

# “God’s Exhortation for Women to Worship”

## Lesson 9 outline

### Intro.

- It is crucial for us, as women, to worship God.
  - o We worship to demonstrate that which we believe, that God is worthy of honor, respect and obedience.
  - o It is a 24/7 endeavor, according to our author, “not limited to a certain day and time”.
    - We can be doing any activity and worship (washing dishes? dusting?)
    - While serving in our local church
    - When we stop the merry-go-round of life to focus on Him
- It is also crucial to set aside special times for worship specifically
  - o Private time at home
  - o Public time with other believers

### I. **Our Private Worship**

- A. We all need to spend time alone with God
  - 1. Not thinking of our plans for our day
  - 2. Not when we have to rush through them meaninglessly
  - 3. It’s the only way to develop any growing relationship
- B. On October 18<sup>th</sup>, **Our Daily Bread** featured a story about the Green Bank Observatory, the world’s largest steerable radio telescope.
  - 1. It is located in Green Bank, WV
    - a. It is in the center of the National Radio Quiet Zone, a 13,000 square mile area
    - b. People living there cannot use mobile phone, Wi-Fi, GPS, Bluetooth devices, or microwave ovens
    - c. The telescope needs “quiet” to “listen” to naturally occurring radio waves from deep space
  - 2. We need quiet time, too, away from distractions
    - a. Diane Scallon asks the question, “Do you consistently regret not spending more time with God?”
      - i. I, like many of you, have a daily quiet time.
      - ii. My concern is for the quality of my devotional, rather than the quantity of time I spend in my quiet chair.
    - b. My friend, don’t guilt trip yourself over this.
      - i. Life is full of phases and some are more conducive to having consistent devotions than others.
      - ii. Do your best within your life phase circumstances: it’s a marathon, not a sprint.
  - 3. Have you ever considered an annual spiritual check-up?
    - a. Could be an afternoon alone, just you, your Bible and God
    - b. If life allows, it could be a day, a couple of days
      - i. Alone
      - ii. With your spouse
      - iii. With an accountability partner
    - c. We can truthfully examine ourselves to see if
      - i. We are truly making God our priority
      - ii. Verifying that we have grown and where
      - iii. Determining what needs to change to make us more conformed to the image of Christ

## II. Prayer

- A. Prayer is a healthy, necessary part of our corporate worship and our quiet time.
  - 1. It isn't just going to Him with the big things in life or when tragedy strikes
    - a. for personal guidance or help
    - b. for the daily things
  - 2. Our children and others should see us praying.
- B. Prayer should include (ACTS, as previously explained by Emily)
  - 1. Adoration – God's greatness
  - 2. Confession of sin
  - 3. Thanksgiving
  - 4. Supplication – for ourselves and others

## III. Worship with Other Believers

- A. When thinking of worship most think of music, either corporate or special music
  - 1. Singing is one form of worship with other believers
  - 2. So is the Lord's Supper
  - 3. Praying together
  - 4. Giving our tithes and offerings back to God
  - 5. Hearing and learning from God's spoken Word
- B. Romans 12:1 & 2 (NAS) – “Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”
  - 1. It says that presenting ourselves wholly to God as a living sacrifice is expected – it is reasonable. Not optional.
  - 2. What is the difference between an OT sacrifice and a NT one?
    - a. A dead sacrifice cannot get off the altar,
    - b. only a living one can do that.
  - 3. Isn't presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice a “one and done”?
    - a. Yes, in terms of salvation.
    - b. Not so much in terms of continued consecration
      - i. We may gradually “slide” off the altar
        - 1. Through neglect (Life/busyness just gets in the way)
        - 2. Through compromise (no one will see/know, just this once won't matter, many Christians do . . .)
        - 3. Through open rebellion (I've had it. I'm done!)
        - 4. The most dangerous in this time in our history, however, may be through accommodation or acquired comfort. (Staying at home, WATCHING others worship in our pajamas, not having to meet expectations, no accountability. . . )
      - ii. We must meet with God and place ourselves on the altar for His use daily, asking to be used, as Pr. Aaron says, “For His glory and our good”.
      - iii. Finishing well doesn't happen by accident; we must be intentional.
        - 1. The life of Demas, who walked beside Paul and Dr. Luke in ministry
          - a. Colossians 4:14 – “Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and also Demas.”
          - b. II Timothy 4:9 & 10a – “Make every effort to come to me soon; for Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.”

- C. Colossians 3:16 & 17 also addresses worshipping with other believers. “Let the word of Christ richly dwell with you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thanksgiving in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in work or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.”
- a. When we worship with others, even through singing, we are to teach and admonish.
    - i. Admonish (+) advise, encourage, recommend (to uplift ourselves and others)
    - ii. Admonish (-) warn, reprove, rebuke (to convict ourselves and others)
  - b. Isn't this exactly what happens here, in our worship with other believers? Are we not uplifted and challenged by the singing, the faithfulness of others, the prayers that are offered up and by the preaching of the Word?

#### IV. Stop to Worship

A. What comes to mind when you read the story of Mary and Martha in Luke 10:38 – 42?

1. Focus vs distraction
2. Mary had the right focus, the right priority
  - a. She knew that spending time with Jesus was worthwhile.
3. Martha was distracted
  - a. Martha, Mary and Lazarus are thought to have been wealthy.
    - i. They had a house large enough to receive Jesus and the disciples.
    - ii. In John 12:1 – 3, Mary, her sister, could bathe Jesus' feet with a very expensive perfume worth a year's wages.
    - iii. There were many people at Lazarus' funeral.
    - iv. They could afford a private burial tomb on their property.
    - v. Perhaps Martha could have had her household help take care of the preparations.

a. John McArthur says that Martha “was evidently fussing about with details that were unnecessarily elaborate”.

(Just as a little parenthesis, we might be unjust in maligning Martha for this singular incident. She was a woman of great faith. In John 11:21 she told Jesus that if he had been there, her brother would not have died. Later, in verse 24 she stated that she fully believed in the resurrection of believers. Finally, in verse 27 “She said to Him, ‘Yes, Lord, I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world’”.)

#### V. Serving in the Local Church

A. We are called to be salt in the world.

1. Salt is used to keep food from rotting and to preserve the flavor.
  - a. We are called to preserve our integrity (thinking, attitudes, priorities, CONVICTIONS)
  - b. “We are to be fervent for Jesus with our strength in Him.” (*potency*)

B. We are called to be light in the world.

1. “We should be reflecting God's compassion and love to those around us.” (*proximity*)

D. “We should be using the gifts, passions, and desires God has given us to serve Him.”

To close:

Philippians 1:9 – 11

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the Glory and praise of God.”

Ladies, I pray that you will have a profitable discussion and a precious time of fellowship as you meet together in your various venues.

**SUGGESTED (or not) QUESTIONS:**

1. Do you have an organized system for maintaining prayer requests? What is it? (Help a sister out!)
2. Honestly, what are your priorities?
3. Where do you find joy?
4. How does your Christian walk influence others? If you didn't love the Lord, what difference would there be in the lives of those around you?
5. How can you, personally, joyfully serve in your local church?