

## **“A Place In The Choir” by Celtic Thunder**

Today’s song is “A Place in the Choir” performed by Celtic Thunder. It’s a super-fun song. Let’s listen to a snippet ...

The dogs and the cats they take up the middle  
While the honeybee hums and the cricket fiddles,  
The donkey brays and the pony neighs  
And the old gray badger sighs...

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom  
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus  
Moans and groans with a big t'do  
And the old cow just goes moo.

That’s some toe-tapping goodness right there! You got dogs and cats, honeybees, crickets, bass (the fish! even though they sing it like “base”), hippos, and an old cow going “mooo.”

Honestly, there’s not a lot of spiritual depth here. This is a children’s song. It’s mainly just FUN. But, with this list of animals “in the choir” I am reminded of a passage of Scripture from Psalm 148. Let’s look at it.

### **Lessons on Praising God**

#### **A. All of God’s creation are commanded to Praise Him!**

Psalm 148:7-13

<sup>7</sup> Praise the LORD from the earth, you creatures of the ocean depths,

<sup>8</sup> fire and hail, snow and clouds, wind and weather that obey him,

<sup>9</sup> mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,

<sup>10</sup> wild animals and all livestock, small scurrying animals and birds,

<sup>11</sup> kings of the earth and all people, rulers and judges of the earth,

<sup>12</sup> young men and young women, old men and children.

<sup>13</sup> Let them all praise the name of the LORD. For his name is very great; his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

Everything is supposed to praise God ... why? v. 13, “...For his name is very great!” The very best way to praise God is to honor His name do what the “wind and weather” do: obey Him.

I love the list of “everything” here: living creatures, weather phenomena, geographic features, trees of all kinds, kings, rulers, and judges. Young men and women, old men, and children. Everyone!

## **B. Praise God with what you have!**

How do we praise Him, what exactly does that mean?

All God's creatures got a place in the choir  
Some sing low and some sing higher,  
Some sing out loud on a telephone wire,  
Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they've got now

You praise Him high or low: Your place or station in life doesn't matter, praise Him!  
You praise Him with what you have: hands, paws, whatever you have, use it to praise God!

Psalm 150:3-5, “Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn, the lyre and harp, tambourine and dancing, strings and flutes, and with a clash of loud cymbals.”

But, what is PRAISE? Psalm 150:2 tells us ... “Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness!”

Praise is when you declare God's mighty works and tell how you have experienced His unequalled greatness. Praise is deeply personal, but also passionately public. Praise isn't done quietly. This is why we call our musical team the “praise team.” They are leading us to praise God.

Praise is knowing God, experiencing His power in your life, and sharing that out loud in public. That's probably something some of us who are quiet and shy struggle with.

## **C. Praising God overcomes our differences.**

Listen to the top where the little bird sings  
On the melodies and the high notes ringing,  
And the hoot owl cries over everything  
And the blackbird disagrees.

Singing in the night time, singing in the day,

When little duck quacks, and he's on his way.  
And the otter hasn't got much to say  
And the porcupine talks to himself

The hoot owl is overly emotional. The blackbird is overly disagreeable. The duck is overly late. The otter is overly quiet. The porcupine is overly self-absorbed!

What can bring them together? Psalm 34:3, "Glorify the LORD with me, and let us praise his name together."

Praising God is the antidote for our petty conflicts.

#### **D. Genuine praise moves beyond the voice to the heart.**

It's a simple song a little song everywhere  
By the ox and the fox and the grizzly bear,  
The dopey alligator and the hawk above,  
The sly (orig: raccoon) old weasel and the turtle dove.

This song was written in 1977 by a country-folk artist by the name of Bill Staines ... and did not gain widespread popularity until 2011 when it was picked up by Celtic Thunder. It's basically a simple children's folk song. The song was originally written as "all God's critters ..." It isn't intended to be a song of faith.

Matthew 15:8-9, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. <sup>9</sup>Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God."

Jesus said that what we SAY much match what we BELIEVE and DO. Real worship and praise flows from a changed heart! Real worship is a God-thing, not a man-made thing, which is great because that means life-change is a God-thing too.

MAIN POINT: Praising the Lord might be the missing ingredient in my life.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, You are an awesome God and You have unequalled greatness. There is none like You. So God, unite us in Praise. Help us focus on You as the solution to the conflict in our lives. In Jesus' name, amen."