



Big Idea: True worship is giving God everything.

Scripture: Mark 12:41-44 (NIV), Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

INTRO:

[Author's Note: Share a story about a time where you felt like you gave everything but still came up short.]

When I was a sophomore in college, one of the hardest classes I took was called probability and statistics. I am not a fan of business or even math, so this class was not my favorite. Honestly, I was not very good at it either. One of my closest friends at school was in that class with me. His name was Luis, and he was from Madrid, Spain. He was smarter than me when it came to business and math. The most frustrating thing about him was that he did not even really study. He was just smart. I am sure that you know someone like that. Towards the end of the semester, we had a big test coming up and I was determined to get a better test score than him. I was so determined that I would ask my professor questions, study late, and even do practice questions. The day of the test came, and I was ready to get a better score. I took the test and felt like I had gotten a better score. Next came the hardest part, waiting until the next class to get the results. We got our tests back and of course my insanely smart friend still beat my test score by 4 or 5 points. I had given that exam everything I had. I had sacrificed time and energy. Even though I fell short of Luis' grade I was still proud of my grade because I had given it everything I had.

Tonight, we are starting a series on worship. When you think of worship you might only think about music and singing. That is one avenue that we can use to worship God but that is not the only way. We are called to worship God through our actions, prayer life, giving of time and resources, and so many other ways.

TENSION:

Sometimes when you worship God you might feel like you do not have enough to give Him. You might feel like you do not have enough time or resources. You may feel like you don't have a good enough voice to sing to God. You may feel like your body is too awkward to dance, lift your arms, or bow down in reverence to God. You might feel like you don't have the

right words to say to God in prayer. We have so many options to worship God, but I think a lot of times, fear holds us back from truly giving Him everything. You might feel like what you have to offer God is not good enough. Tonight, we are going to read a passage of Scripture where Jesus comments on what is enough and what it takes to follow Him.

TRUTH:

⁴¹ Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts.⁴² But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

⁴³ Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others.⁴⁴ They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Mark 12:41-44 (NIV)

A passage on giving might not be a passage that you think would be in a worship series, but I want you to understand that worship is not just singing and playing music. The first thing that we see that is interesting in this passage is the fact that Jesus is watching people give money. The second interesting thing is that a poor widow came onto the scene. To be a widow in this society was not a good thing. It meant that you didn't really have any protection, security, and little money. Women were looked down upon and were not treated equally. But despite that, this woman gave an offering to God. The amount of money that the widow gave would have been seen as embarrassing and disrespectful. However, when we read verse 43, we see that Jesus didn't think it was embarrassing or disrespectful. In fact, Jesus was so moved by the amount that she gave that he pulled His disciples together. Jesus told them that the amount that she gave was more than the amount that all the other people gave. When we think about this, we go straight to probably thinking Jesus was wrong. There is no way that the small amount that this widow gave was more than the amount that all these wealthy people in the Temple gave.

In verse 44, we see what Jesus was talking about. Jesus said that everyone in the Temple gave out of their wealth. They gave money from

their overflow. They gave their extras. They gave the money that they didn't really need. It was not a sacrifice for these people to give their money. For the woman however, it was a huge sacrifice. She gave everything she had. She didn't give from wealth but rather poverty. She gave everything she had to God. She didn't give how much she was comfortable with giving, but rather she gave everything she had. We see that Jesus showed that giving everything we have is more important than giving the extras that we have.

APPLICATION:

True worship is giving everything that we have to God.

In this passage, we see that true worship is giving everything we have to God. God doesn't just want the leftovers that we have to offer Him. He wants everything. God wants us to give him our time, talents, resources, and our lives. That doesn't mean that God wants us not to have anything. But rather, God wants us to give Him our lives and then to live from the overflow that he'll give us. God wants to partner with us, and He wants to live life with us. Living a life of true worship means living a life where God is the Lord of our life every day and not just Wednesday nights [or whenever your ministry meets].

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25 (NIV)

Once again, in this passage we see that following Jesus means giving everything to Him. We are called to deny ourselves, take up our crosses, and follow Him. True worship is giving everything that we have to God.

Kingdom worth looks different than worldly worth.

There is one thing that is very clear in this passage of Scripture and that is the fact that kingdom worth looks very different than worldly worth. In this passage, Jesus claimed that the widow gave more money than everyone combined. In the eyes of the world, people would think it was crazy. Her two small coins were clearly not more in amount than what everyone else had given. This is because kingdom worth and worldly worth look different. Kingdom worth looks at how much I can give away. Worldly worth looks at



1. How would you have responded if you were in Paul and Silas' position in jail?
2. Why do you think Paul and Silas responded in worship instead of bitterness or anger?
3. How will the things that you learned about Paul and Silas affect how you choose to worship?
4. Tell me about a time that you have seen worship affect your life.
5. Have you ever seen your worship affect the lives of your friends and family?
6. Do you have any things that have happened in your life that have resulted in frustration towards God? What would it look like to worship God in those situations instead?

IMAGINATION:

How do you think making worship a part of your EVERYDAY lifestyle (in the good and the bad) would affect your life and the lives of those around you?

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com