

True Worship

Genesis 22:5 (Genesis 22 gives a “picture perfect” illustration of worship.)

Here is the first mention of “worship” (v. 5). “The Law of First Mention” says to understand the meaning of a Bible word, find the first place it occurs in the Bible and study the context in which it appears.

- Definition of “worship”— To bow in admiration, awe, and affection (Gen. 24:26).
- “Worship”—“worth-ship”—Expressing to God how much He means to you. True worship does not originate with the need of man but with the worthiness of God!
- Psalm 18:3—*I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised:*
➔ **We don’t worship God for what He does, we worship and praise Him for who He is!** He’s holy... He’s omnipotent... He’s God... and He is WORTHY!

➔ Some pray, “Lord, create an atmosphere of worship here today.” You don’t wait for a worshipful atmosphere before you worship God.

- **An atmosphere of worship is created when we praise!** Psalm 22:3 says God inhabits the praises of His people. If you want God to show up, start praising Him. God shows up where He is praised!

➔ Notice several things in Genesis 22 about TRUE WORSHIP:

I. **The special INVOLVEMENT of true worship** (22:1-5).

A. **SALVATION** is involved in worship. Abraham believed God and it was imputed to him for righteousness (Gen. 12).

1. Not just anybody can worship. You must be saved. You must know the One who you worship, before you can worship.
2. Your worship of God will only be as good as your concept of God. **ILLUS:** Jesus and the woman of Samaria (John 4:20, 22).

➔ **“I worship God in my own way.”** You do not determine the “how” of worship. You must worship God HIS WAY, or no way!

B. **SANCTIFICATION** is involved in worship. Abraham has lived a life of obedience (22:1—*“after these things...”* What things?).

1. Why is it that so few of those who come to church actually ever meet with God in the church service?

2. Sunday worship that does not change you on Monday is not worship.

C. **SUBMISSION** is involved (vs. 2-3). You cannot have your feet planted and expect to worship God. Worship involves being yielded to God.

1. They didn't vote on it. When God speaks, **you don't get a vote**. It's time to bow and submit to His authority. That's worship.
2. **Difference between submission and surrender**. It is a matter of attitude: A nation may surrender to the demands of another nation, but that does not mean they are in agreement with it. **Submission implies that you are in agreement with what is asked**. SUBMIT yourselves unto God.

II. The sacrificial ISSUES of true worship (vs. 2, 6). True worship **always involves giving** (2 Sam. 24:24). If you haven't given, you haven't worshipped (money... talents... praise... service... etc.)

- Not a meal offering... not a peace offering... not as a sin offering... not as a trespass offering—but as a BURNT OFFERING.
- A burnt offering must be slain; skinned; dissected; and wholly burnt (Lev. 1). This speaks of Abraham giving Isaac 100% TOTALLY upon the altar.

A. The **THRONE** issue.

1. Worship is recognizing GOD ON THE THRONE! We must BOW before the authority of God.
2. There can be **no rivalry** in our hearts with God—Worship must come from **an undivided heart wholly** given over to Him. He must have our **undivided attention!**
3. Spurgeon would tell his preacher boys: “When you preach, put God on the throne and man in the cellar!” Too many turn that around today.

B. The **TIME** issue (v. 4). It takes time to seek after God.

1. Our society lives in an **instant mania**. NO TIME FOR GOD?
2. SONG: *“Take Time To Be Holy”*

➡ Get up a little earlier. It takes time to know God. Takes time to read your Bible and to pray.

C. The **TRUST** issue. True worship requires FAITH and TRUST

1. **Trust without explanation**—God gave Abraham no explanation for His command (v. 2). Faith trusts God without explanation. Great exhibition of faith (v. 5— Faith in a resurrection—“*come again to you*” cf. **Heb. 11:17-19**).
2. Faith God will provide (vs. 7-10).

III. The supernatural **INTERVENTION** of true worship.

- When God is genuinely worshipped, somewhere, somehow, and at sometime **a Divine provision or manifestation** will come out of that worship experience.
 - He who worships God, must BELIEVE that HE IS, and that HE IS a REWARDER of them that diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6).
- A. It was a **CRISIS** intervention (vs. 11-12). It was not that God was “put on the spot” and had to do something. It was Abraham who was “on the spot.”
- ➡ Do you need God to intervene in a crisis? Worship Him!
- B. It was a **COMPREHENSIVE** intervention (v. 13). God not only supplied WHAT Abraham needed, but also supplied WHEN he needed it! It didn’t come too early and it didn’t come too late.
- ➡ God sees where you are; God knows what you need, and He’ll not miss the mark when He sends your supply!
- C. It became a **CELEBRATED** intervention (v. 14). Worship should lead to celebration! When God intervenes in your crisis it’s time to celebrate!
1. Abraham: “Son, we’re never going to get over this. Let’s re-name this place.” They named the place “Jehovah-jireh” = The Lord will see to it (see to meeting our needs)!
 2. As the ram became Isaac’s substitute—Christ became my Substitute.
 3. Worship celebrates how God saw to our need at Calvary (v. 2 cf. 2 Chron. 3:1).

4. A little vacant lot in Plymouth, MI that I renamed “Jehovah-jireh”!

SUMMATION: Every place God has seen to meet any of your needs is a place to worship!

➡ If a “picture is worth a thousand words,” I wonder what this picture is worth?