



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Worthy!”

Ps. James Lowe – Nov. 30, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who is someone in your extended family that you hold in high esteem, and why?
- Who is someone in history that you consider to be a great hero, and why?
- What is an honorable deed you recently heard about? What impressed you about the person?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at <http://www.bethelworld.org/media/>

John 4:22-24 ESV *You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”*

- True worship is possible when we know who God is, what he possesses, what he has done, and what he has promised to do. The more we know these things, the greater we can worship him.
- When we don't engage Jesus, it is evidence that we don't know him and his gifts as we should. As Jesus told the woman at the well, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water” (John 4:10 ESV). Jesus was speaking of salvation, the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, the gift of the Holy Spirit and more.
- Sin and ignorance kept the woman from worshipping Jesus. It is the same with us. Sin and ignorance will keep us from knowing and worshipping him. But just as Jesus revealed himself to the woman, so God reveals himself to the spiritually hungry, looking for a response of surrender and devotion.
- Those who believe and receive him worship him by giving their lives to him. This is what the Samaritans did who were influenced by the woman's testimony and by Jesus himself. Worship is not merely a church service or the singing of songs. Those are expressions of worship. Worship is fundamentally a surrender and devotion of the heart to God.

Revelation 4:1-11 ESV (excerpt) *And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”*

- Every creature that is close to God and has a revelation of him responds in worship of him. The creatures with eyes all around symbolize full awareness of God's person in perfect clarity, including his glory, his character, justice, power and more! Because these creatures are in right relationship with God and see what they see, their only possible response is overwhelming worship.

Colossians 1:15-20 ESV *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.*

- Jesus is preeminent above everything in creation. He is above all in honor, glory, power, and authority. This is the revelation in its fulness that those in heaven possess. No wonder they worship!

Revelation 5:1:14 ESV (excerpt) *And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."*

And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth." Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

- Jesus is worthy of executing God's eternal plan of redemption. He alone in all of heaven is the only one who is worthy! He is worthy of the highest, most devout expression of worship. As a man he obeyed God perfectly all the way to the cross. His is the highest expression of devotion to the Father.
- He possesses all we need: power, wealth, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing. He is worthy to be worshipped!

True worship is knowing who God is, what God does, and what God has.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- Are you able to worship God freely? If not, what do you think is hindering you?
- What would you like to know more about God?
- What does God have that you especially need at this time in your life?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would increase our revelation of him, especially in areas where we know him little.
- That God would forgive our sins and empower us to live holy lives that honor him in all we do.
- That God would bless us with his powerful, sweet, and holy presence as we worship him.