

## “What is Worship?” Blandford and Langton Home Groups - Spring 2007

### Session 7 “Worship is ... Sacrament”

(Week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> March)

*There are two sections to this study - a review of the sessions so far and a short study concerning Sacraments. It is unlikely that Home Groups will get through all of the material and so the leader will need to be selective. However, the two sections are connected as they inform each other and hopefully both are of use !*

- Welcome

What style of clothes do you feel most comfortable in?

- Worship

It is suggested that each week, one person in the group might like to chose a song or hymn which has helped them to worship God - and to explain in one or two sentences why they have chosen it. If a CD is available, then it might be good to listen to it - or you could sing it as a group.

Spend a few minutes talking about the best and worst bits of life since you last met. Read Mark 10:13-16 and reflect on the nature of being “child-like”. Thank God for being able to come to him as you are, with all that has happened to you and pray that you will have the relationship which Jesus demonstrates in these verses. Songs of Fellowship 305 “Jesus, take me as I am”, 316 “Just As I Am” and 1113 “When the music fades” may be helpful.

- Word

To start with, review the first sessions of this series. The leader (or the leader of the relevant session) may want to refer back to the notes and draw out the pertinent points that came out in your group discussions from each of the sessions:

- ❖ Worship is ... Being Together
- ❖ Worship is ... Praise
- ❖ Worship is ... Confession
- ❖ Worship is ... What we Believe
- ❖ Worship is ... Love and Discipline

Please note - this is something which is about your particular group and how these things have spoken into the lives of the people in your group.

- ❖ Have you changed your views on any aspect of worship as a result of this series? If so, what?
- ❖ Have you changed the way you worship? If so, how?

Worship should change us. It is an expression of our response to God and is, therefore, part of the relationship we are seeking to Discover and Nature. *How* we worship can depend on how we have been brought up to worship and the style of the church in which we are part of.

- ❖ Is it a good thing that we should feel “comfortable” with our preferred style of worship?
- ❖ Are there times when that can be a hindrance? How?
- ❖ Is it a good thing to “try another style” sometimes? What are the benefits or pitfalls?

#### Sacraments

All styles of worship, traditional and modern develop their own styles of worship, their own liturgies and their own preferred styles of music and speech. Sacraments cross these boundaries as actions in worship with a deeper meaning - for example, Holy Communion or Baptism (the two sacraments acknowledged in Anglican Worship). Read the definitions on the Information Sheet - you may like to discuss which are the ones which have most meaning to you as individuals or as a group.

Read Matthew 23:27 (you may want to refer to the Commentary Extracts on the Information Sheet)

- ❖ Why did Jesus condemn the Pharisees?
- ❖ What was the underlying cause of their sin?
- ❖ What are the equivalents in today's church?
- ❖ Are there times when we are all similarly guilty? How?
- ❖ Is this more of a problem with traditional or modern worship - or is it equally a problem in both?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-29 (you may want to refer to the Commentary on the Information Sheet and the Sermon text also provides information as to why Holy Communion is important).

- ❖ The text Paul uses is exactly the same as that quoted in the Gospels - therefore it is seen as having authority and credibility.
- ❖ Why should approaching Communion in the wrong way be sinful (verse 27-29)?
- ❖ When we worship, which is the most important - outward appearances or inner honesty?\*
- ❖ When Jesus says that God wants us to worship in "Spirit and Truth", where does the worship, the interaction between us and God, take place?
- ❖ And ... where does God deal with us as a result (eg Forgiveness)?
- ❖ How does this help to understand Sacraments? Discuss!

\* Hopefully, the easiest question ever to appear in a set of Home Group Notes.

### Works

- Share your understanding of Sacraments and how they can help you, as an individual.
- If there are issues which affect you in this, share them - and, where appropriate, encourage each other in a new understanding.
- Pray for each other to be able to approach worship with a new understanding - whether it be sacramental worship or not.

- Next meeting ...

### Next Wednesday, 14th March: "Love is ... Nourishing"

You may like to bring something to eat for this session (say, nibbles or special biscuits) ... and may want to prepare this at the current time !

Are you coming to ...

- The evening on Welcoming (12<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm in Church)?
- The concert by the Signals Band (24<sup>th</sup> March)?
- The Weekend Away?

Book now and come together!!

**JESUS TAKE ME AS I AM,**  
I can come no other way.  
Take me deeper into You,  
Make my flesh life melt away.  
Make me like a precious stone,  
Crystal clear and finely honed,  
Life of Jesus shining through,  
Giving glory back to You.

316 Charlotte Elliot.

**JUST AS I AM,** without one plea  
But that Thy blood was shed for me,  
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not  
To rid my soul of one dark blot,  
To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt,  
Fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;  
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,  
Yea, all I need in Thee to find,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,  
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,  
Because Thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, Thy love unknown  
Has broken every barrier down;  
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

Just as I am, of that free love  
The breadth, length, depth and height to prove,  
Here for a season, then above,  
O Lamb of God, I come.

**WHEN THE MUSIC FADES**, all is stripped away,  
And I simply come;  
Longing just to bring something that's of worth  
That will bless Your heart.

I'll bring You more than a song,  
For a song in itself  
Is not what You have required.  
You search much deeper within  
Through the way things appear;  
You're looking into my heart.

*I'm coming back to the heart of worship,  
And it's all about You,  
All about You, Jesus.  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it,  
When it's all about You,  
All about You, Jesus.*

King of endless worth, no one could express  
How much You deserve.  
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours,  
Every single breath.

*A Songs of Fellowship Worship Resource*

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