

A Life of Worship

Study Questions for Week #3

“Worship in the Gospels”

The lesson this week was on Luke 7:36-50 and the story of two sinners, a Pharisee and a prostitute. Both encountered the living Christ, and yet their responses were very different. One was blinded by self-righteousness and refused to honor Christ, while the other came to offer uninhibited worship to Him for what He had done for her.

Christ is never fooled by our worship. He can discern our motives. We must be careful that our worship to God is genuine. When our worship and our lives do not match, God sees, people notice and we are guilty of offering worship that is not pleasing to the Lord and damaging to our witness of who He is.

Read Matthew 23. Jesus was confronting the hypocrisy of the Pharisees. The religious leaders were saying all the right things, but their hearts were far from God.

List the specific things that Jesus accused them of doing. Look at each accusation He made, and list a modern-day example in today’s religious circles. For example, in verse 4, the Pharisees deceived poor and sick people. Compare that to present-day television preachers who ask for money in return for blessing and healing.

How does hypocrisy in our lives hinder our worship before God? How do we know if we are being hypocritical? List one way that you are being hypocritical. *When our lives do not match our beliefs, we need to be called to repentance.* An example would be if I use the Lord’s name in vain, use unwholesome talk, and complain or lie in front of my children at home, and then act differently when I am at church or around other Christians.

List the seven “woes” that Jesus declared on the scribes and Pharisees. This can be a warning to us. Are you guilty of any of these same things in your own life? If so, which ones? How does the gospel address this issue of hypocrisy?

How can our worship be grounded in the gospel? *Think of the woman who anointed Jesus’ feet. How was her worship in response to the gospel?*

At the end of Matthew 23, we see Jesus lament over Jerusalem. Why did He lament?

How is verse 39 an expression of worship to Christ? When will this take place?

Genuine worship is humble and sober-minded about who we are before Christ. But in God’s mercy, acceptable worship is possible because He frees us from slavery to sin and frees us to worship Him in a way that brings Him honor and glory.