

SUMMER SERIES 26: WORSHIP MATTERS

Internal and External

If you have a Bible, I invite you to turn to [insert passage]. If you didn't bring a Bible with you today, I would encourage you to use the Bible below the seat in front of you and turn to

1 Samuel 16:6-7 pg. 238

Deuteronomy 10:12-22 pg. 155

Micah 6:6-8 pg. 779-780

John 4:21-24 pg. 889

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[Summer Series - Celebration of Discipline, Knowledge of the Holy, We Believe, Worship Matters]

Worship

How we respond to what we love most; everyone worships

And think of the things that we respond to.

Everyone Worships

- Midnight release of movies / video games
- Concerts around the country.
- TV premiere nights
- Boyfriends / girlfriends
- Celebrities
- Money / Possessions
- Sporting events across the world

Then, think of the ways that we respond. What happens when these moments happen?

How We Worship

- Lift your hands (Psalm 134:2)
- Clap your hands (Psalm 47:1)
- Sing (Psalm 30:4)
- Dance (Psalm 30:11)
- Bow Down (Psalm 95:6)
- Shout (Psalm 100:1)
- Without Instruments (Psalm 150)

Worship matters.

Worship matters because how we respond when we think about Jesus matters.

[ONE THING: WORSHIP IS BOTH/AND not EITHER/OR.]

You never know what is going on in the life of a person when they show up on a Sunday morning. There are an untold number of things that people are experiencing that each of us have no idea about.

We should never be surprised when someone arrives.

Instead, we should always be grateful.

The best thing we can say is, *"We're so glad you're here."*

Often, when we ask qualitative or quantitative questions about worship, we often look on the outside. Whenever we want to defend ourselves, we often reference the inside.

We then have a Tupacian theology that says, *"Only God can judge me."*

And while that is ultimately true, there are plenty of moments that are helpful to both you and I.

Worship

How we respond to what we love most; everyone worships

And as we have already seen, there are plenty of times when worship is external.

How We Worship

- Lift your hands (Psalm 134:2)
- Clap your hands (Psalm 47:1)
- Sing (Psalm 30:4)
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Worship Is

- External (physical expression, manifestations, and actions)
- Internal (affections, thoughts, attitudes, and motives)

It cannot be either/or, it has to be both/and.

- External only is performative
- Internal only is impossible (non-transformative)

[ONE THING: WORSHIP IS BOTH/AND not EITHER/OR.]

There are a few passages we will examine together today and the hope is that we will see how God reveals this throughout the Bible, not limited to just a few passages.

Worship Is Internal and External

1. Only God Can Know the Heart

Samuel one of the most famous prophets in Israel. The two books that bear his name share how the nation of Israel transitions from a nation led by a prophet to one led by a king.

The first kind of Israel had everything that you would want.

- Strong
- Handsome
- Brave

These soon led to pride and the king of Israel began to be indistinguishable from all the other kings of the other nations. Then, God chose a new king.

As Samuel the prophet arrives at the family's house, here is what God says to Samuel.

1 Samuel 16:6–7 (ESV) pg. 238

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed is before him." 7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."

What happens next is surprising to everyone involved.

1 Samuel 16:8–11 (ESV) pg. 238

8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." 10 And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." 11 Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here."

The youngest brother, who wasn't even called home when the prophet arrived.

The youngest brother who was out tending the sheep.
He is the one that God chose.

It's not bad that we look at the outward appearance.
In many instances, there is a lot that can be gained from what we can discern.
However, there is plenty that we cannot see.

We see two separate things from David and his brothers.

- Outwardly: Each of David's brothers was a better choice.
- Outwardly: David was the least likely/desirable choice.
- Inwardly: Each of David's brothers were not the choice.
- Inwardly: David was a man after God's own heart.

The LORD sees in a way that we do not.
The LORD sees what none of us can see.

This leads to a second point.

Worship Is Internal and External

2. What's Inside Must Come Out

One of the things that we could easily do is to say that because the LORD sees the heart and that His opinion is the only one that matters, that it doesn't matter what I do or what anyone thinks of it.

We'll presume that we know what God thinks of it.
God is like a grandpa who loves the effort we are putting in.
God is most interested that we are trying.

But we see something else about God, His nature, His character, and our lives.

Repeated four other times already in Deuteronomy, what God is about to say to His people is something that will be repeated throughout the ages.

Yet, there is a unique implication that comes within this passage.

Deuteronomy 10:12–22 (ESV) pg. 155

12 “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? 14 Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. 15 Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. 16 Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. 17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. 18 He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. 19 Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. 20 You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. 21 He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen. 22 Your fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, and now the LORD your God has made you as numerous as the stars of heaven.

What Does the LORD Require?

- Fear/respect the LORD
- Serve the LORD with all your heart
- Serve the LORD with all your soul
- Keep the commandments/statutes

This is something that will be said again and again.

What is unique about this passage?

What Does That Mean?

- Remove the stubborn places of your heart
- God set His love upon you
- God loves the sojourner
- You were sojourners [immigrants]
- Love the sojourners/immigrants among you
- God is just to the fatherless
- God is just to the widow

Now, this may seem like nothing compared to anything else.

Hundreds of years later, the prophet, Micah, writes something that bears a striking resemblance.

Micah 6:6–8 (ESV) pg. 779-780

6 “With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” 8 He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

If you had to give something to God, what would you give Him?

What do you give someone who has everything?

What do you give someone who can get anything?

What do you give someone who has made everything that ever was or will be?

Micah recognized that there was not a thing that He could give to God.
Except His heart.

What Does God Require?

- Do Justice
- Love kindness/mercy
- Walk humbly

I love that each of these items is not something we can simply think or feel.

Do. Love. Walk.

These are actions words that require actions from you and I to fulfill.

You cannot feel justice.

You cannot think kindness/mercy.

You cannot believe humility.

You must do, love, and walk.

Worship Is Internal and External

3. Worship is Not Limited to Location

John 4 is one of my favorite portions of Scripture.

I love that one of the first people to preach the Gospel of Jesus is a Samaritan woman.

Before she returns to her town and invites everyone to “meet the man who told me everything I have ever done,” here is the exchange she had with Jesus.

John 4:21–24 (ESV) pg. 889

21 Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

There was a contention that only the mountain of Jerusalem was a worthy location to worship God. Everywhere else was second.

Jesus, God on the planet, said to the woman who would never be able to worship there.

- The hour is here when we do not worship on a mountain.
- The Father is seeking people to worship Him
- People who worship in spirit
- People who worship in truth

Our worship of God will never be constrained to a location.
Worship can be anywhere, anytime, by anyone.

But there is something special that happens when we gather together.
There is something special that happens when we pray together.
There is something special that happens when we commit together.

Let's pray.

FIND AND FOLLOW

1. To Jesus (that you may believe)

“Lord Jesus, thank You that You love me so much. I believe that You are the Son of God who died on the cross for me. I now turn away from the sin in my life which separated me from You. [If anything comes to mind where you need to ask His forgiveness for, you can ask now] Thank you, Jesus, that you died for me so that I could be forgiven and set free. I now receive Your forgiveness. I put my trust in You. I ask You to come into my heart by Your Holy Spirit to be with me forever. I choose this day to follow You for the rest of my life. Thank you, Lord Jesus. Amen.”

[Scriptures tells us that heaven rejoices in this moment; we do too]

2. God is working on the internal or external
3. Commit to 24/7 Prayer; Commit to Worship