

A Vision of Worship

Text: Joshua 24: 1-6

Abram was a worshipper. Joshua 24:2 tells us that his father, Terah, served other gods. Jewish tradition tells us that Terah was a maker of idols, and that he worshipped the stars, the sun, and the moon. Abram's family were worshippers, but the object of their worship was wrong.

So when God wanted to build a nation, what did He do? He looked for worshippers. Abram was already a worshipper. He was sincere, but incorrect. This is why God called him away from his father and from the land of the Chaldeans. He wanted to teach him the truth One True God! In Genesis 17, God revealed himself to Abram and said, "I am the Almighty God." Abraham did not know this.

- **Worship is a response to revelation.** Wherever the level of our revelation stops, that is the limit of our worship.

The real purpose of our worship is so that God can be exalted, and that we can receive a vision of Him and have victory in our lives: not just everyone in a while, but I am talking about constant and consistent victory!

- Worship is the expression of the soul. It is the wonder that takes place within a person as they fix themselves upon the Lord.
- Worship is awe toward a Him. Worship is love expressing itself to its Creator.
- **Worship and praise are different. God is praised for what He has done. God is worshipped for who He is!**

Since God never changes, our worship should be unslacking.

- Worship is one of the few things mentioned in the Bible that God desires and deserves.

Jesus acknowledged that the Samaritan woman was a worshipper.

Everybody worships something: (success, beauty, and money)

The key to authentic and acceptable worship is having the right object of worship. Without the right object of worship, the outcome is always wrong.

Man's approach to God is similar to the structure of the Old Testament Tabernacle: the outer court, the holy place (inner court), and the holy of holies. Worship took place in the holy of holies. The other two levels were preludes to worship. By having these three steps God was teaching his people to approach Him in the right manner.

In a country with a Monarch a person cannot just walk in and say, "Hey, I need to talk to you!" Protocol must be observed when approaching a monarch. So it is in our approach to God. God is the supreme monarch. God desires for His people to enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. (psalm 100:4)

Just as there were three compartments to the tabernacle, so also there are three steps to worship.

#1 The first step in approaching God is thanksgiving.

#2 The second step is service.

#3 Step three is worship

It was not until the priest stepped into the holy of holies that worship took place because the manifested presence of God was not in the outer courts or even in the inner courts.

Man also has three parts: **flesh, soul, and spirit**. God wants us to worship in our spirit, which is our innermost being.

True worship can never become overly impassioned or carried away. God

is seeking true worship. If there is true worship, then there is also false worship.

Jesus reproved the scribes and Pharisees in Mathew 15 ⁷ *Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,* ⁸ *This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.* ⁹ *But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.* ¹

They loved the word of God, but not the God of the word. Prayer and communion with Him must always come first, then the word follows. The answer to all of their prayers stood right in front of them and they rejected Him. Why? Because they were not genuine worshippers.

- Worship tenderizes our heart and spirit. When we are true worshippers, we will not knowingly mistreat others or be unkind. Worship purifies the attitude.

To be true worshipper we must be broken, we must get intimate with Him in open communion.

There is an inner sanctuary in every human being that is equal in intimacy to the Holy of Holies. God wants to dwell in our spirit. This is where we get the Holy Ghost.....in our spirit.

The spirit is the intimacy between God and His creation. There is a similar correlation in marriage when husband and wife express their love to each other. They are not ashamed to be open with each other and express their love.

The difference between apostolic worship and charismatic worship is **Truth**. When Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman, she did not know the one true God. She had a multiplicity of gods. He was telling her that she did in fact worship, but that she did not know **what** she worshipped!!!!

He was telling her that we Jews know what we worship, for salvation at that time was of the Jews. The point being that true worship has to flow out of true salvation. If we do not have true salvation, we may worship a feeling, success,

¹ The Holy Bible : King James Version. 1995 . Logos Research Systems, Inc.: Oak Harbor, WA

growth, money, buildings, or popularity. True worship must have Jesus as God, otherwise it is not true worship!

Closing:

We are going to close this service with just as much worship as we can possibly express. Why? Because as God, He deserves our worship. We sing about it all the time, but I want us to take tonight to go to that special place of worship. I don't mean for just a few seconds, but I am talking about all of us together really placing ourselves in a position of genuine worship tonight so that God can move among us the way He wants.