

Approaching God Worshipfully

Approaching God / Luke 1:46-55

Introduction

I invite you to turn with me to the Gospel according to Luke as we look together at [Luke 1:46-55](#).

One of the last cold spikes that we had me, Katie, and the boys were playing around and noticed quickly that we kept shocking each other every time we made contact. So we would run around and find materials that would create that positive charge of static electricity. We've charge up and see who could shock the other person first. That's what happens when the two materials come together, one rubs off on the other. That's kind of like worship. When we've been in the presence of the Lord - he rubs off on us and we are to go and shock the world!

In [1 Chronicles 16:29](#) we are told to "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name: Bring an offering, and come before him: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."

The word *worship* comes from an old English word that means "worthship." It means to worship something because it merits your worship.

TT - As we give attention to Mary's moment of personal worship recorded in the passage before us, the text outlines three key ingredients that should be part of our own personal worship.

(Read Text)

Transition

Satan was standing outside a church building one Sunday morning. Inside, the people were singing, praying, and listening to preaching. A passerby asked Satan if that did not bother him. With a demonic, sneering laugh he replied negatively. Then he added, "They get that way on Sunday, but they will be all right on Monday. It's just a little habit they've acquired."

God save us from such a habit. Our worship is to make a difference in who we are and what we do.¹

1. Approach God With All Your Heart

Luke 1:46-47

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

My soul doth magnify the Lord,

⁴⁷ And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

There is a caution in Scripture that we not just have a lip worship, but that it truly come from the heart.

Many magnify God with their lips but Mary magnified God from her spirit and heart.

ILL - I was at **Red Robin** last week when I was making a hospital visit. The waitress asked if I wanted an **appetizer** to start off the meal.

I looked up the definition to the word “appetizer” and here is what an appetizer is: a small dish of food taken before a meal or the main course of a meal to stimulate one's appetite.

Isn't that how we often treat worship. It's a little appetizer added to our lives. We tag it on when we pray. We sing worship when we come to church. We embrace it when we listen to the Sunday message. But isn't worship suppose to be the whole purpose of our lives? We exist to glorify God by worshipping Him in our personal life, family life, work life, political life, ministry life?

What's more frightening is we can live without the appetizer. Many of us could live without worship. We go through the motions of worship and yet live a life that is so deficient of true worship and awe of our Great God! I wonder how much would actually change if worship was removed from being the central part of your life. Worship should be the central piece of our lives!

Charles Ryrie wrote this in his Basic Theology, Studying theology is no mere academic exercise, though it is that. It is an experience that changes, convicts, broadens, challenges, and ultimately leads to a deep reverence for God. Worship means to recognize the worth of the object worshiped. How can any mortal put his mind to the study of God and fail to increase his recognition of His worth?²

A. The Character of Worship

John 4:24

²⁴ God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

1. Worship must be in spirit

This again means that it is more than lip service to God. More than just singing songs from your lips but worshipping from your heart.

Last time I preached on approaching God, we talked about approaching God Boldly from Hebrews 10. There in v. 25 we are reminded that we should assemble ourselves together ... but at the same time, worship is not limited to just the cooperate gathering of the church. Worship is the priestly privilege of every born-again Christian. Revelation 1:6 “And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

1 Peter 2:4–5

⁴ To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious, ⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

This suggests three **privileges** about worship:

- Worship can take place anywhere, anytime. It isn't confined to a particular place or time.
- It comes from one's spirit and is more than a tangible ritual.

- This suggests that worship is a person-to-person concept. Meaning that worship is an expression from your personally to God directly.

2. Worship must be in truth

Must be without false motivation or insincere. God is displeased with vain worship.

When the Spirit of God fills our lives in the same way it filled Mary's, we will find it hard not to sing praises unto God.

Malachi 1:1-7

¹ The burden of the word of the Lord to Israel by Malachi.

² I have loved you, saith the Lord.

Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us?

Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the Lord:

Yet I loved Jacob,

³ And I hated Esau,

And laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.

⁴ Whereas Edom saith, We are impoverished,

But we will return and build the desolate places;

Thus saith the Lord of hosts,

They shall build, but I will throw down;

And they shall call them, The border of wickedness,

And, The people against whom the Lord hath indignation for ever.

⁵ And your eyes shall see, and ye shall say,

The Lord will be magnified from the border of Israel.

⁶ A son honoureth *his* father, and a servant his master:

If then I *be* a father, where *is* mine honour?

And if I *be* a master, where *is* my fear?

Saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name.

And ye say, Wherein have we **despised** thy name?

⁷ Ye offer **polluted** bread upon mine altar;

And ye say, Wherein have we **polluted** thee?

In that ye say, The table of the Lord *is* **contemptible**.

Judah was acting like the squirrel in the middle of the road. Running back and forth, not sure which side to be on and next thing you know....splat!

We can't approach worship halfheartedly. We need to go all-in for our worship unto the Lord.

2. Approach God With Respect To His Deity

Luke 1:46-47

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

My soul doth magnify **the Lord,**

⁴⁷ And my spirit hath rejoiced in **God** my Saviour.

The subject here is Jesus.

Mary was interested in turning the attention on Jesus and not herself. There is a temptation to do one of two things at this time of the year: one is to worship Mary and put more attention on her than deserving; the second is to completely ignore her. Both are incorrect views. The Scripture certainly brings great light to her as she points us in worship to the Lord.

Mary distinguishes Him as 'Lord' and 'God'.

What better time of the year to reflect on the deity of Christ. Mary affirms here that Christ is not merely human, but He is divine.

In Genesis 1:1 we are reminded of the hebrew 'Elohim' - "in the beginning God". This is the plural noun representing what we believe the trinity of God the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit. Reminding us that Jesus is equally God and divine!

John 1:1 "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

Consider a few testimonies of the deity of Christ:

A. The Testimony of Isaiah - Isaiah 40:3

Isaiah 40:3

³ The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

John 1:23

²³ He said, I *am* the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.

B. The Testimony of the Father - Hebrews 1:8

Hebrews 1:8

⁸ But unto the Son *he saith*, Thy throne, O God, *is* for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness *is* the sceptre of thy kingdom.

Luke 9:35

³⁵ And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

2 Peter 1:17

¹⁷ For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

C. The Testimony of Paul in Titus - Titus 2:13

Titus 2:13

¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

D. The Testimony of His Resurrection

Acts 2:32

³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 10:40

⁴⁰ Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly;

3. Approach God With Respect To What He Has Done

Luke 1:48-55

Mary survey's the landscape of God's grace in her own life. The structure of the text reminds us quickly that God's grace was not based on what Mary had done but on what God had done *for* her.

A. His Works are Personal - v. 48

1. Gracious -

She was in low estate. There was no kingly royalty that earned Mary this position. It wasn't her sinless, for she claimed herself to need a Saviour. It wasn't her hometown - she was from Nazareth, a podunk town in the middle of nowhere. God was gracious to her on a personal level. God is gracious to each of us.

Psalm 111:4

⁴ He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered:

The Lord *is* gracious and full of compassion.

2. Miraculous -

Once again God does something that seemed impossible. The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she is going to have a baby.

This was miraculous on multiple levels:

a. It was humanly impossible - she was a virgin

Luke 1:34

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

Luke 1:37

³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible.

b. It was a miraculous fulfillment to Scripture:

Genesis 3:15

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,
And shall call his name Immanuel.

3. Merciful - Luke 1:50

Luke 1:50

⁵⁰ And **his mercy** *is* on them that fear him
From generation to generation.

Psalm 103:17

¹⁷ But the **mercy** of the Lord *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children's children;

B. His works are Present - v. 48, v. 55

v. 48 - all generations

v. 50 - from generation to generation

v. 55 - for ever

C. His Works are Public - v. 50

all who fear Him - v. 50

Closing:

God wants to be shown off!

He doesn't look for apologies. Any many who would apologize in embarrassment for his wife being by his side should be ashamed.

Any Christian acts foolishly if they would apologize for belonging to the Lord.

Don't apologize or be embarrassed about your relationship with God. Show Him off!

Dustin Logan

Preached at:

FBC Lambrook

December 11, 2022

Morning Worship

¹ Herschel H. Hobbs, [*My Favorite Illustrations*](#) (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1990), 272.

² Ryrie, Charles Caldwell . Basic Theology (p. 19). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition. ‘