

Singing to the Crowd

I remember hearing a singer bragging about singing before a huge crowd and feeling the energy feeding back from it. I had a momentary “pang” of jealousy, wanting to “wow” such an audience and feel a similar power.

I sing with our congregation, and I am encouraged by the song leader to be loud and proud so that the sound will fill the auditorium. And when I sing with a small group for a funeral, I know that I need to back off so that we can all blend together in tight harmony.

As a part of our special group, I am definitely a couple of levels below the leader. With Christ as my spiritual leader, I am at the very bottom, but He elevates me¹. There is a certain magic when I sing with the group, but my “sound” collapses when that group is gone. Nobody likes it when I sing alone – not even myself sometimes. Before God I must sound like crashing cymbals², but He loves me and I know he appreciates my puny effort to love Him.

After thinking about it for a while, I realized that I have indeed sung before the greatest crowd ever! Every time I sing, whether by myself or in a group, I sing to the Lord of Hosts, to the infinite “crowd” of the Godhead. Now when I sing, I can imagine myself on a point overlooking a great canyon, seeing the stars and singing my heart out to them as though they were that Host. And I think that God listens with rapt attention to such a speck as myself. Perhaps the choirs of angels³ are there to judge my performance. Maybe after hearing me, they will join in to help me out.

1. “You give me your shield of victory, and Your right hand sustains me; You stoop down to make me great.” Psalm 18:35 (NIV, 1984)
2. see 1 Corinthians 13:1
3. see Luke 2:13