

Topic	True Worship
Reference	John 4:1-30
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A. WHAT IS WORSHIP?

We have a situation where Jesus is travelling to Samaria and most people will avoid Samaria because it is full of Samaritans. Samaritans are basically a mixed race. They were the Northern Kingdom. They had been taken over by the Assyrians and the Assyrians had brought their people down and they intermarried and they were no longer pure Jews, so therefore the Jews looked down on them. Nobody want to associate with them and they also in turn develop their own kind of religion and started worshipping in their own place rather than Jerusalem. So there are a lot of animosities there, most people would never spend time with a Samaritan, much less a Samaritan woman. So here we have a woman by the well and it is noon, it is hot. She comes to take water. When everybody else has taken water early in the morning and throughout the better part of the morning, she comes at a hottest part of the time, why, because she is not a woman of good repute. She has had numerous affairs, numerous times, had nondisclosure agreements. She comes at 12 o'clock and she is probably alone and Jesus is there and of all people, Jesus spends time to talk to her and you will find that one of the beautiful things about looking at the Book of John is that you see how Jesus interacts with individuals. One chapter ago, he interacted with the chief theologian of the whole of Israel, Nicodemus, who was called teacher of Israel, a man with all his theological learning, all his expertise, all his energy, all his brilliance, all his political savvy as he was the member of Sanhedrin and yet when he came to Jesus, Jesus showed him how empty he was and that he needed to be born again. Today he meets someone on the other side of society, a woman who comes from a race which everybody despises. A woman that comes from a gender where males are superior and females become like chattel, owned by man, a woman who has had five previous husband and a dubious past, someone right at the bottom of society who has got nothing and Jesus approaches her and gives her something that she actually needs and we come up to the stage here where the woman talks to Jesus about this.

*John 4:19-22 (ESV) The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. 20 Our fathers **worshipped** on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we **worship** what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*

As the conversion progresses Jesus moves the topic uncomfortably away from her sexual life onto worship and she thought she would get away with it. Worship comes from the Greek word 'Proskuneo' which means "to do reverence or homage by prostration, giving respect to superiors, king and deities". Worship is a human response to revelation and we can see this many times in scripture. If you look at Revelations, chapter 1, this is a vision of Jesus to John

Revelation 1:16-17 (ESV) In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

This is a vision of Jesus. He presents himself in all his glory and what is the response of worship

Rev 1: 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead

This is a vision by Isaiah

Isaiah 6:1 (ESV) In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

His response was

Isaiah 6:5 (ESV) And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"

So worship is a response to revelation. Worship is a response to truth. Worship has an object. It actually comes from an Anglo-Saxon word called 'weorthscipe' and then would change that to worthship and then it becomes worship. It is basically attributing worth to something. So therefore the Lord Mayor of London is called the His Worship the Mayor. Worship is the active response to God whereby we declare His worth. So when we come to a worship meeting like this, we do two things. We see what God is worth and we give him what his worth in terms of response. That's what worship is. So Job 23:12

I have not departed from the commandment of his lips; I have treasured the words of his mouth more than my portion of food.

The response has to be appropriate to the worth of the object. So it is treasuring, it is worshipping, something of infinite value, the only appropriate response is to treasure.

B. WHY DO WE WORSHIP

*John 4:23-24 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the **Father is seeking such people to worship him.** 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."*

So why do we worship, because the father seeks worshippers, not just any worshipper, true worshippers. Its built-in to our DNA and we might be thinking, a lot of think people misinterpret this as the Father needs worshipper. It doesn't say that father needs worshipper, the father seeks worshipper because it is built-in. Look at the Book of Acts, in Athens Paul comes across an altar and the people there were worshipping so many gods that one of them was an unknown god. Paul writes

*Acts 17:24-27 (ESV) The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, 25 nor is he served by human hands, **as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.***

You can't say God needs your worship, because he is the one that gave you breath and gave you life, He seeks true worshippers but he does not need your worship. Some of us act as if, you know, God I had a good time during the week, I guess I got to come on Sunday. I got to give you your two cents worth then I can get my 50 cents worth the rest of the week. So you come suitably late and you leave suitably early. I have seen this attitude and it is not what it is meant to be. When you are actually worshipping, God doesn't need the worship. I mean, it doesn't make God's day when someone comes and sit in front of someone and sing a song, he does not need it but He seeks it why, it is for your own good.

*26 And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, 27 **that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him.***

So we are actually created with an inbuilt DNA that we should seek God. We are made in the image of God; it means that we have to be reflecting relating to the same God. It is like a baby, when a baby is born, in a couple of months automatically he will be screaming every day for mommy or daddy. It is an automatic response. So when God made us, he just didn't make us as independent creatures, He made us so that we will find our fulfillment in God. So therefore that they should seek God, treasure him and find him. Jonathan Edwards says, worship affects all of us. When we worship we share in his infinite love and delight. Here we have the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit in eternity past, all of them loving one another, supporting one another and interacting in the most self-sustained system. God is love because God is a community in the Trinity and out of that loving community comes out an outflow of us and we are human beings. He created us so that we will find the greatest treasure and greatest enjoyment and greatest fulfillment when we are in contact with him. That's why Jonathan Edwards says, to share his infinite love and delight.

So when we are asked to come and worship God, God is inviting us to come and share the joy that is in his heart that you must pour into your heart. So worship is not something that one gets to come and pay your dues to God and then you can scarcely wait for the sermon to be over and you run off. He is inviting you to feel the love, he is inviting you to share in his power and in his grace. That's what worship is. CS Lewis writes God is inviting us to enjoy him and he says, "*We delight to praise what we enjoy because the praise not only merely expresses but completes the enjoyment, it is a point of consummation*"

CS Lewis is saying that when you see something wonderful, you have to express it. Half of the enjoyment is expressing it and expressing what you enjoy is basically worship. When you express what you enjoy that's part of the enjoyment. So basically that's what worship is. God is not so egotistical that you got to come and worship me, look at me, something we feel that God is so needy

and so egotistical that we make his day, no God invites us. So when we worship, we ourselves are transformed, we enjoy it. Worship is appropriate to our being

Acts 17:27-29 (ESV) Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, 28 for “In him we live and move and have our being”; as even some of your own poets have said, “For we are indeed his offspring.” 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

In God we can live and move and have our being, we cannot live apart from God. We are made for him. CS Lewis writes, *‘Creatures are not born with desires unless satisfaction for those desires exist: A baby feels hunger there is such a thing as food. A duckling wants to swim there is such a thing as water. Men feels sexual desire there is such a thing as sex. And if I find myself within myself a desire which no experience in the world can satisfy the only probable explanation is that I was made for something in another world.’*

We will never be satisfied until we find what we are actually created for. David Foster Wallace was one of the brightest American novelist in the last century. He lived a short life and basically he was a genius. He has won many prizes and one of the most influential writers in the world. He was a non-Christian. He led a very turbulent life, obsessed with sex. He even stalked one of his students, got into drugs and alcohol. At the age of 46 he hung himself, couldn't handle all the difficulties in life. This is what he actually writes as a non-Christian, *‘Because here's something else that's weird but true: in the day-to day trenches of adult life, there is actually no such thing as atheism. There is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody worships. The only choice we get is what to worship.’*

Even a non-Christian poet just like Paul quoting a non-Christian poet we are his offspring, we are derived from God, so there is relationship. We are not fulfilled until we are connecting with God, David Wallace says, there is no such thing as not worshipping. Everybody is made to worship.

"All humans have been created to be reflecting beings, and they will reflect whatever they are ultimately committed to, whether the true God or some other object in the created order.

So according to David Foster, we are all like mirrors, you shine your mirror and you find what you want to reflect and hopefully you will reflect something beautiful. If you shine in the gutter, then you will look like the gutter and he writes, *If you worship money and things, if they are where you tap real meaning in life, then you will never have enough, never feel you have enough. It's the truth. Worship your body and beauty and sexual allure and you will always feel ugly. And when time and age start showing, you will die a million deaths before they finally grieve you.’*

This is the woman spiritual need.

John 4:16-18 (ESV) Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” 17 The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; 18 for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.

Nicodemus comes and he has got all the teaching in life, all the theory in life, all the political power in life, he still was not satisfied. This woman comes and Jesus connects with her and told her that

she has got five husbands. You think she is easily satisfied. No, one is too tall, one is too fat, one is too stingy, one divorce after another and she is looking for the ultimate husband, because as David Wallace says, if you are looking for something in this world it will never actually satisfy. You will never be satisfied with yourself or satisfied with the person or never satisfied with your life.

Scott Kelly is an astronaut, he came down after living one year in space and the wonderful thing about living one year in space, they found that 7% of his DNA has changed. Can you imagine, you can live in an environment, a weightless environment, far away from the world and after a year, you come back. They actually measured his DNA and compared it with his twin brother's DNA and 7% became heavenly DNA, but it can change you. It absolutely changes you. It is right isn't it. We become like what we worship and the reason why, we are made to worship is because we are made in the image of God. We will represent him, reflect him and basically revere him and if we actually worship God, Paul writes

2 Corinthians 3:18 (ESV) And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

So it is written in our DNA that we are made in the image of God and we interact in God and see God in Christ and worship God in Christ that we become like what we are made to be God, image of God, reflecting the attributes of self, goodness, love, grace, mercy, that's what we are made to be. We have a great destiny that's what we are supposed to be, however if we worship anything else other than God,

*Psalm 115: 4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. 5 They have mouths, but do not speak; eyes, but do not see. 6 They have ears, but do not hear; noses, but do not smell. 7 They have hands, but do not feel; feet, but do not walk; and they do not make a sound in their throat. 8 Those **who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.***

So therefore Psalm says, if you worship idols, the idols can't hear you when you pray, the idols can't taste the worship or the sacrifice that you give, the idols can't speak into your soul, the idols cannot help you when you cry, why you are in trouble, they can't do that and the worse thing about idols is that, if you worship idols, those who make them become like them. Your DNA gets changed, you become like what you worship. If you worship supermodels, then you will be superficial and shallow. If you worship corporate and top flight business person, you will be materialistic, greedy oppressive.

Shayneward sings,

*It feels like nobody ever knew me until you knew me
Feels like nobody ever loved me until you loved me
Feels like nobody ever touched me until you touched me
Baby, nobody, nobody until you*

*Baby, it just took one hit of you
Now I'm addicted
You never know what's missing
Till you get everything you needed*

So we have songs like this today, but this is what the world is like. Because he is putting all his hopes on this wonderful girl, who has really filled his imagination, put him on Cloud9 for the time being and two problems will happen, one if you put all this hope on a human being that human being will never live up to your expectations. You will crush that human being. Number two, after a while because that human being cannot fill all of you, you will then move on like the Samaritan woman for the fifth husband. That's the problem. The wrong idols rouse us to become shallow like them. Our souls are impoverished.

The Old Testament background, even though the Jews supposed to have worship at the right place, but the sad fact is Jeremiah quotes,

Jeremiah 2:13 (ESV) for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed out cisterns for themselves, broken cisterns that can hold no water.

They worship God in outward form but in their hearts. They sought their glory, they sought their self-esteem. They sought their satisfaction life from something else, from all the other idols in life and that's why when Jesus talked to this woman,

John 4:13-15 (ESV) Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." 15 The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water."

So basically Jesus is focusing on her that she is the kind of person like the Jews that have sought her own water from broken cisterns rather than the spring of water, which comes from God which is the Holy Spirit.

C. HOW DO WE WORSHIP

John 4:23 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.

So Jesus is saying her that it is coming and its future, which means he is basically referring to himself. He is now here and he is also coming and when he refers to the hour, every part in John whenever Jesus refers to the hour, it means it is the time of crucifixion and Jesus said to them

John 2:19 (ESV) Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."

So Jesus Christ is the temple. What do you do in the temple? You worship. So worship in the New Testament is focused on Jesus, why, because

John 1:18 (ESV) 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

He is the ultimate worship.

John 14:6 (ESV) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 4:22 (ESV) You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.

Sincerity is not enough because the Samaritans were worshipping instead of being in Jerusalem, they were worshipping at Mount Gerizim. This is where the scene with Jesus takes place. That's where the Samaritans are worshipping. The Samaritans were very sincere, they actually only worship God using first five books of the Bible. All the rest of the Old Testament they threw away because they hated the Southern Kingdom. Any mention of Southern Kingdom they cut it out. So they worship a truncated God. So actually they were actually idol worshippers. The truth is very-very important.

John 4:21 (ESV) Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father."

The Samaritans were sincere but sincerely wrong. They didn't have the right worship because they didn't have the truth. The Jews had the truth, they worship in Jerusalem but they were not sincere, their hearts were far from God. You need to worship in spirit and in truth. So therefore the new worship which Jesus talks about is neither in Jerusalem nor in Mount Gerizim, it is a spiritual worship.

John 4:23-24 (ESV) But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. 24 God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

So we begin with Nicodemus, the man who has got everything and Jesus says, you got to start again and the woman who has got nothing, you must have living water. For Nicodemus, he tells him

John 3:3 (ESV) Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

John 3:8 (ESV) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

For Nicodemus his life requires the spirit. Same thing for the woman.

John 4:13-14 (ESV) Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

This is basically the Holy Spirit. You want to worship God; you need to worship God in the power of the Holy Spirit. So worship in spirit and truth is basically God centered worship made possible

by the Holy Spirit and the personal knowledge and conformity to Jesus which is God's truth. Carson wrote

God-centered, made possible by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and in personal knowledge of and conformity to Jesus

Hubble telescope is the greatest scientific instrument ever built, it was put up about 27 years ago. It is the greatest scientific instrument ever built because if you actually look in the sky you start seeing you won't see very much and see a lot of black spaces. The reason why this happens is that you have got the atmosphere, you have got the cloud, you have got all this interference and you can't really see. Now Edwin Hubble was very smart, he put a telescope up in space with nothing in between and you send those rays right out into sky, into the rest of the universe and you can see so many beautiful images, every year they have got more and more beautiful images that the Hubble telescope brings, that the explosion of knowledge has been fantastic. In the past we thought we have the Big Bang Theory. You got one singular point in time when you got a great explosion and the entire mass of the universe is flung out, so as explosion goes out all the stars, all the planets will go faster and after it will slow down and one day it will wind. That's exactly what we thought but using the Hubble telescope we actually find that instead of decelerating, the universe is accelerating. It is getting faster and faster because 70% of the universe contains dark matter which causes more acceleration, and we can't work it out. It defies all our laws of physics. How do we know all this? The Hubble telescope gives us these images that prove it.

Now why do I bring it up?

I bring it up because the Hubble telescope is like the cross, you cannot see God, you cannot understand him, you cannot be blown away by God unless you see God through Jesus Christ.

How do you know how God thinks and feels?

By looking at the cross. If you look at the cross you will know what God feels about you. So on the cross God bared his soul through his son Jesus and every time you look at Jesus, it is like every time you look through the Hubble telescope, a new image comes out, a new paradigm comes out, a new experience comes out. Why, because Jesus focuses you directly like a laser beam into the person in the heart of our God. You cannot understand our God, you cannot seek our God, he is inscrutable but through the telescope of Jesus Christ, this shows the magnitude of God. So therefore when we worship the universe we look through Edwin Hubble's telescope. When you want to worship God, you look at him through the lens of Jesus Christ.

So when we come to the worship session here today, I reckon it is like a fire, we put in the logs, the logs are basically Jesus Christ, God's word, we take these words, we meditate on them, we dwell on them and Holy Spirit will then ignite them and we have tears with confession, we have joy, we have pray and that is our response, that is the truth. This is actually worship. So basically when you come on a Sunday we start off as idol worshippers, walk through the door, you are thinking about your job, you are thinking about the next golf tournament and what we do in worship session is that the worship leaders start moving you from that thought to grasp the truth both in mind and heart.

Worship is understanding and having the feel what the value of God is. Genuine worship is understanding, is a maturation process, is a teaching process, is a knowledge process, so that we actually not only know but we feel that this is actually worth my whole life, that's what worship is because discovering the truth and having the truth move our hearts and minds and emotions.

The emotions in church worship is somewhat like the concert but there is a difference, you can't worship without emotions. Jesus said

Matthew 15:7-9 (ESV) You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 8 "This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; 9 in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

So worship must involve emotions, but not necessarily in the right way. Thomas Cranmer, an English reformer wrote, *'What the heart loves, the will chooses, and the mind justifies.'*

Emotions that come in a worship session must be predicated on the truth. I mean you could have emotions but they can be deceptive, our mind will justify them. When we come to worship, the emotions must arise from the truth. So therefore when we come to worship, it is an interaction between our minds, our will and our emotion, all these three are interacting with the truth. So the worship leaders moving you towards the truth that is in Christ Jesus and basically you are involving your mind and your heart and your will. If it is just your mind, *"oh I know Jesus is good, is wonderful, but I am still going to come late for worship, so what Jesus will always be there, Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever."* If that's the case, the worship has remained in the mind. It has never moved. What is in the mind must move and change the heart that's what worship is and the emotions that are related to truth, for example nostalgia, I don't like the worship here because I don't like this sort of music and some people tell me I must have pews at the back and we have this problem. I can't worship unless I am sitting on a pew. I cannot worship on this kind of chair. So you have got to make pews at the back. This is called nostalgia. It is an emotion based on a cultural aesthetic issue. It is not emotion based on worship. So if you are sitting on a pew or you are not sitting in your favorite place and you say, I cannot worship. That's not the proper emotion based on truth. The other emotion is conscience clearing, I come to church, I feel a little guilty, I give God his two cents, I feel so good. That's not worship.

Suppose the worship group has led you into such a wonderful worship that the sound, the melody, it was all technically perfect and you are like transported to the fifth heaven and I am in tears, is that worship? That may not necessarily be worship because it could be the aesthetic experience. Aesthetics help you but when they become the focus they are not really the worship emotion. The emotions of worship are driven by the truth. When the words which the worship leader sings out tells us about our sinful self, how undeserving we are, how totally helpless and it focuses on God, it puts us in the right perspective of who God is and the knowledge about God, the truth about God actually heals our hearts. It tells us what we have done.

Psalm 42: 1 As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God.

This is emotion based on the desire for God. When Peter and his group were actually in prison when they first preached the gospel, the people were terrified, they were frightened. So what they did, they worship. Here is what they did

Acts 4:24-31 (ESV) And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, 25 who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? 26 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"—

If you remember Psalm 2, you will find that Psalm talks about the Messiah and he will crush them with his rod of iron, he will break them like many pottery pieces. So what they do is that, when they were troubled, they went back to the truth about God, how he created all things and how he is going to rule through his Messiah and then

*27 for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom **you anointed**, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, **28 to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.** 29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.***

They came to God terrified but after the worship they were bold. So when you come to worship you need to have emotions. Emotions aren't you crying and being like Jell-O in front, emotions is what happens that moves you towards the truth. You make decisions, you may not cry but at the back of the pews you may make a decision to change your lives. Emotions what makes you change your life, it moves you, just presentation of truth alone doesn't move you, it's the emotion that help move you towards that. So basically emotions are important.

What is you feel no emotion?

I come to worship God and Peter is talking about this, getting excited about God and all that and I don't feel it, that's very interesting question I was reading an essay by John Piper and John Piper says, when you come to worship there are three kinds of emotions that you have which are also worship.

1. On one hand you see God clearly, your emotions correspond to the truth. You talk about the grace of God, you get excited, come with joy of God, you feel the joy, you talk about the majesty of God, you feel fearful and contrite. You got all that, it is corresponding and there is a longing. Yeah that the ideal.
2. But there are whole bunch of people who come to church and they don't see God very clearly. They seek him very weakly. Maybe you have got a problem that is in your mind, maybe a personal struggling or emotional issue and you don't see God very clearly, you see

him very weakly. There is no corresponding emotion. When you talk about the joy of God, you don't feel it but there is an ache or longing for them. You see other people jumping and having this joy and you say, I wish I was like them. I want to love God; I want to feel the joy but I am not quite there yet. You know what, that is worship too because you are longing for the truth. There is a longing.

3. Another level is that you see God weakly, no corresponding emotions, but there is regret, remorse or sorrow. You know, you feel sad that I don't feel like that to God, you feel regret and John Piper says that too is an emotion that comes out rightly because you see the truth in Jesus, the beauty in Jesus and you regret that you don't feel like what other people feel and there will come a time when you will and if you look at Psalm 40 is like that

Psalms 40:1-3 (ESV) I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. 2 He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. 3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

So there was a time in David's life when he was in the pit, you are not having a good time in the pit, you feel like God is not there, God has abandoned you and you want the feelings of ecstasy that you feel with God before. The longing for that time is also worship. The 4th type of emotion is not worship; it is when you are sleeping or you are playing with your hand phone or your mind is thinking of something else.

The success of worship is not based on how well you play, it is what the percentage of people who are worshipping, who have the three kinds of emotions, the ones who are jumping for joy, the ones who are wishing to jump for joy or the ones who regret that they couldn't jump with joy, but they are feeling something.

AESTHETICS:

When you worship in spirit and truth, we are moving you from here to there and aesthetics are a way of moving you from here to here. We use it. Time Keller writes, *'To me, aesthetics are important as an effective means for people to grasp the truth about God so they can give him what he's worth--to worship. Good aesthetics remove the obstacle of distraction that bad art places in the path of the would-be worshiper.'*

Imagine you have a worship leader here and every time he sings is like out of tune or you have an irritating person in front that is always out of tune and the sound. Aesthetics are important because they reflect the degree in which the musicians value God, so when they presented there is a perfect way, but it doesn't really matter to God in the end, but it does matter to people. They think a young fellow coming up and singing here and making joyful noise, playing his trumpet, even however good they are they are never going to be up to God's standard because it is the highest standard. But God is going to look at their hearts and your heart and the effectiveness of their worship is the aesthetics that we actually have, actually help you move you towards the truth. Keller describes two kinds of churches, which is what we should understand. Churches like restaurant, you can have a small church and a big church. The same way some restaurants you go in the city, there is very nice food,

nobody knows where it is that's the small church. The big church is like McDonalds that got all the lights, cells and whistles and all that, which really matter, if you actually want to grow a large church because you are bringing non-Christians as well, non-Christians don't like to come to a church where it is very-very small. They both worship and aesthetics help people move to the truth.

Aesthetics aren't everything. Look at Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail, this is very bad aesthetics, they are in a cold damp prison, all they have around them are chains. Aesthetics play a role but they are not everything, it is the word of God and his joy.

John 4:28-33 (ESV) So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" 30 They went out of the town and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." 32 But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." 33 So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him something to eat?"

So basically what happened to this woman after she discovered Jesus Christ? All day she has come to have one jar of water and all she did was without the water ran into the town and tell everybody who Jesus is, how beautiful Jesus is, how Jesus loved her, how Jesus transformed her life. You can't be a true worshipper of Jesus Christ if you are keeping quiet in your seat every single day. If you discovered Jesus, it is so much joy, if really Jesus Christ has transformed our life we would be compelled to missions. Missions is a direct result of worship. If you knew how beautiful he is, you would be like this woman. The job wouldn't matter very much, the water jar she leaves behind and she goes and the first thing in her mind was to tell people about Jesus Christ and it doesn't matter who she is. If you look at her, it has changed, truth, emotion and the will, the three come together.

- The truth about her sin Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did.
- The truth about Jesus. Can this be the Christ?"

That's what the gospel is in a nutshell.

True worship is worship in spirit and in truth. Let us worship Jesus today. Let us move out tomorrow and tell the world who we worship and invite them to true worship too.