

THE ACTION OF WORSHIP

(John 4:24)

1) Simplicity.

- a) One thing that stands out about New Testament worship is the simplicity of it.
- b) When you read through the book of Acts and study the worship activities and settings of the early church, this should jump out at us.
 - i) You read about worship in a jail.
 - ii) You read about brethren meeting in a house.
 - iii) You read about brethren worshipping in an upper room.
 - iv) You read about brethren coming together in various places.
- c) They didn't need a building, allow that is fine.
- d) They could worship anywhere and be pleasing to God.
- e) Jesus spoke about what was coming when He talked with the woman at the well (John 4:21).
 - i) The Samaritans worshiped on Mt. Gerizim and the Jews worshiped in Jerusalem.
 - ii) There was soon coming a time when worship would be anywhere.
- f) It is simple in what is offered to God.
 - i) One does not have to study long to see that the acts of worship can be carried out by any person.
 - ii) This is another reason why instrumental music isn't acceptable: because it limits the number of people that could participate.
 - iii) Not everyone is musically inclined when it comes to playing an instrument, but nearly all people have a voice.
 - iv) One doesn't have to be able to sing beautifully to make a joyful noise.
 - v) Preaching, giving, singing, partaking of the Lord's Supper, and praying are all extremely simple.
- g) When we find ways to make worship more complicated we are taking the focus off of God and putting it on us.
- h) It is interesting to read about church history and see how people were glad to get away from all the pomp and circumstance that had become worship and worship God simply, in the way He wants to be worshiped.

2) Sincereness.

- a) If the praise of God is not the focus of our worship, then we are wasting our time.
- b) When you read about the worship offered to God under the Mosaic Law, you read about a priesthood, a temple, and an offering.
- c) Have you ever stopped to think that all of those are present in worship of God in the New Testament?
 - i) You might think I'm missing something by saying that.
 - ii) There is still a priesthood (1Peter 2:9).
 - iii) There is still a temple (1 Corinthians 3:16-17).

- iv) There is still a sacrifice (Romans 12:1).
- v) You and I are each one of those things.
- d) We are to sincerely give ourselves to God in worship.
- e) Sincerity demands truthfulness and openness.
 - i) Dictionary.com defines it as “freedom from deceit, hypocrisy, and duplicity”.
 - ii) We are presenting ourselves to God as openly and honestly as we can.
- f) We are coming to God with the best we have to offer Him because we have a sincere desire to please Him.
- g) Why wouldn't we come to God with sincere worship?
 - i) He is worthy of worship because of Who He is and what He has done.
 - ii) He has blessed immensely with the gift of His Son.
 - iii) It is His plan that He devised before the world began that brings us the hope of eternal life.
 - iv) It should not be a problem to give honest and pure worship that He desires to the God Who has done so much for us.

3) Sacrificial.

- a) David had sinned in numbering the people of Israel.
 - i) He was given three choices about what type of punishment that God would use against Him.
 - ii) He chose the option that had God as the punisher.
 - iii) Thousands died at the hand of the death angel.
 - iv) The death angel approached Jerusalem and stopped at the threshing floor of Araunah.
 - v) When David arrived there he asked to purchase the property.
 - vi) Araunah realized what was going on and told David that he could have it.
 - vii) David refused the offer and said, “I will not give unto God that which costs me nothing.”
 - viii) David then purchased the site and made an offering to God.
- b) Giving worship to God requires a sacrifice.
 - i) We sacrifice ourselves (Romans 12:1).
 - ii) We sacrifice with our giving (Philippians 4:18).
 - iii) We sacrifice with our words (Hebrews 13:15), which would include praying, singing, and preaching.
 - iv) We sacrifice of our time with our worship and this is something so many fail to do.
 - v) We sacrifice our thinking when we come to worship because that is time to be spent thinking on God alone.
- c) God was willing to make a sacrifice of His Son for us, which ought to motivate us to be sacrificial for Him.
- d) Loving God with all that we are, as we are commanded, is sacrificial.
- e) Loving God means being obedient (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).
- f) This includes being obedient in God's plan for worship.