

**\*\*Bumper Video –**

Welcome to week 3 of our Shema Worship Sermon Series.

We have been talking about the greatest command. It is known as...

# Shema

Jesus specifically sites this as the greatest command.

Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.(NIV)

We talked the previous weeks about Loving the Lord with all our heart and with all our mind. We have received texts from many of you sharing your thoughts on what it looks like to Love with all your heart and mind. WE'VE RECEIVED MANY MESSAGES FROM PEOPLE WAY OUTSIDE THE CITY LIMITS OF THE DALLAS METROPLEX! Thank you for your thoughts and questions.

## ALL YOUR STRENGTH

This week we would like to know what you think it looks like to worship with all of your strength. Text in your thoughts or questions about worship to 214-856-0550

Real quickly we want to remind you that last week we told you that it's impossible to love someone you have forgotten. So don't forget the Lord.

## Don't Forget to Remember

Within the Shema were built physical reminders... They were to wear reminders on their hand and forehead, on the door posts and gate... Everywhere they looked reminded them of the greatest command... to Love God with All.

We challenged you to do this. Don't forget to remember. Be constantly reminded of the Lord! The Lord you love... the Lord that forgave you, saved you, healed you...

Shema Worship also effects **Routine**. The Hebrew believers were commanded to impress the Shema on their children and to talk about it at home or in the commute on the road. They did not simply add the command of Shema to their busy schedule... Their entire life, their routine, their schedule revolved around Loving the Lord with ALL!

We issued the challenge to **De-Compartmentalize** our love. The command is to Love with ALL... Far too often we have been guilty of loving with all only during a Sunday worship service. We need to find those areas of our life that aren't experiencing Shema and fully give all those areas to Loving God.

We've talked about Loving God with all our Heart and all our mind... But what does it mean to Love with all your strength. **ALL YOUR STRENGTH**

Let's talk a little bit about our **strength**.

Think about what it means to be strong... to have strength. It means you are up to the task. The task requires this much ability and your ability supersedes the amount of strength or ability to accomplish.

We only have so much strength right? And this scripture says with all our strength... So does that mean we should worship & love until we have strength to do nothing else? Imagine calling work tomorrow and saying "Sorry I can't come in today... I'm using all my strength to worship God..."

This is not what loving the Lord with all our Strength means. As we pointed out last week...

Colossians 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

Don't think that you have to stay in a church service assuming the position of worship while the band plays... Even though your strength & effort is being used on the job as a Christian that is focused on keeping Shema... living out the Command to Love the Lord... you aren't working your strength for men... you are working for the Lord. THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT THE SCRIPTURE SAYS!!

So there is no excuse for being a bad employee.

"Chris, you don't understand... my job stinks and I'm not paid enough... or what I deserve"

"My boss and co-workers are mean and selfish jerks..."

"I'm just not passionate about my job..."

None of those are good excuses... they are all focused on yourself or other people... Colossians 3:23 tells us... the Shema tells us... that we are working for the Lord and not man. **It's time we took our worship to the workplace.**

All your **Strength** doesn't mean that we are always tired because we are always in a state of giving our all.

Ever met a Christian that was always tired... always at the end of their rope but holding on... always reminding you that they are doing the hard work of being a Christian...

I've got news for them! There is Joy in this kingdom. You serve the Lord with gladness in this kingdom. Weeping endures for the night but Joy is coming in the morning in this Kingdom. Love & peace are in this kingdom.

Isaiah 61

Garment of Praise!!

## Where does your help & strength come from?

There are so many scriptures on this... here are just a few...

Psalm 121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills-- where does my help come from?(NIV)

Psalm 121:2 My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.(NIV)

2 Corinthians 12:9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.(NIV)

Isaiah 40:31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.(NIV)

If you don't think you are walking in strength today... then I would ask you are you walking in your own strength or God's strength?

God gives a command to Love with all our strength... and then He gives us strength to fulfill the command.

Acts 1:8 says that we have POWER through the Holy Spirit...

It's an amazing thing... There have been times where I have felt weak but I started worshipping the Lord with what strength I had left... Suddenly I find I'm not really operating by my strength anymore... but His strength.

Testify

Within the Shema was a command to not forget the God who has given us strength...

Deuteronomy 6:10 When the LORD your God brings you into the land he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you--a land with large, flourishing cities you did not build,(NIV)

Deuteronomy 6:11 houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, and vineyards and olive groves you did not plant--then when you eat and are satisfied,

Deuteronomy 6:12 be careful that you do not forget the LORD, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery.

It is real easy to look around our life and think that we did this...

Do you realize that it wasn't your strength that did this but it was His strength.

There shouldn't be too many days go by where you don't **Testify** of God's blessing and strength in your life. We should use our strength to testify of His strength.

Take 10 seconds to testify to the person next to you about God's strength.

When we look at the Shema in the original Hebrew we see that the Phrase "And with all your strength" is one word.

**Mehode** is a descriptive word. It is an adjective or an adverb. It appears 299 in the Old Testament.

Here is the meaning - exceedingly, much, abundance, might, force, Magnitude & degree

Examples... Genesis 1:31 God saw everything that he made, and behold, it was MEHODE TOVE... Very Good.

Gen 7:18 And the waters rose and increased MEHODE... greatly on the earth...

God's covenant with Abraham to multiply him MEHODE - Exceedingly

What we are dealing with isn't a noun or verb... It is purely a descriptor..

Now I know I lost half of you on the Hebrew English lesson... but pay attention...

All your heart,

all your mind,

and greatly, exceedingly, abundantly

Would you describe your love that way? Your love for God should be descriptive!

Your worship should be **MEHODE**. It should be abundant! There should be great might in your love. There should be a magnitude to your Love for God.

Your love should be Visible.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.(NIV)

Show forth the Praise!

I don't know what you think Love for God should look like... Denominations have tried to define it as a Verb... ATTENDING church and LISTENING to what the preacher says and PRAYING...

Mehode is a descriptor... Your Love for God that comes from all your strength SHOULD DESCRIBE EVERYTHING.

How would some describe your worship?

How would someone describe you?

According to Shema these questions should have the same answers.

Loving with all your strength is also physical. Many people aren't comfortable with this. There are some who would say it's not necessary to get emotional or to worship in an outward manner. They would say God knows what is in my heart... He knows what I am thinking.

They might be worshipping with all their heart and mind... but they aren't worshipping with all their strength.

You need to worship a Spiritual God in the Physical. It is not just a mental exercise... David danced before the Lord. The Hebrew people offered up wave offerings. Paul & Silas sang songs of praise from a Jail cell.

**Over the top** - Mehode is a worship that is over the top. It is described as A FORCE... would you describe your love as a force?

Last week we talked about the sinful woman, who through her Love anointed Jesus with the oil. Remember there was an argument in the room that her gift cost too much. This is something associated with Loving God.

Your love should cost you something. It should take some energy and effort. It should take priority. It should be a force.

In that one moment with Jesus she poured out her love and Judas let us know that it was worth a year's salary.

Do you have a love like that? Do you have a worship like this? A praise that is extravagant?

Judas saw the offering and said... THIS IS TOO MUCH... THIS IS OVER THE TOP... THIS IS EXTRAVEGENT

HAS ANYONE EVER SAID THAT ABOUT YOUR LOVE? What is stopping you from going over the top in your Love?

Are you afraid of what others think? Do you simply not know the importance? Whatever it is – Redemption Church, I challenge us to be over the top worshippers.

# Musicians

## Judah

The Nation of Israel was made up of tribes. One of those tribes is named Judah – which literally means Praise.

It is from this tribe Jesus descends. He is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

God always positioned Judah in unmistakably symbolic positions.

God gave specific instructions on how the children of Israel where to **camp**. Judah was to camp on the East side of the Tabernacle by the entry way to the Tabernacle. Anyone how wanted to enter the Tabernacle, God's presence, had to pass through Judah...

Psalm 100:4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.(NIV)

Judah was also positioned in battle.

Judges 20:18 The Israelites went up to Bethel and inquired of God. They said, "Who of us shall go first to fight against the Benjamites?" The LORD replied, "Judah shall go first."(NIV)



## SEND JUDAH

I don't know what battle you are in right now... but I want to tell you God has a suggestion on where you position Judah... On where you should position your praise.

In the middle of your struggle you should Praise.

That is counterintuitive but let me tell you it brings victory.

Can I be blunt and to the point... Many times your struggle keeps you out of church... many times during your struggle you barely make it here on Sundays... many times in struggle you look so depressed and defeated...

God tells you to SEND JUDAH FIRST. If you are in a struggle today you need to send up Praise.

One last story... before we open this altar for some worship and prayer...

Jehosophat was King of Israel, but he was in big trouble... He had not 1 but 3 enemies camped outside the front gate of Jerusalem. It is a hopeless situations. All that can be seen is their enemies and soon coming death.

2 Chronicles 20:15 "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: `Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.'"(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful."(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:21 After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever."(NIV)

2 Chronicles 20:22 As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.(NIV)

## WORSHIP IS WARFARE

It's silly and it doesn't make sense... but it works

It confuses the enemy

The battle is no longer yours... it's the Lords...

You are no longer focusing on the struggle... you are focusing on  
God

God is focusing on your struggle.