

A Singing Church

Week 5 - Sing With Your Family and Church Family

Jesus Paid It All

VERSE 1

I hear the Savior say,
"Thy strength indeed is small.
Child of weakness, watch and pray,
Find in Me thine all in all."

REFRAIN

Jesus paid it all, all to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain,
He washed it white as snow.

VERSE 2

Lord, now indeed I find
Thy pow'r, and Thine alone,
Can change the leper's spots
And melt the heart of stone.

VERSE 3

And when, before the throne,
I stand in Him complete,
"Jesus died my soul to save,"
My lips shall still repeat.

BRIDGE

Oh praise the One who paid my debt
And raised this life up from the dead

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Class Goals

- 1) To discover why we sing
- 2) To consider how it impacts our faith
- 3) To cultivate a culture of family singing
- 4) To equip our church family for singing
- 5) To see congregational singing as a witness

Created to Sing (Week 1 Recap)

- Designed to Sing
- What if I Can't Sing?
- Singing in His Image
- Singing With All Creation

Bob Kauflin Sermon Video (Week 2 Recap)

- Why do we sing? Because we have a singing God!
- Music and the words are not supposed to oppose each other, God gave us music to serve the words we sing
- How does the music serve the words?
 - Singing can help us remember words
 - Singing can help us engage emotionally with words
 - Singing can help us use words to demonstrate and express our unity

Commanded and Compelled to Sing (Week 3 Recap)

Commanded To Sing

- That We Sing
- Where We Sing
- What We Sing
- How We Sing

Compelled To Sing

- Revelation and Response
- Scripture's Salvation Songs

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SING WITH HEART AND MIND

Singing Takes Sunday's Truths into Monday

Singing Sustains You In Every Season of Life

Singing Reminds You of What God Has Done in Your Life

Question: Is there a hymn(s) or song(s) from your past that acts as a "milestone marker" for your walk with Christ? Why is it still significant and how does it speak to your heart today?

- We can have songs that mark certain waypoints of our life in Christ
- When we sing those songs again, it's an opportunity to be encouraged and excited and humbled all over again
- When we remember God's faithfulness in our past, often etched in our hearts through a song, we are inspired and equipped to face the ups and downs of the week ahead

Singing Keeps Your Mind On Eternity

- We need our singing to be filled with the unending story of the hope of heaven
- Some of the songs we sing should focus on heaven, hell, judgment, and that we are eternal beings facing a future in eternity
- One day we'll sing our last song in this life, the songs we sing now should speak of eternity so it is familiar and those songs are on our hearts and lips as we enter eternity

Conclusion

- We need to grow our appetite for good soul food - for congregational singing
- When you stand to sing, consciously focus on what is going on
- It is not that God suddenly arrives when we sing, he is never absent, but we often are!
- When you sing:
 - Ask God to help you focus
 - Think about the words you are singing and the images they are painting
 - Respond in prayer to lines that strike you
 - Be mindful of those around you and that you are singing to each other
 - Enjoy being a part of something greater than just yourself
 - Make note of phrases/words that you don't understand and ask about them
 - If your attention has flickered - don't give up, refocus!
- Throughout the next week
 - Sing the songs!
 - Remember them as you wake in the morning, shower, drive to work, etc. and as you fall asleep

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- Put song lists together that you can listen to and sing along to
- Keep a hymnal close by

“Sing to yourself what you sang on Sunday, for what you sing shapes your heart, your mind, your soul. Give yourself good, deep, rich, gospel truth to feed on. You are what you sing.”

-Getty

SING WITH YOUR FAMILY

Diligently Teach Our Children

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

- Taking this scripture seriously means singing in your home

Question: Does the idea of singing with your family make you uncomfortable? Why or why not?

- Israelites were charged with making sure their kids learned about the God of Israel, one way they did this was through song

Psalms 78:2-4

² I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from old, ³ things that we have heard and known, that our fathers have told us. ⁴ We will not hide them from their children but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders he has done.

- We are a different culture, but we have the same charge

“Song is a special type of speech. Lullabies, songs of rhymes of every culture carry the ‘signature’ melodies and inflections of a mother tongue, preparing the child’s ear, voice, and brain for language.”

-Blythe

- Singing is one of the best ways to teach children
- Let’s make bible truths a “second language” to our children

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- Singing together in the home is a great way to bring up questions, and give answers that aim for depth in spiritual understanding
- Singing the gospel changes hearts and prepares hearts
- Singing is a way to sow and water the Word of God in children's hearts
- C.S. Lewis suggests that children don't learn by going from train station to station, but more like the rings of a tree, so make the first few rings healthy and strong
- Consider the balance of the content they sing and the vision of God those songs are growing in their minds
- Like buying shoes one size bigger than your kids need, because they'll grow into them
- What about teenagers?
 - Tell and show your kids why this is important
 - Make it as fun and attractive to them as possible
 - Get started - start playing songs in your home, let them see you singing
- Be a parent that sings with joy, and pray that your kids, of whatever age, would follow you - not just in the singing, but in the faith that brings such joy

The Sound of Home In Church

- Singing at home links our personal home with our church home, training kids to sing and sing well as part of the congregation
- Singing at home link our homes to our kids' future homes, passing heritage of singing on to the next generation
- Singing helps prepare our kids and us for our eternal home when all families will join together in praise of the Savior for all eternity
- Singing can transform the home:
 - Strengthen family bond
 - Restore family and fight the pressure to pull away
 - Train us to be comfortable and confident in speaking our faith
- Some of the people who will write, choose, and lead the singing in churches tomorrow are in our care today!

“People and realms from every tongue;
Dwell on His love with sweetest song;
And infant voices shall proclaim;
Their early blessings of His name.”

-Isaac Watts

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Ten Practical Ideas

1. Use All the Help and Opportunities You Can Get
 - a. Sing yourself around the home
 - b. Stream the songs from Sunday
 - c. Kids learning instruments can play sheet music - just ask me!
 - d. Ask kids what songs they enjoy singing and sing them
 - e. Aim to have truth being sung in the spaces where life takes place
 - f. Sing the blessing before a meal
2. Teach Your Kids Songs You Want Them to Grow Old With
 - a. Keep a running list
 - b. Best songs for youth are often the best for old age
3. Talk about What You're Doing and What the Songs Mean
 - a. Take time to talk to your kids about what you learned in this class - namely why we sing, what happens when we sing, and how we serve one another in singing
 - b. Use confusing lyrics as a conversation starter
4. Prepare for Sunday Services
 - a. If you know the songs we'll sing, then sing together
 - b. Equally, chat about the songs as a family after church, or sing them together on your drive home
5. Model Passionate Participation in the Services
 - a. Remember when you sing your children are watching!
 - b. Children also need to see other parents, and kids older than them, singing, so that it's not just some weird thing only their family does
6. Be Aware of All the Music Your Kids Are Into
 - a. Music - all music - affects us as we listen
 - b. No neutral lyrics
 - c. All songs share a message about how we should view the world
 - d. It's not that we ban all songs that don't explicitly teach the gospel, but we want to equip our kids to listen with discernment and thoughtfulness
7. If Your Kids Are into Music ...
 - a. Encourage them!
 - b. Help them see that it's a gift given by the Lord for serving His people
 - c. If your kids are musical, support them, it's tiring but also joyful!
8. Support a Children's Choir
 - a. It's an encouragement to the children

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- b. It's an encouragement to the congregation - an impact on people listening (Ps. 8:2)
9. Cultivate High Opinions of All Types of Art
 - a. Too narrow and too boring in our expression
 - b. Inspire kids with different instruments, sounds, and languages
 10. Sing Today
 - a. There may never be a perfect day to start singing, but there is today!
 - b. They are not too old or too young

SING WITH YOUR CHURCH FAMILY

Forged Together Through Singing

- Singing is an audible expression of the bonds we share
- Cut from the same elements of faith, united in one Lord, filled by one Spirit, brought into one Church, to offer our praise to Him
- Our culture has raised the importance of music in the church, but we're in danger of lowering the importance of singing together
- Listening to each other mumbling along as a band plays on stage in a church building is not the same as singing together as a congregation
- When you sing, look around! Encourage others with what you are singing, and expect to be encouraged by the fact that there are others singing with you and to you
- When we sing together, we are reminded:
 - We are not alone
 - We are not self-sufficient, we need a Savior
 - We need not despair, for we have His Spirit within us
 - We are not the center of the universe, but just one voice among many praising the One who is
- We are not islands:
 - People can drift from the habit of gathering together, thinking of their faith as being between them and God, with church there simply to serve that pursuit - this can lead to people leaving churches because "I'm not getting anything out of it."
 - Don't use this excuse to get out of the cost of community!
 - You benefit from church when you serve the church - and you can serve the church by singing!
 - Let's not be at church for what we get out of it, but what we can give to it
 - The early church can serve as our example
 - It is good for our church family to have people with very different musical tastes
 - Singing reminds us we are not defined by "rugged individualism" as promoted by our culture

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- Keeping the “unity of the spirit” (Eph 4:3) was a hard thing to do for the early church, and it’s still hard today! It requires effort from you and finds its expression and its inspiration in a church’s gospel-fueled singing
- Our singing should contribute to our sense of family and community

“So when you are called to sing at church, stop drinking your coffee for a moment, put your phone away, and look around and listen to the people standing about you. You are not an only child. This is your family. You and these folk around you are the only eternal pieces of this fading world. You are called to serve them by singing with and to them. When we see our singing together in this way, we will happily compromise when it comes to the style of the music, the instruments used in the music, and so on. Of course we’ll find particular hymns and arrangements more to our own tastes, but there is something bigger and so much more exciting happening here. Don’t view singing with the church as an opportunity to sing in a way that sounds like the culture you live in, or like a past era you wished you lived in – come to sing to lend your voice to the timeless, boundless sound of the congregational voice singing to the One who is eternally worthy of our praise.”

-Getty

Reclaiming the Younger Generations

- Don’t reclaim the younger generation with a concert, but rather with:
 - Creativity - simplicity is the highest form of creativity
 - Communication - are we entertaining or communicating a clear gospel message?
 - “Biblically rich content in songs, sung by people who look like they mean what they are saying, helps teach the gospel as something that is credible and powerful rather than cultural and optional” -Getty
 - Community
 - “A church that sings together – across generations, standing side by side, putting community unity before personal preferences – is making a powerful and attractive statement to those who yearn for community more authentic than can be enjoyed online and friendship deeper than is found in counting your Facebook friends.” -Getty

Singing Shapes Our Legacy

- Our generation of God’s people will leave our songs behind
- Our singing casts a light after we’re gone
- We each bear a responsibility in the singing legacy we leave behind us
- We should sing with mind toward those younger than us who are listening to and learning from us

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- Every generation needs songs for the moment, but we also look for songs worth keeping through all moments of life
- How we sing, what we sing, what we keep, what we leave out are shaping the faith we hand on to the next generation and the musical heritage they will have

What Kind of Church Will We Be?

- Every time you sing, you are expressing something about what kind of church you want to be
- Not all singing churches are healthy churches, but all healthy churches are singing churches
- Some underground churches in volatile and dangerous places whisper their worship songs together, but they don't stop singing, because they realize it is indispensable to their faith!
- The devil flees before the sound of music
- Singing God's Word helps us put on our spiritual armor

"It [singing] helps tighten the belt of truth firmly around our waist and the breastplate of righteousness on our chest; it readies our feet to bring the gospel of peace, strengthens our muscles to hold the shield of faith and the sword of the Spirit in our hands, and steadies the helmet of salvation upon our head. Our churches are called to "be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power" (Eph. 6:10). We are not a people scurrying into a corner nursing wounds of defeat. We are a city on a hill, stars shining in a dark world, a people of victory and joy, filled with the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit, serving a Savior who shall reign forever. When we sing, it is a battle cry of hope for the wounded, for the weary, for the lost. Sing of Jesus. Sing of your Lord and Savior and greatest Friend. Sing yourself strong. Sing the Church strong. Show up and sing up."

-Getty