

Let Everything That Has Breath Praise the Lord!

Psalms 150:1-6

SERMON CONTENT

1. Praise Him for Who He Is and Where He Is

God has always taken ordinary things and made them holy by anointing them with His hands.

Psalms 150 closes the book of Psalms with a shout, not a sigh.

- In His sanctuary: praise is multiplied when God's people gather, and we need each other's voices.
- In His mighty heavens: the God we meet here also hung the stars. Creation has been singing since the beginning, and we join a song already playing.
- With any instrument surrendered to Him: God turned Moses' plain staff into a sign. The question is not "Is it good enough?" but "Is it surrendered?"

2. Praise Him for His Mighty Acts and Excellent Greatness

God is just as holy, just as faithful, and just as good on the hardest day as on the best.

The psalm gives us reasons to praise, not just a command.

- What He has done: He rescued Israel, and in Christ He raised Jesus from the dead and has forgiven, adopted, and renewed us. Remember the ways He has carried you.
- Who He is: His greatness does not rise and fall with our circumstances. He is the Blessor, not only the blessings, and His greatness has no end.
- Worship is a response to our Creator: we do not start the song. When we see who He is, praise rises up in us like a "wow" at the Grand Canyon. If worship feels dry, look at Him and the response will follow.

3. Praise Him With Every Instrument and Every Ability

All styles of worship can point us to the Lord as long as we worship in Spirit and in Truth.

Verses 3-5 list trumpets, harps, strings, pipes, cymbals, and dancing.

- God welcomes a variety of musical expressions. He is bigger than our style preferences, so let's be generous with one another.
- God can use the gifts He has given us. A mandolin left in its case makes no music, so ask yourself what you have kept tucked away.
- The heart matters more than the instrument. God rejected the songs of Israel when their hearts were far from Him, but He leans in to a surrendered heart, even with a cracked voice.
- The psalm does not say "everything that has talent." It says "everything that has breath."

4. Praise Him at All Times and in All Places

The God of the universe delights in your praise.

Everything the psalm has said leads to this wide-open invitation.

- Praise is for everybody: no audition, no age limit, no talent requirement. Every breath is a gift from God.
- Praise is not limited to Sunday morning: carry it out the doors on Monday, in the kitchen, in the truck, and on the hard days, as Paul and Silas did at midnight in prison.
- We were created for God's pleasure and glory: praise is what we were designed to do, as a bird was made to sing. When we praise, we are finally doing what we were made for, and it delights Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTION: *For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. Why do you think the book of Psalms ends with a shout of praise rather than a quiet conclusion? What does that say about where our lives are meant to be headed?
2. Think of a time God acted in your own story. How does remembering it shape the way you praise Him today?
3. Do you tend to praise God more for what He does or for who He is? What happens to your praise when life gets hard?
4. What is in your "case"? Which gift or ability might God be asking you to offer back to Him?
5. How can we show generosity to others in our church whose musical tastes in worship differ from ours?
6. What would it look like to carry praise into your Monday through Saturday this week? Name one specific place or moment.
7. What does it mean to you that you were created by God and for His good pleasure?

KEY TAKEAWAYS: *Main points to remember and apply*

1. Praise belongs in the sanctuary and in the heavens, because God is both among His people and over all creation.
2. God gives us reasons to praise: what He has done and who He is.
3. Worship is a response to our Creator. Look at Him, and the response will follow.
4. God welcomes many styles and uses every gift surrendered to Him, but the heart matters more than the instrument.
5. If you have breath, you qualify to praise. It is for every person, at all times and in all places.
6. You were created by God and for His good pleasure, and praise is what you were made to do.