

2015-02-15

Thoughts on Worship
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Currently in a series on Daniel.

Shadrach, Mesach, Abednego are thrown into a furnace
Would not bow down to a statue of the emperor.

Daniel is thrown into the lion's den
Would not stop worshipping God.

Both Daniel and his captors knew – what you bow down to *matters*.
What/who you worship – *matters*.

What/who is on the throne of my/your life?
To what/whom do I/you bow the knee?

The answer to that question can reveal a lot about our lives even if we're not overtly aware of it.

What we care about in our hearts, will drive us.
We will make decisions based on that.
We will make choices based on that.

Jesus made reference to this many times.

Luke 6:45 (NIV)

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart,
and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart.
For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

We're talking about different facets of worship this morning.

Its not my intention to bring you down because I really believe that
If you're here today and you have decided to follow Jesus,
then, at the core of your heart, you really want to be the person God is calling you to be.
You don't wake up and say: let me see how badly I can mess up today!
When we gather in places like this – it is a time to Recollect our hearts.

Recollection –
Our hearts are splintered and attached to many things.
Gather our hearts back to the core.

At the core, Lord, I remember who You are.

At the core, Lord, I remember what You've done for me

At the core, Lord, I remember that:
I really want to be who You are calling me to be
I want You to be the Lord of my life
Only to You do I want to bow

The thing is:
When we come to places like this, and we gather in this way,
We bring our whole life into this space.

The songs are saying: God is good, God is great,...
But, at times, I don't feel that because life has happened
and my heart has filled up with something else.
Life is getting in the way.
My heart has splintered

David did the same:

Psalm 13:1 (ESV)

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?

Psalm 55: 1-2 (NLT)

Listen to my prayer, O God.
Do not ignore my cry for help!
Please listen and answer me,
for I am overwhelmed by my troubles.

Vs 4: my heart pounds in my chest

Psalm 3:7 (NIV)

Arise, Lord!
Deliver me, my God!
Strike all my enemies on the jaw;
break the teeth of the wicked.

Blues version:

Lord, there's some naughty people
Who need to be put in their place

In your mercy,
Break all their teeth
And smash them in the face!

If we will bring our life here,
just like David, we will begin to remember

and we will begin to Recollect our hearts

Psalm 103: 1 (NASB)

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And all that is within me, *bless* His holy name.

Psalm 42: 4-6 (ESV)

These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I would go with the throng
and lead them in procession to the house of God
with glad shouts and songs of praise,
a multitude keeping festival.

Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you in turmoil within me?
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,
my salvation and my God.
My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.
Just like David –
worship is the time to Recollect my heart back to the core.

The Great Commandment:

Mark 12:30 (KNJV)

And you shall love the Lord your God with
all your heart,
with all your soul,
with all your mind,
and with all your strength.'

I do things with my heart, soul, mind, strength
That increase my capacity to love God

Because life is going to happen
and my heart will be in danger of splintering again.

So I gather with the saints and here, in worship,
My heart
And my soul
And my mind
And my body,

Help me to recall God's
Goodness
Mercy
Strength

Faithfulness

Grace

And His unrelenting love towards us.

And in this place of grace I Recollect all the pieces of my heart

Back to the core again

Because I learn that I do not worship God because of life

Or in spite of life

I worship in the middle of life – because He promised to be there with me.

Meditation:

Psalm 95:6-7 (NKJV)

Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For He *is* our God,

And we *are* the people of His pasture,

And the sheep of His hand.