

worship matters



South Sub Church

March 22, 2026

An Undignified Response

2 Samuel 6:12-23 (NLT) [20-23 listed below]

When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, “How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!”²¹ David retorted to Michal, “I was dancing before the Lord, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the Lord, so I celebrate before the Lord.”²² Yes, and I am willing to look even more foolish than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes! But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!”²³ So Michal, the daughter of Saul, remained childless throughout her entire life.

Sermon Summary:

Worship is not something we watch. Worship is something we bring. In this five-week journey through Scripture, we’ll rediscover worship as the overflow of hearts captured by Jesus. We’ll rediscover worship as our whole-life response to Jesus - shaped by who He is and what He has done. We’ll see worship move from the heart into visible expression: love, repentance, celebration, surrender, and daily obedience.

5 fun, non-threatening Ice Breaker questions:

1. What’s the most memorable celebration you’ve ever been part of (sports win, wedding, concert, holiday, etc.)?
2. If you could have a parade for anything in your life (finishing a project, a hobby, your pet), what would it be for and what would be in the parade?
3. Are you more of a “dance in public” person or a “clap politely from the sidelines” person—and why?
4. What’s one tradition your family (or your household) does that feels uniquely “you”?
5. What’s your go-to song that instantly puts you in a better mood?

10 Objective Bible study questions (observation):

1. What report does David receive that motivates him to act in this passage? (v. 12)
2. Where is the Ark of God being brought from, and where is David taking it? (v. 12)
3. After the men carrying the Ark move a short distance, what does David do? (v. 13)
4. What is David wearing as he leads the procession? (v. 14)
5. How do David and the people of Israel bring the Ark to Jerusalem (what’s the atmosphere like)? (v. 15)
6. Who is watching from a window, and what is her reaction to David? (v. 16)
7. Once the Ark arrives, where is it placed? (v. 17)
8. What does David do after the Ark is set in place (two actions)? (v. 17–18)

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9. What does David distribute to the people, and to whom is it given? (v. 19)
10. What does Michal say to David when he returns home, and how does David respond? (vv. 20–22)

7 Interpretive Questions (meaning):

1. Why do you think the narrator highlights the sacrifices after only “six steps”? What might that communicate about reverence and the cost of worship? (v. 13)
2. What is the significance of David wearing a linen ephod (a priestly garment) rather than royal robes? What might that say about his posture before God? (v. 14)
3. What does the combination of shouting, horns, dancing, and celebration reveal about Israel’s understanding of worship in this moment? (v. 15)
4. What might be going on in Michal’s heart when she “despises” David—embarrassment, fear, contempt, concern for dignity, something else? (v. 16)
5. In Michal’s critique, what values seem most important to her (image, dignity, status, propriety)? In David’s reply, what values seem most important to him? (vv. 20–22)
6. David says, “I was dancing before the Lord.” How does that phrase reshape how we interpret his behavior? (v. 21)
7. What do you think the author is teaching about the tension between public honor and God-centered worship in David and Michal’s conflict? (vv. 20–23)

7 Application questions (life response):

1. When you worship (singing, prayer, serving), are you more aware of God—or of what other people might think? What helps shift your focus?
2. Do you ever “edit” your devotion to look more respectable? What might it look like to be more honest and wholehearted before God?
3. David’s worship included sacrifice and generosity. What’s one costly way you could honor God this week—time, pride, comfort, money, apology, obedience?
4. Where do you relate more to David or Michal—and why? (Wholehearted expression vs. concern for image)
5. How do you handle conflict when someone close to you doesn’t understand your faith or your expression of it?
6. David blessed the people and shared food. How can worship overflow into blessing others in practical ways in your home, group, or neighborhood?
7. Is there any area where “pride” (fear of looking foolish) is keeping you from obedience or worship? What is one step of humility you can take