Bible Delcaration…

PRAY

Turn to John 4…

The title for today’s message is…

**Heart of Worship**

* I didn’t say the skill of worship… Not all of us are skilled at worship, music or singing, but we can all achieve a heart of worship.
  + EXAMPLE: My family are all gifted singers… Aunt, uncle, cousins, parents, sister…
    - Now I believe that when God made us, he gave some the gift to sing, and some the gift of intelligence.

I actually only have two points…

* Some of you are like “oh that’s great, I have a lot to do…”
  + Well, they’re really long points… Okay? Don’t start packing your bags.
    - Just kidding… Not too long.

1. **God is searching for true worshippers**

**John 4:19-24**

Lay context: **Jesus is talking to the woman at the well…** He tells her things he couldn’t know so she said “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet...”

When she realized He wasn’t just an ordinary man, she asked him an important question…

**John 4:19** “Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you *Jews* say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.” **21**Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. **22**You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews [IT WAS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE JEWSIH PEOPLE]. **23**But the hour is coming, and now is, when the **true worshipers** will worship the Father in **spirit and truth**; for the Father is **seeking such to worship Him**.24God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

**So God is actively looking for true worshippers… WHY?**

* BECAUSE THEY’RE RARE… Even in the body of Christ.
* These are people who worship with sincerity. Truth in their hearts.

**Look at what Jesus says in Matthew 6…** (This is specifically about prayer, but it certainly applies to worship)

**Matthew 6:5-6** “And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. **6**But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who *is* in the secret *place;* and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

* If the only time you worship the Lord is here at church, then you’re missing something.
* It’s not that you shouldn’t worship here… It’s that this should be the minority.

**1 Chronicles 16:27-29** “Honor and majesty *are* before Him;  
Strength and gladness are in His place.

**28**Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,  
Give to the Lord glory and strength.  
**29Give to the Lord the glory *due* His name;  
Bring an offering, and come before Him.  
Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!”**

The bible calls us to give worship unto the Lord.

* HE DESERVES IT…

I remember one time I tried to be a good example in worship…

**STORY:** No one was going to the front… Went to the front to worship at youth group. Turned out the pastor had told everyone not to.

Your life will change when you become a true worshipper.

Let me give you an example of a true worshipper…

**2 Samuel 6:14-16** Then David danced before the Lord with all *his* might; and David *was* wearing a linen ephod. **15**So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the Lord with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

**16**Now as the ark of the Lord came into the City of David, Michal, Saul’s daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the Lord; and she despised him in her heart.

Skip down…

**2 Samuel 6:20-23** Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, “How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!” **21**So David said to Michal, “***It was* before the Lord**, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the Lord, over Israel. Therefore I will play *music*before the Lord. **22And I will be even more undignified than this,** and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor.” **23Therefore** Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

* God sides with true worshippers…
* David was saying “I wasn’t doing it for you or the people… So I don’t care how I looked”
  + It was unto the Lord…
* You know most believers in America won’t even participate in worship unless the production is good.
  + “I just wasn’t feeling worship today”

It’s not that good production is wrong, but if you can’t worship without it, you may be worshipping the production instead of the Lord.

* + Listen I get it… Sometimes poor production makes it hard.
    - **STORY:** Song started singing in French…
    - Sometimes the best times of praise will come with no background music… No skilled singer… Just a true heart and a willing voice.

Write this down: “Worship is not about me…”

[METNION THIS]… There is an importance of our physical body representing our praise.

* **Psalm 134:2** “Lift up your hands *in* the sanctuary,  
  And bless the Lord.”
* **Psalm 95:6-8** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
  Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.  
  **7**For He *is* our God,  
  And we *are* the people of His pasture,  
  And the sheep of His hand. Today, if you will hear His voice:  
  **8**“Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,  
  As *in* the day of trial in the wilderness,

1. **Your praise brings breakthrough**

Even though worship is not about you… Your breakthrough is a bi-product of living a life of worship

**2 Corinthians 3:17** “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord*is*, there*is*liberty.”

Catch this… Where God’s presence is, there is liberty… Freedom… Breakthrough

* What’s the key to your breakthough? His presence!
* What’s the key to entering His presence?

**Psalm 100:4** “Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, **And into His courts with praise**. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name.”

I want you to write something down…

* “God’s intervention is not automatic…”
* So many people think everything that happens is just God’s will and our part is to just survive the ride…
  + NO… Read the bible. Our God is RESPONSIVE
* God always has the power to intervene, but He specifically does when we provoke Him to.
* If there’s a situation that needs to be solved, bring the presence of the Lord into that situation… It’s what happened in 2 Chronicles 20.
* **2 Chronicles 20:21** “And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed singers unto the Lord who should praise the beauty of holiness as they went out before the army, and to say, “Praise the Lord, for His mercy endureth for ever.”

**Look at Acts 16…**

**Acts 16:22-25** Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks. 25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were loosed.

-Don’t wait until your out of the problem to praise Him… Worship your way through it.

**Exodus 17:8-13** [LAY CONTEXT… THIS IS DURING BATTLE] And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. 12 But Moses’ hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. 13 So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.”

**1 Kings 3:4-14** “Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that *was* the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. **5**At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask! What shall I give you?” [FINISH STORY OF WHAT HAPPENED]

-God’s offer to Solomon was in response to the sacrificing and honoring the Lord.

Let me give a few scriptures as we begin to come to a close… (then we’ll take a brief moment to respond)

**Isaiah 54:1** “Sing, O barren, You who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman,” says the LORD.

**Psalm 149:1-6** Praise the Lord.

Sing to the Lord a new song,

his praise in the assembly of his faithful people.

2 Let Israel rejoice in their Maker;

let the people of Zion be glad in their King.

3 **Let them praise his name with dancing**

**and make music to him with timbrel and harp.**

**4 For the Lord takes delight in his people;**

he crowns the humble with victory.

5 Let his faithful people rejoice in this honor

**and sing for joy on their beds.**

6 May the praise of God be in their mouths

and a double-edged sword in their hands

* Take every opportunity… He’s been so good…
  + You can feel when someone is activated through love vs. duty…
    - **1 John 4:19** We love Him because He first loved us.
    - **As you worship Him more, you’ll fall in love with Him more.**
  + David vs. Solomon
    - Having a heart of worship is always a better long term strategy than being the smartest guy in the room…

Sing “I’m coming back to the heart of worship…”

* Maybe you’ve never had that heart… It can start now, but let it continue in your car, your room and etc.
* Maybe your relationship with the Lord started with a simplicity in love, but has turned into someone else… Come back!
  + Jesus said the greatest commandment of all time is “LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, SOUL, MIND AND STRENGTH…”

Let’s worship…