Watch What You Worship April 5, 2020

*Psalm 115 Series: Hope from Israel’s Oldest Playlist*

When men stop worshipping God, they promptly start worshipping man, with disastrous results. – George Orwell

Intro: Elvis grant me serenity?

1. Worship is a multiple-choice question.
2. Have you given your worship to people?

v. 1 *Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory*

1. Have you given your worship to things that are not gods?

The ‘gods’ that we create are powerless. vv. 5-7

Trusting in the ‘gods’ that we create makes us as powerless as they are.

* + v. 8 *Those who make them become like them; so do all who trust in them.*

1. Have you given your worship to the God of the Bible?

He’s the God who deserves “glory.” v. 1

He’s the God of “steadfast love” and “faithfulness.” v. 1

He’s the God who “does all that he pleases.” v. 3

Daniel 4:35 *… he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”*

Exodus 20:5 *You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God …*

* What are some of the idols and philosophies that have been proven powerless by COVID-19?
* Why is false worship so troubling to God?
* In addition to singing, what are some ways that we can worship God in a pandemic?

1. Worship the Lord in defiance of the world’s substitutes.
2. Because He saves. vv. 9-11

v. 9 *O Israel, trust in the LORD! He is their help and their shield.*

1. Because He remembers. vv. 12-15

v. 12 *The LORD has remembered us; he will bless us …*

Genesis 7:24-8:1 *And the waters prevailed on the earth 150 days. But God remembered Noah and all the beasts and all the livestock that were with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided.*

Exodus 2:24 *And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.*

1. Because of eternity. vv. 16-18

We are given the opportunity to praise the Lord now in this life. v. 17

v. 18 *But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and forevermore.*

* How has God proven that He is a “help” and a “shield” to His people in the Bible and history?
* What does it matter that God remembers you if you’re stuck in an ark for 150 days or slaves in Egypt for 430 years?
* How does COVID-19 and all of its physical and economic implications feel different in light of heaven and eternity?

1. Jesus sang this psalm for you, and He invites you to sing it with Him.
2. What hymn did they sing?

Matthew 26:30 *And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.*

Psalms 113-118 are called the Egyptian Hallel. Psalms 113 and 114 were read before the Passover Meal and Psalms 115-118 were sung after it.

1. He trusted the Father in defiance of the world’s substitutes.

Even when He was betrayed by Judas. Matthew 26:49

Even when He was abandoned by His disciples. Matthew 26:56

Even when Peter denied Him. Matthew 26:74

Even when He is mocked by the crowd. Matthew 27:31

Even when He was dying on the cross. Matthew 27:50

* How would this psalm have brought encouragement to Jesus as he sang it after the last supper?
* What would verse 9, 12 or 14 mean to someone who was about to be betrayed, denied, forsaken and killed?
* Where do you most need help in applying this passage?

Study ahead: Next Sunday, we’ll study Romans 10:8-13.

Notes