

## Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010

What does a worshipping people look like?

### Introduction

- ◆ The first aim of our vision is being 'A Worshipping People'
- ◆ What does that mean and what does it look like?
- ◆ Over the course of the year we are going to be speaking on worship so that as we come to worship individually and corporately we will have a greater understanding of what it is to truly worship God.
- ◆ This morning two sections:
  - Our response to God in worship when times are going well
  - Our response to God in worship when times are tough

### Our response to God in worship when times are going well

#### Who God is

- ◆ We see the character of God through His Word.
- ◆ As we draw near to God, He draws near to us.
- ◆ God reveals Himself to us, we respond in worship. King of Kings, Faithful Friend, Loving, Gracious, Sending his Son to die for us.
- ◆ We can sometimes bring God down to a human level. Need continual revelation of who God is. Holy Spirit reveals this to us. More of the Holy Spirit.

#### Things God Does

- ◆ We are a privileged people. Need to see the good things that God does for us each day; we can sometimes miss things because they become familiar.
- ◆ How often do we thank God for our families, homes, cars etc? We are often very quick to point the finger at Satan when things go wrong - are we as quick to give God the glory for our blessings and when things go right?

#### Luke 7 v 11 – 17 – Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

- The people did not ask Jesus to act
- Jesus Had compassion - He still is a compassionate God today
- They recognised that God has visited His people today
- Because God's power had been demonstrated before their eyes the Fear of God came and they responded in worship.
- News spread

#### Matthew 9 v 1 – 7 – Jesus Heals a Paralysed Man

They had faith - how much faith do we have that God will show up.  
Fear of God → worship - as above

A modern day example – the girl that was pulled out of the rubble after 12 days in Haiti. How did we respond when we hear news like that?

When we come on a Sunday morning to worship together we bring what God has been revealing to us, doing for us.

It's about our hearts, not our outward response. Do we have thankful hearts? When we recognise what God has done, how do we respond?

### **Our response to God in worship when times are tough**

Acts 16:16-26 - Paul in prison

- Paul & Silas were beaten and imprisoned for serving Jesus, yet they still praised His name in prison - would we do that if we'd been jailed for serving Him? Or would we keep quiet / keep our heads down?
- They didn't know the end of the story - they didn't know that God would send an earthquake and cause them to ultimately be freed - yet they praised God anyway in the midst of their circumstances: beaten, imprisoned, with their feet shackled.

Psalms 63 - David in the wilderness of Judah, running away from Saul who had become jealous and afraid of him and was trying to kill him because he could see that God's hand was upon him (1 Samuel 18:28-29)

- Starts by acknowledging who God is (v.1a)
- Is real with God about the situation he is in and how he feels (v.1b)
- Recalls times from the past when he has met with God; draws on that experience to build himself up and remind himself of God's glory and faithfulness, which leads to praise (v.2-8)
- Trusts in God's provision and proclaims victory in his situation before he sees it (v.9-11) → 1 Samuel 31:1-6)

Habakkuk 3:17-19 - instructs us how to respond when life is tough

- *Even though...* the washing machine has flooded the kitchen floor  
the car has broken down  
the tax bill has arrived  
I've lost my job  
I'm mourning  
fill in the blank...  
*YET I will rejoice in the Lord and be joyful in the God of my salvation!*
- Not only that, but it goes on to say that, "He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights!" - He will lift us up in the midst of our troubles!
- Real life example: miscarriage → worshipping God through tears - more tears than words!
- Be real with God - He already knows how we're feeling anyway!
- Be real with each other - we don't have to put our 'Sunday morning' faces on and pretend everything's OK. We're family - we support one another, holding each other's arms up when the going gets tough (Exodus 17:12-13)
- We can help each other get through our battles.

Romans 12:1 - *And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice - the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way we worship.*

- Dictionary definitions of **sacrifice** talk of giving up something of value / importance for somebody / something else to be considered of **more** value / importance.
- We are called to offer ourselves as a sacrifice; to give up ourselves and what we want / feel for God who is infinitely more valuable than we are!
- To me, sacrifice implies that it's something that's going to take effort, something I might not necessarily want / choose to do.
- However, worshipping when the going gets tough is an act of will - we have a choice as to whether or not we do it - the benefits far outweigh the cost.
- We need to cultivate a determination to praise God whatever the circumstances.

### **How do we do that?**

- Ask Holy Spirit for help;
- Push negative thoughts / distractions aside (J's picture);
- Tell God that you love Him - thank Him for being who He is, and for the way He has blessed you in the past;
- Read Psalms; write your own Psalm
- Sing / dance to CDs;
- Pray songs if you feel you can't sing;
- Draw / paint / write;
- Instruct your body to praise!

### **Conclusion**

It's being a thankful people

Worshipping God no matter what we feel like or what is happening around us

Where are we at this morning in our response to God?

Prayer Ministry for people who want God to re-capture their hearts and a new song praise to flow out to God.