



Parkway Fellowship

What Would Jesus Undo? • Hollow Worship • Matthew 4:8-10; Romans 12:1 • 03/10/2019

Main Point

Hollow worship happens when we prioritize anything over God.

Introduction

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

How would you define "worship"?

If Jesus walked into a worship service at Parkway Fellowship, what do you think would please Him?

What about you personally? In your day to day lifestyle of worship, is there anything that you tend to give greater priority than Jesus?

In our "What Would Jesus Undo" series, this week we're examining worship. Worship happens at church on Sunday mornings, but it also happens throughout the week in our daily lives. Worship is a lifestyle that gives Jesus priority over every other person or thing. For that to happen, we must reject Satan's lies, remember God's mercy, and give Him our best.

Understanding

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| Ask a volunteer to read Matthew 4:8-10.

From verses 8-9, what did Satan infer was better than obeying God?

This challenge was meant to tempt Jesus to disobey the First Commandment to worship God only. Satan was offering Jesus power. The fact is one day Jesus will rule over all the kingdoms of the earth, but the plan of God in front of Him required the cross. Satan offered a shortcut.

How does the Devil use the desire for power to tempt Christians?

In our culture, what are some worldly things people, even Christians, tend to prioritize over God?

How can you know if you're prioritizing other things over God in your own life?

How did Jesus respond to this temptation? What does this tell you about what we can do to combat the temptation of hollow worship, prioritizing other things over God?

In this week's message, we learned that Jesus wants to undo hollow worship in our lives by helping us reject Satan's lie that life will be better when (fill in the blank!) In His life on earth, Jesus faced the full range of temptations, being tempted in all ways in the same way we are (Hebrews 4:15). As we trust in God's power, we can follow Him and the battle plan He laid out for us, despite Satan's temptations.

| Ask a volunteer to read Romans 12:1.

According to this verse, what does true and proper worship look like?

Romans 12:1 notes that the first effect of salvation is that believers are to present themselves to God. Such presentation pleases God as an act of worship. Paul urged all believers to present themselves as a living sacrifice. Such language must have clashed immediately in the minds of many. The common understanding was that only the first and best animals were fit to be offered as sacrifices. The sacrifice Paul had in mind was radically different. Jesus had given Himself as the once-and-for-all Sacrifice for sin on the cross. Believers were to live in light of Jesus' all-sufficient sacrifice, bringing glory to God. The idea of Christians presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice harked back to the discussion of the body being dead to sin because of the life-giving presence of the Spirit (see Rom. 8:10). To live by the Spirit is to offer oneself completely and daily as a holy and pleasing sacrifice. This is true and proper worship.

How is sacrificial living an act of worship? How does this worship differ from what we usually think of as worship?

Paul further explained that living as a holy, pleasing sacrifice was a believer's spiritual worship. Paul taught that in light of God's gracious redemption, living as a sacrifice was the logical and pleasing way for Christians to serve God.

What does it look like practically to offer yourself as a living sacrifice each day?

Application

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

Fill in the blank: Satan tempts me to think that life will be better when _____. How do Jesus' example in Matthew 4 and Paul's words in Romans 12:1 speak to you about that?

Practically speaking, how can you give God your very best this week?

In this week's sermon, we learned that true and proper worship flows from a heart of gratitude. What are some reasons for gratitude you have that you tend to forget? What can you do to remember these truths daily?

Pray

Thank God that He gives you the power to resist temptation and loves you even when you prioritize other things besides Him. Ask Him to reveal places in your lives where you are tempted to believe Satan's lies and give you the strength to reject those lies. Invite Him to help you remember His mercies each day and give Him your very best.

Commentary

| Matthew 4:8-10

4:8-10. In this temptation Satan tried to tempt Jesus with instant power apart from the way of the cross. He tempted Jesus to use worldly methods to achieve His purposes. The setting was a very high mountain. The devil showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. The devil claimed the rule of the world and offered to resign his claim if Jesus would bow down and worship him. Jesus faced a clear choice. He could follow the will of the devil or that of God. Jesus would receive glory after His death and resurrection, but Satan tried to persuade Jesus to take the easy way and receive instant power, authority, and wealth apart from the way of the cross. Jesus knew, however, that the end does not justify the means. God's will cannot be accomplished by worldly methods. Note Jesus' firm response: Away from me, Satan! In this response to the devil, Jesus quoted Deuteronomy 6:13: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only. God alone is worthy of worship. Jesus resolved to center His life on God's purpose. Jesus refused to resort to worldly methods to achieve God's purposes. Jesus knew that God's will cannot be done apart from doing things God's way.

| Romans 12:1

12:1. Paul urged all believers to present themselves as a living sacrifice. Such language must have clashed immediately in the minds of many. The common understanding was that only the first and best animals were fit to be offered as sacrifices. The sacrifice Paul had in mind was radically different. Jesus had given Himself as the once-and-for-all Sacrifice for sin on the cross. Believers thus were to live in light of Jesus' all-sufficient sacrifice, bringing glory to God. The idea of Christians' presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice harked back to the discussion of the body being dead to sin because of the life-giving presence of

the Spirit (see 8:10). To live by the Spirit is to offer oneself completely and daily as a holy and pleasing sacrifice.

Paul further explained that living as a holy, pleasing sacrifice was a believer's spiritual worship. The word rendered spiritual also can be understood as meaning logical or reasonable. The Greek word translated worship often was used to refer to carrying out religious duties or services. Thus Paul taught that in light of God's gracious redemption (by the mercies of God), living as a sacrifice was the logical and pleasing way for Christians to serve God.