

DANGEROUS WORSHIP

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I. INTRODUCTION

Acts 16:22-24 The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten with rods. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

Acts 16:25-26 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.

- 1. Sometimes, to realize what something is, you have to understand what it is not.**
- 2. Worship is the feeling or expression of reverence and adoration for a deity.**

- All that we do is to be an expression of worship. We live to worship God.

1 Samuel 4:1-3 Now the Israelites went out to fight against the Philistines. The Israelites camped at Ebenezer, and the Philistines at Aphek. The Philistines deployed their forces to meet Israel, and as the battle spread, Israel was defeated by the Philistines, who killed about four thousand of them on the battlefield. When the soldiers returned to camp, the elders of Israel asked, "Why did the Lord bring defeat on us today before the Philistines? Let us bring the ark of the Lord's covenant from Shiloh, so that he may go with us and save us from the hand of our enemies."

1 Samuel 4:4 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

II. WHEN IS WORSHIP DANGEROUS?

- 1. When worship becomes commonplace.**

1 Samuel 2:12 Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the Lord.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- *“You will either worship or be critical of those who do.”*

2. When worship becomes selfishness.

1 Samuel 2:17 This sin of the young men was very great in the Lord's sight, for they were treating the Lord's offering with contempt.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.

A. Worship is to be an act of sacrifice.

Psalms 33:1-3 Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him. Praise the Lord with the harp; make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre. Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.

Psalms 47:1 Clap your hands, all you nations; shout to God with cries of joy.

Psalms 134:2 Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise the Lord.

Psalms 95:6-7 Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker; for he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care

B. Worship is more than singing and music.

- Our giving is worship.
- Our serving is worship.
- Our work is worship.
- All that we do is worship.

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

C. When our sacrifice is filled with selfishness, it becomes a dangerous thing.

3. When worship becomes empty noise.

1 Samuel 4:4-6 So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. When the ark of the Lord's covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What's all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?”

4. When worship becomes a means to an end.

1 Samuel 4:10-11 So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and Eli's two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, died.

A. Worship is to be our default mode and not a desperation move.

- If you wait until the crisis to worship, you probably won't.

B. Worship is about who God is, not what He can do for us.

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

- We must desire the presence of God more than the power of God.