

WORSHIP FROM THE HEART

JONAH 2:9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Why do we struggle with worship that is from the heart?
 - a) We worship Someone we have never seen. (John 1.18)
 - b) We focus more on the pattern than the feelings.
 - c) We view worship as a topic for debate. (2 Tim. 2.14,24)
 - d) We have failed to nurture real feelings toward God.
2. Jonah gives praise to God for saving him by means of a great fish (Jonah 2.1,9). What can we learn from his example?

I. JONAH HAD PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH GOD

- A. **JONAH 2.2:** *“I cried out to the Lord...Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and You heard my voice.”*
 1. **VERSE 2:** *“I cried.”* Jonah called out to God, then cried out in desperation. (cf. 2 Cor. 1.3,4; Heb. 4.16)
 2. **VERSE 2:** *“You heard.”* (cf. 1 Pet. 3.12)
 3. **VERSE 2:** *“my voice.”* He knew the voice of Jonah.
- B. Worship is a personal expression of praise.
 1. We sing to the Lord. (Eph. 5.19)
 2. We offer up sacrifices of praise to the lord. (Heb. 13.15)
 3. We do what is acceptable to the Lord. (1 Pet. 2.5)

II. GOD HAD PERSONAL INTERACTION WITH JONAH

- A. God believed in Jonah.
 1. God was responsible for his troubles. (Jonah 2.3; 1.4,14)
 2. God believes in you. (1 Cor. 10.13; Heb. 12.5,6)
- B. God forgave Jonah.
 1. Sin separates man from God. (Jonah 2.4; Isa. 59.2)
 2. Jonah looked toward God, and He heard him. (Jonah 2.7)
 3. We have forgiveness through Christ. (Eph. 1.7)
- C. God cared about Jonah.
 1. Jonah was about to die, but God saved him. (Jonah 2.5,6)
 2. I can put more feeling into worship with the realization that God cares for me. (Heb. 13.5; 1 Pet. 5.7)

CONCLUSION: God expects true worship that is in spirit and truth.

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

JANUARY 22, 2023

2424 McCARRAN ST.

NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89031

(702) 642-3141

WWW.NLVCHURCHOFCHRIST.COM

NORTHSIDE CHURCH OF CHRIST

2424 McCarran St. ☐ North Las Vegas, NV ☐ 89030

Phone: (702) 642-3141 Email: Pruitt@nlvchurchofchrist.com

Watch us live at www.nlvchurchofchrist.com

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“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

-Mark 16.15

January 22, 2023

MEETING TIMES:

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS : 9:00 AM

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP: 9:50 AM

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP: 6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS 7:30 PM

“SECRET THINGS BELONG TO GOD”

Deuteronomy 29.29 is an oft quoted passage: *“The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”* If you look at the context, you will find that God is referring to His punishments. Sometimes, the punishments of God are done in secret.

In the context, God is making a covenant with His people. If the children of Israel did not live up to their end of the bargain, there would be punishment. However, the extent of that punishment, the nature of that punishment, and the length of that punishment was a secret.

When you read the surrounding verses, reference is made to Sodom and Gomorrah, and the people were asking why (Deut. 29.23,24)? They put forth a possible theory, but when it came down to it, *“the secret things belong to God.”* The point is, there are blessings and punishments associated with the keeping or breaking God’s laws. However, it is God who determines what those punishments will be. It is not something we can know unless He chooses to reveal it to us.

God determines the rules and the punishments and blessings associated with them. It is our responsibility to follow them. CLP

JESUS LOVED HIS BIBLE

MATTHEW 5:17,18

INTRODUCTION:

1. A disciple is not to instruct his teacher but to take instructions from his teacher. (Matt. 10.24).
2. Jesus lived His life under the authority of the Law. (Gal. 4.4)
3. As disciples of Jesus, we are to follow the example of One who loved His Bible. [Read Matthew 5.17-20]

I. AFFECTION

- A. Jesus used His Bible to direct His life.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.17:** *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law and the Prophets...but to fulfill”*
 2. This is a reference to the Old Testament. (Matt. 22.40)
- B. Jesus respected His Bible.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.18:** *“one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.”*
 2. Jots and tittles are the smallest stroke of the pen.
- C. Jesus believed that the Bible should be protected.
 1. **MATTHEW 5.20:** *“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees...”*
 2. The scribes and Pharisees misinterpreted the scriptures.

II. APPLICATION

- A. Jesus used His Bible to resist temptation.
 1. Three time Jesus said, “It is written...” (Matt. 4.4,7,10)
 2. When we are tempted, turn to the Bible.
- B. Jesus used His Bible to judge others.
 1. Jesus praised others with the Bible. (Matt. 11.9,10)
 2. Jesus condemned others with the Bible. (Matt. 22.29)
- C. Jesus used His Bible to address criticism.
 1. The criticism of the scribes and Pharisees. (Matt. 12.1,2)
 2. Jesus responded with scripture. (Matt. 12.3)
- D. Jesus used His Bible to answer difficult questions.
 1. The question asked by the Pharisees. (Matt. 19.3)
 2. Jesus responded with scripture. (Matt. 19.4)
- E. Jesus used His Bible to defend the house of God.
 1. Jesus cleanses the temple. (Matt. 21.13)
 2. Today, we defend the church. (Matt. 16.18; 1 Tim. 3.15)

CONCLUSION: Do you love your Bible enough to obey the gospel?

BLESSED ARE THE PERSECUTED

The Bible is filled with statements that are hard to understand. Through God is love, Jesus tells us that a disciple is to *“hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes even his own life”* (Luke 14.26). We are not to be lazy, but work for a living. Yet Jesus tells us, *“do not labor for the food which perishes”* (John 6.27). Jesus constantly promoted peace. Yet He tells His disciples, *“I did not come to bring peace, but a sword”* (Matt. 10.34). To fully understand these passages, we must spend some time in the context to learn what Jesus is actually teaching.

The beatitudes are equally difficult to understand on their own. Repeatedly, Jesus refers to those who are blessed (lit., happy). Yet it can be difficult to understand how one can be happy while being poor or are grieving. In Matthew 5.10, we have another beatitude that can be challenging. Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”* How can one be truly happy when they are being persecuted? The next verse continues this thought. Jesus says that those who are truly happy are those who are reviled, persecuted, and other speak all kinds of evil against them (Matt. 5.11).

As is always the case, the key to understanding this passage it context. In this passage, Jesus specifies that those who are blessed are those who are mistreated *“for righteousness sake.”* The idea is that we are being persecuted because we do the right thing. Peter writes that there is no honor in suffering for your own mistakes (1 Pet. 2.20). In contrast, Peter writes, *“But when you do good and suffer, if you take it patiently, this is commendable before God”* (1 Pet. 2.21; 4.15).

In context, there are two reasons why we should be happy to endure persecution for doing what is right. Matthew 5.10 tells us that *“yours is the kingdom of heaven.”* The next verse repeats this thought by saying, *“great is your reward in heaven.”* When we are mistreated because we do not go along with the “woke” mentality of our culture, we can be happy. When we are called closed-minded, homophobic, and other hurtful names because we stand up against immorality, we are blessed. That because we are heaven bound, and when we reach the eternal city, there is a great reward waiting for us in heaven.

Second, we should be happy when we are persecuted for doing what is right because *“they persecuted the prophets who were before you”* (Matt. 5.12). We can count ourselves as righteous, because they did the same thing to the righteous in the past as they are doing to us. Being persecuted proves that are living righteous lives (John 15.18,19).