



Face the Issue:

Courageous battles. Glorious victories. Narrow escapes. Flawed humanity. Treacherous betrayal. Stunning redemption. No, this is not the plot of Avengers: Endgame. If we add passionate worship to the list, it becomes the story of David.

Jeremy used a passage from the story of David in his sermon to remind us of what true worship is about. “The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Samuel 16:7). With that passage, one might expect a perfect man. There are the stories of defeating Goliath, dozens upon dozens of beautiful psalms, a multitude of victorious battles, mercy shown to Saul, etc. But there are also the stories of David’s adultery with Bathsheba, the murder of her husband Uriah, a betraying son, and David’s prideful census of his “fighting men.”

He was not a man of perfection, but at the core David had a passionate love for, and reliance upon, God.

What would it look like to be a person “after God’s own heart” (Acts 13:22)?

Who do you know that lives a passionate life before God? Describe him or her.

What stories of the life of David have most challenged or encouraged you?

Do you have a favorite Psalm? If yes, why?

Into the Word:

Read 2 Samuel 6.

Second Samuel 6 records an unusual act of worship after David brings the ark into Jerusalem—King David dances before God. Author and pastor Frederick Buechner wrote, “David stripped down to his skivvies, and then with everybody looking on, including his wife—a high-class girl named Michal ... he did a dance ... He didn’t have to drag God in for politics’ sake ... because it was obvious to everybody that this time God was there on his own. How they cut loose together, David and Yahweh, whirling around before the ark in such a passion that they caught fire from each other and blazed up in a single flame of such magnificence that not even the dressing-down David got from Michal afterwards could dim the glory of it”

How orderly are most church worship services? What would happen if “David’s dance” were to happen on a Sunday morning in today’s sanctuary?

What does this passage tell you about God? Consider verses 6–7. (Hint: Uzzah had already disregarded God’s requirement for how the Ark was to be transported. Now he disregarded a requirement to not touch the Ark. Was he putting his ideas before God’s? Is it possible Uzzah thought he knew better than God how He should be worshipped?)

In verses 16 and 20, what might be some reasons Michal despised David in her heart? Are we tempted to be too “reasonable” when it comes to our worship of God? Do we judge others without knowing what is on their hearts?

“I will celebrate before the Lord. I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes ...” (v. 21–22). What do you think David means?

What’s the most powerful time of worship you’ve experienced?

How do you express your passion for Christ in worship? Do you feel the freedom to be passionate? Are there “rules of decorum” that hold you back?

Apply The Word

Take time this week to be “undignified” in your worship! Take a morning walk and sing hymns or choruses. Lay prostrate or kneel before God. Raise your hands at church. Dance a jig before God. Or is there an undignified act of sacrificial service you could perform for another? In Romans 12:1 Paul states that worship is all encompassing. It’s not just a Sunday morning service, but a complete sacrifice of ourselves. What passion and freedom could flow from that definition?