

Unpacking the Preach

Date Sunday 20th June 2021
Sermon Title The Habit of Discipleship - Worship
Bible Passage Romans 12:1

Recapping the preach

Nick spoke about the object of our worship being God and how his awesomeness can be diluted by not taking the time to appreciate who he is and what he has done; Breathing as humans, the spark of life as a new life is created, and the breath of life in Genesis 2:7.

There should be no confusion as to who our worship is towards, creation doesn't leave that open. Nick uses the Parable of the prodigal son to show God as someone who is fully of mercy and through his grace deals with our guilt.

Nick used 3 P's to help bring us into a spiritual place of worship; **Priority** of worship – Worship first and service second (Mark 12:30) with service flowing out of worship, and our lives pointed by praise, thanksgiving and adoration.

Preparation for worship – Expecting God to turn up (Acts 2:2, 4:31, 5:1-11, 9:36-43, 20:7-10), Being attentive and obedient (Rev 1) and gathering together.

Pathways into worship – Be stilled and inwardly listen, Praise God (Psalms, Singing and physical response) and pray without ceasing (1 Thess 5:17)

The result of such worship should lead to the Fruit of worship which is to be willing to be obedient to God's calling and transform into his likeness.

• **Questions for reflection**

- How do you feel about service flowing out of worship? Released or perturbed? Explain.
- Are there examples where you have seen this priority skewed in your lives?
- What are your thoughts on preparing yourself before coming into the presence of God? Are there any Biblical examples that come to mind?
- What preceded the last time or times that you heard God speak? Is there a pattern?

- What does praising God look like to you? have you ever reflected on your 'style' of praise and what it is that makes you praise in this way?
- What have you taken away from this that may help you come into the presence of God in worship?

• **Going Deeper**

Because "God is spirit" (without material being), worship must be bound up with spiritual realities, not physical formalities. Consequently, true worship is not limited by time, place or ceremony. To worship in "truth" means to worship the true God, honestly, genuinely, and from the heart."—J. Carl Laney

- There are many different ways, forms and traditions that may aid us in worshipping God. The New Testament does not tell us to follow a particular form for worship, other than to worship in spirit and truth. The forms Christians use today are not the worship, they simply help lead us *into* the worship.
- Q: How do you see this happening in your congregation and in your personal worship?

Response

- What Habits are you forming to prioritise worship?
- What changes do you need to make this happen?

Prayer pointers

- Pray for opportunities to slow down and listen.
- Pray for a Holy Expectancy of what God is going to do in all things.
- Pray for unity as each part of the body worships inwardly so as to have the mind of Christ as they meet together to worship corporately.

Additional resources:

If you need some additional resources the below websites are useful:

- <https://www.gotquestions.org>
- <https://enduringword.com>
- <https://www.biblica.com>
- <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/>