

MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY

Message 4 – Worship (Part 2 of 3)

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 –

Wow, 3 messages on “worship”. Isn’t that a bit much? In some circles, especially those where worship is simply a prelude for the Word, it would be; but hopefully we know better. Let me remind you that last Sunday, the Lord told us that *if we would love Him wholly, obey Him fully and worship Him truly; He would bless us by pouring out the rain of His Spirit, which in turn will bring forth an abundant harvest of souls. On top of that we will have lush pastures giving us an abundance of spiritual food (Deut 11:13-15).* Worship is only part of that equation, but an important part none-the-less!

In our first message on worship we saw that there was such a thing as “worshiping in vain” (Mt 15:8-9a). We also saw that there was a *true way of worshiping (Jn 4:23)*, implying that there is also a false way to worship. We concluded from the scriptures that **the only worship God will accept is true worship consisting of...**

- Worship that comes from the heart
- Spirited, passionate worship
- Worship founded in truth (Word & Self)
- Worship that exalts him and hides us

.....
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.”**

.....

***Today we continue our teaching on genuine worship that is both acceptable and pleasing to our God...**

1. OUR VERY BEST

Ex 34:20d – “No one is to appear before me *empty-handed*.”

Deut 17:1 – “Never sacrifice ... *sick or defective to the Lord your God, for He detests such gifts.*”

Num 18:29 – “You must present as the Lord’s portion the **best ... of everything...”**

2 Sam 24:24b – “I will not sacrifice to the Lord my god burnt offerings that **cost me nothing.”**

- **EFFORT & SKILL**

Discussion Questions –

1. Describe how each of the four scriptures show us how to give our best.
2. What example did Pastor give to show this truth? What example can you give?
3. When it comes to worship, would you say that you are giving God your very best?

2. GOD CENTERED (DRIVEN) / SEEKER SENSITIVE

Genesis 49:10b – “Unto Him shall the gathering of the people be”

- NEVER EXCUSE / ALWAYS EXPLAIN
- SEEKER DRIVEN v SEEKER SENSITIVE
- IN OUR QUEST DON'T LEAVE THEM BEHIND

Discussion Questions –

1. How do you reconcile the two sides to this point?
2. Go over the three bullets and how they address this tug of war.

3. PROGRESSIVE IN NATURE

Psalms 76:1a – “God is well known in Judah (praise)...”

- VISION (PURPOSE): Lost > Saved > Disciple > Leader
- VISION (PRESENCE): “Springing from an ever deepening relationship...”
- KNOW: Acquaintance > Casual > Friend > Intimate
- SPIRITUAL: Gates – Thanksgiving > Courts – Praise > Holy of holies - Intimacy

Discussion Questions –

1. How did Pastor Rich compare the simplicity of our vision with praise and worship?
2. How do the 4 levels of “knowing” someone relate to spiritually knowing Christ through P&W?
3. What was Paul’s cry concerning Christ (Phil 3:10)?
4. What is the Bible promise for those who know their God (Daniel 11:32 K.J.V.)?