



SERMON NOTES & PERSONAL/GROUP STUDY

Sunday, November 8

THEME

WORSHIP

THE HEART OF WORSHIP by Matt Redman

VERSE 1

When the music fades
All is stripped away
And I simply come
Longing just to bring
Something that's of worth
That will bless Your heart

PRE-CHORUS

I'll bring You more than a song
For a song in itself
Is not what You have required
You search much deeper within
Through the way things appear
You're looking into my heart

CHORUS

I'm coming back to the heart of worship
And it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it
When it's all about You, it's all about You, Jesus

When you come through the doors on a Sunday, **WHAT** are you bringing as your offering to God?

- Do you bring to God a PREPARED HEART or a PRIDEFUL HEART?
- Do you bring your BEST to Him or your LEFT OVERS?
- Do you bring a SELFISH ATTITUDE or a SELFLESS ATTITUDE?

WHY do you come to church?

- Do you come to church because it's what you ALWAYS DO ON A SUNDAY?
- Do you come just out of HABIT or ROUTINE?
- Do you come to be SEEN BY OTHERS?
- Do you come because you LIKE THE MUSIC or do you NOT want to come because you DON'T LIKE THE MUSIC?
- DO YOU EVER COME TO CHURCH SIMPLY EXPECTING TO ENCOUNTER A HOLY & AWESOME GOD WHO CREATED YOU TO WORSHIP HIM?

WHAT is WORSHIP?

- Worship is NOT about YOU -- worship is SHOWING REVERENCE & ADORATION TO GOD.
- Worship is FOR GOD & GOD ALONE.
- Worship is a SENSE OF GRATITUDE IN YOUR HEART for what God has done for you.
- Worship is the opportunity to MEET WITH YOUR CREATOR and OFFER HIM YOUR VERY BEST -- your best ATTITUDE -- your best SINGING -- the best of your WAGES -- the best of your PRAYERS -- and most importantly the best of YOUR HEART!
- The CONDITION OF YOUR HEART determines your ABILITY TO WORSHIP.
- **Proverbs 4:23** -- *"Guard your heart above all else, for it is the source of life."*
- Did you GUARD YOUR HEART this week from things you SHOULDN'T LOOK AT -- from things you SHOULDN'T READ -- from things you SHOULDN'T WATCH -- from things you SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO?
- What you allow your EARS TO HEAR & your EYES TO SEE affect your MIND, which affects your HEART.

WHAT has God done for you?

- Has He given you LIFE?
- Has He provided for your DAILY NEEDS?
- Has He BLESSED YOU in any way?
- Has He shown you in any way HOW MUCH HE LOVES YOU?
- Has He provided a way for you to NOT FACE HIS WRATH?
- Did He provide a way for you to be FORGIVEN OF YOUR SINS?
- Did He SACRIFICE HIS ONLY SON -- Jesus -- by having Him BEATEN and NAILED TO A CROSS for your sake?
- Did He RAISE HIS SON FROM THE DEAD so that you could have eternal life?

What does the Bible say about HOW you should worship a Holy God?

- **Romans 12:1** -- *“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.”*
- **1 Samuel 12:24** -- *“Above all, fear the Lord and worship him faithfully with all your heart; consider the great things he has done for you.”*
- **John 4:23-24** -- *“But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”*
- **Psalms 13:5** -- *“I will sing to the Lord because he has treated me generously.”*
- **Colossians 3:16** -- *“Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you, in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another through psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts.”*
- **Psalms 95:1-7** -- *“Come, let’s shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let’s enter his presence with thanksgiving; let’s shout triumphantly to him in song. For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in his hand, and the mountain peaks are his. The sea is his; he made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let’s worship and bow down; let’s kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care.”*
- **Isaiah 12:5** -- *“Sing to the Lord, for he has done glorious things. Let this be known throughout the earth.”*
- **Hebrews 13:15** -- *“Therefore, through him let us continually offer up to God a sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name.”*
- **Luke 4:8** -- *“And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’”*
- **Psalms 96:9** -- *“Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.”*
- **Psalms 150:1-6** -- *“Hallelujah! Praise God in his sanctuary. Praise him in his mighty expanse. Praise him for his powerful acts; praise him for his abundant greatness. Praise him with the blast of a ram’s horn; praise him with harp and lyre. Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and flute. Praise him with resounding cymbals; praise him with clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Hallelujah!”*
- **Revelation 4:11** -- *“Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.”*
- **Isaiah 25:1** -- *“Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you. I will praise your name, for you have accomplished wonders, plans formed long ago, with perfect faithfulness.”*
- **2 Samuel 7:22** -- *“This is why you are great, Lord God. There is no one like you, and there is no God besides you, as all we have heard confirms.”*
- **1 Kings 8:22-23** -- *“Then Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire congregation of Israel and spread out his hands toward heaven. He said: ‘Lord God of Israel, there is no God like you in*

heaven above or on earth below, who keeps the gracious covenant with your servants who walk before you with all their heart.”

- **Habakkuk 2:20** -- *“But the Lord is in his holy temple; let the whole earth be silent in his presence.”*

WHAT are **PRACTICAL** ways to worship God?

- **INDIVIDUALLY** -- you alone with God
 - engaging in SCRIPTURE & PRAYER daily
 - SINGING
 - MEDITATING ON GOD’S WORD throughout the day
 - By the LIFESTYLE you choose to live -- do your actions, words, & lifestyle point people to God or away from Him?
- **CORPORATELY** -- together with other believers
 - Reading, speaking, and studying SCRIPTURE
 - PRAYING to God -- pouring out your heart to Him with HURT or THANKSGIVING
 - SINGING -- whether you can SING or NOT -- whether you LIKE THE SONG OR NOT -- you worship God by LIFTING UP YOUR VOICE TO HIM or simply by SAYING THE WORDS
 - TITHES & OFFERINGS -- YOUR MONEY IS NOT YOURS -- GOD ALLOWS YOU to have what you have -- He tells you and me TO GIVE TO BACK TO HIM so that He can USE IT TO BUILD HIS KINGDOM as the church MINISTERS IN VARIOUS WAYS
 - **MALACHI 3:10** -- *“Bring the full tenth into the storehouse so that there may be food in my house. Test me in this way,’ says the Lord of Armies. ‘See if I will not open the floodgates of heaven and pour out a blessing for you without measure.”* -- we will talk more about this NEXT WEEK -- you don’t want to miss it!
 - COMMUNION -- worshiping God by REMEMBERING HIS SACRIFICE on our behalf

WHERE should you worship a holy God?

- WHEREVER YOU ARE -- it is not just while you are at church

WHEN should you worship a holy God?

- 24 hrs a day -- 7 days a week -- 365 days a year
- WORSHIP STARTS with your PERSONAL TIME WITH GOD -- then when you arrive on Sunday morning with other believers to worship God -- your WORSHIP should come out of the OVERFLOW OF YOUR HEART from the TIME YOU SPENT WITH GOD during the week.

WHY should you worship a holy God?

- Because He has proved His LOVE for you by sending His Son Jesus to die on the cross to pay the penalty for your sin.
- Because He has PROVIDED for all of your needs
- Because He is God and we are not
- **Isaiah 40:12-26** -- *“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span of his hand? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains on a balance and the hills on the scales? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or who gave him counsel? 14 Who did he consult? Who gave him understanding and taught him the paths of justice? Who taught him knowledge and showed him the way of understanding? 15 Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket; they are considered as a speck of dust on the scales; he lifts up the islands like fine dust. 18 With whom will you compare God? What likeness will you set up for comparison with him? 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not considered the foundations of the earth? 22 God is enthroned above the circle of the earth; its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like thin cloth and spreads them out like a tent to live in. 23 He reduces princes to nothing and makes judges of the earth like a wasteland. 24 They are barely planted, barely sown, their stem hardly takes root in the ground when he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind carries them away like stubble. 25 “To whom will you compare me, or who is my equal?” asks the Holy One. 26 Look up and see! Who created these? He brings out the stars by number; he calls all of them by name. Because of his great power and strength, not one of them is missing.”*

What has God received from you TODAY?

- Have you given Him your best through SINGING -- PRAYER -- READING & STUDYING GOD’S WORD -- TITHES & OFFERINGS? Are you withholding your best from Him?
- He didn’t withhold His best from you -- He deserves your VERY BEST because He gave you His VERY BEST!

HOW should you respond to God right now?

- REPENTANCE -- is there sin you need to confess & turn away from that is not of God?
- LISTEN -- do you need to just sit still and bask in His presence?
- PRAY -- talk to God about whatever is on your heart
- SING -- do you need to SING a song to the Lord out of a GRATEFUL HEART?
- GIVE -- have you been withholding financially what rightfully belongs to God -- if so, you are missing out on a tremendous blessing!

TAKEAWAY

- **WORSHIP** is not about you -- it’s about giving your BEST to a HOLY GOD every second of your life because He gave His BEST for you!



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Face the Issue:

This week, Drew continued our new series, “God’s Expectations of a Christian”. Each week we will be looking at the basics that God expects of His people. This week’s topic is Worship.

Drew’s takeaway was “Worship is not about you- it’s about giving your best to God every second of your life because He gave His best for you.”

Drew used the lyrics and the story of the song “The Heart of Worship” as an example of worship being centered on Christ and not us. The truth is that too many times our selfishness can creep into our worship and we tend to criticize what we do not like and lose sight of the object of worship.

What kind of worship music did you grow up on? Do you still enjoy it?

Today are you more a fan of traditional or of contemporary worship music?

In what ways can we worship God besides music?

Does the prospect of worshipping God forever in heaven seem boring or exciting? Why?

What do you do if you don’t like a particular hymn or worship song that our church is singing?

Into the Word

Many people have the idea that worship originates with us and moves to God. That is not really biblical. Worship actually begins with God but it does not stay there.

Read Isaiah 6:1–8.

At the time of this writing, our country is in a time of chaos. People are divided over an election and tensions are high. This is very similar to the time that Isaiah is describing. The king had died and the country was in an uproar and divided.

What do you think lifts Isaiah’s eyes and heart heavenward? Describe what he saw in the first two verses. How do you think his perspective was changed?

In what two ways do the seraphs describe God (v. 3)? How do they induce our worship?

Verse 4 indicates the powerful presence of God, something that produces shock and awe in Isaiah. Do you have a similar sense of fear when you come to worship? Why or why not?

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Isaiah is filled with fear and remorse for his sins and those of his people (v. 5). How does repentance factor into true worship? How should a repentant people approach worship?

How does God respond to repentance (vv. 6–7)? How does his mercy encourage even more worship?

Isaiah's worship turns to service (v. 8). Describe a time when your worship prompted you to similarly drop your agenda to pursue God's.

Apply The Word

Read John 4:7-26

In the biblical account of Jesus talking with the Samaritan woman, there is a point in the conversation that gets a little too personal and uncomfortable for the woman and she tries to change the subject to worship. She questions Jesus about what is the correct way to worship. Jesus answers her plainly and lovingly.

How does His answer serve as a model for us today?

What two elements does God require of those who worship Him (v. 24)? What do they mean? How can we work to insure that these two elements remain primary in our worship?