

Sermon Title: **"A PAUSE TO WORSHIP THE LORD!"**

Sermon Text: **Psalm 100; Revelation 7: 9-17**

Introduction:

GOOD MORNING TO ALL! THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN OUR WORSHIP SERVICE TODAY! AGAIN, I WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL YOU WHO ARE JOINING US FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY IN OUR SUNDAY SERVICE CELEBRATION.

LAST WEEK, WE STARTED A NEW SERIES OF MESSAGES CALLED "THE LORD'S PAUSE: A CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL!" IN THIS STUDIES, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE IMPORTANCE OF SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES IN ORDER TO RENEW OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD & REFOCUS OUR LIFE TO HIM. THE PREVIOUS WEEKS, WE LOOKED AT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD AND PRAYER, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO STUDY THE DISCIPLINE OF WORSHIP.

A. WHAT IS WORSHIP ALL ABOUT?

BEFORE WE GO FURTHER INTO OUR SERMON, LET US FIRST DEFINE WHAT IS WORSHIP.

1) *Worship is giving our self to the Lord as a living sacrifice!*

"Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship." (Romans 12: 1)

PAUL CLEARLY TEACHES US HERE THAT WORSHIP IS OFFERING OURSELF OR SURRENDERING OUR LIFE TO THE LORD TO BE A LIVING SACRIFICE. IN OTHER WORDS, THE LORD HAS A FREE HAND TO DO WHATEVER HE WANTS TO DO WITH OUR LIFE.

2) *Worship is recognizing the Lord's worthiness, greatness, sovereignty!*

“Come, let’s shout joyfully to the Lord, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let’s enter his presence with thanksgiving; let’s shout triumphantly to him in song. For the Lord is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in his hand, and the mountain peaks are his. The sea is his; he made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let’s worship and bow down; let’s kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep under his care.” (Psalm 95: 1-7)

BUT WORSHIP IS NOT ONLY RECOGNIZING THE GREATNESS, WORTHINESS & THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE LORD, IT IS ALSO CELEBRATING WHO HE IS & WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR US!

3) Worship is celebrating WHO the Lord is & WHAT He has done for us!

INDEED, HE IS OUR CREATOR. HE IS OUR KING! HE IS OUR SHEPHERD. HE IS OUR SOVEREIGN LORD & GOD! INDEED, HE IS WORTHY OF OUR WORSHIP NOT ONLY DURING OUR TIMES OF PLENTY OR GOOD TIMES BUT ALSO DURING OUR TIMES OF ADVERSITIES OR BAD TIMES! OUR BROTHER & FELLOW SAINT JOB DEMONSTRATED THIS IN HIS RESPONSE TO A GREAT TRAGEDY THAT HAPPENED TO HIS LIFE. LISTEN TO HIM...

“Then Job stood up, tore his robe, and shaved his head. He fell to the ground and worshiped, saying: ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will leave this life. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.’” (Job 1: 20-21)

4) Worship is focusing or centering our life to the Lord!

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.” (Matt. 22: 37; Deut. 6: 5)

WORSHIP ALSO IS THE LORD’S MEANS FOR HIS PEOPLE TO BE ABLE TO REFOCUS THEIR LIFE TO HIM. IT IS A REMINDER TO US THAT WE ARE TO MAKE THE LORD NUMBER ONE OR THE PRIORITY OF OUR LIFE.

THEREFORE, FROM ALL THESE TRUTHS, WE LEARN THAT WORSHIP IS ALL ABOUT THE LORD & NOT US! IT IS MAKING THE LORD THE CENTER/FOCUS & THE GREATEST ENJOYMENT OF OUR LIFE. IS THE LORD. IT IS AN ATTITUDE OF THE HEART. IT IS A MINDSET & A LIFESTYLE THAT WE CHOOSE TO LIVE OUR LIFE. WORSHIP IS NOT ENTERTAINING OR SHOWCASING OUR TALENTS & GIFTS TO THE LORD OR THE PEOPLE WITH OUR MUSIC OR SKILLS/TALENTS. THUS, FROM ALL THESE, WE LEARN THAT WORSHIP IS NOT JUST A ONE OR TWO HOUR ACTIVITY THAT WE DO EVERY SUNDAY (ITS JUST A PART OF IT) BUT IT IS MUCH MUCH MORE THAN THAT. BUT IT REFLECTS OF OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS WORSHIP OF GOD. AS SEEN IN THE SCRIPTURES, WORSHIP IS EXALTING THE ONE WHO IS WORTHY TO BE GIVEN ALL THE PRAISE, THANKSGIVING, POWER, HONOR, & GLORY – THE LORD ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR TRIUNE GOD!

B. WHY WE WORSHIP THE LORD OUR GOD?

SO, WHY DO WE WORSHIP THE LORD? WHY ARE WE TO LIVE INTENTIONALLY THIS KIND OF LIFESTYLE? LET ME SHARE THREE IMPORTANT BIBLICAL REASONS.

1) Our worship identifies us as the true worshippers of the Lord!

Jesus told her, “Believe me, woman, an hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know. We worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.” (John 4: 21-24)

IN OTHER WORDS, WORSHIP IDENTIFIES WHO ARE TRULY THE PEOPLE/CHILDREN OF THE LORD! ACCORDING TO JOHN, THEY ARE TRUE WORSHIPERS OF THE LORD BECAUSE THEY WORSHIP THE LORD IN SPIRIT & IN TRUTH!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? IN “SPIRIT” MEANS THAT THEY ARE BORN AGAIN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT & “IN TRUTH” MEANS THAT THEY

HAVE BEEN BORN AGAIN THROUGH THE LIVING WORD OR THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.

Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” “How can anyone be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked him. “Can he enter his mother’s womb a second time and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly I tell you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit.” (John 3: 3-6)

**“In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.”
(Eph. 1:13-14)**

“Now I want to make clear for you, brothers and sisters, the gospel I preached to you, which you received, on which you have taken your stand and by which you are being saved ... For I passed on to you as most important what I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve.” (1 Cor. 15: 1-5)

THEREFORE, THE TRUE WORSHIPERS OF THE LORD ARE THOSE WHO HAD BEEN BORN AGAIN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT BY TRUSTING THE LORD JESUS AS THEIR SAVIOR!

2) Our worship shelters us from life’s storms & troubles!

“God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble. Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas, though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake with its turmoil. Selah.” (Psalm 46: 1-3)

“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, “He is my refuge and my

fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” Surely he will save you from the fowler’s snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.” (Ps. 91: 1-4)

INDEED, OUR GOD IS OUR SHELTER, OUR REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE! HE SHELTERS THOSE WHOSE TRUST ARE ON HIM, THOSE WHO RUN TO HIM FOR PROTECTION & HELP. HE IS GRACIOUS TO ALL THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM ALONE DURING THESE TIMES OF TROUBLES & CALAMITIES.

3) Our worship now prepares us for our next life, the true life!

a. Worship is the earthly lifestyle the Lord requires of His people!

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.” (Romans 12: 1)

FROM THIS TEXT, PAUL EXHORTS US TO LIVE A LIFE OF WORSHIP OF THE LORD! IT IS TO BE EARTHLY LIFESTYLE THAT WE ARE TO PURSUE! WE ARE TO LIVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT ALL THAT WE DO IS AN OFFERING TO THE LORD & TO GIVE HIM HONOR & GLORY! IN OTHER WORDS, WORSHIP SHOULD BE OUR LIFESTYLE!

b. Worship is our eternal vocation as the Lord’s people!

“After this I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!” (Rev. 7: 9-10)

THIS PASSAGE IS A VISION OF HEAVEN & TELLS US WHAT WILL TAKE PLACE THERE WHEN WE ARE ALREADY THERE. THUS, IT CLEARLY SHOWS US THAT WE ARE GOING TO SERVE & WORSHIP THE LORD DAY & NIGHT. WE ARE GOING TO ETERNALLY WORSHIP THE LORD!

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS:

FINALLY, LET ME USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS TO APPLY WHAT WE HAVE LEARN TODAY.

(1) ARE YOU A TRUE WORSHIPER OF THE LORD? HAVE YOU BEEN BORN AGAIN THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT BY BELIEVING THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS & PLACING YOUR FAITH IN HIM AS YOUR SAVIOR?

Then one of the elders asked me, “Who are these people in white robes, and where did they come from?” I said to him, “Sir, you know.” Then he told me: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and they serve him day and night in his temple...” (vv. 13-15)

TAKE NOTE THAT JOHN ASK THE ANGEL HOW DID THEY GET THEIR WHITE ROBE OR HOW WERE THEY ABLE TO WHITEN THEIR ROBES? JOHN TELLS US THAT THESE ROBES WERE CLEANSED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB WHO IS NO OTHER THAN THE LORD JESUS WHO SHED HIS BLOOD ON THE CROSS FOR THE FORGIVENESS OR REMISSION OF OUR SINS & MADE US RIGHTEOUS & WORTHY TO ENTER HEAVEN.

*****ARE YOU 100% SURE THAT YOU WILL BE INCLUDED IN THAT MULTITUDE THAT WILL GATHER SOMEDAY AT THE THRONE OF GOD & THE LAMB? HAVE YOU ALREADY SECURED THAT “WHITE ROBE” AS A DRESS CODE BY APPLYING JESUS’ SHED BLOOD ON YOUR SINS? OR YOU ARE STILL TRYING TO CLEANSE YOUR SINS THROUGH GOOD WORKS OR CHURCH MEMBERSHIP OR RELIGION OR WHATNOT?**

(2) ARE YOU “SHELTERING” IN THE LORD DURING THIS CRISIS? IS THE LORD YOUR REFUGE & STRENGTH? OR SOMETHING ELSE - YOUR OWN WISDOM & STRENGTH?

I PRAY THAT LIKE MOSES & DAVID, WE WILL ALSO DISCOVER THAT THE LORD IS OUR REFUGE & STRENGTH, A PRESENT HELP I TIME OF TROUBLE! THAT HE IS A STRONG TOWER!

(3) ARE WE PREPARING OURSELVES FOR OUR NEXT LIFE, OUR TRUE LIFE? ARE WE PURSUING A LIFESTYLE OF WORSHIP? COULD WE DESCRIBED OUR PRESENT LIFE AS A “SURRENDERED**” LIFE, A “LIVING SACRIFICE” BEFORE THE LORD?**

IF YOU COULD NOT HONESTLY SAY THAT YOUR LIFE IS A SURRENDERED LIFE THEN YOU HAVE TO REPENT & RE-DEDICATE YOUR LIFE AGAIN YOUR LIFE TO THE LORD FOR HIM TO HAVE THE FREEDOM TO USE YOU IN HIS OWM TERMS!

CLOSING CHALLENGE:

CHURCH/FRIENDS, WE ARE REMINDED TODAY THAT THE LORD IS SEEKING NOT FOR CHURCH GOERS OR MEMBERS BUT TRUE WORSHIPPERS, THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT & IN TRUTH!

WE WORSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE THE TRUE WORSHIPERS OF THE LORD! WE WORSHIP BECAUSE THE LORD OUR GOD IS WORTHY OF IT! HE DESERVES IT! WE WORSHIP BECAUSE LIKE PRAYER, IT A PLACE SHELTER OR REFUGE & STRENGTH. WE WORSHIP BECAUSE WE ARE PREPARING FOR OUR TRUE HOME & VOCATION – TO SERVE & WORSHIP THE LORD FOREVER & EVER!

CLOSING PRAYER:

OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, THANK YOU FOR YOUR WORD! THANK YOU FOR REMINDING US OF OUR ETERNAL DESTINY TO SERVE YOU, TO WORSHIP YOU & ENJOY YOU FOREVER MORE. FATHER GOD, AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING THIS CRISIS TO HAPPEN TO FORCED US TO HAVE A PAUSE OR A BREAK IN OUR “BUSY” LIFE ESPECIALLY AS BELIEVERS TO BE REMINDED THAT YOU SAVED US NOT TO LIVE FOR OURSELVES BUT FOR YOU – TO HONOR & GLORIFY & WORSHIP YOU WITH ALL OUR LIFE!

AGAIN, FORGIVE US FOR SAYING THAT WE HAVE NO TIME FOR GOD. WE SEEM TO FIND TIME FOR EVERYTHING ELSE BUT HAVE A DIFFICULTY FINDING TIME TO PRAY, WORSHIP, READ, STUDY, MEMORIZE GOD'S WORD. O LORD, PLEASE HELP US NEVER BECOME "CONCEITED LOVERS OF PLEASURE RATHER THAN LOVERS OF GOD--HAVING A FORM OF GODLINESS BUT DENYING ITS POWER." (2 TIMOTHY 3:4B-5A)

FATHER GOD, TEACH US TO OBEY YOUR WORD – TO OFFER OUR BODIES & OUR ALL TO YOU AS A LIVING SACRIFICE THAT IS PLEASING TO YOU. MOLD US & USE US IN WHATEVER WAY THAT WILL GIVE GLORY TO YOUR NAME. FATHER GOD, CONTINUE TO CLEANSE & CONSECRATE OUR LIVES & MAKE US THE DISCIPLES THAT YOU DESIRES US TO BE. THAT WE MAY FULLY OBEY YOUR GREAT COMMISSION & FAITHFULLY MAKE DISCIPLES OF THE NATIONS. AND IN SO DOING WE WILL BE FULFILLING YOUR WORD IN REV. 7. THAT WE PARTICIPATE IN GATHERING THE WHIOLE CHURCH FROM EVERY TRIBE & NATIONS TO THE GLORY OIF OUR GOD!

ALL THESE I PRAY & GIVE YO YOU ALL THE PRAISE, THE WORSHIP & THE GLORY & THE HONOR. IN JESUS' MOST PRECIOUS NAME WE PRAY. AMEN!