Creating the Right Atmosphere

I. Introduction

a. Most sermons on the Sunday before Christmas are about the birth of Christ.

Isaiah 9:6 that says:

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

i. Christmas is a very special time for us Christians.
   1. This is the day that Christians choose to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
      a. Without His birth, we don’t have His death.
      b. Without His death and resurrection, we don’t have forgiveness for our sins.

ii. However, we shouldn’t just celebrate Jesus 1 day a year.
   1. We should celebrate Him everyday day of our lives.

iii. Therefore, this lesson will not be a traditional Christmas lesson.
   1. However, the purpose of this message is to bring us closer to Christ.

Mark 6:2-6 NIV

2 When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed.

“Where did this man get these things?” they asked. “What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing? Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him.

4 Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.” 5 He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

II. Creating the Right Atmospheres & Environments

a. Creating the right atmosphere means creating an atmosphere that is conducive to the movement of God.

i. Anything that requires growth has to have a certain kind of atmosphere or environment to grow in a healthy way.
   1. Seeds only grow in certain environments.
   2. Children in the womb only thrive in certain environments.
3. Some people are experiencing pain right now, because they were simply raised in the wrong environment.

ii. The good news is that God has given us the authority to change our environment.
   1. God has given us the authority to hinder, enhance, create and shift our atmospheres and environment.
   2. God is everywhere, but God’s presence will manifest at greater degrees contingent on the atmosphere or environment we create.
   3. We all have a part to play in creating the right atmosphere in our church.

iii. For God to heal, move and set free in our church like we want to, we have to create the right kind of environment.

2 Chronicles 5:5-14 NIV

5 and they brought up the ark and the tent of meeting and all the sacred furnishings in it. The Levitical priests carried them up; 6 and King Solomon and the entire assembly of Israel that had gathered about him were before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and cattle that they could not be recorded or counted.

7 The priests then brought the ark of the LORD’s covenant to its place in the inner sanctuary of the temple, the Most Holy Place, and put it beneath the wings of the cherubim. 8 The cherubim spread their wings over the place of the ark and covered the ark and its carrying poles. 9 These poles were so long that their ends, extending from the ark, could be seen from in front of the inner sanctuary, but not from outside the Holy Place; and they are still there today. 10 There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets that Moses had placed in it at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites after they came out of Egypt.

11 The priests then withdrew from the Holy Place. All the priests who were there had consecrated themselves, regardless of their divisions. 12 All the Levites who were musicians—Asaph, Heman, Jeduthun and their sons and relatives—stood on the east side of the altar, dressed in fine linen and playing cymbals, harps and lyres. They were accompanied by 120 priests sounding trumpets. 13 The trumpeters and musicians joined in unison to give praise and thanks to the LORD. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, the singers raised their voices in praise to the LORD and sang:

“He is good;
   his love endures forever.”
Then the temple of the LORD was filled with the cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the temple of God.

III. Hindrances to a Godly Atmosphere
   a. The Flesh
   b. Sin

IV. Components of the Right Atmosphere
   a. Value of Praise and Worship
   b. Preparation
   c. Expectation

V. Praise and Worship
   a. God abides in the praises of His people.
   b. We praise God for what He has done, and what He is about to do.
      i. Praise says “Thank you.”
         1. For protection, provision etc.
      ii. If you only praise God when things are going well, your praise is not mature.
      iii. If you only praise God when you feel like it, your praise is not mature.
      iv. If you only praise God when you come to church your praise is not mature.
   c. We worship God for who He is.
      i. Worship says “You are”
         1. My provider, rock, strong tower etc.
   d. It is extremely important that we begin to value praise and worship.
      i. Our time of praise and worship prepares our hearts to receive from God.
      ii. Our times of praise and worship creates an atmosphere for the Holy Spirit to move.
   e. God is asking us to make praise and worship important.
      i. Authentic praise and worship attracts the unsaved.

VI. Praise and Worship Don'ts
   a. Don’t be a spectator, but participate.
   b. Don’t look around at others.
   c. Don’t allow your mind to drift.
   d. Don’t do things that bring attention to you.
   e. Don’t hold on to grudges, hurts, fears, and un-forgiveness towards others.
   f. Don’t just go through the motions.
   g. Don’t think spiritual atmospheres are based upon the building location, style, amenities, etc.
   h. Don’t allow anyone or anything to hinder your worship of God.
i. Emotionalism is the lowest form of connecting with God.

VII. Praise and Worship Do’s
   a. Come to church early and with expectation of what He will do in us.
   b. Sing the words to the songs even if we don’t know them.
   c. Meditate on the words we are singing and point them towards him.
   d. Lift your hands without anyone asking as a sign of surrendering.
   e. Clap your hands and move your feet with joy in your heart.
   f. Worship as if he is right beside you because He is.

VIII. Preparation
   a. What you do at home affects what you will receive at church.
      i. Creating the right atmosphere is not what you do when you get to church
      ii. Your actions throughout the week will extend itself into church.

IX. How to Properly Prepare
   a. Prepare for church on Saturdays.
   b. Pray for services before attending.
   c. Prepare to give in advance.
   d. Come early and reserve seats for yourself and your guests.
   e. Pray in the spirit during the appeals, or times of prayer
   f. Say amen or shake your head as a form of agreement during sermons.

X. Expectation
   a. God is moved by our faith, not our need.
   b. Our faith is what causes heaven to move on our behalf.
   c. Expectation is what charges every spiritual atmosphere.
   d. Expectation is a component of faith because it's the position of true faith.
   e. Expectation precedes the manifestation of God's promises.