

God and Worship

Introduction

I have been reading in- Gospel of John ...

Jn 21- v3, 6, 11-12, 14

Last verse in this chapter ...

Jn 21:25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written.

The life of the Lord Jesus Christ/message of His Kingdom should fill us w/excitement and hope. The Bible only gives us a partial picture of all that the Lord Jesus said and did.

Review- Mission Statement

P Tony talked about our Mission as a church- pick up the CD or go to our website.

Encounter God, Love People, Share Life

Encounter God ... our Identity

We get our identity out of who we are as sons and daughters of God, as kings and priests. Out of our encounter with God comes our value of- pursuing His presence.

Love People ... our Culture

We have been transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the KofG (Col 1.13). Imperative we learn the culture of the KofG. A major part of that culture is God's love for mankind and our love for one another. Out of this culture of Love comes our value of- calling out the best in others.

Share Life ... our Purpose

The church often identifies itself by its message.

We have an incredible message that the world needs to hear- Gospel of the KofG.

However there are many organizations with a good message- what makes us different?

For Moses what made the difference was the presence of God.

Exodus 33:15–16 (NASB95)

15Then he said to Him, “If Your presence does not go with us, do not lead us up from here.

16“For how then can it be known that I have found favor in Your sight, I and Your people? Is it not by Your going with us, so that we, I and Your people, may be distinguished from all the other people who are upon the face of the earth?”

We need first the message and second the presence/power of God to speak w/authority.

The message of God w/the presence and power of God brings- breakthrough/hope for the world

We are called to share the message about the Life Giving Christ with a dark and lost world.

Out of our purpose to share life comes our value- overflowing with His Goodness.

God and Worship

(based on a sermon by Bill Johnson- Worship and the Presence)

Worship is based on His Worth

We worship God because- worthy of our worship.

Christmas Eve- looked at why- Magi traveled so far to worship a baby who had done nothing.

They came to worship the baby for who He was-

Mat 2:2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? ...

They came to worship a Living Child- Christ Child
I do not want to settle for theological answers
without experiencing- reality of those answers.

**I do not want to be satisfied with a
concept of God and not experience the
God of that concept.**

God heals- we believe He heals but do not have
much expectation that He will actually heal me.
God provides- but doubt He will provide for us-
our situation will never change- our lot in life.
We allow the concept that God heals/provides to
satisfy our spiritual curiosity instead- pressing
in until we experience actual breakthrough.

John 5:39–40 (NASB95)

**³⁹“You search the Scriptures because
you think that in them you have eternal
life; it is these that testify about Me;
⁴⁰and you are unwilling to come to Me so
that you may have life.**

Any study of God’s Word that does not lead to an
encounter w/resurrected Christ- misses mark.
Revelation from the Word of God should draw us
into a relationship with the Living Christ.
Magi- came to experience- reality of- Living Christ
We were not designed to live with theory alone
and not experience actual reality of God’s life.
We are called to live both with the theology of
God and with an ongoing experience with God.
There is something in every believer that yearns
for a deeper reality of God’s presence w/them.
As we looked at the Christmas story ...

**Mat 1:23 “Behold, the virgin shall be with
child and shall bear a Son, and they**

shall call His name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us.”

God with us- radical concept for people.

People of that day did not believe that they could look on God and live- never mind be with Him. Yet Matthew comes and says- God will be w/us. In eternity there- no veil- we will see God clearly.

1 Cor 13:12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

How much can we see/experience of God now- this side of eternity- do not know.

When it says we see in “part”- I believe we are not experiencing all of that “part” we can have.

Psa 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving And His courts with praise.

This verse speaks of entering into the presence of God through thanksgiving and praise.

2 Sam 6- David bringing Ark to Jerusalem

David- longed for the presence of God.

2 Sam 6.2-3, 5-8, 11-16, 20, 23

You get the picture that the first time David did not seek- Lord as to how to move His presence.

When He tries again three months later- He takes a much different approach.

Big celebration- David stripped down and dancing wildly before the Lord.

Michael- embarrassed for David/despises him.

There is a difference in a Christian life that is passionate for a relationship w/God versus one that bases its worship on outward form, rules, performance- not relationship/life.

A religious mindset wants worship to be measured/controlled- to be reasonable.

A religious mindset resist and rejects extravagant displays of worship.

Look at some verses on worship ...

Psa 32:11 Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, you righteous ones; And shout for joy, all you who are upright in heart.

Psa 33:3 Sing to Him a new song; Play skillfully with a shout of joy.

Psa 47:1 O clap your hands, all peoples; Shout to God with the voice of joy.

Psa 71:23 My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to You ...

Psa 95:1 O come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, Let us shout joyfully to the rock of our salvation.

I wonder- when the Lord says- lift shouts of joy- is it only for those who are outgoing?

It seems to me that shouts of joy it is not just thinking happy thoughts.

We have an image of our personality and have believed a lie- this is not me/my personality.

God is calling all of us to extravagant worship.

I may not dance wildly like David- but I must not despise those who do- even rejoice w/them.

Heb 13:15 Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name.

Praising God is a form of sacrifice.

I do not "have to feel like it" to praise God- it does not have to be me or my personality.

Sacrifice is a step beyond convenience.

Bill Johnson

It is vital that we learn to step into realms of sacrifice- beyond what is natural/normal.

I am not saying we are all going to look a like in our worship expression, but-

is there a passion in our heart for God that takes us beyond ourselves.

When we learn to extravagantly worship/enjoy

His presence-will experience encounter w/God

That encounter will change/shape who we are.

Remember, despising extravagant worship

brought barrenness to David's wife- Michael.

Look at a scripture that talks about a woman who is already barren (nation- Israel).

Isaiah 54:1-3 (NASB95)

1“Shout for joy, O barren one, you who have borne no child; Break forth into joyful shouting and cry aloud, you who have not travailed; For the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous Than the sons of the married woman,” says the Lord.

2“Enlarge the place of your tent; Stretch out the curtains of your dwellings, spare not; Lengthen your cords And strengthen your pegs.

3“For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left. And your descendants will possess nations And will resettle the desolate cities.

Someone who is barren is to give shouts of joy while they are barren to find breakthrough.

Shouts of joy/praise bring the presence of the Lord and the presence of the Lord makes the impossible possible.

Something happens to those who give themselves extravagantly to the glory of God.

They surpass all natural boundaries- their tent is enlarged, spread out to the right and left.

When a people are willing to give God praise when they are barren- this people will succeed and find breakthrough and increase.

I am going to move toward sacrifice and praise and worship God in my barrenness.

There is a divine exchange that takes place when we praise God in the middle of barrenness. We exchange our barrenness for His bounty.

Conclusion

Worship team come forward.

We want to take some time now and offer our extravagant worship to God.

If you have areas of your life where you need breakthrough- this is a time for shouts of joy.

If you are experiencing difficulties in your life- boldly offer up the sacrifice of praise.

Allow God to take you beyond your natural limitations in your expression of worship.

It may help to come down front and worship Him.

Ministry Team