

Back to the Basics 3 - Worship

Recap

Bible

- The bible is how we see and know who God is
- It is the word of God, it is alive and powerful
- It shows us the things we need to change to live according to God's will.

The Church

- The first Christians made church a priority
- God's word tells believers to make church a priority
- Each Christian has a vital role to play in the local church.

Worship

Worship God in all circumstances

Good

Psalm 150:1-6

1 Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! 3 Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! 4 Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! 5 Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! 6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!

Daniel 2:23

To you, O God of my fathers, I give thanks and praise, for you have given me wisdom and might, and have now made known to me what we asked of you, for you have made known to us the king's matter."

Bad

Habakkuk 3:17-18

17 Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, 18 yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.

1 Corinthians 1:3-4

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

- God is worthy of our worship regardless of what we are going through
- Worship is the correct response in the good times because it rightly looks to him as the source of our blessings.
- Worship is right in bad times because it reinforces our dependence on God reminds us of his promises to us.

Why is Worship So Important?

John 4:7-30 (pg. 518)

7 A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." 8 (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) 9 The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) 10 Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." 11 The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." 13 Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

16 Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." 17 The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true." 19 The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." 25 The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he."

27 Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you seek?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" 28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Worship reveals who God is

John 4:19

The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.

- Real worship is a looking glass to ourselves.
- The righteousness of God exposes our unrighteousness. This is worship at its best.
- The woman sees who Jesus is through this discussion about worship and is confronted with her own problems simply by being close to Jesus.

Worshipping God is not limited

John 4:20-22

20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” 21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

God’s worship is not limited by:

- Who
 - God does not prefer the worship of one person over the over.
 - None of us are worthy, yet He calls us all to worship him.
- Where
 - God is not limited to any place or building.
 - God has a way of showing up anywhere and everywhere.
- How
 - God is not limited in the way I worship Him
 - God does not prefer any act of worship over another.

God desires our worship

John 4:23

But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

- God is worthy of our worship and he delights when His people worship him,
- True worship requires a relationship with God
- It is impossible for non-believers to truly worship God.

There is a desire for realness in worship

John 4:24

God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

- God desires YOUR worship and MY worship.
- Regardless of circumstance, thoughts, or actions, God’s desire is that his people worship him.
- The more I worship God the more of God I can experience.
- Worship should be honest and real - He is YOUR Father in any circumstance. He is capable to handle any issue you may be experiencing.

Worship of God is how find joy

John 4:28-30

28 So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him.

- When we really worship we do not leave the same.
- The woman had a life changing experience with Jesus and her response is to bring others to worship Him
- He desires to bring joy to His people through their worship of Him.

Small Group Questions

- What does worship mean to you? How did the lesson help shape that definition?
- Why is it important to worship God in both good and bad circumstances?
- How have you noticed your mood or circumstances affect how you participate in worship?
- How could you worship God without being in church?
- Have you ever had an experience where you emotionally engaged in a worship?
- Why would it be wrong to worship to simply try to stir someone's emotions?
 - What are some ways that someone might do that?
- Everyone has their own opinions on music. What style of worship music do you like? What is it about your favorite worship songs that make them your favorite?
- Would you be able to worship through music even if it wasn't your preferred style? Why or why not?
- What would you say is the most important ingredient to true worship?
- What part should our personal preferences play in how we worship?
- What happens when we clearly see the righteousness of God?
- As we become aware of our unrighteousness, why is it appropriate to respond with worship?