

WHAT WOULD JESUS UNDO?

WHAT WOULD JESUS UNDO, PART 2: HOLLOW WORSHIP

What Would Jesus Undo? What are the things that break the heart of Jesus? Jesus would undo hollow, empty worship that just goes through the motions.

BIG IDEA: Our worship honors God when our heart is connected to who He is.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Describe what a meaningful expression of worship (in church) looks like for you.
2. What different kinds of worship have you experienced in churches? Why do you think it's easy to get bent out of shape about different styles of worship?
3. *With your Bible or Bible App, Read Matthew 15:1-14.*

¹ Some Pharisees and teachers of religious law now arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked him, ² "Why do your disciples disobey our age-old tradition? For they ignore our tradition of ceremonial hand washing before they eat." ³ Jesus replied, "And why do you, by your traditions, violate the direct commandments of God?" ⁴ For instance, God says, 'Honor your father and mother,' and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.'⁵ But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.'⁶ In this way, you say they don't need to honor their parents. And so you cancel the word of God for the sake of your own tradition. ⁷ You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, ⁸ "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God."¹⁰ Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "Listen," he said, "and try to understand. ¹¹ It's not what goes into your mouth that defiles you; you are defiled by the words that come out of your mouth." ¹² Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?" ¹³ Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, ¹⁴ so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

Matthew 15:1-14 (NLT)

4. Compare the way Jesus addresses each group here (The Pharisees in verses 1-9, the crowd in verse 10-11, and the disciples in verse 12.) Who is Jesus harshest with? Why?
5. Where do Jesus' opponents come from? Why are they looking for Jesus? Why would they begin with the cleanliness issue?
6. Kim said, "On the outside, it looks like worship, but because the inside is not right? It's simply an empty gift." Why is our outward worship always tied to the heart on the inside? What do you think she meant by that statement?
7. How does Jesus support his charge of hypocrisy? What does the example He uses (verses 5-6) reveal about their hypocrisy? What does Isaiah say to the Pharisees? (7-9) To all religious people?

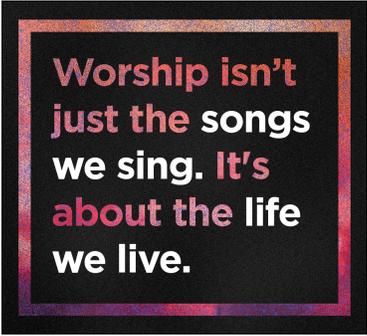
**Worship
isn't about
a style of
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8. Which of these biblical acts of worship feel most natural to you: kneeling, raising hands, dancing, or praising? Share your experiences.
9. How can you grow in your in-church expression of worship?
10. Considering who God is and what He's done for you, how can you worship Him with the way you live this week?

MOVING FORWARD

Expand the ways you worship God in and out of church—not just this week, but for good. Write a note to God thanking Him for everything He's done for you. Share it with your group during the week.



**Worship isn't
just the songs
we sing. It's
about the life
we live.**