

**MY
WORSHIP
OFFERING**

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October 9, 2022

Sermon in a sentence: Giving ourselves to God is our ultimate act of worship.

Scriptures **NKJV:** 1 Chron. 16:23-34; Heb. 13:15-16; Matt. 15:8-9; Josh. 24:14-15; John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-8; Matthew 15:21-28; John 4:23-24; Rom. 12:1; Rev. 7:9-10, 13-17

1 Chron. 16:23-34

- Sing to the LORD, all the earth; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.
- 24 Declare His glory among the nations,
His wonders among all peoples.
- 25 For the LORD *is* great and greatly to be praised;
He *is* also to be feared above all gods.
- 26 For all the gods of the peoples *are* idols,
But the LORD made the heavens.
- 27 Honor and majesty *are* before Him;
Strength and gladness are in His place.
- 28 Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
Give to the LORD glory and strength.
- 29 Give to the LORD the glory *due* His name;
Bring an offering, and come before Him.
Oh, **worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!**
- 30 Tremble before Him, all the earth.
The world also is firmly established,
It shall not be moved.
- 31 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
And let them say among the nations, "The LORD reigns."
- 32 Let the sea roar, and all its fullness;
Let the field rejoice, and all that *is* in it.

- 33 Then the trees of the woods shall rejoice before the LORD,
For He is coming to judge the earth.
- 34 Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for *He is good!*
For His mercy *endures* forever.

This was the great psalm of praise and worship that David gave Asaph and his team to sing on the day he brought the Ark of the Covenant from Obed-Edom's house into Jerusalem. The end of verse 29 is key, where he said: "... worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." Or, we could say, worship the Lord in the beauty of God-likeness. To be holy is to be like God. This is true worship, and it is precious and pleasing to Him! Pastor John Piper of the ministry "Desiring God" described worship like this: **[Media Team, please display this quotation on-screen.]** 📌

The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by valuing God, treasuring God, prizing God, enjoying God, [and] being satisfied with God above all earthly things. And then that deep, restful, joyful satisfaction in God overflows in demonstrable acts of praise from the lips and demonstrable acts of love in serving others for the sake of Christ.¹

As we read that statement, we see that two very important aspects of worship are mentioned: the things we say, and the things we do. Hebrews 13 gives us a good, biblical summary of this point as it states:

Heb. 13:15-16 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.** ¹⁶ But **do not forget to do good and to share,** for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-worship>, accessed Sept. 22, 2022

For sure, this is the kind of worship the Lord is looking for. And it can't just be done in a mechanical, "religious" fashion. Jesus said:

Matthew 15:8-9 *"These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. ⁹ And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."*

God isn't interested in vain worship. He wants worship from our hearts.

David's wife Michal didn't quite see it that way, and her thoughts were like those of so many in the 21st century. After David brought the Ark back to Jerusalem with great worship and sacrifice, she said to him: "What's the big deal? You're the king. Why do you need to act like the common people and embarrass yourself with this boisterous worship dance?" And David said: "I'll do *that*, and I'll do a whole lot more too! I'm going to worship God with everything in me, even if *you* think it makes me look foolish."

Long before David, Abraham understood the need to worship. He didn't even think that being told to sacrifice his miracle son was too high a price to worship God. The word used in Genesis 22 to describe his worship means he bowed down in reverence as God spoke to him. There was no question in his mind about satisfying his own desires versus satisfying *God's* desire. God was going to win every time, and Abraham was totally good with that. He was perfectly willing to make Isaac his Worship Offering.

Joshua's take on worship centered around service to God. Service is a beautiful form of worship, and Joshua said:

Joshua 24:14-15 “Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD! ¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

We know that speech very well: “... as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!” Joshua’s Worship Offering was service.

When we come into the New Testament, we read about an unexpected interaction between Jesus and a Samaritan woman. After they spoke about her life and Jesus’ ability to meet all of her needs, they got onto the topic of worship. And that’s when Jesus said:

John 4:23-24 “... 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.”

The word Jesus used for worship in these verses speaks of bowing down and prostrating ourselves before God. To understand how *low* we are, and how *high* He is. This needs to be front and centre in our minds.

We also see how Paul exhorted the church in Rome:

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your

reasonable service.

Worship means we present ourselves to God and give ourselves completely to Him. As the old chorus says:

Lord, I give myself to You
For all the times you've been so true
I know that there's much more I can do
I give myself to You

Some choose to worship their house, their job, their jewelry, an elephant, a crocodile, the sun, the moon, a mountain, a king, etc. But we choose to worship the Almighty God, Jesus Christ by name. We offer our worship to Him, and Him alone. Amen!

Worship always involves sacrifice – offering something of value to the one we worship. Whether it's oxen, sheep, money, and even we ourselves, we give our *best* to the one we worship, and say by our actions: "I freely give you my offering, and you can do with it as you please."

We know that actions speak louder than words. Our giving speaks louder than words. The object of our worship will quickly see how important He is to us by what we are willing to *do* for Him and what we are willing to *give* to Him. **Worship is demonstrated much more by what we do than by what we say.**

Worship is also indicated by our attitude. If worship is just an act of duty to fulfill some religious obligation, it brings no pleasure or satisfaction to God. He's looking for *willing* worshipers who worship in spirit and in truth, full of love for Him. **Christian worship is the total, joyful, giving of ourselves to God in service, sacrifice, praise, reverence,**

love, and adoration. Amen!

We learn lessons in life by both precept and example. And now that we've talked about the precepts of worship, let's look at some examples.

Luke 7:36-50 Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house and sat down to eat. ³⁷ And behold, **a woman in the city who was a sinner**, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, ³⁸ and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So, he said, "Teacher, say it." ⁴¹ "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." ⁴⁴ Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. ⁴⁵ You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. ⁴⁷ Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." ⁴⁸ Then He said to her, "**Your sins are forgiven.**" ⁴⁹

And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?"⁵⁰ Then He said to the woman, "**Your faith has saved you.** Go in peace."²

During the first year of His ministry, Jesus was the guest of honor in the home of Simon the Pharisee. A notoriously sinful woman in the city heard that Jesus was there and came with an alabaster flask of fragrant oil. She stood behind Jesus, weeping, knelt to wash His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, kissed His feet repeatedly, and anointed them with the oil.

What were the elements of her worship? A great love for Jesus, a willingness to endure criticism, a willingness to sacrifice her best, humility, and saving faith.

Let's look at another incident, another anointing:

John 12:1-8 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. 2 There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. 3 Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. 4 Then one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, 5 "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" 6 This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. 7 But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept

² This was one of three anointings Jesus received. See <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-anointed.html> (accessed Sept. 6, 2022).

this for the day of My burial. 8 For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always."

In the last week of His life, six days before His crucifixion, Jesus was the guest of honor at a dinner in Bethany. Mary, Lazarus' sister came up to Him with a pound of very expensive fragrance – "spikenard" as it was called, and anointed His feet.³

What were the elements of Mary's worship? Honour and devotion to Jesus – (oil on His feet); total abasement – (using her hair – her "glory" to wipe His feet (see 1 Cor. 11:15)); and costly sacrifice – (the spikenard cost a year's wage).

Jesus said Mary's act was in preparation for His burial, but to her, it was simply an act of love and devotion. She was simply demonstrating her complete love and submission to Jesus and her willingness to give Him her very best.

Others were there who had also been blessed by Jesus and held Him in very high regard, especially Lazarus who He had raised from the dead. Yet Mary distinguished herself by her worship. God loves worshippers like Mary – those who worship lavishly, from the heart.

Here's one more example:

Matthew 15:21-28 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." 23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after

³ Spikenard is the essential oil of the nard plant, imported from India where the plant grows high in the Himalayas.

us." 24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." 27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

A Greek woman living in Canaan came to Jesus and worshiped Him, falling prostrate before Him, and saying: "Lord, help me!" She came with urgency and purpose because her daughter was demon possessed.

What were the elements of her worship? She prostrated herself before Jesus in complete humility. She placed her faith in Him as she interceded for her daughter. And she was willing to accept whatever she received from Him – even "crumbs" from His table.

Worship in all its forms needs to be an integral part of our daily lives. So, let's remind ourselves of the scripture we read earlier where Jesus told the Samaritan woman:

John 4:23-24 "... 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."

And while we're in repeat mode, let's re-read Romans 12:1 for our final application:

Romans 12:1 (NKJV) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

As we read this scripture, it takes my mind back to the sacrificial offerings in the OT. Every day animals were brought to the priests to be sacrificed for various reasons: sin offerings, burnt offerings, peace offerings, trespass offerings, thanksgiving offerings. The book of Leviticus details the processes and procedures involved:

- The sacrifice was always a “freewill” offering, perfect and without blemish (Lev. 1:3)
- The one bringing the sacrifice had to identify with it by laying hands on it (Lev. 1:4) and then kill it themselves (Lev. 1:5). Just as we have to “die daily” and “crucify” the works of our sinful flesh everyday (1 Cor. 15:31; Gal. 2:20).
- Then, at that point, the priest made atonement for the sinner (Lev. 4; Lev. 5). These acts of sacrificial worship were their avenue to forgiveness of sins, as it was for the sinful woman who invaded Simon’s dinner party.

To reiterate, here’s the big difference between OT and NT sacrifices. OT sacrifices were selected and brought to the temple by their owners. Obviously, these animals had no say in the matter. But **in the NT, the one bringing the sacrifice *becomes* the sacrifice!** It began with Jesus and it continues with us. We now present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, of our own free will.

I really wish I had time to elaborate on this point, but it’s a fact that our self-sacrifice in Romans 12 does *not* demand

perfection! God willingly and graciously accepts anyone and everyone who willingly comes to offer themselves to Him. When we come, He takes it upon Himself to work on perfecting us in His own image. He knows we can't do it for ourselves, so He does it for us. And if He was willing to accept me, he's more than willing to accept you!

True worship as a living sacrifice empowers the praise of our lips. Revelation 7 tells us about those gathered around the throne of God. John said:

Rev. 7:9-10,13-17 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, ¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" ¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. ¹⁵ Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them. ¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; ¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

They are righteous, signified by their white robes. They have come to honour Jesus as king, signified by their palm branches. They have been through many trials and great tribulation. They've been hungry and thirsty, and they've worked hard through the heat of the day. They've had to

cry sometimes, but God Himself wipes the tears from their eyes. But on that day – the day Jesus is crowned King of Glory – the saints are there with Him, with loud praise on their lips. True worship empowers praise!

So, I want to be my own Worship Offering. Offering no resistance or negative response to the divine High Priest who rules my life. I want to be a submitted sacrifice who is thankful every day for the privilege of being a sacrifice.

I hope we're grabbing hold of the significance of worship, and the incredible privilege we have to make our Worship Offering to God. Our worship sends a beautiful fragrance up to heaven as we worship our Lord in spirit and in truth.