

LET'S ALL BE WORSHIPPERS (OF JESUS)

Cultivating an attitude of worship, and using that as fuel to propel acts of worship, is how a worshipper of Jesus should live.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ Worship is a very important topic in the scriptures. The word 'worship' occurs 108 times, the word 'sacrifice' occurs 218 times and the word 'offering' occurs 724 times in the King James translation of the Bible.
- ❖ In discussing worship, we must ask the question, "What is worship?"
- ❖ This is an important question to ask because as we are told in John 4, God is seeking worshipers (v. 23).
- ❖ When looking up the word 'worship,' Webster's Dictionary defines it as "the act of paying divine honors to the Supreme Being; to honor with extravagant love and extreme submission."
- ❖ In Matthew 22:37-38, Jesus told one of the Pharisees surrounding Him that the first and greatest commandment was that we love the Lord with everything within us.
- ❖ These verses in Matthew 22 tell us that worship is a holistic process that encompasses our entire being.
- ❖ In defining the word "worship," the reference tool *Biblestudytools.com* states that worship is both an attitude and an action and that true worship takes place in the heart.
- ❖ This is consistent with Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4: worship must begin in our hearts, in our minds and in our consciousness (see verses 21-24).
- ❖ To fulfill Jesus' directive to love the Lord with everything within us will require us to spend time with Him, which we can do in a variety of ways such as praying, reading the Bible, meditating, singing, etc.
- ❖ All of these activities fuel an attitude—or spirit—of worship, but, as we must all be aware, worship also has an active component.
- ❖ Worship involves how we prioritize God in our lives. It is reflective of the choices we make in service to Him.
- ❖ Isaac was the son that God promised to Abraham and Sarah in their old age (see Genesis 17:19, 21) and was important to Abraham on many different levels: as a son, as an heir, as a strategic asset in the fulfillment of God's promise in his life.
- ❖ Additionally, Abraham loved Isaac very much, a fact that was not lost on God, as we see in Genesis 22:2. So what does God ask Abraham to do? The Lord asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.
- ❖ What does it mean to "sacrifice"? Sacrifice is the act of giving up something that you want to keep, especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone (Merriam-Webster Dictionary).
- ❖ To make a sacrifice, one has to choose to incur a cost.
- ❖ In the case of Abraham, he was asked to prioritize God above something that had significant value to him: his son.

KEY SCRIPTURE: Genesis 22:1-5 (NLT)

- ❖ In response, Abraham did not balk. He did not murmur or complain. Rather, he described the process of yielding something so precious (his son) as worship! (Refer to Genesis 22.)
- ❖ Jesus is seeking worshipers. He is looking for people who will prioritize Him above all else.
- ❖ We have to take stock of our lives and assess the time we distribute to the things that are the most precious to us. How can we ensure we are finding time to prioritize God in our lives?
- ❖ A closer look at Genesis 2 shows us that Abraham's experience with Isaac (being put in a position where he had to decide if he was willing to trust God with something that was precious to him) was actually a test of faith.
- ❖ In a time that would normally be one of great distress, Abraham chose to bow down, to prostrate himself. In other words, he worshipped God.
- ❖ He was able to do this because of his relationship with the Lord, which had grown over time before he was faced with this request to sacrifice Isaac.
- ❖ Could this—developing a relationship with God—be what is at the heart of what worship is? Could this be the key to trusting God with the most precious and valuable things in our lives?
- ❖ When we surrender the items we hold most precious to God's care, that is an act of worship. Being able to trust God at all times is an act of worship.
- ❖ Let's all be worshippers of Jesus!

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Using your own words, how do you define the word "worship"?
2. The first and great commandment says we are to worship the Lord with our heart, mind and soul. How can we go about worshipping the Lord in these three ways and why do you think it is important that we do so?
3. Describe why having "faith experiences" with God over time is pivotal in growing faith. What is one of your own "faith experiences"?
4. What are some of the items/issues some people may struggle to trust God with? What advice would you give in helping to "increase faith"?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, please help me to develop and maintain an attitude of worship, so that I can live the life of a worshiper. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Start-up: Is there something you own that you trust to get the job done (i.e. a tool, an app, etc.)? What is this item and why do you put your trust in it?

WEEK OF SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

NOTES

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

- ✓ (Reminds me/Confirms)
- 💡 (New idea)
- 🌀 (Think about)
- ⚡ (Do this)
- ❤️ (Speaks to my heart)
- ↔️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD