

What Would Jesus Undo? Hollow Worship

TALK IT OVER

Key Scripture

*Then some Pharisees and scribes *came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said,² “Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread. Matthew 15:1-2 NASB*

7 You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you:⁸ ‘This people honors Me with their lips, But their heart is far away from Me.⁹ ‘But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.’” Matthew 15:7-9 NASB

Come, let us worship and bow down, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. Psalm 95:6 NASB

So I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. Psalm 63:4 NASB

Let them praise his name with dancing ... Psalm 149:3 NIV

Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that [a]give thanks to His name. Hebrews 13:15 NASB

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, [a] acceptable to God, which is your [b] spiritual service of worship. Romans 12:1 NASB

Great is the LORD! He is most worthy of praise! ... Honor and majesty surround him; strength and joy fill his dwelling. ... Give to the LORD the glory he deserves! Bring your offering and come into his presence. Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor. ... Let the heavens be glad, and the earth rejoice! Tell all the nations, “The LORD reigns!” Let the sea and everything in it shout his praise! Let the fields and their crops burst out with joy! ... Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good! His faithful love endures forever. ... Praise the LORD, the God of Israel, who lives from everlasting to everlasting! And all the people shouted “Amen!” and praised the LORD. 1 Chronicles 16:25, 27, 29, 31-32, 34, 36 NLT

Start Talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- Describe what a meaningful expression of worship looks like for you.
- What different kinds of worship have you experienced in churches?

Start Thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Why do you think it’s easy to get bent out of shape about different styles of worship?
- Read Matthew 15:7-9. Talk about what it would be like to live out everything we sing with our lips in our lives.

Start Sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- How can you grow in your expression of worship?
- Considering who God is and what He’s done for you, how can you worship Him with the way you live this week?

Start Praying. Be bold and pray with power.

God, You’re our rock when we’re broken, our way when we’re lost, and our light on the darkest day. You are worth far more than every ounce of our worship, and every form of praise. Thank You, good Father. Amen.

Start Doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- Expand the ways you worship God—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.