



Week/Sermon # 4

Title: What Does Wholehearted Worship Do for God, Us, and the World?

Key Texts: Revelation 4, John 4, Hebrews 10:23-25, and Romans 12:1-2

Overview: Our God is worthy of worship! Disciples find delight in giving praise, glory, and honor to the only one who deserves it. When we grow in faith, worship flows from our hearts and lips. Every experience of life can be a place for worshiping in Spirit and in truth. When the world sees Christians who celebrate the goodness of God, overflow with joy, and walk in humble surrender, they become curious. When groups of believers gather and celebrate with overflowing joy and passion, the world wants to know more and we can tell them our story.

Sermon Outline:

Sermon Introduction Idea- Spend some extra time in this worship service in praise, worship, and celebration of God's goodness and glory. Or, move the sermon earlier in the service and have an extended time of worship following the message asking people to join in with fresh passion and focus on the glory and mission of God.

- **Video or Live Testimonies...** You might want to have one or two people give a live testimony of how worship leads them into the presence of God or how authentic worship was one way God drew them to His heart when they first became a Christian. Or, you can have these testimonies recorded and show the video at the beginning (or some other time) in the sermon.

Movement 1- Learning from Jesus... Our God Is Worthy of Worship!



- **Image:** If you are going to use the seven icons for the seven markers of spiritual growth, show the image for "Wholehearted Worship" and let people know that this picture will show up in sermons, on your website, in youth and children's materials, and other times when you are focusing on the marker of Wholehearted Worship. Consider having the icon on the sermon title if you project notes or on the cover of your bulletin if you have one. You might want to have the icon in one of the corners of every slide you project in this sermon. ([Here is the link to the Wholehearted Worship badge](#))

- Visions of Worship! (Read: Revelation 4:10-11)

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

*¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being” (NIV).*

- Give exposition of this text looking at the picture of the elders being an image of the human family worshipping and praising God.

- Visions of Worship! (Read: Revelation 5:13-14)

¹³ Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

*“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”*

¹⁴ The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and the elders fell down and worshiped (NIV).

- Give exposition of this text looking at the picture of every creature worshipping and giving glory to God.

- Worship Warnings! (Spend time teaching about and reflecting on some of the warnings Christians are given in the Scriptures when it comes to how we worship. You will find some ideas in chapters 10-12 in *Organic Disciples*. You can also do your own study on this important biblical topic and dig into any of the passages listed below).

- Beware of the business of worship! (Matthew 21:12-17)
- Some people won't get it...that's OK! (2 Samuel 6:12-16)
- Choose wisely! What or who will you worship? (Matthew 4:8-10)
- It's about the heart and not the location! (John 4:21-24)
- Following Jesus in the flow of life is worship! (Romans 12:1-2)
- Don't miss the chance to be together with God's family! (Hebrews 10:25)

Movement 2- The Journey of Organic Discipleship...Worship is the Lifestyle of a Disciple!

- What does worship look like in the flow of our day? (Talk about some of the many ways we can connect our heart to the heart of God, sense His presence, and give Him glory).
- Quiet walk along the coast, in meadow, at a park, or anywhere in God's creation,
- Tucking in a child to bed and praying with them,

- o Enjoying the beauty of art,
 - o Time with friends together around a fire ring,
 - o A church service,
 - o Other ideas...
 - o **Illustration** (You might want to show pictures or images that give people a clear sense of the different ways we can worship in the flow of a day.)
 - The unique power and beauty of gathered worship (Take time to teach on and help people reflect on the sweet and powerful experience of worship in community with other believers, the family of God.)
 - o The Spirit of God is present in a unique way when we gather together! (Matthew 18:20)
 - o The hearts and voices of God's people lifted together in worship (all through the Bible... you might want to do some study on the Community Psalms that are written from the heart and voice of God's people worshiping in community.)
 - o Places hold memories (Help people think back on how we can form deep and rich memories in places and times of worship with God's people...in your church, at a Christian camp, in our homes, think of unique examples for your church.)
 - o God likes it when we gather together (You might want to share about some of the biblical festivals and celebrations established by God in the Old Testament. These are examples of God's love for community).
 - Read: Hebrews 10:23-25
- ²³ Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching (NIV).*
- Wisdom in gathered worship (Teach on how worship in community is complex and we need to be tuned in to the reality that we need to be aware of the needs and hearts of other worshippers.)
 - o My freedom should not stop your worship!
 - o We can seek to remove distractions.
 - o We can be blessed by surprises in worship and not locked into our structure and order.
 - o We must always keep God in the center.
 - **Illustrations-** You might want to give some examples of some of the distractions that can get in the way of worship among God's people when we gather together.

Movement 3- How Wholehearted Worship Leads Us to the World...How can Authentic and Joy-filled Worshipers Reveal Jesus?

- Living every day as a worshipper surrendered to God's will and aware of God's presence is a powerful witness! (Worship is not just when we gather to sing, praise God, and lift Him up in community.)
- Read: Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will (NIV).

- Keeping our eyes and hearts fixed on Jesus through life's storms tells a powerful story! One great place to grow as a worshipper is in the hardships, struggles, and storms of life.
 - **Illustration-** Teach about Paul and Silas in prison and how they kept a spirit of worship even in a horrible situation. Focus on how God used their worship to open the door for a revival in the jail and the family of the jailer (Acts 16).
- Living in the joy of the Lord makes people curious!
 - Give examples of how joyful Christians shine like a light in our dark world. In particular, focus on how a commitment to worship, glorify, and lift God up in the hard times causes non-believers to wonder if God is real and if He could help them in hard times.
- Homes inhabited by the Spirit of the Living God feel different (When worship becomes a lifestyle and the presence of God is alive and identifiable in our homes, people will notice.)
 - **Illustration-** Share about how homes filled with worship and inhabited by worshippers catch people's attention. They are attractive. They feel safe. They are places of peace.
- A church that gathers in the joy and power of Jesus is attractive and beautiful! (Even if people don't really get what is going on.)
 - Teach about how a church congregation that is overflowing with worship and consumed with the joy of the Lord will draw people toward the Savior.
 - Encourage your congregation to worship with fresh passion.
 - Pray that spiritually curious people will see and feel the very presence of Jesus when they visit your church and experience authentic worship.

The Great Reversal...How Does Organic Outreach Move Us Higher in Worship?

- You might want to take a few minutes and reflect on how engagement in evangelism and sharing our faith drives us deeper into a life of worship. When we are with lost people, we recognize the great gift we have in our salvation and friendship with Jesus and this realization causes us to worship.
- **Closing Prayer:** Close your message in prayer asking God to help us worship with fresh passion and renewed love for God. Ask the Spirit of God to reveal the presence of Jesus through the worship of His people when we are together and when we are seeking His face in the flow of an ordinary day.
- This might be a good Sunday to highlight your worship ministries and invite people to consider serving in ways that will help your church grow in worship.