

THE HEART OF WORSHIP: WEEK 1

HEART OF THE SERIES: The heart of worship sermon series is designed to teach the model of worship we see in Psalm 100: 'enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.' I think a lot of times we use this verse as reference in how we approach the throne of God, but what happens when we get there? In this sermon series we will be talking through how we can create an environment that encounters Jesus in his courtroom. In week 1, we will be discussing the correct posture of worship that captures the Lord's attention. Once we have the Lord's attention, he will open his courtroom to us and we can experience the miraculous! The Heart of Worship sermon series will invoke our students not only to know God, but to truly see God.

INTRO: Speak about a time when you had to correct your posture/form. Maybe that is correcting posture in sports, trying to impress someone, playing an instrument etc. Speak about having the correct form will produce the 'best' work.

- Mine: In my 3rd grade cursive class, my teacher Ms. Sundaj ALWAYS got onto everyone about their sitting posture! She made sure every chair was pushed in, we were sitting upright, and our pencils were placed perfectly in our hands....the truth is, the posture made writing in cursive easier. QUICK TURN: Is your spiritual posture affecting the work God has called you to do?

TENSION: How do we have the right posture in worship?

KEY POINT: Our position of worship is determined by the posture of our hearts

KEY SCRIPTURE: "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn bushes, or grapes from briars. A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of."

The Heart

- What is the heart of worship?
- Worship is the physical manifestation of the inner desires of your heart.
 - Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks (Luke :35)
 - What is filling your heart?
- Worship is simply opening the door of our heart to the door of God's heart!
- If you want to know the thoughts or spoken word of God go to his word, but if you want to know the HEART of God worship.
- Worship gives our hearts life again!
 - Confidence and strength flood the hearts of the lovers of God who live in awe of him, and their devotion provides their children with a place of shelter and security. To worship God in wonder and awe opens a fountain of life within you, empowering you to escape death's domain. (Proverbs 14:27 TPT)

- Worship is where we find our life. In times where you are drained emotionally, physically, or spiritually when we worship we remind ourselves of who God is, and who we are in Christ.

The Posture

- Worship is the act of kneeling our hearts before the Lord
- When we worship, what we are doing/saying is God everything must bow to your name!
 - I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word. (Psalm 138:2)
- If the posture of our heart is not humility in God's presence, then we might miss what God wants to do in us.
 - He mocks proud mockers but shows favor to the humbled and oppressed. (Proverbs 3:34)
 - God rejects those who are proud. Are you 'spiritually' proud?
 - Do you rely on your own righteousness, instead of running to the Lord every opportunity you get?
 - Are we missing encounters with the Lord because you come into times of worship forgetting that we are in desperate need of a savior to make us righteous again?
 - Have you become 'cold' or indifferent to the Lord's grace?
- If you want to see the favor of the Lord, we must come to him in humility

RESPONSE:

- What is your true heart's desire?
- Who has your heart? What things are flowing from your heart through your mouth? Are they pleasing to the Lord? Do they inspire people to draw closer to him?
 - Dedicate our hearts and our attention to the Lord
- If you need life, the Lord wants to fill you with joy and life again!

ACTION:

- have students write down their true desires....physically writing or speaking them out will make the true posture of the heart a reality. We must physically acknowledge the desires of our hearts in order to shift them back to God's desires for us.
- Play song (live or via YouTube) about surrender or the heart to allow students to have a moment to practice giving their full heart and attention to the Lord. Songs like: Heart of Worship, Make Room, or Move Your Heart. Song choice is important because it is the prayer students will be praying in these moments!