

“Worship”

Sermon preached by Dave Wickham
Kirkmont Presbyterian Church
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Text: Psalm 100
#9 in a Series of 10

Lord – Please help us to feel your presence as we worship you this morning. Hear us as we show our love for you and glorify you!!

The core value that I am going to discuss today is **Worship**. Worship is part of the Glorify portion of our mission statement -- Go, Grow and Glorify.

Worship: In worship (Psalm 100), through the proclamation of the Word and the practice of the sacraments, we seek to glorify the One Sovereign God (Romans 11:31). We depend upon the Holy Spirit to move God’s people through passionate Biblical preaching, soul-filled music, and the prayers of the community of faith. We confess that the Triune God is the object of our worship and that our worship is made acceptable to Him only through the work of the Holy Spirit and His transformation of our hearts, not by any worship style or personal preference.

I want to begin by reading Psalm 100. Shout for Joy to the Lord!! When we talk about worship it reminds me of the introduction to all the VeggieTales cartoons – they show pictures of their children -- young toddlers running around -- and then they say “Why we do what we do!” When we are talking about worshipping God – we need to turn that phrase into a question – Why do we do the things we do in worship? I think Steven Curtis Chapman answers the question best in one of his songs -- we do the things we do because -- “God is God and I am not.” We are His, he made us, he made everything around us and we are his, so we show our love for him and glorify him. He is God, so we worship him with gladness.

I wrote this sermon on Myrtle Beach. It was 80 degrees and sunny and the ocean waves were coming in. There were full moons at night and clear blue skies during the day. (It was tough duty but someone had to do it.) It was easy to appreciate God’s beautiful creation. It was easy to praise and worship him. There were a lot of people around – I wondered how many were giving glory to God for his creation.

Many were worshipping their own bodies, many were worshipping the bodies of others; many were worshipping the sun or their cell phones (or i-pods) or any number of other things. It was hard to find any expression of worship of God. There were hundreds of people – all doing their own things in little groups. All enjoying God’s beauty; relaxing, playing, tanning, reading – but they were not outwardly rejoicing in the Lord – Phil 4:4-6 – They were not rejoicing in the Lord always. They did not appear to be celebrating the life, death and resurrection of Christ. In fact, they were almost little islands barely aware of the others around them and doing their own things. Psalm 100 tells us we are called to glorify God – How? By shouting Joyfully and serving with Gladness; and coming before him with songs -- (fortunately for all of us – I may shout joyfully or serve with gladness, but my singing will be softly singing).

Other Psalms are similar in their commands: **Psalm 95:1-2**, “Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.” **Psalm 96:1-2**, “Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.” **Psalm 97:1**, “The LORD reigns, let the earth be glad; let the distant shores rejoice.” **Psalm 98**, “Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him.” **Psalm 99:1-3**, “The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble; he sits enthroned between the cherubim, let the earth shake. Great is the LORD in Zion; he is exalted over all the nations. Let them praise your great and awesome name— he is holy.”

I could go on – but it is clear that our worship is to be a little noisy. Whether we are worshipping on Sunday or throughout the week – we are not to hold back our praise for God. We need to make some noise in our worship of the Lord.

I’ve noticed recently even Sunday worship for some Christians has become more of a program than worship. The newspaper and yellow page ads for churches often refer to celebrations or services or programs or speakers rather than worship -- but Jesus is very specific in telling us to worship in truth and spirit – John 4:23-24. Why do we come together to worship – as a group we praise God and encourage one another; we renew and rejoice and recharge for our weekly worship that we carry out in our lives.

The worship on Sunday morning and in our small groups prepares us for worship in our individual lives throughout the week. That’s why it is essential that we worship in **Truth** and **spirit**. The English word for Worship means to declare worth. We are declaring God’s worth or place in our lives. We need that energy; we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. If our worship can be duplicated in a secular event then it’s not worship. We declare his worth not only in worship, but in Evangelism, Mission, Reform, Grace, Discipleship, Prayer, Word and Witness - - the other core values of our Mission and Vision Statement. Our worship energizes us to carry out those other means of worship.

William Barclay Wrote: “The true, the genuine worship is when man, through his spirit attains friendship and intimacy with God. True worship is not to come to a certain place, it is not to go through a certain ritual or liturgy; it is not even to bring certain gifts; True worship is when the spirit, the invisible, immortal part of man, speaks to and meets with God who is immortal and invisible.”

Richard Foster in Celebration of Discipline provides insight into these worship issues. He says:

“To worship is to experience reality, to touch life. It is to know, to feel, to experience the resurrected Christ in the midst of the gathered community.”

John Piper in Desiring God says – “Worship is a way of gladly reflecting back to God the radiance of His worth.”

The Westminster Confession tell us the -- “The chief end of Man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever.”

Jesus tells us in Mark 12:30 “to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Worship must be a priority in our lives. Then we understand that we are his sheep; he is the shepherd and we gladly serve God by loving our neighbors. If we are experiencing God in our worship, our service to him will certainly follow.

To quote Richard Foster again: “God calls for worship that involves our whole being. The body, mind, spirit and emotions should be laid on the altar of worship.” We need whole – hearted worship.

Today I want to move forward with something a little different. I want us to worship with body, mind, spirit, and emotion. I will need some congregation assistance/participation.

As I was on the beach earlier this month, (and following another OSU loss to Florida) I wondered what would happen if we put the energy we put into our sports teams into our worship of Christ. This morning I want us to use some of the techniques we use to cheer at sporting events to worship God.

Let’s watch the jumbo screen and begin; let’s see if we can make some noise in worship.

Are you Ready for some worship?

We might start out with a song akin to the National anthem for Christians – “Jesus Loves me” -- let's rise and sing it.

Creation – Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth.” And a beautiful creation it is . . .

[Make some Noise]

Adam and Eve and the serpent – “Genesis 3:6, “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

[Boooooooo]

Rainbow – Gen 9:13, “I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.”

[Awesome]

Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-17, “And the Lord spoke these words...and gave us the Ten Commandments.”

[Did you see that?]

John 3:16 – Here’s something we always see at sporting events. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

[Clapping]

Nativity – Luke 2:13-14, “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.’ ”

This one will be easy for Ohio state people – Michigan people watch your neighbor.

[Jesus is H-O L-Y]

Lord's Prayer – Mathew 6:9-13, "This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.’ ”

[Great Pray]

Bread and wine – Luke 22:19-20, “And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.’ ”

[Do the wave for Jesus -- Starting with front around]

Jesus on Cross – John 19:30, “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished.’ With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

Seventh inning stretch -- To the tune of take me out to the ball game

Today we praise our Lord Jesus
We praise his forgiveness of sins
He bought our salvation upon the cross
Without Him our ticket to heaven is lost
Let us give, give, give him all glory
We'll sing, we'll shout and we'll praise
For it's one, two, three days he rose
From a dark, cold grave

Empty tomb – Mark 16:6, “ ‘Don't be alarmed,’ he said. ‘You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him.’ ” Stand and Make some noise

[Wor- ship sign]

Church – Acts 2:3-4, “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

[We've Got Spirit]

(Whistle -- two minute warning) – John 14:6, “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’ ” That is a true warning. We have victory in Jesus!!

As you leave your worship experience today the PA announcer might say “Please remember Matthew 28:16-20, go make disciples of all nations and please return next week.”

Can we give Jesus the energy we give our sports and other hobbies? Clay Crosse has a song – What would you do for a King? It poses a question for all of us. I'd like to play that for you now. The words will be on the screen – for your information.

What would you do for a king
If He won all the battles He went out to fight
And returned as a hero on a starlit night to a cheering crowd...
Would it make you proud?

And what would you do for a king
If He kept every promise that He'd ever made
Would you get out the tickertape and lead a parade, a society ball...
Or would you care at all?

Kings always seemed to me as such grand, imposing men
So full of stature, full of power
Such great authority in every word they say
I never thought I was quite the type
But I'd still love to meet one someday

So what would you do for a king
If He came to your door, would you ask Him in
Would you tell Him how much you admired Him
Do you think you'd dare
Or would you be to scared?

Most king's don't seem to know much about the common man
So far removed and set apart
I cheer with thousands, we blend into a roar
Another face in an endless crowd
Is that all I really am, just one more...

So what would you do for a king
If He saw you fishing out by the sea
And He walked up to you and said "Follow me - It's time you know"
Do you think you'd go?

And what would you do for a king
If He took off his crown and agreed to die
And as you tried to understand it, He looked you in the eye and said,
"This is for you"
Well, what would you do?

So I ask you, what will you do for our king? Today? Throughout the week?

Go Grow and Glorify!!!

Amen!