

IN THE ROOM

TEAM DEVOTIONAL

RICH MULLINS SAID,

"GOD TAKES THE JUNK OF OUR LIVES AND MAKES THE GREATEST ART OUT OF IT. IF HE WAS CULTURED, IF HE WAS AS CIVILIZED AS MOST CHRISTIAN PEOPLE WISH HE WAS, YOU'D BE USELESS TO CHRISTIANITY."

IN WORSHIP, TWO REALITIES ARE AT PLAY: THE FACT THAT GOD IS PRESENT AND OUR TRYING TO COMPREHEND IT. FROM THE BEGINNING, GOD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE INTENDED TO ABIDE IN HIS PEOPLE'S WORSHIP (PS. 22), BUT WE FORGET TOO QUICKLY THAT WORSHIP IS THE GUARANTEED MEANS INTO GOD'S PRESENCE (2 KGS 3:16-19) AND THAT HE HAS PROMISED TO BE THERE WHEN HIS PEOPLE SING. THE ENEMY ALSO KNOWS THIS. HE FLOODS OUR MINDS WITH INSECURITY ABOUT OUR PITCH AND THE DOUBT THAT OUR WORSHIP IS EVEN WELCOME. WHY IS IT THAT THE MINUTE WE FIND OUR SEATS, WE CAN RECALL EVERY SIN WE HAVE COMMITTED IN THE LAST WEEK? WHILE GOD MAKES US HOLY THROUGH CONVICTION, HE NEVER INTENDS TO SHUT US UP.

SOME OF US ARE ON THE OTHER END OF THINGS. WE ARE SO AWARE OF GOD'S PRESENCE THAT WE ATTEMPT TO CLEAN UP OUR ACT BEFORE THE FIRST SONG STARTS. WE HOPE TO MAKE GOD HAPPY WITH US OR TO CONJURE UP A REASON WHY WE ARE WORTHY TO WORSHIP HIM. IN ORDER TO IMPRESS GOD, WE ARE QUICK TO CHECK OUR HEARTS AT THE DOOR, BUT THE ISSUE IS HE ONLY EVER REALLY WANTED OUR HEARTS. THAT IS WHERE THE REAL WORK GETS DONE. WE CAN CONFIDENTLY ENTER INTO HIS PRESENCE (HEB. 4:16), SCARS AND ALL, BECAUSE HE HEALS THROUGH COMMUNION, NOT PERFECTION. THIS IS WHY DAVID SAYS: "16 YOU DO NOT DELIGHT IN SACRIFICE, OR I WOULD BRING IT; YOU DO NOT TAKE PLEASURE IN BURNT OFFERINGS. 17 MY SACRIFICE, O GOD, IS A BROKEN SPIRIT; A BROKEN AND CONTRITE HEART YOU, GOD, WILL NOT DESPISE" (PS. 51).

THE GOD WHOSE BREATH FORMED BOTH THE GALAXIES AND THE HUMAN HEART; THE GOD WHOSE KINGDOM KNOWS NO BOUNDS; THE GOD WHOSE GRACE WE'VE YET TO FIND THE EDGES OF; AND THE GOD WHO IS DRAWN TO THE SINNER IS IN THIS ROOM WITH US. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?