



“We Celebrate Together”
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
May 8th 2016

I love Sundays because we celebrate together. Our Sunday celebration as men and women of faith is based on our worship. While our entire life is to be lived as an act of worship to Almighty God, something amazing happens when individual worshippers gather together to acknowledge and declare their faith in God, publicly. Today we will examine the celebration of public worship we experience on a Sunday.

1. READ: Revelation 5:11-15
 - a. Who is being worshipped here?
 - b. Who is worshipping?
 - c. What was the volume of their voices?
 - d. What do you think it would be like to be there in person and experience this?
 - e. Worship can be defined as coming together to give honour to God. How is that happening in these verses.

2. Discuss the following quote. What part(s) impacts you the most?

“Worship is the quickening of 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” ---

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury

3. READ: John 4:20-25
COMMENT: This discussion centers around a physical location for worship and a debate between religions as to the proper *place* for worship. The Samaritans believed they should worship on Mt. Gerazim and the Jews believed it should be in Jerusalem.
 - a. How does Jesus address this argument?
 - b. What type of worshippers does Jesus address?
 - c. Who are these *true* worshippers worshipping?
 - d. What two elements does Jesus include in true worship?
 - e. Why must we worship the way Jesus states in verse 24?
4. COMMENT: **The Spirit** is the empowering presence of God in us. The opposite of the *spiritual* mind is the *carnal* or merely human mind, earthy mindless ritual. Thinking about the above comment what do you think worshipping in the Spirit means?
5. COMMENT: **Truth** in this context does not mean the opposite of false but rather the truth as opposed to a shadow. The Jews worshiped in a tabernacle with priests, fancy garments and incense all in an appeal to the sensual part of our being. Jesus now says we must worship not in the shadow of thing to come, but worship the one who has come, THE TRUTH.
6. READ: John 14:6
 - a. Who is the truth in this verse?
 - b. Who does Jesus tell this woman who she should be worshipping?
 - c. Try to summarise verse 24 of John 4 in your own words based on the discussion above. How would you explain worship to a friend?

7. READ: Romans 12:1-2

- a. How would you explain what Paul says about worship in these verses in light of what Jesus said in John 14, that we ought to offer our bodies "as living sacrifices." What do you understand that to mean?
- b. What does verse 2 of the passage add to your understanding of true worship?
- c. In your own words, what is the difference between attending worship and living in worship?
- d. How does regular fellowship with other believers help you worship God with new and fresh eagerness?
- e. When is it the hardest for you to concentrate on worshipping God?

For example: When I'm sick or hurting

When bad things happen to me or someone I love

When something really good is happening to me

When I'm really busy

8. READ: Hebrews 13:15 (NIV)

- a. What are we instructed to do here?
 - b. If we all came to church on Sunday with a 'sacrifice of praise' in our hearts and on our lips, what do you think would happen to our gatherings together?
9. a. How could we each learn to be prepared to bring a gift of worship each Sunday?
- b. What are some suggestions you could offer the group so we could come prepared to give to God not just receive from God?
 - c. How could your small group encourage one another to be ready to worship in celebration together each week?

FOR STUDY THIS WEEK

READ from the book of Psalms and discover how God wants us to worship.
Try Psalm 96, 100, and 150

WORSHIP IS NOT ABOUT ME. IT'S ALL ABOUT GOD
It's not what can I get but what can I give
Not what can I take but what can I bring

IMPORTANT DATES:

SUNDAY NIGHT MAY 15...7: pm ASCENT: and evening of prayer and praise and prayer for the sick. Come and worship with us.

THURSDAYS MAY 19 – JUNE 16, 7 p.m.: "Fight Your Way to a Better Marriage" a course on marriage great for newlyweds, those considering marriage or a great tune up for those already on their way (contact Pastor Amanda at the office for details)

SATURDAY MAY 28 ELEVATE: the Sudbury churches are gathering together to add value to our neighbourhoods. We are partnering with the downtown churches to help build some community gardens in the Louis Street area. We need your help. The Elevate rally will be **Sunday night May 29** 6:30 at Glad Tidings.

SUNDAY MAY 29: STARTING POINT 11:45 a.m. for those new to ANC. Spend 45 min and get to know us better. Pastor Jeremy and Pastor Josh will be your hosts.