

“ADJ - Disciple’s Disciplines Part 2” (6-12-22)

Introduction: The Discipline of Worship - an engaged heart - a loving response - an obedient life

1) See Him (Behold & Adore) - An engaged heart

Isaiah 6:1 (ESV)

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

Note: The circumstances of life - Israel is in dis-array and on the cusp of falling - but Isaiah has a vision of the Lord - He sees him & His train!

This is the starting point of worship - Will I allow the Lord (who He is & what He does) to fill my vision, or will I be consumed instead by the swirl around me?

Isaiah 6:2-3 (ESV)

(2) Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. (3) And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

Note: This is what worship should be - the songs we sing & the gaze of our heart should be focused upon who He really is!

- Worship should always **start with the Word** (last week’s discipline), then we are better able to recognize him in creation, life’s circumstances, our relationships, etc. Let’s look at 2 examples in the Word . . .

a) A Vision of God on His throne & the heavenly response to being in His presence

Revelation 4:8-11 (ESV)

(8) And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” (9) And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, (11) “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Note: God is seen, just for who he is, and he is worshipped. Then worship spreads - more join in & they reflect on his works (creation)!

b) A Vision of Jesus (the Lion & the Lamb) - the only one able to open the scroll

Revelation 5:8-12 (ESV)

(8) And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, (10) and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.” (11) Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, (12) saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Note: Jesus is seen - a song is written in prayerful response - and worship continues to spread!

Worship: Do I regularly practice simply gazing upon God? Does scripture fill my vision and help me see Him in the world around me? This is the foundation of worship - Seeing God for who He is & what He does!

2) Love Him - A Responsive Life

Isaiah 6:4-5 (ESV)

(4) And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. (5) And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!”

Note: The after shocks of seeing God - produces a responsive life - Isaiah worships!

- Isaiah sees God for who He really is and therefore he sees himself in a more accurate light
- This is Worship - seeing God in his proper place, and now I am able to see myself as I am (flawed & loved)

Example: A responsive life of worship - Jesus gives us the greatest commandment (it's not new!)

Mark 12:28-31 (ESV)

(28) And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that (Jesus) answered them well, asked him, “Which commandment is the most important of all?” (29) Jesus answered, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ (31) The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Note: Jesus' command is to worship, and He describes how to do it!

- See God for who he is (Hear, O Israel . . .)
 - Love God with all - heart, soul, mind, strength (engage our full selves in responsive worship)
- *We will come to loving others in a few minutes

Engaging full self in worship - look at expressive physical responses to worship (as described in Scripture):

- Singing (Psalm 33:1)
- Shouting (Psalm 95:1)
- Clapping (Psalm 47:1)
- Laughing & Joy (Psalm 126:1-3)

Psalms 126:1-3 (ESV)

(1) A Song of Ascents. When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. (2) Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, “The LORD has done great things for them.” (3) The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

- Leaping - jump for joy! (Luke 6:23 / Acts 3:8)
- Lifting Hands (Psalm 134:2)
- Bowing & Kneeling (Psalm 95:6)
- Musical Instruments (Psalm 150)
- Dancing (Psalm 149:3) - **Example:** Jen Blessing's recital focused on the creation story

Consider: Do I give expression to worship? Is it a loving response that engages my full self? How can I grow in my worshipful response to Jesus? What am I most uncomfortable with - will I always the Lord to stretch me

3) Serve Him - Repent & Obey

Isaiah 6:6-8 (ESV)

(6) Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. (7) And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." (8) And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Note: Serving God flows from a worshipful heart - we repent & obey. Worship rightly aligns our life!

Back to Jesus' greatest command - look what flows from a worshiper's heart . . .

Mark 12:30-31 (ESV)

(30) And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' (31) The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these."

Note: Jesus links them as if they are 1 command - because he knows the power of worship. WE will be changed - God loves me, I respond in love, and now I live to love!

True Kingdom Based "service" is love in action!

Responding in Repentance & Service - as we rightly align with him in worship, then our lives will flow out in worship - loving others, using our calling/gifts to serve him - all of life becomes worship (I mop to glorify him alone) - it gives meaning & purpose to all we say & do!

A word of warning . . .

Revelation 2:2-4 (ESV)

(2) "I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. (3) I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. (4) But I have this against you, that you have **abandoned the love** you had at first.

Note: The church at Ephesus - beware: works flow from love / not the other way around!

Contrast proper worship w/ false (backwards) worship:

- **Wrong Order:** Serve (repent & obey) / now I'm showing him love / Oh look he loves me (I earned it)
- **God's Order:** Behold Him & His love / I observe, receive, respond / my life aligns in worshipful obedience

This is Grace-filled Worship

- We don't worship to earn or receive.
- We have **received** un-earned love & favor (Grace)
- Now we respond back in **Love** (relational intimacy) and . . .
- **Service** (a rightly aligned life: he is king & I am not; so, I live to serve the King)

Conclusion: Let's purpose to be worshippers - **See Him, Love Him, Serve Him** (in that order!)