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Winter 2024-25
The Heart of Worship

Sermon Title: Worship and Blessings

To be used with Session 4: The Benefits of Worship

Scripture: Matthew 5:6

Connection with the Study: To complement the study “The Benefits of Worship,” this sermon will help believers understanding that blessing comes from truly worshipping God. It also will help them identify the real meaning of the word “blessed,” rather than the world’s idea of material gain. Furthermore, listeners will be reminded to understand that the true extent of complete fulfillment is elusive in this world, but it will be experienced by all believers when they are in the presence of the Lord for eternity.

Introduction: In Luke 2:46-49, we find Jesus in the temple interacting with the teachers and amazing them with His answers concerning the things of God. Having been lost from Mary and Joseph, he spoke, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" Jesus was always obeying the will of the Father and cultivating His relationship with Him. He desired to remain close to Father and obedient to the Father.

Later, in the Sermon on the Mount, in Matthew 5:6, we read Jesus’s saying, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, because they shall be filled." This statement is one of the Beatitudes, or statements of blessing. The Beatitudes display characteristics that result in a person feeling favored, whole, complete, and blessed by God. We are to hunger and thirst after righteousness, worshipping and serving God. True worship brings true blessings.

1. We will experience full satisfaction.

Jesus said He gives water that will result in satisfaction. In John 4:14, when speaking to the woman at the well, he explains that whoever drinks of the water He gives will never be thirsty again. This water will be a spring of water that wells up from within a person to eternal life.

As we travel through life, we must diligently seek to worship the one true God. The woman’s original question had to do with Jesus’s Jewish ethnicity and her Samaritan ethnicity. After Jesus revealed her sin life, she recognized Him as a prophet. Her discussion then moved to proper places of worship. Jesus counteracted her concern by saying that true worshippers must worship God in spirit and truth.

As we worship God, we receive fulfillment. Although in our present age we do not completely understand how to fully worship God, we are to do our best to worship Him in spirit and truth.

Empty, false worship will never bring satisfaction. Complete, selfless worship, truly focusing on God, brings us closer to Him and allows us to be blessed.

2. Our full blessing is coming.

Although we catch glimpses of God's glory, we will not fully comprehend and feel completely satisfied until we are forever in God's presence. Revelation 21:5-7 teaches that Jesus will make all things new, and we will be completely satisfied:

Then the one seated on the throne said, "Look, I am making everything new." He also said, "Write, because these words are faithful and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will freely give to the thirsty from the spring of the water of life. The one who conquers will inherit these things, and I will be his God, and he will be my son" (Rev. 21:5-7).

As we worship God, we should seek to know Him. As we continue through life, we must realize there is a glorious time in which we will fully know him. It is a joyful anticipation to experience God on this side of eternity with the hope of fully knowing Him in eternity.

3. Christians should thirst for godliness.

The reception of the divine life generates new desire. We should now desire to be holy. Holy desires will always seek and find satisfaction in the things of God. For now, many believers fail to engage in the things of God other than once per week. Spending time with the Father in a spirit of submission and open worship every day leads to greater and greater peace while on earth.

One sign of a true believer is not one who grudgingly fulfills duties but rejoices in righteousness and seeks more righteousness! A person who is starving for righteousness focuses on greater things other than earthly satisfaction or circumstances. True joy is found in the assurance that complete righteousness will someday be fulfilled when a believer is perfected, never to sin again, and the God's kingdom will be purged of all unrighteousness.

We worship God through all of life, despite all of life, and we will be free from anxiety and pain for all eternity. There is a greater life coming and we have already received it by grace through faith in Jesus Christ!

Conclusion: We should continually hunger and thirst for God, truly worship Him, and understand the full blessing is to come! We should desire to serve the King of kings through our priorities, schedule, day, church, and beyond.

Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness in your heart and life? How is your time with God? How is your desire to spend time learning the things of God? Do you desire to be about your Father's business? What are you doing for His Kingdom?

Consider your relationship with God. Pray, asking for desire to spend time with Him and in His service. Examine your priorities in time, habits, and discipline. Do you truly worship God? If so, be blessed.

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