

# MINISTRY

## The Heart of Worship



### THE HEART OF WORSHIP

**Matt Redman** (English worship leader who wrote 10,000 reasons, Blessed Be Your Name, How Great Is Our God, among many other songs) wrote this song:

*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 It's all about you, Jesus  
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it  
When it's all about you, It's all about you, Jesus*

The song dates to the late 1990s, born from a period of apathy within Matt's home church, Soul Survivor, in Watford, England. Redman's congregation was struggling to find meaning in its musical outpouring at the time. **"There was a dynamic missing, so the pastor did a pretty brave thing,"** he recalls. **"He decided to get rid of the sound system and band for a season, and we gathered together with just our voices. His point was that we'd lost our way in worship, and the way to get back to the heart would be to strip everything away."**

Reminding his church family to be **producers in worship, not just consumers**, the pastor, Mike Pilavachi, asked, **"When you come through the doors on a Sunday, what are you bringing as your offering to God?"**

Redman said that 'The Heart of Worship' simply described what occurred."

*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'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about You, Jesus*

**Worship is the core responsibility of every believer** – every Christian – we were created to bring glory to Him – to worship Him with all our heart. Worship is SO important to God that Jesus declared that if we do not worship God then the very rocks and stones would cry out in worship of their Creator.

Luke 19:37-40

*<sup>37</sup> As he was drawing near—already on the way down the Mount of Olives—the whole multitude of his disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, <sup>38</sup> saying, “Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” <sup>39</sup> And some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, rebuke your disciples.” <sup>40</sup> He answered, “I tell you, if these were silent, the very stones would cry out.”*

Every Sunday morning and Wednesday evening we come with one express purpose – to **THANK, PRAISE, and WORSHIP** God. But do we know what these three words really mean and how they differ from one another? Do we understand what worship really is? Do we know if our worship is acceptable to God?

## **TUESDAY**

We are going to take a look at some key verses about thanksgiving, praise, and worship is found in the OT and NT.

### **Psalms 100: 1-4**

**“SHOUT FOR JOY** (roo-ah = to split the ears with sound) **to the LORD, all the earth. WORSHIP the LORD with gladness; come before him with JOYFUL SONGS** (ren-aw-nah = joyful triumphing). **Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with THANKSGIVING** (to-dah – to extend the hand in adoration) **and his courts with PRAISE** (the-hil-aw = spontaneous praise, singing, dancing, **GIVE THANKS** (yaw-daw = to extend the hand in the exuberance of praise) **to Him and PRAISE** (baw-rak = to bless by kneeling or prostrating oneself) **His name.**”

**This is a Psalm that shows us how we should enter into the presence of God?** This is not one of David's psalms...it was composed many years before David's time. The Temple in Jerusalem had not yet been built (by his son Solomon) and the central place of Israel's worship was the **Tabernacle**. There was a progression of worship in the Tabernacle. It is important to understand what went on in the Tabernacle as it is a symbol of a progression in our worship of God. We're going to look at that next week.

The second verse is found in the NT.

### **Hebrews 12:28-29:**

*"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is **a consuming fire**" (ESV)*

We are to come before him with thanksgiving and praise – and worship Him in reverence and awe – this kind of worship is declared to be "acceptable to God. But I wonder how much of our worship actually IS acceptable to God? Does God enjoy our thanksgiving, praise, and worship? Is He pleased with what we say, pray, and sing? How do we know? Who is the judge of "good worship?" Only God alone.

**Joke:** Young boy saying his bead time prayers on a Sunday evening after having gone to church that morning. Dad overhears him praying. He prays, *"Dear God, we had a great time at church today...I wish you could have been there!!"*

It's possible to have a great time in church – without true worship taking place. We need to encounter the living God in our worship.

## **WEDNESDAY**

**Let's talk about what the Bible says about:**

- Thanksgiving
- Praise
- Worship

## **THANKSGIVING:**

Simply is an expression of thanks for what God has given to us. It's polite to say "thank you" to people for what they have done for us.

To *"Enter His gates with thanksgiving.."* Is to already have an attitude of gratitude. We are to come to church with grateful hearts...not to get pumped up to become thankful!!

## **Psalms 95:1 -3**

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with **thanksgiving** and extol him with music and song. For the Lord is the great God, the great King above all gods."

### **Psalm 7:17**

"I will **give thanks** to the Lord because of his righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the Lord Most High."

### **Psalm 9:1**

"I will **give thanks** to you, Lord, with all my heart I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

### **Psalm 107:21-22**

"Let them **give thanks** to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind. Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy."

## **New Testament**

### **Colossians 3:16-17**

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, **giving thanks** to God the Father through him."

But our greatest thanks is reserved for the greatest gift God has given to us...

### **2 Corinthians 9:15**

"**Thanks be to God** for his indescribable gift!" JESUS!!

## **PRAISE**

To praise someone is to commend the merits of someone and something they have done. Like thanksgiving praise needs to be vocal and demonstrative. We praise God for what He has done for us and for His virtues.

## **Old Testament**

### **Psalm 9:1**

"I will praise you O Lord with all my heart. I will tell of all your wonders"

### **Psalm 150: 1-6.**

"Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens! Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his excellent greatness! Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp! Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe! Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals! ...Let everything that

has breath praise the Lord.  
Praise the Lord.

### **Psalm 34:1**

*"I will bless the LORD **at** all times; **His praise shall continually be in my mouth.**"*

### **New Testament**

### **Hebrews 13:15-16**

*"Through Jesus, therefore, **let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise** — the fruit of lips that openly profess his name"*

### **THURSDAY**

#### **WORSHIP**

"Worship" is mentioned over 270 times in the Bible  
Most common word is "proskuneo" = lit "to kiss the hand" like a dog would lick his master's hand. Old English word = weordscipe = worthship. English law courts "your worship". **Marion Webster** gives 12 synonyms". ADORE, ADMIRE, DOTE, ESTEEM, EXALT, LOVE, MAGNIFY, REGARD, RESPECT, REVERE, REVERENCE, VENERATE.

### **Old Testament**

**1 Samuel 15:22** – worshiping God means more than just words

*"But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? **To obey is better than sacrifice**, and to heed is better than the fat of rams."*

**Isaiah 29:13** – true worship comes from the heart...not the liturgy

*"The Lord says: "These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. **Their worship of me is based on merely human rules they have been taught.**"*

### **New Testament**

### **John 4:23-24.**

*"He said, But the hour cometh and now is, when the true worshipers shall **worship the Father in spirit** and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship Him."*

### **Hebrews 12:28-29:**

*"Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, for our God is **a consuming fire**" (ESV)*

### **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”*

## **What Is The Difference Between Thanksgiving, Praise, and Worship**

The Bible repeatedly commands Christians to be thankful: **“In everything give thanks, for this is God's will for you...”** (1 Thessalonians 5:18). It also repeatedly tells us to praise God: **“Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord.”** (Psalm 150:6)

Yet many Christians have never thought about the difference between the two.

**Here is my brief explanation of the subtle (but important) differences between thanksgiving and praise:**

### **1. Thanksgiving focuses on benefits bestowed to us.**

When we thank someone, it's because we have something we appreciate which has been a blessing for us. We have benefited and we want to let others know we appreciate it. We might be thankful for a gift, a compliment, a favor, etc.

### **2. Praise focuses on the character of God and our love for Him.**

While thanksgiving focuses on blessings bestowed on us, praise focuses on God. We praise Him for His character, His attributes and His abilities. I've often heard people say they're praising God, but in fact, they are thanking Him. It's one thing for me to thank Jesse for making the dinner. But it's another thing for me to praise her for her character, her attributes, her abilities.

Of the two, thanksgiving and praise, I think most people prefer to receive praise for who they are, as opposed to thanksgiving for what they have done. Apparently, it's the same way for God.

**“Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.”** (Psalm 100:4)

Thanksgiving allows us to begin to become close to God. Praise brings us even closer.

## **FRIDAY**

**What is the difference between praise and worship?**

Praise is a prelude to worship  
Worship may come out of praise but praise is not a substitute for worship

Praise is concerned with what God has done  
Psalm 107 "O that men would **praise the Lord for** His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men"  
Worship is concerned with Who God is

The call to praise is normally followed by the conjunction "for"  
The call to worship points to a person (noun) "worship the Lord"

Praise is an expression of life  
Worship is a lifestyle

Praise can be an act of our will (emotions)  
Worship involves our entire life

Praise is vocal and physically demonstrative  
Worship often does not involve speaking or action

Some Christians never go beyond the realm of thanksgiving or praise

Thanksgiving and praise bring us into God's presence...worship is what we do when we get there.

The writer to the Hebrews gives us some clues about how we should worship our God.

### **Hebrews 12:28-29**

*"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken let us be thankful, and **so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe**, for our God is a consuming fire."*

Worship is extreme submission – extravagant love  
**"We are worshippers first and workers second"**. AW Tozer

Worship is not simply what we say or sing on a Sunday morning or Wednesday night...it is a lifetime of love and obedience to God

I was made to praise you  
I was made to glorify your name  
In every circumstance to find  
A chance to thank you

I was made to love you

I was made to worship at your feet  
And to obey you Lord  
I was made for you

We worship Him in what we say to Him  
We worship Him in what we say about Him  
We worship Him in all that we do...as unto the Lord

We thank Him for what He has given to us  
We praise Him for what He has done for us  
We worship Him for who He is

Worship is a response to what you know about God

Question: Is our current worship worthy of a sovereign, majestic God