

A New Song

Everyone at some time has desired something new: a new car, new shoes, a new relationship, a new computer, a new job, or maybe just the latest music from a favorite singer but we always seem to want a new *something*. It might be shiny and flashy, or it might be large and expensive, or it might just be a change of circumstances – sometimes it really doesn't matter what it is, we just want something new. It's exciting and thrilling to get. Have you noticed, though, how quickly the thrill wears off?

God offers us something new that will never grow old: a new song. It's the song that comes with God's salvation, the gift he gives us through his Son. This is the gift of eternal life with God, a life that is infinitely better than any we can achieve on our own. It's the gift God gave us by sending his Son to live with us, to dwell among us, to bear with us and for us, to take our sins upon himself and carry them to the cross where he died for us so we would not have to pay the price for our own sins. And then he rose from the grave and showed us that we too will rise with him to dwell in his home, the new heavens and the new earth, for all eternity.

This puts a new song in our mouths, the song of God's salvation. Let's study together this week what it means to sing that song to our wonderful Savior.

Monday – A Marvelous Song

“Renown – n. widespread reputation, especially of a good kind.” Collins English Dictionary, 10th ed. (2009)

1. Please read Psalm 98:1-3. What does the psalmist tell us to sing about?
2. Now look at Isaiah 26:8. Do you desire God's renown, that he is known and glorified everywhere? Why?

Making it Personal: What has God done in your life that makes you want to sing?

Tuesday – Shout for Joy

“The out-and-out Christian is a joyful Christian. The half-and-half Christian is the kind of Christian that a great many of you are – little acquainted with the Lord. Why should we live halfway up the hill and swathed in the mists, when we might have an unclouded sky and a radiant sun over our heads if we would climb higher and walk in the light of His face?” Alexander Maclaren, 19th-20th c. Scottish pastor

1. Please read Psalm 98:4-6. What would be the modern equivalent to the instrumentation listed here? What would that sound like? What does this tell you about how you should praise God for all he's done?
2. What did David do in 2 Samuel 6:12-22? Have you ever been criticized for your faith as he was in verses 16 and 20?
3. How did David respond in verses 21-22?

Making it Personal: Are you ready to be considered foolish in others' eyes for the sake of honoring God?

Wednesday – Rivers Clapping, Mountains Singing

“Each particle of matter is an immensity; each leaf a world; each insect an inexplicable compendium.” Johan Kaspar Lavater, 18th c. Swiss pastor and poet

1. Please read Psalm 98:7-9. Have you ever heard an auditorium full of people clapping so that it is like the sound of rushing waters, or stood in the mountains and heard the wind rush through like a song?
2. According to Psalm 19:1-4, what does creation display? When has creation reminded you of God's awesomeness?
3. What happened in Luke 19:28-40? Why do you think people try to silence those who speak of God?

Making it Personal: Do you want to add your voice to the praises of God? How would that look in your life?

Thursday – Singing for All to Hear

“Music is well said to be the speech of angels.” Thomas Carlyle, 19th c. Scottish writer

1. Please read Psalm 98:4-9 along with Isaiah 42:10-13, and describe how the distant lands and the people in them are called to respond to God.
2. According to Psalm 40:1-3, where does our new song come from?

Making it Personal: Have you turned yourself over to God for all eternity? If so, you have something new to sing about. If not, you can turn to him now to be Lord of your life and he will give you his new song.

Friday – Freed from Darkness

“Either sin is with you, lying on your shoulders, or it is lying on Christ, the Lamb of God. Now if it is lying on your back, you are lost; but if it is resting on Christ, you are free, and you will be saved. Now choose what you want.” Martin Luther, 15th-16th c. German theologian

1. Please read Psalm 98:1-3 along with Isaiah 49:8-13, and describe what it means for God's salvation to be seen at the ends of the earth.
2. According to John 8:12 and Matthew 4:12-17, how is it that Jesus makes it possible for us to even see God's salvation?
3. In Matthew 4, Jesus quoted from Isaiah 9:1-7. What details do those verses contain about God's plan for his people?

Making it Personal: Are your eyes open to the Light of the World, the Son of God? Pray for God to guide you in understanding the salvation he offers you, an eternity with him.

For the Weekend: Read Revelation 5:1-14, where the new song is sung in heaven. What are the lyrics? Who is the one they are singing to? Have you ever joined in this song? If so, you are joining with those in heaven in a song that is sung throughout eternity.