



Sermon Series: The Heart of Worship

To be used with Session 2: The Inspiration for Worship.

Sermon Title Possibilities: God is Love, Looking Outward Very Easy, Made New

Scripture: Psalm 25:4-15

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Heart of Worship,” this sermon shows us that God’s guidance, goodness, grace, and forgiveness extend to all of those who obey Him. Who we follow and obey determines who and what we worship.

Introduction:

Repetition is the key to success. These were the words that were spoken by my 7th grade basketball coach. He taught us that repeatedly shooting free throws built muscle memory, which would allow the muscles in our body the strength needed to help us be successful at the free throw line. He was guiding us in the right direction so that we could be successful. Repetition is exactly what David does in Psalm 25. He structures the chapter in such a way that it points the reader back to the LORD and His guidance, goodness, and grace. In this repetition of pointing back to the LORD, David is putting the His character on display. As we look to the LORD, it is He that will guide, grow, and extend grace to His people. In this Psalm, David understands that who we follow and obey determines who and what we worship.

1. God is full of compassion. (Psalm 25:4-7)

The hound of heaven (God) comes down and has compassion on man and pursues man in his mess. This is the grand narrative of the Scripture! David understands the compassion and care that God has for him. In verse 5 he said, “You are the God of my salvation.” The personal pronoun “my” shows that David has experienced something personally in his life. He experienced the compassion and care from the LORD. Because the LORD has shown compassion towards David, he wants the LORD to guide him. David wants to follow this compassionate and loving God because he understands that there is no peace or hope without Him. David said in verse 5 that he would wait on the LORD. This waiting is a reference to hope and faith. He also understands that there is no mercy and forgiveness of sin without the LORD. (vs.6-7) It is the love and compassion of God that causes us to look away from our sin and look to Him instead. This compassion shown towards God’s people motivates us to worship Him.

2. God has overflowing care. (Psalm 25:8-11)

Who we follow and obey reveals who or what we worship. David looks to the goodness of God and understands that this goodness is seen in his instruction, His direction, and a faithfulness towards His people. This reveals God’s character in that he cares for his people. This care is unconditional. Regardless of what we have done, his love is extended towards those who have put their trust in Him. The fruit of God’s people trusting in hHim is seen in their obedience to Him. This obedience is not out of duty, but it is out of delight. It is a delight in the One that extends care towards His people. It brings the people of God joy to worship the God who cares

for them. David understands that because the LORD cares for people, they care to keep His covenant. Without the pursuit of the LORD towards His people they would not care. The people of God were careless with their lives, but the LORD overflows with care. Therefore, we care about the direction our lives are headed in. David points to the reason of our worship in verse 11 when he says, “LORD, for the sake of your name, forgive my iniquity, for it is immense We worship because God cares enough to pardon all of our sins. The people of God care about their sins because the LORD cares about us.

3. God faithfully keeps his covenant. (Psalm 25:12-15)

In verse 12 David begins with a question, “Who is the person who fears the Lord?” He shows the promises set towards those who fear the LORD. The LORD will instruct, help man abide in well-being, their offspring will inherit the land, His counsel is set on those who fear Him, and deliverance is extended towards those who fear Him. What is fear? In this context, fear is not to be understood as one who is frightened by God, but one who is fixated on God. To fear God is to revere Him and to know that He is a holy God.

This promise that God will be faithful to keep his covenant also brings confidence to those who place their faith in him. David knows that our God is a covenant keeper, not a covenant breaker.. Just as Abraham believed God, so does David. He seeks to walk in the fear of the LORD. As he walks in the fear of the LORD, God’s will continued to be revealed and His protection experienced. (vs. 14-15) God protects David from his own sin and from his enemies who seek to destroy him. We worship God because He is the only one who is 100% true to His word. Therefore, the goodness of God’s love inspires the people of God to worship the One who keeps His covenant.

Conclusion:

David spoke about the confidence he had in his covenant keeping God. He said, “Some take pride in chariots, and others in horses, but we take pride in the name of the Lord our God..” (Psalm 20:7). God’s goodness and love fuels our worship. Possessions do not fuel our worship, but God’s promise of blessings does. The ultimate blessing comes to those who fear the LORD. That blessing is God Himself revealed in Christ. The lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. So, Christ is our motivation and inspiration to worship! Our sin has separated us from a holy God, but there is a solution to our sin problem. God’s love revealed in Christ. We have a future and a hope because of Christ. Christ inspires our worship. So, fear Christ! Put all of your trust in him.

Author Bio

Quintell Hill is a graduate of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Preaching from Clump Divinity School at Anderson University. He has served for 20 years in pastoral ministry and is the lead pastor of Multiply Community Church in Monroe, NC. He also serves as an African American Church Mobilization Strategist with the International Mission Board. He and his wife Christie have two daughters, Moriah and Kharis.