

I said this first week I was here, love you guys, love this place, and that's, if you know me at all, that's a big deal.

I don't throw out the word love very often.

I think you have to actually know people to love them.

We say things like, I love the Cardinals, you don't know the Cardinals.

Yeah.

You may love the idea of the cardinals, but you hate them when they're losing.

And so that's a different thing.

Loving people requires some kind of intentionality.

And God has definitely done that over the last years that I've been able to be here.

And I think it also, from my heart, and not just as a follower of Christ, but as a pastor, it's part of shepherding.

this to me is not like a conference where you show up and get to open the word and talk to people that you don't know.

And I was talking to a few of you over the last couple of weeks.

What's changed over the last couple of weeks for me is just getting to know more people.

And so it's not nameless faces.

It's not just a bunch of people sitting.

It actually is the body of Christ, which God does things across the world.

I could be in Nepal right now preaching.

And if I'd spent four weeks in Nepal with 10 people, God does something to knit the body of Christ together.

So

thankful and excited to be here this morning.

And I will tell you this, man, there are things going on inside of my bones right now that's not coffee, because that doesn't do that for me.

It's not Coke.

It's not whatever you want to call it.

But there's a stirring in my heart this morning that I pray that

that you don't just see as like a preacher that got excited over just a text.

Like it's something that who God is and what he's doing.

And so I just want to dive straight into the text we've been reading through for the last couple of weeks and get us started.

So Lord, give us ears to listen.

This is Ephesians 5 verse 15.

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise, making the best use of the time because the days are evil.

We've been talking about this idea of making the best use of the time, this idea that it's redeeming time.

And then he gives us two commands right there in the very first verse.

Look.

and how you walk.

And so there's this idea of looking carefully with every minute that we've been given by the Lord and walking wisely in that.

Why?

We've talked about two reasons.

If you've been here for a couple of weeks, we've talked about two reasons he's telling us to redeem time.

One, if you remember, is that we're not our own.

There's an ownership that God has of us now in 1 Corinthians 6, 9, that he says, I've actually redeemed you.

You've been bought at a price.

And so it's not just that God now gives us the gift of time or the gift of breath or the gift of family or life.

They are gifts, but understand this, even though they're gifts, they're still his.

And so if you look at time as a gift from God that's now yours to figure out what you're gonna do with it, you're seeing that completely unbiblical and not from a redeemed standpoint of God actually redeeming you and now giving you.

So every breath you have when you woke up this morning breathing from the Lord, a gift, that you could live, but a gift so that you can live for him.

Does that make sense?

And so ownership is his.

That's one of the reasons he's saying redeem this time.

But there's a second reason, and that is there's this urgency.

The days are evil.

There's a kingdom battle still going on.

Even though the war's been won, there's a kingdom battle.

And as he's told us in Psalm 92, as we looked at number your days, like your days are but a breath, right?

And so there's an urgency.

There is a ownership.

And then he says in verse 17, therefore, do not be foolish with your days, your hours, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

And we've talked about that through word, through prayer.

And last week we talked about this idea of submission to the spirit.

He says, and do not get drunk with wine for that's debauchery.

It's a waste of time.

And it is unthinking about the consequences to those around us and to our own heart.

But be filled with the Spirit.

Be submitted to the Spirit.

This idea that somehow when we come under the Spirit's presence and rule every minute, every day, every hour, and I hope you hear this, like submission to the Spirit isn't a one-time deal.

It is every moment of your life you're choosing who you are submitting to and what you are submitting to.

And as we submit, he says, I'll do this amazing transforming work and you'll actually start to change your desires.

And so what you desire to do with your time changes as you submit to the Spirit.

And your ability to actually take that time and walk in it for the Lord begins to change.

He empowers that.

And then he gives you joy.

Even in the midst of those hours at times when it is not pleasant.

Is that a good way to say that?

And then he says this.

Verse 19.

Addressing...

one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody of the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Love this, but why at the end of this passage on our time does the Lord seem to interject us thoughts on worship?

It's not just a random moment from Paul, a tangent on worship.

If you remember this statement we made last week, we talked about this, that every time you wake up in the morning and you start to draw breath, what's been going on all night and what you're waking up into is a spiritual battle, which means a lot of things.

But part of that battle is this.

You and I wake up to a battle for our worship.

The moment we wake up and the moment most of you, what's the very first thing you do?

Not all of you.

Most of you do this.

And immediately the battle begins.

right?

Because for some of you, you immediately go to worshipping the things that aren't the Lord.

Like, what did I miss?

Who desperately needed me during the night?

It's like they sent you a text at four o'clock in the morning that, man, if you don't look at it at 630, life's not going to be the same.

I wake up sometimes that way.

Gotta be needed.

I wake up because I didn't see what happened to the Cardinals.

Like, I assume they won the World Series last night.

even though it's not possible, something in my head says, maybe.

And we begin the battle.

Maybe it's not with a phone.

Maybe it's with your coffee maker.

Your drip that for you is like, man, this is heaven.

This is the nectar of Jesus.

It's coffee.

Some of you wake up and the thing that you worship is your kids and you can't wait to go see them.

And I'm not saying they're not a gift and they're not lovely, but they're terrible gods.

Can I say that?

And we wake up and the battle begins, right?

And so God's reminding us this question we looked at last week.

Why is there a spiritual battle?

So many reasons.

One, you have an enemy.

Jesus said he exists to steal, kill, and destroy.

And he's trying to take your worship.

But you also have this internal enemy called the flesh, this old nature, which then begins to say, I really want to worship everything and anything but God.

So you wake up with a real enemy after you and your own flesh after you.

And we learned this last week that what you worship, you will regularly and willingly submit to.

And what we submit to, who or what we submit to, is the greatest influence on how you will spend your time.

And so this last sentence, if you will, where God tells us

About worship isn't just a tangent about worship and the right way or what it is.

Our God is a God of order and purpose, divine intent all through his word.

And this passage is here to help us fight the battle of worship.

Practically, he's going to give us three things that day to day, hour to hour, he's given to us so that we will then walk into further submission, which leads us to further walking in him wisely with our time.

Worship is tied to submission.

Submission is tied to worship.

And this text is going to help us do that.

And so we're going to pray again right now.

Spirit, help us.

I just want to encourage you.

Like, if you haven't woke up this morning to this thought, submit yourself to him.

And you would put yourself under his love and under his rule.

that you would allow his presence, Lord, right now to rule us, to change our desires, to change our abilities, to change our joy, that you only give us through the person of Christ and the presence of your very self.

And so, God, we submit ourselves to you.

Teach us, feed us, change our minds and hearts.

Battle for us this morning.

and call us to battle for one another.

And we pray this in your name, Jesus.

Amen.

Are you ready, church?

Here we go.

Here we go.

It begins with this in verse 19, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.

I'm going to get to addressing one another in a second, but what are psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs?

Psalms are actually in your Bible.

There's a whole book called Psalms.

And in case you don't know this, that word actually means songs.

And so they were written as songs.

scripture, but they're songs.

They're not just songs, they're actually scripture.

There's more psalms in the Bible than in the book of Psalms.

There's actually some scattered throughout the Old Testament because people were writing songs that became scripture and they just collected all of them.

And so just when you think of what a psalm is, it is the scripture set to song.

A hymn, especially, I mean, think about it.

This was written a long time ago.

Let's go 2,000 years, okay?

So when you and I think of hymns, we think of

like old songs written in 1910.

Can I say this?

There were hymns written 2,000 years ago.

So those of you that are like, man, it's not worship unless it was written in 1910.

There are people that are now dead that would tell you it isn't worship unless it was written in 1640.

And there's people in 1640 telling you what's not worship wasn't written in 1410.

You can fight that battle a long way back.

A hymn was written for this purpose.

It was really simple and you could teach it to kids.

The melody was simple, same thing over and over and over again.

Even the words got repeated again.

And basically they were taking scripture, but then writing it in their own words, sometimes setting it to very common theme songs, but making it really simple.

Spiritual songs is everything else.

And so if you're wondering what a spiritual song is, it can be a hymn, can be a song, but it's everything else that didn't get put into those two.

But this is the point.

What was going on in all three of those is this.

They were declaring the truth of who God is and what he does.

That's the point of that.

It's the truth of who God is and what he does.

And this is what, this is the first thing Paul's telling us.

It has to do with addressing one another there in verse 19.

The word address means to speak to.

It's not sing to, it's to address to.

He's going to get to sing in a minute, but he's saying address.

And here's the big part, one another.

All through the scripture, there is 59.

In the New Testament, there's 59 one another's where God says, do this to one another, love one another, serve one another.

There's actually, to my count, 37 unique ones.

That means like love one another is mentioned 15 times, which probably ought to tell us something, right?

But 36 other unique ones.

Here's what you need to know about the one another's.

You can't do them alone, right?

Like there's the duh of the day for you in case you needed something really low on the cookie shelf down here.

God's teaching me this.

I can't do one another's alone.

I can't love one another.

And this one is address one another with the truth of who God is.

So here's the way that he's given us that tangible handle for fighting this battle of our worship, which leads to more submission.

We fight the battle of daily worship by speaking to one another the truth of who God is and what he does.

This morning, I got a text.

from a friend of mine.

And he said, are you preaching again this morning at Heartland?

And I said, yes.

He said, man, I'm interceding for you right now.

And he wrote back to me some scripture and some things he was fighting.

And you know what he told me?

He's like, man, as you get dressed this morning, put on the belt of truth.

Like as you see yourself putting on the shoes shod for the gospel, as you put on your shirt, the righteousness of Christ, the breastplate of Christ, helmet of salvation.

You don't have one of those, but pretend like you do, John.

You're bald.

And that's what he wrote in my text.

And it was this.

He was like, John, you're going into battle today.

I want to go with you.

And he was addressing me with the truth of God and who the truth of God is.

And you know what it sent me off doing?

I texted five other pastors that I knew were preaching this morning.

And I told those guys, hey, when you're done, man, I don't care who it is, like text somebody to get in the battle this morning.

And one person set off this like cascade of addressing one another with the truths of God.

And what it did is it called me into submission, which, listen, absolutely affected how I used all my time this morning in a ton of ways.

We've got a bunch of people coming into my house tonight to do a small group.

Y'all call them GCs, I think, gospel communities.

We call them lot families.

It has to do with the church.

But you know what I did for like 15 minutes before I left?

I picked up a whole portion of the house because I really felt the Lord saying, hey, listen, your wife's going to be doing a lot of stuff today.

She's going out of town to see grandkids in the next couple of days.

Like part of your worship this morning is going to be serving her as you serve me.

That all happened because somebody started with a text.

It matters.

If you want to fight for worship and fight for our submission to the Lord, listen, it matters how we speak to one another, reminding each other of the truths of God.

I will say this, though, that when we fight alone, hear this, when you fight alone, lies will reign.

Because how I woke up this morning was this.

Lord, man.

It was six o'clock in the morning.

This is what I was thinking.

I walked out and my house, all the windows, we had this back room where I go and they were just all fogged up because of the humidity.

And I woke up to this, like something inside of me that wasn't excited about that.

Even though I'm in here and that's out there, I woke up to it and I just went.

And I spent the first 20 minutes of my morning doing what with my time?

What was I doing?

Complaining, grumbling.

thinking why don't I live in Colorado why did I plant a church in St.

Louis Lord I could have gone anywhere why'd you send me here on and on and on all these things are going on in my head and then you know what I got a text from Jesus no from a friend who told me about Jesus and said and he didn't say this but what he said it stopped complaining and grumbling like worship

When I fight alone, lies reign, lose the daily battle of worship.

Lone rangers consistently lose the battle of worship.

Why do you fight alone?

Why do you do it?

And I'm not talking about like, why do you not go to gospel community?

That's a different question.

If you're not in a GC, why not?

But on a day-to-day basis, why are you fighting alone?

I'll tell you my two, and I think they apply to everybody.

I'll give you the surface things.

The surface things are this.

I should be able to do this by myself.

I don't like being weak or appearing weak.

And you know what's deeper below that?

Somebody tell me.

What's below that?

Say it again.

Say it louder.

There you go.

So I don't know how your pride gets manifested, shown, and you're wanting to battle alone, but there's something in you that's like, I'm 30 years in Christ, I should be able to do this.

I shouldn't have to rely on it.

I don't like looking weak.

I want to be, I want to be.

Pride is one of the main reasons I and you fight alone, and it leads to debauchery.

Can I just say that?

It leads to sin, which is a waste of time, not caring for others, not realizing the consequence as I fight alone, listen to lies, and lose the battles, and then walk into sin.

There's a second reason I fight alone, and it's this.

You may have plenty, but here's my second reason.

I really don't want you to see my sin.

Like when I fight with you, I have to tell you, like I had to text that guy back this morning and tell him all I've been doing is grumbling, complaining all morning.

It's like, how can I intercede for you specifically?

And I'm like, man, I'm stuck in grumbling, complaining.

And he went after my sin right there, after my heart.

I don't want to fight with other people because at the end of the day, I don't want you to, I don't want to be found out.

Can I encourage you with this?

Listen, at the foot of this, not this, but the cross, like we're all found out.

There is no hiding at the foot of the cross.

There's hiding in all sorts of other places.

But when you walk into the truth of God, all of us are sinful.

My friend didn't text me like, man, what a loser you are.

Why would they want you to come preach, loser?

Like that wasn't what he said.

He said, listen, you are just like me and we need the winner.

At the foot of the cross, not only are you found out, but there's a savior who says, listen, I understand you can't do this alone.

Jesus didn't even do it alone.

When he was in the garden, he was fighting for worship.

What did he do?

He took all 11 of those guys with him because one of them was already gone.

And then he took three and deeper and he said, stay here and pray with me.

And they fell asleep.

But he was with his father.

Who are you fighting with?

Who is pleading for you, speaking words of truth of who God, who is that?

And this isn't about introvert, extrovert.

I mean, that's not about that.

We are relational beings made for relationship.

You're God, who is God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit.

I don't understand this, but he's one, but he's been in a relationship forever with himself.

He didn't create you because he needed relationship.

He had relationship, and it's perfect, perfectly joyful, perfectly full of love.

He created you and I to enter into that relationship with him and to know his joy and love.

And when you and I live isolated, lone rangers, listen, we are rebelling against the very character of God, who is a relational God.

And Lord, help us this morning with our pride.

Like, put it to death at the foot of the cross.

I don't know why you're this morning don't want other people to see your sin when all of us are sinful.

But may you hear this truth this morning as I'm addressing you.

Man, we are all sinners, but there's a Savior.

And when you daily walk in the truths of, listen, we worship and we submit, things begin to change in our outlook and our walk with our time.

Here's verse 19, comes back to this.

Singing and making melody of the Lord.

Spirit now moves to the action of from speaking to singing.

I love singing.

I'm not a great singer, but I love singing.

I love having a song in my breath all day.

Sometimes, I'll be honest with you, sometimes that song is a Beatles song.

Sometimes that song is a country song.

Sometimes, I'm very eclectic in my musical taste.

But I will tell you this, there's only one song that leads to worship.

And it's really not the style.

And it's not the place.

Because what's mainly being addressed in this phrase here is not how we do this, I mean, or the style or even where singing, making melody leads to this.

This is that to the Lord.

The focus of the second practical things he gives us here is like, who are you worshiping and how?

To the Lord from your heart.

Like the song part, awesome, love it.

But that's not the focus of what he's saying.

The focus of what he's saying is,

Practically, worship has to come in who you are worshiping and really how you are worshiping them.

See, most of us as Christians, man, for so many years, Christians have missed this aspect of worship because we made worship about where we are, like the building we're in or the type of building we're in.

I don't have stained glass windows, I can't worship.

I'll be real honest with you, I worship better in the mountains than I do in a building.

Like buildings kind of quench my worship.

I worship better outside than in a building.

And it doesn't matter where outside is.

I can be in Oklahoma.

If you're from Oklahoma, sorry.

But I can worship good in Oklahoma.

I can worship in a desert.

When I'm outside next to my creator, worship happens much more fluently.

I'm reminded that there is a creator and I'm not him.

I'm created.

But for some of us, it's got to be the right... And it's not even about the building.

It's just like, I worship when I'm here.

And what I would tell you is like, you're losing the battle of worship if worship is about where you are.

It's about who first.

And secondly...

With your heart.

So notice what he doesn't say.

He's not saying singing a song, making melody in your heart.

He's not saying like walk around with a song inside you all day, which is awesome.

Nothing wrong with that.

That's part of what happens when you're living in worship, every minute's worship.

But he's saying this.

Worship the Lord with your heart.

So for the Hebrews, the heart wasn't a place of emotions.

It wasn't just, I love Jesus, like that tingly thing.

Like that's not what he's talking about.

He's not saying that.

What he's saying is your whole being.

For the Hebrews, the heart was mine.

So all of it, your motives, what drives you.

which is this, and your affections, all of them.

He's saying this, like have a song and a melody towards Jesus with all of your being.

Let me say it this way.

Here's the second practical thing.

We fight the battle of daily worship by declaring and growing our love for Jesus in every space we walk.

And we're asking Jesus, grow a love for you as we walk into work.

You're asking Jesus to grow your love for him as you're changing that diaper.

You're asking Jesus to grow your love for him as you're mowing grass.

You're asking Jesus to grow your love for him as you're leading others to declare their love for him.

One of the easiest places to not worship Jesus is when you're leading worship.

Will anybody else who leads worship say amen to that?

Because you can just, you can look like you're leading worship here and you're not.

You're not leading worship, you're leading songs at times.

And we're not leading anybody to the king to give them our affections with our whole heart.

We're just making sure we're getting the notes right so we don't look stupid.

And I know this because I play instruments and have led worship before.

Much more concerned about what I look like than leading people actually to a throne where nobody cares what they look like there.

They're only staring at Jesus.

But when we're not at the throne, man, I care what you think I look like.

Listen to what Jesus said about worship.

He was having a conversation with a woman who was confused about worship.

but really wanted to know.

And she said this, our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.

And Jesus said to her, woman, believe me, the hour is coming, but it's neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem you will worship the Father.

Jesus said, it's not about where.

They were arguing about where 2,000 years ago, just like we do.

Jesus is like, it's not about where.

Notice what he says here, verse 23.

But the hour is coming, now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father.

That's what worship is about.

And then he said, here's how that happens.

Spirit and truth.

True worship requires spirit and truth.

For the Father is looking for such people to worship him because God is spirit.

You can't worship God who is spirit unless you have one.

And you were born with a spirit, but it also says this, that you were born with your spirit dead to God.

So your spirit has to be brought to life in order to worship him.

Without Jesus bringing your spirit to life, your spirit is never going to be alive.

You can't make your spirit come to life.

You were dead.

Everybody look up here at me for a second.

You weren't in the water about to drown and Jesus threw your life preserver.

That's not dead.

By the way, there's a hymn that says that, and if you love that hymn, sorry to ruin it for you, but you weren't sinking deep in sin far from the stormy sea.

You were dead on the bottom of the ocean.

Dead.

And I love that hymn, but wrong theology, so be careful.

Hymns are not the Bible.

Neither are spiritual songs.

You got pulled out of the ocean and someone brought you and put you on the ground and Jesus like light, boom.

And the spirit of God says this regenerated you, blew his life into you and you came to life.

And that's when worship begins because now your spirit's alive.

Now you get a choice every day.

Are you going to worship him in truth?

Which just means this.

Are you going to worship the things of Jesus or are you going to worship Jesus?

And you can't know the things of Jesus unless we're declaring the things of Jesus to one another, like the truth of who he is and what he's about.

That's why we need the word.

That's why theology and songs matters.

So we're not just even singing love songs to Jesus, but we're actually singing about who he is.

It's not wrong to declare our love for him, but if all we're doing is singing love songs for Jesus, my goodness, let's just go listen to the Beatles.

They wrote better love songs than most of the worship songs we sing.

Most of them.

or Zac Brown, whoever.

But when we're singing about God and who he is, nobody can compete with that for your heart.

My dad is a wholehearted worshiper of Jesus.

Didn't used to be.

Told you this for the last four weeks.

He's 95 years old, and where he lives, he lives in an assisted living place, and everybody knows he's a wholehearted worshiper of Jesus in there for two reasons.

One, he talks about Jesus a lot.

But here's the second reason.

He hangs out with people in that place that nobody else will.

Like he goes and on his walker, he's 95, he still walks, but he's on his walker and he goes and sits down next to this lady named Ruth, who is the meanest, like fill in the blank that you want to say in that whole place.

Like when you see her, she just growls.

And my dad will just walk up and sit down next to her.

And he's like, man, that is a hard place to worship.

But I sit down next to Ruth and I just start asking her questions and I worship the Lord the whole time she glambles at me.

She's never said, why do you love Jesus so much?

She's never said, I want to follow Jesus.

But you know what?

I am a better worshiper.

I get saved every time I sit down next to Ruth because I realize how much I need Jesus.

Literally doesn't get saved every time, but he needs Jesus and he's at the foot of the cross.

He realizes who he is and there's a savior reminding him, you shouldn't hate Ruth because you were just like her at one point in time.

Shouldn't be gossiping about Ruth like everybody else does in that place.

And so the reason, and by the way, my dad wouldn't like that when I was a kid.

I'm like, who is this man?

God has grown his love for him, his worship for him, submitted his time to him.

So now when he can't do anything else with his life, he can't preach anymore.

I mean, he can do two things.

He can pray and he can sit down and talk to people and then he sleeps the rest of the day.

Because it's just hard getting up when you're 95.

I've learned this.

It takes a lot of energy out of you just to get up and put your clothes on and eat.

He's like, man, I'm tired.

I'm like, probably you should be.

You've been alive for 95 years.

But you know what he does with the rest of the time he's awake?

Hangs out with people.

That's a wholehearted worshiper.

When worship hinges on a place or a style, though, or anything else, and not a love of Jesus, we will lose the daily battle of worship.

If my dad had to have the place of worship for him the way he needed to, he would never worship.

If he had to have a style of worship for him, because it isn't about a place or music, it's about his heart, affectionately, the desires of Jesus.

And you can worship anywhere, doing anything.

It's not about songs at that point.

And yeah, he loves to sing, but it's not about that.

And top all that off, my dad worships at a place called Matthias Lot Church where I'm a pastor.

And nothing about that is my dad's preference.

Dark, loud, younger than him, which is everybody.

And so if you're like not in your preference thinking and you're grumbling, it's way more than that.

God's longing for you to see like, listen, man, from your heart,

To Jesus, the love of the Lord has to increase.

Now, how does the love of the Lord increase?

Here's the last thing he tells us.

This is how your love increases.

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Giving thanks.

Watch these two words.

Always and for everything.

It means in everything that's going on in your life, we're giving thanks.

And all the time, we're giving thanks.

Which means you're all the time giving thanks.

Not grumbling because there's humidity on your window, John.

I don't want to give thanks for humidity.

I don't want to give thanks for my mom who died a year ago.

I'm super thankful she's in heaven, but I'm sad for my dad.

95 years, 67 years of marriage, and every time I see him, I'm like, man, how are you doing?

He goes, I miss your mom.

But I love Jesus.

Some of y'all have been married for three years.

Can you imagine?

67. 67.

And he's super excited where she is.

I am way excited where my mom is.

She had dementia for 15 years.

She didn't speak his name the last 10 years of life.

He didn't ever hear his name.

He never heard I love you for the last 10 years she was alive.

So he is super excited where she is, but he misses his wife.

Give thanks for everything, always.

This is how this increases your love.

Let me just ask you this question.

Whenever true worship happens in your heart, why?

Why does true worship happen in your heart?

When true worship, spirit and truth happens, why?

Let me go to the negative end of why I don't think it happens.

If true worship, is it true worship when worship happens from duty and expectation?

I mean, is that true worship?

When you have to.

Remember those moments?

I don't know if you grew up in that home.

I grew up in that home.

That's how my dad used to lead us in worship.

We were going to have devotionals and you were going to worship.

Put a smile on your, and I appreciate the sentiment, but it was like, and it's not about your kids wanting to do this, Mike.

I realized this when I was raising kids.

They didn't want to brush their teeth.

They didn't want to put on clean clothes, and so do I just let them not brush their teeth, not wipe their bottoms and put on dirty clothes all the time?

No.

They're always doing things they don't want to do if you're the parent.

One of those, worship.

But worship in our house was like duty expectation.

Nope, it wasn't about love.

In my dad's heart, my mom's heart, or anybody's heart, it was just like, this is what we do.

When it was done, we checked it off, and then we went and did something else.

Is it true worship of all things?

but your doings from duty and expectation.

Here's the second thing.

Is it true worship when worship happens because others are watching?

Like, is the only time you're worshiping when other people are watching?

Or is there a closet space in your life where you're worshiping the Lord without anybody looking?

Lord, convict our hearts.

Open us up to your spirit.

Worship happens.

Is it true worship when worship happens because we want to get something from God?

In other words...

Is your worship a business transaction with the Lord?

Lord, if I do this, you'll give me this.

If I do this, you'll bring healing to my body or my friend or you'll find me a mate or you'll get me a better job.

And so we do this business transaction with the Lord.

I'll give you this, you give me this.

Is that worship?

Is it true worship?

Here's the last one.

Is it true worship if we only worship in corporate moments when someone else is leading us?

Like if this is the only place I worship, would you call me a true worshiper?

Or would you say like, you're a professional worshiper?

And unfortunately, a lot of pastors are just professional worshipers.

And I know this, a lot of pastors are a lot of people that aren't pastors are.

What happens when true worship just erupts from your heart and you can't stop it?

How does that happen?

When does that happen?

Let me say it this way.

Why does true worship erupt in our hearts?

When you are alone and no one's watching and worship happens, why?

When you're in your car and you're driving down the road and all of a sudden you just can't stop from worshipping the Lord, what's going on in that moment?

What happened to your heart so that this focus on the Lord Jesus happened and all of a sudden you just couldn't stop worshipping?

What happens to ladies or dads when you're changing that diaper and all of a sudden you just cannot stop?

Keep the worship inside.

And it's just you and the diaper.

And the child, hopefully.

But the child's not like clapping for you.

The six-month-old is like, Daddy, yay, good worship.

I mean, they have no idea.

Why does true worship erupt in our hearts when you're with others and you can't stop your heart from worshipping?

When you're with a group of three or five or you're with your family or with your friends and you can't stop worshipping?

The worship of Jesus.

What's happening in those moments?

And you're not afraid to look like an idiot.

You're not afraid to look silly.

You're not afraid of what they're going to think.

You don't even really notice that they're there, but you know they're there, but you don't care.

And worship, what is going on in that moment?

Why does true worship erupt in our hearts when you're amid chaos and pain and yet your heart bows to the Lord Jesus when you can't stop the tears from coming and the tears aren't about sadness.

Only some of it is because the chaos and pain hurts, but it's also about the joy.

I mean, when those moments happen and there's chaos and pain and everybody's like, man, you should just curse the Lord and die and their worship just comes flowing out of you.

What is going on?

I will say this, when your heart, when your whole being gets overwhelmed by who the Lord is, you cannot stop worship.

The problem is this, we are way too overwhelmed with everything else in this world.

There are moments in your life when you get overwhelmed with the Lord.

And in those moments, you know the Lord's real.

You don't doubt if the Lord is.

You don't question.

You don't have theological conflict because in that moment, as you're staring at the Grand Canyon and you've just had a moment with the Lord, you're like, Lord, you were real.

And man, you just do this.

You're just like, Lord, yes.

But there are other moments when the circumstance is overwhelming and all there is is just doubt.

What changes all that?

Let me say the truth.

I'm going to go back to the scripture.

We fight the battle of daily worship as our heart sees the overwhelming greatness of Jesus.

Lord, give us a bigger vision of yourself.

As we see the overwhelming greatness of Jesus, and this happens as we regularly look for and declare his greatness in everything.

Listen to the verse now.

Giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father.

Your thanksgiving will fuel your love for him.

Because as you're looking for thanksgiving, as you're declaring thanksgiving, you're seeing the greatness of God in every situation around you.

And you need to hear this.

God is great in every situation around you.

Usually what we're seeing is the greatness of the situation.

But when you ask the Lord, Lord, let me see your greatness in this situation.

It's not just, is it working out the way you want it to?

If God's greatness is dependent on working out the way you want it to, then you're just in a business transaction with God in worship.

Do what I want you to do and I'll worship you.

That's how most of us treat the government.

That's how most of us treat friends.

That's how most of us treat our parents.

Do what you want me to and I'll love you.

I'll vote for you.

I'll give you this.

That is not worship.

That is usury at the highest levels.

And God forgive me because I've been there.

I battled that.

But you know what happens this morning?

It had happened when I started giving thanks for what the Lord was doing in the middle of situations and praying for other people and seeing the movement of God and how good he is and what he's about.

Listen, my heart, my affections for the Lord were stirred.

And worship happened and submission came.

And my time changed that morning.

What I was doing with it.

Let me say the negative because I need you to hear this.

When we stop living in daily worship, we will lose the daily battle of worship.

Do you have regular rhythms of thanksgiving?

Besides when you pray for the meal and you do it out of duty and obligation because everybody expects you to pray.

I mean, praying at a meal is a great place to remind yourself like, the Lord is extravagant.

Look at what we're going to eat today.

We have so much.

You're going to go to lunch at somebody's house or at a restaurant, and you're going to get to make choices.

That's extravagance.

You're not going to go, are we going to eat?

You're saying, what?

Does that remind you of how extravagant the Lord serves you and loves you and gives to you?

How he's provided for you all these years.

Worship, if anything, happens because we experience and believe the thing or person can give us something that nothing else can.

So, for example, we worship beauty or comfort or control.

Let me just pick on comfort for a second because that's my personal idol of choice at times.

When I worship comfort, man, I look for it in every place.

I want my home to be about comfort first and foremost, not about hospitality.

Hospitality will ruin your comfort.

There'll be a whole bunch of like grub worms in my house tonight.

No comfort, a lot of mess, and a lot of beauty.

When I see it as mess, I'm worshipping comfort.

When I see it as beauty, I'm worshipping the Lord.

But I want my home, and so we'll spend a lot of time and money on our house to make it comfortable.

Does that make sense?

And I'm not saying it's wrong to have a comfortable house.

I'm just saying, are you doing that because you worship comfort or because you want it to be comfortable for other people as you bring them in to hospitality?

Or is it just about you?

No one else gets to see your palace because it's your castle, your safe place.

That's never what a home is intended to be.

I not only look for comfort in a place, I look for comfort in a person.

I pick out relationships then that make me comfortable.

Like if you're uncomfortable, remember Ruth?

Not a lot of Ruth's in my life, but I'm looking for comfort first.

When I'm worshipping Jesus, man, God leads me to Ruth's.

And it's not just about people or places, that it's also about things like food for some of us or comfort.

Porn is some of the reason we struggle with porn, men and women, is because it's comfortable.

It's not relational.

You don't have to have a relationship with porn.

It's just a thing.

We long for something to overwhelm us, and we look for that in created things, and it can't.

Romans 1 says, they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than creator.

The only one who's going to overwhelm you consistently is the creator.

Creatures will always underwhelm.

They'll promise overwhelm.

Over-promise, under-deliver, always.

Hear the verse again, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in our name, Lord Jesus Christ.

I'm gonna end here, but I just wanna end with this as we get ready to take communion.

Austin's gonna come up here and lead us in this, but I just wanna say this about communion.

You know there's a reason we do this?

It's not about duty and obligation.

And there's a reason we give physical objects to what happened on the cross.

It's because it's a place, this is what should happen in communion.

You should get outed.

Communion isn't a place for you to go make promises to the Lord.

Lord, I promise I'm going to worship you with all my time.

I'm going to redeem the time.

This isn't what needs to happen.

Communion is a place where you need to be reminded, like, man, I worship all sorts of other things and submit to all sorts of other things.

But here's the beauty of the gospel.

But

Jesus Christ.

Do you know the reason we pray in the name of Jesus?

It's not a Harry Potter like magical moment where we say in the name of Jesus and everything just happens.

We pray in the name of Jesus because we've put ourselves under Jesus.

And we've taken on the name of Jesus which means we have access to everything he gives us as we submit under which means as we pray right now for the Lord not only to forgive us of our worship

and our lack of submission, but we're asking him to empower us with desires new and thanksgiving full.

And he does that because we're under Christ and we get access to all of his person, but all of his works, everything he's accomplished for us is why we say in the name of Jesus.

And so in this moment, as I pray and lead us in prayer, and then Austin comes up here and the team comes up here to lead us in this moment of communion, listen,

Your hope today is not you're going to change how you spend your time.

Your hope today is in the name of Jesus.

Your hope today is that Thanksgiving can happen, not because you have a friend that texts you at 615 in the morning, but because Christ is always pursuing you.

And yes, he does it through people.

Yes, we need one another.

But man, he's going to use his spirit to come after us.

He's not going to ever stop.

He's going to call you to Thanksgiving because it's going to increase your love for him and your submission will change and daily battles to worship will change and time and how you spend it will change.

So Lord, right now we come in the name of Jesus.

Not because we've done something good and we need you to do something good, but because you are good.

Not because we have a whole lot to offer you.

Truth is, Lord, I don't really have anything but me to offer you.

But we come to you because you've offered us everything.

In the offering of your life and in your death, we stand here today, Lord.

And we say, Lord, out us for our sin, but remind us of the gospel that says we are pleasing to our Father as sons and daughters.

Well-loved, accepted,

welcomed in.

And we have access now to everything you've given us because of your work, Lord.

And so right now we plead, Lord, change the way we love.

Change the way we worship, Lord.

Give us a heart, whole heart for you.

And we pray this in the name of Jesus.