

## SERMON ON MT- HOLY HABITS- THE CHRISTIAN AND WORSHIP

### Mark 1:21-28

Today we look at the Holy Habit of Worship

Someone asked the question.

“How do you identify someone who needs to worship?”

The answer: “If they are breathing.”

**We all need worship.**

We should all have the attitude of the little boy who when his mother explained to him that their church was "God's house," responded, "Gee, aren't we lucky to live in the same neighborhood as God does!"

We were all created with the desire to worship

There is that vast emptiness within us that seeks to be in relationship

With a Higher Power.

When that relationship is alive and well, all society benefits.-

Our family, spouse, children, community

And we discover the greatest peace and purpose in our lives.

In our family,

I don't know if my father ever figured out raising us.

How it happened 2 of the 4 children he raised on the farm,

Went into the ministry.

But I do know he understood about being faithful in worship.

Because all the years of our lives on the farm.

We had daily devotions at breakfast time,

We had them so often that we wore out the Bible.

I can still see it now all duck-taped together.

And on Sunday we were always at church in worship.

And somewhere in between God took it upon himself

To speak to two little boys about sharing God's good news with the world.

**Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, defined** worship as “quickenning the conscience by the holiness of God, feeding the mind with the truth of God, purging the imagination by the beauty of God, opening the heart to the love of God, and devoting the will to the purpose of God”.

Jesus' family went to church.

Joseph and Mary made sure they were all there on the Sabbath.

And that continued into Jesus life.

### I. JESUS GOES TO CHURCH

**21They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. Mark 1:21**

I don't know how many times you read in the Bible

That on the Sabbath Jesus was in the synagogue.

Teaching,

Preaching,

But he went to church.

And if Jesus saw worship as an essential part of who he was as a human being,

We can do no less than to imitate him.  
Jesus still goes to church today.

Why would he change what he did when he was on this earth?  
He only changed the way in which He comes.  
We don't 'find the physical presence of Jesus here today.  
But we find the Holy Spirit whom he sent.

The presence of God  
Reveals the Spirit of God.  
The Spirit of God reveals the Word of God,  
And the Word of God reveals the Life in God.  
Pentecost took place when people were gathered in worship praying,  
And the Holy Spirit came certifying the church as God's place  
to pour out his Holy Spirit.

## **II. PEOPLE WERE AMAZED IN CHURCH**

**22The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Mark 1:22**

When the Tabernacle was set up in the wilderness.  
It was set up in the middle of the Camp.  
The spirit of God would come upon it  
and the presence of God would fill it.  
And the people were amazed to see it.  
And God still does it today.

Jesus promise

**For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20**

When we come to church even today  
God is here.  
We can come with our questions.  
When we come with our hurts and wounds  
And we can find an authoritative answer.  
A comforting word and  
A healing touch  
God speaks to us in the midst of music, liturgy, common confession, singing, preaching,  
and reading His word.  
God creates us so that our worship is designed to keep us on track.

Our weekly men's groups have been studying Nehemiah.  
And when Nehemiah came back from Babylonian exile to rebuild Jerusalem,  
He gathered the people and they began to build the walls of they city.  
But he also gathered the people to rebuild something else,  
That was the foundation of their faith and Jewish religion.

They agreed to put aside the foreign wives.  
They set aside the Sabbath for a day of rest  
To read the scrolls and began to have a Sabbath worship.

After 13 years Nehemiah went back to Babylon to report to King Artaxerxes.  
 He was gone 2-3 years.  
 When he came back.  
 He found things had deteriorated.  
 They had forgotten the Sabbath worship.  
 They had forgotten the Sabbath rest and were selling and bartering on the Sabbath.  
 They had begun to remarry the women of the surrounding area  
 And they had fallen into heresy and idolatry.  
 It was because they had gotten away from Worship.

Worship keeps us focused.

**(FRANZWA) Francois (Fenelon ) was the court preacher for King Louis (14)XIV of France in the 17th century.** One Sunday when the king and his attendants arrived at the chapel for the regular service, no one else was there but the preacher. King Louis demanded, "What does this mean?" Fenelon replied, "I had published that you would not come to church today, in order that your Majesty might see who serves God in truth and who flatters the king." Source unknown

Worship is what keeps us focused.  
 Worship is what keeps us also in tune with God and our fellow man.  
 Worship reminds us of our responsibility to live a Godly life  
 And to beware lest the world and its way woo us into disaster.  
 The early church was amazed at what they found in worship.

They were amazed at what Jesus did in worship.  
 What is it you expect God to do for you in this service?  
 One thing he will do is interrupt you and your comfortable complacency.

### **III. WORSHIP IS A PLACE OF INTERRUPTIONS**

**23Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil<sup>[a]</sup> spirit cried out, 24"What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Mark 1:23-24**

Worship was interrupted.  
 This time it was interrupted by Satan himself.  
 He wanted to get Jesus to expose himself and declare who he was before the Pharisees and teachers of the law so they could kill him for blasphemy.  
 Satan is alive and well in church and  
 Will seek to interrupt your spirit  
 Even your attitude in worship.

Sometime the Pharisees themselves set it up to happen.  
 So they could accuse and kill him.

**On another Sabbath he went into the synagogue and was teaching, and a man was there whose right hand was shriveled. The Pharisees and the teachers of the law were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal on the Sabbath. Luke 6:6-7**

The common thing was that worship was interrupted.  
 The interruption was always an opportunity

Jesus used to teach, and to heal,  
 To Comfort,  
 To Correct  
 To Encourage,  
 To even raise the dead,

Something unusual happened when Jesus was there  
 Interruptions still happen today.  
 I'm not talking about crying babies,  
 Or about coughing, or someone fainting.

I'm talking about being interrupted by the presence of the Living God.  
 God has designed our worship so that it is interrupted by His Spirit.

We may come with our own agenda to worship God,  
 Our bulletin printed to sing hymns and songs,  
 to give our offering,  
 listen to the sermon,  
 stand for the benediction  
 and go out to eat.

But worship is the place where God interrupts our lives.  
 He breaks into our thoughts,  
 Scrutinizes our attitudes,  
 Uncovers families disputes,  
 Reveals our shady business deals,  
 Exposes marriages of their weakness  
 And reveals our school ethics and tests results  
 And moves us to change.

**In South Africa during an worship service a Dutchman came under conviction of sin and** was soundly converted. The next morning he went to the beautiful home of another Dutchman and said to him, "Do you recognize that old watch?" The other man said: "Why, yes, those are my initials; that is my watch. I lost it eight years ago. How did you get it, and how long have you had it?" "I stole it," was the reply. "What made you bring it back now?" He said: "I was converted last night, and I have brought it back first thing this morning. If you had been up, I would have brought it last night." [Gipsy Smith, The Bible Friend](#).

God breaks into the sermon,  
 and the songs,  
 Into the offering  
 And changes our hearts.  
 Even today,  
 Some have wept,  
 Some have experiences guilt  
 Some have found comfort  
 All have been challenged to change.

God breaks in to correct us,  
 assist us,

comfort us,  
 cleanse us,  
 confirm us,

His interruptions never to confound us.  
 Because God is not the author of confusion.

I can honestly say that in my life of worship  
 The many times I have sat listening to a sermon,  
 God has interrupted my thoughts,  
 And corrected my heart,  
 Usually he has put his finger on a very specific area of my life.  
 And direction is also confirmed.  
 "Go and ask forgiveness,"  
 "Write a letter of thank you".  
 "Call and confess that sin in your life".  
 Usually God doesn't use the plural word sins.  
 He always put his finger on the one sin that need personal attention.  
 Give up your pride in this argument.  
 And I have said: either yes or no.

I have discovered with Josh Billings:  
 It is much easier to repent of sins that we have committed  
 than to repent of those we intend to commit.  
[Josh Billings.](#)

God's interruptions bring us back to reality.  
 Bring us back to the basic.  
 Back to the foundation cornerstone of our religion.  
 To Love the Lord our God first,  
 With all our heart, soul, mind and strength.  
 And to Love our neighbor as ourselves.

And in our Christian faith our worship  
 should always bring us back to Jesus.  
 What would Jesus do?

Kierkegaard, the nineteenth century Danish theologian, said:  
 "Many people attend church thinking of themselves as the audience,  
 And regard the minister, the choir, and worship leaders as actors in a drama.  
 The audience then is free to critique the "performance" of those in worship."

But, said Kierkegaard, "they have it all backwards.  
 In reality, the minister and other worship leaders are not the actors,  
 but functioning more like the director and prompters in a stage play.  
 The real actors are those in the congregation  
 who come not to watch, but to worship God.  
 Their efforts are not directed toward each other  
 nor toward the minister and choir,  
 but toward God who is the real audience."

God is the one who observes our every action  
and knows our every thought,  
and in our worship exposes our sins and his salvation.

The fundamental purpose of worship, then,  
is not to please, entertain or even instruct us,  
although all these things may be useful by-products;  
the fundamental purpose of worship is to focus totally on God.

**23 Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.**

**24 See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.**

**Psalm 139:23-24**

That is why worship is such a crucial Holy Habit and spiritual discipline.  
Because in it we discovered again how much God cares about us.  
We discover who we are,  
And what plan God has for our lives.  
And in that discovery find wholeness and peace.

Today we will worship with the Holy Habit of communion  
To reminds us of the sacrificial death of our Lord Jesus  
Who offers his grace and peace to all who come with repentant hearts.

The world voices will clamor too for our souls,  
Swap our integrity  
Barter our conviction.  
Exchange our devotion.  
Cross over our fidelity

But we must choose.  
The screaming voices of the world for our allegiance,  
Or the soft and tender request of Jesus?  
The World pounds at your door  
Jesus soft knocks.  
And when you open,  
He promises a quiet dinner at his table...with the living God.  
Which voice do you hear????  
Which door will you open???