

Problem:**John 4:20-24 - we cannot seem to worship God when we are 'out of context'**

worship is a huge thing - we look forward to it every week. When the music was good we say the "worship was great" when the music doesn't move us we yawn and wonder why the worship wasn't very good. we leave and join churches because of their "worship style"

Do we pay attention to God when we are out of context? Why or why not?

http://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/magazine/pearls-before-breakfast-can-one-of-the-nations-great-musicians-cut-through-the-fog-of-a-dc-rush-hour-lets-find-out/2014/09/23/8a6d46da-4331-11e4-b47c-f5889e061e5f_story.html

Text:**Acceptable Worship**

Heb. 12:28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe,

Heb. 12:29 for our God is a consuming fire.

Problem - John 4:20-24 - truncated view of worship

Romans 12:1; 6:12-14 -> main idea

->this section leads us into the practice instructions for this church. these instructions are tangible ways to worship God acceptably rather than through the rituals of Judaism.

Through Relationships

Heb. 13:1 ¶ Let brotherly love continue. **(body)**

Heb. 13:2 Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

(building)

Heb. 13:3 Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body.

Heb. 13:4 Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. **(bride)**

(Hebrews 6:10-12; 10:32-36)

walk in love - Eph 5:1-2, Ephesians 5:1-2, 8 you can love others - not because you are great but because

He is great

->Here we see that we are to love one another and to keep marriage pure. these commands mean that our theology should affect our relationships, our theology should affect our sex life. We worship God through our interactions with one another. Our worship begins with faith in what Christ has done in calling us brothers and saints and faith in what Christ is still doing as our big priest maturing us and ends with obedience in how we treat people. In other words because we believe we are loved we can love unlovable people for nothing. worship is faith in action -you can love others - not because you are great but because He is great.

Through Stewardship

Heb. 13:5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

Heb. 13:6 So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not fear;

what can man do to me?"

1 Timothy 6:6-10 (Acts 5 -love of money)

Matt 6:19-34 - do not worry (be courageous - Joshua 1:5 -> Ps 118:6-7 - the Lord is on my side)

C.s. Lewis - He who has God and everything has no more than he who has God alone.

->our checkbook shows our heart. We can be brave regarding the uncertainty of wealth and be generous and worship God with how we relate to our money. We can give courageously not because we are wealthy but because He is.

Through Discernment

Heb. 13:7 ¶ Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Heb. 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Heb. 13:9 Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them.

Eph 4:11-16 -- remember your leaders -thats what they are here for -you are entitled to good ones

Titus 2 -equipping by example and doctrine

->it is actually worship to hold to sound doctrine. Literally maturity and the pursuit of it is worship. You can be discerning - not because you have all the answers but because you know the answer Himself and He has called certain people to be an example for you. You are entitled to these kinds of examples so demand them in the church and don't stand for a place where these don't exist.

At the Altar of Everyday ordinary Life

Heb. 13:10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat.

Heb. 13:11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp.

Heb. 13:12 So Jesus also suffered outside the gate (J. the Baptizer Jordan) in order to sanctify the people through his own blood.

Heb. 13:13 Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured.

Heb. 13:14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come.

Heb. 13:15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Heb. 13:16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- Matt 3:1-6 - wilderness

col. 2:16-23 - these things do not help you in your justification - the camp

3:1-4:1 - the altar of everyday ordinary life - the altar of the mundane-

beds and bankrolls cannot be separated from theology - the crowded subway, the hectic

classroom, the monotonous office building - this is where we worship God -if He is worthy

in church when we sing He is worthy when we drive, when we work, when we play - He never stops being worthy so we never stop worshipping ever

Godliness now- while we are being saved - 2 Peter 3:11-13

-> You can worship God in your every day life - not because the world is all of the sudden made holy but because you are all the sudden holy- IN Him. Literally you should be able to go to any country in the world and say 'where are the best dads?' and you should see Christians - 'where are the best employees?' and they should be Christians.

Through Submission

Heb. 13:17 ¶ Obey (be persuaded by) your leaders and submit (yield) to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

Heb 10:25 - show up - let me be your pastor

1 Cor 3:10-15- my account (body bride building)

->You can submit to the humble leadership in the local church - not because they are great or because you are great but because God is great and this is His body, and He provided pastors that He will use to mature it, because we are His bride and He will use His under-shepherds to prepare her for marriage, because we His building and He is building with precious metals that will never be burned up

Through Prayer

Heb. 13:18 ¶ Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things.

Heb. 13:19 I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner.

Romans 8:26-30 - pray with confidence

-> you can pray - not because you know what to pray but because He does and He is working His purposes through your humble prayers

through His ongoing work in you

Heb. 13:20 ¶ Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant,

Heb. 13:21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Heb. 13:22 ¶ I appeal to you, brothers, bear with my word of exhortation, for I have written to you briefly.

Heb. 13:23 You should know that our brother Timothy has been released, with whom I shall see you if he comes soon.

Heb. 13:24 Greet all your leaders and all the saints. Those who come from Italy send you greetings.

Heb. 13:25 Grace be with all of you.

*Heb 6:1; 4:14-16 (let us move on to maturity);- be bold
Acceptable worship begins, not only with faith in His finished work but faith in His ongoing work in all aspects of your life.*

->you can be courageous in these things- He will not leave you nor forsake you

Main Idea:

Real worship begins in faith and ends in obedience.

Implication:

you can love others - not because you are great but because He is great

you can give generously - not because you are wealthy but because He is

You be discerning - not because you have all the answers but because you know the answer Himself and He has called certain people to be an example for you

You can worship God in your every day life - not because the world is all of the sudden made holy but because you are all the sudden holy- IN Him

You can submit to the humble leadership in the local church - not because they are great or because you are great but because God is great and this is His body, and He provided pastors that He will use to mature it, because we are His bride and He will use His under-shepherds to prepare her for marriage, because we His building and He is building with precious metals that will never be burned up

you can pray - not because you know what to pray but because He does and He is working His purposes through your humble prayers

you can be courageous in these things- He will not leave you nor forsake you

Application:

The ultimate responsibility for bringing you to maturity rests on Jesus Christ and His ability to do what He promised in your relationships, in your finances, in your discernment, in your ordinary everyday experiences, in your submission to your pastors, and in your prayer. Stop going through the motions and start really trusting His finished and ongoing work in you.

Articles for discussion and to help you figure out how to tangibly apply this message:

What is worship? Is it more than singing?

<http://www.gotquestions.org/true-worship.html>

how to relate the great commandment with the great commandment?

<http://www.biblicaljiujitsu.com/feeding-hungry/>

read the following article about giving as worship and discuss:

<http://www.stewardshipministries.org/blog/2012/10/02/giving-as-an-act-of-worship/>

Action:

Knowing that worship is obedience - as a group discuss some ways you can worship God loving one another through meeting the needs of prisoners, through showing hospitality to first time guests at church, to being the best husband or wife you can be. Come up with 1-3 tangible things you all can put into practice before you leave in each category.

How can you approach the offering more as an act of worship? What are some tangible ways you can live this out as a privilege?

What are some tangible ways you all can be more worship minded when it comes to discernment? Think of a few tangible examples.

How might you encourage each other to think more regularly about your workplace as an altar to worship God? What specific things can you do to do your work 'as unto the Lord'?

How can we see prayer more as worship? What tangible things can you do to worship God more faithfully in this way?