

Message: If Only One Thing, Part One

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8

Speaker: Randy Pope

Date: 5/6 May 2012

1. Why do we come to worship and how do we determine if our worship is a good experience?

John Ortberg & Pam Howell

People have the tendency to approach worship as consumers. The focus is on *my* experience, sitting back with arms folded and saying to those leading worship, *'Wow me. Do something to grab my attention, catch my interest.'* They assume worship is like watching a movie; it's something I critique afterward.

Can you imagine the Israelites, freshly delivered from slavery, before a mountain that trembles violently with the presence of God (Exodus 19), muttering:

'We're leaving because we're not singing the songs we like. Like that tambourine song, how come they don't do that tambourine song anymore?'

'I don't like it when Moses leads worship; Aaron's better.'

'This is too formal – all that smoke and mystery. I like casual worship.'

'It was okay, except for Miriam's dance – too wild, not enough reverence. And I don't like the tambourine.'

No, Scripture doesn't read like that. The people were filled with awe and wonder and trembling and hope and fear, because there in the middle of nowhere, before this bunch of ex-slaves, was God.

They provide healthy environments for worship and feeding rather than environments for entertainment and self-help inspiration.

2. Who should the target audience be during a worship service?
3. Is it appropriate to have performers in a worship service?

Anonymous

It is functional blasphemy to stand in the place of God. God is the audience of worship. If we become the audience, it is blasphemy.

4. What are the experiences a Christian should have during a time of worship?

"WOW"
"SORRY"
"YEA"
"O.K."

1. WOW - True worshippers experience a pondering of their Savior (adoration). Isaiah 6:1-4

1.1 True worshippers see God's prominence. vs. 1

Isaiah 6:1

1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

1.2 True worshippers see God's perfection. vs. 2

Isaiah 6:2

2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

1.3 True worshippers see God's praiseworthiness. vs. 3

Isaiah 6:3

3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

1.4 True worshippers see God's power. vs 4

Isaiah 6:4

4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

C.S. Lewis

"Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will desire and make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking they're either braver than most of just plain silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver; "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about being safe? Of course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Randy Alcorn

Until we come to grips with the truth of His uncompromising holiness, we'll never begin to grasp His grace.

Next Week:

2. SORRY - True worshippers experience a prostrating of self (confession). Isaiah 6:5
3. YEA - True worshippers experience a purging of sin (restoration). Isaiah 6:6-7
4. O.K. - True worshippers experience a professing of submission (submission).
Isaiah 6:8