

Name: _____

Date: _____

Christian Leadership

How to influence the ideas, opinions and actions of others for Jesus Christ.

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day One) What is Worship?

In the New Testament, the Greek word most frequently used for worship is *proskuneo* (προσκυνέω). It means to express in attitude or gesture one's complete dependence or submission to a high authority figure. It also means to (fall down and) worship, do obeisance, to prostrate oneself before, do reverence to and to welcome respectfully.¹

The leader in worship is completely dependent on God and submits to His high authority. Another Greek word, *latreuo* (λατρεύω) which is also translated worship means to serve and minister. In your dependence and submission to God as His leader on earth, you serve according to His will.

1. How do you personally express your complete dependence and submission to God?

I have two simple ways that I express in attitude and gesture my dependence and submission to God. In the morning, I kneel or sometimes lie on the floor with my face down on the floor (prostrate) and acknowledge God as King, Ruler, and Creator. I confirm that I am His servant, slave, and creation. I say, "Your Majesty, I am here to serve You this day."

At night, I kneel by my bed and tell my Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit good night. I tell them how much I love them and thank them for leading me this day. I also thank God for the things and circumstances that He has brought about in my life and ministry.

In addition to moving the body to express deep respect, obeisance means to pay homage. In paying homage, we show deep respect and reverence. Homage is also defined as a *formal public acknowledgement* by which a feudal tenant or vassal declares his fealty to his lord.²

Fealty is the loyalty and duty owed by a vassal to his feudal³ lord. In case your medieval history is a bit rusty, a vassal is a person who held land from a lord or superior, to whom in return he gave help in war or some other service.⁴

¹ A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and other Early Christian Literature, 3rd Edition revised & edited by Frederick William Danker, Based on William Bauer's. 2000, U. of Chicago Press, pg. 882.

² Random House Dictionary of the English Language, 1968.

³ **feudalism** - A political and economic system of Europe from the 9th to about the 15th century, based on the holding of all land in fief or fee and the resulting relation of lord to vassal and characterized by homage, legal and military service of tenants, and forfeiture. The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English

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2. Please share a time when you made a public acknowledgement of your loyalty to God?

You are not only a vassal but an adopted son (includes male and female) who is in war. You are to be steadfast, unswerving and totally dedicated in your allegiance to God and your Kingdom. God's Kingdom is your Kingdom now. His cause is your cause. No matter how you feel or what you face, you must stand up and acknowledge your King. This is an integral part of a leader in worship.

Declaring and acknowledging God can be simple or life threatening. Jesus worshipped God at all times. When He died on the cross, He was in worship. Martyrs also worship God when they die for the sake of His Name. They are loyal to the point of death.

In English, the verb worship means to honor and love God. It also means to regard with ardent or adoring esteem or devotion.⁵ A leader takes an active part in worship and influences others to honor and love God.

Attending a religious service is another meaning of worship in the English language. Worship for many is synonymous with singing in church. They think of standing together and showing their respect and love for God publicly with melodious voices. Other folks may worship God by playing a Christian CD in their cars and singing along with the music to God. There are many ways to honor God and they can all be good and acceptable at different times in your day. All activities offered to God for His use and glory are forms of worship.⁶

3. How do you honor and love God? How do you adore and esteem Him?

One of the verbs in Hebrew that English translates as worship is *shachah* (שָׁחָה). It means to prostrate or bow down. It also means to pay homage to God and reverence His name.⁷ Another Hebrew word that is translated as worship is *abad* (עָבַד). It means to work and to serve.

4. How are you working and serving God? _____

“The ancient Hebrews understood a human being as an indivisible totality. Thus, almost by definition, Hebrew worship in the Old Testament was participatory. Their synthetic

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⁴ Barnhart, Clarence. Thorndike-Barnhart Comprehensive Desk Dictionary, Doubleday & Do., Garden City, New York, 1958.

⁵ Microsoft Bookshelf 1996-97 Edition

⁶ Zechariah 14:20-21

⁷ Hebrew Greek Key Study Bible, New American Standard, AMG Publishers, 1990.

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understanding of the nature and constitution of the human being demanded that the whole person respond to Yahweh in worship, not just the spirit and soul.”⁸

In other words, all the separate parts of life such as work, worship, recreation, prayer and leisure were combined to form a whole sacred life dedicated to God. When we take all three definitions of worship in the Greek, English and Hebrew, we begin to capture the meaning of being a true worshipper. **Therefore, as a true worshippers we love God and are fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in service and devotion with great reverence and awe using our mind, spirit and body for His glory.**

Personal Application: Pray God’s words in Deuteronomy 6:4-7 so that they return to Him in worship:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

^{NIV} Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Continue this day or this evening by revealing your loyalty and love of God to Him and all people in your path. With reverence tell of His mercy and sovereignty. Share what He has done for you and how He answers you when you call on Him. Your words of worship will please your Heavenly Father who desires your devotion and service.

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Two) Equality in Worship

Then say to Pharaoh, "This is what the LORD says: Israel is my firstborn son,²³ and I told you, "Let my son go, so he may worship me."^{NIV} Exodus 4:22-23a

1. Read Exodus 4:22-23. How do you know that God desires your worship?

God tells us clearly and emphatically in the book of Exodus that He saved the Israelites for the purpose of worship. The LORD had Moses go to Pharaoh and repeat eight times “*Let my people go, so that they may worship me.*”⁹ God wanted to make it clear to Moses and to the Israelites as well as Pharaoh and the Egyptians that the reason He wanted His people to be released was for the express purpose of worshipping Him.

2. How does God describe Israel in verse 22 and 23? _____

⁸ Torah’s Vision of Worship, 110

⁹ Exodus 4:22-23, 7:16, 8:1, 8:20, 9:1, 9:13, 10:3, 10:7

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You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus,²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.²⁹ If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.^{NIV} Galatians 3:26-29

3. How does Paul describe Christians in Galatians 3:26? _____

4. How did you become a son of God? _____

A person becomes a son of God by faith in Jesus. Worship depends on being in the family of God. Think of a human family. You don't become part of a particular family by going to their home or talking nicely about them. You become a member of that family by either being born into it or being adopted into it. Simply, a person must be born again or born a second time to be in God's family.

Once born into God's family, your role as a son means that you have an active participatory role. You have direct access to God and do not need to go through a priest or mediator. Indeed you are a priest yourself (1 Peter 2:5, Revelation 5:10).

The Galatians were being influenced by certain Jewish believers (Judaizers) who were insisting that Gentile (non Jewish) believers needed to observe the Torah (Law). Paul is making the point that the life of God's people is meant to be centered on Christ and not on the Torah.¹⁰ The point is still critical today. Center your life on Christ and not laws.

The Bible was written so that we may know and love God. It does this by pointing to Christ. As we study God's Word, He reveals Himself and graciously gives us satisfying work to do in His Kingdom. As a leader, your work is always done out of love for Your heavenly Father. What pleases God pleases you. Following rules and regulations is not the same as submitting and depending on God. It is not worship.

5. Have you ever been the victim of prejudice (disliked or harmed)? Please explain.

It is very difficult when you are treated unfairly for being a specific race, social class or gender (male or female). Injustice in any form is not only emotionally harmful but it can be physically dangerous as well. In God's Kingdom there is no prejudice, discrimination, narrow mindedness, bigotry or chauvinism. We are sons of God and heirs according to the promise (Genesis 12:2-3).

This means that your race, social class and gender spiritually meld together as one in Christ Jesus. How others view your physical differences or circumstances has no effect on your relationship with God and your place in His Kingdom. You are equal in every sense of the word.

¹⁰ Longenecker, Richard N., Word Biblical Commentary, Galatians. General Editor Bruce Metzger, Word Books Publisher: Dallas, 1990, 151.

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God uses the terminology of sons to reveal a spiritual reality. During the period of time that the Bible was written, sons or adopted sons were the only ones who inherited the family property and wealth. However, there were two notable exceptions. Job's daughters' inherited along with their brothers (Job 42:13-15) and Zelophehad's daughters (Joshua 17: 3-4, Numbers 27:1-8, 36) inherited their father's land. Both Job and Numbers ends with these important accounts which foreshadow the truth that in Christ all are sons and heirs.

Usually it was the firstborn son who would receive the estate and manage it. He would also have privileged access to his father and his experience. Fathers would often give preferential treatment toward their sons because they would be the ones carrying on the family name and hopefully an honorable reputation.

Understanding this truth is important to your worship and how you will lead others. Jews had the preeminent position of being the only true worshippers of God. Israel was considered God's firstborn son. Paul is saying that in Christ all are sons and all are true worshippers. That is, no one has any advantage in their relationship with God or in their participation within the Kingdom. As a son and true worshipper you love God and are fully dependent and submitted to Him constantly in service and devotion with great reverence and awe using your mind, spirit and body.

6. How does this new change in your social, cultural or gender status affect your leadership responsibilities now? _____

7. How does this new change in your social, cultural or gender status affect your understanding of and anticipation of the Last Judgment? _____

8. Read Galatians 3:27. What does this verse mean to you? _____

Baptism is a symbol of the new reality of sonship in Christ. Our immersion signifies that we share in Jesus' death and have died to our old way of life. Coming up out of the water signifies that we are raised out of death from sin into a new birth in Christ and into God's family.

As sons we clothe ourselves with Christ. We become like Him by taking on or putting on His characteristics, virtues and intentions.¹¹ Sonship for us is the full identification with the Son of God, our model and blueprint for life and worship. Remember as God's Son, He always sought His Father and ran the estate (earth) according to His plans and purposes.

Galatians 3:28 represents three areas of inequality that has come to an end in Christ Jesus. Studies show these verses were part of the confession of the early church, particularly used at

¹¹ Ibid, 156.

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baptism. Those early Christians were giving praise that through Christ the old racial, cultural and gender divisions had been healed.¹² There is unity and harmony of our purpose on earth: to worship God.

9. How do you worship God in this new reality of equality in Christ?_____

Galatians 3:29 says that if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and an heir according to the promise. If you are unfamiliar with the story of Abraham, read Genesis 12-25. Briefly, after Adam and Eve sinned God promised that He would redeem mankind (Genesis 3:15) and He fulfilled that promise through Abraham's seed. Our Redeemer, Jesus Christ was a descendent or the seed of Abraham's earthly line (Galatians 3:16).

If you are an heir to the promise, you are blessed with salvation. You are saved from your sins and have entered into a relationship with God in Christ. But the promise also says that you will be a blessing. That means that you have the ability to share Christ with others. You bless others by helping them come into a saving relationship with the Messiah (Genesis 12:2) and becoming sons themselves.

Personal Application: *Preparing your heart for worship:*

A. Pray and ask God if you are living Christ-centered or law-centered. What did God tell you?

B. Pray and ask God if you are prejudiced against anyone or any group. What did God tell you?

C. (1) Is there anything that the Lord wants you to do in regard to your answers (A-B)?

C. (2) How will you follow through with the Lord's counsel and direction for these areas in your life?_____

D. (1) Pray and ask God if you are being treated unjustly because of race, social class or gender. What did God tell you?_____

¹² Ibid, 157

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D. (2) Read and meditate on Matthew 5:44-48, Luke 6:27-28, Romans 12:14, and 1 Corinthians 4:12-13. What does God want you to do when you are treated unjustly because of race, social class, or gender?

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Three) Heart of Worship

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ^{NIV} Psalm 84:2

1. Read and meditate on Psalm 84:2. How is this verse a statement of worship? _____

The “Sons of Korah” wrote this psalm of worship to God. This psalm reveals a worshipper fully and constantly devoted to God. It is not a trivial seeking but an earnest and total longing for God. The worshipper’s whole being: his mind, spirit and body seeks the LORD.

“Courts of the Lord” is synonymous with being with God. During the time of the Old Covenant, God’s presence was with His people in the temple. With the New Covenant, God’s Spirit is with each individual believer.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship. ^{NIV} Romans 12:1

2. Read and meditate on Romans 12:1. How is this verse like Psalm 82:4?

Whether you are studying the Old or New Covenant, you will see that God is concerned with your true feelings toward Him. He wants all of you to love and worship Him. He has never been pleased with laws, sacrifices and rituals (Isaiah 29:13, Mark 7:6-7). God desires a heart fully committed out of love and not out of duty.

3. What are you willing to do to show God that your worship of Him is from the heart?

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You must be the leader that God calls you to be and you must respond with a heart of worship. Only then can you influence others for Christ. No matter the assignment, easy or hard, significant or insignificant, your whole being leaps for joy to submit, serve and honor your God.

Bruce Olson was such a worshipper. In 1961 he responded to go into the jungles of Ecuador, South America. After hearing a missionary speak on his work in New Guinea Bruce had nightmares of a native beating him and screaming, “My blood is required of you. My blood is required of you.” Bruce woke up in a cold sweat.

He thought, “That can’t be right. God’s not like that. He’s a God of love. He loves me.

“But do you love Him? the question came. “Yes, I love Him. Of course I love Him. How could I not?

“Won’t you serve Him, then?”

“Serve Him? I am serving Him. I study the Word. I’ve shared with all my friends what He means to me. Isn’t that serving Him? Why can’t I be your servant in Minneapolis?”

God didn’t want Bruce in Minneapolis; He wanted him to reach the stone age tribes of the Yukos and Motilones. This call would take a leader with a heart of worship. The call was for one who would not give up easily or turn from danger.

Bruce applied to a mission board but was rejected. Friends and family made a case for finishing college in his chosen field of linguistics.¹³ But a worshipper responds to God with his whole being and not what makes ‘good sense.’ A worshipper is attuned to God’s wisdom and not man’s.

So at 19 Bruce gathered the airfare and went to South America alone. When he finally reached the Yuko Indians, he was beaten and whipped and in danger of being killed. Similarly when he found the stone age Motilone Indians, he was shot with an arrow and taken prisoner. To add to the terror of his circumstances, he didn’t know the language.

Bruce became very ill from the infection caused by the arrow and also from lack of food and water. He imagined a future of torture, loneliness and death. As he wondered why he was trying to reach a bunch of primitive savages who didn’t want his help, he remembered Jesus. He remembered that He had also faced primitive savages (mankind) who didn’t want His help. Jesus had died for all people. He died for these people and loved them dearly.

He lay quietly and prayed, “God, I will give You what I can. I give You my strength, my life. I’ll put up with anything, any trouble. I’ll even die, if You will let me communicate about Your Son to the Motilones.” God kept Bruce alive.

God gave him a compassion for his captors and he strove to learn their language. It would be years before his captors knew their Savior. However, when God spoke to the Motilone about Jesus He spoke in their language and through their culture. That was another lesson that Bruce

¹³ Linguistics is the scientific study of languages and their structures. Oxford Dictionary
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learned. God made a variety of cultures and He loves them all. Trying to make a people group fit into Western ways is wrong.

Unable to clearly pronounce Bruce's name, the Motilones called him Bruchko. God did not forget that He had given Bruchko a talent and interest in languages. When the time was right God had Bruce take a language that was only spoken and transform it into a written one. Bruce developed an alphabet and taught it to the Indians. Then Bruchko translated the New Testament into their new written language. Having the New Testament helped them grow in their faith.

The Motilones would not remain isolated forever. Settlers made their way into their lands and this infringement on their land made modern plans necessary. Therefore Bruchko helped them develop health, agricultural and educational programs. Some Motilones are even attending boarding schools and colleges in larger cities.

One of these students who had visited the U.S. was asked a question about his faith in Jesus. "What is the difference between your Jesus Christ (Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura) and ours?"

The Motilone student replied, "**Saymaydodjira Ibatairadacura lives within us all the time, not in sculptured buildings.**"¹⁴

4. How did Bruchko live a life of worship and leadership? _____

Bruchko loved God and was fully dependent and submitted to Him. He listened and acted on what God told him to do. He didn't make excuses about his age, circumstances or the terrors of the jungle. He wasn't a part time or legalistic worshiper and leader. He totally immersed himself in the people and culture to which he was called. He used his mind, spirit and body to follow Jesus. His leadership influenced whole people groups for Christ and they in turn are influencing others. A Christian leader is a worshipper. It is impossible to be one without the other.

As of a 1995 update, Bruchko was still with the Motilones. The Motilones had thirty missionary teams in Ecuador. They are in contact with other Indian tribes sharing the gospel in twenty two languages. Eighteen tribes have already embraced Jesus Christ as Savior.¹⁵

As sons and heirs of God, the whole earth is the estate that must be worked. Everyone needs to know Christ and become a true worshipper. But, we need to ask the Father where He wants us to serve. A heart of worship longs to serve God in the way He ordains (orders, decrees).

5. Where has God called you to serve and how? _____

¹⁴ Olson, Bruce E., *Bruchko*, Creation House, Altamonte Springs, FL, 1973.

¹⁵ Olson, Bruce E., *Bruchko*, YWAM Publishing, Seattle, WA, 1995, p. 207.

Personal Application: Ask God to give you a heart of worship. Memorize 1 Peter 2: 4-5.

As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.^{NIV} 1 Peter 2:4-5

Note: “The sacrificial system was the heart of Jewish worship and it was a high privilege to represent the Jewish congregation before the altar of God. Christians are a holy priesthood whose function is to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”¹⁶

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Four) Acceptable Worship

In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD.⁴ But Abel brought fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering,⁵ but on Cain and his offering he did not look with favor. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.^{NIV} Genesis 4:3-5

1. Read Genesis 4:3-5. Whose offering was acceptable to the LORD? _____

2. Did Cain bring his offering to God immediately? Yes No (Circle One)

In the course of time Cain brought his offering to God. The text does not say that Cain brought “first” fruits of the soil. It appears that after he harvested his crop and made sure that he would have a bountiful source of food, then he thought about God. God was not foremost in his heart and mind.

3. Abel brought his offering from some of the _____ born of his flock.

Abel had a heart focused on God. His work and livelihood did not distract him from the LORD. Therefore as soon as Abel’s flock started producing he made an offering to God. His worship was acceptable to God.

By faith Abel offered God a better sacrifice than Cain did. By faith he was commended as a righteous man, when God spoke well of his offerings. And by faith he still speaks, even though he is dead.^{NIV} Hebrews 11:4

4. Read Hebrews 11:4. Why do you think Abel is commended for his faith in offering God a better sacrifice? _____

¹⁶ Lussier, Ernest, Jesus Christ is Lord, Adoration Viewed Through the New Testament, p. 62.

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In addition to making God the priority of his life, Abel was trusting God to provide the new born animals he needed to continue his flocks. He acknowledged God as his provider and placed his faith in the goodness of God to supply his needs. As we learned in Lesson 9, Faith of a Leader, without faith it is impossible to please God. Acceptable worship calls for faith.

Later as the peoples of the earth grew in numbers, God chose the Israelites and gave them a system for making firstfruit offerings (Leviticus 23:9-13). Not only firstfruits but all offerings and sacrifices were to be the best and choicest from the fields and the flocks. Their firstfruit worship was to recognize God's goodness and provision for the Israelite's crops and flocks. It was a way of showing God that they were dependent and devoted to Him. Giving God leftovers or substandard gifts is not acceptable.

Since firstfruits is not a familiar term, let define it using a Bible Dictionary. "Firstfruits acknowledged that all the products of the land came from God, and to show thankfulness for His goodness, Israelites brought as an offering a portion of the fruits that ripened first. These were looked on as a pledge of the coming harvest. Such an offering was made both on behalf of the nation (Leviticus 23:10,17) and by individuals (Exodus 23:19, Deuteronomy 26:1-11)."¹⁷

5. What are your "first" fruits and how are you giving them to God? _____

Most material offerings today are in the form of currency. When we receive salaries or gifts of money we are to acknowledge God's provision and return to Him the firstfruits of it. Pray over the amount of your offering and give to your church and wherever God leads.

But the king replied to Araunah, "No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the LORD my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing." So David bought the threshing floor and the oxen and paid fifty shekels of silver for them.^{NIV} 2 Samuel 24:24

Read 2 Samuel 24:24 and answer questions 6-8.

6. When the *generous* Araunah wanted to give David his land to build the altar, what did David say? _____

7. How do you think the concept of firstfruits and David's actions in 2 Samuel 24:24 are similar? _____

8. Why do you think this concept might apply to our use of time, as well as our financial or

¹⁷ Douglas, J.D., Tenney, Merrill C. *New International Bible Dictionary*, Zondervan Publishing House: Grand Rapids, 1987, p. 354.

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material resources? _____

Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.⁴ But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."^{NIV} John 12:3-7

Read and mediate John 12:3-7. Answer questions 9-11.

9. How is Mary worshipping the Lord with her time and resources? _____

10. How do you know that Jesus accepted Mary's worship? _____

11. Is Judas' heart of worship more like Cain or Abel? Circle One. Why? _____

Judas had a selfish spirit like Cain. His heart was not turned toward God but himself. They both wanted to store up material goods for themselves. David and Mary however are reminiscent of Abel. They wanted to give the LORD their best. They worshipped with gratitude, thanksgiving and love. God was worth far more to them than their material possessions. Their heart and actions were focused on the LORD.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.²³ But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.^{NIV} 1 Corinthians 15:20-23

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20-23 and answer the following questions:

12. Why do you think Paul is using figurative language and saying that Christ is the firstfruits? _____

13. How has this changed acceptable worship? _____

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The people of the earth are the harvest fields. Christ died so that we may live. Christ was raised from the dead and made it possible for those who believe in His name to be harvested into eternal life. He is the firstfruit for all who trust Him. He is also the firstfruit for all those who followed God prior to His coming to earth. His death covered their sins also. Now that Christ has come, acceptable worship must be through Christ and His work on the cross.

As our leadership model Christ showed us how one is to worship today. He offered His whole body in sacrifice to God. He was a living sacrifice. He was in worship wherever He went and whatever He did. This is how you and I should live in order to be a leader in worship.

Personal Application: Memorize Ephesians 5:1-2 and pray the following prayer:

Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children² and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

^{NIV} Ephesians 5:1-2

Heavenly Father, Thank You for dearly loving me. I dearly love You my Lord. Please give me Your Spirit and Your grace so that I may imitate you and to live a life of love just as Christ Jesus loved me and gave Himself up for me as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to You. Make me a true worshipper in spirit and truth. Make me a sweet fragrant offering acceptable and pleasing to You. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Lesson 15: The Leader in Worship (Day Five) Glory to God

Giving glory to God means to praise, honor and recognize His importance and the weight He carries in the universe, the world, and in every community. The English translates the Hebrew word for glory, *kabod* (כְּבוֹד). *Kabod* means heavy in weight and it also means the weighty importance and shining majesty which accompany God's presence.¹⁸ The leader in worship recognizes his own low and lightweight position and gives the high and heavyweight position to God.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.³ The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD thunders over the mighty waters.⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is majestic.

^{NIV} Psalm 29:2-4

1. How is David worshipping God in Psalm 29? _____

David is acknowledging the "weighty importance and shining majesty" that God deserves. God is worthy of all worship! David, the worshipping leader sees the greatness and nobility of God

¹⁸ Butler, Trent C. Holman Bible Dictionary, Holman Bible Publishers, Nashville, TN, 1991,557.

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and is filled with reverent awe. He is crediting God for His holiness and power over the earth. God is majestic and His glory inspires humble reverence.

A true worshipper in spirit and truth has committed full time to God in Jesus. It is a lifestyle from the heart. The question becomes, “Will the heart of worship change when circumstances or life becomes difficult?”

Lottie Moon (1840-1912), an American from Virginia answered God’s call to be a missionary in China. It was not a popular time to be a single woman missionary anywhere much less in China. She faced many obstacles in her journey to serve her Lord.

Lottie was born into a well to do family and was extremely bright. She actually became the best educated woman in the South. Miss Moon had blue eyes and dark hair and when she sat in a chair, her feet did not reach the floor. Miss Moon was barely 4’3” tall.

Her diminutive size did not slow her down. She worked hardily in the strength of the Lord She worshipped 15 hours a day in the fierce blazing sun visiting villages with the enduring desire that the Chinese would know Christ. Within a few months she had gone out 122 times into 33 different places to reach the people.

Lottie felt hostile pressing crowds and the depressing consciousness of being hated. She was habitually called the “devil” woman. Nevertheless, she persevered. When she began to dress in the Chinese fashion the people began to accept her and her messages about the Savior.

In 1890 a severe persecution broke out and vicious mobs tortured new believers. Lottie faced the deadly opposition. She responded to the persecutors:

“ If you attempt to destroy this church, you will have to kill me first. Jesus gave himself for us Christians. Now I am ready to die for him.” One of the vicious attackers took her seriously and prepared to kill her. The terrified converts warned her. She simply said, “ only believe, don’t fear. Our Master Jesus, always watches over us, and no matter what the persecution, Jesus will surely overcome it.”¹⁹

2. How does Lottie give God glory in facing the persecutors?_____

Miss Moon made it clear that Jesus was in charge in that community. He had the power to overcome the persecution. Nevertheless, if she had to die, so be it. She would not stop worshipping Christ. His glory and honor were more important to her than her own life.

Lottie was not killed. At age 53 she continued to work visiting 84 villages within a two month period. She wrote, “At my age, I cannot expect many more years of work, so I must crowd the days as they fly by with eager toil for the Master.”²⁰

¹⁹ Allen, Catherine B., The New Lottie Moon Story, Broadman Press:Nashville, 1980.

²⁰ Ibid., 208.

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Miss Moon knew the need for more workers in the field in China. She wanted the whole of China to give glory to God. She poured anguished pleas into her letters for more missionaries and funds for missions. She wrote:

“Let them come rejoicing to suffer for the sake of the Lord and Master who freely gave his life for them.”²¹

“How many there are among our women, alas, who imagine that because Jesus paid it all they need pay nothing, forgetting they should follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ.”²²

Her prayers and letters did not go unanswered. However she would not live to see the dramatic way in which God used her for more missionaries and funds for missions. Many missionaries were indeed sent and as of 1980, after ninety years of the “Lottie Moon Offering for Foreign Missions” \$400,000,000. has been used all over the world.²³ In 2007 the cumulative total of Lottie Moon Christmas Offering was over \$3 billion with over 5,300 missionaries in current service.²⁴ And on a personal note, my daughter and son-in-law joined these ranks supported by the Lottie Moon offering (International Mission Board) in 2008.

When she died the Chinese people who mourned Lottie Moon did not speak of her noble education, her brilliant mind or her lofty ideals. They simply said, “**How she loved us.**”²⁵

Lottie Moon loved because God first loved her and gave Himself up for her. Leadership, like the greatest commandment, comes back to love. God will call you to lead in a unique way. He will call those you lead to also lead in unique ways. Follow Christ and His call. God will glorify Himself through you.

Personal Application: Read and mediate on Isaiah 42:8.

"I am the LORD; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols.
^{NIV} Isaiah 42:8

Answer the following questions regarding taking God's glory to yourself:

Do I try and take praise for the natural talents or physical attributes that God has given me?

Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Do I take credit for the Holy Spirit's work and gifts in my life? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

²¹ Ibid., 170.

²² Ibid., 170.

²³ Ibid., 293.

²⁴ Religious Herald: www.religiousherald.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2534&Itemid=113

²⁵ Ibid., 289

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Do I take recognition for “my” good works? Yes No Sometimes (Circle One)

Repent and ask God to make your life a sweet fragrant offering giving Him all the glory.

Congratulations!

After we receive Lesson 15, we will mail you a certificate of completion.

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