

The Ministry of Worship - Part 1 – Class Notes

- About this class

- **The purpose of this Class:** : To gain a Biblical understanding of what *The Ministry of worship* is and what it should look like in the church.
- We're not looking for new worship leaders, musicians, however some could come out of this class which would be awesome.
- Not an exhaustive study of the Theology of Worship as in the general sense, but rather the role that the ministry of worship (musical worship) plays in the local church and beyond. (*The what why and how of worship ministry*)
- **Topics we'll be discussing:** What worship is to God, The role of worship in the church, the role of worship at Reality, the of the worship leader and the musicians, the worship leader as a worshipper, a shepherd, and a soldier, the relationship between the Pastor/Leader and the worship leader, Last part of last class: How I work out a set, how I practice, capos, key changes, dynamics, leading a band.
- **Why you?** Why are those of you who don't lead worship, and don't want to lead worship taking a worship class?
 - Because in the American Church our "Worship" takes up at least 1/3 of our Church Service (1/2 at Reality) and yet if you asked many Pastors, Church leadership or Church Staff what the role of worship was, they wouldn't have a sufficient answer.
 - Weather you're a worship leader, a musician, a pastor, a leader of some sort, an intercessor, or just someone who has a heart to serve God in some capacity, chances are you will, at some point, be doing ministry with a Worship Leader (Teaching a camp, Youth Pastor, Lead Pastor, Leading a home group, interceding for a church body, etc...)
 - **If it's important enough for Reality to give a solid hour to it every Sunday, then we had better know why.**

- Where I came from:

- No rhythm. No pitch, etc...
- God gave rhythm and pitch when I started leading worship
- Grew up thinking that worship was kind of just that buffer thing in the beginning of the service to allowed all the people to get to church to hear the sermon. (*Expound – Joey Buran "It's like the fullback and the sermon is like the tail back"*)
- Led worship at Reality and was home.
 - Never even knew what kind of a worship leader I was until I led here.
- **Worship at Reality**
 - We hear all the time that people start coming here because of the worship.
 - That's not me or Lazo or Zoe or Sean. That's the Spirit of God (*Carol walking by Reality Friday night and sensing the same move of the Spirit as in Old School Costa Mesa*)

- All we've done is looked at the scriptures and said, "Wow. This is what passionate worship ought to look like. Let's see if we can make provision for that to happen." And GOD moves.
- **NOW**, it's very important to note that, just because you make provision for passionate worship, DOES NOT mean that passionate worship will take place.
- You don't just turn off the lights, get some carpets, add some songs at the end of the message and BAMM! Your church is worshipping.
 - *Calvary Magazine (Lights off was what made Reality)*
 - *Hearing Britt preach about worship after the message and lights off and me going back home and trying it.*
- **Passionate worship is something that God has for His church, but it's almost like something we have to fight for and grab hold of.**
 - It's like victory over sin. Jesus purchased it on the cross, yet sometimes we have to wage war with the enemy or our flesh to obtain it.
 - So it is with worship. The devil hates worship as much as he hates a man being delivered from something like lust or pornography. (*He was a Musician*)
 - He knows the power of music and the power of praise.
 - So if he can keep a church complaisant in worship, then he's experiencing a sense of victory in that Church.
- God uses worship to disable and defeat the enemy (**2 Chron. 20**). The enemy knows this and will do everything in his power to keep the Church from worshipping.
 - *I asked Britt if Reality Friday Nights were always like that. Carp wasn't always like this.*
 - **We had to win it!**

- What is worship to God?

- **O.T.:** Worship was so much about reverence and sacrifice
 - **Reverence**
 - 1st time the word "worship" is used in the O.T. (**Gen. 22:5**) (and almost every time thereafter) it is the same Hebrew word – "Shachah"
 - **Shachah** – "To prostrate oneself in homage before a King or deity" (*Expound*)
 - **Sacrifice**
 - When Israel offered burnt offerings unto to the Lord, they were a sweet smelling aroma to the Lord. The sacrifice was so often an act of worship.
- **N.T. :** Worship is so much about intimacy and sacrifice

- We know worship in the OT was about sacrifice but let's not forget that worship in the in the NT is not *without* a Sacrifice.
 - It is not without the Sacrifice of Jesus...
 - **Heb. 10:20** says that the flesh of Jesus Christ has become the veil by which we enter into the Holy of Holies. And that we enter in “by the blood of Jesus”.
 - So, worship in the New Covenant is not without the sacrifice of Jesus...
 - **Nor is worship in the New Covenant without the Sacrifice of the saints.**
 - Not a sacrifice of bulls and goats, but of our lives and our praise.
 - **Rom. 12:1** “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy acceptable to God which is your reasonable act of worship.”
 - **Rom. 13:15** “Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.”
 - It is a sacrifice *unto* God and it is an offering *for* God . It is not something that is *done* for us, nor is *about* us. We may enjoy it, but it is *for* God.
 - That means then, (theoretically) that the degree to which we worship should not be dependent on how we feel.
 - **Habakkuk 3:17-18** “Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls- Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.”
 - *Job lost everything but chose to bless the Lord*
 - *Paul and Silas in chains, yet singing praises.*
 - Now, we're emotional and unstable people. So often times our worship *is* dependent on how we feel. But it ought not to be.
 - Because whether we're happy or sad, depressed or rejoicing, victorious or defeated, weary or rejuvenated, GOD IS STILL GOOD. He is always good, and He is always worthy.
 - *God spoke to me at Bible College Chapel about worship not being about how I feel but about Him being worthy.*
- But at the very core of what, I believe, worship is all about... is Intimacy.
 - **Tell story of John 4** (When Jesus said) “The father is seeking those who will worship Him in Spirit and in truth”
 - “Worship” = “Proskeneo” (Turn toward and kiss).
 - I believe to God, worship *is* intimacy.
- God's desire has always been for intimacy.

- In the O.T. God *wanted* intimacy. He chose to be in the presence of His people (to tabernacle among...) but His people could not be in His presence. (*High Priest Once a year could go in*)
 - **In the Old Covenant intimacy was *promised*. In the New Covenant it is *provided*.**
 - **Jer. 31:33** “No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, “Know the Lord, for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them’ says the Lord. (“Know” = “Yahdaw”)
 - **Why did Jesus tell this woman what He told her?**
 - He was meeting her where she was at.
 - This woman: 5 husbands, living with boyfriend.
 - No doubt she was desperately searching and longing for a sense of **belonging, of being wanted**, she was looking for **contentment**, for **pleasure**, for **fulfillment, to be satisfied**. And she was looking to the only thing she knew: to relationships.
 - **We’re no different.** (If I can just finish school. If I can just pay off that debt, me: just get that job, just get married, just do what I’m called to do, *then* I’ll be so much more happy and at peace and satisfied.
 - **FYI, From experience: Not true.** (*Married, calling and ministry, but without intimacy there was no pleasure*).
 - **Jesus is inviting the woman at the well to experience: REAL PEACE, REAL JOY, A TRUE SENSE OF BELONGING, REAL CONTENTMENT.** And Jesus invites us into the same thing.
- **Jesus invites us in by His blood to experience the fullness of life in His presence. To be healed in His presence. He just wants our hearts. He wants our whole hearts. That we might enter in with all our might. That we would praise Him with all that is within us.**
- Every Sunday, the Lord is inviting His bride to come into His presence.
- **It’s so important for the minister what worship is to God. If we don’t know what worship is supposed to be then how can we pray for our congregations to experience it. How can we lead them into something that we know not of?**
- **The word “Worship” or the term “The Ministry of Worship” = (Musical Worship)**
- First of all, when worship is talked about in the Bible it’s never associated with music. “Praise” (“Hallel”) is more often associated with music.
 - But in this class, when I say “worship”, I’m referring to Musical Worship.
 - The first time anything musical is mentioned in the Bible is in **Exodus 15:1** when it says that “**Moses and the children of Israel sang this song to the Lord, and spoke saying, ‘I will sing to the Lord for He has triumphed gloriously (so on and so forth).’”**

- God had just brought Israel through the Red Sea. God had just done something marvelous in their midst and so Moses wrote a song and sang it.
 - **Worship is a response to God.** To His goodness, to His provision, to His word, to His rebuke, to His chastising. **It is a response.**
 - **Worship is about reverence, intimacy, and sacrifice, yes. But the at the heart of worship is us *Responding* to a Holy God.**
 - It is to be *done* in **Reverence**, we are to *experience* **Intimacy**, there is to *be* **A Sacrifice**, but it is *because of* **God.** (*Like that Bible College Story*)

- **The role of worship in the Church.**

- **In the Church... why... worship through music?** It's important for us to know the role that the ministry of worship plays in our corporate gatherings. (quite frankly, many ministers don't know the role that it plays, or they have the wrong idea of the role that it's supposed to play)
 - We understand why we: Preach the word, Children's ministry, Youth ministry, etc..., BUT WHY... the MINISTRY OF WORSHIP?
 - **In the Gospels and in the Book of Acts the Christians gathered and sang praises. Why?**
 - **In the congregation of Israel and in Synagogues they sang praises.**
 - **2 Chron. 5:11-6:2** (*Read*)
 - **In the OT they praised in song. In the NT they praised in song. Why?**
- **God made all things for Him.** (Even the heavens declare His glory)... So why... worship? In short, I think God made music for His glory. And I think He loves it. He looked at creation and said, "It is good." I think he hears music that He created and loves the sound of it. (He made Lucifer Timbrels and Pipes (*Ezek. 28*)), and He loves for music to give Him praise.
- **Also, there is no other created thing that can move a person's heart like music. Period.** (*a sound track*)
 - We were created Body, Spirit, and **Mind (emotions).**
 - It's a weird lie that being emotional and passionate in our expression to God is somehow wrong or unbiblical (*David dancing before the Lord and the Lord affirming it, and judging Michal for condemning it.*)
- **There is nothing that can move a person's heart like music.**
 - On Sundays (or at any other gatherings here) a huge responsibility on my part is to connect with the heart of God for what He's going to be doing at church that Sunday.
 - *Preparing on Saturday. Talking to Britt. Is God going to encourage, rebuke, build up, or break His church.*
 - And hopefully we're in sync with what He's doing and we can choose a set list that helps the congregation respond aptly to what God is already doing in their hearts.

- If the Lord is admonishing His bride to come back to their first love, we don't want to get up right after the sermon and play "You are so good to me".
- Through His Spirit, by His word, God will bring His church to a specific spiritual and even emotional place. We want to meet them where God has brought them.
- **Is it so so important for the Preacher, the Worship Leader, and the Lord to all be on the same page.** (more on that next week)
 - We're ministering along side Jesus. We are in this together.
 - In the middle of a set the Lord may give Britt a song that we're supposed to sing. Or after the sermon he may give me a word for the congregation. We're not tripping. It's *the Lord's* church.
 - *Pastor telling me, "If you don't preach, I won't sing"*
- **Because worship hits so deep in our emotions, I think it becomes one of the deepest ways we can express our love to God. And especially in the context of our Church gatherings.**
 - We can express our love to God through our obedience, for instance, but that should be played out in our **daily** lives. Our church gatherings aren't really a platform where that can be played out.
 - **So in the context of the local church, or any Christian gathering for that matter, worship is one of the deepest ways we can express our love to God.**
 - **We were created to worship God. And in the church musical worship is the medium by which we can do what we were created to do.**

*Next week: The role of worship at Reality (1st set, 2nd set), Relationship between pastor/leader and the worship leader, the role of the worship leader, the musicians, and the worship team as a whole. *