

Lost in Translation (Week 5)

March 15th, 2026

“Beyond the Music: Understanding True Worship”

Words that have been stolen:

- When we allow our words to mean something other than God's definition, the words lose the power they were intended to have.
- When words are defined differently it leads to confusion.

The word of the week: WORSHIP.

- The world's version is “*I don't worship anything.*”
- The church's version of worship is music. A majority of church splits center around this concept.
- **Romans 1:25 (NIV84)**

God's version of WORSHIP:

1st, We are called on to worship God only—it's a command.

- Everyone worships something, but we were made to worship/serve God only.
- God knows that we are shaped by what we worship/serve. If we worship/serve the wrong things, we are impacted negatively.
- **Luke 4:5-8; Jeremiah 2:5 (NIV84)**

Deuteronomy 6:13 (NASB95) “*You shall fear only the LORD your God; and you shall worship Him (serve Him only) and swear by His name.*”

2nd, What is worship?

- Definition in the **Hebrew**: To prostrate oneself, to give reverence to. In the **Greek**: to serve.
- Worship is a focus on God; to adore; to bow before.
- Worship is God centered, not self/human centered.
- Worship is a lifestyle, not just an event.
- There is worship that is unacceptable to God.
- **John 4:23-24; Mark 7:5-8 (NIV84)**

Hebrews 12:28–29 (NIV84) *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our “God is a consuming fire.”*

Aspects of Worship:

- A. Worship is a lifestyle of service.** God is the one we serve. Whatever controls your life is what you are worshipping, and it sets the tone of your life.
 - **Romans 12:1-2; 1 Samuel 15:22-23 (NIV84)**
- B. Worship is sacrificial—it takes time!**
 - **Acts 10:3-6 (NIV84)**
- C. Praise—singing—it happens at a time with other believers.**
 - **Psalm 33:1 (NIV84)** *Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise Him.*
 - **Colossians 3:16; Ephesians 5:15-21; Hebrews 13:15-16 (NIV84)**

3rd, Our worship reveals how much we value Him.

Malachi 1:7–8 (NIV) *“By offering defiled food on my altar. “But you ask, ‘How have we defiled you?’ “By saying that the LORD's table is contemptible. When you offer blind animals for sacrifice, is that not wrong? When you sacrifice lame or diseased animals, is that not wrong? Try offering them to your governor! Would he be pleased with you? Would he accept you?” says the LORD Almighty.*

- **Haggai 1:9 (NIV84)**

4th, God's response to worship.

Psalm 22:3-5 (NASB95) ³*Yet You are holy, O You who are enthroned upon the praises of Israel. ⁴In You our fathers trusted; They trusted and You delivered them. ⁵To You they cried out and were delivered; In You they trusted and were not disappointed.*

NEXT STEPS:

- **Examine yourself.** What does your lifestyle tell you about who/what you worship?
- **Commit to a God centered worship.** Make necessary adjustment to your routines.
- **Build a lifestyle of worship.** Daily abiding.

2 Corinthians 13:5–7 (NIV84) Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed.

FOR SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION:

Head Questions: Renewing how we *think* about worship

- How has your understanding of “*worship*” been shaped more by culture (*music style, feelings, preferences*) than by Scripture?
- After this message, how would you now define Biblical worship in your own words?
- Read **Romans 12:1–2** together. What specific “*patterns of this world*” around worship (*consumer mentality, preference wars, church-hopping for music, etc.*) are you personally tempted by?

Heart Questions: Aligning hearts and lives

- The sermon said, “*What you worship shapes you,*” and **Jeremiah 2:5** says those who follow worthless idols become worthless. What are some “*created things*” (*comfort, success, kids’ activities, sports, reputation, pleasure, etc.*) that most easily compete for the throne of your heart?
- How can you tell when your heart is drifting toward worshiping those things instead of God?
- What would it look like to come into Sunday worship next week with your heart truly focused on God rather than your preferences or feelings?

Hands Questions: Serving in the church as worship

- Jesus said we are to “*worship the Lord your God and serve Him only*” (**Luke 4**).
- In what ways are you currently serving in the church, and how consciously do you see that serving as worship?
- If you’re not actively serving, what might be holding you back (*fear, busyness, consumer mindset, past hurt, not knowing where to start*)?
- What is one concrete way you can offer your “*body as a living sacrifice*” by serving others in this church family over the next month (*kids/youth, greeting, tech, worship, hospitality, prayer, etc.*)?

Feet Questions: Everyday life as worship (home, work, hobbies)

- The message emphasized that worship is a lifestyle, not just an event.
- What does it look like for you to “*worship*” while at work? At home with family? In your hobbies or free time?
- Where do you most struggle to live as a “*living sacrifice*” outside of Sunday (*work stress, conflict at home, screen time, sports, etc.*)?
- Identify one everyday situation coming up this week where you will intentionally choose to respond in a God-centered, worshipful way rather than in your usual pattern.

Community Questions: Worshipping together for the sake of others

- The sermon highlighted how our worship together shapes kids, youth, and newer believers, and helps build “*relational ropes*” that keep them connected to Christ and His people.
- How do your habits around Sunday worship (*attendance, engagement in singing, staying to the end, connecting with others*) either help or hinder the spiritual life of the people around you—especially children and teens?
- What is one step your group members can each take to make church a more worshipful, relational, “*sticky*” community for the next generation (*e.g., mentoring a teen, consistently showing up and engaging in singing, inviting families to lunch after church, joining kids/youth ministry, intentionally encouraging others during/after worship*)?

What is one specific, **measurable step** you will take this week in one of these four areas: **Mind, Heart, Hands, or Feet.**

Sermon Series Resources:

