

I. Intro

A. Every church should have the same mission:

1. Preach the Gospel / Make Disciples
2. This was the mission given by Jesus, and it's still the mission today

B. However, each local church is made up of uniquely gifted people

1. That allows local churches to demonstrate God's glory in unique ways
2. We call this unique demonstration of God's glory, *the vision*

C. So, the Red Hills *mission* is the Great Commission, and our *vision* is:

1. To be a learning church
2. A loving church
3. A worshiping church
4. An evangelizing church

D. Everything we do reinforces that unique identity that God gave our church

1. Our culture reflects it, our attitude, how we spend our money, etc
  - a) It also drives how we study the word of God
  - b) Every sermon series at Red Hills can be boiled down to one of those 4 points
2. We spent most of this year:
  - a) Focused on evangelism (*John and Age of Skeptics*)
  - b) Learning and Loving (*Judges and The Life of Samuel*)
3. Today, we will focus on our church's vision to be *a worshiping church*
  - a) We will study this topic during September
  - b) My prayer is that it has lasting impacts on our worship culture moving forward

E. So, to kick things off, let's revisit a young man named David

1. Last week, he was anointed king over Israel
2. However, he has spent many years running from King Saul, who hated his guts
3. At the end of 1 Samuel, Saul died, and David became king
  - a) *You can read about David in 2 Samuel or 1 Chronicles*
4. When David became king, he brought reforms that still influence us today
  - a) The biggest reform was including music in the regular worship of God

- b) This reform was so significant that we have an entire book of the Bible filled with the songs David and his contemporaries wrote; it is called Psalms
- 5. Let's start our study with David's reform

II. Text

**A. 2 Samuel 6:1-11**

- 1. David had a plan to bring the ark of God back to the city of God
  - a) This was a good plan, a desire that God placed in David
  - b) It was time for God's presence to be in the midst of the people
  - c) But, David assumed that he could bring the ark back any way he wanted
- 2. This is the same thought process that Saul had, and it killed Uzzah
  - a) God already told Israel how they were supposed to transport the ark
  - b) They were instructed to carry it on the shoulders of the priests
  - c) This was important for obedience, but also what it told the nations
    - (1) God is present in this world by resting on His *people*
    - (2) God's *people* are entrusted to carry His presence throughout the world
- 3. This imagery was designed to preach the gospel message
  - a) God's kingdom is not established through our man-made carts or programs
  - b) God's kingdom is established by a man, Jesus
  - c) God's kingdom is spread by the Holy Spirit empowering men and women  
(Romans 10:14-15)
- 4. We don't choose how we handle God; God chooses how we handle Him

**B. 2 Samuel 6:12-15 / 1 Chronicles 15:25-28**

- 1. This time, David brought the ark back the right way
  - a) He had priests carry it, and they made multiple sacrifices
    - (1) 7 bulls & 7 rams when they kicked off the walk
    - (2) 1 ox every six steps
    - (3) 3 mile journey, 1step=24in, about 1,320 ox X \$2,000 per ox = \$2.6M
- 2. David's commitment showed us all the kind of king we need
  - a) We need a king that is willing to pay the high price of obedience

- b) We need a king to make the sacrifice for us because the price is too high
- c) David's actions are pointing us to a greater king, that paid the ultimate price, so that we could have the presence of God in us

**C. 1 Chronicles 16:1-4; 37-43**

1. After the journey, David put the ark in a tent in Jerusalem
  - a) He told the priests that played instruments to continue
  - b) He created a new order within the Levites that became full-time musicians
2. This was a HUGE shift in the history of Israel
  - a) Until this moment, women took the lead for music in the Bible
    - (1) Miriam in Exodus
    - (2) Deborah and Jephthah's daughter in Judges
    - (3) The women in 1 Samuel 18:6-7 who sang about Saul and David
  - b) Music was a response to God's power, but David included it as regular worship

**D. Worship is a word that means *to ascribe worth***

1. Worship is literally the act of valuing *something*
  - a) I say *something* because you can worship anything in the world
    - (1) You can worship (*ascribe worth*) to God
    - (2) Or, you can worship (*value*) your job, kids, position, education, etc.
    - (3) This is the foundation for all of the verses about idolatry
    - (4) Idolatry is the worship (*ascribing value*) of something other than God
2. David told the priests, "use music to:"
  - a) Invoke celebration of God
  - b) Thank God for all he has done
  - c) Praise (*make a show, boast, shine, make a big deal*) God
  - d) Basically, use music to continually worship (*ascribe worth*) to God
3. Our record of what they said is found in the Book of Psalms
  - a) They invited people to join them in worship...by lifting hands - *Psalms 134*
  - b) They told people to shout, praise loudly, and use instruments - *Psalms 150*
  - c) They told people to meditate on His power, His works, and His love - *Psalms 92*

- d) They invited people to bring sadness, repentance, and grief - *Psalm 60, 74*
  - e) They reminded people of God's faithfulness and their brokenness - *Psalm 39*
- E. The roots of this worship culture grew deep
- 1. It sustained Israel through an exile
  - 2. It sustained the early church through persecution
  - 3. It helped illiterate people learn good theology during the dark ages
  - 4. It is part of our church culture today

III. Conclusion

- A. In the coming weeks:
- 1. We will learn how worship was used in the New Testament
  - 2. We will learn about corporate worship when we gather
  - 3. We will learn about personal worship when we scatter
  - 4. We will learn about blending worship, prayer, the Bible, and worship in eternity
- B. But, before we take communion:
- 1. I want you to hear the words of Psalm 23, my favorite worship song
  - 2. My prayer is, you hear it and *ascribe worth* to God as your patient shepherd
  - 3. Psalm 23**