

The Ultimate Priority - Worship . . . Part 3

WORSHIPPING THE FATHER Matthew 6:9-15

STIMULATE

** So far in our series on worship, we have looked at "**Unacceptable Worship**" and last time, "**Worship as a Way of Life**". You may recall the three dimensions of our worship of the Lord Jesus Christ, they were:

- 1) The Outward Dimension - How we treat others.
- 2) The Inward Dimension - Our personal holiness.
- 3) The Upward Dimension - Our worship toward God is to be Continuous, Sacrificial, with the attitude of praise, and expressing words of thanksgiving, all to be done "through Him".
(Hebrews 13:15)

** Which one did you choose to focus on and how are you doing?

- 2) The Inward Dimension - My lifelong quest for personal holiness stands as a verification of my salvation and my desire to follow the Lord. It is therefore the one area that Satan will always be relentlessly attacking!

MOTIVATE

** Having learned these three dimensions of worship, today we embark upon the task of learning about the three objects of our worship. As the children of God it should be our desire to worship Him fully. We are going to begin with what the Bible has to say about "**Worshipping the Father**". Please open your Bibles to Matthew 6:9-15, as we have the privilege of listening together to what Jesus has to say about the worship that is to be directed toward our Heavenly Father.

Read Passage (V. 9-11) (V. 12-13) (V. 14-15)
[FOR CONTEXT - V. 5-8]

Opening Prayer

Worshipping the Father

INVESTIGATE

The worship of our Heavenly Father is an inexhaustible topic in a lifetime of study, let alone in one day, however we are going to try to glean from this one brief passage ten profound truths about the worship of our Heavenly Father. The idea of worshipping the Father floods all of Scripture.

The apostle Paul opened every one of his thirteen epistles with some form of the expression "Grace and peace from **God our Father**...", you will find that in Romans 1:7, 1Corinthians 1:3, 2Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2, Colossians 1:2, 1Thessalonians 1:1, 2Thessalonians 1:2, 1Timothy 1:2, 2Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4, and Philemon 1:2. In the mind of Paul, God was most definitely his Heavenly Father and deserving of worship!

As far as grace and peace coming from our Father, that too Paul would have long understood. cf. Numbers 6:22-27

Alright then, let's look at this wonderful portion of the Sermon on the Mount and learn from Jesus what He would have us to know about "**Worshipping the Father**".

GOD'S PURPOSE (1)

V. 9 ** As we worship the Father in prayer, what would you say is God's purpose in having us worship Him?

The supreme purpose for our worship is to give glory to God! To exalt His name and draw attention to all He has done. Jesus affirms this purpose in John 14:13 when He said He answers prayer so "that the Father may be glorified". We are going to see that Jesus' pattern for prayer is totally dedicated to bringing glory to the Father. Which is why He begins this passage with "Pray, then, in this way".

cf. Matthew 6:5-8, again, the hypocrisy of those who would pray for their own glory is to be avoided at all costs!

GOD'S PATERNITY (2)

V. 9 ** As we worship God the Father, how does Jesus describe our personal relationship to Him?

He is "our" Father. The Jews listening to Jesus that day would have understood that concept.
cf. Isaiah 64:8, Jeremiah 31:9

But even the Gentiles who placed their faith in Jesus would come to see God as their Father.
All see - John 1:12, Romans 8:14-15, Galatians 3:26

****** What kind of resources does our Father have at His disposal?

All of the resources of Heaven! cf. Ephesians 1:3

He is the God of Heaven, He alone possesses the answers to our prayers and deserves our worship.

GOD'S PRIORITY (3)

V. 9 ** Still here in verse nine, what priority does Jesus place before us as we worship God in prayer?

"Hallowed be Thy name" lit. "hagiazo", to make holy. God alone is holy and here Jesus is calling us to attribute to God the holiness that He already has. It means to revere, honor, glorify and obey Him as singularly perfect.
cf. 1Peter 3:15

We most hallow His name when we behave in conformity to His will!
cf. Matthew 7:21, 1Corinthians 10:31

GOD'S PROGRAM (4)

V.10 ** What is God's program for His kingdom?

For it to come! The kingdom of God was embodied in Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the past (Matthew 8:11) and was present in the time of Jesus' earthly ministry (Luke 17:20-21), but here the particular focus is on the future coming kingdom of God.

We worship God, our Father, when we align ourselves with the program of His coming kingdom, both in the salvation of souls now (Matthew 18:4) and the earthly reign of Jesus (Revelation 20:4-6).

GOD'S PLAN (5)

V.10 ** If our worship is to be sincere, we must embrace God's plan, how is that expressed by Jesus in this verse?

"Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven"

When we worship God by praying "Thy will be done", we are praying first of all that God's will become our own will. That is worship! Jesus did just that in the garden (Matthew 26:39 and 42). Second, we are praying for His will to prevail on the earth as it does in heaven.
cf. Psalm 103:19-22

As we are learning what Jesus has to say about "**Worshipping the Father**" we have seen God's Purpose, Paternity, Priority, Program and Plan, next let's look at His gracious Provision.

GOD'S PROVISION (6)

V.11 ** What does God provide for His worshippers?

"...our daily bread..."

** Besides the obvious nourishment that we receive from God through the food He provides, how is God glorified by this request?

This petition draws our hearts to a dependency upon the One who alone can sustain our life! He gives us food, health, weather, home, wife, children, government, His Word and salvation. cf. James 1:17.

GOD'S PARDON (7)

V.12 ** The next truth portrayed in this masterpiece of worship, affords us access to God, our Father, what is it?

God's Pardon! The term used here for debts is "opheilema" and refers to a moral or spiritual debt in twenty-five of the thirty times it is found in the New Testament. We worship God, our Father, when we ask Him to forgive our debt of missing the mark of His righteousness.
cf. Proverbs 28:13

** What will be our heart's attitude toward others, if we are genuinely thankful for God forgiving our sin?

We, also, will be forgiving of others! cf. Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12-13

GOD'S PROTECTION (8)

V.13 ** How does God protect those who worship Him?

- 1) By not leading them into temptation. cf. James 1:13
- 2) But delivering them from evil. cf. James 4:7, Psalm 119:11, John 17:15

GOD'S PREEMINENCE (9)

V.13 ** In order for us to worship our Heavenly Father we must hold a proper view of His preeminence. How does the end of this verse do that?

It is a doxology which ascribes to God alone the greatness of His kingdom, power and glory!

** Do you suppose that the Old Testament saints were aware of the Father's preeminence?

Absolutely yes! cf. 1Chronicles 29:11

GOD'S POSTSCRIPT (10)

V.14-15

** Finally, this lesson by the Lord on "**Worshipping the Father**" concludes with an all important application opportunity for the forgiveness taught back in verse twelve. It comes in both a positive and negative mode. First the positive, if we are people who by virtue of our new nature are forgiving men their transgressions against us, how will our Heavenly Father view our transgressions against Him?

He will forgive us!

** Now from the negative, if we deny who we claim to be as children of God by failing to forgive, what will be God's response?

He will not forgive us our debts!

Every believer must seek to manifest the forgiving spirit of Joseph (Genesis 50:19-21) and of Stephen (Acts 7:1 and 51-60), because it reflects how our Heavenly Father has forgiven us.

** In this passage there are six petitions to the Lord, why do you suppose He chose forgiveness as a postscript to His teaching on worship?

It is in forgiving that we most emulate our Father who is in Heaven and thereby enjoy a close personal fellowship with God through "**Worshipping the Father**".

EXTRICATE

** What is the purpose of our worship of the Father?

To bring Him glory!

** What must happen to my will before I can truly worship my Heavenly Father?

It must be joyfully subject to His, so that I will be available to go where He sends me.

** How much in my life am I to view as coming from Him?

Everything! It is worship in spirit and truth to thank the Father for providing every element of our life.

DELINEATE

** What were the ten truths contained in the Lord's lesson on worshipping the Father?

They were: God's Purpose, Paternity, Priority, Program, Plan, Provision, Pardon, Protection, Preeminence and Postscript.

** As you look back over today's brief passage...

what elements were new to you?

which elements challenged you the most?

where have you been falling short in your desire to worship your Heavenly Father?

EVALUATE

** Are you willing to make changes in your daily walk with the Lord? Even if it is only that you will be more aware of how important it is that we worship our Heavenly Father in accordance with the ten truths that Jesus has taught us today?

ACTIVATE

** Jesus said, "But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshippers" (John 4:23), Lord helps us to be the kind of children that will worship our Heavenly Father to the praise and glory of God!

Closing Prayer