

WORSHIP CAN CHANGE THINGS

John 4:23

Introduction: Countless Christians sit through countless worship services coming out of those services totally unchanged, unchallenged, unmoved, the same people that they were when they went in to the worship services. What is so interesting in a worship service anyhow? What about private worship? How many actually have a time alone with God? An unlimited time? A time when God is allowed to say something? True worship can bring about change in a person's life.

I. MOSES HAD A WORSHIP TIME AND IT CHANGED HIS LIFE

1. In his time Moses was a great man, a born leader of men, a lawgiver, a statesman, a leader of Egypt.
2. Moses failed as future leader of Egypt when he took sides with the slaves and killed an Egyptian and had to flee into the wilderness.
 - This great man keeping sheep, all his talents and gifts wasted.
 - He had meant to do good for the people in slavery but had ruined everything so now he is alone herding sheep, alone in the desert.
3. Moses encountered a burning bush on a mountain side and out of curiosity went up to it and hears a voice "*...take off thy shoes...*" He had encountered God.
 - A time of worship happened and it was the turning point of his life.
4. Moses learned that no failure is final IF one has God and that God's purpose holds, whatever one's feelings or frustrations may be, God's purpose, not ours is supreme.

II. JOSHUA HAD A WORSHIP TIME AND IT CHANGED HIS LIFE

1. *Joshua 5:13-14*
2. Taking over after Moses, Joshua had the task of helping Israel get settled into their promised land.
 - The people were ill equipped, disunited, untrained, tired and had to be shaped into a fighting force, disciplined to occupations, settled into peaceful communities, etc.
 - Joshua was young, timid, untested.
3. Joshua meets an armed figure and challenges him, only to find out that the figure was from God and immediately bows in worship.
 - Joshua became the man that he was not but needed to be after that time of worship.
4. Worship sets our responsibilities, gifts, weaknesses in perspective of God's commanding.

III. ISAIAH HAD A WORSHIP TIME AND IT CHANGED HIS LIFE

1. Isaiah, a young man with deep concern for his nation, was a sharp, politically minded young man, a friend of princes, officers of the state and of great families, with a genuine knowledge and concern for everyone, having a prophet's eye, much faith.
2. Israel's leader, Uzziah, had died and there was fear that evilness would take over the nation.
 - Isaiah encounters God in a vision and hears God's call for good, righteous men, true servants.
 - Isaiah wanted to offer himself, but felt totally unworthy.
 - Isaiah was eager to help redeem his people but felt that he, himself needed redemption and was no better than those he would be helping.

3. God speaks and Isaiah offers himself for the tremendous task of serving as God's spokesperson in the hard days to come.
4. All this happened when Isaiah was at worship.
 - God found His man, Isaiah, and Isaiah obeyed and his life was changed forever. (*Isaiah 6:1*)

IV. JESUS TAUGHT THAT "*THOU SHALT WORSHIP*"

1. Right after His baptism and off to Himself in worship, Jesus was tempted by Satan three times to do things differently than what God wanted.
 - Jesus refuses and replies that one is to "*...worship and serve the Lord, thy God...*"
2. Every time Jesus was tested and tempted, He always came back with the argument "*...it is written..*"
 - The Word of God was Jesus' source of strength..."*...Man lives by every word ... of God...*"
3. Worship is nowhere more directly associated than with temptation and testing.

V. THE DISCIPLES WERE CHANGED THROUGH WORSHIP

1. Called to meet with Jesus at a particular place after Jesus' resurrection, they all had their memories, doubts and fears.
 - When Jesus appeared, they all fell in worship, despite the fears and doubts they previously had.
2. Upon hearing assurance that all power had been given to Jesus Christ, their lives were changed, they were different people from that moment on.

VI. THE LAST DISCIPLE, JOHN, WAS ENCOURAGED THROUGH WORSHIP

1. Exiled on the Isle of Patmos, almost 100 years old, John fears for the Church.
2. Jesus appears to John and a time of worship lasted until Jesus had given to John the Book of the Revelation.
 - Needs of correction within the churches were given.
 - How to overcome failures.
 - Victory assured, already in heaven.
3. John's time of worship has imparted vision, the anticipation of victory, and undefeatable confidence in Jesus Christ, and sources of strength for the Church are given.

CONCLUSION:

1. Worship encourages fresh beginnings under divine direction.
2. Worship inspires new consecration with divine enabling.
3. Worship arms genuine social concern with divine pardon.
4. Worship rebuts personal temptation with renewed divine resources.
5. Worship kindles world vision with divine commission.
6. Worship renews moral courage with divine assurance.
7. Whenever YOU really, truly worship, God will work in YOUR life.