

Worshiped
March 28, 2021
Allen Power

Luke 19:29-40

Let's begin by reading our passage to see what it says, what it means, and how it should change us this week:

²⁹ When he drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount that is called Olivet, he sent two of the disciples, ³⁰ saying, "Go into the village in front of you, where on entering you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever yet sat. Untie it and bring it here. ³¹ If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' you shall say this: 'The Lord has need of it.'" ³² So those who were sent went away and found it just as he had told them. ³³ And as they were untying the colt, its owners said to them, "Why are you untying the colt?" ³⁴ And they said, "The Lord has need of it." ³⁵ And they brought it to Jesus, and throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. ³⁶ And as he rode along, they spread their cloaks on the road. ³⁷ As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, ³⁸ saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" ³⁹ And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples." ⁴⁰ He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out."

Opening: One of the common themes of the last year has been the challenge of parents working from home with kids in the house. [Illustrations: "Hi buddy!" The young father whose little boy's Mario game wasn't working.] Some people get uptight but I think a little of that is a delightful diversion! When working from home with little kids in the house, sometimes no matter what you do you cannot contain the sound (or even the sight) of their youthful exuberance. Wouldn't it be wonderful if our worship and praise of God were equally uncontainable?

As we just read, when Jesus rode into Jerusalem as Messiah the people erupted in exuberant worship and praise. His detractors urged

him to silence those worshipers, but Jesus responded with this simple truth: If the people didn't praise Him for Who He is then the very stones on the hillside would!

Here is the **central truth** of this passage: When a follower of Christ clearly sees who God is and what He has done for us, the only appropriate response is to worship Him. To fully enjoy life with Christ, we need to embrace and practice what it means to be a "true worshipper" of God.

- First a few observations and facts about this scene in Luke 19.
- *"This is the only time that Jesus permitted a public demonstration on His behalf."*ⁱ He was fulfilling Old Testament Messianic prophecy.
- In Zechariah 9:9 (ESV) the prophet said, ⁹ *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
- The words of praise shouted by the people came from Psalm 118:26 (ESV) ²⁶ *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!*
- This God-ordained scene confirmed Jesus as the promised Messiah.
- Jesus was also initiating a "showdown" with the Jewish leaders that would lead to His crucifixion. His timing with Passover was intentional because *"God had ordained that His Son be slain on Passover as the "Lamb of God, who take[s] away the sin of the world" (Jn 1:29; and 1 Cor. 5:7)."*ⁱⁱ
- What a contrast! The common people recognized Jesus for Who He is and exploded in praise and worship. The Pharisees refused to recognize Him for Who He is and their fury boiled over into a murderous rage.
- Let's focus on what we can learn from this powerful display of worship.
- What is worship? The Greek word in the New Testament for worship is "**prōskunēō**, *pros-koo-neh'-o*; [meaning] *prostrate oneself in homage (do reverence to, adore):—worship.*"ⁱⁱⁱ

- Human beings are “wired to worship” someone or something. Louie Giglio writes, “...[E]verybody has an altar. And every altar has a throne. So how do you know where and what you worship? It’s easy: You simply follow the trail of your time, your affection, your energy, your money, and your allegiance. At the end of that trail you’ll find a throne, and whatever, or whoever, is on that throne is what’s of highest value to you.”^v
- “The English word “worship” is from the Anglo-Saxon *weorthscipe* [Weh-orth-si-pee] literally reading “worthship.”
- Christian worship is “attributing worth and honor to the living God.”^v
- Only the God of the Bible is worthy of our worship. When Satan was tempting Jesus to worship him, Jesus answered him, “It is written, “ ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’ ” Luke 4:8
- For true followers of Christ, when we see how God has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the natural reaction should be worship.
- Ligon Duncan said, “...[W]orship is declaring—with our lips and lives—that God is more important than anything else to us, that He is our deepest desire, that His inherent worth is beyond everything else we hold dear.”^{vi}
- Adrian Rogers defined worship as, “All that I am responding to all that He is in gratitude and praise. It is all of life.”
- What did Jesus have to say about true worship of the one true God?
- Turn to John 4:21-24. This is the familiar conversation Jesus had with the Samaritan woman at the well. She questioned Him about the differences in where and how the Samaritans and Jews worshipped.
- ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

- We see several important things in what Jesus said to this woman.
- Worship would not be limited in location; the believer's heart is the temple.
- Jesus said The Father "seeks" worshipers. He knows we need worship because the more we worship Him the more we become like Him.
- He also seeks worshipers because He desires a love relationship with us.
- Jesus said the Samaritans didn't know whom they worshipped, the Jews DID know that worship is to be directed to Jehovah God, but neither were "true worshipers." So, how did they both come up short in worship?
- Adrian Rogers said the Samaritans had "zeal" but weren't worshipping the true God. The Jews had "truth" but no "zeal" only "dead orthodoxy."^{vii}
- In Matthew 15:8 (ESV) Jesus said of the Pharisees, ⁸ " 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me;
- These two extremes can exist in churches today. Some worship services are heavy on emotion but light on the truth of God's word.
- Other churches are heavy on "orthodoxy" but there is no "zeal," no "spirit."
- Jesus defined "true" worship as worshipping in both "spirit and truth."
- Of course, we will only worship God if we have His Spirit living in us, but "spirit" here also refers to the human spirit...the very essence of our being.
- One commentator wrote: *"Spirit without truth leads to a shallow, overly emotional experience that could be compared to a high. As soon as the emotion is over, when the fervor cools, the worship ends. Truth without spirit can result in a dry, passionless encounter that can easily lead to a form of joyless legalism. The best combination of both aspects of worship results in a joyous appreciation of God informed by Scripture. The more we know about God, the more we appreciate Him."*^{viii}
- Quoting Adrian Rogers again, *"If you only worship in spirit you'll blow up, if you only worship in truth you'll dry up, but if you*

worship in both you'll grow up!^{”x} [To be a true worshiper of God]

- Colossians 3:16–17 (ESV) describe true worship in both spirit and truth:
- ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. [God’s word inspires songs of praise!]
- The next verse reminds us that “true worship” isn’t just praise music.
- ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.
- The Apostle Paul said in Romans 12:1 (ESV) ¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.
- Christ-followers should strive to make every part of our lives and service an act of worship to God by surrendering our very selves to His glory.
- That surrender is the beginning of “true worship.”

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- When followers of Christ clearly see who God is and what he has done for us, the only appropriate response is to worship Him; to give Him the worth, honor, and love only He deserves. It should be as natural as breathing!
- William Sangster was a prominent evangelical Methodist minister in Britain in the last century. Tragically, he was stricken with and died from a condition that caused his muscles to atrophy. *“On Easter morning, just a few weeks before his death, he managed [painfully] to write [a note to his daughter]: ‘How terrible to wake up on Easter and have no voice to shout, ‘He is risen!’ Far worse, to have a voice and not want to shout.’ ”*^x
- Jesus said if His people “kept quiet” the stones would praise Him.
- I would hate to be “out-worshiped” by the stones on the side of the road!
- What shape is your internal “worshiper” in these days?

- Is your “praise engine” tuned up and revving or a little out of gas?
- To fully enjoy life with Christ, we need to embrace and practice what it means to be a “true worshipper” of God.
- What does true worship look like? Here are some questions for reflection:
- Do I find time to worship God personally every day or just on Sunday?
- Do I daily renew my mind with the truth of scripture that leads to worship?
- When I think about God’s goodness does my heart do a little worship “dance” in my chest? How often am I moved to say, “Thank you Lord!”
- In corporate worship do I participate with zeal or sit like a stone?
- He’s not concerned if we’re on pitch, just if we’re on fire!
- Jesus said if I don’t praise, the stones would do it in my place! What a tragedy if I don’t worship my Heavenly Father better than a stone would.
- This week, let’s ask Him to help us make “true worship” the vital habit it should be in the life of every follower of Christ.

ⁱ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 254).

ⁱⁱ *ibid* (Vol. 1, p. 255).

ⁱⁱⁱ Strong, J. (2009). [*A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 61). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

^{iv} Duncan, J. L., Kimball, D., Lawrence, M., Quill, T. C. J., Wilt, D., Dever, M., & Pinson, J. M. (2009). [*Perspectives on Christian worship : 5 views : Ligon Duncan, Dan Kimball, Michael Lawrence & Mark Dever, Timothy Quill, Dan Wilt*](#) (p. 102). Nashville, TN: B&H Academic.

^v Dockery, D. S. (Ed.). (1992). [*Holman Bible Handbook*](#) (p. 613). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

^{vi} Duncan, J. L., Kimball, D., Lawrence, M., Quill, T. C. J., Wilt, D., Dever, M., & Pinson, J. M. (2009). [*Perspectives on Christian worship : 5 views : Ligon Duncan, Dan Kimball, Michael Lawrence & Mark Dever, Timothy Quill, Dan Wilt*](#) (p. 101). Nashville, TN: B&H Academic.

^{vii} <https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/love-worth-finding/player/>

^{viii} <https://www.gotquestions.org/worship-spirit-truth.html>

^{ix} <https://www.oneplace.com/ministries/love-worth-finding/player/>

^x <http://vancechristie.com/2016/03/23/shouting-christ-risen-william-sangster/>