



Knowing God Through Worship

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Introduction:

Worship helps us know God. There are many ways people respond to God. In this passage we are looking at this morning, God speaks to Moses from a bush.

At the heart of the idea of worship is our relationship with God. All creation declares the glory of God unintentionally just by being itself (Psalm 19:1). But human beings uniquely can choose to bless God; indeed, we are obligated to do so. Worship is dimensional in that it involves the spirit and intellect of man.

In Scripture, worship is at the core of having relationship with God. We can know God more through our worship of Him.

TEXT: [Exodus 3:1-6](#)

One day Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he went deep into the wilderness near Sinai, the mountain of God. Suddenly, the angel of the LORD appeared to him as a blazing fire in a bush. Moses was amazed because the bush was engulfed in flames, but it didn't burn up. "Amazing!", Moses said to himself. "Why isn't that bush burning up? I must go over to see this."

When the LORD saw that he had caught Moses' attention, God called to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" "Here I am!" Moses replied.

"Do not come any closer," God told him. "Take off your sandals, for you are standing on holy ground." Then He said, "I am the God of your ancestors—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." When Moses heard this, he hid his face in his hands because he was afraid to look at God.

I. God wants to capture our attention

- A. If we are going to worship God and know Him through worship there have to be times we turn aside from what we are doing to speak to God, to hear from God and to let Him reveal to us who He is.
- B. Our lives are busy, busy, busy, and we will get busier in the next few weeks because of the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let God capture your attention. It

probably won't be a burning bush, but it may be a close call that an accident was avoided. It may be a blessing financially, it may be a promotion at work, it may be a disaster, it may be an illness, it may be a job loss, but whatever it is, God wants your attention.

The burning bush experience changed the direction of Moses' life. When we take time to turn aside and give God our attention to worship Him, the effects are long lasting, and affect our lives in ways that nothing else will.

Those of you who have children, or had children – and you give them instruction, or you just want to communicate your love and affection to them and they say “Yeah, yeah, yeah.” They heard you, but you want to reveal something to them, and you want their attention. “Shut off the CD, the TV, the computer, the video game, look at me and listen.”

II. We need to be aware of where we are. Here I am

I hope you have a set place where you meet God. I trust that you have a place of quiet where you come and say, God Here I am. I trust it is a place of honesty.

- A. Moses needed to be aware of where he was.
- B. Look at where he was. No other people around him. He was alone. He was deep into the wilderness; he was doing his job of tending the flock of his father-in-law. He was near Mount Sinai.
- C. There was nothing special about the place where Moses drew near to God. The only thing that made that place special was that God showed up. If God is everywhere present, then wherever we are, we can meet Him.
- D. Worship doesn't just happen on Sunday morning. Those who have made Christ the leader of their life, find that no matter where they are, that place has the potential to be a place of worship.

Too many times we have thought that we have to be with other people to meet or experience God. We have to be in a church building to meet or experience God.

- E. This was not the case with Moses.

When we do meet together, it is not only our singing together that is worship, but everything that we do—greeting one another as we arrive, learning from the Scriptures, sharing news or announcements, singing praises or praying, sharing the Lord's Supper and visiting over coffee and cookies after the service.

III. Worship changes our focus from us to God

- A. In the Bible the fundamental way we enter into a relationship with God is through a covenant - that binding personal relationship by which two parties (in this case God and people) enter into agreement to belong together.

The covenant starts with the promise that God has selected, adopted and saved the people making them a “treasured possession.”

Exodus 19:4-6

“You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself. Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.

- B. Worship is not about us, it's not about our feeling Him, but it is about drawing closer and knowing God. It is about the relationship I have with God.

God promises presence, community and a place to belong. The covenant itself is unconditional, founded as it is on the promise, but the blessings of the covenant (the land, the continuance of the people and the ultimate blessing of the Gentiles) are conditional upon obedience to its obligations.

These obligations involve (1) a lifestyle of behavior appropriate for God's covenant people (embodied in the Ten Commandments) and (2) a lifestyle of blessing God (embodied in the temple worship and festivals).

In other words, people in right relation to God live faithfully and bless God continuously. To live a holy life (as the Pharisees did in Jesus' time) but not to express love to God is to break the covenant, even though no grave breach of it is committed. This same failure to bless breaks the covenant of marriage: staying in it ungratefully (like a spouse remaining faithful in a difficult marriage but only complaining about it) still breaks the covenant because there is no blessing of the partner.

- C. If there is no blessing, there is no faith and no joy. When we worship, we literally enjoy

God, delight in God, relish God, and bring pleasure to God. C. S. Lewis once said that in commanding us to worship, God is inviting us to enjoy him. Worship does actually affect God. It is a truly awesome thing that worship makes a difference to God, actually blesses God.

When we are in church, the quality of our worship is not correlated to the intensity with which we focus upon God and feel God's presence.

Sometimes people have the idea that if we don't feel something emotional, or aren't intense about our worship, then we haven't truly worshipped the Lord. Because worship includes our response to God, there can be an emotional aspect to worship. But true worship that God seeks for is done in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

God is Spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

If I only know Him in Spirit, that leaves out the entire dimension of my knowledge and mind and understanding. The truth part is also part of worshipping God.

IV. Several observations about worship in Revelation:

The picture given to us in Revelation has several characteristics that can inspire our worship now.

- A. *The worship is responsive.* It is caused by God and God's actions rather than "worked up" by human effort. God awakens a desire for worship in the same way he awakened a desire in Adam for a wife.

Conclusion:

As we conclude our thoughts this morning, we can see that God wants our attention, we need to be aware of where we are. Maybe we are far from God in our life. Maybe we are far from God in obedience, in righteousness, in lifestyle, in faith. Part of worship is being honest and acknowledging, HERE I AM.

When God gets our attention, and we acknowledge honestly where we are, then our focus is on Him, in the proper place, and He receives the glory from the life we live

Rev. 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

- B. *The worship is reverent,* God-pleasing and for God's benefit, it is inspired by the mercy of God and directed to the pleasure of God. The alternatives promoted today—relational, charismatic or contemplative worship—focus on what we get out of corporate worship. But the royal priesthood is *focused on blessing God.*

Rev. 5:10

"You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

- C. *The worship is inclusive.* Revelation gives us a picture of all nations, tribes and peoples together worshipping God. The global village has become the global garden city. The synergism of this is far more than the sum of individual privatized worship.
- D. *The worship is intelligent.* The mind is engaged fully in heaven. Worship is not a "touchy-feely" affair but reflects (as does John himself) on the great themes of God as Creator and Redeemer.

Rev. 5:11-14

Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Worship is evoked by the qualities and actions of God: power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, blessing and sovereignty