

Do You Believe in Worship?

Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 95

When the Gospel begins to move us and alter how I live, the way I live becomes Worship.

Clip of Where the streets have no name. 1 minute

I have always wanted to Walk up music.

Well at least Pete and I are ready to worship just seeing that clip.

When is the last time you were really moved by something? Hopefully it happens often. **What moves you?** Think about it. What really moves you? Does your spouse still move you? A sunset on the west coast, The sunrise on the east coast a double rainbow, a snow-capped mountain. The Birth of your first child? You second? Err your tenth? The death of a loved one? Witnessing another mass shooting at a school? Jesus's death

What does it move you to do? To feel good? To enjoy life more? To be more empathetic to those in similar situations? Or do they move you to worship?

In 1992 I went to my first U2 concert. U2 is my favorite band in large part because of the experience I had when I heard where the streets have no name live for the first time. As all the instruments came together and the drums got louder Bono was about to start singing and then it happened all the lights that were on the band switched to the crowd. It was the brightest light. I witnessed 40 thousand people singing together not worried about how we looked or if we may or may not have been crying. **What did it move me to want to do? Well I will tell you! I wanted to run, I wanted to hide I wanted to tear down the walls that held me inside** Now every time I hear that song or see a video about it I am moved, I am brought to a place of fondness. I consider it a gift from God which also moves me to worship Him for giving good gifts.

This is why I asked you what moves you and what does it move you to? I want to talk about praying that we would be moved by God and His Gospel to become true worshippers of Him.

Big Idea: When the Gospel begins to move us and alter how I live, the way I live becomes continuous Worship.

(Ac 2:42-47).

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

**The Church in Acts RESPONDED to what God was doing in AWE and Praise!
They worshiped!**

Their lives were altered by their awe of God. They sold their stuff. They Met needs. They rejoiced together. They saw people getting saved! **When we really encounter God in worship it will alter areas of life that sometimes are surprising.**

Worship is our response to what we value. And what we value most.

Sermon title today is the last of 4 messages on do you believe.

Do you believe in worship?

Is worship Important? Yes! It is what we were created to do!

Why worship? 1. Because you already are! We are all really professional worshipers. This may need to be proven. You may say I really don't like to sing. This might be because you think about singing songs with other people when you hear the word Worship. But it is so much more than singing. Worship comes easy when we are responding to what we value. You might worship the beauty of your wife when she walks around that corner in that new dress. I was in awe of Angie's beauty when she walked down the aisle on our wedding day. Your kids on the baseball field as they hit a homerun completing the cycle.

Worship is the response we have to what we value. It comes from an encounter that moves us. **Illus. Belly Flop. Crowded pool. Some idiot on diving board trying to showoff....** What was the Response? **OOOOOHHHH! EEEEEWWWW!**

Remember this?

How did you respond to this? Show clip from 2011 world Series- 1 min 11sec.

I love the worship going on in this clip! The raw emotion moving people to wave towels, scream at the top of their lungs, jump, high five, cry.... You know who wasn't doing those things Nolan Ryan. Go to 34 seconds into the clip. Ranger fans. Because they don't value the Cardinals and for sure not stupid David Freese.

What if we really valued Jesus and What he has done over all other things? We don't respond to God in worship because we may not know Him. We might not value Him in a way that alters who we are. **When the Gospel begins to alter our lives in our responses to him then worship will become more of our life than an event.**

We have many gods.

Ac 17:22-28

22 So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23 **For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship,** I found also an altar with this inscription: 'To the unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. 26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for

" 'In him we live and move and have our being';

as even some of your own poets have said,

“ ‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

We have many objects of Worship.

We are all worshipers. You are already worshiping. And you're good at it.

“There are only 2 types of worshipers. 1. Those that worship the wrong thing. 2. Those that worship the only one that will not distort your life and is worthy of your soul” Tim Keller

Is whatever you value most distorting your life because it's the wrong thing? Or do you experience God in a way that causes you to alter your life repenting of sins, praising Him, and brings healing to your soul? Have you experienced the healing power of worship?

Let's define worship as “Our response, both personal and corporate, to God- for who He is and What He has done!”

I know you think I want you to respond more in this room when we sing like St. Louis did in game 6 world series, but that is not what I am saying. **But it would make Jonathan and the worship team's job easier! I just want your worship to be a response from what moves you.** Not just emotionally but affect our mind and will as well. That is when we know we have experienced true worship.

How can we do it well? How can we move toward worshipping God wholeheartedly?

I was listening to a guy preach this week on this topic and He suggests we need 4 things. We will look at Psalm 95 to see them.

Ps 95:1-3

95 Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

3 For the LORD is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

So how can begin to worship well?

4 things we need

1. Community. Our worship is both personal and corporate. Yes, we should have a good personal time with Jesus but we need community. **Psalm 95 is plural. Come let US SING. Let US make a joyful noise. Let US come into his presence with Thanksgiving.....Our personal worship prepares us for worship together which is a transforming experience. Illus. Passion Anges Dei.**

2. Truth- do you believe verse 3? **The Lord is a great God. Above all gods.** When we come to him to drink what we drink is truth. Not dry lifeless, powerless truth, but truth soaked with the life-giving spirit of God. Pg 75 **desiring God**

- a. Illus. How can you worship in spirit and truth when you sing “alleluia for the Lord God almighty reigns” Jonathan and I were talking...We worship when we BELIEVE that He actually is Holy.
 - b. I sing “His love never fails it never gives up it goes on and on and on before it overwhelms my soul and I never ever have to be afraid. One thing remains. Your love never fails” I am transformed when this truth rings true and I BELIEVE IT.
3. **The Spirit-** Verse 6- Oh come let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the lord, our Maker! to worship well we need the Spirit to reveal where God is moving that will move us to worship. **God sighting more often.** I think we miss so many opportunities in our day that the Spirit is leading us to see but we are distracted. Good worshipers are more aware when the spirit is moving. Like a sailor that is looking for a good wind to come along. They can't create the wind but when the wind shows up great things happen. Are you ready for God to move or do you miss out because we aren't even in a boat.
4. **Gospel Sabbath Rest.** Verse 11. We need to enter into His rest! The Gospel is that Jesus died the death we should have died. As Christians we are His sons and daughters, so we don't have to work to worship. Worship is not just another work to do to be closer to Him. We already are, and Worship can be healing and restful.

So, we pray for these 4 things, so we can enjoy worship more, experience worship as more of a way of life than just an emotional episode.

So, worship is our response to God for Who he is and what He has done.

Worshiping God as a response to HIM will begin to alter the way you look at life. It will affect how you serve. How you Love. How you Laugh. How you enjoy. How you grieve. How you feel. How you think.

What will your worship look like?

True worship affects all of us. **Yes, there is emotion in it, sometime a lot of it.**

We sometimes will **bow. Kneel. Jump. Clap. Raise our hands. Cry. Laugh.**

I went through a phase of life where I was bothered by what I perceived to be too much emotion in worship. At one point I was really uncomfortable with people raising their hands. What are they doing? What does that even mean? Then I experienced the joy of a daughter wanted to be held. She glorifies me as a dad when she tells me she needs me to hold her. I don't have anything on my own to offer my heavenly father except to let him know he is worthy of my soul and I need Him desperately!

I thought today's sermon would be about the celebration of singing in corporate worship. **Because I love to sing. I love to celebrate. I ask God for more God Sightings. Be careful what you ask for at times.**

“All of life for the Christian is meant to magnify Christ. This can happen through pleasure, and it can happen through pain. God's glory shines more brightly when he satisfies us in times of loss than when he provides for us in times of plenty.” (John Piper, Don't Waste Your Life, p. 72.)

In Pleasure or Pain Worship is always the appropriate response. Let everything that happens in your life lead you to worship God.

This week shaped up much differently than I had expected. I committed to preach a wedding this weekend and I sat down with the couple last Sunday to iron out the last few details and Ask them again what time the wedding was on Saturday and they told me very confused “the wedding is Sunday” today. Yeah today in wright city 1pm. So I came in Monday **panicked and overwhelmed** about the week.

I am concerned for a dear friend whose parents were in a car accident and her mom is fighting for her life and may lose a limb if not her life. Sitting in ICU at Barnes.

I sat with a man in MoBap ICU which I have become very acquainted with, this week and prayed over his wife who has been on life support for almost 3 weeks and is trying to hang on to life. Who was just told on Thursday he is facing very difficult decisions. And it very likely he will lose her.

Sat with friends of mine and witnessed the death of their marriage.

I felt I was under intense attack by the enemy on Tuesday. Then on Wednesday the **Holy spirit showed up in my office.**

I turned on A song called Prince of Peace by Hillsong Worship, which my wife has been encouraging me to listen to. I cried out Lord **“there is death and brokenness all around me please be near.”** And I heard these words sung:

Read Lyrics.

Psalm 34

Be Still and Know He is God.

I gave him my overwhelmed thoughts. I gave Him my worry. I gave him my sadness. It altered my spirit within me.

Because Of the Lord meeting me in my pain this week I am ready to worship with you today. When I hear that song now it will be a reminder that His light is near I just need the spirit to help me see.

we don't always have to be in a good mood or rejoicing to worship but we can find joyfulness even in sorrow.

La 3:22-23

22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;

23 they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

Worship is our response to God for Who He is and what He has done. Let's together Worship.