

Living Water & True Worship

Hope Chapel Honolulu

John 4:1-26

²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:21-24, ESV)

Introduction

Is our manner, style and approach to corporate worship a reaction to the culture and times we live in, or do our times of worshiping God together reflect our shared love for God and desire to encounter, engage, know, thank and please Him? While worship is not for us but for God, worship is not necessary to God while worship in spirit and in truth is essential for us. Robert Webber wrote, "Worship is the response of the people to God's saving initiative. The inner person receives God's acts of salvation communicated in public worship with humility and in reverence, service and devotion" (Worship Old and New, Zondervan, 1994, p.31). While not be practical for us to imitate or emulate the corporate worship of the Early Church, it is a good idea to regularly return to Christ's explanation of why we worship.

1. Our thirst for life. (John 4:1-10)

a) The passions of our flesh: for self, to control, to define and pressure to perform.

b) The passions of the Spirit of God: to worship, trust, grow and obey.

2. God's promise of living water. (John 4:11-20)

a) The drink that leaves you thirsty and never satisfies.

b) The drink that satisfies and never leaves you thirsty for anything else again

3. The truth about love and worship. (John 4:21-26)

a) Worship, humility, dialogue: helpful instruction for personal and corporate worship.

b) Learning to worship in spirit and in truth: repentance, reconciliation, restoration and rest.

Conclusion

While it is probably true that congregational singing and concert-like corporate worship would seem very foreign to those first few generations of apostles, there do seem to be some valid reasons for worshiping God through music and song together: 1) it can encourage and strengthen us for discipleship and witness, 2) we gain a glimpse of our future when Christ returns, 3) we are reminded of our shared identity and fellowship in Christ, 4) it can provide us with inspiration and template for times of personal and family worship, but 5) perhaps most importantly, corporate worship draws us away from seeking recognition and reward for ourselves and focusing on God who is worthy of praise, glory, honor and worship in song and service.

For our prayerful study, discussion and application:

1) Where, when and how do you meet God for worship, prayer, confession, repentance and thanksgiving?

2) Who, where, when and how do you foster the passions of the Spirit?

3) What did the Word and Spirit of God teach you or remind you about worship today?

062319cdg@hch