

WORSHIPING ON THE LORD'S DAY

August 4, 2013

Worship, as God intended, is a supernatural event. As we enter into this service of worship, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy. Prepare yourself therefore for this most holy convocation!

Prelude

Worship Theme

God is the Creator

Hebrew 11:1-3: "Now faith is the assurance of *things* hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the men of old gained approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible."

God Calls us to Worship Before the Cross Ps. 95:3-7a

+We Adore Him

Hymn #1, "All People That On Earth Do Dwell" *Psalm 100*

We Confess Our Sin

Great God of creation, we confess that we have failed to appreciate rightly, your eternal power and divine nature, even though they can be clearly seen through what has been made. Nor have we perceived and praised you properly, for the grace, wisdom, mercy, and love you have demonstrated in our redemption.

But because of these very qualities, we ask your forgiveness, for Jesus' sake, and pray that you would enlighten the eyes of our hearts more and more, not only to see your glory in creation and redemption, but to respond more fully in worship, love, and obedience. This we pray through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

We Thank Him For His Forgiveness

Hymn #119, "I Sing Th' Almighty Pow'r"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Dedication Acts 4:23-24

We Give Him Our Offering & Concerns

We Give Him Ourselves

Hymn #590, "Jesus, Master, Whose I Am"

God Calls us to Worship Thru Fellowship Ps. 119:161-168

We Read His Word

Sermon

*We Partake Of The Lord's Supper

Hymn #710, "God Of Our Fathers"

God Blesses us in the Benediction

Welcome and Announcements

Postlude

(Containers have been placed at the front for communion cups and small trash)

+You are invited to raise your hands during the prayer of adoration.

*Visitors, please see note below on the Lord's Supper.

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Welcome to Bethel Presbyterian Church! To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest; to all who mourn and long for comfort; to all who struggle and desire victory; to all who sin and need a Savior; to all who are strangers and want fellowship; to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness; and to whomsoever will come-- this church opens wide her doors and offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We invite you to **sign** the attendance card in your bulletin and drop it in the offering. You are invited to stay for **Sunday School** which begins at 11:30.

REGARDING THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for baptized believers who are in good standing in a Christian church (that is, not harboring unrepentant sin, not under any discipline of the church, and attending worship services faithfully). As fellow believers, we welcome you to participate in this New Covenant sacrament with us. The bread served during the meal is gluten free.

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

In preparation for next week's worship (Theme:), please use the following hymns in your personal and/or family devotions this coming week: #s .

Shamgar: A Biography of a Nobody
Judges 3:31

Study Notes for August 4, 2013

I. Introduction

Christian Biographer

II. Shamgar: A Biography of a Nobody, Judges 3:31.

A. Shamgar Was A Nobody, v. 31b.

As a servant of God, that which distinguishes him was NOT wealth, power, wisdom, intellect, or greatness... just that he was the son of an unidentifiable man named Anath!

In fact, "Shamgar" wasn't Hebrew. The name is Hurrian or Hittite for "sword." This means that Shamgar, at best, was half Hebrew! His father's name, "Anath," came from the Canaanite goddess of fertility and war, Anat!

The Jewish View of "Mixed-Race"... The Good Samaritan, Lk. 10:30-37...

*Point: And thus when you think of Shamgar who was half Jewish and half Gentile, you immediately get the idea that this man would not have been readily accepted by other Jews! At best, he would have been considered "a dog" or "unclean." And thus, he would have been despised, ridiculed, rejected, and possibly even abhorred. From all of this we conclude that Shamgar was indeed "A Nobody." And yet, we learn more from this text...

B. Shamgar Had Nothing Special, v. 31c.

Shamgar's Asset: an oxgoad!

It was this oxgoad- this farming tool- that Shamgar had going for him. Amazing, it wasn't strength (like Samson), an army (like David), wealth or wisdom (like Solomon), or good looks (like Saul). Shamgar had nothing more than an ordinary farm tool which was possessed by thousands in his day! And so we conclude that Shamgar was a Nobody with Nothing!

This is an apt description of us!...

Quote: Donald W. McCullough put it this way, "Evangelicals love their stars, lifting high on pedestals best-selling authors, conference speakers, television evangelists, and mega-church CEOs. But we would do well to remember that the church, for the most part, is nourished by unknown [servants] who stay at it, day by day, in ordinary congregations of sinners..." (*Christianity Today*, November 8, 1993)

That is Paul's point in 1 Cor. 1:26 where he wrote, "For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble."

C. Yet, Shamgar Was Used By God To Deliver His People, v. 31.

He struck down six hundred Philistines

He saved Israel

It reminds me of Audie Murphy...

D. Shamgar's Success Explained, v. 31a.

Shamgar was a Judge of Israel

Notice a Peculiar Theme of the Judges

Judges 3:10: speaking of Othniel, "And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel."

Judges 3:15: speaking of Ehud, "...the Lord raised up a deliverer..."

Judges 4:14: we read of Barak, "...behold, the Lord has gone out before you."

Judges 6:12: speaking of Gideon, "...the Lord is with you, O valiant warrior."

Judges 11:29: speaking of Jephthah, "Now the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah..."

Judges 13:25: we read of Samson, "And the Spirit of the Lord began to stir him..."

...the common theme that runs throughout this book regarding the Judges is that God had a hold on their lives!

*Point: The "secret" of being used by God in this world is NOT dependent upon your talents, intellect, power, ability, or pedigree. It is dependent upon WHO possesses you!

Toward that end, consider how God used Moses...

Background

The Encouraging Command, Ex. 4:2-4

What do you hold in your hand?

Matthew Henry wrote, "It is no matter how weak the weapon is if God direct and strengthen the arm. An ox-goad, when God pleases, shall do more than Goliath's sword." (*Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Bible*, [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers] 1997)