

REAL LIFE...REAL WORSHIP

ser4034 Real Worship, Pt 4

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Good morning Church Family! I am really excited about the message today, as I always am! It's so crazy to me (crazy in a good way) how every time I am asked to preach God has already been speaking to me on the subject.

I truly believe this message will inspire you to live the life God has called each of us to live for HIS KINGDOM, a life that pleases God through the power of the Holy Spirit!

Can you all say with me "God is good you!" He truly is good and worthy to be praised!

Today I want to start right out with prayer! Would you all join me in prayer for the message today? (Pray)

The title of our message today is REAL LIFE...REAL WORSHIP.

If you are like me, when you first think of worship you think about what we do here on a Sunday morning. We all come to church and we sing to God with our wonderful worship team. We love it, right? And God loves it as well. But that is not all there is to worship. Real Life is Real Worship.

Real Worship is not only on Sunday mornings here at church. Real Worship is what we do as followers of Jesus Christ all seven days of the week.

How do we live a life of Worship? We were created to live a life that worships God and reflects HIS character to the world around us, every single day! We are created to make God smile. How do we do that?

Remember the word, SIMPLE! (Screen)

It is not complicated to live a life of REAL WORSHIP! It is not always easy, but it was never meant to be complicated.

The three words God gave me for the message today are...

Say that with me... *Real, Simple, Sacrificial.*

I started out with real and simple, but the Holy Spirit added the word sacrificial in there. We really can't live a life of real worship without sacrifice. There will be times in our life when God calls us to give a sacrifice of praise.

Hebrews 13:15 "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise- the fruit of the lips that openly profess his name."

Praise is joyful and wonderful but at times it will cost us something. When our prayers aren't answered in the way we want, or when we are experiencing heartache or fear, that's when we are called to give a sacrifice of Praise to God. Praising God for who He is, not for what he gives us. Praising God in the pain.

It is simple and real, yet powerful and amazing when it comes to the work of God in our lives. Real worship will require a sacrifice of Praise at times. This is Real Life and Real Worship!

Can I get an Amen, People of God?

When I think about Jesus, I think about relationships. Jesus is all about relationships.

Let's take a look at Jesus' close friends. Jesus was human like you and me. He needed time to chill, time to hang out with friends, just like we do.

I think we can learn a lot about the kind of worship that pleases God by looking at Jesus' closest friends.

Three of His closest friends were Martha, Mary and their brother Lazareth whom Jesus raised from the dead. Let's look at how the friendship began...

Luke 10:38-42

38) As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, He came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him.

39) She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. 40) But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Let's stop here. Where did Martha go wrong? First of all, you don't tell God what to do. (Look at your neighbor and say, "Bad move Martha!")

And you don't assume you know the way God thinks. That alone will get you into real trouble, real fast!

“Lord don’t you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!” With an exclamation point at the end! Martha has some nerve, doesn’t she? Before we start to judge Martha let’s get real.

We’ve all pulled a Martha at some point in our lives. So, we really can’t be shaming Martha now, can we?

(Share prayer story)

How many of you can relate with Martha? You’ve said to God, why don’t you tell them to help me or why don’t you show them how wrong they are?

There have been times John and I would be holding hands praying and one of us (John) would tell God how he should handle the situation. I’m not putting John on blast right now even though you all know how I love to put him on blast. It’s so much fun! But I can’t this time because I am guilty too. We will be praying, and we give God ideas of how to answer our prayer. One of us will usually say, “Honey, God doesn’t need ideas on how to answer this prayer!” The other will say, “Yea, you’re right, sorry God.”

I think Martha gets a really bad rap sometimes and Martha knew how to serve Jesus. That was real worship. She just didn’t have her worship in the right order. She opened her home to Jesus and that says a lot about Martha, in a good way!

Let’s go on and talk about how Jesus responds to her demands...
LOL

41) “Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things. 42) But few things are needed---or indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better, and it will not be taken away from her. “

The way I see it, Martha opened her home to Jesus. She was the one who invited him in. She was the one making sure everything was ok for everyone, especially Jesus. Jesus sees her heart. Martha truly has a servant’s heart.

Jesus isn’t shaming Martha. He is delivering Martha from her worries and distractions by saying, “It’s much simpler than you are making it, Martha. I just want to spend time with you. Look at your sister Mary. She gets it Martha and she wants that for you, too. All the work is done now. It’s time to be with me, just be still and sit with me.”

Who am I speaking to right now? All the work is done or maybe it’s not. There is always work to be done, right? Can you sit with Jesus today? Real Life, Real worship!

Jesus has all that we will ever need but we need to stop everything and be with HIM. What’s keeping you from Jesus today?

It’s not about what He can give us or what He can do for us, it’s about being with JESUS.

Do we want Jesus? Just Jesus? Nothing else?

Real Worship. Real Life

Two ways to live a life of Real Worship:

1. Mary's way: Spend time with God. Sit at his feet. Read His word. Listen to worship music. Before you try to serve others, you must let God fill you up or you have nothing to give. Listen, really listen, and then obey!
2. Martha's way: Serve God and others. By serving God we must be obedient to his word.

(Tithing story)

Martha and Mary both represent Real Worship and the kind of life that pleases God. We just need to make sure they are in the right order!

Sitting with Jesus then serving God and others

My daughter Ashley and I were praying together last week before she went to her orientation for the Miss New Jersey Pageant in June.

As some of you know, Ashley is Miss South Shore for the Miss America organization. It's all been on hold since Covid-19 hit, but the pageant will be back in June.

As we were praying Ashley said, "Mom I feel great today. God has put joy in my heart, and I want to be His hands and His feet with the other girls. Then as we prayed, she said this prayer and I wrote it down after she left.

She said, "Lord, I thank you that there is no pressure to perform but only passion for your purpose."

That's what Martha didn't know, but Mary did. No pressure to perform, only passion for your purpose.

Say that with me church family. *No pressure to perform only passion for your purpose.*

Do you have a passion for God's purpose in your life?

Martha had a pressure to perform for God and I think we all have that sometimes. But Mary just loved being with Jesus. And I'm a sure that birthed in her a passion for HIS PURPOSE!

If you love someone you want to be with that person. Don't let the distractions of all that needs to be done keep you from Jesus! Do you want to be with Jesus, or do you only want what Jesus can give you or do for you?

You all know how much I love being a grandmother. It's my most favorite role.

I bring my grandbaby a surprise every Friday when I see him. It may be something small or something really cool. Whatever it is, he's three years old and he knows I have a surprise!

When I arrive, he runs to me and the first thing he says is, "Mom-Mom, do you have a surprise for me?" I say, "Yes I do! Let's sit down and you can have it." Then we play in his playroom with his dinosaurs. I go over other times too and I purposely don't bring a surprise. He always asks me if I have a surprise for him. I tell him no; surprises are only on Fridays. We go to his playroom and while I am playing with him, he randomly says, "Mom-Mom I

love you so much!” That melts my heart. No surprise, no material blessing, just my presence spending time with him and He loves me for it.

How do you think our heavenly Father feels about us? Sure, He likes to bless us. But when God says no, He is not going to give you that request right now, can you sit with Him and say, “It’s ok Father, I just want You.” Do you ever randomly say, “God, I love you so much?”

That’s what real worship is to me! A life that pleases God. A passion for HIS PURPOSE! But first we need to get real with God. Are you ready to get real with God?

I love this booklet. I read it all the time. The title is *My Heart-Christ’s Home*. The book compares us, as people, to a house.

We are the temple where God lives. We are God’s house.

We have rooms in our house, and we choose to let God into some of the rooms and keep him out of some others. it talks about the living room where Jesus sits by the fire every day waiting for us to meet him and sometimes, we leave him there alone and go about our day.

It tells about this one time where the young man was going out with his buddies for the night and Jesus was all ready to go with him. The fellow says to Jesus, “I don’t think you would like this party I am going to, so I will see you when it’s over.” Jesus told him He thought they were best friends and that the young man would want Jesus to go everywhere with him.

He said, "Not tonight Jesus. Maybe tomorrow night you can go to a Bible study with me, but you can't go with me tonight. You wouldn't like it." So, Jesus quietly walked away. When you are used to Jesus being with you, believe me, you feel his absence!

The fellow has a miserable time at the party and comes home and feels so bad, so he finally gives Jesus every room in the house and Jesus feels completely at home.

However, there is this one closet Jesus wants to open the door to, but the young man says to Jesus, "Oh no Jesus, you can't open that closet door. I've given you access to every other room in my house, but not that closet!"

To which Jesus says, "It smells really bad in there. It smells like there are dead things in there." The young man says, "Please do not open it Jesus! There are secret things in there that I don't want anyone to know.

I want to talk about that closet right now. What is that closet to you? What is that one place to which you can't give Jesus total access? Is there is a place like that in your life? If there is, you are not living a life that totally pleases God.

It's not real worship. You see real worship is Real Life. That's letting God have all of you.

Jesus says to the fellow, "I need to open this door, but you need to give me the key. I want us to face this together so I can clean it out for you. You can't do this by yourself, but it has to be done. I will clean it out for you, but I need the key."

What is that closet for you? Is it a porn? Jesus wants the key. Is it lies you tell others or yourself? Are you living a secret life that you know doesn't please God? Is it an addiction you can't get a hold of? Is it some fear that overcomes you? What is it? Only you know.

Jesus wants the key. Whatever it is, Jesus wants to open the closet door and take your dirt and wash you clean, but you must allow Him to do it. That is real worship! That is real life! Do you want it?

(Picture of Jesus)

Years ago, we did a revival service here and I was right up there in the balcony worshiping God. This picture was on the screen as a backdrop. I was looking at it and realized what Jesus was doing!

He is taking dirt and rubbing it on this man's eyes. The Bible tells us Jesus used dirt to make this man see again. How amazing is that? He wants to take your dirt, your secrets, your lies, your shame, and use it all to make you see again.

To see HIM again. Even dirt becomes beautiful when Jesus touches it! Whatever Jesus touches becomes Holy and Beautiful!

It will no longer be dirt. It will be washed away, and you will be clean. The closet will be fresh and smell like springtime flowers. Don't you need a breath of fresh air about now?

You must go to Jesus with your dirt. That is why He died on the cross for you. This is real life, and this is real worship.

If you've never given your heart to Jesus and maybe you have a whole house that you need to give over to Him, it all starts with a prayer. It doesn't end with a prayer. It starts with a prayer to invite Jesus into your heart. (Revelation 3:20)

Be careful, He's going to want to move in and clean out some things but believe me when I tell you, it's all worth it!

It doesn't matter how dirty that closet is or how bad it smells. God is big enough and He loves you enough to clean it for you, but you have to let him!

We like to say it's as easy as ABC.

- **Admit** you are a sinner.
- **Believe** Jesus died on the cross and took your place, paid your price to make you holy.
- **Commit** your life to him.

If you want this relationship with Jesus Christ, pray this prayer with me.

Father God, thank you for loving me. Please forgive me for all my sins, I am sorry. Dear Jesus, please come into my heart and be my Lord and personal Savior. Holy Spirit, give me the desire and the power to live my life for God. In Jesus name I pray. Amen.

If you have prayed this prayer and given your heart to Jesus, it is the best decision you have ever made!