

Jesus and the Temple: Worship

March 22, 2009 - Skip MacMillan

Review:

Jung's favorite story

This is what Jesus walked up to: a dried-up well made into a religion of business.

Statistics say, "48% of regular church attenders have not experienced God's presence in the past year" (1997) -George Barna.

When the temple was literally demolished in AD 70, how disruptive was this to their thinking?

Where would they go for Passover, where would they go to meet with God?

What if we were to shut down Sunday mornings for six months like God did in AD 70?

How disruptive would this be? Where would you go to meet with God?
For some, not so much because they only come once a month anyway.
For others, it would be devastating because attending Sunday is what defines their Christianity.
For others, they would really miss the gathering together to sing, pray and hear the Scriptures and talking and praying with each other.

Reconstruction of The Temple

Jesus is the Temple, John 2:19-21

"Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."

²⁰The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?" ²¹**But the temple he had spoken of was his body.**"

"The Most High does not live in houses made by men. As the prophet says: 'Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me?' says the LORD' " (Acts 7: 48-49).

Jesus makes you into the Temple:

1. God dwells in you - John 14:16-17, 23

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—
¹⁷the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, **for he lives with you and will be in you.**"

²³Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and **make our home with him.**"

The Holy Spirit is with you and in you.
The Spirit of Truth is your counselor.
He is with you forever.
You know Him.

2. You are the Temple - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

NIV: "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple."

NAS: "Do you not know that you are the temple (sanctuary) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are."

You are God's temple or sanctuary.

The Spirit of God lives and dwells in you.

You are the holy temple of God.

"I'm going to Church" doesn't make any sense; you are the church.

3. God's Glory

God's glory filled the Old Testament temple, 1 Kings 8:10-11.

"When the priests withdrew from the Holy Place, the cloud filled the temple of the LORD. And the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled his temple."

God's glory fills you, 2 Corinthians 3:18.

"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

The glory of God is equated with the presence of God.

All who are followers of Christ reflect the Lord's glory.

All of us are being transformed into His likeness with ever-increasing glory.

Review:

The LORD God dwells in you.

You are God's sanctuary because the Spirit lives in you.

Where does worship begin?

1. Worship begins with God in you.

You are the sanctuary of God.

Everything we do on Sunday you can do on your own (prayer, sing and Scriptures).

Worship is about your heart toward God, your will submitted to God and your desire for God.

2. Sundays?

Why do we worship on Sunday mornings?

Jesus resurrected on the first day of the week, Matthew 28:1.

Scripture on Sunday Worship:

Hebrews 10:24-25 – "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not neglect meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing."

Acts 20:7 - "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread."

1 Cor. 16:2 - "On the first day of the week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income . . . (to send to Jerusalem)."

Revelations 1:10 - "On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit."

We meet on Sunday because Jesus resurrected on Sunday morning

No commandment to meet on Sunday!

Hebrews tells us the early church was already struggling with people not showing up. Sunday is entitled "The Lord's Day" by John in Revelation. The early church was gathering together on the first day of the week, Sunday, to "break bread" (communion), to gather money to help the poor, to encourage each other in love and good deeds.

Perspective: Get to not have to

You don't have to worship with the body of Christ on Sunday, but you do get to!

Think if no one showed up to worship out of obligation, guilt or shame.
What if everyone showed up because they wanted to and "get to" be here.
What if we came looking to give to each other instead of take?
What if we came looking to sing from hearts filled with joy or even brokenness?
What if we came asking, "Lord help me to hear you, what do you want to say to me, speak to me through the message today."

We get to worship together.

We get to express our love for the Lord and each other.
We get to encourage each other in love and good deeds.
We get to share communion, remembering Christ's love for us and all He has accomplished.
We get to share our money to help those in need.
We get to pray and sing as one body of Christ.
We get to listen to the Scripture and seek the face of God.

Healthy Church, this is it!
You don't have to check into the temple, pay some exchange rate and buy a lamb.
Jesus is the completion of all these things.

We gather together to worship God on Sundays because:

- He resurrected from the grave on Sunday
- He has redeemed us from all our sin and unrighteousness
- He has shown us His mercy, grace, and love

Worship is not something you have to do but something we get to do.

This is what Jesus is to find should He show up one Sunday morning!

This is what we want Sunday mornings to be as a church.

You are the sanctuary of God, period!
Worship Him in private, worship Him as a family, worship Him as the body of Christ!
Worship Him throughout the week, worship Him on Sunday morning.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices**, holy and pleasing to God—**this is your spiritual act of worship**. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Rom. 12:1-2).