



GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

11 – The Elements of Worship

Announcements:

4/3 @7:30 -

Prayer

4/4 @6:30 -

Grace Group

4/7 @8:30 -

Sunday School

4/7 @6:00 -

Family Night

GAME NIGHT

ICE BREAKER: What is your favorite “Psalm, Hymn or Spiritual Song”?

READ: Ecclesiastes 5:1-7

We often fall into the trap of thinking something along the lines of “worship is the songs that we sing at church”. However, truly what we are called to do in worship is give all of ourselves to God, in every aspect of our lives. So when we read Solomon’s exhortations on what worship in the “house of the God” should look like, it would be good for us to remember that these apply not just to what happens in the temple (or the church building) but rather to our whole lives. As the *Gospel Transformation Study Bible* note on this passage says: “Because life and all that is needed for it are from the Lord, we should be in a constant attitude of humility before him: in worship, listening to his word; in obligations, quick to obey him; in planning, speaking, and dreaming of what we will do with our lives, ready to honor him.” In this there are three areas that I see that are worth our consideration.

The first we see is “In worship”. I would say that what they are referencing here is what we would “traditionally” think of as worship. It is gathering together and singing praise and adoration to the Lord. It is diving into and reading his Word. It is the gathering of believers. It is all this and so much more. But note what marks our worship. It is not good music, or even fervor and passion (though all those things are good!). Rather, what Solomon brings to the forefront is... Listening! Not something that we often associate with worship. But here listening is “better”. It would be good to incorporate listening into what we think of as worship, or more to the point, if what we call worship *dosen’t* include listening, are we really worshipping at all?

DISCUSS: In what ways is listening a part of worship? What does this mean/look like?

The next Thought is that we should be humble before God “in obligations”. Here are the things that we owe to God. Here’s a not-so secret that shows how hard this actually is: we owe God everything! So how are we to live in light of knowing that? We should be “quick to obey.” In verse 4 Solomon says that we should “not delay.” At the school Desiree used to teach at there was a phrase that they had the kids learn: “Obey, right away, all the way, the happy way!” And when it comes to our relationship with God it should be marked with the same things. We obey his every command, we do it all the way, knowing we work as unto the Lord. We do it right away, not saying “tomorrow or the next day I will do this or that.” And we do it the happy way, knowing that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. We do owe him EVERYTHING after all!

DISCUSS: Why is it that we are often *not* quick to obey? How can we foster this sort of servant attitude in our lives?

There is one final area that we see above: “In planning, speaking, and dreaming.” The case that is being made is this: When we worship in public and private, we do so how God has commanded; as we worship with our lives, we do so with quick obedience, and as we worship with our goals and aspiration and what we look forward to, we should endeavor to glorify God (the words that they use: “honor him”). In other words, our worship includes every aspect of our lives, including those things we long for and look forward to! A true life of worship gives all that to God, knowing he will work in us for his glory, but then for our good!

DISCUSS: What does it mean to honor God with our “planning, speaking and dreaming?” How can we be sure we are doing this?