

LEARNING TO PRAISE GOD
MATTHEW 21:14-17

Introduction:

1. The Bible is filled with praise to God. In fact, the word “praise” and its derivatives are used 308 times in Scripture.
2. Many children of God have never been taught how to praise God, and as a result, are missing out on great blessings.
3. It may be too late for some of you to learn how to praise Him because you will not allow yourself to change, but it’s not too late for our young people.

I. YOU CAN’T PRAISE A GOD YOU DO NOT KNOW.

- A. Sometimes I wonder about Mrs. Job if she had a personal relationship with God.
- B. Granted, her situation was tough. Her children were dead, the farm was lost, poverty had set in, and her husband was a medical disaster. Listen to the words of Job in all of this.
Job 1:21 *And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord.”*
- C. But Mrs. Job wasn’t as optimistic. **Job 2:9** *Then his wife said to him, “Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!”*
- D. This doesn’t sound like a child of God to me. Do you find it difficult to praise God when things are not going well with you or your family? Perhaps it’s because you are not saved and have the joy and peace within that only Jesus can bring you.

II. HOW CAN WE PRAISE GOD?

- A. By singing. **Judges 5:3** *Hear, o kings! Give ear, O princes! I, even I will sing to the Lord; I will sing praise to the Lord God of Israel.*
- B. By ministering to others. **2 Chronicles 7:6** *And the priests attended to their services; the Levites also with instruments of the music of the Lord, which King David had made to praise the Lord, saying, “For His mercy endures forever,” whenever David offered praise by their ministry.*
- C. By recognizing God’s righteousness. **Psalms 7:17** *I will praise the Lord according to His righteousness.*
- D. By telling others about Jesus. **Psalms 9:1** *I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works.*
- E. In testimony before others. **Psalms 35:18** *I will give You thanks in the great assembly; I will praise You among many people.*
- F. By playing musical instruments. **Psalms 150:3** *Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the lute and harp!*
- G. By lifting our hearts and hands toward heaven. **Lamentations 3:41** *Let us lift our hearts and hands to God in heaven. Psalms 134:2* *Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord.*
- H. By clapping your hands to Him. **Psalms 47:1** *Oh, clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with the voice of triumph!*

III. BEWARE OF JUDGING HOW OTHERS PRAISE GOD. **2 Samuel 6:12-16*****

- A. Picture the pure joy in King David that the ark of God is coming back to Jerusalem.
- B. The picture David’s wife Michal, who was exceedingly embarrassed by the behavior of her husband - and then she lets him know. **v. 20**
- C. She was guilty of judging David’s motives for behaving in such a way. **vv 21-22**
- D. Michal paid a severe penalty for her self-righteous judgment. **v. 23**

- E. Many children of God look on other children of God with disdain when they choose to praise God by shouting, clapping, or lifting their hands, but be careful, you might just suffer some severe judgment from God as Michal did.

IV. HOW CAN A TRUE CHILD OF GOD NOT PRAISE HIM?

- A. Near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. Jesus came riding into Jerusalem on a colt. The people were shouting praises to Him and saying, "*Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.*" **Luke 19:38**
- B. This did not set well with the self-righteous Pharisees who, in essence, told Jesus to tell His friends to shut up.
- C. Our Lord's answer to them reveals the praise due Him. **Luke 19:40** *But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out."*
- D. Listen, we can never praise God enough. If we could praise Him every hour of every day, it would only begin to scratch the surface. **Psalm 150:6** *Let everything that has breath praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!*

Conclusion:

1. Some of you may be self-absorbed by all the problems that seem to be besetting you. Some of you may be depressed, have no joy, may be discouraged and angry.
2. If you will start praising God with your entire being, you will have no time for such sinful actions. **Psalm 148:13** *Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name alone is exalted; His glory is above the earth and heaven.*