

Wonder - Worship Changes Us

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September 17th, 2023

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will come ready to worship God in spirit and truth.
- I will come early and prepare my heart for worship.
- I will worship in a way that reflects my heart.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Worship is about God. We worship God solely because God is worthy, because he is immeasurably, incalculably, and unalterably good. We don't worship to get something out of it, but because God is so good, when we worship, we do get something out of it. When we worship, our hearts get full of joy and gratitude and we want to avoid sin. But when we refuse to enter into worship, other things happen in our minds.

We become anxious about tomorrow. We envy people who have what we don't and it chokes off gratitude. We become negative and judgmental towards other people. We get discouraged and easily defeated by setbacks. That's the non-worshipping mind. There is no clearer example in all of Scripture of the difference between the non-worshipping mind and the worshipping mind than in Psalm 73, which is what we will study this Sunday as we continue our study "The Wonder of Worship."

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Psalms 73:1-3 Why did the Psalmist say, "My feet had almost slipped"?
2. Verse 11 tells us about people who seem to have it all together apart from God.. "They say, 'How can God know? Does the Most High have knowledge?'" When you think of people like this, have you ever envied them?

3. Read verses 15-17. What understanding eventually came to the Psalmist?

4. Verse 17 says, "Until I entered the sanctuary of God.." What about being in God's house/presence changed the writer's perspective?

5. Verse 22 says, "I was senseless and ignorant. I was a brute beast before You." What did you take away from Pastor Matt's story of the dog and the electric fence?

6. After the Psalmist confesses being a brute beast verse 25 says, "Whom have I in heaven but you? And earth has nothing I desire but you." Have you ever experienced this realization when you come to church and worship?

7. II Corinthians says, "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." How does worship help you to do this?

8. Acts 16:25 says, "About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God and the other prisoners were listening to them." Have you ever been in a similar situation where everything was going wrong around you and you started worshiping God? What happened as a result?

9. Read Habakkuk 3:17-19. The message of these verses is to praise the Lord no matter what happens to you. How often are you able to confront your problems with praise?

10. In II Chronicles 20 we see that in the face of an attack from a more powerful enemy God shows up and says, “Do not be afraid. Do not be discouraged. Go out and face them tomorrow and the Lord will be with you.” And as God’s people begin to sing and praise (v 22) the Lord set ambushes against the enemy. How do you feel when you read this?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will come to worship when the church gathers even when I don’t feel like it.
- I will work at taking every thought captive to obey Christ.
- I will worship God even when I’m hurt.
- I will worship God even when I’m disappointed.
- I will worship God even when I’m afraid.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Psalm 73
- 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Acts 16:22-26
- Habakkuk 3:17-19
- 2 Chronicles 20:17-22

Prayer Request(s)
