

Worshiping in Truth – Lesson

Lesson summary: Learning to worship God in a true way is what God desires.

ISAIAH 29:13 (NIV)

The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.

What is the difference between singing a worship song and worshiping "in truth"?

Why did Jesus make such a distinction that people should worship from their heart?

1. When our worship disappoints God

- a. When worship is simply a ritual. "Vain repetitions." **MATTHEW 6:7**.
God is looking at our heart, not just our words.
- b. When we choose to live a double life.
We put on a good "Christian front" on Sunday at church, but during the week we choose to live in sin. **ISAIAH 29:13; MATTHEW 15:8-9**

2. Choosing to bless God is the first step in worship

- a. It is not based on how we feel – the goal isn't to bless ourselves.
- b. To bless God is to tell Him you love Him, you appreciate Him.
- c. Why bless the Lord?
 - i. We know He is good and merciful.
 1. Proof from scripture examples of His dealings
 2. Testimonies of those we know
 3. Instances from our lives
 - ii. There is no one else we can turn to.
 1. Even when things go badly, and we are angry at God, He still loves us.
 2. God, I resent you, but there is no one else, so please help me
 - iii. We know He can satisfy.
- d. We base worship on what we know of God, not how we feel. You can't depend on your feelings, they will confuse you.
 - i. Blessing God is always an honest thing to do.
 - ii. We wish God to be blessed. It is an act of your will.
 - iii. Job blessed God even when he felt terrible and confused.
- e. Trust the truth you know.

3. As you begin to open your heart to God, He will soften it with His Spirit

- a. Begin with where you are at in your worship. Don't try to pretend to be further along than you are. Even if all you can say is "Jesus help me"
- b. Ask God to help you worship Him better. Ask Him to help you love Him.
- c. He is longing for you to enter into His presence and spend time with Him.
 - i. He satisfies you that way.
 - ii. He changes your heart that way.
 - iii. You begin to truly love Him with a love that is bursting out.