

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDIES

My Worship

I. What is “worship”?

- A. The Bible never gives a definition for worship, even though it uses the word and gives instructions concerning worship and examples of worship
- B. Psalm 96:7-9; Revelation 5:11-14
 - 1. What does worship involve according to these scriptures?
 - 2. What are some reasons worship was going on in these scriptures?

II. Where does Worship Start?

- A. As a response to God:
 - 1. Gen 4:2-4 - The first act of worship in the Bible
 - a. Able was a keeper of the _____
 - b. Cain was a tiller of the _____
 - c. God blessed them, and their work prospered and grew
 - d. Their response: They brought an _____ to the Lord

This was appropriate, it acknowledges their blessings as having come from God

- 2. Ex 15 - The first act of worship of God Israel, God's people
 - a. In Exodus 14, God had delivered the children of Israel from bondage to cruel slavery to the Egyptians, and defeated them at the Red Sea
 - b. Ex 15:10-18 is their response in song, usually called the "Song of the Sea" or "The Song of Moses"
 - 1) In the song, they celebrate God's victory
 - 2) In the song, they remember and commemorate the event

3. We see that worship begins with God and involves a response from the worshippers. Our part is to "respond" to God's initiative appropriately

B. Responding in Holiness

1. 1 Samuel 2:2 - God is _____
 - a. Note: To be "holy" means to be "differentiated, " or "dedicated for" or "set apart."
 - b. No one is holy like God, therefore he is distinctly different, he is God
2. Isaiah 6:1-5 - _____ is the Lord of hosts
 - a. What was the initial reaction of Isaiah to God in all his holiness?
 - b. Why did Isaiah react the way he did?
 - c. Read verses 6-8. What happened next?
 - d. What must be done to us before we can worship and serve a holy God?
3. Leviticus 11:45 - We are to be _____ because God is _____
 - a. Since God is holy, we also are to be holy
 - b. All that we do is to be holy (Example: Rom 16:16)
 - c. Our worship is to be holy and treat God as holy
4. Worship, then, begins with our holy God, and needs itself to be holy

III. How do you treat God as holy in Worship?

- A. Genesis 4:2-5 - Learning from the first act of worship
 1. The Lord had _____ for Abel and for his offering, but for Cain and for his offering he had no _____
 2. Does the text give any hints or indication of why God "had regard" for

with Abel's offering and not Cain's?

3. Based on how God reacted to Cain and Abel's worship, what kind of worship does God want from us?

C. Respecting How God has instructed us to worship him

1. Ex 32:3-7 - A "feast" to the Lord

- a. Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tommorrow shall be a feast to the _____
- b. Even though they were doing this "to the Lord," why was the Lord not pleased? (see Ex 20:4)

2. 2 Sam 6:1-7 - Carrying God's Ark on a cart

- a. God struck him down there fore his _____
- b. What did they do that was irreverent? (See Dt 10:8 and 1 Chr 15:11-16)

3. Lev 10:1-3 - God requires to be treated as holy

- a. By those who come near me I will be treated as _____
- b. How did they not treat God as holy?
 - 1) Dishonor - 9:24 - Everyone else is on their faces, except Nadab and Abihu
 - 2) Drunkeness? 10:9 - Implies they were intoxicated
 - 3) Desecration - 10:1 - They apparently used the wrong materials. Ex. 30:9 says not to offer strange incense
 - 4) Disobedience - 10:1 - According to Ex 30:7-8, it was supposed to be the High Priest, Aaron that offered up incense

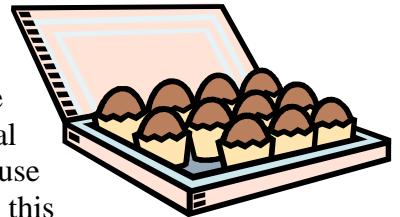
4. Mk 7:7-8 - In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of _____. Neglecting the commandment of _____ you hold to the tradition of _____.

a. Vain means "useless," doctrine means "teaching"

b. What renders worship useless?

5. Treating God as holy involves respect and honor for him and how he instructs we are to approach him in worship.

6. An illustration: Suppose I like cordial cherries, and I want to bring them to my loved one as a gift. Suppose that she has told me that she hates cordial cherries, but she does love white chocolate, and white chocolate would be a good gift. Because I love cordial cherries, I bring them instead of white chocolate because I think they are fancier, better, and it is what I like. Is this honoring her after what she has specifically told me? No, it is not. In fact, it is dishonoring to her and self-centered for me. A gift should be about pleasing her, not myself.



When we disregard God's instructions concerning how to approach him, we dishonor him in a similar way.

Therefore, they question should never be, "How shall I worship God," but "How does God want me to approach him?" Not everything that man does, even if he calls worship, honors or pleases God.

7. Reflection question: What does it communicate to God when you want to worship him in the way you desire?

D. Worship with sincerity and from the heart

1. Mal 1:6-11 - Unacceptable worship

a. Why did God not accept their worship?

b. How did they not treat God as holy?

2. Mt 6:1, 5 - Worship is not for the purpose of impressing other people

a. Who is the "audience" in our worship?

b. How would you avoid worship becoming a "show?"

E. Daily life and worship should reflect each other

1. Jer 7:4-10, 15 - The people's trust in worship

a. The people worshipped regularly, yet God was not pleased.
Why?

b. What was wrong with the people's worship?

2. Amos 5:21-24 - God rejects worship

a. The people apparently were worshipping, but God was angry with them.

b. What was wrong with the people's worship? (See Amos 5:10-12, 24)

3. Mt 15:1-9 - Avoiding God given responsibilities

a. The Pharisees created a legal "loophole" in order to get out of having to honor their parents by helping them in their old age

b. Jesus calls them "hypocrites." This word means "actor" or "pretender." In what way were they "pretending?"

c. As a result, their worship was "vain" or "useless." It had no real substance.

4. Mt 12:7 - What does God desire over sacrifice? (see also Prov 21:3)

5. 1 Pet 3:7 - What might hinder a person's prayers?

6. Rom 12:1 - Is your worship strictly confined to a place, like Sunday morning worship service, or is there more?

7. In your own words, describe the connection between your formal worship on Sunday and your daily life.

IV. Principle of Edification and Congregational Singing

- A. (1 Cor 14:26) An emphasis in New Testament Worship is mutual edification
 1. (1 Cor 14:6-9) Worship needs to be intelligible
 2. (1 Cor 14:23-25) Worship needs to be understandable
 3. (1 Cor 14:40) Worship needs to be orderly, not chaotic
- B. Note on Congregational A Cappella Singing: Worship focus in the Old Testament - Magnifying the name of God (not necessarily edification)
 1. (2 Chr 29:25) Singing at the temple was for the purpose of magnifying God
 - a. Involved "professional" worshippers, the Levites. Only they could perform the services
 - b. They did the job, and they did it well
 - c. Involved professional musicians with their instrument
 - d. This was commanded by God through the prophets
 2. Destruction of the Temple and exile to Babylon in 586 A.D.
 - a. The temple, levitical system of worship, etc. were all destroyed
 - b. Israel determined to maintain her identity among foreign peoples, a way of doing this was the formation of the Synagogue, a place for teaching, meeting, and worship.
 - c. The synagogue became the focal point of Jewish identity
 - 1) Gathered on the Sabbath
 - 2) Purpose was for mutual encouragement and edification
 - 3) Unlike the temple, the singing was strictly A Cappella
 - a) The synagogue did not employ "professional" musicians that magnified God with their talent
 - b) Music in the synagogue was congregational, a cappella singing.
 - c) This was appropriate, because the focus at the synagogue was not merely worship, but mutual edification.
 - d) Congregational A Cappella Singing is the music of mutual encouragement

3. Return from captivity
 - a. Two systems of music developed
 - 1) Temple worship, involving the Levites. This was music of the temple with instrumentation
 - 2) Synagogue worship, involving everyone without instrumentation. This was the music of mutual edification.
 - b. Jesus could not have participated in worship at the temple because he was not a Levite.
 - c. Jesus could sing in the synagogue worship, which involved A Cappella singing.
4. Specific forms of music serve specific purposes -
 - A Cappella congregational singing is the music of mutual encouragement
5. New Testament worship is patterned after the synagogue
 - a. New Testament worship is a place for mutual encouragement, as in 1 Cor 14
 - b. Not a place where professionals perform for God
 - c. Everyone participates in a mutual way
 - 1) Edification is to be given, not taken
 - 2) Purpose is to give, not try to get something out of it
 - 3) Typically, what one gets out of worship is proportional to what they put into it (First act of worship in the Bible in Gen 4:1-5 is an act of giving, not trying to get)

V. Some specific acts of worship

1. Singing (Eph 5:18-19)
2. Praying (Mt 6:5-15)
3. Bringing an Offering to God (1 Cor 16:1-2)
4. Elements of Worship:
 - a. Praise, Adoration (Heb 13:15)
 - b. Thanksgiving (Phil 4:6)
 - c. Offerings (Phil 4:18)
 - d. Confession (1 Jn 1:8)
 - e. Remembrance (Lk 22:19)
 - f. Supplication (Mt 6:11)

VI. Suggestion on Enriching Your Personal Worship: Read a Psalm everyday and pray with it