

Did You Worship?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth," (John 4:23-24).

I heard a lady say years ago that she wouldn't go to church where her mother-in-law went. She went on to say that all they seemed to do was to look at what you wore to church and to talk about the clothes that were worn. There is something bad wrong with that attitude. Nowhere in all of God's Word does he tell us to do that. That is a self-righteous, hypocritical spirit that is not of the Lord. Doesn't it sound like the Pharisee as he looked at the publican in Luke 18? God looks on the heart and he can see the thoughts and the attitude that we have.

When we go to worship that is exactly what we are to do, worship God. We are not there to find fault with others, we are to ask God to forgive us for our faults and sins. The Publican was there for the right reason, he asked God to forgive him. He didn't look at the Pharisee for he was concerned about his own spiritual condition.

We can go to church and still not worship the Lord. If we watch others and look at what they do instead of looking to God how is that worship? Do we feel close to the Lord when we enter his house of worship? When we sing do we consider the words to the songs and sing with joy and heartfelt praise, or do we just say the words? We don't have to be a great singer with a wonderful voice to give praise to the Lord. He wants us to be thankful and to love him, being concerned with what he thinks rather than what others think of us.

I believe that many times people do not praise and worship the Lord because they think that other people could do better. Who are we there to serve and to praise? It should be to worship the Lord, the God of Salvation, and no one else. If God approves of us and our efforts to serve him why are we hindered by what, we think, are the thoughts of others? Take singing for instance. We have the voices that the Lord gave us. It might not be as good as that of someone else, but it is the voice that God gave and he knows of our abilities. He does not expect us to be able to do like someone else. Consider the parable of the talents. The Lord didn't expect the servant with one talent to do as well as the one who had ten talents. However, he did expect him to do the best he could with what he had.

Do we pray, believing in our hearts that God will answer our prayers? During prayer time at church do we

pray, or listen to someone else? Another person can pray for us and that's fine, but we need to pray and talk to God ourselves. God wants a personal relationship with us as individuals. We worship as the church, but we also need to worship as individuals. The church is a body of believers who are saved, but he saved us one by one.

We worship as a congregation, but each of us should worship the Lord in our own heart. No one can worship for you, just as no one can believe for you. The Lord knows each of us and what we can do and what we believe in our hearts. If we are sincere and truly thankful the Lord is pleased with our efforts. I think often of the Pharisee and the publican in **Luke 18**. The Pharisee was so proud of himself and so condemning of the publican. He was proud of his life so he thought that the Lord should be too. The Lord had a different opinion of the two men than the Pharisee. God said that the publican went to his house justified rather than the Pharisee. Why? The Pharisee came to see and to be seen. The publican came to worship God and to seek forgiveness. This story in **Luke 18** shows the difference in reasons that some have for going to worship.

No matter what people think about us, whether good or bad, God is the one who knows the truth of what we are. The Lord sees the heart and knows what we really think about him and other people. As someone said, "The world sees what we do, the Lord sees why we do it."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

A BRIDE FOR ISAAC
ELIEZER, ABRAHAM'S STEWARD, HAS JOURNIED TO MESOPOTAMIA, THE LAND OF ABRAHAM'S BIRTH, TO FIND A MAIDEN TO BE THE WIFE OF ISAAC, ABRAHAM'S SON...

...NOW HE AWAITS IN THE EVENING, AT THE WELL OUTSIDE NAHOK, FOR THE MAIDENS TO COME AND DRAW WATER...

IF THE LORD SENDS ME A SIGN, THEN ONE OF THE MAIDENS WILL GIVE ME A DRINK, AND MY CAMELS, ALSO!

AND NOW THE MAIDENS OF NAHOK HAVE ARRIVED AT THE WELL TO DRAW THE EVENING WATER, WHILE ELIEZER PATIENTLY WATCHES....

...AND ONE OF THEM SEEMS TO SHOW AN INTEREST IN THE STRANGER, AS SHE FILLS HER WATER JUG....

...AND AFTER SHE COMES UP FROM THE WELL, ELIEZER STOPS HER WITH A REQUEST!

I PRAY THEE, GIVE ME TO DRINK!

Next Week THE ANSWER!

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