

## When You Should Worship God

Don Ruhl • Savage Street, Grants Pass, Oregon • April 24, In the year of our Lord Christ, 2022

Scripture Reader and Reading: Jacob Noveske – Psalm 22.25–28

Song Leader and Song Suggestions: Phil Joseph – Songs on Worshiping God

### Prelude:

#### I. My Dad died on a Saturday.

A. I preached the next day.

B. A former member asked me,

1. "How do you do it?"

2. I think it all depends on

a) whether your faith is the core of your being,

b) whether your Christianity drives everything that you do, or

(1) whether Christianity is something that you do on the side, and

(2) whether your faith is something that you use at your convenience.

C. I ask:

1. How can you *not* worship God?

2. Think on what Paul said to the Athenians who worshiped idols.

a) Acts 17 shows him entering ancient Athens.

b) The overwhelming visibility of idols in the town,

(1) provoked his spirit, because

(2) he knew that they needed to know the one, true living God.

c) When he saw an altar

(1) that they had dedicated to an unknown God,

(2) he saw his opportunity and said:

**23 "...as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription:**

**TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.**

**Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you...He gives to all life, breath, and all things...in Him we live and move and have our being."**

**– Acts 17.23–28**

## **II. The God of heaven**

- A. gave me my father and my mother, and
- B. everything else good that I have in my life.
  - 1. Why would I not worship him when they pass away?
  - 2. We cannot put him in a compartment and
    - a) use him when we need a blessing, but
    - b) we should see him in everything in our lives.

## **III. What I am going to show you today is**

- A. find any reason you can
- B. to worship God, because
  - 1. the universe and all that happens in it,
  - 2. including our lives,
    - a) is all about God and
    - b) glorifying him.
      - (1) Let us continue on this theme of
      - (2) worshiping God when you have suffered loss...of any kind.

## **IV. What do I mean by worship God?**

- A. The Sunday morning worship service?
  - 1. That would certainly be included, but
  - 2. it can be at any time, anywhere,
    - a) as we shall see.

- b) Worship is bringing praise and honor and glory to God.
- B. Do I have to wait until Sunday before I can worship God?
- 1. No, and
  - 2. my first example will show what I mean.

**Persuasion:**

**I. Worship God When You Have Suffered Loss**

- A. Job was a man who had everything
- 1. that could make anyone happy,
  - 2. including 10 children whom he loved dearly.
    - a) However, Satan wanted Job to curse God.
    - b) Therefore, Satan took everything away from Job,
      - (1) including all his wealth, but
      - (2) notice this more than anything else:

**18 While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, 19 and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"**

**– Job 1.18–19**

- (a) That was a blow that I hope none of us ever experience!
  - (b) How do you respond to such events?
3. Concentrate on what Job did upon hearing of these awful things:

**20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. 21 And he said:**

**"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
And naked shall I return there.  
The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away;**

**Blessed be the name of the LORD.”**

**22 In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.**

**– Job 1.20–22**

4. Obviously, this hit Job hard.
  - a) He had been seated, or did the news knock him down?
  - b) He arose and tore his robe,
    - (1) which if you think of what kind of news would make you do that,
    - (2) you can understand how this news hit this godly, loving man.
  - c) He shaved his head,
    - (1) perhaps anticipating that he would be in a state of mourning
    - (2) for a long time and
      - (a) that daily bodily maintenance would be far from his mind,
      - (b) so to prevent super long hair, he shaved it off.
5. Then see him falling to the ground and worshiping.
  - a) He did it right on the spot,
  - b) right at that time.
6. That is worship.
  - a) He also worshiped God by what he said,
  - b) showing what made Job able to worship God in the face of tragic loss.
    - (1) He understood how he came into the world...with nothing.
    - (2) He understood that he would leave the world the same way.
  - c) He also revealed the center of his life: The Lord.
    - (1) The Lord gave everything that he had and
    - (2) the Lord took everything away.
  - d) His only response to that was:

- (1) Blessed be the name of the Lord.
- (2) Job did not understand why he lost everything,
  - (a) as the rest of the Book shows, but
  - (b) he knew that the Lord was his everything.

7. Therefore, the first thing he thought to do was worship God.

- a) It would never have occurred to him
- b) to refrain from worshipping God.

B. Second Samuel 11 shows the sad story of David's sins.

1. He sinned by committing adultery with his neighbor and
2. sure enough she conceived.
3. Although David confessed his sin,
  - a) the Lord would not allow him to enjoy the fruit of his sin.
  - b) Second Samuel 12 then says:

**15b And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bore to David, and it became ill.**

**– 2 Samuel 12.15**

- c) The next sentence shows what David did next:

**16 David therefore pleaded with God for the child, and David fasted and went in and lay all night on the ground.**

**– 2 Samuel 12.16**

4. Watch what he did next and
  - a) watch the reaction of the elders,
  - b) who questioned what he was doing:

**20 So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and**

**worshiped. Then he went to his own house; and when he requested, they set food before him, and he ate. 21 Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food."**

**– 2 Samuel 12.20–21**

c) Now listen carefully to how David justified his actions:

**22 And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' 23 But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."**

**– 2 Samuel 12.22–23**

5. David, like Job, immediately thought to worship God.

C. By the way,

1. what do you think the you loved, who died,
2. would want you to do?

## **II. Worship God When You Are Dying**

A. Genesis 47 shows Jacob approaching death.

1. Therefore, he called for his son Joseph and
2. asked him to bury him in the Land of Canaan.
  - a) Joseph promised to do so.
  - b) Then the Bible says:

**31 Then he said, "Swear to me." And he swore to him. So Israel bowed himself on the head of the bed.**

**– Genesis 47.31**

B. Hebrews 11 clears it up for us as to what Jacob did:

**21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph,**

**and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff.**

**– Hebrews 11.21**

C. You are getting ready to meet your Maker.

1. Worshiping him seems like a good thing to do at the end of your life.
2. Is that not a good way to enter into eternity?

### **III. When You Are Alone**

A. Revelation 1 shows John alone on the Isle of Patmos.

1. We know why John was on the island:

**9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

**– Revelation 1.9**

2. We also know what he was doing at the time he received the Revelation:

**10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet...**

**– Revelation 1.10**

3. He was alone, but he was worshiping.

B. Genesis 28 shows Jacob fleeing his brother Esau, and

1. going to Syria.
2. On the way, he stopped at what we now call Bethel.
  - a) As he slept that night,
  - b) he had a dream
    - (1) that made him realize
    - (2) that God was in that place:

**16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the LORD is in this place, and I did not know it.” 17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”**

**– Genesis 28.16–17**

3. What then did he do?

a) He worshiped:

**18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously. 20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on, 21 so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the LORD shall be my God. 22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”**

**– Genesis 28.18–22**

C. The next two examples that I give you

1. are from the Book of Psalms

2. that I chose randomly.

a) Worship themes fill the Book of Psalms.

b) You will find the psalmists worshiping God for many reasons.

3. Let me show you two times.

#### **IV. When You Are Surrounded by Evil**

A. Psalm 5.6–7

**6 You shall destroy those who speak falsehood;  
The LORD abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man.  
7 But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your  
mercy;  
In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple.**



– **Psalm 5.6–7**

B. Has falsehood, bloodthirsty and deceitful people filled our generation?

1. It seems the past two years
2. things have accelerated!

C. Yet, what would David do?

1. He would go into the Lord's house and
2. in fear of the Lord,

a) he would worship.

b) Why?

(1) He knew that God created all things, and

(2) that everything is in the hand of God.

(a) Therefore, David worshiped God.

(b) He did not fear the evil, because he kept God uppermost in his mind.

**V. When You Remember the Lord**

A. Psalm 22 prophesies the crucifixion death of the Messiah.

1. It starts off with the psalmist speaking on behalf of the Messiah,
2. asking why God had forsaken him, and
  - a) why was he so far from helping him and
  - b) from his groanings.

B. From that point on,

1. all the way to the second line of verse 21,
2. he pictured the awful sufferings he would experience on the cross.

C. Then he dies

1. by which he thus escapes the cross!

2. So he says in the third line of that verse:

**21c      You have answered me.**

- a) God had forsaken his Son, but
- b) he was also there for his Son,
  - (1) answering his prayer,
  - (2) bringing victory into his life.

D. The prophecy then continues with the Messiah praising God in worship:

**22      I will declare Your name to My brethren;  
         In the midst of the assembly I will praise You.**

**– Psalm 22.22**

- 1. He speaks highly of God,
- 2. encouraging all of us to praise him, because
  - a) although it seems that God has forsaken us,
  - b) he has not but helps at the right time.

E. In verse 25, he promised to praise God in the worship assembly.

F. Then he declares further

**27      All the ends of the world  
         Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
         And all the families of the nations  
         Shall worship before You.**  
**28      For the kingdom is the LORD'S,  
         And He rules over the nations.**

**– Psalm 22.27–28**

- 1. When the rest of the world remembers the Lord,
- 2. then they shall worship the Lord, because

- a) they will see that the kingdom is his, and
- b) that he rules over the nations.

**Exhortation:**

**I. Something good happens in your life,**

A. worship God.

**II. Something bad happens in your life,**

A. worship God.

**III. Everything is the same in your life,**

A. worship God.

**IV. Find a reason**

A. to praise him,

B. to thank him,

C. to pray to him,

D. to bow down before him,

- 1. just keeping him at the front of your thinking
- 2. that you might keep everything in perspective.

**V. If you become a child of God, or**

A. if you return to God,

B. you will see him as your Father and

- 1. you will see Jesus as your older brother,
- 2. both always with you.

**VI. Turn to him now!**