

INDESCRIBABLE SERIES
WORSHIP IN THE THRONE ROOM
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JUNE 22, 2008
S-1758

A few years ago the Chicago Tribune reported the story of a New Mexico woman who was frying
TORTILLAS when

SLIDE #2: she noticed that the skillet burns on one of her tortillas resembled the face of Jesus.

SLIDE #3: Excited, she showed it to her husband and neighbors, and they all agreed that it truly looked like
Jesus. (It kind of looks like Adam Sandler to me!)

Mrs. Rubio went to her priest to have the tortilla blessed. She testified that the tortilla had changed her life,
and her husband agreed that she has been more peaceful, happy, submissive wife since the tortilla had
arrived. The priest blessed her Jesus tortilla

SLIDE #4: Mrs. Rubio quit her job as a maid to attend full-time to the hastily constructed "Shrine of the
Holy Tortilla" in her home. She mounted the relic in a wooden frame under glass, amidst a puffy wad
of cotton making it appear as if Tortilla Jesus was just inside the Pearly Gates.

Within a few months, more than eight thousand people came to the shrine of the Jesus of the Tortilla.

The image has faded to a half dozen brown spots and a wiggly burnt blotch.

In 2005, Mrs. Rubio's granddaughter took Tortilla Jesus to school for Show and Tell and dropped it. The
shrine has been closed and the remains retired to a drawer in the Rubio's home.

By the way,

SLIDE #5: Here is the fish stick Jesus.

SLIDE #6: Here is the French Toast Jesus

Everybody worships. When men reject the true God, they will worship gods of their own invention.

SLIDE #7: Stone images (Acts 17:29-30)

SLIDE #8: "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!" (Acts 19:27-29)

Worship Diana, ugly, gross, black cow looking beast who fell from heaven from whose paps the whole world
was supposed to suck its life.

SLIDE #9: Men worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped
the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can make war against him?"

Worship beast and false prophet; great whore riding on the beast; their own economy, money and politics;
and it will all come crashing down (Revelation 13:3-4). The whole world was astonished and followed
the beast.

If an alien were to come to earth from Mars to U.S., what would he say is America's god? Depends on what
day he arrives! Especially on Sunday in the Fall!

SLIDE #10: Balls. We worship footballs, ping pong balls, baseballs, hand balls, basketballs, beach balls,
racquet balls, tennis balls, volley balls!

REVIEW REGARDING PRAISE FROM LAST WEEK.

SLIDE #11: The purpose of praise and thanksgiving is to lead us into the throne room of Heaven.

SLIDE #12: Psalm 100:1-4: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. 2 Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs. 3 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are

his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.
(Notice the acts and character)

SLIDE #13: 1. Praise is recalling God's mighty acts of power.
2. Praise is reciting the marvelous aspects of God's character.
3. Praise is thanking Him both for His actions and for His character.

SWITCH TO ROGER'S COMPUTER

Benefits of praise last week.

SLIDE #14: Exchange the garments of depression for the clothes of Joy!

Draw OCD loops

Fear Loops

SWITCH BACK TO TECH COMPUTER

SLIDE #15: WHAT IS WORSHIP?

Read 1 Chronicles 16:28-29: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of nations, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength; ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship (*SHAHA*) the LORD in the splendor of his holiness.

The Hebrew word for worship is "Shaha." It means to "bow low" or to "prostrate" oneself.

"Shaha" has an even older derivative: "to kiss the hand of one who is revered."

Whoever made up this word probably had a dog. Dog licks face, hands, loves to lick—just comes naturally to a dog. Have to train it out of them.

SLIDE #16: Dog licking hand: Becky or Surely and Goody: "That is her hand."

They worship me! Not really. But I am the source of their sustenance: food, companionship, walks, pets, kisses, and they look to me with these big brown eyes.

What word best describes how we come before God? Like a dog, licking God's hand.

SLIDE #17: WHAT WORSHIP MIGHT LOOK LIKE.

Praise and thanksgiving. Then, closing eyes and imagine being with Him.
Imagine bowing down before the throne. What would I say to Him.
Listen for what He might say to you.

John 4:23-24: Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

No images

1. Falling Down before the throne

Psalm 95:6 - "Come, let us bow down and worship..."

Matthew 4:8-9 - Satan to Jesus, "Fall down and worship me..."

No worship takes place without a bowing down in submission and humility before one of greater honor.

2. Casting Down our personal crowns

What is a crown? A crown is anything that exalts the wearer. If it draws attention to you, then it's a crown.

Revelation 4:10: the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne ..."

People who worship Jesus never want to be exalted. The more that we're taken up with Him, the more we want to offer to Him everything we have.

3. Acknowledging the worth the living Jesus Christ.

Revelation 4:11: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Get alone with God and tell Him what He's worth to you. Write a letter to the Lord; sing psalms and hymns. Praise pages in diary. List God's worth and attributes.

SWITCH TO ROGER'S COMPUTER.

DRAW SLIDE #18: God engineered a God-shaped vacuum with every person that only He is to occupy.

In JOHN 4, John relates an interesting encounter between Jesus and a Samaritan women at Jacob's well. The woman had a longing inside her which she did not know how to satisfy.

Jesus said to her, "I will give you living water."

She had sought contentment through relationships with men (having been married five times and then living in adultery with a sixth man), but she was not satisfied - she needed God!

"Give me some of this living water."

Most people misinterpret this yearning and attempt to fill the void with all sorts of things besides God: Some turn to a hobby, others to a relationship, others to alcohol or narcotics. Some to automobiles or sports or money.

These may work for a while but not forever. When God designed man, He built in a need for God that nothing else will satisfy.

SLIDE #19: PRAISE AND WORSHIP ARE NOT THE SAME.

DRAW ON SLIDE: Praise is unidirectional - we praise God; He does not praise us.

Praise requires no response from the one who is being praised; it is one-way communication.

Worship, however, is relational; it is not only our licking His hand, but His response to us.

Let me illustrate.

Wildcats: praise but not bow down to them.

Soccer: David Beckham

Celtics:

Tiger Woods

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt

"You've got to see this!" Took breath away! Can't believe it!
Might praise them, but I would never get on my knees and pay homage to them.

SLIDE #20: IN THE THRONE ROOM WE INTERACT WITH THE HEART, INTENTIONS AND PERSONALITY OF GOD.

DRAW SLIDE #21: Philippians 3:10: I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings ...

Draw: Moves us along in our spiritual journeys.
Us graph and to demonstrate

SLIDE #22: "God never reveals the deep things of the Spirit to the people who just drop by for a little chat!"

SWITCH BACK TO TECH'S COMPUTER.

SLIDE #23: WORSHIP TRANSCENDS CIRCUMSTANCES.

Seen in two contrasting incidents in Scripture.
Various extremes—yet both are worship.

2 Chronicles 20 Jehoshaphat and Israel about to be attacked.
Jehoshaphat prays: "O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

Prophet speaks words from God: "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."
God intervened and next day the enemy destroyed itself. Look at their response.

SLIDE #24: 2 Chronicles 20:18: Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

Job, promising life all shattered and fell apart.

SLIDE #25: Job 1:20-22: At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship 21 and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised." 22 In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

The worship of God transcends sour circumstances.

Whatever worship is it is just as natural and automatic when God fulfills your dreams as when He destroys them!

Many of us only want to worship when God does something nice for us.
Many of us only worship when we decide that God has lived up to our expectations.

When God is rightly perceived, He will always be a God too big... too big in forgiveness... love... judgment... grace.

Many of us bring God down to our level.
We have shaped our own concepts of God to fit our own understanding.
We have little reason to fall on our faces before a God who takes our breath away.

We measure God by our intellect and we feel free to expect God to answer all of our "whys" as though our brains were even adequate to handle His answers.

We constantly talk about our hurts... problems... feelings... rejections. Me, me, me, me!
If we ever were to catch a glimpse of God's glory we would quit all of that nonsense.
Moses struggled with all sorts of problems with the people as he led them out of Egypt. He wanted to quit.
Then, God showed him a little bit of His glory and Moses found a new perspective.

God is God whether we acknowledge Him or not.

SLIDE #26: Describe trip to Grand Canyon:

One said, "This is the hand of God. I'm amazed."
Later I looked over edge and spit: "That's the first time that I ever spit a mile."
Julie was not impressed.

Can you believe that? Standing in front of the Grand Canyon and one guy says, "It's the hand of God," and I just spits.

Do you know why? Because one has deep insight and the other is insensitive to the working of God.

The Grand Canyon is the Grand Canyon whether I recognize its greatness or not. God is God whether things are going well in my life or not.

Maybe Jehoshaphat is sitting beside you at this moment. He's thinking, "Wow, God is so great...loving...gracious.

Job may be on the other side of you, crushed with grief, no hope, no more figuring or planning or dreaming. Only closed doors, windows, and ceilings. Falls on his face before the sovereign mystery of an all powerful God and still says, "God, I love you."

Christ in the Garden: angels to comfort: Nevertheless, Thy will be done."

SLIDE #27: CONSIDER BEING THE KIND OF PERSON GOD IS SEEKING.

Jesus: "God is seeking for the people who like to sit around and lick God's hand."

Jesus says to woman at well:

SLIDE #28: John 4:23-24: Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

The divine pursuit has always intrigued me: the Father seeks those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth.

He is not seeking the worship. He is seeking for the person whose heart is filled with worship.

In Luke 10:38 Jesus comes to Bethany to the home of two sisters: Mary and Martha.

"Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what Jesus said."

Martha was busy making lunch for all the guests and Martha got upset: "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

SLIDE #29: Luke 10:41-42: "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, 42 but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

See His countdown: Many things...few things... one thing. Life is full of many duties. A few are important... One thing, however, is absolutely mandatory, the worship of God. "It will not be taken away from her. All else will fade away.

In Exodus 33:18 Moses was returning from Mt Sinai.

SLIDE #30: Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory."

Glory manifested as Light (transfiguration of Jesus)

Exodus 33:21-23; Exodus 34:5-7: Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand Then the LORD came and he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished ...

What a worship experience! Did Moses see God's glory! Yes.

SLIDE #31: Hebrews 11:27: "He persevered because he saw Him who is invisible."

The key to endurance and follow through in the Christian life is worship! !

That will change your life and help you through the tough times.

Prayed to see God's Glory Story: Like Moses; like Isaiah.

Running...prayed. Thought no more about it.

Flash light.

Mike Blevins called dad. Asked God to have Roger speak to me three times.

Only I saw the light. I didn't recognize it.

SING

SLIDE #32: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, Holy Holy, Merciful and Mighty!

God in three Persons, blessed Trinity.

SLIDE #33: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,

All Thy Works Shall Praise Thy Name, In earth and sky and sea;

Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,

Perfect in power, in love and purity.