

Read John 4

When Jesus was talking to the lady at the well, He called her out on the fact that she had been married 5 times and the man she was with now, she wasn't even married to. In His conversation with her, I believe He was trying to get her to understand that she was searching to be fulfilled and to have her thirst quenched by things that were not meant to fulfill.

Those things are benefits in our life. They are added bonuses that God blesses us with. But true fulfillment comes when, as Jesus explained in John 4:21-24, we are able to worship Him in Spirit and in Truth . What Jesus was saying is that your life is defined by your worship. Does your life worship God?

Your worship is an expression of gratitude towards God for His faithfulness toward you.

You may wonder why we worship the way we do on a Sunday morning? The simplest way to say it is we are commanded to.

Psalm 5:7, "But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple."

Psalm 34:1, "I will extol the LORD at all times; his praise will always be on my lips."

Psalm 35:28, "My tongue will speak of your righteousness and of your praises all day long."

Psalm 66:8, "Praise our God, O peoples, let the sound of his praise be heard;"

Psalm 68:24-26, "Your procession has come into view, O God, the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary. In front are the singers, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation; praise the LORD in the assembly of Israel."

Psalm 95:2, "Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Psalm 96:8-9, "Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth."

Psalm 100:4, "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name."

Psalm 145:1-2, "I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever. Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever."

Hebrews 13:15, "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name."

Psalm 150:1 says it pretty simply, "Praise the Lord." Praise him where: in the sanctuary or anywhere in his creation. Praise him for what: his awesomeness. Praise him how: with instruments or simply with your voice. Bottom line: Praise him.

Even more so than we are commanded to, is that we want to. We have a heart to worship our God. It's not done out of ritual or formula. It's not a performance. Our praise and worship towards God is a matter of heart. That's what Jesus was expressing to the woman at the well.

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Our worship is also not defined by a time slot on Sunday mornings. Our worship is our life. Corporate worship is part of our worship. It's one expression of our worship before God. Everything we do on these Sunday mornings or when we are gathered corporately is an act of worship before God.

The message is a time of worship. In Nehemiah 8:5-6 we see "Ezra opened the book. All the people could see him because he was standing above them; and as he opened it, the people all stood up. Ezra praised the LORD, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, "Amen! Amen!" Then they bowed down and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground."

Giving is a time of worship. Luke 7:36-38 tells of the woman who came and fell at Jesus feet, breaking the jar of perfume over his feet and worshipping him, showing worshippers are givers. Psalm 96:8-9 tells us that we come worshipping bringing an offering. Exodus 23:15 tells us that we are not to come into God's presence empty handed.

Communion is a time of worship. 1 Corinthians 11:29 tells us that we should intentionally focus on Christ during a time of communion.

That's inside the walls of a building called the church. But when you who are the church walk out of those walls, your life is your worship. The Bible tells us to "Let everything you do, whether in word or deed, all be done to the glory of God or to bring God glory."

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Read Psalm 66:1-3

We need to get to a place in our life where we make our praise for God glorious, our worship glorious. We often make His praise good. Sometimes when we're in

the mood, we may even make it great. But how often do we make it glorious? How do we even get to that place of it being glorious?

## 1. Set the atmosphere

It is imperative for each of us to set the atmosphere of worship on our own. This is done by the life we live.

Read Genesis 22:1-5

Abraham's obedience was his worship. His life had already set an atmosphere in his heart that it didn't matter where he was or what he was going through, He could worship God.

The writer of Psalm 42 was in a desperate place. He writes that he remembers when he used to be a part of leading the procession with joy and laughter, but now he is in a difficult place. What does he say he will do? Nevertheless he will place his hope in God and praise Him, his only savior.

When we're able to do this, it no longer matters if something happens to us, or if the song being sung in church is what we like or not, we're still able to worship.

We have to choose to set the atmosphere, not be controlled by it.

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## 2. We must learn to respond whole-heartedly

Isaiah 29:13, "The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men."

Worship is not about just going through the motions. When you go through the motions, you are just offering half-hearted praise.

All of who we are must respond to who He is.

In Malachi 1, God rebukes his people for offering blemished sacrifices in his temple, and in verse 10 we read this, ""Oh, that one of you would shut the temple doors, so that you would not light useless fires on my altar!"

God wants our best. We must allow ourselves to be focused on Him and not distracted by what's around us or what's going on in our life.

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3. Remember who He is and what He has done for you.

Your praise and your worship become glorious when you remember who He is in your life. You can praise yourself to that place you need to be by remembering who He is. You should never go without remembering what God has done for you.

Read Joshua 4:4-7; 20-24 - Fear mentioned here is to be in reverent awe, to worship God.

Remembering who God is and what he's done, you can't help but make His praise glorious.

Who is God?

He is Jehovah Jireh – the Lord who provides  
Jehovah Rapha – the Lord our healer  
Jehovah Nissi – the Lord our banner  
Jehovah M'Kaddes – the Lord who makes us holy  
Jehovah Shalom – the Lord our peace  
Jehovah Rohi – the Lord our shepherd  
Jehovah Tsidkenu – the Lord our righteousness  
Jehovah Shammah – the Lord who is there

He is holy, infinite, eternal, perfect, self-existent, self-sufficient, almighty, sovereign, omniscient, faithful, righteous, just, good, loving worthy.

He is the great I Am, Redeemer, the risen Lord and Savior.

He is God.

It's time to go to that new level. It's time to make our praise glorious. It's time to make our worship intimate. It's time to give Him our whole self, where we're no longer dependent on any one person or group.

Read Luke 7:36-47

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Can people tell you've been forgiven by the worship you give God?