

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...

"And David danced before the Lord with all his might."

2 Samuel 6: 14

I wonder what it looked like when David "danced before the Lord with all his might." It's rare for most of us to do anything with "all our might." I seldom do. Then again, I seldom need to. I have certainly never "danced" with all my might. It sounds reckless in a way. I picture David with his eyes closed not being worried about how he looked, and not being aware of what was going on around him.

The Bible tells us that when David danced in this fashion that his wife, Michal, "despised him in her heart." She later told him that he had behaved in an undignified manner, especially as king! David responded by saying, "It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house ... and I will celebrate before the Lord."

I think worship was David's favorite form of "escape." Based on this story as well as on the Psalms that David wrote, I think that, for David, worship was therapy. He lost himself in his worship of God. While David was in "worship mode" nothing else mattered. He didn't think about anything else except God and giving Him praise. While David was worshipping God, all he could see was the glory and splendor and power of God.

Are you looking for a means of "escape" these days? I know I am. I want to be focused on something other than the strife and difficulties that are going on in the world. Have you and I considered worship for such an escape? I'm not talking about going to church and sitting in a pew. (I'm not discounting that either.) I'm talking about the kind of worship where all we are thinking about is the splendor and majesty and power of God! He is an amazing God! He loves us. He forgives us. And He guides us through life.

If David were alive today and came to one of our churches for worship some Sunday, he would likely embarrass us. He would probably not be content to sit in the pew and watch the pastor do his thing. I think David would not be able to contain himself as he considered the wonders of God. I think David would take a break from even remembering all that is going on in the world today. I think he would find his escape in worship.

How can you and I worship God with all our might? It doesn't have to be with dancing. It doesn't need to be physical. (Don't tell David I said that, though. I think he would say, "How can you sit still while you are worshipping God?") I think that at the heart of worshipping God with all our might is learning the art of shutting everything else out and letting God have our FULL attention. That's the ultimate therapy! You and I can do this in our prayer life and in our study of God's Word. If you're a singer, then sing! If you're a dancer, dance! If you're a pray-er, pray like you've never prayed before! Worship is God's gift to us to keep us moving through life with joy and hope and peace.

God's Peace!
Pastor Jim