

WORSHIP: Extravagant Love

INTRO:

When you think of worship what comes to mind? It is probably coming to church or FSM and singing songs. But to worship God is so much more than that. It is to involve every moment of every day.

I. Worship defined

Worship is our loving response to God for who He is and what He has done, expressed by what we say and how we live every day.

II. Contrast of Sacrificial Love and

Read Mark 14:1-11

A. Response of chief priests and teachers of the Law.

1. They wanted to arrest Jesus and kill Him. (14:1)
2. Why didn't they worship Him?
3. Our definition of worship begins with who Jesus is. How did they see Jesus?
 - a. As a blasphemer. They did not believe He was God as He claimed.
 - b. When they considered what Jesus did, they did not praise God for the miracles He performed. They condemned Him because He did not follow their rules. He healed on the Sabbath or forgave sins.
 - c. Our worship of God always begins with our view of Jesus. How do you view Jesus? Do you view Him as the God of Creation? Do you view Him as the Eternal, Holy, Infinite One who can speak words and create universes?
4. The second part of our definition of worship focuses on who we are - what we say and do in response to who God is.
 - a. How did the chief priests and teachers of the Law see themselves? They saw themselves as more righteous than Jesus. They saw themselves as more knowledgeable of the scriptures. They were proud and thought themselves in good standing before God based on their own merits.
 - b. They failed to see themselves as wretched, helpless sinners in need of a Messiah to save them.
 - c. As a result, they didn't humble themselves before Jesus. They taunted Jesus to humble himself before them.
 - d. How do you see yourself before God?
 - i. As one who isn't so bad if you just work at being good?
 - ii. Or as a helpless sinner who is condemned without God's help?

B. The Response of Judas 14:4-5 (Compare with John 12:4-6)

1. When this woman worships Jesus with this expensive perfume he is indignant. He calls this a waste and acts pious like he cares about the poor and he rebukes her. (vs 5)
2. Why did Judas respond this way to this act of worship of Jesus?
 - a. Judas wasn't following Jesus because he recognized Him as God.
 - b. Judas wasn't following Jesus because he loved Jesus. The woman's act of love

might have been convicting to him because he knew he wasn't like that.

- c. He was following Jesus for what he could get from Jesus.
 - i. To be the student of a rabbi was a privileged position.
 - ii. Judas would steal money from the donations given for Jesus' ministry. (John 12: 4-6)
 - iii. Judas thought Jesus was going to set up an earthly kingdom as king and Judas wanted to be a ruler in that kingdom. (Mark 10:37,41)
- d. But when Judas sees Jesus accept this waste of a year's money and then is rebuked by Jesus for speaking harshly to the woman his true nature comes out.
- e. Jesus isn't meeting Judas' expectation. Jesus is supposed to do what Judas wants and when Jesus doesn't, Judas not only doesn't worship Jesus he turns on Jesus. He betrays Jesus to the religious leaders for money. (Mark 14:10-11)
- f. Why do you follow Jesus?
 - i. To get a "get out of hell free card".
 - ii. To get your needs met.
- g. But what happens when you feel like Jesus let you down? What happens when He lets trials in your life? Are you able to worship Him then because you know He is God and He's not here to serve you but we are here to serve Him and bring Him glory?

C. The Response of Mary

1. In contrast to these first two responses, we see a response of humble extravagant worship of Jesus.
2. Notice the timing of this. This is just days before Jesus is going to go to the cross and give His life for all mankind. (14:1)
3. This dinner was at the home of Simon the Leper (14:3) in honor of Jesus (John 12:2). What does that suggest to you? (Jesus has healed this man, Lazarus was also there after he has been resurrected.)
4. This woman who is worshipping, this is Mary, Lazarus' and Martha's sister. They lived in Bethany. Why do you think she cared so much about Jesus? (He has raised her brother from the dead.)
5. How did she express her love to Jesus?
 - a. She poured the perfume on Jesus' head. This was a practice done to recognize a king. (14:3) Jesus said this was an anointing to prepare his body for burial.
 - b. She poured some perfume on his feet and used her hair to wipe it off his feet. (John 12:3) The lowest servant would wash a person's feet in Jesus' day and here she is humbly expressing her love for Jesus.
 - c. The perfume was extremely expensive - worth a year's wages.
 - d. Mary is demonstrating that she will not withhold anything from Jesus. That all she is and all that she has she humbly gives to Jesus.

CONCLUSION

Let's review our definition of worship:

Worship is our loving response to God for who He is and what He has done, expressed by what we say and how we live every day.

Why the extreme responses to Jesus? (Sacrificial Love vs. Betrayal) It all goes back to the answers to these questions:

1. How do you view God? "Worship is the loving response for who God is"

Is He the Creator who speaks out words and creates universes?

Is He the Holy, Infinite, Almighty God who always perfectly loves?

2. What has God done? "Worship is the loving response for what God has done"

Mary was anointing Jesus' body for burial because in a few days He was going to die on the cross and be resurrected before the ladies could return and prepare His body with spices. Jesus took our place so we could be forgiven and become a child of God.

3. How do you view yourself before God? "worship is our loving response when we understand who we are before God"

Do you see yourself as a proud, wicked, lost person with no hope apart from Christ?

4. If you understand who God is, what He has done, and have a proper understanding of who you are with Christ, you understand that the only possible response to God is to humbly bow down and give Him your life in loving worship.

In a similar story, Jesus was anointed by a sinful woman and Jesus said, "her many sins have been forgiven- for she loved much, but he who has been forgiven little loves little." Luke 7:47

May we love God much and live our lives in loving worship of Him for who He is and all He's done.

