

Prepare the Way | Week 4 - Worship

Big Idea

To prepare the way for King Jesus, we must worship him with our whole being.

Scripture

Matthew 22:36-40, Psalm 95:6-7, Psalm 96:7-9, and Romans 12:1-2

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Matthew 22:36-40 tells us what Jesus says matters most: loving God. And if you really love God, you don't do it with just one part of who you are. You give him your all: your heart, your soul, and your mind. To worship is to have a genuine heart affection for God that is reflected in how much we love and value Him.
2. The verbs in Psalm 95:6-7 depict a posture of submission, they call us to get low before God. The standard word for worship in the Old Testament literally means to prostrate oneself before God. Kneeling and prostration was a common practice to show submission before a superior. We, too, can demonstrate this submission physically when we kneel before God, but submission is more than a physical posture; it is a heart-posture. To submit to God is to declare with my heart, my thoughts, and my actions that Jesus is King and I am not. Submission is demonstrated through obedience to his will even if it means sacrificing what I want. To worship is to submit, declaring through my life that Jesus is King. Just as sheep depend fully on their shepherd, we can trust Jesus to lead us in the right direction and provide for our needs. This relationship calls for trust and surrender, knowing that the Good Shepherd sees the bigger picture and is always looking out for my best interests.
3. Psalm 96:7-9 tells us to "ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name" and one way we do that is to "bring an offering". When we trust the Lord with our finances, we are demonstrating our love and commitment to Him and the things that are important to Him. In fact, our worship is incomplete when we do not give back to God. It's not about the amount; it is about our heart posture. That's why Jesus told us, "Where your treasure is, that's where your heart will be as well." Our giving demonstrates our love for God and our commitment to His mission. The call to "worship the Lord in the splendor of His Holiness" challenges us to approach God with deep reverence and awe. It reminds us that worship is not just about singing or rituals, but about recognizing God's absolute holiness and purity. This means coming before God with humility, sincerity, and reverence, focusing on His greatness rather than my own concerns. He is so very worthy of our very best!
4. Paul is saying in Romans 12:1-2 that worship is not an obligation. Worship is not something we do because we have to. Worship is a response to understanding God's grace and mercy given to us through the sacrifice of Jesus. When we turn to the cross and truly grasp Jesus' love and sacrifice for us, there really is only one fitting response. We offer ourselves back as a living sacrifice. The image Paul uses here is so graphic! We place ourselves on the altar and offer our lives to God. This is practically carried out by following what Paul says in Colossians 3:17. Everything we do, every single moment of our life, we live as an act of worship to God!