



A Lesson On

“Worship rel
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and our abil
to focus on God.”

Perspective



By Tony Guerrero

I used to lead the worship team for a small 90-member church. Since we didn't own the building we met in, we operated under a time crunch every Sunday morning. We couldn't get in the building until 8:30 A.M., and our service was at 10:00 A.M. During that hour and a half, we would have to load in and set up a sound system and all the instruments, along with a video display system, and then try to rehearse the musicians and vocalists. Needless to say, we were usually under the gun. I didn't generally tend to stress about time in terms of team-member tardiness. I had worked with musicians far too long to expect that they'd consistently be on time. I know some leaders get pretty uptight as soon as someone is a minute or two late, but I tend to allow around ten, even fifteen, minutes before I start to worry, even in a limited time setting. Where I live, I've learned to allow for the lifestyle and the

traffic. Bringing additional stress to the situation doesn't help anyone to get into a worshipful frame of mind.

But one Sunday was different, and I lost my perspective.

Running Behind

It seemed like everyone was unusually late, to the point that I started to get pretty stressed. My drummer was twenty minutes late when I called his cell phone and let him know we were waiting. My guest worship leader, whom I was counting on to teach new material to my other singers, was thirty minutes late when I called her cell phone. My video guy was thirty minutes late, and we had a special video program that day which required additional sound-check time. To top it off, our extension cords were missing, and I had to leave and run to a nearby store to buy new ones, which ate up a good fifteen minutes.

Once everyone was finally there we started to rehearse. Frankly, it sounded bad. The new material wasn't a breeze for my non-professional singing team, and it showed. I was stressed and I had stressed out my musicians enough that they weren't enjoying the process or my direction. After about a twenty minute run-through, I stopped everything, declaring that we had five minutes until service, and we'd just have to go with what we had. I rushed them through an obligatory team prayer, and everyone was then wading through the ocean of tension I had helped to create.

A New Perspective

One minute before the service, I learned how I lost my perspective. Someone asked me the time, and when I told them what my watch said, someone else

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who overheard me pointed out that my watch was fast... twenty-five minutes fast! I checked, and sure enough, the little pin I used to set the time on my watch had popped out and gotten turned. I was indeed running twenty-five minutes fast. Nobody had actually been late at all (which explained their surprise when I called their cell phones). We still had twenty minutes before the service, and I already disbanded the team.

Worse than that, I let the stress of the moment cause me to forget a very important aspect of what worship is. Worship does not rely on how 'tight' we sound. It does not rely on how well the harmonies are sung. It does not rely on our sound system. Worship relies 100% on our hearts and our ability to focus on God. By being placed in a situation in which I thought we had no time to prepare, I failed the test of, first, forgiving my team and, second, leading them into

an attitude of worship, regardless of our time factor.

I forgot to rely on God, and I forgot to count on His presence. Even if we had no time to rehearse at all, it was still entirely possible to count on true worship taking place. Instead, I let a small piece of metal on my watch dictate that we were not going to have a morning worship; it was a valuable lesson on perspective.

Rely on God

Imagine how much of an effect we'd have on those we lead if our attitude truly reflected James 1:2: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance."

What if, rather than our stressful morning prayers consisting of phrases like "God, please get Joe here on time" or

"God, please keep the PA. from shorting out," our prayers were more along the lines of, "Father, thank You for this opportunity to rely on You."



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