



CAYA SERIES: “WORSHIP: A LIFESTYLE EXPERIENCE”
WEEK 4, LESSON 3 - “LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP”

LEARNING OUTCOMES (OBJECTIVES):

The student will be able to. . .

- Distinguish the nature of worship from how to worship
- Examine a lifestyle of sacrificial living
- Demonstrate an ideal (model) mindset for personal worship
- Conclude why praise is an expression of worship

INTRODUCTION YOUTUBE VIDEO:

“Worship Defined” (3:06), Wrightsdale Baptist Church 9/27/2016

OUTLINE NOTES CONDENSED

I. TRUE WORSHIP: JOHN 4:23, 24

a. Change of Worship

Christ has opened the door into God's presence from any place in the universe. The old dispensation is about to pass away, and the new one to commence. *Already* there is so much light that God may be worshipped acceptably in any place.

b. Nature of Worship

i. In spirit

The expression *in spirit* refers to the human spirit—the immaterial, inner being in each person, the God-breathed entity that corresponds to the nature of God himself, who is Spirit.

Spiritual worship is that where the *heart* is offered to God, and where we do not depend on external forms for acceptance.

The person who worships in spirit is not merely present in a certain location and doing certain things. They are fully engaged in response to God.

ii. In truth

The phrase *in truth* means "in a true way" or "with genuineness." This would speak to all people—Jews, Samaritans, and even Gentiles; all need to worship God by recognizing God's character and nature as well as our common need for him.

God is not impressed with our methods of worship if those methods express someone other than who we really are. God desires truth in the inward parts.

c. Reason for Worship

i. Isaiah 43:7, 10

ii. Ephesians 1:4-6

iii. 1 Peter 2:9

d. How to Worship

i. In spirit

Our life of worship begins when we are born by God's Spirit. The worshiper must listen to the voice of the Spirit so that he can know what acts of worship are freely given and most pleasing to the Father.

ii. In truth

We worship in submission to what God has revealed of himself. True spiritual worship must have God at its center.

True worship can only happen in a person who has been made new in Christ. This is the only way we can come to God. A person must understand their sinful nature, they must recognize that God has provided a way of forgiveness through the sacrifice of Jesus in our place, and they must be willing to entrust themselves to the resurrected Christ.

II. PRACTICE SACRIFICIAL LIVING

a. Break the Alabaster Jar

The Father is looking for people who are not ashamed to show publicly how much they love and adore him.

b. Walking Worthy

Walking worthy means that we are living in a manner that seeks to please God in all respects and is consistent with the identification that we have of the Lord who saved us. Furthermore, it is a life that bears fruit.

c. Bearing Fruit

The Bible gives us a clear indication of the **types of fruit** that we should be bearing and they include: **1)** leading others to Christ (1 Corinthians 16:15), **2)** praising God (Hebrews 13:15), **3)** giving money (Romans 15:26-28), **4)** living a godly life (Hebrews 12:11), and **5)** displaying holy attitudes (Galatians 5:22, 23).

d. Walking in the Spirit

Living a life that is befitting of the Good News is all about lining up with the will of God by following the direction of the Holy Spirit as He leads us.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF PRIVATE WORSHIP

a. Make Top Priority

- i. Increased awareness of God's presence
- ii. Increased delight in God's attributes
- iii. Experience God experience His character
- iv. Cultivate an accurate picture of God
- v. Increased desire to be changed

b. Establish a Regular Routine:

The following suggestions offer some practical ideas on how to worship God privately. The goal is not to spend long hours strenuously laboring to worship God, but to make some form of private worship a regular habit.

- i. ACTS – adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication
- ii. Read a Psalm a day
- iii. Read various bible verses with two questions in mind: how this passage applies to my life and what does this scripture tell me about who God is.
- iv. Meditate on the names and attributes of God
- v. Pray the names and attributes of God
- vi. Write your own psalm
 1. *Thanksgiving* – describe a past problem, recount how God intervened, express thanksgiving for God's grace
 2. *Praise* – start by calling God's people to worship, state specific reasons to worship God, cite specific names or attributes of God
 3. *Lament* – address to God, state a personal problem or crisis, affirm hope and trust in God

c. Obedience versus Idols

David regarded obedience as the highest form of worship. Jesus also equated obedience with worship (John 14:15-21).

Identify Your Idols:

- What do you most think about?
- How do you spend your money?
- What sets you off emotionally?
- What brings you peace, joy, security, or fulfillment?
- How do you react when an idol is taken away?

Repent early and often; flee idolatry; replace your idols; cling to the cross and choose to worship;

d. Amidst Adversity

What happens when we worship in tough times?

- God meets us in our time of need
- Our problems get put within God's larger context
- Faith increases

- We are transformed
- Peace abounds

Psalm 54 is a virtual clinic for coping with stress. First, David talks to God about his problems. Then David talks to himself about God. Finally, David chooses to worship, he offers a sacrifice of praise

IV. PRAISE AS AN ACT OF WORSHIP

True praise is the sincere acknowledgement of worth, based upon one's real conviction. It expresses how we really feel on the inside towards our Lord and Savior.

Praise is an expression of approval or admiration, so we praise God for His attributes. Praise is an expression of respect or gratitude as an act of worship.

According to this definition a sacrifice of praise consists of two things; the fruit of our lips and giving thanks to his name.

a. Reason

First, we praise God because of Who He is. Circumstances change but the character of God never changes.

The second reason we praise God is because of what He has done – thanksgiving is the essence of praise. Praise retells the stories of God's exploits.

The third reason we praise God is because of what He is going to do.

Praise is sometimes a believer's greatest act of faith. Praise is not a denial of our circumstances. Praise declares that God is faithful and trustworthy regardless of our situation.

b. Benefits

- i.** Praise positions us to enter into the promises of God.
- ii.** God shows up when His people praise Him.
- iii.** Praise is a weapon of spiritual warfare.
- iv.** Praise causes panic and confusion in Satan's ranks.
- v.** Praise aligns us with heaven.
- vi.** Praise is evangelistic.

c. Biblical Expressions

- i.** Singing Praises
- ii.** Praising with instruments. The biblical pattern for praise involves more than the human voice.
- iii.** Shouting praises to God.
- iv.** Clapping as praise to God.
- v.** Raising hands in praise.
- vi.** Dancing is a biblical expression of praise. Dancing did not begin as recreation or as entertainment but began as worship.
- vii.** Bowing is a biblical expression of worship. It is one of the most commanded acts of worship in the Bible.
- viii.** Biblical words for praise
 - a. Halah** – to shine forth, boast, glory, celebrate;

- b. **Yadah** – to give thanks, laud, confess, cast praise with lifted hands.
- c. **Towdah** – thanksgiving, thank offering, sacrifice of praise, hymn of praise. This type of praise is musical by nature and it is also sacrificial in essence.
- d. **Zamar** – to sing and give praise while playing (or plucking) an instrument. Zamar praise is "using musical instruments and song to worship God.
- e. **Tehillah** – enthusiastic praise, adoration, glory, renown, fame, public praise. It is this type of praise that enthrones God.
- f. **Barak** – to bless, to praise, to kneel, to adore. It means to praise and adore God by kneeling down to Him in adoration and praise.
- g. **Shabach** – to laud, praise, commend, boast with implications of soothing and stilling someone. It describes not a quiet act of praise but rather a spirited, triumphant, boasting praise.

d. Lifestyle Sacrifice – Psalm 34:1-3

i. Unending praise

Our thoughts must be consumed by the notion that God can and should receive praise in all things.

ii. Unending glory

In verse two, David makes it clear that he will boast only in the Lord.

iii. Unending exhortation

David is challenging the people to help him make God's fame great among the nations.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY: Based on John 12:1-11

Skit and song followed by Alabaster Offering prayer of adoration on cutouts.

[Small Group Activity]

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS

1. What insight/revelation/understanding did you receive from memorizing Colossians 3:1, 2? What version did you memorize the verse from?
2. What are your reactions to the video?
3. What do you see as a possible outcome with understanding the nature of worship from how to worship in one's life?
4. What are some of the motives of breaking the alabaster jar in front of people?
5. What factors would you change to align your personal worship with the set of characteristics?
6. How effective would worship to the Lord be if you do not consider His nature?

[Follow-up Home Assignment]

Practice meditation. Start with a specific name or attribute of God revealed in the Bible and then ponder its significance in your life. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, but if it helps, consider the following questions:

- How have I seen this particular name or attribute of God manifested in my life or in the world around me?
- Why am I drawn to this particular aspect of God's character?
- How did Jesus embody this attribute of God?
- How can I reflect this part of God to others?
- Is God inviting me to do anything in relation to this particular name or attribute?

Review Hebrews 13:15 and Colossians 3:1, 2

NEW MEMORY VERSES – JOHN 4:23, 24

Write out the verses on the index card in any version. Write on the back of the card, any revelation or insight God gives you as you meditate on the verses for the week.

HANDOUT (OPTIONAL READING):

"Praying the Names and Attributes of God"
"The Attributes of God"