

SUNDAY DISCUSSION GUIDE: October 17, 2010

Route 66 (a spiritual journey through God's 66 books)

"SONGS FOR THE ROAD"

Highway: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

TALK ABOUT IT

1. What are some of your favorite *secular* singers/bands and why do you like them (assuming you don't endorse everything they say)?
2. In your own words complete this sentence: "Worship is..."
3. Define a "boring" worship service and an "alive" worship service.

DIG INTO IT

1. Jesus defined worship this way, "God is spirit and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). What might Jesus mean when he says we are to worship him "in spirit" (the Greek word for "spirit" can also be translated "soul")? What does Jesus mean when he says we are to worship him "in truth"?
2. Who are some people in the Bible who sang and danced before the Lord? (Exodus 15:1, 20-21; Judges 5:1; II Sam 6:5,14-15; Mark 14:26; Acts 16:25-26)
3. Why do you think Paul contrasts getting "drunk on wine" with being "filled with the Spirit" and singing? (Read Ephesians 5:18-20)
4. What touches your soul most about Hymn #23 (i.e. Psalm 23)?

DISCUSS IT

1. Psalm 95 speaks of both "shouting aloud" to the Lord with "joy" and also "bowing down" to him in "awe." Church bodies that emphasize "awe" say churches that raise their hands and clap their hands in church are "irreverent" and should bow down to God. Church bodies that emphasize "joy" say that churches that focus on God's "awe" are "dead and don't realize Jesus is alive!" Is there a godly solution to worship styles that divide us?
2. If there's anyone who revolutionized the Christian church regarding worship it was Martin Luther. He wanted to communicate God's truths in the language and musical style of the people. So they understood the liturgy and lessons he translated the Bible into German (formerly Latin). Luther also involved the congregation in musical participation in the worship service. He used the lute (similar to a guitar) to write fresh hymns in the style of the day to connect with his culture. How well are we Lutherans doing today in connecting the Gospel with our culture?
3. Martin Luther said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. It controls our thoughts, minds, hearts and spirits..." Assuming we agree with Luther, how would you apply this statement to our weekly services?
4. Some insist that Sunday worship is only for the believer, yet it's also a key time to invite lost people to come to know Jesus. So how much should we craft our worship services to communicate with lost people who come in our doors and still edify and renew those who are already Christian?

PRAY ABOUT IT - Read together Psalm 95:1-7a "...the flock under his care."