

A NEW SONG

Psa. 40:1-3

Intro: Singing is one thing which has been related to Christian worship from its very beginning. Singing also held a major place in the worship of OT saints.

But often it is true that the things we do most frequently are the things we understand the least.

Why did the people of God in the O.T. sing? Why do we sing?

Some people feel that singing is what we do in the early part of the service - "until everyone gets here." So it becomes a time-filler.

Others treat singing as something to get us "in the mood" for the service to follow.

Still others think that singing should be ^{primarily} entertaining.

SINGING MAY SERVE SOME OF THESE PURPOSES, BUT IF THIS IS THE EXTENT OF OUR UNDERSTANDING, WE HAVE NOT GOTT^{EN} THE TEACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES ON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT. THERE WE LEARN THAT SINGING IS WORSHIP!

Our text tells us that "He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God."

So the important thing in singing is ~~not~~ what it means to God and to me. And the passage before us tells us that if I am truly praising God for what

He has done for me, "many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

So by singing we minister to others, and by singing we can win others to Christ.

But let us look closely at these verses.

I. "A new song" - What is a new song?

The Hebrew word means something that is recently new: וְיָדָוּ.

Five other times you find this expression in the Psalms (33:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1). In these Psalms you will find the "new song" has to do sometimes with the Lord's work in creation, sometimes with His Word, sometimes with His power, or His faithfulness, etc. These themes are not new in themselves. In fact, these are the oldest themes in the world.

What, then, makes them new?

An examination of these Psalms will show that they are new because they are new to the Psalmist. Some new truth has gotten ahold of him. He has a new understanding of the Lord. Consequently, he sings a new song.

Do you know that there are some hymns in our hymn book you have never really sung? Oh, I'm not talking about the ones you do not know. I may even be talking about some we supposedly have sung tonight! When do you really sing a song?

You and I sing a song when
God puts it in our mouths because
it is the result of our experience.

"Amazing Grace..."

"Great is thy faithfulness..."

"How great Thou art"

Our greatest hymns were born in
experience and they can never really
be sung until their truth is the
expression of our ^{own} experience.

The Psalmist is telling us that
God has recently done something
new for me, and consequently I
have a "new song"!

II. What was the experience?

David does not tell us exactly,
but he pictures it in the words,
"an horrible pit."

He had been in a situation where
it was dark, depressing, hopeless,
where there was no foundation for
his feet. Probably everything he
believed about God was being put to
the test. All of his own resources
had been exhausted. No one could
help him. He could only cry to God,
and for a long time he wondered
if God could hear him.

Heb. Waiting, I waited.

Have you ever been there?

Then suddenly - you're out! How
it has come about, you may not
know, but you are talking about
what He has done. The darkness is

gone, you're on a rock, and you have seen God do something that you have never experienced before. And you are singing a new song. Others may have sung it before, but not you!

Singing now cannot be a time-filler, nor a mood-maker, nor entertainment. Singing has become worship because it is your new song.

You can usually tell where a person is spiritually by the songs he sings.

But notice one more thing

III. The results (v. 3b): "many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord."

not just hear it, but "see it." They get the message. You have gotten through to them. You have really sung and, when you do, others will really hear. They "see it."

Concl: We don't choose and pick our experiences. God does this. He establishes our goings (v. 2b). But it is as we come to know Him in His Word and as we experience His faithfulness, His love, His power, that old songs become new songs because then we really sing them for the first time.