

True Worshipers

When is the last time you have been overwhelmed in the presence of God? What does that look like, feel like, sound like? God is seeking worshipers. Is worship a way of life for you?



2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-16 (NIV)

David again brought together out of Israel chosen men, thirty thousand in all. He and all his men set out from Baalah of Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, which is called by the Name, the name of the LORD Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim that are on the ark. They set the ark of God on a new cart and brought it from the house of Abinadab, which was on the hill. Uzzah and Ahio, sons of Abinadab, were guiding the new cart with the ark of God on it, and Ahio was walking in front of it. David and the whole house of Israel were celebrating with all their might before the LORD, with songs and with harps, lyres, tambourines, sistrums and cymbals. David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets. As the ark of the LORD was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, she despised him in her heart.

Reflections

A good friend of mine once told me a story of a moment when - right in the middle of the road—he was literally stopped by a bright light, drawn from his car, and found himself on his knees in the presence of God. It was a singular moment—a moment that changed his life in a powerful and lasting way. This is a man of great faith, whose words I trust. His story is difficult for me, however, since I have no similar experience to relate it to.

For another Christian friend, a series of seemingly coincidental events throughout the day are the answer to recent prayers, or a powerful example of God's presence in their life. These are the thoughts that resonate in her head when she considers who God is and how He is involved with our world and our lives. For her, these events are the manifestation of the God to whom we

pray and sing—the one God we worship.

For some, the beauty around us—natural wonders—can inspire us and fill us with our of our Creator. Regardless of what brings us to revere our Creator - and even if we don't feel 'it'—we

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are taught in scripture the importance of worshiping God. In daily use, the word worship can mean anything from attending religious services to a feeling of profound love and admiration. David, a man who "danced before the Lord with all this might", seems to have

espoused the latter definition!

So what is 'real' worship? What if we don't feel like dancing? And how do we marry our own understanding of God—and the reverence we have—into a communal worship experience? For an introvert such as myself, a public gathering can be an especially challenging place to stir up the emotion, awe, and love I have for my savior. It's most comfortable—and easy—to simply blend in.

When my children ask me, 'why do we go to church', I tell them that it's an important part of our week to gather with fellow believers and collectively remember that He is God—and we are not. Regardless of how you have experienced God—or even if you are feel distant from his presence—worship is about pointing our hearts in the direction God intended.

—Mike West

Readings

Sunday, February 15

2 Samuel 6:1-5, 14-16

What causes David to respond and worship as he does? How would you respond to a fellow believer dancing in this way?

Monday, February 16

John 4:19-20

Where did worship take place for the Jews and the Samaritans? Where do you worship?

Tuesday, February 17

John 4:20-24

Consider the things—other than God—that we can find ourselves worshipping. Which ones most affect you? Why?

Wednesday, February 18

Romans 1:21-22

Why should we take time to worship God? Paul tells us what can happen to our hearts if we don't.

Thursday, February 19

Romans 12:1-2

How should we worship? The words to the song *Sanctuary* come to mind: "Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you." How are you a living sanctuary?

Friday, February 20

Job 1:20

Job was a wealthy man of upright character who loved God. Yet God allowed him to be tested. How do/can we worship when we are being tested?

Saturday, February 21

Luke 4: 16

What are your worship habits?

Don't have a Bible? Access these scriptures at biblegateway.com.