



## Worship

Adapted from "Demands of Discipleship" series by Dennis Marquardt.

Many people today go to church. Yet, how many of them really worship? Too many people confuse going to church with worshipping God. It is quite possible to go to church and still not truly worship. Worship is something that flows from our hearts to God himself. Worship is much more than just going through the motions, or going through a prescribed set of rituals. True worship changes us.

The Roman General Pompey noticed how the Jews fought to defend their temple. He was anxious to see what was in their most sacred room, the Holy of Holies. He was surprised to see that it was empty. He wondered why they fought so hard to defend an empty room! He did not understand their concept of a God "eternal, immortal, invisible."<sup>1</sup>

The Bible teaches that true worship affects real change in our lives, and that it involves all of what we are. Lots of people will find themselves every week in places of worship. However, it is quite possible that few will really worship in the place they are! We worship God when we truly identify where we have come from, and where we now are in Christ. Worship is not just going through the motions. Worship also takes place through the emotions! Faith brings us in, and God's favor makes it possible to worship him.

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<sup>1</sup> Robert C. Shannon, *1000 Windows*, (Cincinnati, Ohio: Standard Publishing Company, 1997).

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## COURAGE

**C1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Luke 7:36–50 (ESV)**

- In the Scripture, a woman enters the Pharisee's home to worship Christ, why do you think Simon had a problem with it?
- Simon never bothered to honor Christ with water to wash His feet, a kiss or oil to anoint His head, but took no notice of what the sinner woman did. He cared more about the fact that Jesus did not know what sort of person she was. Have you ever found yourself caring more about other things than the worship of God? Why?
- When you go to church and worship begins, what goes through your mind?
- What goes through your mind during the singing of the worship songs?
- What is your understanding regarding the purpose of worship?

**C2:** Answer or discuss the following.

- Understanding that worship begins with a Holy expectancy, what should you be expecting as you worship?
- Understanding where you came from before Christ and where you are now because of Christ, how can your worship increase?

- The woman in these verses, humbled herself to anoint Jesus' feet rather than His Head. On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being very humble and 4 being not very humble, rate how humble you are when you worship God? How can you improve?
  
- As you go to church in the next thirty days, how can you make your worship be from a humble heart of gratitude?

## STRENGTH

**S1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### Luke 7:36–50 (ESV)

- Simon was more concerned with himself than honoring Jesus. Have you ever found yourself more concerned with you than worshipping Jesus? Why?
- In the parable of the two debtors, the one who is forgiven more, loves more. How does that relate to how you worship Christ?
- Using the example of the sinful woman coming to Jesus, how can you not type cast those who come to your church looking to worship?
- Did the sinful woman worship Jesus by anointing Him to get her sins forgiven or was her worship of Jesus based on forgiveness?

**S2:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

- Worship begins with a holy expectancy and ends with a holy obedience. When you come to worship, what should you be expecting and what should you be obedient to?
- How can you become more engaged in worship?
- If someone were to watch you worship, what would they discover?



- In the coming weeks, as you worship, write out a plan on how you can make sure your heart is prepared to worship Christ.

## ENDURANCE

**E1:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

### **Luke 7:36–50 (ESV)**

- The sinful woman was anointing Jesus' feet with oil rather than His head which was the custom, how does that speak to how you should worship your King?
- The woman in this story was willing to risk it all as she entered the Pharisee's house. How much are you willing to risk in worshipping your King?
- Understanding that true worship flows out of your heart and changes you, how has your worship transformed you in recent weeks?
- In the Scripture, Jesus tells the woman her sins are forgiven. Did she do all she did in order to get her sins forgiven or was it an act of worship because her sin was forgiven? Why or why not?
- The Pharisee invited Jesus to his home to see if he could trap Him. Have you ever come to Christ with a different reason than to worship Him, Why?

**E2:** Read and answer or discuss the following.

- What can you do to increase your heart towards worship?
- What are some things that distract you from worship? What should your attitude be towards worship?

- How has your worship been transforming in your life? How can you strengthen your worship?
  
- If you had to share what true worship looked like to a stranger, what would you say and why?
  
- What can you do in the next thirty days to lift your worship?