

July 4, 2021

Psalm 150

**Children's message:** This morning we hear David list eight or nine instruments he has included to be used when praising God. Mostly they are to accompany the songs he wrote called Psalms. He tells us what instruments they were playing at his time in history. Some you blow, others you bang or strum.

Playing an instrument is like a new way of thinking and training your brain. It mostly happens on the creative side of our brains. Like most things, instruments take time and practice to become good at. It is similar to learning a new language. You need to have someone to practice with and you need to hear it. Practice is the key component. Do any of you play an instrument? If so, which one and why? Or do you play more than one? How long have you played?

I have tried to learn the bagpipes. Only to admit defeat and try to sell them. I tormented every cat in my neighborhood while trying to learn. Then I moved on to the mandolin. The same scenario played out again. I truly don't think I gave them both enough attention, dedication or time. One has to sit still long enough to do this. Then I returned to my tin whistles. I have played them off and on for thirty three years. I even had two bodhrans. I played those for twenty years. I passed those one to people who wanted to learn them. So now I am

contemplating the five string banjo. I remember my days with the mandolin. I love bluegrass banjo music, but wonder if I will make the time to practice and become good at it. Musical instruments have taught me a lot about myself. This is why I have respect for those who play an instrument and have put in the time.

Do you remember the days of VBS? The music lessons with the many instruments. Do you have a favourite and why? What has playing a musical instrument taught you about yourself? Music is a gift from God. Some have it and others do not. If you got it, use it to praise God. It is a great expression of prayer. God uses music to speak to our hearts and to emotionally move us. Some with instruments and others with our voices. Make a joyful noise to God whatever it may be. It is still prayer expressed through music. Let yourself go wild and see what creative things you produce. Kind of like what David did.

**Adult's message:** Some scholars have said that Psalm 150 is a mirror reflection of Psalm 1. Both Psalms are about giving praise to God. They are like two bookends. The material in the middle covers a broad spectrum of human emotion. That is what songs do in their expression. They are inspired by emotion in order to move the emotions of the listener. The content of all the Psalms are to move us or lead us to praise God. Even the dark and depressing one are to do the same.

Psalms 146, 147, 148, 149 and 150 all start off with the word Hallelujah. When we break this word down we discover its deeper meaning. Hallelu is Hebrew plural for praise. Jah or Yah is taken from Yahweh. This is the personal name of God. When we combine them into Hallelujah it means all things praise God. Hallelujah is repeated twelve

times in six verses. David is strongly stressing the point that all things should praise God. That in everything we do, we should be praising God. To transform everything we do into a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

Psalm 150 leads us to praising God. In this final Psalm, David answers the 5W's concerning why we should praise God. Even the dark and brooding psalms were written with the hope that they would lead us to praising God. This may require more time than Psalm 150. This Psalm is very celebratory. We are reminded that praise and prayer should transcend those serious and stone faced prayers we have all heard or prayed. Praise and prayer should have an aspect of celebration and rejoicing. Just as it did in David's time. They should uplift our human spirit and move our emotions. That was the purpose David created them for.

Psalm 150 has been called the musicians Psalm. This is due in part to the instruments mentioned that are used to praise God. Musical instruments and praising God have a long history. The instruments mentioned correspond to the number of Heavenly Hosts that continuously praise God in Heaven. So that earth may reflect the praise offered to God in Heaven. David assures us that it is alright to praise God in a loud and celebratory fashion. Let the spirit move you.

There are many reasons why our churches have organs and pianos. They are present to accompany and elevate our voices in praise. They help create those powerful times when we are caught up in the vibration of the music. Then praise takes on a new meaning when we are absorbed into it and become part of the music of praise. When our bodies vibrate in synchronicity with the music. We become one in

vibration. This really does transcend our earthly worship and it becomes something greater. A religious experience if you will. Thank you to Tamara, Gloria and Doreen who are helping us with this on Sunday morning.

Music and praising God is there to prepare us for what is to come. When we go on to glory we will be praising Him continuously. I think David had an understanding of this. We have certainly expanded on this in our day. Regardless of how we do it, we are still praising God.

God bless take care and stay cool, Pastor D.