

## THE COST OF TRUE WORSHIP

The cost of true worship involves the complete yielding of myself to God.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ 2 Samuel 20 records that King David instructed the commander of his army (Joab) to number the people of Israel. Presumably he wanted to determine how many men he had available for war – the potential strength of his army.
- ❖ In ancient times the size of their army is where most kings and nations placed their trust.
- ❖ Israel, unlike other nations, was to place their trust in God (see Psalm 20:7). Complete trust and dependence on God is an attribute of true worship.
- ❖ God was displeased with David’s decision to number the people and, in an act of judgement, sent a deadly plague throughout Israel and Judah which killed 70,000 men.
- ❖ God in His mercy shortened the time of judgement. David in response, worshiped God (2 Samuel 24:25).
- ❖ In 2 Samuel 24:24, David reveals the principle that true worship has a cost associated with it.
- ❖ “Worship” defined: the act of paying divine honour to the Supreme Being, to honour with extravagant love and extreme submission (Webster’s).
- ❖ True worship, in other words, is demonstrated by the priority we give God in our lives. It is a heart issue, expressed through a lifestyle of holiness.
- ❖ It is possible to offer worship to *idols* (i.e. anything or anyone that is prioritized before God in a person’s life).
- ❖ Moses warned the people of Israel of the potential disaster and judgement of God if they decided to worship idols.
- ❖ The “parable of the sower” in Mark 4 provides helpful insight into what can be viewed as modern day idols, i.e. worldly values, the pursuit of riches and placing other priorities above God (vv. 18-19).
- ❖ It is important that we guard our hearts and not allow anything or anyone to take priority above Jesus Christ (Proverbs 4:23).
- ❖ It can be difficult to resist the appeal of pursuing worldly values, riches and other priorities above God, especially when it seems like this is the focus of most people around us.
- ❖ But if we will reject this pressure, then God will stand with us, support us and empower us to offer Him true worship.

### KEY SCRIPTURE

2 Samuel 24:20-25

- ❖ True worship involves giving of my time, energy, effort and talents. It may require the sacrifice of things that are important to me in order to prioritize God.
- ❖ John 4:23 tells us that God is seeking after people who will offer Him true worship. True worship is valuable to God.
- ❖ Romans 12:1-2 also reflects the nature of true worship. Here, Paul encourages the Roman saints to present themselves “living sacrifices” to God.
- ❖ In Mark 14:3-9, the woman with the flask of precious oil demonstrates the cost of true worship. She took the oil, equivalent in cost to a year’s salary, and poured it on Jesus as an act of worship.
- ❖ Jesus paid the ultimate cost when He died for our sins to make salvation available to all.
- ❖ We have been chosen as a royal priesthood, a holy nation and a peculiar people to offer true worship to God (1 Peter 2:9). We were created for this purpose.
- ❖ All in all, we need to remember this: “The cost of true worship involves the complete yielding of myself to God.”

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. What “don’t do” lessons can we learn from David’s act of numbering the people of Israel?
2. Identify/Describe 5 modern-day idols.
3. Why do you think the woman in Mark 14 chose to worship Jesus by pouring the alabaster flask of oil on Him?
4. Explain what the expression “true worship” means to you.
5. Give 5 examples of actions that demonstrate that a person is completely yielded to God.

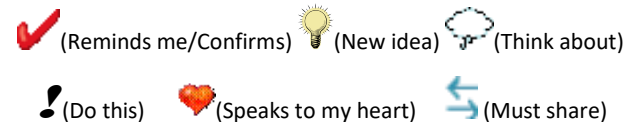
### Prayer Time

Lord, please teach me to understand what it means to completely yield myself to You. Empower me so that I can offer you true worship by being a living sacrifice.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2018

### NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.




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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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I.G. Ice-Breaker: Share something you consider a selfless thing that one person can do for another. Would you do it for someone?