

Courageous Worship

Welcome to the final week of our 'Courageous Living' series. To finish we will look at courageous worship – an all encompassing part of our lives in response to the glory and majesty of God. Clearly such a big topic cannot fit into just one study, so I encourage you to do some more reading and praying about what many consider to be the ultimate goal of the church, of the believer and the ultimate purpose in life!

As we start, feel free to share what you felt God inspiring you with through the sermon last Sunday night.

Worship

When you think of the term 'worship' what comes to mind?

There is so much misconception about what constitutes worship, and many good definitions of what true worship is. So how would you define what worship is according to the Scriptures?

As you think back over your life worshipping God, share a time where you felt that you worshipped God in a significant way.

- What made that worship?
- What about that particular action/attitude/song/sacrifice/decision was meaningful?
- What was the result of that worship?

Travis suggested that at its simplest, biblical worship is "*the natural and appropriate response to God.*" Throughout the Scriptures God is clearly portrayed as the one who should be the object of all worship (Exodus 20:1-6, Psalm 100, Revelation 4:9-11), so list some of the reasons why our response to God should be one of worship?

In light of those reasons, what would/should a natural and appropriate response look like?

John 4:21-24, Hebrews 13:28-29 & Romans 12:1-2 all talk about a true/proper/acceptable form of worship.

- What reasons do these verses give for worshipping God properly?
- What instruction do these verses give us for how we should worship God properly?

As you consider all of the above, would you say that your lives are characterised by this kind of worship?

2 examples of an act of worship

Read together Mark 14:3-9 & 2 Samuel 6:12-23

What strikes you most about these 2 stories?

What was it, do you think, that led the woman at Bethany and King David to offer God worship in the way they did?

Consider the fully committed and lavish nature of both acts of worship. Do you think we have a natural tendency to shy away from such lavish and public acts of worship? If so, why do you think that is?

What is it about some acts of worship that draws the attention and criticism from others? What does that reveal about their hearts? Do you think there is such a thing as an overly-lavish gift of worship?

Read the following quote from Sam Storms (from "Pleasures Evermore", p. 140):

We are now the Temple of God! If the inanimate structure of the old covenant trembled and shook at God's presence, what is our response, we in whom this same glorious and holy God now lives? How can there be the slightest indifference or coldness or routine or mere ritual or mindless habit in our worship when this same God lives and abides in us?

That's a pretty good question! What would you say in response to that?

Clearly the bible portrays that all of life should be worship, and yet we also gather together to corporately worship God. How should our worship of God be expressed in our corporate gatherings appropriately and passionately?

Courageous Living

We have spent just 6 shorts weeks looking at what it means to live out our faith courageously and now have the rest of our lives to live this out to the glory and worship of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

For you personally, what have you felt God strongly saying to you throughout this series? How can this group help encourage you and keep you accountable to courageously putting this into practise?