



From Where I Sit . . .

“Worship In Song”

On the night in which Jesus was betrayed, just a few hours before he was to be crucified, he ate the Passover with his disciples for the last time and inaugurated the Lord’s Supper. At the end of this memorial meeting, the scriptures tell us, **“And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives.” (Matt. 26:30).**

In reading this we might wonder what hymn they sang? Who was the one who began the song? Did Jesus himself begin to sing and the apostles followed? Or did the Lord call upon Peter, or John, or one of the other apostles to lead the hymn? The answer to these questions will only be revealed in eternity. BUT we do know that our Lord and his apostles sang.

Many years later the apostle Paul was a prisoner in Philippi. At midnight he and Silas were bound solidly in the stocks in this Roman prison. Undoubtedly many of the other prisoners were asleep when **“At midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God.” (Acts 16:25).** Again I wonder the reaction of those who heard. In this darkened dungeon what did the other prisoners think as they heard the strains of Christian hymns at midnight?

At a later time Paul wrote to the church at Corinth **(1 Cor 14:15) “I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also.”** He also wrote to the church at Ephesus in **Ephesians 5:19, “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”** It’s generally agreed that “psalms” refer to the actual psalms which we find in the Old Testament. “Hymns” are thought to be songs that are directed to God and Christ in praise and devotion. “Spiritual Songs” are thought to be songs that are directed to fellow Christians. In his short epistle, James the Lord’s brother taught, **(James 5:13) “Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.”**

All of these passages indicated that the early Christians were a singing people. They sang as they walked on their journeys between the small towns of their ancient land. As they did their work, when circumstances permitted, they lifted their voices in song. In their assemblies they sang, as well as in their devotional time with God. Singing was an important part of Christian worship. It is one avenue of worship where the entire congregation can audibly participate with their voices and from their hearts in praise to God.

In our effort to do the very best that we can do in praising God and edifying one another through the use of songs in worship, each Christian should be conscious of several things: the meaning of the words we sing; allowing the words to sincerely pour forth from our hearts; singing with the kind of spirit that is encouraging to those with whom we are singing; staying together with our leader so that there is accord and not chaos in the song. Many other factors go in to having a meaningful worship experience in song.

For three Sundays, June 1, June 8, and June 15, Bro. Tommy Dozier of the N. Broad Street Church in Albertville will be conducting song leading classes from 4:45 P. M. to 5:45 P. M. just preceding our evening worship hour. All men and boys who have some interest in learning to lead would benefit from this brother's wonderful instruction. He will also lead our evening song services on those three Sundays hopefully helping us as participants to learn to focus more on words, spirit, and following our leader. Please do all that is in your power to be at these three special classes and worship periods.

. . . . Terry Broome