TOPIC: Worship

How To Put Worship Back In Our Worship
Psalm 63:1-8 (NKJV)

Please turn with me to our scripture text this morning in Psalm 63, and let’s read verses 1-8.

PSALM 63:1-8 (NKJV)

1 O God, You are my God; 
   Early will I seek You; 
   My soul thirsts for You; 
   My flesh longs for You 
   In a dry and thirsty land 
   Where there is no water.

2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, 
   To see Your power and Your glory.

3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, 
   My lips shall praise You.

4 Thus I will bless You while I live; 
   I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, 
   And my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

6 When I remember You on my bed, 
   I meditate on You in the night watches.

7 Because You have been my help, 
   Therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul follows close behind You; 
   Your right hand upholds me.

PRAYER
INTRODUCTION

David wrote this 63rd Psalm during a very difficult time in his life. He was living as a fugitive in the Judean wilderness at this time. His son Absalom was out to kill him and make himself the new king of Israel.

One might think in such dire circumstances that David would be whining and complaining to God about the awful situation he was in. Instead, David was worshipping GOD in the midst of his difficult circumstances. What a testimony for you and me!

As we look more closely at David’s worship in the wilderness we are going to learn three ways you and I can put WORSHIP BACK IN OUR WORSHIP.

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First of all...........

I. We Must Come Before God With A HUNGRY Heart (v.1,2)

1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory.

1. Listen to the hunger for God in David’s words........

“I SEEK You.”........... “My soul THIRSTS for You.”

“My flesh LONGS for You.”...........“I have LOOKED for You.”

True Worship Begins With A HUNGRY HEART.
2. When we come to worship each LORD’S DAY we may come “hungry” for lots of things. We may be hungry for fellowship with God’s people. . . . . . for good singing. . . . for good preaching. . . . and yes, on some Sundays we may come hungry for a good fellowship dinner after Church.

But ask yourself, “DO I COME HUNGRY FOR GOD?”

3. Imagine going to your favorite restaurant once a week. You ask to see a menu. When the waitress comes back to take your order you say, “Oh, I’m not hungry, I just wanted to make sure everything is still on the menu.”

I’m afraid that is how a lot of Christians come to worship each week. We don’t come because we are hungry for GOD, we come to see if the singing and praying and communion and offering and preaching are still on the menu. And as long as nothing on the menu has changed, then we’re satisfied that we have truly worshiped.

4. But brothers and sisters, WORSHIP is not about US, worship is about GOD. Notice the focus of David’s worship......

“I seek YOU.” .......... “My soul thirsts for YOU.”

“My flesh longs for YOU.” .......... “I have for YOU.”

5. Sometimes we get so hung up on what “we like or dislike” about the worship service that we miss the whole point of worship and that is WORSHIP ISN’T ABOUT ME and WHAT I LIKE, WORSHIP IS ABOUT GOD!
-It's not about what style of music I LIKE, but rather does the music praise and exalt the Holy Name of God and His Son Jesus Christ?

-It's not about whether I think the sermon was boring or interesting or too long, but rather did the preaching EXALT and HONOR GOD and HIS SON JESUS CHRIST?

4. You see, if the FOCUS of our worship is on “what we GET” rather than “what we GIVE” we will miss the whole point of worship.

6. Do you want to PUT WORSHIP BACK IN YOUR WORSHIP?
COME BEFORE GOD WITH A HUNGRY HEART!

Secondly......

II. We Must Come Before God With A HUMBLE Heart (v. 3-5)

3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.

4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.

5 My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

1. Listen to the humility of David in his opening statement in verse 3:

   v.3a “Your lovingkindness is better than life.”
2. From a human perspective, David had “tasted of the good life.”
   As the King of Israel he had known a life of luxury. He lived in a palace. He had servants to answer his beckoning call.
   He had untold wealth at his disposal. And he was the commander of the most powerful army in the world in that day and time.

3. But in his humility, David says to God, “Your loving-kindness is better than life.”

4. Sometimes “our life” gets in the way of truly worshiping God.
   Sometimes we become proud of the job we have or the title we wear or the position we hold. Sometimes we become proud of the money we make or the material possessions we own.

   But if we are to truly worship GOD, we must humbly confess that without the loving-kindness of GOD we would HAVE NOTHING and BE NOTHING.

5. Do you know each week when we gather here to worship, God isn't listening to hear who has the prettiest singing voice or who can pray the prettiest prayers or who delivers the best communion meditations or if the preacher delivers an eloquent sermon.

   GOD IS LOOKING FOR GENUINE HUMILITY IN OUR HEART!
6. When you and I come here to worship each LORD'S DAY we
need to “leave every shred of our human pride at the door.”

   It doesn't matter how long you have been a member of this Church.

   It doesn't matter what positions you hold in the Church.

   It doesn't matter how much you do in the Church or how much
   you have given to the Church.

   It doesn't matter how important you are outside these four walls........
   or what degrees you hold.......or what titles you wear.......or what your
   net worth is.

   When you and I come into the presence of GOD here each Lord's
   Day, there is only One in this gathering Who is worthy to be
   worshiped......praised.....and adored, and that is Almighty God.

If you want to PUT WORSHIP BACK IN YOUR WORSHIP........

   Come before GOD with A HUNGRY HEART.
   Come before GOD with A HUMBLE HEART.
And thirdly..........

III.  We Must Come Before GOD With A HOLY Heart (vs. 6-8)

6 When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the night watches.

7 Because You have been my help, therefore in the shadow of Your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul follows close behind You; Your right hand upholds me.

1.  What do you think about when you are lying awake in bed at night?

   - Do you think about all you have to do the next day?
   - Do you think about all your troubles and worries?
   - Do you think about how tired you're going to be the next day because you are lying there wide awake and can't sleep?

2.  When David lay awake at night in the wilderness, and I'm sure he lay awake many nights, he thought about GOD......he thought about GOD. He said, "I meditate on YOU in the night watches."

   David worshiped GOD with a HOLY heart!

3.  Nothing will hinder your sweet fellowship and worship of GOD more than hiding unconfessed or unrepented of sins in your heart.

4.  Do you remember what the apostle John said in I John 1:6,7 (NKJV)

   "If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as HE is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."
5. SIN causes us to **SING with our voices**, but not with our hearts.

SIN causes us to **PRAY with our mouths**, but not with our spirit.

SIN causes us to **GIVE**, but without joy.

SIN causes us to **COMMUNE**, without experiencing true communion and oneness with GOD.

SIN causes us to **HEAR THE WORD** but not to do what the word says.

SIN causes us to **GO THROUGH THE MOTIONS** of worship without truly worshiping God.

6. You see, if you and I want to **PUT WORSHIP BACK IN OUR WORSHIP** we must come before GOD with HOLY HEARTS. That means we must **CONFESS** and **REPENT** of our SINS and not play games with GOD.

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HENRY WARD BEECHER was one of the greatest preachers of the 19th century. One Sunday morning Bro. Beecher became ill, so a substitute preacher walked up to the pulpit as the service began. Seeing that Dr. Beecher would not be speaking that day, a number of people got up and headed for the door. The fill-in preacher said, “All those who came to worship Dr. Beecher this morning may leave. All those who came to worship GOD may stay in their seats.”

WHY DID YOU COME HERE THIS MORNING?

If you came here for any other reason than to worship GOD, then you came here for the wrong reason.

Brothers and sisters, let us PUT WORSHIP BACK IN OUR WORSHIP!

Let us come before GOD with HUNGRY HEARTS!
Let us come before GOD with HUMBLE HEARTS!
And let us come before GOD with HOLY HEARTS!

Change my heart O GOD,
Make it ever true;
Change my heart O GOD,
May I be like YOU.