



May 16, 2010 – Will Mackey

What Does God Think When He Watches Us “Worship”? (John 4:19-21, 23-24)

1. *What does the word “worship” really mean? (23)*
 - (Proskuneo) – to prostrate oneself in homage, to reverence, to adore.
 - Worth-ship means communicating to God His true worth and value to us.
 - Giving Him the gift of praise and gratitude.
 - He is the audience and we are the ones doing something for Him.
 - He is evaluating us and seeking something from us.
2. *How does God want us to worship Him? (24)*
 - **“in spirit”** – true worship is a deeply spiritual activity beginning in the heart and mind.
 1. True worship does not come from our emotions, our bodies or from any outside element (like liturgy).
 2. Our heart and mind, at a particular moment, create praise for Him and give the gift of worship to Him.
- **“in truth”** – true worship is inspired only by God’s truth.
 1. The truth about God’s nature. (His love, wisdom, beauty, truth, holiness, mercy, compassion, grace, power, etc.)
 2. The truth about God’s salvation. (Christ’s life, death, resurrection, sacrifice, healing, forgiveness, cleansing, etc.)
 3. The truth about God’s personal treatment of us.
3. *What is the role of liturgy as we set aside a time for worship? (20, 24)*
 - Liturgical activities include but are not limited to the sanctuary, prayer, Scriptures, readings, Lord’s Supper, songs, music, candles, etc.
 - Liturgical activities help communicate truth to our hearts and minds so that we create the gift of worship for our God.
 - Liturgy should always turn the attention of the worshiper away from the service itself and up to God, our Father. (Matthew 15:7-9)
 - Liturgical items must be kept from becoming novelty items and objects of adoration themselves. They are not to be used as a marketing tool to attract new people.
 - Liturgical items should never be depended upon to the point that when they are absent, one cannot worship God.
 - Liturgy should be communicated in the language of our everyday lives.