

Devotional: Day 27:

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Matthew 4:8-10 reads, "Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; and he said to Him, "All these things will I give You, if you FALL DOWN AND WORSHIP ME. Then Jesus said to him, "Begone Satan! For it is written: 'You shall worship the Lord Your God, and serve Him only.'"

Note again how the two are joined together by Jesus: 1. Worship 2. Serve Him.

I don't know that I have ever heard or read of Jesus being described as a worshipper. It would be true to say that He did sing - psalms and hymns; it would have been part of the services in the synagogue he attended, yet not a great deal is said about it; he certainly would not have sung as not as much as we do in our generation. And yet, it was at the very point of worship that He was tempted - *All these things will I give you, if you fall down and worship me....* to which Jesus replied: "...You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only."

Without a doubt He was not tempted to start singing worship songs to Satan. The temptation is clear - if you fall down and worship me...BEND YOUR KNEE TO ME, and DEFER TO ME... DO MY WILL... SERVE ME.

Worship of the Lord God is set in opposition to "all these things - all the kingdoms of this world and their glory"

It would be more than accurate to say that there was not one thing Jesus spoke as truth that was not first truth in His own life. That being true, it would be right to say that He also worshipped, yet His worship went deeper than singing - it involved and affected his entire life: He fully understood the words, "Obedience is better than sacrifice".

Take for instance the way He viewed His body - the writer of the book of Hebrews writes of Jesus in this way in **Hebrews 10 vs. 5-7**, "*sacrifice and offering you did not desire...but a body You have prepared for Me...Lo, I come, as it is written in the scroll of the book, to do your will, O God.*"

Please note the intimate connection between "A BODY prepared for Me", and "TO DO YOUR WILL O GOD."

His whole life was set to do the will of God. He viewed His body as NOT HIS OWN, but as an instrument through which to carry out the will of God. The implication is too clear to miss - It is impossible to do and carry out the assigned will of God without our bodies. That's how crucial our bodies are to us. Any wonder our enemy craves ruling over our bodies, whichever way he can.

Jesus demonstrates for us and to us that we need to view our bodies as instruments - prepared by God - to ONLY, simply and joyfully do the Father's will.

Our bodies are not our own. It has already been pointed out that our bodies are the Lord's temple.

We need to turn away from the lie and deception that our bodies are our own to do what we like with it, as if it does not matter in our worship and devotion to Jesus.

Imagine the Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, without His body. There wouldn't be any sacrifice. And without the body, there could be no resurrection. That would leave us still dead in our sins.

We have been entrusted with our bodies as a gift. We are temporarily "housed" in our bodies. It is required of stewards that they be found faithful - just as Jesus was.

Jesus, the worshipper's very life was a worship offering, one that was a constant and continuous offering before Yahweh. From the moment He said YES in the counsels of the Trinity, leaving the portals of Heaven to come to Earth, His "worship service" had begun, to climax finally in those words spoken on the Cross, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

- Spiritual worship involves the sacrifice of obedience
- Worship is Heartfelt obedience
- Worship is Yieldedness to God.

Jesus' entire life exuded the fragrance of worship to God, as He embraced dependence upon His Abba, living life in childlike trust.

Although He was a son, yet He willingly learned obedience from the things he suffered.

NO wonder that apostle Paul, in writing to the churches in Rome in Romans 12: 1 says, "*I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice acceptable to God...*" why sacrifice? simply because, "*if one has died then all have died so that we who now live, do not live for ourselves any longer, but for Him and to Him, who loved us and gave Himself up for us.*"

In choosing His will over our own, we are sacrificing our wills and therefore our lives in small ways. A sacrifice by its very nature, is that which is killed or offered as a whole burnt offering, to be consumed by the fire. Yet here, we are to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice - (note: it's singular, not plural) Because of Jesus - He was the Living Sacrifice - what we see on the cross is only the culmination of a life lived- out in sacrifice flowing from a heart of utter devotion to His Abba.

Jesus demonstrates worship for us:

Worship is Devotion to God.

Submission of wills and surrender of bodies are the hallmark of genuine worship of God.

The sacrifice of **my will** for **the Father's will**, is the offering of worship that is God-honouring

"You are my friends, if you do what I command you." John 15:14

Let us find in Jesus the grace to fully yield and become passionately devoted to Him: so that we worship and serve the One and Only.