

Psalm 96

God is a marvelous, majestic, and unimaginable Being. There are no words in the English language (or any other language for that matter!) that would adequately describe the glory and worth of our God but this doesn't mean that we shouldn't respond to Him. When He chooses to reveal Himself, we ought to respond and the Bible shows us exactly how this should take place.

Today, I want to talk about three ways that we should respond to God's "godness" (I realize that is not a word but by that I mean the fact that He is).

1. We should sing

- a. Our Psalm begins with a command, "sing to the Lord a new song"
- b. Does this mean that we should always be composing something new to sing?
Perhaps
 - i. There is certainly a justification for new music, after all, we have yet to fully and adequately ascribe to God all the ways that He is glorious
 - ii. There are obviously new ways to sing to the Lord and the creative and faithful composer realizes that there is still room for more praise
- c. Nevertheless, the real impetus here is on the birth of a new song in our own hearts
 - i. The idea is that when God reveals Himself to us, we should erupt in new, fresh praise
 - ii. We could be singing the same old thing but every time we see and savor God, the breath that propels our voice is fresh
- d. There is something natural, and good about singing
 - i. I am not much of a musician but even I notice how natural song is to me when I am joyful
 - ii. I sing songs, often in my head for the benefit of others, when I am doing or heading to something I love
 1. Think about singing "take me out to the ballgame" in the 7th inning
 2. Or a love song that you just couldn't get out of your head when you first met him or her
 - iii. We are wired to sing and this is part of God's great and Sovereign design
 1. God has ordained that He is to be worshipped in song
 2. He has commanded and allowed us to sing to Him when we gather
 3. He has created us to sing when we see things that thrill our hearts and this means that our singing should focus, chiefly, on Him as the greatest thrill that has ever been known

2. We should proclaim Him to the nations

- a. Second, when we get a glimpse of God, we should tell others
- b. We have talked about this before, but God has made us natural evangelists
- c. We all talk about what we love to anyone who is around
- d. You know what I've noticed about the things I'm most passionate about? I'll talk about them whether the person listening cares or not!

- i. Do you really care, grandparents, whether the cashier wants to see that picture of your new grandchild?
 - ii. Are you overly concerned, wives, that the lady you are talking about doesn't care about the gift your spouse gave you?
 - e. No, in these cases (and countless others) our love for a person or thing spills out into our words
 - f. In the same way, when we see God in His "godness", we are seeing that which should create in us such a love and passion that we can't help but share it!
 - g. The stage upon which we are to proclaim His might is simple... the world
 - i. We are to take the Gospel to the nations
 - ii. We are to speak to every living soul
 - iii. We are to proclaim His might, His excellence, His Sovereignty, His mercy, His grace, His love to all people
 - h. There is not discrimination with the message of the Gospel of God
 - i. Everyone needs to hear it
 - ii. Your job is not to discern the good soil, your job is to sow the seed of God liberally and allow Him to give it growth
- 3. We should warn all people of His justice
 - a. The Psalm closes with a solemn reminder that the Lord will come again in justice
 - b. This word is a welcome term for believers
 - i. We believe that God's justice is part of what prompted Him to send Christ
 - ii. Jesus took our sins for us so that we don't have to fear God's right judgment anymore
 - c. However, this is not the case for all men
 - i. In fact, when the Lord returns, those who are not in fellowship with Him through Christ will see the most terrifying sight in history
 - ii. When we catch a glimpse of this God, we should be prompted to warn others!
 - iii. Don't allow those around you to think they are ok with God because they are a "good person", instead allow the glory and holiness of God to remind you that they have offended One who is far greater than they can imagine
 - d. Many in the world will not repent but I pray that none in our company will ever not hear