

“WORSHIP – THE ULTIMATE PRIORITY” (Part 4)

The IMPACT of True Worship (John 4:20-24)

INTRO: ILLUS – Tenn. Titans... It's good to know your product works. FUNNY – salesman... Does practicing true worship matter? Texas study... When Christians worship WHO and HOW we are supposed to, then what are the observable results? First, let's REVIEW . . . At least five positive outcomes from genuine worship. When I worship WHO and HOW I'm commanded to:

I. GOD IS OBEYED AND GLORIFIED

- A. God is *OBEYED* when I worship Him. More than once are we commanded to worship God alone (Luke 4:8).
- B. God is also *GLORIFIED* when I worship Him in the manner He requires (Psa. 50:23). Worship is where God lives (Psa. 22:3). It is in the process of being worshiped that God makes His presence known.
- C. Remember, worship is about me giving God (with all I am and have) what He deserves. Essentially, God is prized when I truly worship Him. The supreme purpose of life is to glorify God – and when we worship Him as He is to be worshiped, He is glorified!

II. BELIEVERS ARE CHANGED when we worship as God desires. Believers receive a multiple of personal benefits in authentic worship. Use Isaiah's worship experience as a guide (Isa. 6) Worship:

- A. *Deepens our awareness of God* (vv. 1-4) – Come to see Him as He is (holy, majestic, and awesome).
- B. *Enhances sensitivity to and hatred of sin* (vv. 5-7) – As we draw near to God, the holiness of His presence causes us to see our sinfulness and hopefully to confess it (Psa. 15; 24:3-4).
- C. *Heightens desire for service* (v. 8) – second most common word used for worship in NT is service (Heb. 13:15-16) – Worship prepares us to serve the needs of others (inside and outside). Abraham – sacrifice.
- D. *Propels to greater obedience* (v. 9)- I'm not saying worship will make us feel better (could), but should cause us to *live* better!
- E. *Develops understanding that ultimately true worship is a way of life* (Rom. 12:1-2). Worship is more than an event, it is a lifestyle. Worship is not part of life, it IS life. Tozer quote... Worship changes us (2 Cor. 3:18). If you're not changed somehow, you've not worshiped (receive courage, hope, joy, etc.)..

III. THE CHURCH IS EDIFIED (Acts 2:44-47) – To be edified is to be built up. Look at early church. True worship builds up the church in several ways.

- A. We are *STRENGTHENED* and *ENCOURAGED* (Heb. 10:24-25) – refueled together. Worship renews our strength as we wait on the Lord. ILLUS – remove coal from fire...
- B. We are *UNIFIED* (tuned to same fork!) – sense of togetherness and belonging. We greet one another in worship.
- C. We are *INSTRUCTED* through the Word of God. God is honored when we open His Word. Explaining what God says in His Word is an act of worship (Neh. 8:5-8).

IV. UNSAVED ARE EVANGELIZED (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 14:24)

- A. As taught previously, unbelievers cannot worship God (can attend and watch). Through attending and observing worship that is winsome, attractive, and dynamic, some are drawn and converted. They can observe our joy, see how we value God's Word, see how we are strengthened and encouraged and conclude a lot of people believe this, so must be something to it.
- B. Remember – Jesus came to seek and save the lost and transform them into true worshipers. Worship is goal of salvation. We err if try to separate worship from evangelism. A worshiping people has great impact on the lost. Two things are essential: A mixture of God's truth and God's presence.

V. THE ENEMY IS TORMENTED (Psa. 8:2; 149:4-9) - Worship is a major weapon in defeating the armies of hell. Why? He was heaven's praise leader (Ez. 28). Satan and his demons hate worship, unless it is offered to them. When Satan tempted Jesus, he tempted Him to worship Him. Satan, the created angel Lucifer, became Satan because He wanted worship due to God (Isa. 14:12-15). Satan hates it when we worship God. There's a dramatic connection between authentic worship and spiritual warfare. Ruth Williams sent me this (PIC). When we bow to worship God, you can bet the Adversary will do all he can to oppose us.

CONC. – Oh, the wonder of worship! If worship is so vital, then we'd be wise to prepare for it (Heb. 10:22). We prepare for everything else. Suggestions:

1. Spend time regularly in personal worship
2. Faithfully participate in corporate worship – not just attend
3. (Rom. 12:1-2) Live Christ-conscience

ILLUS. – MacArthur quote p. 8 . . .

READ TOGETHER Psalm 150 . . .