



Sermon Notes

Term – Summer Term

Series – Worship

Gathering & Date – 5th May 2019

Title – Worship and priority

Preacher –Neil Shepherd

Reading – John 4:19-26

Main message of this talk in one sentence: Worship is to honour God with extravagant love and extreme submission

Main points –

Opening question: What is worship?

Definition from Webster: Worship is to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission

Why do we worship God?

1. Because God tells us to – 10 Commandments and Greatest Commandment is to love God with our heart, soul, mind and strength
2. Because God is worthy of worship – we are reminded of his love in 1 Corinthians 13

5 New Testament words for worship

1. Ainos – a story/song that expresses praise; loud, bold and declaration of support
2. Epainos – a story/song that puts God on top and tells others of what he has done
3. Latreia – serving God with our bodies and our lives
4. Sebomai – revere or adore

The most used Greek word is:

5. Proskuneo – literally means to prostrate oneself, to lay on the floor in homage. The root word means to kiss the hand of the master.

Reading: John 4:19-26

In the middle of the story of the woman at the Well, under pressure from Jesus' prophetic, the woman asks a question about worship and here we read the conversation.

The conversation starts with:

here and there – we worship on the mountain, you worship in Jerusalem and Jesus tells us that a time is coming where worship will not be defined by a place

Us and them – you Jews and we the Samaritans but Jesus tells us that a time is coming when all people will worship God

God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth

SPIRIT – worship that engages the whole heart and a genuine connection with God's Spirit

TRUTH – worship must be 'in truth' that is properly informed

The best combination of both aspects of worship (spirit and truth) results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know God, the more we appreciate Him. The more we appreciate, the deeper our worship. The deeper our worship, the more God is glorified.

Old Testament words help us to understand the dynamics of worship:

1. Halal – to praise, to make a show or boast, to act madly or to make a fool of oneself in the process
2. Abad – to serve, to be a servant of God
3. Towdah – give praise to God with acclamation, shouts of praise
4. Tehillah – a song of praise, adoration or thanksgiving
5. Yadah – to hold out a hand in reverence and surrender, to bring our confession before God
6. Shachah – to bow down, to prostrate, to come before God, reverence
7. Barak – to kneel or to bless

The actions of Worship are therefore: (although not limited to)

Making a show, acting madly

Something we do in every area of life

shouts of approval

songs and hymns

reverence, surrender and confession

bow down, prostrate oneself before God

kneeling before God

Final quote from Brother Lawrence:

To worship God is to admit that we are entirely contrary to Him, and that He is willing to make us like Himself.

In worship, we surrender ourselves before God, give all of who we are – the pain and the joys, the strengths and the weakness – because he is worthy. As we surrender, God shapes us to be more like him because he is such a good God.

We can struggle to worship, in public or in private, because we fear what other people think and we fear what God might do. When we remember that God is always good and only brings healing and Wholeness then why would we not make space and time to worship God in spirit and in truth.

For further thought and prayer –

Connect:

1. Take some time at the start of the session to worship God – tell stories about what God has done this week or sing a song of praise
2. What is Worship?

Grow:

1. How does Webster's Dictionary definition of worship broaden your understand of worship?
2. How do the New and Old Testament words for worship challenge you in your personal and corporate worship?
3. What does it mean for you to worship in spirit and truth?
4. How can you grow in your worship of God – personally and corporately?
5. What holds us back from worship – personally and corporately?

Influence:

1. Have a time of praying for each other, asking God to reveal more of who He is and asking time Holy Spirit to Enable us to worship God in spirit and truth
2. Pray for friends and family member who need to know God. Ask God to reveal himself to those we are praying for at this time