because the prayer, it gives us a clear information. What is the thought that God has in us? When you pray, the things change. When you pray, your mind changes according to what God needs from you. He said, "Your ways is different than my ways." You may have just one way. God has so many different ways. You have the way you can do your family, you can weave, you can ... Whatever you process the thing, God have so many ways because his ways is different. His thought is different than yours. Than mine. Amen.

Amen.

Number two, I'm going to the second number one, right?

Yeah. Just to comment, I think I'm here just to help us all.

Scott is translating for the King of Rwanda.

That first point, I think, is really important, that we actually, God knows who we are better than we know who we are. And when we praise Him and when we pray to Him, it is easier to understand who we are because he made us, so he knows better. And that's one reason we need to praise him, is to find out who we are. And we were made to praise him. If we

aren't praising him, we're not doing what he created us to do. He knows us better than we know ourselves.

Yes. Number two, he's our safe place and our strength. Psalm 16.46, "God is our safe place and our strength. He's always happy when we are in trouble." Can you imagine that? He's always ... What that means, always?

Always. Every time.

Every time, every second, when we are in trouble, he's our safe place. He's not just providing the safe place. He gives us his strength. When you are weak, he give you the strength.

Strength.

Strength. Thank you, Pastor Scott. He's a good translator. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

So we will not be afraid even if the Earth is shaking and the mountain falls into the center of the seas. And even if water got [inaudible 00:13:38] with storm and the mountain shake with [inaudible 00:13:41]. Listen, even the world will shake, the world will change, the world will [inaudible 00:13:48] whatever, even anything will happen, listen, we'll never be afraid. The reason why, God is our safe, God is our strength, God is our power, God is our victory. That's exactly what we need. Why are we afraid? Why always are we afraid? I don't know what's going on. Why? God is big. Why are we afraid? He provides the safe place and the strength. A couple years when I come to this country, I was facing the big challenges. One, how am I going to live in this country? Very afraid. The reason, culture is different, language is different, no friend, no anything. It was so hard for me.

Then, my prayer was talking about how big the problem I'm facing. Have you ever been that way? How big ... this is crazy, when I pray crazy, crazy, it's so hard. My things was so bad. One night, God changed. The way He changed, he turned everything in praise Him. He reminded me what He has done. He reminded me how much he loves me. He reminded me how he's a safe place. He reminded me, he said, "Don't be afraid."

Sometimes, at the end of our life, we're talking about so big. This is how big the problem is. This is a challenge we're facing. As we talk, growing. As we talk, it's growing. The more we talk the problem, the more the problem is going to keep big. The more we talk about God, then God is going to be big. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

Let's talk about how God is big. Every second. Brothers and sisters, let's talk about how God is big. Forget about the culture. Forget about what's going on. Forget about ... Talk about how God is big. I am-

[inaudible 00:16:18].

Oh, my God. Talk about how God is big. Oh, oh. American minutes.

Well, American minutes. But I would just want to underscore that, because out of your own experience as an immigrant, I think that's really important because, as you just said, the more we pray about how big our problem is, the bigger our problem gets. Praise is when we pray about how big God is and that makes the problem seem smaller. And I just think that's a super important point about why we need to praise, because then, we realize He is our safe place and He is big.

[foreign language 00:16:49] Corinthians 12, it says, "I receive joy when I am weak. I receive joy when people talk against me and make it hard for me and try to hurt me and make trouble for me. I receive joy when those things come to me because, Christ, for when I am weak, then I'm strong." He's talking that in another verse and says, "When I'm weak, then I'm strong." How come? The reason why when you are weak, you are in a perfect place God needs you to be. When you are weak, you are strong.

When you are weak, the world and the system and the culture is going to get you. But when you are weak, it is a God opportunity to manifest into your life. It's a God opportunity to say, "I am here. Don't be afraid. I am of you. I work through you. I love you. I fight for you. I know you as a Toyota dealership he knows this my ... " Even if I'm poor guy, I have never read it, he's still closing. I have never read this one. This is so bad. He knows you.

Number three, God made us in a perfect way.

Yes.

Amen. For you made the parts inside me, you put me together inside my mother. God, he puts you in inside your mother. That means he has all information. He knows how he did. He knows how he did. And there is the reason he did for you. Listen what he says. "I will give tests to you for the greatness of ways I was made bring fear. Your works are great."

Another translation says, "I praise you because you made me in amazing and wonderful, what you have done is wonderful." I know this very well. Listen, I know that. No one should not teach me how God loves me. No one should me take me away from God because I know my soul, my heart, my life, he knows exactly how he put me in my mother. He knows that. This is awesome. Listen, he says, "I praise you ... " This is why we praise, because you made me in an amazing way. Could you tell your friend God made you in an amazing way? Could you ... The next one.

[inaudible 00:19:46].

So if God made you in an amazing way, why we let the culture to change who we are. Right. Yeah.

If I look at the way God originally went, why you want to change yourself? Why you want to change? Oh, my God. So then, we say, when it read 15, "My body was not hiding for you when I was made in the secret and put together with care in the deep part of the Earth. Your eyes saw me before I was put together." Godly eyes, He was doing what? He saw. "And all days of my life were written in your book before any of them come to be." They ... All days of your life is written. Could you tell your friend all days of your life is written. All days of your life are written.

Amen.

Amen.

Your thought are great works to me. Oh, God, how many there are. I could number them. There would be more than sand. When I wake up, I'm still with you. When I wake up, I'm still with you. When I fall down, I'm still with you. When the thing doesn't [inaudible 00:21:10], I'm still with you.

Amen.

I'm still with you. He's a God who will never leave alone, us alone. He knows that how much you are important to Him. The praise, we should not stop it. When we read, if you could number that one, if we read Ecclesiastes 3, this is what we're going to do, it's there.

Corinthians 3.

No, Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes-

Ecclesiastes 3.

"There is a time to be born." Who knows that, right? "And a time to die, time to plan and the time to pick up. What's the plan? There's a time to care and a time to hear. Time to break down and a time to build. There is a time to cry and a time to laugh. There's time to have a soul and the time to ... " This is what I want to make sure, understand. The whole time God is talking about, it will happen. There's nothing that will stop it. The whole time, time to die, time to be born. Time to cry, time to be laughing. Time to be happy, time ... All that we'll be chasing all the time. But the good news is, the God who created you in his image, he's still remaining the same.

Everything else in our lives changes, but God is always there, right? And he doesn't change.

Yes.

That's another reason to praise him.

That's another reason to be praised. Let's go ... This is what I need. Whatever you are going through, or the season, anything, just see yourself. It's just not permanent. Amen. It is

temporary. When I was facing the same a couple years, it was temporary. I didn't know exactly today, I would be here to preach in English. Amen. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

Even sometimes, when I preach, I remember sometimes, when I preach some of the people, they say, "Alexis, I love when you preach, but sometimes I don't understand you, but I like your energy." Do you like it? "I like your energy." But today, I brought Pastor Scott to translate for me. He's translating in Rwandan. Could you clap for him?

We have like one minute left.

One minute left.

I want to ask, you've given us a lot of reasons to praise God, and praising God helps us know ... It is better for us because it helps us know that we are in good hands, in big hands. We don't have to praise God like you, right? We can all have our different ways. We don't have to yell, "Hallelujah," or do we?

In one minute left, let's everyone stand up. Lift our hands. Hallelujah.

Hallelujah.

This is what it's going to take. God made us in a perfect way. Tell your friend.

God made us in a perfect way.

God made you in a perfect way so that way, praise God no matter how ... The way you feel. Don't let any season, anything change to praise God because what and what. The reason why, He's the God who holds your future, your present, who had going through in the past. You have a reason to praise Him and you're made in a perfect way. Never let any culture today change who you are. God creates you in an amazing way. In an amazing way. In a wonderful way. I love amazing. Who loves amazing? I love amazing. That's my English world. God creates you in an amazing, in an excellent ... Praise should never stop because we are the ones who will do what? Initiate. God will never do himself. Even you don't do it, everything that God has been created that we praise him, that we say, "You are hallelujah. You are amazing, Father. Even you don't do it, they will do it for you."

Amen.

Amen.

Let's pray. Yes. God, thank You that we are fearfully and wonderfully made in your image. Thank You that You are a safe place. Thank You that when we praise You, we are changed, we're transformed. Help us to do that. Help us to give you our praise and our adoration because you and you alone are worthy of it. This week, Lord, make us praising people so that we can show the whole world how big You are, how strong You are, how good You are.

Yes.

We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Amen.

Discussion Questions:

Read this week's scripture(s) & answer the below questions with your friends, family, or All In small group.

Opening Question: Looking back to last's week's sermon and scripture...How did you live differently or practice what we talked about in your life this week? What did you do and how did it go?

Scripture Reflection Questions: Read this week's scripture together and discuss the following:

- What do we learn about God (e.g., traits, personality, what matters, priorities) in this passage?
- What do we learn about people, and ourselves in particular, this week?

Closing Question and Application: Given what we've discussed together today, how might God want you to apply these learnings to your life or in the life of your community this next week? Who might you share this with?

Closing Group Prayer: Spend a few minutes together in your group sharing prayer requests and then praying together for each other. Thank God for the time together, the conversation shared, the other people in the group, and for encouragement in the week ahead.