

Introduction:

- On Saturday August 21, 6pm . We are going to have a night of worship. Just to give Jesus glory, to be in His presence and to worship Him. No preaching...just worship. The outline of the night will be simple: bow down to Jesus, hold the feet of Jesus, and Worship Jesus.
- *"The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and **worshiped him.**"* (The Message Bible Mt 28:8-9).
- My mission today is to define worship, set the course of worship and answer the biggest question of worship.

I. Defining Worship

A. Hebrew and Greek Words for worship. Words tell us much about what is being said.

1. OT Words - Hebrew

- a) Histahawa - "The Hebrew word for "worship" actually means "bow down." Yamauchi, E. (1999). [619 הוּחַ](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 268). Chicago: Moody Press. "a bowing down' describes our approach to God in submission and deep respect.

(1) The Psalmist exhorts, "*O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker*" (Ps 95:6). Ie. song: *We bow down and we worship you Lord.*

(2) "*I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you.*" (PS 5:7 ESV)

(3) Others: Ps. 132:7; 1 Kgs. 8:29, 30; Ps. 11:4; 79:1

- b) Abodoh - "service", highest role of worship . May also mean to enslave for service.

"When the service is offered to God, however, it is not bondage, but rather a joyous and liberating experience." Kaiser, W. C. (1999). [1553 רָבַח](#). R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke (Eds.), *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed., p. 639). Chicago: Moody Press.

(1) Other scriptures using this word: (Ex 3:12; 4:23; 7:16; 8:1; 10:26;)

2. NT Words - Greek

- a) Proskuneo - "to kiss the hand", "bow down" a term for reverent adoration.

(1) Mt 8:2 leper knelt before Jesus. His worship was in bowing and asking.

(2) Mt 9:18 ruler came and knelt before him, my daughter has died.

(3) Mt 14:33 those in the boat knelt and worshiped Him saying, He is the Son of God.

(4) Mt 2:11 Wisemen come to worship the new born king.

- b) Latreuo - "to serve"; to serve as subjects; service to... Rom 12:1

B. Defining worship proves to be somewhat difficult because it is both an attitude and an act. It is something that we do (service, bow, etc.) And the spirit/heart in which we do it.

1. As an attitude it is something that we spiritually or in the spirit must do.

- a) "*My heart overflows with a pleasing theme;...*" (Psalm 45:1, ESV)

- b) John 4:23 worship in spirit and in truth.

2. In truth is an act that we do in response to Truth.

- a) "*Teach me your ways, O Lord, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever;*" (Psalm 86:11-12, NLT)

- b) *"The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."* (Psalm 145:18, ESV)
3. True worship involves longing for God's word, for the Word gives us revelation of who He is, and that in turn, gives us reason and cause to worship.
 4. True worship involves hearing from the One we worship.
- C. Worship is the expression of praise, adoration, thanksgiving, acts of service, obedience, submission, etc.
1. "While physical representations of worship are important, and our entire being should be engaged in worship of God, the posture of our hearts is of more importance than the position of our bodies. When the posture of our hearts is humility and awe, our bodies often yearn to express that in physical ways. Kneeling, bowing, lying facedown, bowing our heads, and lifting our hands are all physical expressions of the attitudes of our hearts. Of course, without a corresponding heart posture, the physical actions are empty showmanship." author and source unknown.
 2. A. W. Tozer wrote, *"The goal of every Christian should be to live in a state of unbroken worship."* When that is the goal of our lives, kneeling, bowing, lying prostrate, and walking down the street are all postures of prayer and worship that are pleasing to God.
- D. Worship is both something we do and the heart we do it in mixed together. Worship is something we do because of who God is. IE. Bob Reccord, in his book, "Forged by Fire," described the suffering he endured as a result of a severe cervical spinal injury as a "prison of pain." Besides the pain, there were countless sleepless nights, a dependency on narcotic drugs, the loss of 80 percent of the strength in his left arm, as well as the loss of his vocation, which he loved. In the following excerpt from the book, Mr. Reccord tells a story of how God used an unexpected source to communicate comfort: "About halfway through that experience, I found myself sitting on the screened-in porch behind our home. The day was cold and blustery, but I was committed to being outside, just for a change of scenery. Suddenly a bird landed on the railing and began to sing. On that cold, rainy day, I couldn't believe any creature had a reason to sing. I wanted to shoot at that bird! But he continued to warble, and I had no choice but to listen. The next day found me on the porch again, but this time the atmosphere was bright, sunny, and warm. As I sat, being tempted to feel sorry for myself, suddenly the bird (at least it looked like the same one) returned. And he was singing again! Where was that shotgun? Then an amazing truth hit me head on: the bird sang in the cold rain as well as the sunny warmth. His song was not altered by outward circumstances, but it was held constant by an internal condition. It was as though God quietly said to me, "You've got the same choice, Bob. You will either let external circumstances mold your attitude, or your attitude will rise above the external circumstances. You choose!" APPLICATION: No matter the weather, the birds still sing. That's because their singing has nothing to do with the weather. What about you. To whom do you sing? The bird sings because that is what it was created to do. It doesn't depend on the circumstance. Forged by Fire:

How God Shapes Those He Loves (Broadman & Holman, Nashville, TN, 2000), p. 112.

II. The Course Of Worship - There is an order to becoming a worshiper.

- A. The First order of business is Encountering Jesus
1. Encounter means to come upon face to face; to come upon or experience especially unexpectedly. The Bible is so full of encounters with God, with God's Son, and the Spirit. And they all lead to worship.
 - a) The women encounter Jesus on the way to tell the disciples He is alive.
 - b) Rev 1. John Encounters Jesus and he worships.
 - c) Rev 4 The elders encounter God and worship
 - d) Rev 5 The creatures encounter God and worship
 - e) Solomon dedicated the temple and he worships.
 - f) Moses encounters God at the burning bush and worships!
 - g) Encountering God leads to worship.
- B. Bowing Down to Jesus. Bowing down is an act of humility. It is submission to and honor to the one bowed to. The first thing encounters with God produces is falling down/bowing down.
1. The women bowed down. You can't embrace ones feet without bowing down.
 2. Rev 1. John is *worshiping in the Spirit on the Lord's day* in Rev. 1:10. He is already encountering God (in the zone)! Then he hears a voice, turns to see and it is the One he is worshiping! KABOOM! vs 17 "*I fell at his feet at though dead.*"
 3. Rev 4:10 The Elders fall down and worship.
 4. Rev 5:8 The living beings fall down and worship
 5. 2 Chron 6:12 Solomon stood before God. vs. 13 he knelt before God. 7:1 Fire comes and consumes the sacrifice!
 - a) The priests bowed down and worshiped
 6. Moses tells the people and elders what God has said, "*And the people believed; and when they heard that the Lord had visited the people of Israel and that he had seen their affliction, they bowed their heads and worshiped.*" (Exodus 4:31, ESV)
- C. Embracing Jesus' feet. To be at the feet of someone is a sign of repentance, surrender, submission and faith.
1. The women encounter Jesus, bow to Jesus and embrace His feet.
 - a) Embrace - ekratesan – to grip or to hold. (out of the depths of the source and extending to its impact on the object). "This word, denoting the presence of strength, means a. "natural strength," b. the "power" that one has, or with which one is invested.

Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament* (p. 466). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans.
 - b) The women out of all their strength, the depths of who they are with everything they are grab hold of his feet.
 - c) It is a 'my life for yours' moment. Not only do we submit, but we offer ourselves, our very lives to you. Everything we are we invest/give to you.
 2. Rev 1:17 John falls at Jesus feet.
 3. The woman with the alabaster jar, kneels behind Jesus and anoints his feet.
- D. Worshiping - worshiping follows meeting Jesus; recognizing it is Him, submitting to Him and

embracing His leadership, His way of life. Worship flows out of one's revelation of who God is. He is holy! Worship flows out of our adoration of Him.

III. The Question of the Ages: Where is God?

- A. In John 4 we meet a woman whose life is about to be forever changed.
1. The context: Jesus is tired. They are in Samaria. He asks Samaritan woman for a drink.
 2. It is a racially charged situation. It is a religiously charged situation.
- B. The question: *"Why is it that you Jews insist that Jerusalem is the only place of worship, while we Samaritans claim it is here at Mount Gerizim, where our ancestors worshiped?"* (John 4:19 NLT). Translation: "Where is God? My people say he is on the mountain. Your people say he is in Jerusalem. I don't know where he is." This is the question of God-hungry hearts everywhere. And Jesus loves these 'set ups!'
1. Of all the places to answer this question!
 - a) In Samaria
 - b) From a woman
 - c) Not just any woman but a 5 time divorcee, now living with a man woman.
 2. The most insignificant woman in the region! Jesus did not have this conversation with Herod, nor the Sanhedrin, nor the crowds when they asked, "Who are you?"
 - a) He answered this woman, in the heat of the day, in a rejected land to an outcast woman.
 - b) "I AM the Messiah!"
 - c) You don't have to go to Jerusalem. You don't have to go to Mt. Gerizim. I Am is here and you can worship now! I AM is present! Let us Worship!
 3. Jesus wanted her to have an encounter so that she could worship. He wanted her to understand He was not just a good man; He is the God-man! So she could worship! The lowest outcast with the darkest past can worship the living God!
- C. The question of the ages: Where is God.
1. The answer: Right here with us. Let's worship.

Conclusion:

- We were created for worship!
 - Bow down!
 - Hold on!
 - Worship!