

## MY WORSHIP OFFERING

Giving ourselves to God is our ultimate act of worship.

### KEY POINTS

- ❖ Pastor John Piper of the online ministry “Desiring God” describes worship like this:  
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, 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.
- ❖ As we read that statement, we see that there are two very important aspects of worship mentioned: the things we say, and the things we do. Hebrews 13:15-16 gives us a good, biblical summary of this fact.
- ❖ This is the kind of worship the Lord is looking for, and it can’t just be done in a mechanical, religious fashion, as Jesus points out in Matthew 15:8-9. God wants worship from our heart!
- ❖ On the day he brought the Ark from Obed-Edom’s house into Jerusalem, David had Asaph and his team sing the great psalm of praise and worship from 1 Chronicles 16:23-34.
- ❖ David’s wife Michal didn’t quite see worship the same way he did, and she ridiculed him for dancing boisterously before the Lord. David told her: “I’ll do *that*, and I’ll do a whole lot more! I’m going to worship God with everything in me, even if *you* think it makes me look foolish.” (See 2 Samuel 6:20-22.)
- ❖ Long before David, Abraham also understood the need to worship. The word used in Genesis 22 to describe his worship means he bowed down in reverence before God. There was no question in his mind about satisfying his own desires versus satisfying *God’s* desire. He was perfectly willing to make Isaac his Worship Offering.
- ❖ Joshua’s take on worship centered around service to God; that was his Worship Offering. As he said, “...As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Joshua 24:14-15).
- ❖ When we come into the New Testament, we read about an 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, “...True worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth” (see John 4:23-24).
- ❖ The word Jesus used for worship in these verses speaks of bowing down and prostrating oneself before God.
- ❖ As Paul exhorted the church in Rome, worship means we present ourselves to God and give ourselves completely to Him.
- ❖ Worship always involves sacrifice—offering something of value to the one we are worshipping. Worship is demonstrated much more by what we do than by what we say and 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.

### KEY SCRIPTURE: 1 Chronicles 16:23-34

- ❖ Christian worship is the total, joyful, giving of ourselves to God in service, sacrifice, praise, reverence, love, and adoration.
- ❖ Now, let’s look at some examples to help us answer the question, “*How* should I worship God?”
- ❖ In the first year of Jesus’ ministry (see Luke 7:36-50), a notoriously sinful woman in the city came to Him with an alabaster flask of fragrant oil and washed His feet with her tears, wiped them with her hair, and anointed them with the oil.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ In Matthew 15:21-28, 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? Prostration (complete humility); faith in Jesus (intercession for her daughter); willingness to accept whatever she received from Him even “crumbs.”
- ❖ Worship in all its forms needs to be a critical part of our daily lives.
- ❖ In the Old Testament, the book of Leviticus details the processes and procedures involved in sacrificial offerings: the unblemished, “freewill” offering (1:3); the identifying and slaying of the sacrifice (1:4-5); and atonement for the sinner (4:20, 26, 31, 35; 5:6, 10, 13, 16, 18).
- ❖ Old Testament sacrifices were selected and brought to the temple by their owners. However, in the New Testament, the one bringing the sacrifice also *becomes* the sacrifice!
- ❖ It began with Jesus and continues with us. We present our bodies as living sacrifices to God, of our own free will. True worship as a living sacrifice empowers the praise of our lips.
- ❖ Let us grab 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.

### DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. In addition to the woman with the alabaster box, think of 2-3 other people in the Bible who demonstrated their worship offering. What were the elements of their worship?
2. What is your worship offering, or what elements of worship would you like to incorporate in your life?

### PRAYER TIME

“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.” Amen.

## WEEK OF SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2022

### 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)

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### PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

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**Go deeper with your Life Group family.  
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE WORD  
Your Life Group ~ Your Lifeline**

Start-up: What have you been (or were) willing to do to obtain/achieve something you desperately wanted (e.g., get a part-time job, trade, etc.)?