Message Outline



OUR PRAISE TO GOD: WORSHIP
Acts 2:42-47

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer.

43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and signs were being performed through the apostles. 44 Now all the believers were together and held all things in common. 45 They sold their possessions and property and distributed the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47 CSB)

- There are seven essentials to which the first believers devoted themselves. So far we have looked at the first five of them: Apostles' Teaching…Fellowship…Breaking of Bread…Prayer…and Giving or Ministering to One Another.
- In this message, our focus is on "Praising God or Worship." This is the sixth essential of a growing church!
- In a couple of months, if the Lord's will, we will look at Sharing the Gospel or Evangelism, which is the seventh, and the last but not necessarily the least essential.

THREE SIGNIFICANT POINTS ABOUT WORSHIP

- The Object of Worship…Who do we worship?
- The Offering of Worship…What do we bring to worship?
- The Outcome of Worship…What do we expect to happen after we worship?

1. The Object of Worship

❖ When we say “object of worship” we refer “to whom and for whom” we worship.

46 Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple, and broke bread from house to house. They ate their food with joyful and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. (Acts 2:46-47a CSB)

❖ The word, “praising” is "αἰνοῦντες (ainountes)” in Greek. It means, “to praise, extol, to sing praises in honour to God.”

The First Four Commandments

❖ The first four of the Ten Commandments are about worshipping God alone and not any other gods.

"3 Do not have other gods besides me…4 Do not make an idol for yourself. 7 Do not misuse the name of the Lord your God…8 Remember the Sabbath day…" (Exodus 20:3, 4a, 7a, 8a CSB)

37 He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and most important command. (Matthew 22:37-38 CSB)

- Your highest expression of praise to God is to love Him alone and no one and nothing else, with all your very being as a person, created in the image of God and saved by grace through faith in Jesus.

Illustration: Getting Rid of Statues and Images

- When we become followers of Christ, we are called to worship only God and no one else.
- Is there something in your life right now that takes the place of God? Is God the real object of your worship? Or is there someone or something else that needs to be removed and disposed of?

2. <u>The Offering of Worship</u>

"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." (Acts 2:36 NKJV)

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37 NKJV)

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38 NKJV)

Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them. (Acts 2:41 NKJV)

- ❖ The devotion of the first believers to the different essentials is actually an expression of their offering of worship to the Lord.
- ❖ They "gladly received the word", and they become totally sold out for God.

The First Act of Sacrificial Offering of Worship

1 The man was intimate with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain. She said, "I have had a

male child with the Lord's help." 2 She also gave birth to his brother Abel. Now Abel became a shepherd of flocks, but Cain worked the ground. 3 In the course of time Cain presented some of the land's produce as an offering to the Lord. 4 And Abel also presented an offering—some of the firstborn of his flock and their fat portions. The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. Cain was furious, and he looked despondent. (Genesis 4:1-5 CSB)

The late R.C. Sproul, a pastor and theologian, in his book "How Then Shall We Worship?," writes, the "difference has absolutely nothing to do with the variance of God's response to the two sacrifices. Martin Luther, I think rightly, remarked that Abel could have sacrificed the shell of a nut and it would have been more pleasing to God than the sacrifice brought by Cain. That was because it was not "what" Abel offered but "how" he offered it that made the difference."

The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, 5 but he did not have regard for Cain and his offering. (Genesis 4:4b-5a, CSB)

4 By faith Abel offered to God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was approved as a righteous man, because God approved his gifts, and even though he is dead, he still speaks through his faith. (Hebrews 11:4 CSB)

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent: Because you have done this, you are cursed more than any livestock and more than any wild animal. You will move on your belly and eat dust all the days of your life. 15 I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel. (Genesis 3:14-15, CSB)

- ❖ What are you offering to God today, right this very moment? God wants your heart with your total dependence on him as demonstrated in your faith in His Son, Jesus.

3. <u>The Outcome of Worship</u>

"...praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. Every day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved." (Acts 2:47 CSB)

- ❖ While the believers are doing all the different ministry activities in both large and small gatherings, they are "praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people".
- ❖ As a result, they are growing in number. How? The Lord is adding "to their number those who were being saved".

- ❖ Worship should result to the Salvation of many people through the Mission of God which may be accomplished by His people who devotedly praise His Name.
- ❖ In other words, the outcome of worship should be more worship from more people who are added as new worshippers.

Some practical ways by which you can apply this principle:

(1) **Tamasei International Day, May 15, Thursday, 8:30am-1:30pm.**

(2) **Flower Arrangement Show and JOY Cafe Outreach, May 23 Friday -25 Sunday, 10:00am-7:00pm.**

(3) **Myanmar Earthquake Relief Support Funds**. Donations are accepted to be used for the people greatly impacted by the earthquake last March 28th.

For more information about these opportunities, please contact me (joel@tokyobaptist.org).

Jo Kaminaga (Joel)
Tokyo Baptist Church
April 5&6, 2025

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May 11th (Sun)
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