**A Worship That Pleases God**

**Genesis 22:1-5** - **Abraham’s Faith Confirmed - 22**Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

**2**Then He said, “Take now your son, your only *son* Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”

**3**So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. **4**Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place from afar off. **5**And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and ***worship***, and we will come back to you.”

**Subject**: **My Worship Is for Real**

I am totally convinced that at some time in our lives, ***God will test our loyalty*** to Him *by asking us to* ***give up the very thing we love*** and t*hink we cannot live without*. **Why?**

* **God is jealous** for our affections, and He does not want to be an addition to our plans. **He wants the priority seat in our lives and hearts.**
* **There's nothing more important** in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ **than our worship**.
* **My worship is more important** than my preaching.
* There will come a day when my preaching will **no longer be necessary**; but **my worship will always be necessary**.
* ***Every believer* is called to be *a worshipper***; in the book of **John chapter 4**; where Jesus is having a dialogue with *the Samaritan woman at the well*,

**He speaks to her and to us about *the reality of worship*!**

**John 4:23 -** Yet a time is coming and has now come ***when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth***, for they are ***the kind of worshipers the Father seeks***.

This woman was talking about **the way her people worship** on a particular mountain when **Jesus let her know that worship** ***was not*** about being in a particular location or the right place; ***but rather having the right attitude.***

* *It's about having* ***the right spirit*** and

**Jesus says to her God is seeking worship.**

* It's good to hear great sermons and I know I’ve been blessed to deliver great sermons from this pulpit; but *he's not seeking great preachers*, he said **I'm seeking worshippers**.

**It is *important for us to understand* that there is a vast difference between *praise and worship*.**

**It is valuable to understand three things about praise.**

1. **Praise Is Natural - All you need is breath.**

*The scripture plainly and in numerous passages describes* ***the things within nature that demonstrate*** and actively participate in **the praise to the one true God**.

**Psalm 96:11-12 - 11**Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; **12**Let the field be joyful, and all that *is* in it.
Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice.

**All of Creation is involved in *the continual praise* of the Creator.**

* The Blossoming of the rose
* The glistening dew on the grass
* Even the sounds of the birds, **God's creature**.
* All are in some measure **praise of nature** *to the Creator*.
* The morning song of the birds or the chirping crickets in the evening.
* These are all singing in **the Creation Choir of Praise!**
1. **Praise Is Mandatory**-***Jesus was admonished to silence the praise of the throng on his triumphal entry into Jerusalem***.

**Luke 19:40 -** “I tell you,” He replied, ***“if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”***

The mention of rocks or stones crying out is found in the context of the [**triumphal entry**](https://www.gotquestions.org/triumphal-entry.html)—Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem a week before He was killed. Jesus rode on the back of a borrowed donkey’s colt, and multitudes of people ***praised Him* as the “king who comes in the name of the Lord”** ([Luke 19:38](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/Luke%2019.38)).

**In saying that the stones will cry out,** Jesus indicates that the people’s acclamations should be encouraged, not suppressed.

The people of Jerusalem are expressing great joy, and that joy is so appropriate, so necessary, that, ***if they did not express praise***, it would be appropriate for inanimate objects to fill the void.

**Colossians 1:16** says that **all creation was made for God’s glory**. ***Everything in creation declares His praise***.

***Gen. 1:27 - Humans are created in God’s image*** - **so we are the ones who should be praising God.**

* His retort was*,* ***"If these hold their peace the rocks and stones will cry out."***
* What we see is that **praise is going to be done**.

**Philippians 2:9-11 -** 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**That's praise:** ***You either praise him now, or praise him later, but Jesus is going to be praised by you and I one way or the other.***

1. **Understand That Praise Requires No Virtue - *(behavior showing high moral standards).***

***The fact that praise is natural and mandatory, brings it into a dimension that requires no virtue***.

**The Reasons for Praise** are numerous.

* **We praise God for** our health, wealth, and wisdom.
* **We praise him** because we have a job.
* **We praise him** because our bills are paid.
* **We praise God for** our families, homes, and material things.
* **We testify to his** healing, provision, and protection.
* **We do this because of** *what he has done for us* and *through us*.

**Can we still echo *his praise when* things fall apart?** Can we still ***praise him*** when *he seems silent*? Can we still ***praise him*** when it is *our loved ones in the casket*?

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**It takes *a real worshipper* to do this because unlike praise, *worship becomes deeper than praise*.**

* No longer is ***my expression of adoration*** limited to ***the fruit of my lips***

***Now it manifests out of a deep understanding of who God is***.

**This expression now involves not** only **my lips** but **my soul** and **my spirit** also and ***worship becomes* the vehicle** ***by which my entire being is transported into the presence* of the Lord.**

**Worship Is Taking It to Another Level**

* ***The first time this word is mentioned in the Bible***, is the text we read today. If we view this text and use the Law of First reference, **we can learn a lot** about **what worship is** in this setting.

**First and foremost – 1. Unlike praise, worship requires preparation**.

* **Abraham is asked by God to sacrifice Isaac.** **Genesis 22:1-2**
* Abraham rises early the next morning and takes all the things he needs and *begins to journey to the place* ***God showed him to go***.
* I can't help but to imagine ***the mental struggle that Abraham must have gone through*** when **God gave him** this message.
* **Yet he did not doubt God.**
* **From experience** *he knew* that **God must have a purpose**.
* **He knew** that **God is still a loving God**.
* **He knew** that **God is faithful** and will fulfill **what He has promised**.
* **He had a confident assurance** that ***God could make a way*** **where there seemed to be *no way*.**

**And *with that kind of faith*,** Abraham got up early the next morning and prepared for the trip.

* He *cut enough wood* for the burnt offering and *saddled his donkey*.
* He took *two of his servants* and started his journey.

***God asked him to offer up his son on a mountain in Moriah,*** and it would take him 3 days.

* Those 3 days *must have been* ***very difficult days*.**
* **Abraham had many opportunities to turn back.**
* He had many chances **to question God and disobey Him**.
* He had a long time to think this through.
* **Yet step by step *he moved on*.**

The bible ***described that struggle on purpose***.

**Hebrews 11:17-19 - *The Faith of the Patriarchs***

17 **By faith Abraham**, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, “In Isaac your seed shall be called,” 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.

**Vs.17** *– He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son.*

**Vs.18 –** Even though God had said to him, ***“In Isaac your seed shall be called,”***

***But how can God fulfill His promise if Isaac is dead?*** *Abraham did not ask*.

**Vs.19 -** Describes to us *the inner workings of Abraham’s faith*. ***“God was able to raise him up, even from the dead.”***

***Abraham must have been thinking*** that *even if Isaac is dead*, ***God can still fulfill His promise by raising him back to life***.

***He believed in God’s power to do this because he had seen God’s power firsthand in the birth of Isaac.***

* So, in his heart, he was all ***prepared to offer up Isaac*.**
* In his mind, ***Isaac was as good as dead.***

**2. Worship Requires Separation – Genesis 22:5 -** **5**And Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; the lad and ***I will go yonder and worship***, and we will come back to you.”

* **Separation** should not be ***confused with isolation***.
* It's difficult, if not impossible, **to worship** with people ***who are not devoted***!

When Abraham gets close, *he leaves his servants* and tells them, ***"We are going yonder to worship."*** **What was Abraham about to do?**

* Very often, we rationalize our way ***into disobedience***.
* We look at the situation, and after thinking through, we end up ***disobeying God because we find many reasons*** why we should not go ahead.
* **We give excuses** of **why God’s command is difficult to follow**.
* ***Abraham reasoned his way*** *into obedience*.
* Thinking it through he ended up saying, ***“Well, God can raise the dead!”***
* **He believed God and trusted Him completely.**

***His son asked,*** ***“Where’s the lamb?”*** **Genesis 22:8 - 8*“My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.”*** So, the two of them went together.

**That’s *faith speaking*!!! And indeed, God did provide a lamb. *Abraham named the mountain, “God will provide.”*** ***(Jehovah-jireh)***

***God had proven again to be faithful and true. Take note*** of something else here:

* **God isn’t** interested in human sacrifice.
* **God was** interested in **Abraham’s heart**.
* The Bible tells us very clearly **God gave Abraham this instruction as a test**.
* **That’s how our faith in God can grow strong** *through tests in life*.
* God wanted to test what was in **Abraham’s heart**.

**Abraham’s faith enabled him to see into the future.**

* To see that there will come a time ***when God makes a way where there seemed to be no way***.
* **That God loves us** and will act in our best interests, for our good.

**3. Worship Requires Total Surrender - *Abraham was about to give God everything that was important and valuable to him.***

* **The proof of his faith,** the essence of his hope and the fruit of his lifelong journey with God.

It is important to understand that ***worship is not one dimensional***.

***Three Dimensions* of True Worship**

1. **True Worship Is an Act of *Surrender***

**Romans 12:1-2 - A Living Sacrifice -** 12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

**Worship includes the giving of thanks.**

* It includes a Hebrew word **yaddah** which is the lifting of hands.
* Then there is the **halal** to praise God *there is the lifting of hallelujahs*.

***Real worship is an atmosphere filled with the lifting of hands in thanks to God and the praising of God with hallelujahs.***

Abraham journeyed ***with an understanding that he was surrendering*** *his* **hope, faith, and dreams** *into the hand and will of God*.

1. **True Worship Is an Act of *Obedience* -**Abraham proceeded to fulfill the command of God obediently, ***without question or complaint***.
* We may ***grumble and complain***, but ***if we can find that place of absolute obedience,*** this is **where we enter *worship***.
* **Obedience,** ***Positioning ourselves under the authority of our God!***

**3. True Worship Is an Act of Sacrifice - Sacrifice is the key component to see the consummation of worship**. **Worship without sacrifice *is not worship*.**

**We see it in David *when his son died*.** He went to **the Temple *to worship***.

* There is **something about worship** that *recalibrates the soul*.
* But **worship** is not the natural instinct of the depressed person.
* ***When gloom closes in*** and all that once drove our life fades,
* We tend to want to *pull the blanket over our head and bail out on God*.

**Psalm 51:17 - *The way to please you is to be truly sorry deep in our hearts. This is the kind of sacrifice you won't refuse.***

**When we sincerely seek God’s forgiveness for our sins, it’s a sacrifice that he will never turn away!**

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**There are three necessary ingredients for worship.**

* In his journey**, Abraham took three things with him. Wood/Fire/Knife!**

***To Achieve True Worship, you must be willing to take the right ingredients.***

* 1. ***Wood* - Something that is already dead, something that easily burns, something that can be consumed.**
* These are the issues, questions, things that are already dead.
* Everyone has some wood.
* If you are living for God to any degree, you can gather enough wood to start a fire.
	1. ***Fire* - a thing that is Hot, a thing that has Light, a thing that will consume the dead and the living in it.**
* **The fire changes the** molecular structure of anything it encounters.
* ***You take the wood you have and put the fire to it***, and *you have created an atmosphere* to **deal with those things that are still alive**.
	1. ***Knife* - This is where Worship comes in. Anybody can build a fire, but worship without sacrifice is just a cookout.**

***When we will sacrifice and put to the altar everything,*** this is where ***God begins to interact in our lives*** **in an even *more abundant way*.**

**When you get the dead in order, you can get the fire burning, it is time to use the knife on those things that are still alive that God is asking for.**

**It is in this place of worship** where ***God Answers His Promises to us*.**

* When you are ***willing*** *to enter the presence of God* ***with more than praise***.
* When you are ***willing*** *to enter the presence of God* ***with more than a song***.
* When you are ***willing*** *to go beyond* - **Worship is the ultimate privilege of humanity.**

***I believe it is true worship that the father seeks and the angels desire* -** To get into that domain **that can only be *occupied by you and me.***

* **You have a song,** *no one else can sing*.
* **You have an offering to give,** that *no one else can give*.
* **You have a light** that *no one else can shine*. ***Expressed through Worship!***

**CLOSE:**

**Are you sure you're a worshipper?**

**Luke 7:34-50 -** The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ 35 But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”

**Jesus Anointed by a Sinful Woman -** 36 When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37 A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there ***with an alabaster jar of perfume.*** 38 As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.

39 When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, ***“If this man were a prophet,*** he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”

40 Jesus answered him, **“Simon, I have something to tell you.”** “Tell me, teacher,” he said.

41 “Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. **Now which of them will love him more?”**

43 Simon replied, **“I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”** “You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.

44 Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, **“Do you see this woman?** I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45 You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46 You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. **47 Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”**

48 Then Jesus said to her, **“Your sins are forgiven.”** 49 The other guests began to say among themselves, “Who is this who even forgives sins?” 50 Jesus said to the woman, **“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”**

***Like the woman with the alabaster box***, *only she knew* ***what her deliverance from demons entailed*** so she broke the box.

**You and I *can be in a religion* yet never worship God.**

* ***Religion*** is about *coming to church*.
* ***Relationship*** *is worshipping* while you are at church…
* Because *you can come to church* and **never *worship*.**
* **Worship** *is not an event*; **worship** *is an encounter*.
* There are a lot of folks who come to an event **but never have an encounter**.

***The truth* of the matter is - - -**

***If worship is an encounter and not an event, I don’t have to be in church to have worship because I can have an encounter with God without an event.***

**Whenever I have *an encounter with God*, it becomes *an event*!!!**

* Which means sometimes I **have an event** in my shower,
* I can have an event while driving down the street.

***And the beauty of my event with God is that -***

* I do not have to **invite anybody to it**.
* It’s *an event* **with me and Jesus**.
* Do I have a witness?