

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**What is Worship?**

Good morning church... this is a little different for me. They called in the 3<sup>rd</sup> string quarterback, because Roger and Dan are both away. I also asked my grandpa, pastor Leon if he would preach for me instead...sadly he did not bite at my offer, but I told him he had to be my backup incase I start to flounder. So if things get really bad, don't worry, he will step in and redeem things for me!

This morning we are continuing in our sermon series called "*The Heart of Worship*", and if you are new here, or missed either of the past two Sundays, please go back and watch them online. Roger answered the question "Why do we Worship", and the answer really is Jesus. We worship, because we were designed to worship, and we will innately worship something, but our Jesus provides a way for us to enter in and worship the one true God. Last week Dan gave an awesome sermon challenging us to recognize we are all priests. We are walking meeting places for God and His people to meet (use hand motions). What an awesome challenge and reminder.

So, this morning I am prayerfully going to build on the beautiful foundation they have laid for us. For those of you who are new, I am privileged to be the worship leader here, but please hear me when I say, "I have much to learn when it comes to worship", and this morning I am not intending to preach at you, but to just learn alongside you.

*And I know thanks to so many of you, I was not met with any spiritual warfare this week. I was anticipating to really struggle, and be insanely nervous for this morning, and thanks to many of you praying, this is the only warfare I was met with... My nephew who was learning to shoot at the elk behind me.*

Let's pray because I need lots of help from our Holy Spirit!

I have been tasked with the very daunting question "**What is Worship.**" Wow, talk about a big topic to unpack. I went to school for a degree in worship, it's my job every week, and yet I still feel I have much to learn.

So what is worship? I encourage you for the next few seconds, really sit and analyze, "what is my definition of worship?"

As you process what is worship, I'm going to tell you a little story.

When I was a little girl, I was absolutely terrified to sleep over at people's houses. I was so fearful. There were only a few places I could spend the night, and one of those places was my meme's house. I remember I would go over there, and she would rearrange a lot of things for me. she would

make a little bed for me beside hers and she would lay with me and help me fall asleep. She rearranged her life, so that I would feel seen and loved, and adored.

And you may be wondering, what does that have anything to do with worship?

I am not a Bible scholar, theologian, or regular speaking pastor, but I want you to walk away with this very simple and true statement.

**Worship is a way of life. And if we really want to live a life of worship, that may mean we need to rearrange some things.**

Last week Dan reminded us that worship is so much more than a song, and I could not agree more with that. Worship is not just an hour and a half on Sunday mornings. Worship is not just the 20 minutes of singing. Worship is a verb. Worship is how we live, and I know this because of Romans 12...

Romans 12 says,

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a **living sacrifice**, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.”

I just quickly want to draw our attention to the word “living”. Last week Dan reminded us that before Jesus, his death and resurrection, we needed to make sacrifices in order for us to be made right before God. Something had to die in order for us to live, but since Jesus, the greatest sacrifice, came and died on my behalf, I am now the living sacrifice, the living offering. Therefore, I must live a life of worship.

So, what does it mean to live a life of worship? What does it look like to rearrange your life to one that sees, adores, and loves Jesus. What does it look like to truly worship, to offer our bodies as living sacrifices, like Romans 12 says?

Today, we are going to open Luke chapter 7 together. We are going to study a story I find to be so beautiful. If you have your bible, great, open with me, if not, the scripture will be on the screen!

### **Luke 7:36-50**

Historical context- Just to set up the passage for a minute.

Jesus was invited over to Simon the Pharisee’s house for dinner.

As many of us know at this time in culture, it was very common to wash one another’s feet before eating since it was common practice to sit on the floor at a low table.

It was common practice to greet one another with a kiss either on the cheek or on the hand, and Simon refuses to do this.

If you wanted the person entering your home to feel extra honored, you would anoint their head with oil. It didn’t have to be expensive oil; any kind would do.

So let’s jump in...

From what I'm understanding from this passage, I'm not sure Simon was totally onboard with Jesus. He surely didn't welcome Him into his home in a way that said "I want to honor and adore you."

On the other hand we see a woman who is so in awe of God and wants to adore Him so deeply, she has lowered herself down to His unwashed feet.

Now we don't know this woman's name, some assume she is Mary Magdalene, but everywhere else in the Bible she's described as Mary Magdalene, so we don't want to assume. We also have no clue what makes her a sinful woman, some believe she was a prostitute, but again, we have no idea from this given passage, but what I do know, is the people in the room would have known exactly what made her a sinful woman. She entered into a room full of people that were bound to judge her, condemn her, and look down upon her! A room, I would not want to go into!

And yet, she was so compelled by the *worthiness* of this man Jesus, she could not help but lower herself to his feet, overcome with emotion, *she washed his feet with her tears and dried them with her hair.* (side note, women at this time did not let their hair down. This was a sign of intimacy and closeness and was only done in the presence of a spouse or very very close relative, which could be communicating her desire for closeness and intimacy with the Messiah) She then went on to anoint his feet with oil. Not just olive oil, but an oil that is thought to be saved for only the most special of occasions, such as her wedding, or a funeral burial.

I would like to dive deeper into this, by being a little nerdy...So here we go, diving a little deeper.

The original Hebrew word for worship was **Shachah**- which means to crouch, bow down, or lay prostrate before the King.

The Greek word for worship in the new testament is **Proskuneo** which also means- to kiss, to crouch, to bow down.

The old English for the word worship was actually **Worthship**, which means to give worth to someone or something that is due. *This woman found God to be so overwhelmingly worthy, she could not help but kiss his feet and bow down.*

**This image is one that majorly convicts me.**

Is my life one of worship? Is my life bowed down to the king? Do I find Him so worthy, so beautiful, so lovely, that I cannot help but bow down and kiss His feet?

Is my worship costly? Am I okay to be judged by man? Am I okay to enter a room of people who will judge me and mock me, and possibly condemn me? Am I willing to pour out my expensive oil onto the feet of Jesus? Am I willing to be uncomfortable for Him? And I don't desire to worship Him so that I can get anything in return. *Worship is not about receiving from God but giving to God.*

My life is to be one of worship. My life is to be one that is bowed down. A living sacrifice.

So, here are a few tangible examples of how we can worship our worthy God and live a life of worship...

- Prayer- start your morning praying or spend some time over lunch praying. If you're doing our Tuesday night bible study, you remember what mother Teresa said... "I don't talk to God, I listen to Him."
- Reading His word- know His word, learn His word. Hide it in your heart.
- Giving/Offering- This is a super generous church.
- Service- our church is also one of service.
- Confession- confess to God, a family member, a friend
- Thanksgiving- having a heart of gratitude towards our maker!

And these are just a few examples... I encourage you to look deeper into the spiritual disciplines.

But my final question...

**If the world were to look at your worship, how worthy would they think your God is?**

**If the world were to look at your life, how worthy would they think your God is?**

If you would have looked upon my meme's actions when I was a little girl, you would have seen that I was found worthy in her eyes. Worthy of her time, worthy of her rearranging, worthy of her own discomfort, worthy of her love.

Our God is far more worthy than I am to my grandma. Our God, creator of the universe, creator of the largest planet, and smallest atom, He is worthy. He laid down His very life for us. Can you even fathom? **And He is not worthy because of anything He has done or anything He can do for us; He is worthy because He just is.** Worthy of our worship. Worthy of bowing down for.

**Revelation 4**- invite people to close their eyes and listen. This is an image of the worship happening in heaven. I want to worship like heaven here on Earth.

He is Worthy. Maybe you need to cast down your crown today. Maybe you have enthroned yourself above our God. Maybe you need to finally bow down at His feet, either spiritually or maybe even physically (if your knees aren't too bad). May we live a life like the woman with the alabaster jar.

May we be so overcome by Him, we can't help but bow down and kiss His feet. **May our church really see God, so the world can't help but notice how worthy our God is. May we live a life of worship.**