

Are we Prepared
to Worship?

OT illustrates worship

- Concept: Gn.4. First occurrence: Gn.22:5
- Abraham –
 - He went to worship (to do what he was not doing before) 5
 - His worship was based on deep trust in God, 5. Hb.11:19
 - He gave his best [son] and more, 9
 - He did all that God commanded, 12
 - He did not add to God's requirements

OT illustrates worship

- Ex.24:1, God invited His people; if they get too close, they die – ‘*worship from afar*’
- Hb.12:28, Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
- Ex.34:14, God brooks no rivals
- English: *Worship* < weorth, wurth, worthy

I. Some Don't Come to Worship

Hb.10:25

- Hb.10:25, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching
- Some were forsaking assemblies
- The tradition continues
- Some come but want as little worship as possible – ‘worship light’

I. Some Don't Come to Worship

II. Questions for the Worshipper

Mental – prepared mind?

- May eat unleavened bread...but not worship – 1 Co.11:28
- May bow, but don't pray – 1 Co.14:14-15
- May hold song book, but don't sing... – 1 Co.14:14-15
- May give, but are not cheerful – 2 Co.9:7
- May sit quietly during preaching, but distracted – Lk.12:13. 1 Co.14:21

Physical – too tired?

- Do we get enough sleep?
- Is last night's recreation more important than this morning's worship?

Social – two extremes

- Maintain good relationships with others
- Abuse – ‘Worship is only social: focus on people’ ? ? ?
- Mt.5:23 Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift

I. Some Don't Come to Worship

II. Questions for the Worshipper

III. False Worship

When worship is worthless

- Without love, Jn.13:34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another
 - Lv.19:18, love neighbor as self...
 - Jesus repeats it; how is it new?
 - New element: “even as I have loved you”

When worship is worthless

- Pride, Ro.12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another
 - Overcome envy

When worship is worthless

- Sin / error are tolerated. Ro.15:14, Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another
- Division, 1 Co.12:25, there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another

When worship is worthless

- Worldly, Gal.5:13, For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another ... 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another

When worship is worthless

- Unforgiveness, Ep.4:32, be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you
 - when kindness dies
- My rights, Ep.5:21, submitting to one another in the fear of God
 - disturb peace. In matters of indifference, give way. Let love rule

When worship is worthless

- Tear down others, 1 Th.5:11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are do. build up
 - By teaching, counsel, advice, etc., aid Christians so they will triumph over difficulties, remove ignorance, and become stronger.
- Ignore others, Hb.10:24-25
 - Cyrus and officers: “He by praises and gifts excited them as much as possible.”

When worship is worthless

- Murmuring, Ja.5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, the Judge is standing at the door!
 - Someone is listening
- Hide (deny) sins, Ja.5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much
 - Forsake sins instead of holding to them

I. Some Don't Come to Worship

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IV. True Worship

God hates hypocrisy.

- Ja.3:9 With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. 10 Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so

"The mouth desires to study in the law, and to speak good words; to praise God, to glorify him, and to celebrate him with hymns: but it can also slander, blaspheme, reproach, and swear falsely" – Tanchum

True worship

- Jn.4:23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.
24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

Acceptable worship requires . . .

- Right object: *God*. Mt.4:9; Ac.7:42
- Right attitude: *in spirit*.
 - Mt.5:3, poor in spirit: destitute of true riches, trembles for his soul
 - Shrinks with fear lest he should perish without salvation of God
 - Jesus pronounces him *blessed*
 - Ro.1:9, Paul's religion was not mere ceremony; it came from his heart

Acceptable worship requires . . .

- Right object: *God*. Mt.4:9; Ac.7:42
- Right attitude: *in spirit*. Mt.5:3; Ro.1:9
- Right authority: *in truth*.
 - Mt.22:16, Pharisees and Herodians
 - 3 Jn.4, *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth*

Jewish fallacy: outward ceremonies
could cancel a life of immorality