

**[\*] - = NEW SLIDE**

-----  
**Good morning!**

*It's so good to be here with you today. I love teaching God's Word, and I trust He has a good message for us.*

*If you need a Bible, please raise your hand and one of our ushers will come around with a Bible for you.*

-----  
**[\*] - While the Bibles are coming around, we can turn to **Exodus 33** today.**

**I thought it fitting (as your worship leader) to explore a few thoughts and exhortations with you about worship:**

This morning, we will be hitting the highlights of Exodus 33 in regard to worship – and today's message is entitled, "**We Are Worshipers.**"

**I want to start by reading a short passage from Exodus 33 and then we'll pray.**

**Exodus 33:9:**

<sup>9</sup> And it came to pass, when Moses entered the tabernacle, that the pillar of cloud descended and stood *at the door of the tabernacle*, and *the LORD* talked with Moses. <sup>10</sup> All the people saw the pillar of cloud standing *at the tabernacle door*, and all the people rose and worshiped, each man *in his tent door*. <sup>11</sup> ***So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend.***

**And, then, later – in verse 18:**

<sup>18</sup> And he [MOSES] said, "Please, ***show me Your glory.***"

<sup>19</sup> Then He [GOD] said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

-----

**Let's pray.**

-----

Worship is near to my heart – and I think, all too often, it's easy to approach the idea of worship with a “relaxed” mindset.

When I was reading through Exodus 33, one thing became very clear to me:

***Moses could not get enough of God's presence!***

And I think it's because Moses met with God – and the Lord spoke to Moses – “[\*] - ***as a man speaks to his friend.***”

There was such an intimate – and personal – meeting and relationship between Moses and his Creator in this moment – and all Moses could say was, “Give me more! God, I want to see Your true beauty – Your glory – Your magnificence – Your splendor – Your majesty – Your greatness.”

***Have you ever wanted to see God in this way?***

-----

Even after 40 days and nights in the presence of God Almighty, Moses cannot bring himself to leave the presence of the Lord.

But – why?

I believe -- that once you experience the God of the Bible, and you spend time with Him personally, “***as a man speaks to his friend,***” you will find yourself unable to part with the glory and the presence of the Living God.

And, such was the situation of Moses in this chapter.

Moses had experienced the greatness of God.

And it caused him to only want MORE.

When you experience the One, True God, you WILL find yourself wanting MORE.

-----

**[\*]** - *This morning, I want to explore 4 questions to help you think about your personal approach to worship:*

1. **What IS worship?**
2. **What does “true” worship LOOK like?**
3. **What HINDERS our worship?**
4. **What is the RESULT of our worship?**

-----

**[\*]** - **But, what is worship?**

You know, growing up – and as I first started coming to church many years ago – I had no idea what worship even was.

Honestly!

To me, when our pastor said, “We are going to have a time of ‘worship’ and then a time of teaching from the Word,” I thought “*Okay. I enjoy music.*”

And – no joke – for the half an hour that “worship” was taking place, I just mouthed the words, sang some lines here and there, thinking, “This is pretty nice music. I like the newer style; that’s pretty cool. I like that guitar. I wonder what model it is. I wonder why we even sing songs in church anyway... that’s kind of funny when you think about it. Does the pastor just not have enough things to say to fill up his time slot?”

And then, as I grew a little older and matured – not that much more... I said, “Oh, now I get it! These songs are supposed to help ME feel better about life. I can *RELATE* to these songs and kind of get encouraged before we open the Bible – NICE!”

*“It’s like listening to the FISH for 30 minutes before we study the Word... okay.” ☺*

Now, that might sound very funny to you.

But, it was a very true assessment of how I viewed worship.

It wasn't until MUCH later that I realized, "Ohhhh... We are supposed to be using these songs as an opportunity to tell GOD – how much HE is worth."

**[\*]** - And that's when it hit me – **worship is a RESPONSE**.

### **Worship is this:**

**It's God's people – responding to Who God is --- AND what He has done – and we do it with praise and adoration, with thanksgiving.**

**It's acknowledging God in our everyday lives – and then telling Him how much He is worth to us.**

***Because – He has already let OUR worth to Him be known – by trading the life of His Son, Jesus Christ – for the life of ours.***

-----

The longest book in the Bible (Psalms) just happens to be about worship and praise!

And, then, the Bible closes with the book of Revelation, where we catch a glimpse of our ETERNAL praise and worship.

**[\*]** - *We get an idea of what Heaven will be like – and guess what??*

*We are worshippers!*

-----

But here's a question for you to ask yourself this morning:

Am I **currently** reflecting the fact that I have a God Who loves me – and Who created me – and Who allowed His Son to die for me – so that I might (in turn) **RESPOND** to Him in praise and adoration – and thanksgiving?

**Because true worship – IS a RESPONSE.**

It is a RESPONSE to Who GOD is.

It is a RESPONSE to what God has done (and IS doing) in your life.

It is a RESPONSE to the fact that we are deserving of death and Hell – yet God stepped in with the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus – and allowed us a different option: Salvation and Heaven.

***Worship – is a RESPONSE to God’s goodness.***

-----

I want you to think of worship as a compound word, comprised of two single words = **worth**, and **ship**.

**[\*]** - **“Worth”** (speaking of worthiness, acknowledgement of worth) + **“ship”** (symbolizing a quality, status, or honor).

In a nut shell, worshipping God is simply, “telling God of His worth.”

God already knows of His worth – it’s not like we have to “remind God.”

***But He deserves to be told by His creation, don’t you think?***

-----

***I like to create things.***

I just get an idea for a table – or flooring – or some crazy thing and I become **[\*]** - ***Tim, the Tool Man Taylor.***

I have NO idea what I’m doing!... but I watch a YouTube video and try my best to make something great.

-----

***Here’s what it reminds me of...***

MY work... reflects MY work.

And it's flawed.

But GOD's work... reflects His work.

And it's perfect.

God created perfect beings, sin came in and ruined all that for us – but God is still the Creator of these now-imperfect beings.

And WE – as His creation – are meant to bear His image – and then reflect His glory back to Him, as our Creator.

----

***And, what is it – that prompts such a response that should create our true and genuine worship?***

I think (as we see in the chapter today) it's God's goodness.

As God's children, His goodness should be our MOTIVATION in worship.

When we consider the qualities and characteristics of God – and then apply those to our own lives – His grace, mercy, truth, love, comfort, strength, patience, kindness, forgiveness, and so on --- our worship EASILY becomes a response to acknowledging Who God is in our life.

God delights in our worship being a response to the truth of Who He is, contained in His Word.

**[\*]** - Jesus said in [John 4:23-24](#):

**“But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”**

---

Now – just for fun...

**[\*]** - I decided to google the phrase, “How to worship.”

I was just curious to see the worldly view on how to worship.

And, here's what I came up with:

**[\*] - According to [wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com), there are 6 steps to worshipping the Lord:**

- 1. Sing.**
- 2. Pray.**
- 3. Give offerings or sacrifices (and they were very specific to say this must be done with a priest. So, "don't try this at home." ☺).**
- 4. Offer incense to God.**
- 5. Light candles for God.**
- 6. Give money.**

So – there you have it!

Now, you know how to worship the LORD!

-----

Now, I'm being completely facetious, but here's my point:

**[\*] - There is no recipe for worshipping God!**

-----

One of the ways we like to worship God here at Calvary Chapel (in fact, in MOST churches across the world) is through music.

We're not trying to create anything inorganic – but, rather, we try to create a setting where it becomes easier to get our minds set on God.

And, for most people – that happens to be easiest with words and music.

I know – for me, anyway – music really helps me do that.

There is nothing wrong with using music as a means to worship.

In fact, it's Biblical!

But, we need to understand something:

**[\*] - Music does not produce worship; God's people do.**

Music is simply a *method* to help produce praise in the hearts of God's people.

You are free and able to worship the Lord without any music.

-----

**[\*] - In fact, in Pastor Chuck Smith's book, "Calvary Distinctives," he tells a personal story of picking up cigarette butts on the sidewalk outside of the church one morning.**

He wanted to keep the grounds clean out of respect for the Lord's place of worship, and for the people who have come to enjoy a time of worship and God's Word together.

But, he found himself quickly complaining about having to pick up the nasty trash of inconsiderate people.

Until the Lord challenged him with the question, "Who are you serving?"

**[\*] - Paul's words in Colossians 3:17 rang true to Chuck that day, "*And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*"**

I read these words just in time years ago.

When I first started attending church, I asked my pastor how I could be of service and if I could volunteer my time a couple of days a week helping out.

I thought, "Hey, I could help with the music, doing office work, hanging out, whatever!"

His response was, "Sure! Grab a toilet brush."



You talk about deflating!

But, I did it.

***And you know what happened??***

***I began to grumble. And complain. And murmur.***

Until I read Chuck's words about doing **EVERYTHING** in the name of the Lord Jesus – and giving **THANKS** to Him while doing it.

***You know how hard it is to scrub a toilet and thank Jesus?! 😊 😊***

From that point forward, with every toilet I scrubbed, and every trash bag I emptied, and every sweep and mop of the floor, ***I had to remind myself to use it as an opportunity*** to WORSHIP the Lord.

Literally.

***That's how I got my start as a worship leader! 😊***

**😊 *Every worship leader (and worshiper) should start with a toilet brush. 😊***

The emotion said, "This stinks." ***literally***

But, my renewed way of thinking said, "This is for YOU, Lord."

My perspective changed – and I began to WORSHIP the Lord – through **serving** Him.

WHATEVER you do... do it all in the name of the Lord, giving THANKS to Him as you do it.

You don't have to have a good voice – or be able to sing in pitch (or even the right key, for that matter!).

*I've been Christmas caroling with some of you. I know you can't hold a tune! It's okay! 😊*

But, have a thankful heart towards God, Who has done great things in your life....

And you can truly worship the Lord in any circumstance – with the right perspective and attitude.

When you learn to worship God in (literally) EVERYTHING you do, your attitude will become a natural, outward response to Who God is DAILY.

-----

**[\*] - What does "TRUE" worship really look like?**

*How do we worship in "spirit and in truth?"*

Sometimes, by the *renewing of our mind*.

**[\*] -** Romans 12:1-2 says, "...present your bodies a living **SACRIFICE**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the **RENEWING** of your **MIND...**"

Only when our minds are changed from being centered on worldly things – to being centered on God – can we worship in spirit, which leads to worshipping in truth.

Worship isn't just about 30 minutes of music on a Sunday morning, or 15 minutes on a Wednesday night.

**[\*] - Your PUBLIC worship should be an extension and overflow of your private worship all week long.**

If you really want to worship in spirit and in truth, you don't need music.

HEY – You don't even need to wait for Sunday or Wednesday to roll around.

You simply need to remember Who God is – and then RESPOND to His goodness in your life.

And you can do it any day of the week!

24/7!

Just by acknowledging God’s goodness in your life.

David even exhorted himself to worship the Lord, and he did it by reminding himself of the goodness of the Lord.

**[\*]** - In Psalm 103, David says, “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and ***forget not all His benefits...***”

How did David exhort himself in worshiping the Lord?

By remembering – God’s blessings.

-----

**Which brings me to my next question:**

**[\*]** - **What HINDERS our worship?**

There are three reasons I’m going to list that I believe can really hinder our worship.

***You may have your own top 3, but this is my list, not yours 😊***

**[\*]** - **I believe three major hindrances in our everyday worship are:**

- 1. Outward Circumstances**
- 2. Idolatry**
- 3. Sin**

-----

Often, our hearts can become hard in worship (for whatever reason), and it becomes difficult to offer our praise to God.

It could be due to a number of reasons.

The death of a loved one.

The loss of a job.

A breakup, or a divorce.

An illness.

**[\*]** - *And, because of these **outward circumstances**, it becomes really easy to develop the mindset that we just “don’t feel like” worshipping God.*

But, (if we’re not careful), this can become the **WAY** we will worship.

Or – it could cause us not to worship **at all**.

-----

NOW – If you are currently dealing with an outward circumstance like this, I am in no way suggesting you are guilty of anything wrong.

BUT – I will say this:

I have often known people who tend to BLAME God for circumstances in their life that are out of their control.

The Israelites certainly did.

And when things didn’t turn out the way they thought they would, the Israelites resorted to their OWN methods of worship.

They worshipped based on how they FELT.

But for all of us here this morning:

We should never worship based on how we FEEL – or based on what we are going through.

We worship because of WHO God IS – regardless.

**Because, I DO know this... in EVERY situation:**

God is still God.

He is still sovereign.

He is still good.

*And the outward circumstances should drive us to run to Him even more!*

*They should be the reason we hit our knees and seek that face-to-face interaction that Moses had.*

----

After David's sin with Bathsheba, his newborn baby was near death.

We're told in 2 Samuel 12, the child became ill, and David fasted for days while pleading with the Lord.

Finally, the news came that David's newborn baby had died.

Now, I cannot even imagine the pain of the loss of a child.

Not to mention David's response that He gave in this moment.

**[\*]** - Immediately following the news, "David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshiped." (v20).

David's response to so much pain in his life... was **worship**.

*Because there is healing when we move TOWARD God, rather than AWAY from Him in these times.*

We cannot forget God's goodness.

We worship God – when He GIVES... and when He takes AWAY.

-----

**[\*] - Another hindrance when it comes to our worship is the struggle with IDOLATRY.**

*You know* – you've probably heard it said that worship – is a lifestyle. And it's true! I totally agree with that.

You know – we were created to worship.

But - I would go a little bit further... and say – that we were not only CREATED to worship...  
But we were created as WORSHIPERS already.

What do I mean by that?

Well, think about it.

We worship ALL THE TIME.

We are ALWAYS worshipping SOMETHing – to some degree!

Think about how much of our daily lives are consumed by our worship.

We worship food!

We worship TV.

Celebrities.

Music.

Entertainment.

Pleasure.

Ourselves (!).

Our children!

We worship our social media accounts – and our followers – and our likes!

We worship our time!

We worship our sleep!

We worship our addictions.

We worship the things that surround us – all the time!

Hey – think about it: We ARE worshipers! There is no doubt about that.

The problem is – that we end up putting so much attention on these things in our lives – until they become our “idols” ... and we don’t even realize it.

-----

In the previous chapter, Exodus 32 – we read the familiar story of the worship of the golden calf.

Moses had gone up to the mountain – to spend 40 days with God and gain direction for His people, the Israelites.

Well, 40 days was a little too long for the Israelites, I guess.

They were getting tired of wandering around in the empty desert... and they were even more upset at Moses!

They started getting a little antsy!

***The wives were asking, “Why can’t he just be a man and ask for directions!?”***

**[\*] - *The kids were in the back shouting, “Are we there, yet??”***

**[\*] - *Can you imagine looking for a rest stop with hundreds of thousands (possibly millions) of people???***

Finally, they complain to Aaron, who was Moses’s brother and second in command.

Their complaint against Moses is that they have no god to **SEE** and worship!

See, they were worshippers at heart. ***Just with the wrong perspective.***

**[\*] - *Aaron gives in to their demands and tells them to break off their golden earrings and toss the earrings into the pot.***

***Aaron takes the melted gold, carves a molded calf – and tells the people, “This is your god.”***

God became very angry with this offense!

Here was God – trying to lead His people out of desolation – out of their captivity! – and their response was to create their own god that they could physically SEE and WORSHIP.

**[\*]** - See – what they did was they “*exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the CREATURE... rather than the Creator...*” (Romans 1:25)

See, we were created to worship. Because we were created by God as worshipers.

**[\*]** - The setback often comes – not with **HOW** we worship – but with **WHAT** we worship.

And, over time (if not careful), we build up these “idols” in our lives and they become the **objects** of our worship, rather than God, Himself.

Now, I’m not trying to paint a picture in your life of you bowing down to these images and statues, or actual idols.

But – think about it for a minute:

What (in your life) do you put most of your time and attention towards?

For many of us, it’s the same list.

All week long, we spend our attention and focus on these things, and then on Sunday morning, we find it easy to hum along to a few songs for half an hour.

-----

We can even become guilty of worshiping a god whom WE create, rather than the God of the Scriptures.



**[\*] - 2 Timothy 4:3 says, “For the time WILL come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their OWN desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the TRUTH, and be turned aside to fables.”**

In other words – we create this false idea of Who God is – and then put Him in a box!

**[\*] - We can believe God is only a god of WRATH, and not a god of LOVE.**

**[\*] - Or – God is a god only of LOVE – and not of wrath.**

Or – THIS sin in my life is okay. God loves me and can overlook this. At least I’m not doing something worse!

We create this “image” of a god who is more tolerant of our desires and actions, and lifestyles, and there is no need for guilt or repentance as a result.

When we think of God this way, we create only an IMAGE of God – which becomes a false god – or... an “idol.”

***We often try to bring God down to where WE are – and bring Him into OUR worldly way of thinking and reasoning.***

**[\*] - John says in John 4:24:**

***“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”***

We cannot worship God in the form of an IMAGE.

Because God is NOT an image – ***God is Spirit.***

Jesus says worship must be done in SPIRIT, and in truth.

**[\*] - But you cannot worship who you do not know.**

I encourage you – get to know the REAL God of the Scriptures!

----

Here’s the thing about idolatry:

Idolatry robs God of the glory that is rightfully His.

And God will not tolerate this kind of worship.

**[\*]** - Isaiah 42:8 says, "I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images."

Are there any idols or false images of God have you created in your life?

Is there anything you put more attention towards, instead of towards your Creator?

**[S]** - "For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world." 1 John 2:16

**But Matthew 22:37 reminds us: "...You shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind."**

-----

**[S]** - *Sin is another obstacle that will hinder our worship.*

In 2 Samuel 11 – King David's heart was so heavy and full of guilt over his sin with Bathsheba that he found it impossible to worship.

We're told in Psalm 32:3 that David "groaned" all day long, knowing that his sin separated him from God.

Sin causes us to withdraw from God. It separates us from our Creator.

And God, being a holy God, cannot be near sin.

That's why the Israelites had to go OUTSIDE of the camp they defiled with their idolatry in order to worship God.

But, again... There is repentance!

God desires for us to repent and turn back to Him.

But, sometimes, we have a hard time taking that step.

**[\*]** - Yet - I would remind you of the kindness of the Lord, as Paul spoke about in **Romans 2:4: "...do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"**

When you're in a place of guilt and the Lord suddenly just blesses you?

That certainly can lead us to repentance.

Just remembering the goodness of the Lord (alone) can lead us to repentance.

The Israelites realized it was their sin that separated them from God's presence.

**[\*]** - Once they realized this, in verse 4 of chapter 33, we see that **"they mourned, and no one put on his ornaments."**

Their repentant hearts allowed them to strip themselves of all that was unnecessary in order to draw close to God and worship Him again.

They defiled the camp, but as for the tabernacle that Moses set up outside the camp... it became a sanctuary for all who went out to the tabernacle to seek the Lord.

When you leave behind all that's unnecessary, you can move forward again with God.

God is waiting in the special place.

**[\*]** - **Their shedding of the ornaments was symbolic of realizing it wasn't about the EXTERNAL – it was about getting right with God (INTERNALLY).**

-----

Over the past couple of winters (last winter, being the worst), I was sick an average of about once a month (sometimes twice!).

I would get sick, and then I would sneeze my head off (and my sneezes aren't old-lady like – they sound like the fireworks going off at the Stone Mountain Laser Show).

I would have sneezing fits that would last minutes and would just zap my energy afterwards – no joke.

Then, I would start to get over my cold and teach in the classroom the next day, which caused me to start losing my voice.

So, on an average of about 1-2 times per month, I would show up on a Sunday morning to lead worship and not even know if I would have a voice to sing or not.

I doubted my own abilities.

My temptation was to call Brett to see if he could fill in for me.

---

The real issue at heart was my PRIDE – *and it was pride I didn't even know I had.*

See, for me – it was all about *“Can I do this?”*

*“Will I be able to lead worship this morning?”*

*“What if I don't have a voice?”*

---

But, then, the Lord just really challenged me one day.

I felt like the Lord was saying to me, “Are you REALLY going to let this – HINDER your worship?”

I mean, talk about a challenge!

I had to decide – was I going to let my **PRIDE** stop me from giving the Lord the praise that He was due?

So, I started showing up with a new attitude – and a renewed mind.

One that was submissive – and one that said, “*Lord, I don't know if -- “I” -- can do this... but I WILL worship You. I know YOU will not hinder the praise of your people through ME – being a weak vessel.*”

And sure enough, the Lord is faithful.

Not one time did I **NOT** have a voice when I stood up to sing.

I would wake up with a squeaky voice, and practice would be rough, but the Lord used me in my weak state to lead the praises of His people.

In fact, during the actual worship was when I felt at my best, physically, even in the sickness.

**[\*]** - It reminded me of one thing:

***Worship — is not about me.***

***You know – God confronted me with a type of PRIDE I didn't even know I had.***

Worship (for me) was becoming about whether or not I could do it – rather than just giving my best to God – no matter what that looked like.

Because – when we hold back in worship (in any way) – that's when worship becomes about us.

***And since then, I've had that as kind of a motto in my mind: "It's not about me."***

Worship is about God.

Always has been, always will be.

God's strength really is "made perfect in [MY] weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9)

In your lifestyle of worship, I encourage you to remind yourself: Hey, this time I'm setting aside? "It's not about me."

***"If it's about me, I'm going about this all wrong."***

***If worship is about ME, then there is no purpose in my worship.***

This was something I had to realize – and then OFFER that to God in submission.

-----

Sometimes I get out of breath in worship.

HEY, I've got to say! It is much easier to worship without every mouthing a word, or breathing a breath! Let me tell you!

But – again – worship is an OFFERING.

That's one of the reasons I love singing that song, "Great Are You, Lord."

The chorus says, "It's Your breath in our lungs, so we pour out our praise."

I love this, because one of the things we read in Genesis 2:7 is, "...the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground... and BREATHED into his nostrils the BREATH OF LIFE; and man became a living being."

Ezekiel 37 details a vision given by God to Ezekiel, where God *breathes* life into dry bones – and the bones come to life!

**[\*] - It's a good reminder that there was purpose in our creation, and we should (therefore) purposefully worship our Creator.**

And if it's God's breath in MY lungs... who am I to hold back from using that very breath to breathe praise back to Him?

AND – if I do hold back from praising God, it's because (in some capacity) I'm letting circumstances (or pride) hinder my worship.

-----

**[\*] - What is the RESULT of our worship?**

Well, in Exodus 34, when Moses came down off the mountain, we're told his face was shining so bright that the people were "afraid to come near him."

It was evident Moses had been with the Lord!

It will be evident when you have been spending time with God, face-to-face.

Because when you do – you can't help but overflow with praise towards the Almighty.

-----

Moses's desire in this chapter was to spend as much time with God as possible.

In fact – God was telling Moses to GO – and lead the people.

But Moses cried, "If Your presence isn't with us, I don't want to go!"

**[\*] - "SHOW ME YOUR GLORY!"**

But, God couldn't reveal Himself in all His glory.

God told Moses that Moses would die if he experienced God in all of His glory.

But God did an amazing thing – only about 1500 years or so later.

**[\*] - John 1:14 says, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ---- and we beheld His **GLORY** ---- the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."**

WOW!

If you REALLY want to see God's glory, look no further than His Son, Jesus.

-----

God's glory was too much for Moses to behold at the time...

Yet, God ultimately revealed His goodness – through His Son, Jesus.

And, it's because of Jesus – and His death – and resurrection – that you may have life – and have it more abundantly.

-----

If you're having trouble breaking through that barrier of getting to a place of true worship, let me help you out by asking you this:

**[\*] - Do you remember what God has done for you??**

I mean – truly.

**Do you remember all that God has done?**

***Look at what God did for the Israelites (His people) – and then look at what He did through His Son, Jesus:***

God delivered His people from captivity.

He delivered them from their bondage!

And, later – Jesus would deliver us from OUR bondage of sin and captivity.

***What is your response to that?***

God split a sea for His people to escape their old life!

And then Jesus provided a path to Heaven.

God provided bread – every day – and from Heaven.

And later, Jesus would proclaim Himself as the “Bread of Life.”



God provide water from a rock – by Moses striking it with his rod.

And – again – later, Jesus, became the Rock that would take our beating and provide life that sustains.

***What has God done for you?***

***What has He done for you that you may have forgotten?***

-----

**[\*]** - Moses asked to see God's *glory* – yet, God chose to let Moses see His **GOODNESS**, instead.

**In Verse 19:**

**God says, “I will make all My goodness pass before you.”**

God revealed His true name and nature to Moses in Exodus 3 when He told Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.”

And, now – God reveals His **goodness**, His **grace**, and His **compassion**.

-----

God couldn't show Moses all His glory...

But, God did the next best thing:

***He showed Moses His GOODNESS.***

When God's glory passed by Moses, Moses only saw God's **“backside.”**

Moses only saw what had already passed... not what was ahead.

**[\*] – If you wish to see God's glory...**

**Stop looking AHEAD – and start looking BACK at God's protective hand over your life.**

This is probably the only time you'll hear a pastor say, "look back." ☺

Usually, we're telling you to look FORWARD! Not BACK!

**"PRESS ON!"**

We make the mistake of looking back and counting our failures.

But we REALLY need to look back – and count our BLESSINGS.

**[\*] – It's interesting, because one of the things the Israelites placed in the ark of the covenant was a jar of manna.**

It was there as a reminder.

Because, sometimes, we need a blatant **VISUAL** – as a reminder of all that God has done.

We often forget the good (as the Israelites did) – and, instead, dwell on the bad.

We look back to the past, alright.

*But, with the wrong perspective.*

It's so easy to remember the bad and forget the good.

But, you cannot do that with God's hand in your life.

Stop counting your *failures* – and start counting your  blessings .

And let those blessings MOTIVATE you – to tell God how **GOOD** He is.

---

***I like keeping a prayer journal.***

I know it sounds cheesy and I just lost my man-card... but, I do!

And even with a prayer journal, I cannot believe how many good things I have forgotten that I have seen the Lord do in my life.

Every so often, you need to take a look back at the manna that God has provided you with.

My prayer journal goes back years, and from time to time, I pull it out and take a look at it.

You know what I find?

I see the GOODNESS of the Lord.

Problems and prayers I have totally forgotten about... and there they are.

And when I think about the results of my “problems” at the time I wrote them in my journal, I laugh.

I can’t help but say, “God, You’re so good.”

All this time, and I’ve forgotten what’s right in front of me: The goodness of the Lord.

And it causes me to worship.

-----

**[S]** - In verse 19, God revealed His name and nature:

“...I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”

God is gracious – and He is full of compassion.

And when you get to know the God of the Bible as He reveals Himself to be...

You will see the truth behind these words in your own life.

And when you see the truth of Who He is...

There will be an organic RESPONSE – that prompts your praise.

That, my friends, is what we call worship.

My prayer, as your worship leader – is that this gift of being a worshiper already – would be stirred up in you.

And that you will make the worship of your Creator a part of your everyday life.

So that when we come together each week, corporately – we can (literally) just CELEBRATE the Lord's goodness together -- as an overflow of our everyday worship.

***Because when you truly account for God's blessings in your life, your worship will be a natural – and true – response to God's goodness.***