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Matthew 5:23-24

Life in the Kingdom

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Matthew 5:21-26

Matthew 5:21-22

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.’

“But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, ‘Raca!’ shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, ‘You fool!’ shall be in danger of hell fire.”

Matthew 5:23-24

“Therefore (based on what we’ve just seen) if you bring your gift to the altar (act of worship), and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled (denoting transition, to change one’s own feelings towards someone, to cause a state of peace between two people) to your brother, and then (after reconciliation) come and offer your gift.”

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To worship, our horizontal and vertical relationships
are linked together.

True Worship

What is worship?

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What is worship?

What's the difference between worship and true worship?

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What's the difference between worship and true worship?

“These people draw near to Me with their mouth, and honor Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.”

Matthew 15:8-9 (*Isaiah 29:13*)

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This type of worship amounts to nothing.

It's a vain repetition of religious acts or services that don't impact the heart nor worship God in the truth of who He is.

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What does true worship look like today?

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What is true worship internally?

True Worship

Worship is valuing or treasuring God above all things.

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True worship is worshiping the One True God.

True Worship

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Paul called this “spiritual worship.”

True Worship

What is true worship like internally?

Paul called this “spiritual worship.”

It is a daily act of love for our God.

True Worship

What is true worship like internally?

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service (“spiritual worship” or acts of worship).

Romans 12:1

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“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

John 4:23-24

Spirit and Truth

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What does it mean to worship the Father in spirit and truth?

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The Holy Spirit?

Spirit and Truth

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Or both?

Spirit and Truth

“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true (one who cannot lie, real, genuine, sincere) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit (human) and truth (reality, the essence of a matter); for the Father is seeking (to look for, search, strive to find) such to worship (to kiss, adore, fall or prostrate before, pay reverence) Him. God is Spirit (Holy Spirit), and those who worship Him must (what must be done from duty) worship in spirit (human) and truth.”

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It's not so much how we worship with our bodies, but what (truth) we worship with our hearts.

We focus on the externals.

God is more concerned with the heart.

Spirit and Truth

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“When we worship— right worship, good worship, pleasing worship— depends on a right mental grasp of the way God really is, truth. If we worship an idol of our own creation, we are not really worshiping God. And secondly, worship depends on a right spiritual or emotional or affectional heart grasp of God’s supreme value. So true worship is based on a right understanding of God’s nature and it is a right valuing of God’s worth.”

John Piper

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In order to worship the Father in “spirit and truth” we must know the “truth” of God and about God and express our adoration, love, and supreme value of that “truth” from our inner being, our “spirit.”

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Worship must have a heart and a head.

Worship must engage both emotions and thought.

Spirit and Truth

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Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit (Holy Spirit), he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit (Holy Spirit) is spirit (human).”

John 3:4-6

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“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true (contrast with not genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit (regeneration) and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

God is Spirit (Holy Spirit), and those who worship Him must worship in spirit (regeneration) and truth.”

John 4:23-24

Spirit and Truth

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John 4:23-24

Worship must come from your regenerated spirit.

Spirit and Truth

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“Truth without emotion produces dead orthodoxy and a church full (or half-full) of artificial admirers (like people who write generic anniversary cards for a living). On the other hand, emotion without truth produces empty frenzy and cultivates shallow people who refuse the discipline of rigorous thought. But true worship comes from people who are deeply emotional and who love deep and sound doctrine. Strong affections for God rooted in truth are the bone and marrow of biblical worship.”

Spirit and Truth

Fuel, Furnace, and Heat

Spirit and Truth

Fuel, Furnace, and Heat

The fuel of worship is the truth of God.

Spirit and Truth

Fuel, Furnace, and Heat

The fuel of worship is the truth of God.
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Spirit and Truth

Fuel, Furnace, and Heat

The fuel of worship is the truth of God.

The furnace of worship is the spirit of man.

The heat of worship is the affections of reverence,
love, trust, contrition, gratitude, and joy.

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Spirit and Truth

Fuel, Furnace, and Heat

The fuel of worship is the truth of God.

The furnace of worship is the spirit of man.

The heat of worship is the affections of reverence,
love, trust, contrition, gratitude, and joy.

And the fire of worship is the Holy Spirit.

Spirit and Truth

“The fuel of worship is a true vision of the greatness of God; the fire that makes the fuel burn white hot is the quickening of the Holy Spirit; the furnace made alive and warm by the flame of truth is our renewed spirit; and the resulting heat of our affections is powerful worship, pushing its way out in confessions, longings, acclamations, tears, songs, shouts, bowed heads, lifted hands, and obedient lives.”

John Piper

Spirit and Truth

Spirit and Truth

How can we make sure our worship is not in vain?

Spirit and Truth

How can we make sure our worship is not in vain?
Or, what does “spirit and truth” worship look like?

Spirit and Truth

How can we make sure our worship is not in vain?
Or, what does “spirit and truth” worship look like?

True worship looks something like this...

Spirit and Truth

Spirit and Truth

Perhaps the first response of the heart at seeing the majestic holiness of God is stunned silence.

Spirit and Truth

Perhaps the first response of the heart at seeing the majestic holiness of God is stunned silence.

Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalm 46:10

Spirit and Truth

Perhaps the first response of the heart at seeing the majestic holiness of God is stunned silence.

“But the LORD is in His holy temple.
Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”

Habakkuk 2:20

Spirit and Truth

In the silence rises a sense of awe and reverence and wonder at the sheer magnitude of God.

Spirit and Truth

In the silence rises a sense of awe and reverence and wonder at the sheer magnitude of God.

Let all the earth fear the LORD;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in
awe of Him.

Psalm 33:8

Spirit and Truth

And because we are all sinners, there is in our reverence a holy dread of God's righteous power.

Spirit and Truth

And because we are all sinners, there is in our reverence a holy dread of God's righteous power.

The LORD of hosts, Him you shall hallow;
Let Him be your fear,
And let Him be your dread.

Isaiah 8:13

Spirit and Truth

And because we are all sinners, there is in our reverence a holy dread of God's righteous power.

But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;

In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.

Psalm 5:7

Spirit and Truth

But this dread is not a paralyzing fright full of resentment against God's absolute authority. It finds release in brokenness and contrition and grief for our ungodliness.

Spirit and Truth

But this dread is not a paralyzing fright full of resentment against God's absolute authority. It finds release in brokenness and contrition and grief for our ungodliness.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart— these, O God,
You will not despise.

Psalm 51:17

Spirit and Truth

Mingled with the feeling of genuine brokenness and contrition, there arises a longing for God.

Spirit and Truth

Mingled with the feeling of genuine brokenness and contrition, there arises a longing for God.

As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So pants my soul for You, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.
When shall I come and appear before God?

Psalm 42:1-2

Spirit and Truth

Mingled with the feeling of genuine brokenness and contrition, there arises a longing for God.

O God, You are my God; early will I seek You;
My soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You
in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water.

Psalm 63:1

Spirit and Truth

God is not unresponsive to the contrite longing of the soul. He comes and lifts the load of sin and fills our heart with gladness and gratitude.

Spirit and Truth

God is not unresponsive to the contrite longing of the soul. He comes and lifts the load of sin and fills our heart with gladness and gratitude.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
You have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with gladness, to the end that my glory may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God,
I will give thanks to You forever.

Psalm 30:11-12

Spirit and Truth

But our joy does not just rise from the backward glance in gratitude. It also rises from the forward glance in hope.

Spirit and Truth

But our joy does not just rise from the backward glance in gratitude. It also rises from the forward glance in hope.

Why are you cast down, O my soul?
And why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him
For the help of His countenance.

Psalm 42:5

Spirit and Truth

But our joy does not just rise from the backward glance in gratitude. It also rises from the forward glance in hope.

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
And in His word I do hope.

Psalm 130:5

Spirit and Truth

Spirit and Truth

In the end the heart longs not for any of God's good gifts, but for God Himself. To see Him and know Him and be in His presence is the soul's final feast.

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Beyond this there is no quest. Words fail.

We call it pleasure, joy, delight. But these are weak pointers to the unspeakable experience.

Spirit and Truth

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days
of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in His temple.

Psalm 27:4

Spirit and Truth

You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11

Spirit and Truth

You will show me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Psalm 16:11

These are some of the affections of the heart that
keep worship from being “in vain.”

Spirit and Truth

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Westminster Shorter Catechism

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Question One:

Spirit and Truth

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What is the chief end of man?

Spirit and Truth

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What is the chief end of man?

Answer:

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The chief end of man is to glorify God,
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Spirit and Truth

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Do you enjoy God?

Spirit and Truth

Do you enjoy God?

Do you love your time with Him?

Spirit and Truth

Do you enjoy God?

Do you love your time with Him?

Is that time the highlight of your day?

Spirit and Truth

Do you enjoy God?

Do you love your time with Him?

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Do you know how to worship Him in spirit and truth?

Spirit and Truth

Do you enjoy God?

Do you love your time with Him?

Is that time the highlight of your day?

Do you know how to worship Him in spirit and truth?

Reflect on the truths about God and what He has done for you.

Spirit and Truth

Do you enjoy God?

Do you love your time with Him?

Is that time the highlight of your day?

Do you know how to worship Him in spirit and truth?

Reflect on the truths about God and what He has done for you.

And begin by thanking Him for that.

