

## TRUE WORSHIP

I'd like to share a few thoughts about true worship. These videos are not meant to be an exhaustive, scholarly, presentation of worship and everything about it. It's just a few little pictures to allow us to better lay hold of what God wants for His people.

Let's start in the Old Testament.

In Deuteronomy 7.6 God says,

You are a holy people to the Lord your God; the Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the people who are on the face of the earth.

God chose the Israelites to be his own possession. He claimed ownership of them as His own, but He also wanted to possess them, to fill them with His life.

Look at Exodus 19.4

You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagle's wings, and brought you to Myself. Now then, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

God is speaking very clearly in these scriptures. He wants His intentions to be known.

#1. I want you to be My own possession

#2 I want you to keep My covenant

And

#3 I want to make you to become a kingdom of priests.

He's speaking very plainly and directly. He wanted no mistaking what He is after.

When we read scriptures like this, it's very difficult to figure out how we got all of the things that we do in the church today and why we keep doing them.

None of our activities that we've done for generations have created God's Kingdom of Priests.

Almost no one in our society wants to be a possession of, or be possessed by God, and although we are now under a new covenant, almost no one even knows much about the old covenant or the new one.

I think there are a few reasons for this condition. Look at Deuteronomy 5. It reads;

The Lord spoke to you face to face at the mountain from the midst of the fire, while I was standing between the Lord and you at the time, to declare to you the word of the Lord; for you were afraid because of the fire and did not go up the mountain.

**GOD INVITED ALL OF THEM TO COME UP ON THE MOUNTAIN. ANY OF THEM COULD HAVE GONE, JUST LIKE MOSES.**

Continue reading in Deuteronomy 5

23. And when you heard the voice from the midst of the darkness, while the mountain was burning with fire, you came near to me, all the heads of your tribes and your elders. You said, behold the Lord our God has shown us His glory and His greatness, and we have heard His voice from the midst of the fire; we have seen today that God speaks with man, yet he lives.

They had an up close experience with God and came up with a very strange response to it.

They said, now then why should we die? For this great fire will consume us; if we hear the voice of the Lord our God any longer, then we will die. For who is there of all flesh who has heard the voice of the living God speaking from the midst of the fire, as we have, and lived? Go near and hear all that the Lord our God says; then speak to us all that the Lord our God speaks to you; and we will hear and do it.

The people chose religion over relationship. They told Moses, we'll do any program that you set up, just don't let Him talk to us anymore.

**THEY HAS A SURVIVOR MENTALITY. THEY WANTED TO RETAIN THEIR OWN NATURAL LIVES AND GOD'S WORD HAS A VERY NEGATIVE EFFECT ON OUR NATURAL CARNAL THINKING.**

Read Deuteronomy 1.30-33

The Lord your God who goes before you will himself fight on your behalf, just as He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the Lord your God carried you, just as a man carries his son, in all the way which you have walked until you came to this place.

But for all this, you did not trust the Lord your God, who goes before you on your way, to seek out a place for you to encamp, in fire by night and cloud by day, to show you the way in which you should go.

Their survival mentality really showed up about 90 days after God miraculously delivered them out of Egypt. When they came to the Red Sea and Pharaoh's Army was following them with all of his chariots, they thought it was a good idea to turn back and see if they could get their old jobs back as slaves. This cost them 40 years in the wilderness instead of the Promised Land.

In Deuteronomy 8 Moses said that God lead them in the wilderness for 40 years to teach them one thing. Not two things, not 10 things, not a large volume of systematic theology, just one thing.

YOU LIVE BY EVERY CREATIVE WORD THAT I SPEAK.

God was trying to bring them to himself so that they could be one with him, and he could use them to display his greatness to all the other tribes, but they chose to hang on to their independent lives inherited from Adam through the fall of Man.

They didn't mind God showing up and doing miracles for them, but they sure didn't want to lay down their existing lives, submit to God and allow him to create his life in their hearts.

With Adam's nature fully operating in them, It's not hard to see why only three made it out of the wilderness after 40 years, and only two made it into the Promised Land.

After their miraculous deliverance from Egypt, God's people, rejected God's invitation of close fellowship with him. They rightly assumed that exposure to God would be very detrimental to their carnal lives. But they completely missed the fact that God by his covenant promise would give them his life as a replacement.

I've heard people say many times as they look at the condition of this world with it's blindness, it's sin and depravity, this must really grieve God, but after reading these accounts of God's chosen people, I think it's his children that grieve Him the most. Think about it, who really died in the 40 years in the wilderness? It was the same people that he delivered from Egypt, his own chosen people.

In 1st Corinthians 10 verse 11 it says that these events were written for our instruction. We need to learn that same lesson. God backs His word with his covenant promise. He wants us to trust His promise to be everything we will ever need in any situation. He cannot lie or he would not be God.

We can call those Jews idiots all we want, but they only had the promises of God, and the pictures of things to come. We've had the real risen Lamb of God deliver his spirit to us. We've been made one with God, we've been made new creatures, old things are passed away and all things are new. Hebrews 9 and 10 say that His perfect sacrifice bought us eternal redemption, eternal inheritance, complete sanctification, and total perfection.

And like those Jews many of us have chosen to live our own natural lives that we inherited from Adam. We even try to serve God with the nature that He is delivering us from.

Now who's the stupid one?

John 15:16 Jesus said you didn't choose me I chose that you would bear much fruit and that your fruit would be lasting. This wasn't your selection. I chose you for my purposes.

Unfortunately many Christians today don't hear the voice of the Lord. When we do, we only do the things we want to do, when or if it's convenient.

There are 168 hours in a week. It's a sad fact that probably 160 of those hours are spent building our own comfortable place in this world system just like the unbelievers. We highly value and work diligently at building the same kind of lives that the unbelievers want. We want the same things health, prosperity, happiness and all the things that goes with it.

We tend to rely on, trust in and act on the same conventional wisdom and methods that the Buddhist, the Hindus, the Muslims and the atheists do to build them.

I know that some of these things I'm saying can be a bit convicting, but please don't misunderstand what I'm saying. I'm not standing apart and being critical of the church and how we worship. We are the church and I'm a part of it too.

I'm just sharing a very little piece of God's desire to see his church become what he created it to be. The complete expression of his nature in the earth to draw every nation into the family of God and into his Kingdom.

God chose us for himself to get what he wants. There's quite a big difference between what he wants and what we settle for.

It takes Revelation from the Holy Spirit for us to get on the same page with God.

I'd like to share a few more thoughts with you about true worship. Up until this point I've pretty much just talked about what hinders true worship. I'd like to paint a few pictures about what true worship really is.

In our modern times, worship has evolved into that singing portion of our Church meetings. The part we do just before the preacher stands up to speak. It's one of the main things that draws people to our meetings. We even call them worship services.

I'd like to take a few minutes to share what God is after and what we settle for.

In John 12 is the familiar story about Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. It was during the Feast of Passover which included the most holy day in the Jewish culture, the Day of Atonement. It was a tumultuous scene. He rode in on a colt, people laid their clothes and palm branches down in front of him, and shouted Hosanna blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. This fulfilled the prophetic scriptures about him and upset the Pharisees terribly

It was pandemonium. Probably much like the frenzy that surrounds the world cup tournament or the Super Bowl in our modern day. You've seen how people paint their faces and yell wildly for their team. These people were extremely excited too. They had seen the miracles and the miracle worker was coming down the street in a big parade.

Imagine for a moment with me.

You're standing with all the people shouting wildly along the parade route.

Jesus is coming down the street and the donkey stops right in front of you.

Jesus gets off the donkey, puts his arms around you and says, Jim I really love you. You respond by hugging him, giving him a kiss, and saying I love you to Jesus.

I believe that's the difference between praise and worship. Thousands may be praising him, but worship is not a team sport, It's strictly one-on-one.

Worship has nothing to do with singing, that's praise.

Worship is the complete giving of ourselves to God in response to his Covenant Love.

The Father doesn't want us to come and sing to him every Sunday, he wants us to be completely committed to him in an eternal Covenant relationship.

Modern churches do their best to get skilled musicians to create great music for our meetings. There's nothing wrong with that and granted it can be very enthusiastic, very moving and the people really enjoy it.

But it can be done by completely carnal people.

Those people on the streets in Jerusalem didn't really have a real revelation of the Messiah. They were just excited that the miracle marker had come to town. Anyone can praise, but worship is very different.

And John 4.23 Jesus told the woman at the well, that God was looking for worshippers who would worship in spirit and in truth. That work truth in the original Greek is *aletheia*. It means the opposite of something fake or something false, it meant reality. She brought up a few religious arguments to Jesus. We worship on this mountain, and you worship on that mountain. In other words we do it like this and you guys do it like that.

Some people would argue that it doesn't matter how you worship as long as you do.

I can think of two examples where God took exception to that thinking. Malachi 1.10, When they were offering the sick lambs and the blind sheep to God as worship. He said I wish somebody had the guts to shut the gate on this awful show. God didn't care for half-hearted worship.

Also in Acts 7:42

Steven echoes with the prophet said in Amos 5.21- 25.

In the wilderness, they carried the tabernacle with them and did the sacrifices to Jehovah, but they also carried several other idols and made offerings to them. Double-minded worship doesn't please God either.

In the New Testament the word "worship" is *proskuneo*. . Let me read you the definition  
It means to kiss. It means to fawn or to crouch towards, like a dog licking his master's hand,  
So that literally or figuratively it is to prostrate oneself in homage, to do reverence to, or to adore.

It's quite a bit different picture than painting your face up for the world cup or the Super Bowl. It's strictly a one on one experience.

Before I share one last picture with you let me ask a question. Do you know the first time the word worship is used in the scriptures? I'll answer that just a minute.

I'd like to share with you one last picture out of the scriptures. It comes from Genesis 22. Let me set the stage for it  
When Abram was 75 years old, God made an everlasting covenant with him, and told him that he would have a son and changed his name to Abraham. He waited 25 years for that word to come to pass. His son Isaac was born, and God made an everlasting covenant with Isaac also.

Then God spoke to Abraham to take his son Isaac to Mount Moriah and offer him as a sacrifice.

I don't know about you but if I was in Abraham shoes I probably would have procrastinated, stalled and delayed as long as I could.

The scripture says that Abraham rose early in the morning, cut the wood, put it on the donkeys, grabbed his son, and headed off to Mount Moriah with his servants.

When he got to Mount Moriah he told his servants you wait here, the boy and I will go and WORSHIP and we will return to you. That's the first time the word worship is used in the scriptures.

Abraham longed for son for years and he bemoaned the fact that he was too old to have one. Then God promised him a son, and he waited 25 years for that word to come to pass. I'm sure he was really excited to have Isaac his miracle son. I'm pretty sure that he was the ultimate doting Daddy. And was very concerned about his son's welfare.

When God spoke to Abraham, he had to put aside all of his natural feelings. He had to overrule his logic and reason that would say, why would God give me a miraculous son and then asked me to kill him? God was asking him to deny himself and overrule his natural understanding with Faith. God was asking him to trust his Covenant promise. Romans 4 says that Abraham was fully convinced that God was able to keep his promise.

So he rose early and obeyed God because he had a covenant.

Jesus said that no man can serve two masters. He will either love the one, God, and reject the other, or he will love the other one, man and despise the other, God.

There is no dual citizenship in the kingdom of God.

Paul exhorted the Roman believers to offer their bodies as living sacrifices unto the Lord which is their reasonable service of worship. And not to be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of their mind that they can and manifest the will of God.

1st Corinthians 6 says that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit and that we are not our own. God wants to completely possess his Temple. He wants the run of the house.

We like the idea that God wants us more than else on the planet but the rub for many of us is he wants all of us.

He wants us to allow him to be everything that he wants to be, and to say everything that he wants to say, and accomplish everything he wants to accomplish in us and through us to the rest of the world.

So that He can do exceedingly abundantly beyond anything we could dare ask or think by his power that works in us.

The scripture says that God inhabits the praises of his people.

I'd like to encourage every one of us to take time, one-on-one with the father in worship. Out of that intimate fellowship with him will come praises that he will be glad to inhabit. And we know from the history of revivals, that when he gets involved with something it has worldwide Godlike results.

God bless you all.  
Jim Fuller