

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

WORSHIP — I

Isaiah 6:1-6

Pastor Miles McPherson – September 8, 2013



MEMORY VERSE

“And they were calling to one another: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.’” (Isaiah 6:3 NIV)

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Review the Sunday Message:

1. Worship happens when we clearly see the **holiness** of God.
 - *A spontaneous response of respect that acknowledges God’s holiness.*
 - *You worship experience will be directly proportionate to your view of God’s holiness.*
2. Worship happens when we clearly see our **sinfulness**.
 - *A spontaneous response of respect that acknowledges man’s sinfulness.*
 - *Your worship experience will be directly proportionate to your view of your sinfulness in the eyes of God.*
3. Worship happens when we submit humbly to **serve** God from the heart.
 - *A spontaneous response of respect that acknowledges a willingness to serve in humble submission.*
 - *Your worship experience will be directly proportionate to your willingness to please God.*
 - *Accurate view of **sinful** self.*



COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS — WORSHIP, PART ONE

This week we welcome back Pastor Miles and get started on a fresh teaching of a series we did last year entitled “Worship”.

In week one of the study we looked at the famous passage of Isaiah 6. In this passage Isaiah has a vision that he is standing before the Lord and is immediately confronted with the Lord’s holiness. In this passage see the magnificent attributes of the angels that are in the presence of the Lord, but more importantly we see how Isaiah responds to the glorious, and yet fearful, situation.

Here is a question for your group to consider: What do you imagine you would do in a situation like this? Seriously! With all that we know from Scripture about the love, wrath, justice, and righteousness of God, how would you respond to God and would God respond favorably to you? Would you respond theocentrically (God-centered; What can I do for you God?), or anthropocentrically (man-centered; What will you do for me God?)?

These are actually very radically different questions that have many radical different answers. Our response to the holiness of God in worship depends on how we answer these questions in our daily lives. The following discussion questions will help shape our answers a little further.

Study Questions:

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-13 together as a group. Identify the following components in the text:
 - Who are the major characters in the passage?
 - How does Isaiah respond to his vision?
 - How is God identified in the passage?
 - What does God say to Isaiah? How does Isaiah respond?
 - What is the content of the message that God wants Isaiah to communicate to the nations?
 - What does God want the outcome to be of Isaiah’s message?
2. In Isaiah’s worship, he was called to preach to the nation about their destruction and disobedience. They failed to worship the Lord their God alone! What are areas that cloud our sole worship of God? How can we serve each other (as a group and even as a church) to protect the proper worship of God?
 - What can replace our worship?
 - What can distract our worship?
 - What are things that cause us to choose or reject proper worship (i.e., life is or isn’t going the way I want it to)?
3. Read and compare the following passages: Gen. 2:15; Matt. 4:10; Rev. 22:3. Using the following points below, how does the Bible view the proper worship of God in our everyday lives?
 - Gen. 2:15 – The Hebrew word *abad* translated “tend” or “work” means “worship” or “serve” throughout the Old Testament. The Hebrew word *samar* translated “keep” or “take care” means to “protect” or “preserve”. It appears that the author is far less concerned with Adam tending and keeping the garden but actually serving and worshipping the Lord and protecting and preserving that relationship.



God created the earth, but planted a special garden for Adam to live in. The preservation wasn't the garden, which was God's job; the preservation was with God and sole worship of him. This was shortly compromised with their sin in Gen. 3.

- Matt. 4:10 – Jesus includes in his final response to Satan after his temptation in the wilderness, “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.” The Greek word *proskyneō* is used for “worship” and has its root in the Hebrew word *abad* (worship, serve). It also has an image of prostration on the ground before this God and King. It involves total surrender! This is basically acknowledging God as the sole object of our love and affection. The Greek word *latreuō* is the word Jesus uses for “serve.” Here we can actually learn what it means to serve Jesus. The word actually means adoration, specifically done in prayer and supplication. Jesus is stating that true “service and worship” of God is done in humility and prayer.
- Rev. 22:3 – The Apostle John ends his great apocalyptic letter with the full restoration of the earth by explaining the new role of man. John states that the curse (Gen. 3) is removed, and the population of the new heaven and new earth will “serve” God daily. Interestingly enough this is the same word used in Matthew from Jesus. Some translations state “worship” other than serve. It appears that the word can be used to serve and worship. God’s original intent for man in Genesis 2:15 has been redeemed. Here we can “tend” and “keep” our relationship with God for all eternity.

How can you apply these verses of “service” and “worship” to your everyday life?
According to these verses what does God consider proper and affective worship?

Add'l Notes:

