

The Cost Of My Worship Part I

Everything we have gone through in life has a purpose. Everything we have gone through in life has cost us something. For some of us it was family, friends, and jobs.

Because of my past and the things I have gone through, there is one thing I know to be true, and that is "I know what it means to worship God."

God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and truth. John 4:23

The phrase, in spirit and truth has a deeper theological meaning than most people can see. If we just look at the surface of this scripture, to worship in spirit and truth simply means that God is looking for us to glorify Him sincerely and from the heart in all that we do.

The Samaritan woman in John 4:20 said, *"Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say in Jerusalem is this the place where one ought to worship."*

The woman brought up a very good theological issue "where should we worship?"

Jesus' response to her question brings "where we should worship" into perspective. For where we worship is not as important as the kind of attitude we have with our worship.

In Matthew 26:6-13 the woman with the alabaster jar of oil demonstrated true worship; in verse 7 she came to Him with a jar of expensive perfume.

In other words, she did not come to church to see what everybody was wearing, or to let the way the service goes dictate her worship to God.

This perfume represented the sweat and pain of a broken and shattered life. When your life has been full of disappointments, let downs, and dead ends, your worship to God will be the best you can give. The jar of perfume also represents us. For sometimes, in order for God to break the strongholds in our lives we have to be willing to pour ourselves out at the foot of Jesus.

The Bible says she poured her sacrifice out to Jesus. If you ever had to live through broken and shattered days, you know what I am talking about.

The Bible says when the disciples saw this they were indignant. They were angry, upset and offended. That's what happens in church today when somebody decides to go for broke and worship God like it's their last time to worship Him.

It is important for us to remember that we don't know what people had to go through throughout the week or months, but that they made it to church. We have no right to judge how people choose to worship God.

The person might not have been invited to the party and their name was not on the guest list. They might not even be a member of the church, yet they are jumping and shouting as if they

have lost their mind. That's what we hear sometimes in church today. The people who are talking this way don't even realize that they have forgotten what it truly means to worship God. To truly worship God one must focus on God and Him alone. That's was Peter's problem was when he stepped out of the boat and onto water - he took his focus off of Jesus.

The Cost Of My Worship Part II

It is important for us to understand that there are going to be people who are not going to get excited or be as happy as we are about getting a break through.

We have to learn to be like David who knew how to encourage himself. For sometimes God wants for us to go the road alone. Just because people say they got your back doesn't mean they will be there through thick and thin. Judas was among the disciples of Jesus and was even numbered as one of the twelve – but his motives were wrong.

In Matthew 26:10 Jesus responded to the attitude of the disciples by saying, *"Why are you bothering this woman? The poor you will always have with you. But you will not always have me."*

In other words, Jesus is saying we will always have people that will need a break through, are looking for healing, and want to cry out to God - and we should not try to stop them. While Jesus was there in the physical for a short time, the poor would be there until the end of time.

When we come to worship and praise God it is not always emotionalism that is seen. Intellectualism can hinder people from becoming radical in their worship and praise to God. But not all intellectual people are reserved in their worship and praise to God.

Matthew 11:28-30, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

Conclusion:

Worship and praise is something you must learn to do personally before it can be truly enjoyed corporately. We must also remember to not hinder those who may worship God in a way different from the way we do. We can never truly understand the cost of someone's worship and praise unless we have walked in their shoes.

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