

Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 103:1-8
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Sermon August 21st, 2022

Worship Moves Us to Act

As people of faith, worship is at the heart of our faith. Worship is the fuel that drives us. Worship is where we more intentionally listen for what God is saying to us. For example, we listen for God's voice in the stories we hear from scripture. We listen for God's voice in the words of the sermon being proclaimed. We listen for God's voice in the words of the music we sing. We listen for God's voice through the prayers we say.

Worship is where we find rest and renewal for the week ahead. For example, we come with all our failures and struggles from the past week. We confess our sin. Receive forgiveness in the words of absolution, as well as, in the reception of communion, and feel re-energized by this grace to go out into the world and keep living out our faith **(Image)**.

We come with all our baggage and despair, and through prayer, leave it all in God's hands. Freeing us to be all that God created us to be.

We come with dreams and purposes unfulfilled, and through word and sacrament, find renewed hope in God's promises.

Worship is at the heart of our faith. Worship is the fuel that drives us.

And yet, there are times where we struggle to worship. Where worship doesn't feel like it is the heart of our faith. For example, worship can feel like a chore when we are trying to squeeze worship into an already overwhelmingly busy schedule **(Image)**. We have our job commitments. We have our household chore commitments. If we have children, we have our childcare commitments. Then we need to make time for our significant other. Then we need to make time for our friends and extended family. Then we need to make time to eat, sleep, and exercise. Then we need to squeeze in a few minutes for ourselves. Sunday comes along, and it can take a miracle for us to find the energy to worship.

Sometimes we can go through long periods where we don't worship. Where we are dealing with something that makes it harder for us to find the energy or motivation to worship. Where we start to feel disconnected from God, and God's purpose for our lives and for our community. Sometimes our worship tank is empty.

And then there are moments where we are really dedicated to worship. Where we are hyper-focused on worship. But our worship experience isn't fuelling us. Or maybe the

tank is full, but there is a problem with the fuel line. Either way you want to look at it, our worship experience isn't impacting us outside of the worship experience. Sometimes our faith can be all about Sunday mornings. And once we leave the worship experience, we struggle to live out our faith from Monday to Saturday.

Sometimes we forget that even though worship is the heart of our faith. We still need the heart to pump blood to the rest of the body's vital organs, so to, give us the energy and life we need to live out our faith everyday of the week. Not just on Sunday morning.

Sometimes we struggle to make time for worship. Sometimes our worship tank is empty. Sometimes our worship heart isn't getting our blood to our other vital organs.

In our gospel this morning, Jesus' worship experience moves him to heal this woman. Jesus' worship experience moves him to act. And though the leaders have a problem with Jesus performing this act during the worship experience, the leaders do acknowledge that the worship experience is supposed to move us to act the six days of the week that are not the Sabbath. But, Jesus challenges them to go one step further. Our worship experience is supposed to move us to act at any time. Even on the Sabbath.

According to Jesus, worship isn't just at the heart of our faith. Worship is the fuel that drives us to act out God's purposes for our lives and our community.

Do you feel moved from your worship experience to love like Jesus, to live out God's kingdom in your daily lives?

Does the story of Jesus healing this woman who has been suffering in pain for eighteen years move you to walk with someone in your life who has been suffering (**Image**)? Helping them find healing?

Does Isaiah's call to be compassionate to those who live in poverty move you to show compassion to those in need in your community?

Does the hospitality and grace we experience when we take, eat, and drink of the communion meal move you to show grace and hospitality to those you meet (**Image**)?

Worship is the fuel that drives us. It moves us to act. It is at the heart of everything we do. This is why God grants us the gift of Sabbath. To give us an opportunity to refocus our energies on God and God's purposes for our lives, so that we will feel moved to go out into the world and reflect God's love and grace to the people we meet everyday of the week. Monday to Saturday. Even Sunday.

Let us pray, gracious God, thank you for giving us the Sabbath where we have the opportunity to worship you. Where we feel forgiven, renewed, and energized to live out

your calling as your Son's disciples in our everyday lives. When we struggle to make time to worship you. When our worship tank is empty. When our worship heart isn't pumping the blood well enough to our other vital organs. Fill us with your Spirit. Fill us with your love. Get our fuel gage up. Get our worship hearts pumping again. So, that we can be moved to act. To live out your purposes for our lives and for our community.
Amen.

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