

Title: “Let These Words on Worship Surprise You”

Date: 8/23/20

Series: Psalms

Text: Psalm 96

Blurb: “This psalmist is really, really into worship. But why? Allow yourself to be surprised by things he says.”

Outline

96:1-3 **Worship!** Which turns into... *mission?*

- Worship with a “new song,” but why?
 - Are we seeking a human audience? Yep. (96:3)
 - Side trip: how many nations have heard about Jesus? (joshuaproject.net)

96:4-5 **Worship!** Which involves... *potentially offending people?*

- “Worthless idols” vs. the One who made the heavens

96:6-12 **Worship!** Which means... *we’re going to need a lot of time and a bigger choir.*

- A lot of time: there are a lot of things to say (96:6-9)
 - A bigger choir: the inanimate becomes animated (96:11-12)

96:13 **Worship!** Because... the Lord cometh.

Good news: God *seeks* worshipers. We know He seeks lost sheep (Matthew 18:12-14), but this also means He seeks worshipers. Jesus said, “But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.” (John 4:23)

Questions for Reflection and Application

1. This psalm refers to music (96:1). “You are what you eat.” But is it true that you are what music you consume? Have you seen that in your own life?
 - a. Are you willing to be open to the Lord’s leading about your music diet?
2. A life of worship – which goes well beyond music – runs the risk of offending people (96:4-5). How does this sit with you? Consider Jesus’ words in Luke 10:16.
3. A heart for worship: pray that you might rejoice in ascribing many great things about God. (96:6-9)