

BECOMING A TRUE WORSHIPER

John 4:4-26

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God's primary purpose in creating and saving us is so that we might become true worshipers.

"You should regard the Lord your God with half a heart, a disengaged mind, a lukewarm soul and as little effort as you can get away with."

LORD, the God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below—you who keep your covenant of love with your servants who continue wholeheartedly in your way. (1 Kings 8:23)

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be indifferent, and so disdain God disrespectfully with apathy and indifference..."

"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe..." (Hebrews 12:28)

All people everywhere, recognize the LORD,
recognize that the LORD is glorious and strong.
Give to the LORD the glory he deserves!
Bring your offering and come to worship him.
Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor. (1 Chronicles 16:28-29 - NLT)

When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!"

"Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

"I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out." (Luke 19:37-38)

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.
For the word of the LORD is right and true;
he is faithful in all he does.
The LORD loves righteousness and justice;
the earth is full of his unfailing love. (Psalms 33:1-5)

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.

In a loud voice they sang:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, ***singing***:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!"

The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped. (Revelation 5:11-14)

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. (John 7:37-39)

I God is seeking true worshipers

For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. (2 Chronicles 16:9)

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost." (Luke 19:10)

"Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."

Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38)

"The LORD your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17)

II: True worship involves agreement and surrender to some uncomfortable truths.

a) There is one & only one Creator God

In the beginning God created the heavens & the earth (Gen. 1:1)

I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. (Isaiah 45:5)

b) God is not only loving but perfectly holy, righteous and just

c) God has standards

- 1) Be holy as I am holy
- 2) Be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect
- 3) Love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, mind, soul and strength
- 4) Do not covet
- 5) Do not commit adultery
- 6) Do not murder

d) I have failed to meet God's standards (sin)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. (Romans 3:23)

‘There is no one righteous, not even me;
there is no one who understands,
I do not seek God.
I have turned away,
and have become worthless;
there is no one who does good,
not even me.’ (Romans 3:9ff)

e) Sin has consequences

The wages of sin is death ... (Romans 6:23)

f) Jesus is the only hope to remedy the consequences of sin

For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men... (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

He said: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14:6)

g) It is possible to be quite religious and still not be a true worshiper

You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you: "‘These people honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain..." (Matthew 15:7-9)

III. True worship involves submission of our spirit to God's Spirit.

Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. (2 Corinthians 5:5)

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession -- to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14)

One definition of worship is "The Adoration and service of God the Father, through the mediating Work of the Son, prompted and empowered by the Holy Spirit."

"I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." (John 3:5-8)

Both the lowliest sinner and the most pious religious leader need the Holy Spirit in order to become a true worshiper.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things;
his right hand and his holy arm
have worked salvation for him.
The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.
He has remembered his love
and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;
make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing,
with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn--
shout for joy before the LORD, the King. (Psalms 98:1-6)