

WHY WORSHIP?

Scripture used: Mark 9:2-10 (NLT)

OVERVIEW

In this week's passage in Mark, Jesus takes Peter, James and John up to a high mountain and reveals His deity to them, also known as The Transfiguration. They also saw Elijah and Moses talking with Jesus then heard the voice of God coming from a cloud saying, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him!" They looked around and saw only Jesus, then came down the mountain to continue on their journey toward Jerusalem where Jesus would ultimately die for the sins of the world. There are times in our lives when we may ask, "How does my faith in Jesus help me in tough times?" The secret starts at the top of the mountain where Jesus exposes His fullness to us. This happens when we worship. The Big Idea for this sermon series is that true faith requires a confrontation of our doubts. Some of the doubts we have are about worship. A true understanding of worship, however, will help us understand how it helps us deepen and widen our faith.

KEY POINTS

- 1) Acknowledge the Obvious:
 - The meaning of worship is not obvious. Some feel worship is boring and unrelatable.
 - Worship means different things to different people. Different cultures and denominations worship God in very different ways that may seem strange to one another.
- 2) Accept the Reality:
 - Everybody worships something or somebody. Some examples: money, power, intellect, and celebrities. It's not wrong to have dreams and desires, but if we put God in the right position, everything else will fall into place. If we put other things in God's place, everything else will fall apart. If people are the target of our worship, we will always be let down. Worship God; He will never leave or forsake us (Deut. 31:6).
- 3) Agree to Worship God Above All: Everytime we seek to obey God, that is worship.

The Bible teaches that worship involves:

1. Gathering with Others (Recognition & Remembering). Jesus took three disciples up the mountain. Matt. 18:20 says, "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."
2. Living Day-to-Day (Reflecting the Habits of Worship). Some examples of ways to worship God in our everyday living: Daily devotions- ask God to speak to you, read a short passage in the Bible, make notes to process what you've read, and an answer will eventually come. Small acts of obedience: telling the truth when tempted to lie, having integrity in your workplace as if God were your boss, and through thoughtful generosity (if God tells you to say, give, and do something for someone).
3. Serving (Reflecting & Responding). There is a dimension of experiencing God that happens as we serve others.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** What are some different styles of worship that you have experienced? What are some ways that you personally worship God on a day-to-day basis?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Exodus 20:3 says, "You shall have no other gods before me." What are some things or people that fight for first place in your life?
- 3) **DO** We worship God when we serve. NBCC will NOT be meeting at the church this weekend, but will be serving together at Columbia Middle School in our participation in Beautiful Day. If you haven't signed up yet, please do so at www.nbccbayarea.com/beautifulday.

PRAYER

Today was Pastor Dan and Karin Baker's last Sunday at NBCC. Pray for them as they travel across the country to Pennsylvania in obedience to God.