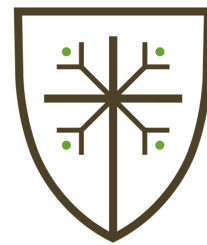


Hospitality Eternity Worship Mission

ESSENTIAL EMPHASES

FALL SERMON SERIES

SERMON NOTES



November 13, 2022

SERMON INFO

TITLE

Essential Emphases: Worship

PREACHER

Rev. Tim Frickenschmidt

TEXTS

Psalm 95

Philippians 2:14-18

Mark 14:3-9

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In what ways are our emotions, body, will, and mind engaged in worship? How is this different than simply an emotional experience?
2. What things do we most often worship in place of God?

SERMON IN SUMMARY

This week, Tim preached on the third of our four “Essential Emphases” of the Church – worship. Worship is defined as assigning ultimate value to something. In our Old Testament reading from Psalm 95, we see a picture of worship that engages all of our being. Our emotions, our body, our will, and our mind are all engaged in worship. We can sit and simply listen to words but if all or our self is not engaged, it isn’t worship. So, are you worshipping? Is all your being engaged?

Worship is truly seeing with eyes of faith what God is worth and responding with all your worth. Everyone has some object to which they ascribe ultimate worth, whether relationships, work, kids, school, sports, politics. Everyone has something. C.S. Lewis says that “all enjoyment spontaneously erupts in praise unless shyness or fear of boring others hinders it.” He explains that the Psalmists (like we see in Psalm 95) in telling others to praise God are simply doing what all men do in encouraging others to enjoy the things in which they find enjoyment. We’ve all heard the common saying to “sing someone’s praises.”

But what is it that we worship? Lewis says that the greatest problem in our lives lies in what it is that we worship. And the first step in beginning to worship God is in admitting that you already worship something else, something lesser. You have already ascribed ultimate value to something. And any thing, even any good thing, can crush you if worshipped as the ultimate thing. Whatever it is to which you ascribe ultimate value will eventually fail you. In our gospel reading, the woman with the alabaster flask realizes the ultimate value in Jesus and in what he was about to do. And she gives up everything she has in praise of him. She demonstrates that she gets it.

So, how do we worship? Worship is done in community; it is a corporate act. And it is done in and according to truth. Without the scriptures, we design God for ourselves. Worship is us coming in to God’s presence – made possible because Christ is eternally presenting himself to the Father. God the Son perfectly presented himself as sacrifice to the Father. And each week we re-present all that once for all sacrifice that allows us to enter into the presence of God.

The Gospel, the good and perfect sacrifice of Christ who sits now at the right hand of the Father, ends all our tiring and destructive work and allows us to truly worship that which is ultimate and will never fail us. We can rest in the worship that has been provided by Christ.