

The Character of Commendable Worship Leaders
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A. The Passion of David (See Also I Chronicles 13-16; Psalms 3-41, 51-65, 138-145)

1. Worship Leader of the People (6:2)

II Samuel 6-7

“ . . . David rose and went *with all the people* . . . ”

David made preparation for worship (6:1) – He “rose to the task”
He didn’t force them but *lead* them to a deeper, more mature worship experience.
He didn’t consider himself above the people but the lead worshiper among them.

2. Reveler in God’s Glory (6:5)

“ . . . David and all the house of Israel were *making merry before the Lord* . . . ”

Literally translated “laughing;” the more subdued connotation is “celebrating!”
The corporate act of coming into God’s presence ought to be celebrative;
contrary to the contemporary mentality about authentic worship being subdued

“ . . . David and all Israel were rejoicing before the Lord *with all their might,*
with song and lyres and harps and tambourines and cymbals and trumpets.”
I Chronicles 13:8

3. Fearful follower of God (6:9)

“*David was afraid of the Lord* that day . . . ”

A celebrative spirit does not imply carelessness or presumption, however.
Uzzah didn’t think before he acted – even though his actions were sincere.
His carelessness dishonored God and it cost him his life.
Carelessness might cost you your ministry even when your actions were sincere.

4. Sacrificial Worshiper (6:13)

“ . . . when those who bore the ark of the Lord had gone six steps (*every six steps*),
[David] sacrificed an ox and a fattened animal.”

How extravagant are our efforts in preparing for, participating in and leading
the corporate worship experience of God’s royal priesthood?
Do we labor to coordinate our most capable personnel?
Do we offer sacrifices of praise that everyone would agree are extravagant.
Do we offer God more than our debt requires – the ox atoned for sin.
Do we offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving as well – the fattened animal
represented an offering of gratitude from the “first fruits” of the worshiper.
We cannot offer the former – Christ has offered the only acceptable offering
for sin. Thus, our sacrifice of thanksgiving should be all the more magnificent!

5. Abandoned in Adoration (6:14)

“ . . . David dance before the Lord *with all his might*.”

How much of ourselves do we regularly offer in worship?

Two salient quotes from British expositors are appropriate here:

“Jesus tells us that ‘the Father is seeking [present tense] such [as we are] to worship Him.’ (John 4:22, 24) What a mind-boggling concept—the Father is *seeking* us! He seeks us in our totality. He wants our spirits in adoration; He wants our souls in contemplation; He wants our bodies in dedication; He wants our service in consecration. This is [Christian] worship.”

(Stephen F. Olford, Foreword to *Return to Worship*)

“Worship is . . . to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, to devote the will to the purpose of God.”
(Anglican Archbishop William Temple)

6. Abased in His Own Estimation (6:21-22)

“ . . . I will make merry (lit., “laugh”) before the Lord. I will make myself yet more contemptible than this, and *I will be abased* in your (my) eyes.” (ESV)

“ . . . I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be *humble in my own eyes*, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished.”
(NASB)

That which inhibits our abandon in worship is all too often a matter of pride rather than protocol: “I don’t want to be too demonstrative in worship for fear that I’ll be a distraction to those around me.”

In reality the issue is that we’re unwilling to be “abased” or “lightly esteemed.” We have more concern for the esteem of those we lead than the delight of Him Whom we worship with abandonment.

7. Esteemed by the People of God (6:22b)

“ . . . by them *I shall be held in honor*.”

The esteem of those whom we lead cannot be earned – neither will it be tarnished by abandon in worship leadership – unless we fail to serve them in tangible ways. David did just that:

“And when David had finished offering, he blessed the people in the name of the Lord of hosts and distributed among all the people, the whole multitude of Israel, both men and women, a cake of bread, a portion of meat, and a cake of raisins to each one.” **II Samuel 6:18-19**

They knew his behavior in worship was authentic because his service to them was tangible and true.

B. The Precision of Priests

II Chronicles 2-7

1. Unified in Consecration (Leviticus 21-22:16)

“ . . . *all the priests* who were present *had consecrated themselves*, without regard to their divisions . . . “ (5:11)

2. Unified in Performance (5:13)

“ . . . it was the duty of the trumpeters and singers *to make themselves heard in unison . . .*”

3. Unified in Intent (5:13b)

“ . . . *in praise and thanksgiving to the Lord*”

4. Unified in Effort (5:13c)

“ . . . *when the song was raised*, with trumpets and cymbals and other musical instruments, *in praise to the Lord . . .*”

5. Unified in Content (5:13d)

“*For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever.*”

6. Unified in Experience (5:14)

“ . . . the priests could not stand to minister because . . . *the glory of the Lord filled the house of God.*”

C. The Attitude of Isaiah (See Also 25:1-9)

Isaiah 6:1-8

1. Desperate for God's Presence

“In the year that king Uzziah died [Isaiah] saw the Lord . . . [in the] temple.” (6:1)

Isaiah prophesied in chapter five about the ingratitude and rebellion of the people. There godly king of fifty-two years had just died and judgment was imminent. Isaiah, undoubtedly in desperation, was in the temple – seeking the salvation of God.

2. Eyes of Awe (6:2-4)

Above him stood the seraphim; each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said, “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

3. Contrite in Spirit (6:5)

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

4. Amazed by Atonement (6:6-7)

Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

5. Eager to Serve (6:8)

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

- D. The Heart of a Mary (Also Luke 1:46-55, 24:1-11 and John 11:28f) Luke 10:38-42**
- 1. Fellowship with God Luke 10:38-42**
 - a. Listening to His Word**
 - b. Communing with His Spirit Gal 5:16-25
Eph 5:15-21**
 - c. The Point:** “. . . only a few things are necessary, really only one, for which Mary has chosen the better part.” **Luke 10:42**
 - 2. Response to His Call John 11:28-35**
 - a. Continually Coming to Christ**
 - b. Worshipping with “Why?”**
 - c. The Point:** “The teacher is here, and is calling for you.” **John 11:28**
 - 3. Profound Experiences John 12:1-8**
 - a. Sacrificial Expression Mark 12:29-31
Romans 12:1-2**
 - b. Public Demonstration Hebrews 13:15-16**
 - c. The Point:** “Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done shall also be spoken of in memory of her.” **Matthew 26:13**
 - d. The Purpose:** “. . . you shall be (we are His) my witnesses . . .” **Acts 1:8**