



The Essentials of a Christ Follower – Worship

John 12:1-8

August 7, 2022

Merriam-Webster:

Essential – Something of the utmost importance that is necessary or indispensable.

What Is Worship?

Christian worship is usually identified with certain public religious activities, such as going to church or more particularly, singing hymns, saying prayers, listening to sermons, or participating in the Lord's Supper. The English word worship means to attribute worth, suggesting that to worship God is to ascribe to him supreme worth. Worship is an attitude and not just an action. Worship, in short, is honor and adoration directed to God.

Four essentials of a Christ follower's life:

- Worship
- Discipleship
- Evangelism – Gospel conversations
- Prayer

Five Principles of Essential Worship

1. Essential worship contains thanksgiving

John 12:1–2 (NKJV) Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. ²There they made Him a supper, and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him.

Mark 14:3a And while He was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table...

Takeaway:

It only stands to reason that once you invite Jesus into your heart, you also invite Him into your home.

Six principles of an essential worshipper:

- An essential worshipper understands the need to worship in the house of God
- An essential worshipper understands the need of submission
- An essential worshipper understands the need to be involved in ministry and service
- An essential worshipper understands worship precedes prayer
- An essential worshipper understands worship and prayer go hand in hand
- An essential worshipper isn't hypocritical

2. Essential worship is often considered wasteful

John 12:3a (NKJV) Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair...

John 12:4–6 (NKJV) But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, ⁵"Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" ⁶This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it.

Mark 14:4–5 (NKJV) *But there were some who were indignant among themselves, and said, “Why was this fragrant oil wasted? ⁵For it might have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor.” And they criticized her sharply.*

Mark 14:6–7 (NKJV) *But Jesus said, “Let her alone.” Why do you trouble her? She has done a good work for Me. ⁷For you have the poor with you always, and whenever you wish you may do them good; but Me you do not have always.*

3. Essential worship is without dignity

John 12:3 (NKJV) *Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil.*

Takeaway:

Mary wasn't concerned about what other people thought when it came to her worship.

2 Samuel 6:12–14 (NKJV) *So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. ¹³And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. ¹⁴Then David danced before the LORD with all his might...*

2 Samuel 6:15 (NKJV) *So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.*

2 Samuel 6:16 (ESV) *As the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD, and she despised him in her heart.*

2 Samuel 6:20–23 (NLT) *When David returned home to bless his own family, Michal, the daughter of Saul, came out to meet him. She said in disgust, “How distinguished the king of Israel looked today, shamelessly exposing himself to the servant girls like any vulgar person might do!” ²¹David retorted to Michal, “I was dancing before the LORD, who chose me above your father and all his family! He appointed me as the leader of Israel, the people of the LORD, so I celebrate before the LORD. ²²Yes, and I am willing to be more undignified than this, even to be humiliated in my own eyes! But those servant girls you mentioned will indeed think I am distinguished!”*

Charles Spurgeon:

“David had been soaring up on eagle’s wings. Perhaps never in his life before had he so enjoyed the public worship of God. He had forgotten everything in the delight of bringing the ark of the Lord home to his own city, where he had prepared a tabernacle for its resting-place. He had thrown himself into the gladsome service of the Lord that day. The king came home to bless his household, wishing that all his family might share in his joy. Exactly at that moment his wife, Michal, Saul’s daughter, who had felt disgusted at seeing her husband dressed like a common Levite and leading the way in the midst of the common people, came out to meet him, full of furious scorn. Her language to him must have acted as if a man had thrown a pail of cold water into his face. The worst side of the world will be turned towards you when you have been nearest to the eternal throne.”

2 Samuel 6:23 (ESV) *And Michal the daughter of Saul had no child to the day of her death.*

4. Essential worship brings spiritual insight

John 12:7–8 (NKJV) *But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial.”*

Matthew 20:18–19 (ESV) *See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death. ¹⁹And deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.*

Takeaway:

When a person truly worships God, a spiritual insight comes into our life that you can never know until you are in the presence of the Lord.

Psalm 25:14 (ESV) The friendship of the LORD is for those who fear him, and he makes known to them his covenant.

Psalm 25:14 (MSG) God-friendship is for those who worship God. They are the ones he confides in.

Oswald Chambers – July 27th

“The golden rule for understanding spiritually is not intellect, but obedience. If a man wants scientific knowledge, intellectual curiosity is his guide; but if he wants insight into what Jesus Christ teaches, he can only get it by obedient worship. If things are dark to me, then I may be sure there is something I will not do. Intellectual darkness comes through ignorance; spiritual darkness comes because of my refusal to worship and obey.”

Mark This Down:

Mary could not stop Jesus' death, but she was about to prepare him for his burial. Mary looked into the eyes of Jesus, and she saw what no one else saw - Golgotha. She poured on Jesus the only thing He would take to the cross. It is quite possible that you could still smell the aroma of the Nard six days later as he was dying for all of mankind on the cross.

5. Essential worship is celebrated by God

Mark 14:9 (NKJV) Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.