



Worship

Saturday 28th March 2026

Teaching by John Risbridger

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Entering the Story of Worship: Revelation and Response

When I say “the worship was really good today!” what do I mean?

Is it the same as what God would mean?

Worship and the Bible’s Story

Key idea: Worship is a response to God’s revelation of himself, birthed, energised and directed by encounter with the Spirit

John 4 – Worship is the real issue

John 4:23 - “...a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks.”

Exodus 8:1 ‘The LORD said to Moses, “Go to Pharaoh and say to him, ‘This is what the LORD says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me.’”

Exodus Outline:

1-18: God rescues his people to be a worshipping community

19-40: God teaches them to be a worshipping community:

- 19-24: He gives them his word which they are to obey
- 25-40: He gives them his presence (Tabernacle) which they can enter through blood sacrifice.

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Putting the Story Together

Creation/Eden: walking with God (presence); obeying God's command

(word)

De-creation/Fall: expelled from Eden (presence); disobeying God's

command (word)

Re-creation/Moses: Tabernacle (presence) and law (word)

Re-creation/Jesus: In Spirit (presence) and truth (word)

New creation: the renewing word; the 'dwelling' presence

Discuss

Equipped with this brief run through the biblical story, how would you describe or define the worshippers the Father seeks?

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Worship and the Bible's Language

'proskuneo' = homage/honour/prostration

"Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshipped" (Ex 34:8 LXX)

"A time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks." (John 4:23)

"The twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.'" (Rev 4:11-12)

'latreuo' = service/obedience

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God – this is your true and proper worship." (Rom 12:1)

"No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve/worship him." (Rev 22:3)

So worship is a whole life response of costly obedience, living every day life for the glory of God in gratitude for his mercy in Christ.

So worship recognises the majesty of God and responds with humble honour, love, praise and delight.

Therefore: Worship is a whole-life, whole-person response of God's revelation of himself

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Conclusions:

- Worship is Christ-centred
- Worship is a response to biblical truth
- Worship is an encounter with the presence of the Spirit
- Worship is a whole-life, whole person response to God

Therefore: Worship is a whole-life, whole-person response to God's revelation of himself, birthed, energised and directed by encounter with the Spirit

Group Discussion:

Groups: How can we better capture the 'whole life' orientation of worship in our experience of gathered (congregational) worship?

Worship and the Dynamics of the Gathered Church

Read Col 3:16-17 and Eph 5:18-21 – what is the same and what is different between the two?

We welcome God's word (Col 3:16)

We encounter God's Spirit (Eph 5:18; 3:19)

We sing to bless each other... (Eph 5:18b-19a; Col 3:16)

...and we sing to praise the Lord (Eph 5:19b)

Our everyday lives are changed (Eph 5:21; Col 3:17)