

Wholehearted Worship
Session 3: Broad Worship
Service

Notes

Outline of Session

- 1. From Lordship to Loyalty
- 2. Serving the King
- 3. The King and His Decrees
- 4. The Importance of Obedience to the Lord
- 5. Our Domains of Service

From Lordship to Loyalty

The thing about making God king over our lives is that we now serve Him. With whatever He tells us to do, we do it out of recognition of His Lordship.

There is a natural compelling since we have already relinquished kingship over our lives.

Romans 12:1

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Latreuo).

Latreuo (As according to the concordance)

- Service rendered for hire
 - Any service or ministration: the service of God
- The service and worship of God according to the requirements of the Levitical law
- To perform sacred services

This form of worship, which refers to service, encompasses us laying ourselves down on the altar in surrender to say our lives and our bodies are for the king’s purposes, for His service.

We as a people of God should not be focused on the form without the right heart posture.

Matthew 4:8-10

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹ "All this I will give to you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"

In the Greek, Jesus is saying that we shall '*Proskyneo*' the Lord your God and '*Latreuo*' Him only.

Serving the King

When we talk about serving within the context of serving the King, it encapsulates the concept of loyalty, unwavering allegiance and unquestioning obedience.

James Packer

"*Servant*" in our English New Testament usually represents the Greek *doulos* (bondslave). Sometimes it means *diakonos* (deacon or minister); this is strictly accurate, for *doulos* and *diakonos* are synonyms. Both words denote a man who is not at his own disposal, but is his master's purchased property. Bought to serve his master's needs, to be at his beck and call every moment, the slave's sole business is to do as he is told. Christian service therefore means, first and foremost, living out a slave relationship to one's Savior

In this, he refers to 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

19 Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies

The King and His Decrees

God is not a king who just wants us to keep busy and do our own thing. Our God is a king that has a purpose and a mission for the expansion of his kingdom at the expense of the kingdom of darkness.

The stakes of this mission are high, eternal lives are at stake, and we must heed the commands and orders of the king if we truly say Lord you are king over my life.

If we are called to be the salt and light, but the brightest shining lights and the saltier ones of us Christians are in full time ministry, the church will be a very salty and blinding place.

Every single one of us is called to serve our Lord, not just in one specific arena, but almost every arena we are engaged in in our lives.

Service unto God is not relegated to the few who sign up to work for the church, neither is it reserved for times when we see our names on the roster.

The Importance of Obedience to the Lord

Saul's Disobedience

1 Samuel 15:1-11

¹ Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. ² This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'I will punish the Amalekites for what they did to Israel when they waylaid them as they came up from Egypt. ³ Now go, attack the Amalekites and totally destroy all that belongs to them. Do not spare them; put to death men and women,

children and infants, cattle and sheep, camels and donkeys.”

⁴ So Saul summoned the men and mustered them at Telaim—two hundred thousand foot soldiers and ten thousand from Judah. ⁵ Saul went to the city of Amalek and set an ambush in the ravine. ⁶ Then he said to the Kenites, “Go away, leave the Amalekites so that I do not destroy you along with them; for you showed kindness to all the Israelites when they came up out of Egypt.” So the Kenites moved away from the Amalekites.

⁷ Then Saul attacked the Amalekites all the way from Havilah to Shur, near the eastern border of Egypt. ⁸ He took Agag king of the Amalekites alive, and all his people he totally destroyed with the sword. ⁹ But Saul and the army spared Agag and the best of the sheep and cattle, the fat calves and lambs—everything that was good. These they were unwilling to destroy completely, but everything that was despised and weak they totally destroyed.

¹⁰ Then the word of the Lord came to Samuel: ¹¹ “I regret that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions.” Samuel was angry, and he cried out to the Lord all that night.

If we proclaim that he is our God and Lord, wholehearted worship means wholehearted surrender to his service. Not my will, but Yours be done!

Our Domains of Service

Activity Time! (Domain assigned: _____)

Within your assigned groups, discuss amongst yourselves what service unto the Lord looks like within your assigned domain.

Prompting Questions:

1. What are some verses that come to mind relating to your group's domain?

2. What do these verses say about what service to the Lord looks like within that context?

3. Can you give any concrete, practical examples of what that looks like?

Service within the Home

Ephesians 5:21-28

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Colossians 3:18-21

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

Deuteronomy 6:4-7

⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Discipleship first and foremost begins at home. It cannot be outsourced to the Sunday School program.

Service within the Church

1 Peter 4:10-11

¹⁰ Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. ¹¹ If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27-31

¹² Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³ For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. ¹⁴ Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.

...

²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. ²⁸ And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues. ²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰ Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹ Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way.

Service within the Workplace

Colossians 3:22-24

²² Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. ²³

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, ²⁴ since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

¹¹ and to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, ¹² so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.

1 Peter 2:12

¹² Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

Notice a common thread, as one commentary from Barnes' Notes on the Bible best explains this:

The truth taught here is, "that our conduct as Christians should be such as to bear the strictest scrutiny; such that the closest examination will lead our enemies to the conviction that we are upright and honest."

Service in Society

Matthew 5:13-16

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. ¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

James 1:27

²⁷ Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

Imagine how effective the kingdom of God would be if all of us surrendered our selfish wills and pursued his will instead.

Reflection Questions

- Which area of my life is most difficult to fully surrender to King Jesus—my home, my church, my workplace, or my place in society? Why?
- Am I faithfully serving God because He is my King, or am I only serving when it is convenient, enjoyable, or recognised by others?
- Is there a command or prompting from God that I already know, but have been slow or reluctant to obey? What is holding me back?
- If someone observed my life outside of church, would they recognise that I ultimately serve Christ? What evidence would they see?
- What is one practical step of faithful service I can take this week that demonstrates, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done," in my everyday life?