



Sermon Series: The Heart of Worship

To be used with Session 1: The Focus of Our Worship

Sermon Title Possibilities: Like No Other, The G.O.A.T

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31

Connection with Unit Theme: To complement the Bible study “The Heart of Worship”, This sermon literally gets at the heart of the matter. It focuses on who, what, and why we worship. It calls all people to look away from their circumstances and to look to an all-powerful, all-knowing, and omnipresent God.

Introduction: As humans, we are created for worship. God has created us to worship him and him alone! God said that He is a jealous God, and He desires all our worship. Unfortunately, in the beginning man wanted to be like God and took of the fruit that He forbade them to take. Man stopped listening to God’s voice, succumbed to the serpent’s trap, and listened to Satan’s voice by taking the fruit. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life captured Adam and Eve’s attention, which is a picture of wrong worship. They worshipped themselves rather than God! Every sin that we commit is a result of wrong worship. Adam and Eve focused on self rather than focusing on the Savior. Isaiah wanted Israel to stop being full of self-worship and shift their focus to Yahweh, the covenant keeping God. The sovereign God who has all power and authority and who deserves our worship.

1. God is incomprehensible. (Isaiah 40:21-24)

Abraham Kuyper famously said, “There is not a square inch in the whole domain of our human existence over which Christ, who is Sovereign overall, does not cry, Mine!”¹ Kuyper’s words are a summary of what Isaiah seeks to communicate to Israel in these verses. In verse 21 he begins by questioning their view of God. Ultimately, Isaiah wants them to remember that there is no god that sovereignly rules the universe and has all power like our God (vs.22). He is the God of creation who is the only One worthy of worship. He sovereignly sits over creation because He is the ruler of it. The creation is like grasshoppers, He brings princes to nothing and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness. This is a picture of the power of God. Israel has taken her eyes off of this powerful God and has placed them on their circumstances. It seemed as if God did not possess all power and authority because of the circumstances Israel was faced with, but God’s power is put on display once again as He blows on man, and they wither. The activity of God to create and care for His creation shows that He is an inexhaustible, incomprehensible God who loves us. We are created by Him and must give glory to Him.

2. God is incomparable. (Isaiah 40:25-28)

Since the beginning, comparison has been one of the main strategies the serpent has used to cause man to fall. He enticed men to compare themselves to God, which led to them wanting to be God. Even in Isaiah’s day man was being compared to God. They began to worship the creation and not the Creator. So, the Lord asks a question, “To whom will you compare me ,or who is my equal?”(vs. 25) In verse 26, God then calls Israel to look at creation and His power.

¹ Abraham Kuyper: A Centennial Reader, ed. James D. Bratt (Eerdmans, 1998), 488).

Isaiah wanted Israel to know that these little gods are nothing compared to the One who alone is to be worshipped. A good picture of this is when people try to compare other basketball players to Michael Jordan. Jordan is considered by many to be the greatest basketball player to ever play the game. One of the reasons for this is the way he dominated his opponent. He finished his career 6-0 in NBA finals. You really cannot compare others to Jordan because he is in a class all by himself because of what he did on the court. So too, is the God of creation. He is in a class all by Himself. There is not one pagan god who can be compared to the God who created all things. He deserves and demands our worship. The pagan gods that were worshipped in Isaiah's day and the gods that we worship today will all fail, but the LORD, the covenant keeping God, will never fail. He keeps His covenant, and He is an everlasting God who will never fail us. This is why He deserves all of our worship.

3. God is incapable of being unloving. (Isaiah 40:29-31)

God is love. This love is demonstrated in Him creating all things and caring for His creation. He gives strength to the weak, but man's strength will come to an end (vs. 29-30). Isaiah encourages the reader to look away from man and to instead lean in and wait on the LORD. As man waits and places his one hope in the LORD, He gives promises. These promises are solely based on His love for His people. "Those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength, they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, and will walk and not faint" (vs.31). Why is this? Is it because of man's strength? No! It is solely based on the love that the LORD has for His people. Isaiah wants to remind us that God is a God of love. It is His character to love His people. Because God is incapable of being unloving, we must direct all of our worship to Him.

Conclusion:

In 1991, Terry W. York wrote the famous hymn *Worthy of Worship*. The lyrics are, "You are worthy, Father, Creator. You are worthy, Savior, Sustainer. You are worthy, worthy and wonderful, Worthy of worship and praise." These words help us conclude Isaiah's words in vs. 21-31. He is worthy of our worship because He is incomprehensible, incomparable, and incapable of being unloving. His character is summarized in that He is love. He is the loving God who created and sustains the universe. His power is incomparable to any god or anything on this earth. He demands our worship, desires our worship, delights in our worship, and ultimately deserves our worship. Why? Because he died in our place. Worship 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.