

Worship

Matthew 15.8-9; John 4.23-24

How do we treat God when we come to worship. Though we come to an event where he is the Guest of Honor, it is possible to give him a routine gift, sing a few customary songs to him, and then totally neglect him while we focus on others and enjoy the performance of those in front of us. Without any awareness of our insensitivity, we are often convinced we have fulfilled an obligation well.

Jesus said to him, 'Away from me, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'
Matthew 4.10

*Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care. Psalm 95.6-7*

*The Lord says:
'These people come near to me with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me. (They worship me in vain.)
Their worship of me
is made up only of rules taught by men.'* Isaiah 29.13; Matthew 15.8-9

How can we worship God without worshiping in vain? We must learn something that is essential in learning to be like Jesus – the Spiritual Discipline of worship.

WORSHIP IS FOCUSING ON AND RESPONDING TO GOD AS REVEALED IN HIS WORD

Thomas said to him, 'My Lord and my God!' John 20.28

⁸ *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:*

*'Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.'*

⁹ *Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and **worship him** who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:*

¹¹ *'You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being.'* Revelation 4.8-11; 5.12-14

Romans 1.20; 2 Timothy 3.16; 2 Peter 1.20-21; John 1.1,14,18; Hebrews 1.1-2

WORSHIP IS DONE IN SPIRIT AND TRUTH

²³ *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.* John 4.23-24

WORSHIP IS EXPECTED BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing. Hebrews 10.25

1 Corinthians 12.12; Ephesians 2.19, 21

Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Luke 5.16

WORSHIP IS A DISCIPLINE TO BE CULTIVATED

Worship the Lord your God. Matthew 4.10

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