

INGREDIENTS OF WORSHIP.

John 4:23.

July 23, 2006 Sunday a.m.

INTRODUCTION.

- A. I like the story of the young pastor and his first Sunday at his first church. An elderly lady said to him, "That was the worst sermon I've ever heard." He merely ignored her remark until the next week. Again she said, "That was the worst sermon I've ever heard."
This went on for some weeks. Finally, the pastor asked one of the deacons about her. The deacon responded, "Pastor, don't pay much attention to what she says. She's feeble-minded. She just goes around repeating what everyone else is saying."
- B. How can we know when we have worshipped God?
 - 1. Is it when we've heard a good sermon or song?
 - 2. Is it when we were able to stay awake?
 - 3. Today, let's consider several ingredients or elements that help us to worship.

I. FIRST, WE WORSHIP GOD BY OFFERING THANKS.

- A. One necessary ingredient of worship is gratitude.
 - 1. An old farmer and his wife were sitting on their front-porch swing of their farmhouse. As he thought back on their forty-two years of marriage, he realized what a wonderful, willing woman she had been. As they watched the sun set on the western horizon, he said, "Mable, you've been such a wonderful wife that there are times I can hardly keep from telling you."
 - 2. If you are having difficulty with worship, just stop and consider all the blessings God has given you.
- B. Lucy asks Charlie Brown to help with her homework. "I'll be eternally grateful," she promises. "Fair enough. I've never had anyone be eternally grateful before," replied Charlie. "Just subtract 4 from 10 to get how many apples the farmer had left."
Lucy says, "That's it! That's it! I have to be eternally grateful for that? I was robbed! I can't be eternally grateful for this, it was too easy!"
With his blank stare, Charlie replies, "Well whatever you think is fair."
"How about if I just say 'thanks, bro!'" replied Lucy.
On his way outside, Charlie meets Linus who asks, "Where've you been, Charlie Brown?"
"Helping Lucy with her homework."
Linus asks, "Did she appreciate it?"
Charlie answers, "At greatly reduced prices."
- C. Let's stop and express our thanks to God by completing the sentence, "Lord, thank you for _____."

II. SECOND, WE WORSHIP GOD BY PRAISING HIM.

- A. During a visit to their grandparents house, two young girls watched from the breakfast table as a man came to the back door. When the visitor left, Grandpa explained he was an appraiser. "What's an appraiser?" the younger girl asked. Before Grandpa to tell her, the older sister spoke up to say, "Oh he's a praiser. He goes to church every Sunday." We all should be "praisers".
- B. Praise comes from a Latin word meaning "value". Thus, to give praise to God is to proclaim his value or worth.
 - 1. Thanksgiving is about what God has done for you.
 - 2. Praise is about who God is.
- C. We can praise God in many different ways.
 - 1. King David praised God by dancing-2 Samuel 6:14.
 - 2. In both the Old and New Testaments people praised God by lifting their hands-Psalms 134:1-2.
 - 3. Praise is almost always linked to music, both instrumental and vocal-Psalms 150.
- D. Let's stop and praise the Lord in song (Doxology).

III. THIRD, WE WORSHIP GOD BY GIVING.

- A. There are many reasons people give their money to God.
 - 1. Duty.
 - 2. Fear.
 - 3. Guilt.
 - 4. Promise of reward.
 - 5. We should give as an expression of worship.
 - 6. When we leave church without giving to God our worship is incomplete.
- B. Later in the service we will have an opportunity to give to God. Lets do so not out of duty, fear, guilt or for reward, but as a tangible expression of worship.

IV. FOURTH, WE WORSHIP GOD BY PRAYING.

- A. Prayer is our way of communicating with God.
 - 1. When someone else is praying publicly we should listen carefully and agree either silently or verbally with "Amen".
 - 2. Don't just stand there wishing they would hurry up.
- B. Everyone should pray when we come to God in worship.
 - 1. We should pray for our own forgiveness.
 - 2. We should pray prayers of thanksgiving and praise.
 - 3. We should pray prayers of intercession for others.
- C. Let's stop right now and pray silently to worship the Lord.

V. FIFTH, WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH THE WRITTEN WORD.

- A. We speak to God through prayer and God speaks to us through His Word.
 - 1. God's word is our spiritual food-Jeremiah 15:16.
 - 2. When we come into the worship service we should ask God to speak to us.
- B. Let's stop and share some of our favorite verses that God uses to speak to us.

VI. SIXTH, WE WORSHIP GOD BY OBEYING HIM.

- A. The greatest acts of worship take place when we leave this room.
 - 1. The greatest acts of worship aren't singing, praying, or preaching the word.
 - 2. The greatest acts of worship are acts of simple obedience to God every day of the week-Romans 12:1.
- B. It doesn't matter what we do in church if we are disobedient away from church.
- C. Mark Twain encountered a businessman from Boston during his travels. The man said, "Before I die, I will go to the Holy Land. I'm going to climb Mt. Sinai and from the top shout the Ten Commandments at the top of my voice!"
Unimpressed, Twain responded, "I've got a better idea. Stay in Boston and keep 'em."

CONCLUSION.

- A. If we haven't learned to be worshipers, it doesn't really matter how well we do anything else for God.
- B. Lord teach us to be worshippers.