



Lesson 9

October 31, 2021

I Just Want to Celebrate

Psalm 149:1-5; 150:1-6

People choose different ways to express their emotions. What are some of the ways that expressions of victory and joy can be shared? Psalms 149 and 150 contain words of praise for the goodness of God; they are expressions of the joy we feel in having the honor of praising God with all of our being. In today's contemporary story, Mason will not be bullied. After everything God has done, Mason just wants to celebrate Him!

Mason's job opened a division near his hometown. Now Mason is closer to his elderly parents. Mason and his family joined a church where most of his relatives attend. Mason was surprised at the "dry" worship service—no visible, lively, audible, or verbal praise/expressions. Mason was told, "we don't do that because it's too distracting." Expressions of verbal praise include the following: "Amen!" "Hallelujah!" "Praise the Lord!" After reading the words of encouragement written by the psalmist admonishing believers to praise God with every expression, Mason said that he is not stressing; if God's Holy Spirit leads him to worship with verbal expressiveness, then so be it!

One Sunday, Mason began singing robustly and then let a loud praise out! His verbal expressions of praise drew hostile looks. A couple approached Mason in the parking lot and suggested that he worship quietly. Mason said when the choir sings, they are worshipping God, and no one asks them to be quiet. When the pastor preaches, he is worshipping God, and no one has told him to be quiet. Mason said, "there is no one way to worship God." Mason shared how he was saved from what should have been a fatal car accident: a man was having a medical emergency and came within inches of hitting his car head on; but God was watching over him! Mason then said, "when I express thanks to God, I remember everything He has done for me. Praise the Lord!" The couple walked away.

Discussion Questions/Statements:

1. Discuss your feelings on loud music, verbal expressions of praise, and instruments.
2. Discuss circumstances when loud music, verbal expressions of praise and instruments are inappropriate. Explain.
3. Share one thing that God has done recently that deserves your praise and thanksgiving.