

Jesus and His Worship

Intro:

1. Jesus demonstrated a strict adherence to the Law of Moses, even though it was a preparatory covenant of types/shadows. He worshiped under the Law.
2. Contrast Jesus' worship with modern attitudes. Collective worship seen as unimportant, reverence has given way to revelry. Entertainment provided for audience.

1. Jesus' Involvement in Public Worship

A. Jesus worshiped in the synagogues:

1. Lk 4:16 – *“And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath ...”*. Are any of us busier than Jesus was? Yet He organized His time weekly so as to include worship with others.

2. Mt 6:2 – Hypocrites in the synagogues, *yet Jesus went!*

B. Jesus taught in synagogues: Mt 4:23; 9:35; 13:54; discourse of Jn 6 in synagogue (6:59); *“I always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where the Jews always meet ...”* (Jn 18:20).

C. Cast out demons in synagogue (Lk 4:33ff); healed withered hand in synagogue (while teaching – Lk 6:6ff); woman doubled over (Lk 13:10ff).

2. Jesus' Observance of Feasts

A. John's gospel highlights Jesus' attendance at feasts:

1. Passover (2:13); unnamed feast (5:1); Tabernacles (7:2); Dedication (10:22); Passover (13:1). Jesus prayed (Mt 26:26-27) and sang (Mt 26:30) in conjunction with these feasts.

2. All these required arduous, dangerous and lengthy journeys to Jerusalem.

B. Jesus further paid temple taxes (though He was technically exempt as “Son” – Mt 17:24-27); observed cleansing rites (Mt 8:4 – leper). He undoubtedly did all that was commanded of a Jewish male – except offer sin offerings.

C. Jesus respected the authority of Mosaic Law; He did not exempt Himself simply because the Law originated with Him. His worship conformed to the standard.

3. Jesus' Private Devotion

- A. There are many instances of Jesus praying, communing with His Father.
 - 1. Constant practice – Lk 5:16.
 - 2. Jesus made time to pray (sent multitudes/disciples away) – Mk 6:46; rose early in the morning – Mk 1:35.
 - 3. Prayed before important decisions (all night in prayer) – Lk 6:12. Prayed before important act (raising Lazarus) – Jn 11:41ff.
 - 4. Transfiguration; He went to pray – Lk 9:28.
 - 5. Great need, stress (Gethsemane) – Mt 26:36-46; cf. Heb 5:7.
- B. The greater the demands upon us – time, family, elders, illness, etc. – the greater the need to pray.
- C. Prayer should be a natural outgrowth of relationship, as it was between Jesus and His Father. One does not sense that Jesus prayed out of obligation; rather, it was communion with One whom He loved and depended upon.

4. Jesus Teaches Men to Pray

- A. Disciples felt need for instruction in prayer – Lk 11:1ff. Jesus' example included praise toward God; submissiveness to His will; supplication for His blessings (physical: food; spiritual: forgiveness, guidance).
- B. The prayer was simple, conversational. Not an oratorical masterpiece but natural, heartfelt communication.
- C. Jesus warns against public spectacles (Mt 6:5-6); vain repetition (Mt 6:7).
- D. Exhortation regarding our private prayer: make time, pray anywhere, talk to God about what's on your mind.
- E. Exhortation regarding public prayer: avoid cliches, be specific, tailor prayer to occasion.

Conclusion: For Jesus, worship was both a private act of devotion and a public duty engaged in with others. Jesus' example answers many of the petty excuses men offer for absenting themselves from worship or thinking that it is of little importance in their life. Cessation of worshipful attitude precedes cessation of attendance at corporate worship.