

# Glow Business

## The Worship Leader's Ultimate Mission

By Dwayne Moore

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**F**or years I couldn't quite understand why in 2 Chronicles 20:21 Jehoshaphat chose to sing, "Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever." I know this was a familiar doxology for them, but if Jehoshaphat could give the choir only one statement to repeat, why not make it something they could say straight to God? Why not sing "Praise You, Lord, for Your mercy endures forever"? Maybe it's because Jehoshaphat and those singers wanted their praise to influence those who heard it. Based on what they were proclaiming, they obviously desired for everyone to "praise the Lord."

How effective were they? Did they influence all those within earshot? Did, in fact, everyone praise the Lord because of their urging? Certainly some of those soldiers who followed chose to worship. Perhaps several who gathered watching them along the route were motivated to join them in praising their God. However, even though many did decide to worship, the answer to the question is still "no." No, they didn't influence everyone. The enemy armies, for example, most certainly did not choose to worship Israel's God. When they heard the praise, rather than turning to God and giving thanks, they turned on each other!

Despite their passionate plea, the children of Judah simply could not get everyone to follow them. The same is true of us. No leader will ever have a 100 percent following. That is precisely why influence can't be our primary goal as lead worshipers.

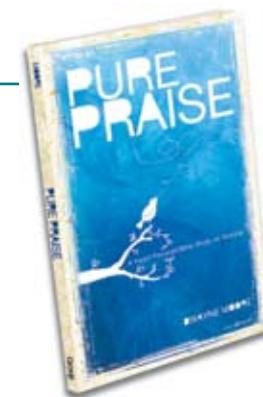
There are at least two reasons for this. First, we are setting ourselves up for failure. We will never lead everyone in the room to praise. The lost can't worship God, and some Christians simply won't! Second, when we make influencing people our top priority we give ourselves too much credit. When we believe it's our fault if they don't worship, we're really saying that we cause and control their praise. But the fact is, we're just not that good! That old saying holds true: "You can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink." And even if our motives are pure, would you really want that much responsibility?

### Digging for Treasure

So what is our ultimate goal? What can we accomplish every single time we stand in front of others to lead praise and worship?

To begin to unearth the answer, let's look at 2 Chronicles 20:29. It reads, "The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel." Once the children of Judah returned from their "battle-less" battle, the other nations didn't necessarily fall down in repentance and begin to worship God when they heard the news. Even so, they were undeniably and directly affected by Judah's praise.

Now consider 1 Peter 2:9. According to this verse, because we are God's chosen people, we are supposed to "declare the praises of Him Who called [us] out of darkness into His wonderful light." This



is the key that unlocks a hidden treasure chest of wisdom for us as worshipers and worship leaders. Once we see that our ultimate responsibility is simply to declare God's praises to those around us, we are only a turn of the key away from clearly understanding our ultimate goal.

Do you recall the bold request Moses made of God while he was on Mt. Sinai in Exodus 33:12-23? He asked, "Show me Your glory." When Moses returned to the Israelites, it was obvious to all that Moses had been with the Lord because he had the "glow that shows," so to speak (Ex 34:27-30). In the same way, it should be evident to others that we have been with the Lord. Worship leaders are not in show business; we are in the glow business. And people need to see us shining for God.

When the Sanhedrin court looked upon Stephen as he was being tried, they "saw that his face was like the face of an angel" (Acts 6:15). It was evident that Stephen had been in God's presence. When Peter and John stood before the Jewish council, the council was amazed that these "unschooled, ordinary men" were so bold. It was evident to them that Peter and John "had been with Jesus" (Acts 4:13).

True, we cannot force others into God's presence; however, like these men, we can always bring God's presence to them. Dan DeHaan put it like this: "Today we must do the same thing that Moses did. Those of us who are leaders must carry God's presence into the lives of people. Most of us do the opposite. We

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carry people into the presence of God. We must come down from His presence to minister with anointing from above.”<sup>1</sup>

### The Test of Illumination

How can we know if we've reached our ultimate mission when we stand to lead praise? How can we be sure that we've illumined those watching?

We will discover the answer in the same verse we read earlier: 1 Chronicles 20:29. Did you notice that when the nations talked about who fought against Israel's enemies, they didn't talk about Judah and didn't give the Judeites credit for the victory? They talked about the Lord! That's how we know that the people of Judah achieved their ultimate goal: God got all the praise in the end. The children of Judah showed forth His praises, and the world stood up and took notice—not of their great accomplishments, but of God's great power. When people are merely impressed, inspired, or instructed, they may leave talking about us. When they are influenced they may

leave talking about how God used us to help them. But when they are illumined, they will be in such awe of God's glory and greatness that they may not even remember we were in the service!

Biblical worship is evangelistic, because worship that focuses on God will in turn point others to Him. When we see a glimpse of His holiness, we get a startling and clear view of our own sinfulness. Sally Morgenthaler, in her book *Worship Evangelism*, writes, “The purpose or intent of worship is not evangelism ... Yet, evangelism ... should be one of worship's dimensions or by-products. Evangelism is the natural and expected fruit of worship that is authentic and full of God's presence and truth.”<sup>2</sup> As His people, our praise should show forth the truth and character of the Lord so those around us “will see and fear and put their trust in the Lord” (Ps 40:3).

I'll never forget what a fellow said to me a few years ago. He had picked me up at my hotel for a festival service in Plano, Texas. Driving there, he commented that he loved to sing in the choir; it's something he would always do. When I asked

him why, he said he came to church for the first time as an adult. When he walked in the service, he was immediately drawn to the smiling faces and vibrant voices of the choir. He thought, “I want whatever they have.” By the end of the worship time, he realized that what they had and what he needed was Jesus. He could hardly wait for the pastor to give the invitation so he could trust Christ as his Savior!

More than influencers, God expects us to be illuminators. More than to be leaders, he's called us to be a light in the darkness. In this we cannot and we must not fail. **W**

1. Dan Dehaan, *The God You Can Know* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1982), 32.
2. Sally Morgenthaler, *Worship Evangelism* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998), 88

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