

“SINGING THE RIGHT SONG”

I. Introduction:

This “You Tube” video plays just before the message....

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9z0h1NNk1lk>

A. The Susan Boyle Phenomena

1. This You Tube video has been viewed 20 million times in the last 2 weeks. The whole world is amazed at the song of a 47 year old spinster from Scotland.
2. I was emotionally touched by this video...but it was one of those experiences where I felt the Spirit of God was speaking a prophetic word to me to share with you, His church.

This message was birthed out of the question:

What is it about this video that has touched the world?

3. I thought of this scripture from Psalm 137, a so-called “song of captivity”, written when God’s people were out of power, reduced to bondage in Babylon.

Beside the rivers of Babylon, we sat and wept as we thought of Jerusalem. We put away our harps, hanging them on the branches of poplar trees. For our captors demanded a song from us.

Our tormentors insisted on a joyful hymn: "Sing us one of those songs of Jerusalem!

But how can we sing the songs of the Lord in a pagan land?"

Psalm 137:1-4 NLT

B. Three Prophetic Implications Of The Susan Boyle Story For The Modern Church

1. The Church has been like Susan Boyle, a great singer who only sings in church.
2. And yet the Church, like Susan Boyle, has a secret dream to be heard
3. But the Church, like Susan Boyle, has to choose the right song!

II. Three Messages from Susan Boyle to the Church Of Jesus Christ

A. A Great Singer Who Only Sings In Church

1. Susan Boyle is a woman of faith, who up to now has only sung in church!
 - a. So today, the Church of Jesus Christ has become a housecat, domesticated by the power and politics of Babylon.
 - b. We sing of freedom in the church but have very little liberty outside its walls.
 - c. Susan Boyle was marginalized all her life by her appearance...
2. There was a day when it was not so...when the church was at the center of life in America and spoke God's word.

“There was a time when the church used to preach and teach the whole counsel of God, including what Gods’ word says about civil government, law, public life and the political issues of the day; the at Christianity was predominant in early American political thought and the early Americans and their pastors rejected the idea that the Constitution imposed any “separation of church and state...”

Gary DeMar, commenting on the content of hundreds of Christian sermons from 1730-1805

3. The world sees us like they first saw Susan Boyle...too ugly to be taken seriously!
4. The Church has a problem with low self-esteem, so we've retreated within the four walls of our church buildings and been content to just survive!

B. And Yet The True Church Has A Dream To Be Heard!

1. Susan Boyle got a call from Simon Cowell, but the church is now getting a call from God.
2. It's time to take the stage and let the dream be heard.
3. Something inside every true-born child of God says, “Things are not right...and I have to help set them right.”
4. God's dream for man has never changed...we are to take dominion, under God, and bring all things into subjection to the Word of God.

And let us make man in our own image, after our own likeness...And let them have dominion...

Genesis 1:26 KJV

a. What we truly feel is the frustration of being overwhelmed by Babylon...that God is not in charge in our land.

5. The church of the King has been taken captive...we've "hung our harps on the willows"...we've felt overwhelmed by the tidal wave of immorality and policies that are literally robbing the inheritance of our children and grandchildren!

But how can we sing the songs of the Lord in a pagan land?

Psalm 137:4

We've got to get the song of the Lord outside the Church...

We have to let the dream of the Kingdom come forth...

And, we have to choose the right song!

C. Choosing the Right Song

1. The thing that really made Susan Boyle a winner was not just that she got to sing her song outside of church; nor that she got a chance to be heard on a world-wide stage...but that she chose the right song!

2. This song is from Les Miserables', the musical adaptation of Hugo's novel; sung by a woman who had lost all hope...it was the right song because it was Susan Boyle's song, the one that told her life's story...of dashed dreams and shattering disappointments...

I dreamed a dream in time gone by, When hope was high and life worth living

I dreamed that love would never die, I dreamed that God would be forgiving.

Then I was young and unafraid, and dreams were made and used and wasted

There was no ransom to be paid, no song unsung, no wine untasted,

But the tigers come at night

With their voices soft as thunder

As they tear your hope apart

And they turn your dream to shame"

From *Les Miserables*, a musical adapted from Victor Hugo's novel

3. She chose the right song....and THAT is what touched the world...the message that her lost dreams were now come true...her dream had been granted!

4. What happened to your “dream”? Are you in touch with your soul enough to know you have one?

5. The land of America was birthed in the dream of liberty and freedom...today, we find ourselves captive to those who rule over us morally and politically...The “tigers” have come...tearing the dream to shame.

If we really belong to God, we have within us a deep desire to see

His kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven!

6. The church hasn't been heard because she's chosen the wrong song.

- We've been *politicized*...singing the song of the Democrats or Republicans
- We've been *categorized*...Conservative or Liberal
- We've been *marginalized*...singing the song of the ignored instead of the song that can't keep still
- We've been content to sing the song of a slave instead of the song of the redeemed

When we choose to sing about the Kingdom of God we've chosen the right song!

7. We are not living in Jerusalem anymore. Spiritually speaking, we are captives to a world system that has stepped into the vacuum we created by giving the stage over to others.

III. Conclusion: Turning the Ship Around

A. Getting Serious About the Gospel

1. Revival begins at home.

- Fathers first, must step up as kings and priests in their homes
- Children must be taught from youth to honor God and His laws
- We must seek the Kingdom first in all things...what the Word of God says about every issue of life
- We must recognize the tithe is a “tool of dominion” for God's people in economic terms

2. The tithe is God's “tax”-the first 10% of all our income. The question is, do we fear God as much as we fear the IRS?

3. The law-word of God, which cannot be broken, promises blessings upon all who keep His laws, and curses to those who don't.

Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, we ought to obey God rather than men.

Acts 5:29 KJV

4. Here is the real choice before us: Are we going to obey God or men? Are we going to acknowledge Caesar or Christ as Lord of our lives?

a. We are not speaking anarchy-we are to submit to all authority up to the point where such authority contradicts the clear word and will of God.

5. Is there a "Susan Boyle" church out there somewhere? Ready for prime-time? Ready to sing the Lord's song? I believe there is!