"What Does Real Worship Look Like?" <u>Matthew 6: 1-8 and 16-18</u>

January 30, 2022

Our flesh is our fallen nature

Our flesh is never satisfied; it always wants more and more

Our flesh is like a piranha - always on a feeding frenzy







Our battle strategy:

- Detach from the world
- Feed your spirit
- Starve your flesh

Feeding our spirit starts with: <u>HEARING JESUS</u>, and <u>LISTENING TO JESUS</u>!



May we be like this when Jesus speaks - HEAR HIM!!

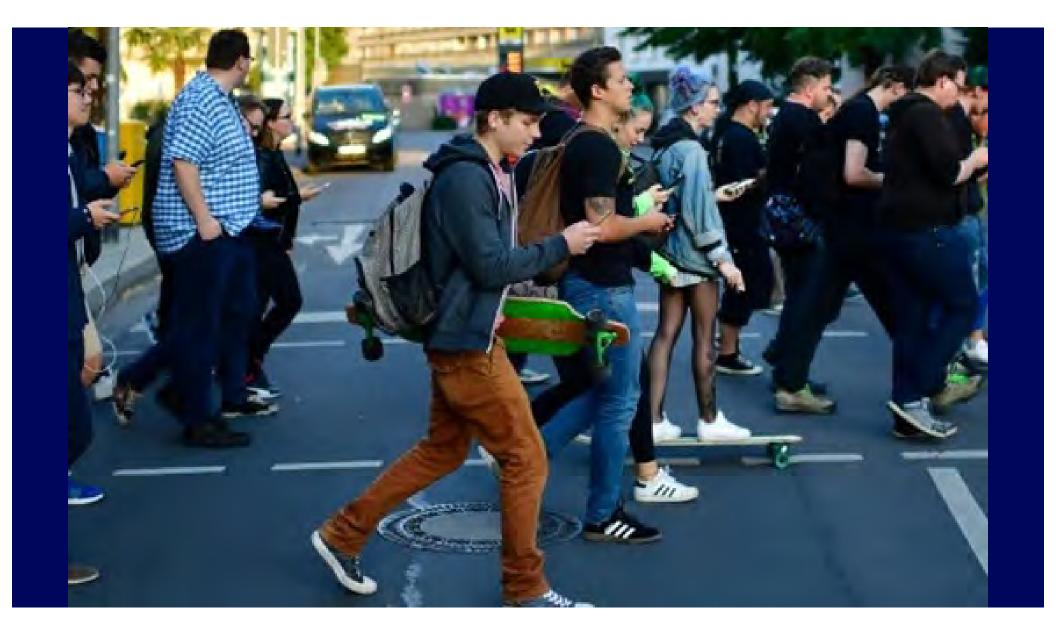




What keeps us from hearing? DISTRACTION!!

DISTRACTION leads to DECEPTION which leads to DESTRUCTION!

Distracted people are easily deceived people!



These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. John 15:11



Joy = gladness of heart

Full = "pleroo" = crammed full of joy; overflowing joy

YOU, living in an evil, unfair world, can overcome all the whatever's. How?

By being FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!!

What does real worship of God look like?

True worship is our heart to God's heart

Complete honor, adoration, extoling the One who gives us life, breath and all things

<u>Verse 1 - 4</u>

What does real worship of God look like? -GIVING

Worship = to pay homage, show reverence; to kneel before; to serve and obey

GOD FIRST ABOVE ALL OTHERS!

We worship God by serving and obeying Him

What are we worshipping before God?



Giving to be noticed is a common human trait - Luke 18: 9-14

Jesus disdains giving for self-glory

Jesus pulls no punches: HYPOCRITE Mask wearer, fraud

Alms giving, charitable deeds in SECRET, are worship to God

Unnoticed by man *but seen clearly by God*!

God encourages giving for the right reason

Have a steward attitude -<u>IT'S NOT MINE!</u>



<u>Verse 5 - 8</u>

What does real worship of God look like? -*PRAYER*

What is prayer?

- 1) Prayer is practicing the presence of God
- 2) Prayer is admitting our need, our dependence upon God
- 3) Prayer is talking to God, fellowshipping with God, spending time with God
- 4) Prayer changes the one praying; my will is conformed to God's will
- 5) Prayer is a place where my heart is quieted, the world is silenced, and I enjoy God

Does prayer change things? <u>YES</u>!! God delights in changing our circumstances

"Always pray and not lose heart" Luke 18: 1

Somehow, in the sovereignty of God, He incorporates our prayers into His decisions

Praying like the hypocrites (to be noticed, the phony bologna show), Jesus disdains!!

The <u>Jesus way</u>:

Do nothing for show and the applause of mankind

Enter your secret place, the place where you meet with God, regularly

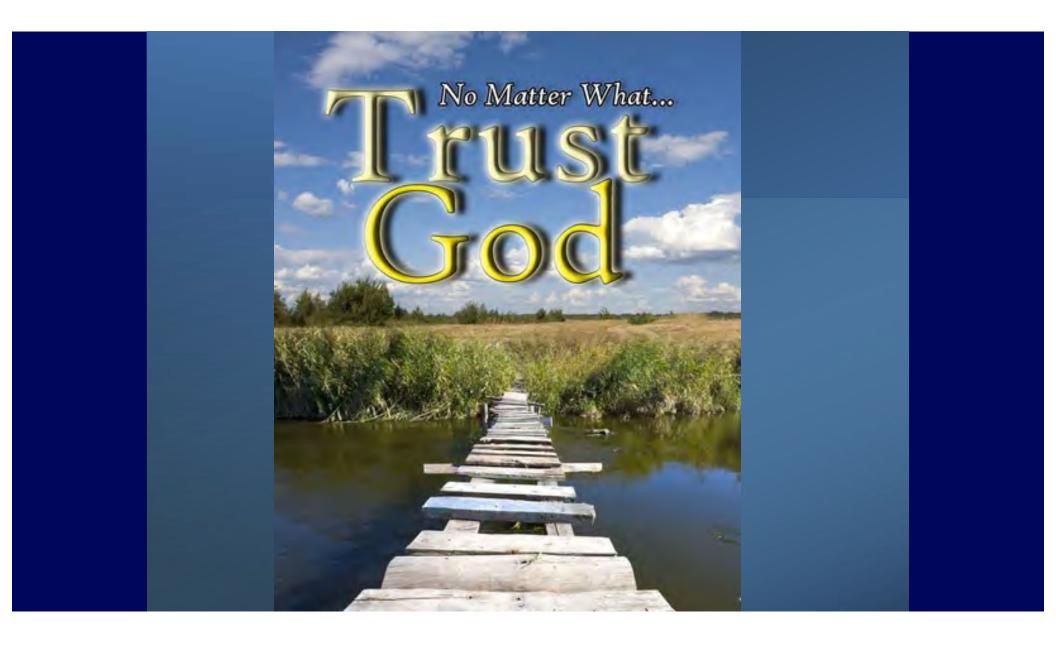
What is praying in vain repetitions?

"battologeo" = to speak foolishly; indiscreet vowing in prayer

IMPORTANT:

We do not control God by demanding our way or our will in prayer

Pray like a Christian – trust God with *"Thy will be done"*



<u>Verse 16 - 18</u>

What does real worship of God look like? -FASTING

What is fasting?

Fasting emphasizes the denial of the flesh Pharisee fasting – drawing attention to self God fasting – private and personal Keep it real, *keep it God-focused*!!



CLOSING THOUGHTS:

What does real worship look like?

In all our worship we are ascribing worth to God - *it's never about me*!

"The self-life blinds us to the holiness of God. The self-sins keep us from seeing God as He is" (A.W. Tozer) Our worship is not a one and done, but "a continual gaze of the heart at God" (Tozer)

When we worship God, set our gaze on God

God will set His gaze on us!

"But You are holy, enthroned in the praises of Israel" <u>Psalm 22: 3</u> The God of the universe will take time to sit with you, dwell with you, and set His gaze on you!

Can you imagine how much God loves you?

May we worship our God in spirit and truth!

May we glorify our God today and always!!

May we set our gaze on Him in all of our worship!!!

THIS IS WHAT REAL WORSHIP LOOKS LIKE

BE EXALTED, O GOD IN MY LIFE

Be exalted, o God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth. -Psalm 57:11

