

# Exodus 15:1-21 - Praise is Central to Salvation

To Read:  
1. Psalm 96  
2. Revelation 5

## I. Introduction

### A. For the last three weeks we have been in the central section of Exodus describing the actual Exodus from Egypt

1. Three weeks ago we considered the last plague and saw that judgment was central to salvation
2. Two weeks ago we saw the commands of the Passover and that redemption was central to salvation
3. Last week we listened to the crossing of the Red Sea and saw that rescue was central to salvation
4. This week we are going to finish this story cycle and visit the Israelites on the far side of the Red Sea looking back on their defeated enemies

### B. Through the Exodus cycle we have seen how the Exodus is a picture of salvation and how it teaches us about salvation in Jesus Christ

1. The Exodus is a great picture of salvation and what we learn from the Exodus points us to Jesus Christ
2. So Judgment in Jesus Christ is central to salvation, which we saw demonstrated at the cross
3. And Redemption in Jesus Christ is central to salvation, which we saw demonstrated at the cross
4. And Rescue in Jesus Christ is central to salvation, which we look forward to in the return of Christ
5. This week, in the Song of Moses and Miriam, as they look back on the mighty works that God has done in salvation, we will see that Praise is Central to Salvation

### C. Read Exodus 15:1-21

*Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the LORD, saying, "I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea. The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation; this is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him. The LORD is a man of war; the LORD is his name.*

*"Pharaoh's chariots and his host he cast into the sea, and his chosen officers were sunk in the Red Sea. The floods covered them; they went down into the depths like a stone. Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power, your right hand, O LORD, shatters the enemy. In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble. At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up; the floods stood up in a heap; the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea. The enemy said, 'I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them. I will draw my sword; my hand shall destroy them.' You blew with your wind; the sea covered them; they sank like lead in the mighty waters.*

*"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders? You stretched out your right hand; the earth swallowed them.*

*"You have led in your steadfast love the people whom you have redeemed; you have guided them by your strength to your holy abode. The peoples have heard; they tremble; pangs have seized the inhabitants of Philistia. Now are the chiefs of Edom dismayed; trembling seizes the leaders of Moab; all the inhabitants of Canaan have melted away. Terror and dread fall upon them; because of the greatness of your arm, they are still as a stone, till your people, O LORD, pass by, till the people pass by whom you have purchased. You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established. The LORD will reign forever and ever."*

*For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.*

*Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."*

### D. Proposition and Outline:

1. Proposition: Praise is central to salvation because God has saved a people for His glory
2. Outline:
  - a. God saves for His glory
  - b. Christ saves for His glory
  - c. The redeemed of the Lord praise Him

## II. God saves for His glory

### A. As we go through the first part of Exodus 15 this morning, I want to split the passage into three parts and consider three truths about praise

1. We'll look at (1) the basis of praise; (2) the actions of praise; and (3) the content of praise

### B. The basis of praise

1. In between the two songs there is a short interlude that explains why Moses and Miriam are singing
2. Exodus 15:19 - *For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea.*
3. On the far shore of the Red Sea, Israel looks back and sees how much God has done to save them, and they are moved to praise - they saw the great works of the Lord, just as they had been called to in chapter 14
  - a. Exodus 14:13 - *And Moses said to the people, "Fear not, stand firm, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will work for you today.*
  - b. The people of Israel had seen God's salvation which had been worked on their behalf with no input from them, and what else could they do but worship?
4. When God's people see the greatness of God's salvation, they are irresistibly moved to praise - they have seen God in His glory and they cannot help but worship - God's glory displayed in salvation is the basis of praise

### C. The actions of praise

1. There are two songs recorded in our passage this morning, a long song by Moses and a short song from Miriam
  - a. When we look at the two songs, there is not much development in content in Miriam's song, in fact it is just a simple repeat of the first line of Moses song - so the content of the song is not why it was recorded
  - b. Instead, I think Miriam's song is recorded because of how she sang praise to God - through Miriam we get a glimpse of the actions that accompany praise - how do the redeemed praise God?
  - c. This is why the majority of the verses devoted to Miriam describe how she sang her song
2. Exodus 15:20-21 - *Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: "Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea."*
  - a. As we watch Miriam lead the women in song and dance before God, I think we can say two things about praise, two actions that constitute praise: praise is rejoicing and praise is recounting
3. Praise is rejoicing
  - a. The big difference between Moses' and Miriam's song is that verse 1 simply records that Moses and the people of Israel sang to God, verse 20 records that Miriam grabbed a tambourine and led the women in song and dance
  - b. As you read the account you get a glimpse of a spontaneous, overwhelming joy as they see how much God has done for them, a joy that can't be easily contained, a joy that causes them to sing, to play and to dance before God
  - c. And this is central to what praise is, praise must be centered on a true rejoicing in what God has done, viewing what God has done without an overwhelming joy is impossible
  - d. This isn't a contrived joy, a pursuit of emotionalism or a display simply to show others, but a heartfelt joy in what God has done that boils over into actions of rejoicing
  - e. And these actions demonstrating the great joy of salvation are found throughout the Bible, even looking forward to David, we see him do the same thing in his joy of salvation
  - f. II Samuel 6:12-15 - *So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-edom to the city of David with rejoicing. And when those who bore the ark of the LORD had gone six steps, he sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal. And David danced before the LORD with all his might. And David was wearing a linen ephod. So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the horn.*
  - g. Praise is founded in rejoicing in what God has done and true joy is evident and shows itself, so the first action of praise is honest, sincere rejoicing in all that God has done

4. Praise is recounting
  - a. As we look, then, to verse 21 and the song that Miriam sang, we saw that there wasn't new content, but it was repeating what Moses had already sung
  - b. And, as we'll see in a moment, what Moses had sung was simply what God had done
  - c. So praise is centered on rejoicing, but the expression of praise is recounting - repeating back to God what He has done in an attitude of praise
  - d. It is telling God that we have seen His great works and we rejoice in His great works and we rejoice in seeing His glory displayed in salvation
  - e. And thus praise is not focused on us, it is not even focused on our joy, but praise is focused on God and what He has done, in joy it recounts the great works of God and thus praises God for them

#### D. The content of praise

1. As we come back to Moses song, what I want to dwell on is what Moses sang
  - a. How did Moses praise God for salvation, what great deeds of God did Moses recount
  - b. I think we can start to sum up Moses song in six broad statements declaring how great God is
2. God has won!
  - a. Dan poignantly reminded us of the main point of the story of the plagues and gave us the simple phrase, "God will win"
  - b. And now Moses says in Exodus 15:1 - *I will sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously*
  - c. Moses rejoiced because God had won the victory on their behalf, and so he tells God how great it is that He won their battle for them, Moses praises God for His triumph
3. God saved us!
  - a. Exodus 15:2 - *The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation*
  - b. Because God had won the battle on their behalf, God had saved them from the threat of destruction, He had become their strength, their preservation from the enemy, so Moses rejoices in God's salvation and praises God that He preserved them from destruction
4. God destroyed our enemies!
  - a. Exodus 15:7 - *In the greatness of your majesty you overthrow your adversaries; you send out your fury; it consumes them like stubble.*
  - b. A close corollary to God has saved us, Moses rejoices that those who sought their destruction have been themselves destroyed by God, God's triumph and salvation are so great that there is no one left to fear but God himself
5. God is greater than all gods!
  - a. Exodus 15:11 - *"Who is like you, O LORD, among the gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, doing wonders?"*
  - b. God's triumph is not only in the earthly realm, but He has won the victory over all the gods of Egypt, demonstrating His true status as the only God, no god may stand before Him, so Moses praises God
6. God will bring us to His land!
  - a. Exodus 15:17 - *You will bring them in and plant them on your own mountain, the place, O LORD, which you have made for your abode, the sanctuary, O Lord, which your hands have established.*
  - b. Moses last topic of praise is the topic of this entire section of the Bible, bringing the people of Israel into God's land
  - c. Moses sees that God's salvation will accomplish His purpose and bring them safely to His land, regardless of what future trials the people may face, God will continue to triumph and bring His people to Him
7. God is king forever!
  - a. Exodus 15:18 - *The LORD will reign forever and ever."*
  - b. As God brings His people into His land, He will be their King and they will be His people forever
  - c. God has demonstrated His kingship by winning His people, by delivering His people and by defeating their enemies, and He will continue as King reigning over them
8. So Moses simply recounts what God has done on their behalf, he recounts the great works of God that He has seen and He repeats them back to God in rejoicing, praising Him for His great works

### III. Christ saves for His glory

#### A. As I do every week, before we turn to place ourselves in the flow of God's story, I want to pause and see Christ in God's story

1. As we have already seen, Christ has fulfilled the judgment of God displayed in the plagues, the redemption of God displayed in the Passover and the rescue of God displayed at the Red Sea
2. If Christ has accomplished and fulfilled God's great works, then it is only right that Christ's triumph and Christ's glory is what we as the redeemed people of God ought to praise
3. So the six statements that Moses made praising God's salvation ultimately point to Christ, these things were patterned in the Exodus but ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ

#### B. Christ has won!

1. Moses first statement of praise focused on the fact that God had won the battle, there was no adversary who could stand against Him, His victory was ultimate and He alone was the victor
2. And Paul, looking at the cross of Christ says this about Jesus Christ, Colossians 2:15 - *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*
3. And John witnesses the scene in heaven when one came forward to open the scroll in Revelation 5:5 - *And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."*
4. At the cross, Jesus won the ultimate victory - the Lord is a man of war, the Lord is His name! - and the Lord Jesus Christ won the war at the battle of Calvary, and it is His praise that must be sung!

#### C. Christ saved us!

1. Because God had won the battle, Moses praised God for saving His people, He rescued and delivered them from their enemies and provided salvation
2. And John witnesses the heavenly councils and the praise sung to Jesus Christ in Revelation
3. Revelation 5:9-10 - *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."*
4. Revelation 7:10 - *After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"*
5. Revelation 19:1 - *After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,*
6. Christ's victory has won a salvation greater than the Exodus could ever imagine, a salvation that will persist for eternity and reconcile God's people to Him forever, and thus it is Christ's praise that must be sung!

#### D. Christ destroyed our enemies!

1. When God saved His people, He completely destroyed their enemies, so Moses praises God for the destruction of those who desired their destruction
2. And Paul, again, looks at the cross in Colossians 2:15 - *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*
3. Christ is the one who has ultimately defeated and destroyed our enemies, He cast them down so that they can never rise up to challenge us again; whether it is Satan, the accuser of God's people, the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms or our own sinful nature, all them have been destroyed by Christ
4. And this will be the theme of heaven's praise, Revelation 12:10 - *And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.*
5. The ultimate victor is Christ and He has destroyed every enemy so it is His praise that must be sung!

#### **E. Christ is greater than all gods!**

1. When God defeated the land, the ruler and the armies of Egypt, ultimately He demonstrated that He had triumphed over the gods of Egypt, so Moses praises God as the only God, the God with no rival
2. And now, in Christ, we can see that He is truly the only God, with no rival
3. Because Christ is the one who created every other power, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities, Colossians 1:16 - *For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities---all things were created through him and for him.*
4. But not only did He create the rulers of the spiritual realms, He defeated the rulers of the spiritual realms that stood against His people, Colossians 2:15 - *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*
5. So Paul concludes in I Corinthians 8:4-6 - *Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth---as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"--- yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.*
6. There is only one God and that has been amply demonstrated in Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist - who is like our God displayed in Christ? No one, and it is His praise that must be sung!

#### **F. Christ will bring us to His land!**

1. Moses looked back at salvation and anticipated God's continued victory in bringing His people to His land, and He sings God's praise for this future victory
2. And Paul looks back and forward as well in II Timothy 4:18 - *The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*
3. Jesus has saved us and Jesus will bring us into His heavenly kingdom - to Him be the glory forever and ever, it is His praise that will be sung!

#### **G. Christ is king forever!**

1. Moses conclusion is that God has demonstrated that He is the king through His victory and that He will be the king forever as He rules His people in His land
2. And Paul says the same about Christ, I Timothy 6:14-16 - *until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will display at the proper time---he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see. To him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.*
3. And John gives Jesus His great title in Revelation 17:14 - *They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."*
4. Or again in Revelation 19:16 - *On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.*
5. Jesus Christ is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, He has demonstrated His authority in saving His people and destroying their enemies, He will return and bring His people to His land and He will reign as king forever!

#### **H. If all of this is true, then God's people should be irresistibly moved to praise their risen Lord, which leads us to our last point:**

## IV. The redeemed of the Lord praise Him

### A. In our passage this morning, Moses, Miriam and all Israel praise God for the salvation He has accomplished

1. And we stand in their place, in Christ we have witnessed God accomplish and even greater salvation, greater triumph and greater deliverance, so our passage this morning calls us to devote ourselves to praise,
2. God saves in order to display His glory, so His people respond by praising Him for salvation

### B. So, if we are the redeemed of the Lord, we should have a personal devotion to praise

1. So our lives ought to be marked by a joy which springs from salvation that is ready at any moment to spill over
  - a. Peter tells us of this joy, a joy inexpressible and filled with glory, in I Peter 1:3-6, 8-9 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice ... Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.*
  - b. And if salvation fills us with this joy, then it is our duty and our pleasure to praise God through rejoicing, as Paul tells us over and over again, Philippians 3:1 - *Finally, my brothers, rejoice,* again, Philippians 4:4 - *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!* or very simply, I Thessalonians 5:16 - *Rejoice always*
  - c. And our joy in God's salvation is His praise, Revelation 19:6-7 - *Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;*
  - d. Our lives ought to be marked by an evident, even a palpable joy, a joy that springs from salvation - this ought to mark every part of our lives, a joy that is just ready to boil over, a joy that might make us sing or dance or jump because of how great salvation is
  - e. If you are a believer here this morning, then you should feel that joy in God's salvation - if you have never experienced this joy, this wonder, this awe in light of God's salvation, then perhaps you've never understood salvation
  - f. But, if you are a believer and have experienced this joy, then cultivate this joy, feed this joy by continuing in meditation on the great works of God, by replaying them in your mind and praising God for them
  - g. When you rejoice in what God has done, you are giving Him the praise that He desires and deserves for His works on your behalf
2. Which leads us to the second aspect of praise, like Israel we should be recounting the great deeds of God
  - a. As the redeemed of the Lord, our prayers ought to be marked by praise, by recounting what God has done on our behalf
  - b. Christ Himself called us to this, when He taught the disciples how to pray, the first phrase He taught them was a call to praise, Matthew 6:9 - *Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.*
  - c. And the Psalms call us to recount before God in praise all His wondrous works
  - d. Psalm 40:5 - *You have multiplied, O LORD my God, your wondrous deeds and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you! I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.*
  - e. Psalm 96:1-2 - *Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.*
  - f. Psalm 105:2 - *Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wondrous works! Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!*
  - g. We ought to have joy in the salvific works of God on our behalf and our joy is fueled by recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf and our God loves to hear us recount how great His deeds for us were and how in awe we are of them
  - h. So our lives ought to be marked by a desire to recount what God has done, our prayers should be filled with praise for what God has done in Christ for us, our mouths should be ready to declare His great works
3. If we are the redeemed of God, then we should have a personal devotion to praise, we ought to desire to praise God at all times in recounting and rejoicing in what God has done
  - a. God has saved us for His glory and He loves to hear the praise of His people from their lips
  - b. If we are redeemed, we should have a personal devotion to praise, but that is not the only truth here:

**C. If we are the redeemed of the Lord, we should have a corporate devotion to praise**

1. As we look at our passage this morning, one thing we can notice is that Moses and Miriam did not act alone
  - a. Moses and Miriam are overwhelmed with joy at what God has done, and their joy flows out in recounting what God has done to praise God for His salvation
  - b. But they don't do it alone, Moses leads all of the people of Israel in song before God
  - c. And Miriam leads the women of Israel in song and in dance before God
  - d. Their devotion to praise was not merely individual but corporate, they praised God together
2. God desires for His people to praise Him not only individually, but together
  - a. So we see in the Psalms a specific call to praise God together in the assembly or the congregation
  - b. Psalm 22:22-25 - *I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you: You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him, and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted, and he has not hidden his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to him. From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will perform before those who fear him.*
  - c. Psalm 107:32 - *Let them extol him in the congregation of the people, and praise him in the assembly of the elders.*
  - d. Psalm 149:1-4 - *Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, his praise in the assembly of the godly! Let Israel be glad in his Maker; let the children of Zion rejoice in their King! Let them praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre! For the LORD takes pleasure in his people; he adorns the humble with salvation.*
  - e. And, in the New Testament, Paul calls us to praise God together, for example in Ephesians 5:19-20 - *Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*
  - f. God desires the corporate praise of His people
3. So our corporate meetings together as the people of God ought to be devoted to recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf
  - a. Our speech together ought to be marked by recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf, recounting the great truths of salvation together
    - i. I was convicted in this in conversation with my son, Thomas, recently
    - ii. We have been trying to pray together every morning and I've been teaching him the Lord's prayer as a guide for prayer, and we were discussing the first statement together, hallowed by Thy name
    - iii. And Thomas turned to me and said in all sincerity, "Daddy, isn't it just great that Jesus came and saved us, if he didn't we'd be in big trouble," and I got to rejoice in that statement with him
    - iv. There was nothing extraordinarily profound in that statement, beyond the simply profound truth that it expressed, but the simple statement of what God had done for us was a source of joy and praise to God together
    - v. Our speech to each other ought to have this character, we ought to be constantly reminding each other of what God has done for us so that we can rejoice together in it
  - b. Our songs together ought to be marked by recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf
    - i. This is why theologically solid songs are important, because our praise together ought to be recounting what God has done for us in Christ
    - ii. We ought to choose and sing songs together that reminds us and allow us to recount what God has done, songs that praise Him for what He has done in Christ
  - c. Our prayers together ought to be marked by recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf
    - i. At Gloria Deo we have a Wednesday evening prayer time where we pray together as a congregation, wouldn't it be great if, instead of merely asking God for things, we spent time every Wednesday simply recounting to God in front of each other how great His deeds for us have been
    - ii. Our prayers should be filled with praise, in fact, prayers that are just praise, just recounting in joy what God has done for us in Christ, are excellent prayers
    - iii. This is why we should always have things to pray about, because if we know of nothing particular we need right then (which is never the case) we can always praise God for what He has done together
  - d. Everything we do together as a congregation ought to be focused on recounting the great deeds of God together

4. And as we devote ourselves corporately to recounting the great deeds of God, then our corporate attitude ought to be marked by an overwhelming joy
  - a. A joy that expresses itself in song - when we sing together to recount the great deeds of God, our corporate joy ought to be felt in song
    - i. We sing, not necessarily because we are great singers or love music, but because we are so happy about what God has done for us that we want to share that together in praise of Him
    - ii. So, when we sing together, sing joyfully, sing loudly, sing from your heart and join together with the people of God to rejoice in what God has done, our song becomes praise when we rejoice in what God has done for us
  - b. A joy that expresses itself in prayer
    - i. I think, perhaps partially because of the American psyche and perhaps partially in response charismaticism, our prayers together often have a dour and somber tone to them
    - ii. And there is a great need for sobriety in prayer, to remember the greatness of the God that we are praying to, but sobriety is not the enemy of joy, it is not the opposite of joy
    - iii. When we pray together we should be recounting the great deeds of God on our behalf, and so there ought to be a palpable joy in our prayers together, a joy in hearing others tell of God's great deeds in prayer, a joy in telling of God's great deeds in prayer
    - iv. Let us pray together soberly, but let us also pray together joyfully, we get to come and praise God for what He has done, what greater thing could we do
  - c. A joy that expresses itself in speech
    - i. If our speech together is marked by recounting the great deeds of God, then our speech together ought to be marked by joy - a joy that flows from salvation and is shared with each other
    - ii. This is the sort of thing that is hard to describe in words, but you know it when you see it, when people are rejoicing together in some great good you can feel it and there is great camaraderie in sharing that joy together
    - iii. That's how our time of fellowship together ought to feel, we ought to be always just on the verge of breaking into song together because we are so happy to be together as the people of God sharing with each other what God has done for us
5. If we are the people of Christ, then we should be praising God together, we should be recounting the great deeds of God to each other and with each other and rejoicing in them together