**Series: BELIEVE**

**Today: Worship And Why It Is So Important**

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**KEY QUESTION:** How do I honor God the way He deserves?

**KEY IDEA:** I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

**KEY VERSE:** Psalm 95:1-2

*1  Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. 2  Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.*

1. **Two Important Starters**
2. Worship is both personal and corporate.
3. Worship is an intentional, specific response to the greatness and grace of God.

**Sistine Chapel image of Finger of God**

1. **A Picture of Worship**

***Luke 7:36-47***

*36When one of the Pharisees invited Jesus to have dinner with him, he went to the Pharisee’s house and reclined at the table. 37A woman in that town who lived a sinful life learned that Jesus was eating at the Pharisee’s house, so she came there with an alabaster jar of perfume. 38As she stood behind him at his feet weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears. Then she wiped them with her hair, kissed them and poured perfume on them.*

*39When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, “If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is—that she is a sinner.”*

*40Jesus answered him, “Simon, I have something to tell you.”*

*“Tell me, teacher,” he said.*

*41“Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii and the other fifty. 42Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he forgave the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?”*

*43Simon replied, “I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven.”*

*“You have judged correctly,” Jesus said.*

*44Then he turned toward the woman and said to Simon, “Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet, but she wet my feet with her tears and wiped them with her hair. 45You did not give me a kiss, but this woman, from the time I entered, has not stopped kissing my feet. 46You did not put oil on my head, but she has poured perfume on my feet. 47Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”*

1. Worship is not passive, but participatory.
2. Worshippers are often in the minority.
3. Sometimes you worship through your tears and sometimes with them.
4. Above all, worship is a response to the majesty and mercy of God.
5. **As You Worship, Beware**
6. Of substituting rituals for reality.

***Mark 7:6***

*“‘These people honor me with their lips,
    but their hearts are far from me.*

1. Of snubbing fellow worshippers.

***Matthew 5:23-24***

*23“Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.*

1. **When You Worship**
2. Expect your perspective to change.

***Psalm 73***

*13Surely in vain I have kept my heart pure
    and have washed my hands in innocence.
14All day long I have been afflicted,
    and every morning brings new punishments.*

*16When I tried to understand all this,
    it troubled me deeply
17till I entered the sanctuary of God;
    then I understood their final destiny.*

*21When my heart was grieved
    and my spirit embittered,
22I was senseless and ignorant;
    I was a brute beast before you.*

*23Yet I am always with you;
    you hold me by my right hand.
24You guide me with your counsel,
    and afterward you will take me into glory.
25Whom have I in heaven but you?
    And earth has nothing I desire besides you.
26My flesh and my heart may fail,
    but God is the strength of my heart
    and my portion forever.*

1. Expect the Holy Spirit to convict and comfort you.

***Revelation 3:20***

*Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.*