

THE AIM OF WORSHIP (PT 2)

(John 4:23-24)

1) Sincerity of heart.

- a) Dictionary.com defines “sincere” as: “free of deceit, hypocrisy, or falseness; earnest: genuine, real”.
- b) A long time ago, Joshua, the leader of God’s people after Moses, knew he was about to die.
 - i) He gave the people a final speech before he sent them off to the various areas in which their tribes settled in the land of Canaan.
 - ii) Notice what he said, recorded in Joshua 24:14.
 - iii) He told the people to serve God in sincerity and in truth.
 - iv) Sounds similar to John 4:24 doesn’t it?
 - v) The word for sincerity is used 91 times in the Old Testament.
 - vi) Some of the times it is used, it is used to describe the lamb that was to be offered to God and is translated without blemish.
 - vii) It means, “complete or whole”.
- c) What Joshua was telling the people was that their hearts needed to be completely set on serving God.
- d) Their motives for serving God were to be pure.
- e) Our Lord, when teaching the people, often talked about the need to seek God fully.
 - i) He said the greatest command was to love God with everything you have.
 - ii) The idea is that God is to be the first and foremost object of our affections.
- f) Jesus told the people of His day to do as the Pharisees taught but not as they did.
 - i) That’s odd isn’t it?
 - ii) Notice what He said about this... (Matthew 23:1-5).
 - iii) They were offering worship to God, but not sincerely, not complete or wholly giving themselves.
- g) In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul was chastising some of the Christians in Corinth because they were not partaking of the Lord’s Supper in the right manner.
 - i) It was not that they were partaking of it in some wrong way.
 - ii) It was that they were partaking of it without thinking about what they were doing, just going through the motions.
 - iii) 1 Corinthians 11:28-30.
- h) When we seek to worship God, in order to have the right attitude, we must have sincere hearts, desiring to completely worship God.

2) Seeking to be in God’s presence.

- a) Coming to worship God should be to seek to be in God’s presence.
- b) This is how David sought to worship God.
 - i) Psalm 27:4, 8-9.

- ii) Psalm 95:1-2.
- iii) Psalm 100:1-2.
- c) David understood that worship brought one into the presence of God.
- d) If our attitudes are not right, if we are not there seeking God wholly and completely, we aren't really trying to be in the presence of God.
- e) Our prayers are carried to the very throne of God (Hebrews 4:16).
- f) The songs we sing are an offering to God (Hebrews 13:15).
- g) There is no way to be in God's presence if our attitudes are not right.
- h) We don't sing so others can hear how good we sound.
- i) We don't worship for others or ourselves, it is for God knowing it allows us to be in His presence.

3) Sense of awe of God.

- a) Notice Isaiah 6:1-5.
- b) Isaiah is allowed to come into the presence of the Lord, which we later learn is the 2nd Person of the Godhead (John 4:21).
- c) Look at how Isaiah felt about being there.
 - i) He was in complete awe of God.
 - ii) It brought to mind his sinfulness and need for cleansing.
 - iii) He felt completely undeserving of having this vision and being in this place.
- d) The New Testament tells us that we are to fear God (1 Peter 2:17).
 - i) This does not mean that we should quake with a fear of God.
 - ii) It means we are to be in awe of God because of who He is.
- e) Long ago, Solomon told us that this was the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13).
- f) When we think of God and the opportunity to worship Him, a sense of awe ought to be felt or we don't have the right attitude.
 - i) Think about the fact that the God of the universe takes an interest in us as worshipers.
 - ii) We get to come before His presence.
 - iii) This ought to be awe inspiring to us.