***Hello Valley Height’s Ladies!*** Reviewing our Mar.25th Bible Study!

“Attitudes of a Transformed Heart”

Chapter 8 --- “Practical Application of Doctrine: *Worship*”

Who defines worship?

What is worship dependent upon?

When should worship happen?

Where does worship take place?

Why is worship so essential?

How can I have an ongoing “ATTITUDE of WORSHIP?”

“The psalmist affirms humanity’s ultimate priority with *an earnest call to worship our Creator*: “Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to His name; *WORSHIP the LORD* in holy array.” (Psalm29:2 NASB). That is our supreme duty for time and eternity ---to honour, adore, delight in, glorify, and enjoy **GOD** above all His creation, as *HE* is worthy to be worshiped.” (Pastor MacArthur)

“The only way to know if our worship is genuine and pleasing to God instead of merely outward religious show is to search the Scriptures and see if it is true to the Word of God.”(Martha)

Ladies, acceptable worship of God comes from **‘TRUE WORSHIPERS’** --- those who:

**T** urn from their worship of ‘stain-glassed’ windows(religion), ‘silver’(riches) and ‘self’ ( *my* rights)

**R** epent and turn to worship the “SON”: the selfless Saviour whose sacrifice satisfied the debt for our sin

**U** nderstand that worship cannot be confined to a specific place or time--- but in Jesus alone Jn. 4:23,24

**E** nter into a divine relationship with ‘the God of the Scriptures’ and trust in His rule over their lives

**W** elcome the ‘tests’ in life and worship God through faith, service, sacrifice and obedience.Gen.22:1-18

**O** ffer up their lives, designed to be a unique sweet smelling ‘perfume’, Holy for Him alone. Ex.30:34-38

**R** ealize the difference between outward lip service and real reverence for God Matt.15:7-9

**S** peak God’s truths, sing God’s promises, and ‘shout joyfully’ for His awesome works. Ps.66:1-5,16

**H** umbly bow their hearts before God each time they read His Word, hear His Word and pray. Ps.2:11

**I** nvite God to search their thoughts, their motives and their attitudes in light of His mercies. Ps.139:23

**P** roclaim the excellencies of Him and ‘declare His worth in a way that will be pleasing to Him.’ 1 Pet.2:9

**E** agerly thank God for Christ’s work on the cross and making a way for us to draw near. Heb.10:19-25

**R** ecognize that worship is the direct result of a mind renewed by the truths of God. Rom.12:1, 2

**S** ubmit and yield their entire lives; inwardly and outwardly as an instrument of righteousness. Rom. 6

Ladies, the very *heart* *of God* and *goal of God* in saving us is to produce acceptable worshipers of Him!

Our Saviour redeemed us to worship Him alone! To be satisfied in Him alone! To long for Him alone!

Listen to the psalmist:

Psalm 42:1, 2 “As the deer pants (longs for) for the water brooks, SO*MY SOUL LONGS***FOR YOU**, O God. *MY SOUL THIRSTS***FOR GOD**, for the living God...” The psalmist is facing a severe divine drought…

Psalm 63:1 “O God, You are my God; I shall SEEK **YOU** earnestly (‘in every situation’); *MY SOUL THIRSTS* **FOR YOU**, my flesh *YEARNS***FOR YOU**, In a dry and weary land where there is no water…” The psalmist is in the wilderness, parched and thirsty, yet he doesn’t say he thirsts for water. And he doesn’t say his soul thirsts for deliverance from his circumstances. His *SOUL THIRSTS* **FOR GOD** alone!

The psalmist clearly sets before us the ‘object’ of his desires…not learning more about God…He wanted ***GOD HIMSELF*** ---the ‘object of his worship! The psalmist’s desires picture for us not ***what*** he ‘wanted’ or ‘felt he deserved.’ But they picture ***who*** he wanted, which was enough for his thirst to be satisfied in his ‘wilderness’ experience.

This is truly a beautiful picture of a **“TRUE WORSHIPER”** of God, and a very challenging and convicting one also. This is the kind of worshipers that the Father seeks - those who worship HIM in spirit and in truth. This kind of response is genuine and pleases God even in the midst of a very real ‘wilderness’ experience. Something very precious to him was being threatened…his very own life. But ***his response*** towards God and others in his situation and his focus on ***GOD ALONE*** became acceptable worship!

Ladies, these two psalms should bring us immense encouragement, comfort and hope! Read them. Study them. Meditate on them. Memorize them. Pray them. And in love and gentleness bring those women who are ‘spiritually dry’ and ‘spiritually parched’ to them. If they are true worshipers of God, they will truly be refreshed and helped by the One ***whom*** they need to refocus on.

 But be prepared ladies, that when you do this, these psalms will also bring you and others to a place of great exposure of the sin of idolatry in your own heart and the sin of not worshipping God as He desires and He deserves.

 Not one of us likes exposure, especially when we are in the middle of a ‘desert’ experience. We often try more than anything to protect ‘ourselves- our wants, our needs, our desires.’ We rationalize, we compromise, we make excuses, we push people away, we shift blame on others, we become hardened, even angry and bitter. These kind of sinful responses expose our desires of wanting something else more than **GOD ALONE**.

Ladies, let’s be transparent and honest. What makes women ‘spiritually dry’ and ‘spiritually parched’ is SIN. We are so often self-centered and so self-focused. Why? Because we’re always looking for something TO GET that we think will satisfy us, even if it’s a good thing. When we stop focusing on what we ***CAN GIVE*** *to God* instead of what we ***CAN GET*** *from God*, at that very moment we become disobedient and grieve God because we are worshiping self above worshiping God.

God commands us to have an “ATTITUDE OF WORSHIP” –it’s non-negotiable! “YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD (not worship self), AND SERVE HIM ONLY (not serve self).” (Matt.4:10)

I’m not sure what your ‘drought’ or ‘wilderness experience’ may be? But one thing I do know and have complete confidence in is that ***Jesus Christ Himself*** who is the fountain of ‘***LIVING WATERS’*** will satisfy our souls and we will ‘never thirst.’ Jesus had a divine sovereign appointment with the woman at the well in John 4. And part of His appointment with her was to graciously and lovingly expose her sin which ultimately brought her to a place to see Christ for who He really is and how **HE ALONE** would satisfy her thirst! *True worship* would now become a way of life for her!

An **“ATTITUDE of WORSHIP”** is: A challenging charge! A call to commitment! A clear command! A conscious choice! A convincing composure! A continual celebration! ONLY by the grace of God, through faith in the Word of God and enabled by the power and presence of the Spirit of God!

Ladies, “***COME***, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. *For He is our God*, and we are the people of His pasture and the sheep of His hand.” (Psalm 95:6,7a), Christyn