

MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

Message 3 – Worship (Part 1 of 2)

General Introduction –

Have you ever had someone tell you, in so many words, “It’s my way or the highway”? How did that make you feel? What if I were to tell you that God says that to us? He really does. Over three Sundays we are going to teach on 3 areas where God literally says, “My Way Or The Highway”. The three areas that we will be discussing are....

- SALVATION – JOHN 14:6 ✓
- LORDSHIP – LUKE 6:46 ✓
- WORSHIP – MARK 7:6-7

Message Introduction –

During our “Setting Apart Meeting” last month, I was sharing with visiting pastor, Bob Combs, and he shared with me how thrilled he was to experience the worship that morning and to see Valleyview continue on in this vein. He went on to share how Valleyview has always been known for her worship, at least since he’s been associated with you. Of course this blessed me because worship has always been a major part of Linda and my ministry; and so once again this seemed like a “union ordained by God”.

So knowing how important worship is to us, is it equally or even more important to God? Could He possibly say concerning worship that it is “my way or the highway”? Or is it possible that someone could even “worship in vain”?

First, here are a few interesting facts about praise and worship using the picture of the tribe of Judah (ie Judah means: “PRAISE”)...

- Judah faced the east – Signifying bringing the presence & glory of God
- Judah went out first – Signifying going forth in praise and fighting battles with praise.
- Judah was the most fruitful tribe – Genuine praise & worship will produce fruit.

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Matthew 15:8-9a – “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. THEY WORSHIP ME IN VAIN.”

John 4:23 – “Yet a time is coming and has now come when the TRUE WORSHIPERS will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.”
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1. TRUE WORSHIP COMES FROM THE HEART

Mt 15:8 – “These people honor me *with their lips*, but their hearts are far from me.”

Discussion Questions –

1. Is it possible to sing, clap, shout, bow, dance and your heart not be in it?
2. What is the story behind Matt Redman’s song: “The Heart of Worship” and how does it reinforce the truth of this point?

2. TRUE WORSHIPERS WORSHIP IN SPIRIT

John 4:23a – “...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit...”

Discussion Questions –

3. Spirit is spelled with a small “s”, so what does it mean?
4. Give some “analogies” that show how we should at the very least be worshipping our Father.

3. TRUE WORSHIPERS WORSHIP IN TRUTH

John 4:23a – “...true worshipers will worship the Father in truth...”

- BIBLICAL
- ONESELF

Discussion Questions –

5. What are two types of truth needed in our worship to the Father?
6. Share why both are needed to keep our worship from becoming vain worship.

4. LIFT JESUS UP – SEE ONLY HIM, NOT US

*Luke 19:30-31,35,37b – “Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’” ... “They brought it to Jesus, **threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.** ... “the whole crowd began joyfully to praise God in loud voices...”*

- AT A CROSSROADS
- TIED UP
- NEVER RIDDEN (UNTAMED)
- DISCIPLES SENT TO FREE IT AND BRING IT TO JESUS
- TOTALLY COVERED UP – NO ONE SAW THE DONKEY
- LIFTED JESUS UP – PEOPLE SAW JESUS AND WORSHIPED

Discussion Questions –

7. Share how the donkey is a picture of us (review the bullets)?
8. What does the Word promise if we “lift Jesus up”?