

"How to Worship God"

Sermon Based Discussion (September 1, 2013)
Church wide sermon

WARM UP

1. What is your most memorable (group, not individual) worship experience?

For those of us who follow Jesus, we regularly attend a weekly worship service. For many it becomes a routine that we follow without really examining our attitudes and actions.

INTO THE BIBLE (Read Psalm 95)

2. The Psalm can be organized into three calls (I: vs. 1-5; II: vs.6-7; III: vs. 8-11). Compare and contrast among the three parts.
3. In I there is a call to worship with joy. What is the basis of this call?
4. The phrase "let us" is repeated six times. What does this say about God's desire for corporate or group worship?

UNDERSTANDING

5. Verse 3 says the Lord is "a great King above all gods". Does that mean other gods exist?

6. Verse 6 is a call to reverent worship indicated by the verbs to worship (literally "to prostrate"), to bow down, and to kneel. The basis of this call is in some sense our intimate relationship with God. How does this compare to your personal experience?

7. The mood of the Psalm changes dramatically in vs. 7 and 8 to a warning. Read Exodus 17:1-7 and Hebrews 3:7-4:13. What insights do you receive regarding the warning here?

DIFFERENCE

8. The last section of the Psalm warns us that God is not pleased with our worship if we do not respond to what He reveals to us by faith. It is easy to worship and obey when things are going well but how can we do this when things are not going well?

APPLICATION

9. Many of us are consistently late for worship service. How does this displease God? What can we do practically to come on time and to show respect for the Lord?

FOR REFLECTION

Matt 15:7-9

7 You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said:

8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;

9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

ESV