

You Asked for It Part 9

“Worship”

Have you ever been in the near vicinity of someone famous? Some of you may remember me sharing that several years ago Pam and I got to spend a week at a church that a guy named Troy Gramling pastors. We paid a registration fee and it was well worth it as he and his church shared with us all kinds of information, put us up in a beautiful resort in Ft. Lauderdale and took us places that were awesome. One night they took us on a canal ride in a boat to a seafood restaurant that was like one of the most awesome restaurants that I have ever been to. After dinner we all went out on the sand along the pier by the restaurant and Troy Gramling walked up to me and started talking to me. I was somewhat awestruck as he asked me about the church plant we were about to do and asked me about my ministry dreams. Another time I was at a conference that Troy was speaking at and I was asked to go with him and five other pastors to a bar and grill to sit around and talk about our churches, challenges and other things. I just sat there and listened intently as he shared his heart about pastoring, vision and loving people. Once again, I was somewhat awestruck because Troy Gramling is likely one of the ten or so, most well-known pastors in the United States. Thousands of people attend the church he pastors, but he is so humble and so easy to engage in conversation with. I will always remember the one thing he said, “men you have to be who God has created you to be and don’t let anyone or anything persuade you differently”. I have remembered and valued that statement.

I had the opportunity to meet Jeremy Camp twice. Once with Pam and another time with my daughter Kelly Sue. Once again just as Troy Gramling, here was a guy that draws crowds everywhere he is at and is easily recognized as one of the most recognized names in Christian music today. Again, we did not get near the time with Jeremy that we did Troy, but I was so impressed how humble he was too.

For sure in America we tend to idolize and like to have as role models those that are famous. In some instances, it becomes as though crowds of people are literally worshipping these individuals. People become so passionate about them and yet many times they have never met the person. They will stand in long lines,

spend a lot of money to see or meet these people and literally just go crazy when these people are around. Now let me state this; there is nothing wrong with having heroes and role models and some of these people may be well-known or famous.

The big point I want to make here is that there is no human being that God has created to be worshipped and to do so puts that person and the person worshipping them in a very bad position.

There Is Only One to Worship

Psalm 95:1-6, “Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. ² Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song. ³ For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods. ⁴ In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. ⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. ⁶ Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.”

Last summer we took a deep dive into worship. We spent ten weeks on what biblical worship looks like. We looked at the history of worship, how the bible defines worship, what it means to worship, what we worship, why we worship, where we worship and how music fits in to corporate worship. The one thing that stuck out to me was Webster’s dictionary definition of worship that we used throughout the series and at times you have heard me reference it since the end of that series.

That definition is:

- Extravagant Love
- Extreme Submission

I think that definition so accurately describes what worship is. We worship in extravagant love for our Savior Jesus Christ and our God. We also, worship in extreme submission to our Savior Jesus Christ and God. I believe when we do that on a consistent basis that it causes us to continually be changed and be conformed to His likeness.

Let's look at some principles out of our passage in Psalm 95:

Why Worship God?

Verses 4-5:

- He is great!
- He is the King above all gods!
- His hands are the depth of the earth!
- The mountains belong to Him!
- The sea is His!
- The dry lands are His!

Put your imaginations on with me for a minute.

If you could meet anyone who would it be (take names from congregation)?

Here is the reality the God of this universe, the one who has created everything including you and I has invited us to have a relationship with Him through faith in Jesus Christ as Savior. Not only during this life, but He has promised each of us the opportunity to spend eternity with Him in a perfect place called heaven that he has prepared to all that have a relationship with Him.

John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 14:1-6, ""Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ² My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴ You know the way to the place where I am going. ⁵ Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?" ⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The free gift of a relationship with God is offered to all that will call upon the name of Jesus as Savior.

Romans 10:9-10, "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with

your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.”

Romans 10:13, “for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Let Us Sing and Shout

Verse 1: “let us sing and shout”. This would suggest that worship involves passion. How many of you have ever been to a ball game? Do fans typically sit quietly at ball games? Some might, but I think the majority would be found to be passionate and engaged. In corporate worship we never want to come together and just simply go through the motions. We want to be passionate because here we get the opportunity to come together and worship our God who is the only thing in this life that is worthy to be worshipped.

In our daily lives it is the same principle in that we need to be engaging with our God passionately each day and worshipping Him. My passion should show my relationship with my God daily.

Romans 12:1-2, “Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Individual worship predicated upon God’s mercy:

- Offer your bodies. God I am yours, I am not my own. As we talked about last week if Jesus is our Savior we have been bought with a high price and that price is the cross.
- Offering ourselves to God is our individual and daily true and proper worship.
- Daily worship helps each of us to not be conformed to the sinful patterns of living that our world says is ok, but it brings much suffering and pain to many.
- Daily worship including prayer and spending time in God’s word will transform our hearts and minds, so that we can know what is best and is His “good, pleasing and perfect will.” One of the other primary functions of worship is that it keeps the focus on God and off self.

Worship Posture

Verse 2: "let us come before Him with thanksgiving and a song".

Both individually and corporately we should be thankful to God for His many blessings and they should bring a song of joy to our hearts.

Psalm 106:1, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever."

Meditate and think about God's love and try not to be thankful:

- Think about the cross.
- Think about God's love.
- Think about God's goodness.
- Think about God's faithfulness.
- Think about God righteousness. He is NEVER wrong.
- Think about God's grace. We don't deserve it, but He keeps on pouring it out.

Ephesians 5:20, "always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

How hard is it to sing if you are not thankful?

- I don't feel like singing because I am tired.
- I don't feel like singing because I have been so busy.
- I don't feel like singing because I don't like to sing.
- I don't feel like singing because I have had a bad week.
- Life is really hard, and I don't feel like singing.

Therefore, it is so important to be thankful in ALL circumstances. The enemy likes to try to steal our joy and when he does that we don't have a song to sing because we lose the ability to be thankful and joyful.

Verse 6: "come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the Lord our Maker."

The Barnes Commentary says: come, let us worship and bow down - Let us worship him by bowing down; by prostrating ourselves before him. The word here rendered "come" is not the same which is used in Psalm 95:1. Its literal meaning is

"come," and it is an earnest exhortation to come and worship. It is not a particle merely calling attention to a subject, but it is an exhortation to approach - to enter - to engage in a thing. The word rendered "worship," means properly to bow down; to incline oneself; and then, to bow or prostrate oneself before anyone in order to do him homage, or reverence. Then it means to bow down before God in the attitude of worship. It would most naturally refer to an entire "prostration" on the ground, which was a common mode of worship; but it would also express adoration in any form.

Conclusion 24/7 Worship

Jesus said it best.

John 4:21-24, "'Woman,'" Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."

What exactly was Jesus saying?

- We are called to worship God everywhere ALL the time. "Not just on the mountain or in Jerusalem." Don't ever relegate your worship to a Sunday morning only experience.
- Worship him because of the cross and salvation that is freely available to ALL! Worship begins and ends at the cross.
- Worship in Spirit and Truth. We must worship God with strong affections for Him that are rooted in the truth of His word.
- God is seeking (wants) this kind of worship.

Worship is a 24/7 deal. The goal is to be worshipping Jesus and God continually and for our worship to be a source of encouragement to other believers and a beacon of light to those who don't yet know Jesus as Savior.

