

ALL TOGETHER NOW

You will worship because we are made to worship Jesus, only then we find our purpose.

08.20.23

#3 Week in Series

Series Title: Spirit & Sacrament

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Core Scripture: John 4

Summary of Main Points

- **1. You will worship**
- **2. You were made to worship God**
- **3. You were made to worship together.** (this might get split into two points. You were made to worship God (a point on the singularity of Jesus : John 1:1, Colossians 3... the supreme authority of Jesus, Hebrew 8-9 Christ alone...) then the next point emphasizing the TOGETHER piece (God in the midst of us in a special way)
- **4. Only then, when we worship Jesus, do we find our purpose**


// Summary of Conclusion

- **Outcome** - Lives dedicated to giving JESUS honor with our lives - actions, thoughts, finances, habits ... singing is just one expression of worship
- **Response** - a song that captures that idea above ... Maybe the new song I wrote that Cadence recorded You alone are truly worthy - could be added to one they all KNOW and could sing right away.

// Introduction Ideas

- Tell the story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well and teaching her about worship. In essence saying ... One day it won't matter what temple you're in or city you're in when you worship. All that will matter is that you worship in spirit and in truth.

// Main Point #1 You will worship because you're a worshiper

- *Speak to the atheist or skeptic*
- I read a fantastic book called *What We Love* about 2 years ago where the author, a long time Christian psychologist and counselor pointed out so many powerful things about the way humans think and live - patterns we all follow. She pointed out we ALL love and worship something or someone. AND we then find logical ways to explain to others WHY we do what we do - we justify our actions that prove our love.
- I would argue that we do this with “idols” we love. We find ways to explain and justify our worship of them; we’d never call it worship but we’re certainly devoted to our idols.
- Many who are atheist would never call themselves “worshippers” In fact, by very definition, they are agnostic or more extreme “atheist” insisting there is no God to be worshiped.
- Some people worship themselves not even realizing how self-deceived they are. They esteem themselves over every other person thinking THEY are the smartest, most knowledgeable, wisest person. They’ve crafted an image to worship and it’s the one in the mirror.
-  **Romans 1**
- **They worshiped created things instead of Creator**
- **Exodus 24 - 32 - tell the story in a succinct way**
 - The people of Israel are delivered from Egypt miraculously
 - God uses Moses and Aaron his brother in law
 - Moses goes up the mountain - experiences the GLORY cloud and gets the 10 commandments
 - Moses comes down and invites them to enter the cloud. In the first encounter with God on Mt Sinai in Exodus 3 Moses things the people should also experience this presence of God and invites them but They want HIM to do it for them.
 - Exodus 20 you may know the story - God gives MOSES a TOP TEN to make it easy for people to remember but then the next 3 chapters God makes it clear how to live out a holy life dedicated unto God with specific instruction on how to live and worship.
 - Exodus 23 as God is ending this instruction on how to live and worship, He gives the people a promise of blessing - that He would give them the promised land - the same land He promised Abraham ...
 - Ex 23:30-33 I will use hornets to drive them out ... Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased and possess the land. ³¹ And I will set your border from the Red Sea to the Sea of the Philistines, and from the wilderness to the Euphrates, for I will give the inhabitants of the land into your hand, and you shall drive them out before you. ³² You shall make no covenant with them and their gods. ³³ They

shall not dwell in your land, lest they make you sin against me; for if you serve their gods, it will surely be a snare to you.”

- [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (Ex 23:30–33). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.
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- Exodus 24 Here we see an invitation from God to Moses to ascend Mount Sinai yet another time, for the special purpose of ratifying the Covenant Code. It'd be like you and me going to get something notarized. He goes up the mnt a second time to do this. God's holiness must still be protected (see comments on 19:10–24); so only Moses, Aaron, Aaron's two oldest sons, and the seventy elders of Israel²⁹⁰ were allowed to form the ratification meal party, representing the rest of Israel through their leadership status. Everyone other than Moses were instructed "You are to worship at a distance") was required to stay away from the most direct contact with the presence of Yahweh
- God gives Moses instructions to make an ark of the covenant, the table of showbread, the golden lampstand, oil and incense, the tabernacle... all these tangible things that we would now call "sacraments" were given with clear instructions for HOW to engage and worship a holy GOD. They all pointed the perfection of JESUS our great High Priest, our great one and only sacrifice and our great older brother who makes a way for us to know this HOLY God, Creator, Yahweh!
- Moses gets all these instcutions for the tabernacle - for their worship to Yahweh and he's up there with Joshua for 40 days and 40 nights this time.
- BUT what happened in Ex 32 - after ALL this instruction and revelation downloads Moses is having in the glory cloud - the people down below are getting bored. Let's pick up in Ex 32:1
- When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, "Up, make us gods who shall go before us. As for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." ² So Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold that are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me." ³ So all the people took off the rings of gold that were in their ears and brought them to Aaron. ⁴ And he received the gold from their hand and fashioned it with a graving tool and made a golden calf. And they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" ⁵ When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it. And Aaron made a proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord." ⁶ And they rose up early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings. And the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play.
- ⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "Go down, for your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves. ⁸ They have turned aside quickly out of the way that I commanded them. They have made for themselves a golden calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " ⁹ And the Lord said to Moses, "I have seen this people, and behold, it is a stiff-necked people. ¹⁰ Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, in order that I may make a great nation of you."
- ¹¹ But Moses implored the Lord his God and
- To save time - begged God to spare them and God did. Look at vs 14 *And the Lord relented from the disaster that he had spoken of bringing on his people.*

- SO LET's RECAP
- The people said "Moses is gone too long! Where is he? Where's our leader?"
- Aaron had a "great idea" to fashion a golden calf! Of all the bad ideas, this has to TOP the list. LOL

- Aaron does eventually get his act together to set up the levitical priesthood and becomes the father of that BUT Aaron - AARON the brother of Moses who spoke eloquently to Pharaoh insisting he let the people go from slavery - AARON who stretched out his staff and the first three plagues were released over Egypt! It was his staff stretched out that turned into a serpent, then blossomed, then turned into Almonds. HE WAS THE ONE who said "let's us make an image from the gold you bring to me."
- When you don't worship and go into the glory for yourself, your much more likely to be deceived by someone who is being deceived themselves.
- The people did it - they brought their gold earrings and necklaces - some of them maybe even stolen from Egyptians or maybe heirlooms passed down from their parents and grandparents ... all to have an IMAGE to worship.
- Moses is ticked when he sees this but listen, don't miss the point ...
- **■ The golden calf moment with God's people teaches us that we are made to worship and will idolize something or someone. You will always have an object of affection. Yet only ONE is worthy.**
- Even a GOD DREAM can become an idol - an unhealthy love and devotion - a fixation that takes away from being fixated on JESUS.
- My Music Dream - I shared with DavidU students quite candidly and I share this often when an artist is doing what I call the Artist Interview on a Friday - only do a few of these a year now but when I do I always share with them a piece of advice - in the form of a question - Can you go to a small church, then next weekend another small church and worship JESUS and bring the spirit of JESUS into the room without being discouraged you don't have a "big crowd" because the "big crowd" is an illusion - a high - a hit of dopamine that is NOT the same as the GLORY Cloud. Can you serve that little church and find joy in it?
- Gen. 12 - We read about Abraham being given a promise of a land flowing with milk and honey and all these blessings. God promised that he would be blessed SO much that people who simply are associated with him will be blessed! But I love this line - in fact I wrote a song about it a few months ago - God says "In that day I will be your great reward." God doesn't say "These things will be your reward ..." He says "I WILL BE your reward." God still wants to be your number one affection - your object of worship - the love of your heart. JESUS and only JESUS can satisfy that place.
- No idol. No sport. Not even a person like your spouse or kids. We would say we worship our kids but how many parents have placed their children's activity at the TOP of their

priority list? That's called worship. Not a position at work - a promotion to a new role in management - not a business you started succeeding to a certain degree - not the right house you've imagined living in - no GIFT from God can replace GOD the giver as the one worthy of our love and attention and affection.

- **Matt Anderson says this of idols**
- **We do one of three things**
- - [] **Double down. I just need more of this to be satisfied.**
- - [] **Find a new one (idol) to worship**
- - [] **Repent and turn back to God.**
- It all comes back to connection. What brings you the greatest level of joy. That's what you worship. What has your affection and attention? You were made to worship God NOT a person, not a man-made thing, not a created thing.
- **Only God can satisfy your core need to worship.**

God DID give His SPIRIT to lead them by the way. NOT in the same way we have the Spirit of God now but it did lead them through Moses and God's anointed leaders. Nehemiah 9:20 "You gave them your good Spirit and did not withhold mana from their mouth and gave them water for their thirst."

The prophets understood that it was SPIRIT & SACRAMENT - the bread - the mana - was a sign that the SPIRIT was with them.


Bread and Water.


Oil & Wine.


These are tangible signs that point us to GOD but we must NEVER worship the tangible gifts of God but rather the GIVER who gave them. God gave you a job but don't worship it, worship GOD. God gave you a home but don't worship it, worship GOD. "I can't have people over; they're wreck my home." or "God gave us this home - who can we have over to share this blessing?"

God gave you a dream for a business - great - use that business to glorify God, not yourself. God increases your income? Don't improve your standard of living, increase your standard of giving!



// Main Point #2 You were made to worship God

- John 1:1 tells us about the beauty and authority of JESUS as the one and only WORD of God
- Colossians tells us of the supreme authority of Jesus!
- Hebrew 8-9 Christ alone is the ONLY way to know GOD.
- Worshiping a gold calf, a job promotion, a relationship, a sport, any idol can not satisfy what only GOD can satisfy!
-  1 Kings 3-9



- 1 Kings 3 - God sees Solomon, David's son and loves his heart so much that He asks 'What do you want? Ill give you anything you ask for.' Solomon simply asked for WISDOM to lead and govern - wisdom for being a good king - a good leader. (3:5-9)
- 1 Kings 4 - 6 God gives him instructions on building the temple - the "sacraments" if you will used by men to engage with God in worship.
- God gave him instructions for building the temple and the GLORY of GOD coming upon them in a special way when they finished the temple and gathered TOGETHER in it to worship God.
- God promised to DWELL with us. He says "If you follow my law, I will dwell with you!" look ¹¹ *Now the word of the Lord came to Solomon,* ¹² *"Concerning this house that you are building, if you will walk in my statutes and obey my rules and keep all my commandments and walk in them, then I will establish my word with you, which I spoke to David your father. ¹³ And I will dwell among the children of Israel and will not forsake my people Israel."*
- [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Ki 6:11–13). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.
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- What happened? GOD CAME THROUGH ON HIS PROMISE!
- 1 Kings 8
- ⁶Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the Lord to its place in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the Most Holy Place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. ⁷For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim overshadowed the ark and its poles. ⁸ And the poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the Holy Place before the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside. And they are there to this day. ⁹There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses put there at Horeb, where the Lord made a covenant with the people of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt. ¹⁰ And when the priests came out of the Holy Place, a cloud filled the house of the Lord. ¹¹ so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the house of the Lord.
- [The Holy Bible: English Standard Version](#). (2016). (1 Ki 8:6–11). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.
- There is NOTHING like the presence of GOD!
- NOTHING will satisfy you but the presence of God!
-  2 Chronicles also illustrates and teaches us that GOD MET THEM IN A GLORY CLOUD as they GATHERED IN WORSHIP TOGETHER. SOMETHING HAPPENS WHEN WE GATHER IN UNITY TO WORSHIP JESUS!!!!
- *David praised the Lord in the presence of the whole assembly, saying,*
- *Praise be to you, Lord, the God of our father Israel, from everlasting to everlasting. Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name. 1 Chronicles 29:10-13*

- God met them in a unique way when they worshiped together.
-  Jesus made this point “There I am in the midst of you” Something beautiful, transformational and transcendent takes place when we gather and worship TOGETHER. JESUS, the Spirit of Jesus, inhabits our praises! He rests with his beautiful glory IN our togetherness - in our praises!

// Main Point #3 You were made to worship God TOGETHER

- Psalm 64 tells us that we were MADE to worship HIM and do that together!
- ALL ARE INVITED - not just the religious - the “right family” people. EVERYONE is invited! The outpouring of the Holy Spirit that I taught about last week that we read in the book of Acts enabled believers with courage to tell everyone - people they USED TO BE RACIST towards - about JESUS!
-  **Ethiopian Eunuch** - After Phillip shared the Gospel with Him and the Spirit of God awakened this man to the wonder of Jesus, then he worshiped and surrendered to Jesus, finding the purpose in life that he was searching for.
-  **We are born to love, to have connection and to worship. We as humans simply fall apart if we don’t do these things. So we find ways to love, try to connect and we certainly worship. The problem is many worship the wrong thing.** (*Tie in wrong views of God, Materialism, the God that always gives me what I want, the God who always agrees with me etc...*)
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- The golden calf is like our story from our first point.... Or today it may be your material, financial wealth. It may even be your family. Some simply won’t make sabbath a priority. In the name of “family” many Christians will say “This is my only family time” so just coming to church now and then is excused by “family” because in this case “family” has become the object of worship. Even though the Bible explicitly teaches that Sabbath, the first day of the week, is to be dedicated to worshipping God.

// Main Point #4 Only then (when we worship Jesus) do we find our purpose

-  JN 4 Jesus tells us that He alone is the living water that will satisfy you and me!
-  Exodus 32 Back to the story we opened with. Moses experiences the glory of God in the form of a cloud on Mt Sinai God wants YOU to experience His glory! And worship! Satan always offers a counterfeit to the real thing God offers.

WORSHIP - Group Discussion Guide

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SPIRIT & SACRAMENT PART 3 - WORSHIP

Bottom Line

Summary of Main Points

- **1. You will worship**
- **2. You were made to worship God**
- **3. You were made to worship together.** (this might get split into two points. You were made to worship God (a point on the singularity of Jesus : John 1:1, Colossians 3... the supreme authority of Jesus, Hebrew 8-9 Christ alone...) then the next point emphasizing the TOGETHER piece (God in the midst of us in a special way)
- **4. Only then, when we worship Jesus, do we find our purpose**
 - QUESTION 1 Why do you think God would create humans with an innate desire to worship and adore?
- You were made to worship God together
 - “Do not forsake the coming together on my Holy day to worship”
 - QUESTION 2 Why is it that we sometimes take Sabbath - a day to worship every single week - as optional or not that important?
 - QUESTION 3 What happens when THIS generation makes Sabbath worship optional? What happens to the NEXT generation - the children and grandchildren and their view of Sunday Worship Devotion?
 - QUESTION 4 Have you ever experienced the GLORY or PRESENCE of GOD in a special and unique way? If so, tell us about it!
 - QUESTION 5 What has God spoken to your heart about in the presence of GOD as you worshiped Him? What “laws” were downloaded to your heart - what new way of living did the Spirit lead you to as you did this “sacrament” of worship?