



VICTORY IS HIDING BEHIND OUR WORSHIP!

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1 Samuel 21:8-9 And David said unto Ahimelech, And is there not here under thine hand spear or sword? for I have neither brought my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king's business required haste. 9 And the priest said, The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom thou slewest in the valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod: if thou wilt take that, take it: for there is no other save that here. And David said, There is none like that; give it me.

- Our story opens today with David running for his life and coming into the tabernacle to find refuge.
- As we discussed last week, David didn't bring his own bread, he ate of the shewbread that God had ordained for the priests.
- There is a spiritual hunger in each of us that can never be satisfied with the bread that man can manufacture, we need the spiritual bread that we receive from coming to church!
- But, not only didn't David bring his own bread, he also neglected to bring his own weapon.
- And as I was studying this past week, looking at this passage again and again, my eyes were opened to something that I had read but never really seen before:
- behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod

Now, it is interesting to note the significance of each of these items:

1. The sword - God's weapon for David which signified victory.
 2. The Ephod - the garment of worship and prayer that was to be worn by the priests to minister to God.
- Now, interestingly enough, the ephod was supposed to be worn while the priest was in the temple. But, for some reason, Ahimelech had taken the ephod off and laid it down.
 - And, when he took off his worship, he covered up David's victory!
 - In order for David to pick up the sword, he first had to pick up the ephod!
 - Victory is hiding behind worship, when we begin to worship God, He will reveal victory to us!

I.) MANY PEOPLE WAIT FOR GOD TO GIVE THEM THE VICTORY SO THEY CAN WORSHIP HIM - GOD IS WAITING FOR PEOPLE TO WORSHIP HIM SO HE CAN GIVE THEM THE VICTORY!

The old song says, "Don't wait til' the battle's over, shout now!"

- 1.) Jehoshaphat
- 2.) Paul and Silas
- 3.) Elijah

- Before God will show us victory, we must put on the ephod of worship!
- If you've laid down your worship, you might just be covering up your victory!
- Put your worship on, and you'll find that the whole time, wrapped up and hiding behind the ephod of worship in the house of God is your victory!

II.) ACCORDING TO THE TEMPLE PLAN, IN ORDER TO GET TO THE HOLY OF HOLIES, YOU HAD TO GO THRU WORSHIP.

Sacrifice And worship preceded entrance into the presence of God.
(PUT UP OVERHEAD)

- 1.) The walls of the tabernacle were made up of animal skins - sacrifice of days gone by.
- 2.) Altar of the burnt offering - A fresh sacrifice had to be made, can't live on yesterday's sacrifice.
- 3.) Brazen Laver - a time of cleansing.
- 4.) Enter the Holy Place

- The golden, or incense altar - an altar of praise
- Table of shewbread -
- Golden candlesticks -
- After going through all of this, then and only then, could the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies. Inside the Holy of Holies was one item - the ark of the Covenant.
Inside the ark was:
 - Tables of stone
 - Pot of Manna
 - Aaron's rod that budded
 - Over the ark were two cherubim whose wings touched.
 - In the Holy of Holies, the presence and glory of God came down so powerfully and thickly that the priests couldn't see to minister at times.
 - The direction from God came in the times when the priests were in the Holy of Holies.
 - But, I want you to notice the progression here:
 - The glory of God was not revealed until after the sacrifice and worship were performed!
 - The Priest didn't go in and get the anointing and then come out and perform the act of worship - the act of worship came first!

III.) NOW, LET'S BRING IT DOWN TO 2001!

And the Bible says that now: ***Revelation 5:9-10***

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. ii

1 Peter 2:5,9

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: We are now priests, responsible for bringing the glory of God to this people, and even though the times have changed, the method to receiving the glory of God has not changed:

BEFORE WE CAN ENTER INTO THE GLORY AND VICTORY OF GOD, WE MUST GO THRU THE ACT OF WORSHIP!

We must come thru the:

1.) Skins into the outer court

- Every time we enter into this building, we see the evidence of the sacrifices of days gone by! We have entered into another man's labors, and are reaping the harvest.

2.) Altar of sacrifice

- It's not enough to live on yesterday's experience, we must make a fresh sacrifice every time we come into the temple!
- Romans 12:1
I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. iv

3.) We must wash at the Laver

- Psalm 119:9

9 BETH. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

4.) Then we enter the Holy Place

- Altar of Incense - Our praise!

- *Hebrews 13:15*

15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. vi

- Candlestick - The word of God!

- *Psalm 119:105*

105 NUN. Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

- We eat of the spiritual Bread

- *John 6:35*

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. viii

And after we have done all of that, we enter into the holy of holies where the:

- Power

- Direction

- Anointing

- Victory of the Holy Ghost is found!

- But, we will never find victory until we have completed the acts of sacrifice, obedience to the word, and worship!

IV.) THE REASON MANY CHURCHES ARE POWERLESS IS THAT THEY HAVE LOST THEIR WORSHIP!

A. W. Tozer on Worship

- "Christian churches have come to the dangerous time predicted long ago. It is a time when we can pat one another on the back, congratulate ourselves and join in the glad refrain, 'We are rich, and increased in goods, and have need of nothing!'
- "It certainly is true that hardly anything is missing from our churches these days-except the most important thing. We are missing the genuine and sacred offering of ourselves and our worship to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ....
- "My own loyalties and responsibilities are and always will be with the strongly evangelical, Bible-believing, Christ-honoring churches. We have been surging forward. We are building great churches and large congregations. We are boasting about high standards and we are talking a lot about revival.
- "But I have a question and it is not just rhetoric:
- What has happened to our worship?ix
- God forbid that we take off our garments of worship, true worship, and sit down and enjoy the trappings of our Christianity while we remain powerless, our victory wrapped up and hiding behind our discarded worship! I told you that tonight's message would be a continuation of this morning's.
- I wonder if anyone would like to put on the ephod of worship tonight?
- You'll find your victory has been waiting for you the whole time, right here in the house of God, wrapped up behind the ephod!