

## Encounter- Week 2

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### Shabach

- The Chicago Cubs are one of the most iconic sports franchises in the world. They are known for having a very prominent and loyal fan base.
- But they are also the fan base that had been starved of a championship longer than any other.
- Before the 2016 season, the last time the Chicago Cubs had won a world series was 1908.
- This fan base had gone through 108 years of disappointment. The longest drought in North American professional sports history.
- There were 11 different curses that were rumored to be plaguing the ball club.
- Even when they seemed to have the best team in baseball they still couldn't get out of the first round of the playoffs!
- That is until 2016, when the stars finally began to align for the ball club
- That year they finally found themselves in the world series for the first time since 1945
- But they didn't get off to a great start
  - They lost game 1 by a commanding 6 to nothing
  - They were able to take game 2, but then they dropped games 3 and 4
  - So, now down in the series 3 games to 1 to the Cleveland Indians, Cubs fans all but lost hope, until they were able to eek out a one run victory in game 5
  - In game 6, they won handedly with a score of 9-3 and now Cubs fans can taste it!

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- In game 7, the Cubs get off to a quick start and they're able to hold the lead all the way into the 8th inning with a score 6 to 3. That is until the Indians come back and tie the game.
- Everyone is on pins and needles and the game is still tied at the end of the 9th inning. Going to extras
- And just to add to the drama, there happens to be a 17 minute rain delay before the can play the 10th inning!
- But when play resumes, the cubs were able to score 2 runs in the top of the 10th. So now it's up to the defense to close it out.
- After 2 quick outs, the pitcher gives up a walk, and then a hit that scores a run.
- It's now a 1 run game. The cubs make a pitching change. There's 2 outs, the tying run on first and the winning run at the plate.
  - First pitch, strike 1.
  - Second pitch, you get a swing. You hear the crack of the bat. Runner on 1st takes off.
  - The ball is chopped to an awkward part of the infield, they need this out to secure the Cubs first championship in 108 years
  - And see if you can tell what happened by the REACTION OF THE FANS OUTSIDE OF WRIGLEY FIELD as they watch this play unfold
  - **VIDEO**
- I don't think that it is any type of exaggeration to say that is the type of enthusiasm that David expects whenever he writes verses like
  - ***"Shout for joy in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the upright." -Psalm 33:1***
  - ***"Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His Name; give to Him glorious praise!" -Psalm 66:1-2 (ESV)***

- ***“My lips will shout for joy, when I sing praises to You; my soul also, which You have redeemed.” -Psalm 71:23 (ESV)***
- We don't encourage you to clap, make noise, and give praise out loud in between and after songs that we sing because we're trying to play on some sort of emotionalism
- No, it is a command in scripture to do so.
- If you are just joining us, we are currently walking through a series called Encounter.
- Within this series we are breaking down the 7 Hebrews words for praise that are found in the Old Testament
- Last week we talked about Halal which means
  - ***HALAL- To Shine, to Celebrate, to Be Foolish***
- We also talked about Yadah:
  - ***YADAH- “To revere or worship with extended hands. To hold out the hands. To throw a stone or arrow.”***
- I remember when I began my journey of trying to live out and practice these words for Praise
  - Because really they're not just words for praise, these are command of scripture
- And I was realizing that I was commanded to praise with some enthusiasm, I was commanded to praise with raised hands, which weren't things that I was used to
- I was raised in a more traditional baptist setting, we sang the hymns, read from the KJV...nothing wrong with those things at all, just giving you the context of the church culture that I was used to
- And enthusiasm in worship wasn't something that I regularly saw

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- I don't remember a single time in my childhood seeing anyone worship with extended hands...if they did, I didn't notice
- So raising hands during worship wasn't something that I was used to doing or that came naturally for me
- But I remember getting convicted because I am an emotional person. Not in a sense of crying and tears, but I've always had a tendency to get riled up
  - I've always been a passionate sports fan
  - When I played, I was always a very passionate athlete
  - I wore my emotions on my sleeve, I would get very riled up and excited
  - Whenever I really believed in something and get passionate about it, I would become the world's greatest spokesman for a product, person, or team that I believe in
- But was I showing that same passion for the greatest thing that ever happened to me in my life? My salvation in Christ? Was I showing that same passion toward the God of the Universe who welcomed me into His family and changed the course of my entire eternity?
  - I wasn't
- So I knew that a small step I needed to take, was at least begin the practice of worshiping with extended hands
- And I remember the first time I raised my hand toward heaven during a worship song
- I was in Thomas Road Baptist Church in Lynchburg, VA and during a classic Chris Tomlin song, I just slipped my hand half way up
  - And you know how I felt? Awkward...very awkward
  - I felt like every single eye ball in that room immediately looked at me
  - I felt like even people in the balcony were staring at me

- But I had to push through and continue the practice because the reality was, that mindset was so selfish and prideful.
  - To think that the 400 to 500 people that were there to Worship their Savior cared more about me raising my hand, than praising their God
  - That was a ridiculous thought to have, but I had it. And I needed to break it and get over myself
- I needed to be able to show just as much or more passion for God than anything else I would be passionate about in this life.
- And that type of Passionate worship is the word that we are going to study today, and that is the Hebrew Word:
  - **SHABACH** — **“To Praise Publicly, To Laud, To Address in a Loud Tone.”**
- Do you think those Cubs fans outside of Wrigley Field had a little Shabach in them?
- I do. And I think we as Christians need to have a little more Shabach in us as well
- David uses the word Shabach in this context in Psalm 63, whenever he writes ***“O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise (SHABACH) you. So I will bless you as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands.” -Psalm 63:1-4 (ESV)***
- PRAY
- *I was at a conference many years back, and the speaker told a story about taking his son on one of his speaking engagements. And there was a balcony type thing that his son was sitting in during the service. And*

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after he was done preaching, the pastor went up to join his son, and at one point during the closing worship set, his son tugged on his dad's sleeve and said, "Dad, I'm not sure if I believe anymore." His dad, completely thrown off, got down and asked his son, "Why son? What's wrong?"

- He said, "Well according to your sermon, Jesus dying for us and God saving us is the greatest news in the entire world, but looking at these people, they don't seem to care at all. They look miserable."
- So it makes sense that we would be commanded in scripture to have some Shabach in our praise.
- In Psalm 117 the scripture says, **"Praise the Lord, all you nations. Praise (SHABACH) Him, all you people of the earth." -Psalm 117:1 (NLT)**
- And in Psalm 147 David tells his people, **"Praise (SHABACH) the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!" -Psalm 147:12 (ESV)**
- These doesn't sound like suggestions to me, do they to you?
- So according to the definition word Shabach in the Hebrew, we are commanded in Scripture to:
  - **PASSIONATELY PRAISE IN PUBLIC**
- When we gather together to Praise our God, it should look like to the outside world, we actually believe and care about the One we are Praising!
  - This doesn't mean you have to be weird about it
  - Will your praise and worship make you feel and look foolish from time to time? Yes it will.
  - But it's not about you.
- Some of you may come out of contexts like me where there was little to no enthusiasm shown during worship

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- Other's may come out where you have seen the opposite extreme where worship was a full on carnival! You had people running the aisles, you had banners and flags being waved, you had shouts you had screams you had falling outs!
  - And I am not saying that the traditional non-hand raisers like myself need to completely go to that extreme
  - There can be a balance to be found between the two.
- Now I want to able clear for a moment:
  - There may be some who are getting a little offended...not my intention
  - There is absolutely nothing wrong with a more traditional style of worship
  - There is so much value in the old hymns that are so rich in theological truth
  - What we are talking about today has absolutely nothing to do with worship style...that is not the point
- The point is the heart in which we worship our God
- The great theologian Martin Lloyd Jones once said, ***“A dislike of enthusiasm can be one of the greatest hindrances to revival.”***  
***-Martyn-Lloyd-Jones***
  - I have been in traditional worship services that were full of enthusiastic worship
  - On the flip side, I have been in the most flashy contemporary worship services that had no enthusiasm what so ever.
  - I have also been in worship services where the so-called enthusiasm was so over the top that it didn't seem to be genuine at all
- The goal of a message like this is to stir up heart felt genuine worship among our body that our Holy Perfect Loving Father deserves

- Enthusiasm with no heart is just acting
- But if you truly have a heart for something, you will be enthusiastic about it
  - And that will look different for a lot of people
  - Not everyone shows enthusiasm in the same way
  - Some people have very loud, in your face personalities
  - Others have more reserved personalities
- Rachel is one that doesn't naturally show a lot of excitement
  - After I proposed, I didn't know if she like the ring or not for 2 days..
  - Some people are just naturally more reserved, but even the reserved ones can still Shabach, Halal, and Yahdah
- I had a friend in college named Paul Scott who was a very stoic person
- He never showed a lot of emotion in any way
- And he was a part of our very enthusiastic college ministry
- And during the worship, he would normally be in the back looking like a secret service agent, but when I would see him barely put his hands out in front of him, I knew that for him, that was like he was doing back flips...he might as well be sprinting the aisles
- So this isn't about forcing anyone to have a personality they don't have. This is about appreciating who our God is, and giving Him the praise that He deserves
- Making sure that we are making our praise and worship all about Him and not about ourselves.
- So some of us need to be stretched a bit in this
- And a good way to measure this is:
  - If you are worried about being seen, you might need to step out a bit



- If your desire is to be seen, you might need to take a step back
- Some of us are worried about being more vocal in our praise, raising our hands, or stepping out of our comfort zone, and we do not praise God in the manner in which he deserves because we are worried about the thoughts and opinions others may have if they see us
  - If that is the case, we need to be stretched and step a bit out of our comfort zone
  - We need to get a little bit louder, we need to be willing to extend our hands and posture ourselves in praise more
- Others may have a desire to be seen, we want to be as loud and flamboyant as we can so that other people will think we're super spiritual
- And that mindset is probably even more blasphemous
- We don't want to end up like the pharisees Jesus rebuked by quoting Isaiah when He said, ***"This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me; in vain do they worship Me..." -Matthew 15:8-9 (ESV)***
- A wise man once said, the heart of the matter is the heart of the matter
- Some people may get bent out of shape thinking pastors shouldn't tell people how they should praise or handle themselves during worship
- Well, I'm just telling you how Scripture commands us to praise and handle ourselves during worship
  - However the actions that we take in our praise are meaningless if we do not have the heart behind it
  - And Shabach Praise is a result of a heart that is desperate for God
  - David, in Psalm 63, gives us the reasons why his shabach praise is necessary, he shows us where his shabach praise comes from
- This isn't an act to perform, this is a response from a heart that is desperate

- In verse 1 he says, ***“O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.” -Psalm 63:1 (ESV)***
- Now, David probably uses this symbolism because he finds himself in a desperate situation
- If your bible is like mine, right before the first verse there’s a little heading and description of the psalm and mine says, *“A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.”*
- So David is writing this Psalm whenever he is in the midst of a very difficult circumstance
  - His own son Absalom, had been brewing a conspiracy against him for 4 years
  - And then finally when he had enough people on his side, they rose up against David, and David had to flee Jerusalem as his son has divided his kingdom and is hunting him just like Saul had done years before
  - So now David is on the run, wandering in the wilderness with those who are still loyal to him
  - And throughout this time, he doesn’t blame God, but rather better recognizes his need for God
  - He says, in the same way that he and his people thirst for water as they wander in that dry desolate wilderness, in the same manner his soul thirsts for God in this moment
  - This isn’t a time to fold and feel sorry for yourself, this is a time to seek God
- He says, ***“So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary, beholding Your power and glory. Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.” -Psalm 63:2-3 (ESV)***
- This is so powerful, because he says, “I have looked to you,”

- Not to fix my problem
- Not to give me answers
- Not to do what I'm asking You to do
- No, I have looked to You to behold Your Power and Your Glory
- He says, Because your steadfast Love is better than life itself, I will praise you passionately in public
  - EVEN in this wearisome season and dark circumstance
- Verse 4, ***“So I will bless You as long as I live; in Your name I will lift up my hands.” -Psalm 63:4 (ESV)***
  - It's interesting that David doesn't ask for deliverance or victory
  - He really doesn't ask for anything in this passage
  - Toward the end of the chapter he makes a statement about his enemies but he doesn't ask God to do anything to them
- Why? Because David probably doesn't even know what to ask of God
  - If he were to ask for victory, that would most likely mean the death of his son
  - If he were to ask God to protect his son, that would mean the death of himself and all those still loyal to him
- He's in a lose-lose situation here
  - If he wins, his son is most likely dead
  - If Absalom wins, that means he's dead and all those with him
- There's no way to win! Even when this rebellion comes to a close, David begs his men to be gentle with Absalom if and when they find him
  - He says, “For my sake, be gentle with him” He doesn't want to see any harm come to his son

- And then when he gets word that Absalom died in battle he mourns and says he wishes it could have been him instead!
- What is David supposed to do here!
  - He does the only thing he can think of
  - He Praises
- And it's interesting that the Word Shabach actually has another meaning as well in the Hebrew
- **SHABACH- TO PACIFY; TO SOOTHE, TO STILL**
- Now this seems a bit strange at first, because this seems to be completely contrary to the first definition which is to Laud, Address in a Loud Tone, Passionately Praise in Public
  - How do you go from *that* to Pacify, Soothe, and Still?
- Well if you think about it, we normally get loud about one thing in order to quiet another
  - We get loud in our defensiveness in order to quiet our insecurities
  - We get loud with our opinions to quiet the opinions of others
  - I know for me, sometimes I turn the car radio up loud in order to quiet the rattling noises in the car I want to pretend aren't there
- And I think about Fletcher right now, who has been going through his worst season of teething so far. And he's got this little pacifier that opens up and we put a frozen grape in there for him that he gnaws on when he's hurting
- And the loudness of the cold helps quiet the pain of the teeth breaking through
- And this what Shabach Praise does
- **PRAISE PACIFIES THE PAIN**

- Now, it doesn't completely take the pain away...it doesn't immediately fix the problem
- Just like we need to keep reloading a frozen grape into the pacifier for Fletcher, we need to keep reloading our praise when the pain begins to mount up
- David says he's looking to God, and his praise is pacifying the pain of his situation because his praise let's him realize that
  - God's Power is louder than the problem
  - God's Glory is louder than the grief
  - God's Love is louder than all of the lies
- So whenever my circumstances, my difficulties, the darkness of this world start to scream at me and I need to get loud with my praise that will pacify the pain because it sets my mind on something greater and longer lasting than any trouble that I face.
- The word Shabach also appears in Psalm 65, in this context when David writes to God, ***"You answer us with awesome and righteous deeds, God our Savior, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas, Who formed the mountains by Your power, having armed Yourself with strength, Who stilled (SHABACH) the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the turmoil of the nations."***  
***-Psalm 65:7 (NIV)***
- So this Shabach seems to be a give and take relationship with God
  - We give Him loud praise, and He gives us stillness in our soul
  - We give Him passionate praise, and He gives a peace that surpasses all understanding
  - He pacify's the pain and He calms the chaos
- This word picture reminds me of the account in Matthew chapter 8 that says, ***"And when [Jesus] got into the boat, His disciples followed***

***Him. And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea, so that the boat was being swamped by the waves; but He was asleep. And they went and woke Him, saying, "Save us, Lord; we are perishing." And He said to them, "Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?" Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. And the men marveled, saying, "What sort of Man is this, that even winds and sea obey Him?" -Matthew 8: 23-27 (ESV)***

- You see many times we look at a passage like this and we scream to God to calm our surrounding circumstances, to deal with an outside issue, to change another person, to bring a solution
  - And we go running to God and say Save us! We're Perishing!
- But maybe the chaos that needs to be dealt with isn't really what's going on out there, but rather what's happening in here.
- Because so many times we allow what's going on in the outside to effect us way too much on the inside and the storm that is raging is actually the raging storm of our heart, it's raging in our soul, it's storming in our Spirit
- And that's the storm that God really needs to speak to
- And whenever we go to Him in Praise, we are intentionally setting our Minds on Him, and His Power, and His Glory, and how much higher, lifted up, and louder He is than anything this world could ever throw at us
  - And the Loudness of His Greatness, brings Great Calm to our souls
- Now, will it ever storm again? Yes
- Will we allow it to affect us again? Absolutely we will
- Will we revert back to asking God to do the same things we asked of Him before? Probably

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- But that's when we need to turn back to Praising Him, Shabach-ing Him, and allowing Him to Pacify what He needs to Pacify within us so we can make it through and love Him more
- Because we talked about it last week, the storms, the valleys, the hardships, the pain is always coming and will always be a part of our lives
- But the only way to truly find peace and relief in this life, is to Praise the only one who has a solution to it all
- And He promises to be with us and for us, through all of the ups and downs of this life, until He's sees us through to the other side where there will be no more pain, no more suffering, He will wipe every tear from every eye, and we will get to Shabach Him for all of eternity in perfect unity and harmony with people from every nation, every tribe and every tongue.
- The promise of Eternity is the great calm that Jesus brings to our souls and to our Spirit
  - When we lose a loved one, the only Pacifier there is for that pain is the promise that we will see them again in Heaven
    - Jesus made that possible so we Praise Him for it
  - The only soother for the sting of sickness is the promise that this life is but a vapor and we experience perfect restoration at the end of this broken life
    - Jesus made that possible, so we Praise Him for it
  - The only thing that can still or calm our souls in the midst of this broken, chaotic world is the promise that Jesus is coming back, and He will set up a new heaven and new earth where sin will exist no more
- And John gives us a glimpse into this time in the book of Revelation, and whenever he see's the Father in the throne room and he does his best in trying to describe what he saw. And he described it in this way

- ***“And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.” Revelation 4: 3-6a (NKJV)***

- So much symbolism that is a sermon for another time, but I love that he says there was a sea of glass, like crystal before the Throne
- Because, in the Old Testament the sea was a symbol of Chaos
- And it reminds me so much of the story we just read about Jesus calming the storm on the seas
- *We must always remember that what we may see as chaotic, is nothing but a calm sea of glass in front of His throne*
- And the only way that calm and peace can be passed to us from God, is through our Praise
- When we praise Him, passionately, genuinely, authentically
- Not worried about what people will think, but focusing on Praising Him in the way He deserves
- Not Praising Him to get something from Him, but Praising Him for who He is
- Because man, I can't help but imagine. Seeing the way that those cubs fans went ballistic when their team won the world series, I can't help but imagine that kind of reaction every time Jesus makes an appearance in Heaven



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- When we and millions of others let out a Shabach greater than anything we will ever experience in this world.
- And we get to practice for that eternity of Praise right now.
- *What does your praise need to be louder than right now?*