

Acts of Jesus 36 notes

Acts 16:22-25

The last time we were together we took a look at the missionaries, Paul and Silas, who, though in terrible circumstances, focused on the goodness of God.

- We saw that it has been proven that it's not our outward circumstances but our inward focus that determines how we feel/our reality.
- This one of many reasons why worshipping God is so important for our lives.

In my experience, the average Christian doesn't really know what worship is; he thinks he knows because he attends "worship",

- But too often we attend church but don't worship
- We sing songs but do not worship.
- We listen to preaching but do not worship.
- We too often mistake the means of worship for worship itself.

1. Oxymorons: A self-contradictory phrase

- Accurate Estimate, a Fine Mess, A Sanitary Landfill, Plastic Silverware
- Another oxymoron: Boring Worship.
 - Boring and Worship are contradictory/mutually exclusive words.
 - Worship is meant to be -The greatest grounding and stabilizing factor in a Christians life
 - The chief end of all that we have received from God.
 - The most exhilarating experience that a human can possibly have.

2. So, what is worship?

- Let's start our answer by considering a passage that describes worship in its many forms: **Ps. 95:1-7**
- Can you feel the focus that is implied here...required here?
- Real worship is all about focus...all on God and nothing on you or your circumstances.

What worship is not:

1. Worship is not for our direct benefit – worship is for God's benefit.
 - The focus is completely on God not ourselves.
 - Do you agree? That means that we can't really criticize the song selection on Sunday mornings or the order of worship.
 - If we come seeking a style of worship or a certain song we immediately exempt ourselves from true worship.
- The typical Christian mindset about worship: They think of themselves as the audience, the music leader and pastor are the entertainers.

Worship: You are the entertainers, the pastor and worship leaders are the directors and God is the audience.

- When we seek to "get something out of worship" we are taking God's place and are in essence committing idolatry.

2. Worship is not about getting; it's about giving: I Chron. 16:28-29,

3. Worship can never be half-hearted

--Half-hearted worship is not worship at all

--Someone has said, "[We can worship God imperfectly, but we cannot worship Him insincerely.](#)"

What worship is:

1. It is a summons:

--**V.1: 3** – "come" summons us into the presence of the Almighty.

--We come to Him because He came to us.

--We come on His terms...again it's not about us!

2. It is something that God seeks: **Jn. 4:23-24**

3. It is something that is intentional on our part.

--Worship is not something that happens to you...you make it happen.

--Paul and Silas had no stimulation from the outside to bring them to place of worship.

--It is a decision that requires much effort.

--**You will never worship unless you mean to.**

4. Worship is a sacrifice. **Heb. 13:15** calls worship and praise a sacrifice on our part.

--It is giving up of focus on ourselves.

--Giving up of our agendas.

5. Worship is an extreme expression of faith.

--Worship says, "I don't need to lay out my laundry list of requests because ultimately You already know them."

--"I don't have to worry about my situation or circumstances because You are in total control."

--"I don't have to worry about my needs because You are going to meet them."

6. Worship is a matter of Obedience.

--We come to church to be moved, but we intend to stay where we are.

--"Give me an exhilarating experience, Oh God, but don't make me change, don't make me do anything."

--"I want to feel good, God, but don't rearrange my life"

--**We want to be moved emotionally, but we don't want to be moved obediently.**

Worship is a matter of heart...a matter of Focus on God who has done so much for us.

[Bertoldo De Giovanni](#) may not be a name that you would recognize, but he had the distinguished honor of being the teacher of a guy named Michael Angelo. Michael Angelo was only 14 years old when he came to Bertoldo for lessons, but he immediately recognized an unusual talent in the young man.

Bertoldo knew that gifted people will often coast and never realize their potential, so he pushed Michael Angelo hard. One day he came into the studio to find Michel Angelo toying with a piece of sculpture far beneath his abilities. Bertoldo grabbed a hammer, stomped across the room, and smashed the work

into tiny pieces, shouting this unforgettable message, "Michel Angelo, talent is cheap; dedication is costly!"

--Too many times we Christians are just like Michel Angelo in that we coast through worship and our relationship with God.

--We each have enormous potential to focus on and worship Him, but instead we just go through the motions of singing and listening.

--Coming to church is relatively cheap but true worship is costly.