

Meeting Him Before Following Him

(Isaiah 6:1-8)

- Introduction:
1. For many, worship has become a mundane, routine, weekly ritual.
 2. However, there are others who desire for more than a stale ritual, and they long for an encounter with God that will affect the way they think and live throughout the week.
 3. In this lesson, I will propose a way that will help us move from rote ritual to meaningful worship.
 4. (Mark 3:14) And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach.

I. Tension Between Worship & Routine Is Nothing New

- A. (Malachi 1:13) Worship had become a weariness.
- B. (Psalm 122:1) David was glad to worship God.
- C. (John 4:24) Must worship in spirit and in truth.

II. Legitimate Expectations Of Worship

- A. (Isaiah 6:1-8).
- B. We should experience a sense of God's presence (vs. 1-4).
 1. Worship ought to convey a deep respect for the holiness of God.
 2. A worship experience in which I am not reminded of how great and powerful God is, has failed in the most fundamental way.
 3. Worship should neither be sheer boredom nor shallow entertainment, but should communicate a deep respect for God.
- C. We should be humbled by our own sinfulness (v. 5).
 1. The closer we get to God, the more aware we should be of our own sinfulness.
 2. When a person boasts of his own goodness, he reveals he hasn't been close to God lately.
- D. We should be reminded of God's grace (vs. 6-7).
 1. Worship should motivate us to repent and rejoice because God's grace is sufficient to forgive us.
- E. We should leave inspired to serve God (v. 8).
 1. "Enter to worship, depart to serve."
 2. Leave with a renewed spirit to serve.
 3. Instead of criticizing, grumbling, and gossiping, leave thanking, praying, and planning.

- Conclusion:
1. Worship is first and foremost about God.
 2. It is about giving rather than receiving, serving rather than being served.
 3. But when we give ourselves to this, we will discover that we too will be blessed and strengthened.
 4. Nothing so central to Christianity can lose its meaning while the cause of Christ thrives.