

Sermon Title: Growth through worship

How many of you have things that you spouse or your kids like to do, that you really don't like doing? What are they?

One thing Cora loves that I just can't get into are her Jane Austin novels.

- One thing that invades British dramas in the concept of etiquette.
- If you are anything like me in this, maybe you have asked the same question out of frustration, "Who comes up with this stuff?"
- This morning we are going to be talking about the proper etiquette that goes along with worshipping God

Exodus 20:2-7, John 4:19-24

In the first 3 commandments we learn a lot about God.

- We learn why we should worship in Exodus 20:2, because God has saved us.
- We also learn that God is a jealous God.
 - The Hebrew word for jealous does not mean envy but is more like passionate or zealous.
 - We must understand 2 things from this Exodus passage, that God passionately loves his people, and God passionately hates idolatry.
 - Idolatry is anytime we construct a god that is what we like or prefer, instead of the God that is revealed to us in Scripture.
 - Idolatry is also any time we trade worshipping the creator for his creation.

In the John passage, Jesus gives us another insight into true worship.

- The woman at the well brought up a trivial worship debate of her time, asking where the right place was to worship God.
- But Jesus answered her question by basically saying you are focused on the wrong thing, it's not about where you worship God, but how you worship God.

- Then he told her the proper way to worship God is to worship Him in spirit and in truth.
 - It's a both/and again, not an either/or.
- What God is looking for in worship according to Jesus' words is not perfection of belief, he is looking for someone that is worshipping with all of themselves, body, soul, heart, mind, and strength. And he is looking for someone that is worshipping God for who God is, and not for a God that they have created.
- God wants you to want to worship Him.

Some practical tips for worshipping God:

Hebrews 10:24-25

1. We must gather together for worship.
2. Encourage one another.
3. Give God the glory.
 - a. This practice is something that needs to extend beyond Sunday morning corporate worship, as giving glory to God is an attitude and a state of mind.

Challenges: (a little tougher this week, we need to search ourselves)

1. Ask ourselves the tough question: "What is the main reason that I come to church?"
 - a. No matter what you answer is, don't stop coming to church.
2. While you are reading through the bible and praying, try to identify any things in your life that may be an idol.
 - a. Remember these challenges are to help you grow, not to become overwhelmed by guilt or shame.
 - b. Also remember growth is not instantaneous.
3. Find one person in church every single week that you are here; and encourage them.
 - a. Encouragement is just showing someone through words or actions that they matter to you.

We must remember that there is proper etiquette to worship God as he is, a jealous and passionate God, and that we need to care about how God wants us to worship Him.

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Scripture passages to go up on the Screen: (all ESV this week)

Exodus 20:2-7: ²“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.³“You shall have no other gods before me.⁴“You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.⁷“You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

John 4:19-24: ¹⁹The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” ²¹Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But 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. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

Hebrews 10:24-25 ²⁴And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.