

## The Heart of Worship

<sup>45</sup> Then he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling things there;

<sup>46</sup> and he said, "It is written, 'My house shall be a house of prayer'; but you have made it a den of robbers." (Luk 19:45-46 NRS)

<sup>24</sup> For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.

<sup>25</sup> Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own;

<sup>26</sup> for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself.

<sup>27</sup> And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment,

<sup>28</sup> so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

(Heb 9:24-10:1 NRS)

Why are you here? Have you ever really thought about why you come to this church? Are you here because you were raised that way? Are you here because your Mom or Dad forced you to come? Are you here because you are afraid people will talk about you if you don't show up? Are you here because you are looking for a new church? Are you here because you are trying to network with people who might

help you in business? We all have different reasons for attending a church service on Sunday morning, some of them are better than others. The money changers and dove salesmen were at the Temple but it wasn't to praise God and so God in the form of Jesus, threw them out. If Jesus were to show up here today, whip in hand, would he throw any of us out? I ask again, why are you here? The Boy Scouts of Troop 131 are here because they were invited so that we could show them how much we appreciate them using our church. Why are you here? Your reason will have a lot to do with what you take away from the service today because it will affect your attitude. Are you a spectator? Or are you a participant?

If you are a spectator then you will have a different attitude than one who comes to participate in the service. You will notice if the pew is comfortable or not. You will notice if the temperature of the sanctuary is too hot or too cold. You will be aware of whether or not the singers are in tune, or off tempo.... You will be critical of the songs chosen, the length of the pastor's message rather than the content, and you will make sure that people know whether or not you feel your needs were met or if you found the hour entertaining....

If you are here as a participant, then you will not be concerned with anything but letting God know that you love Him and that you are here to serve Him or whomever God has chosen for you to serve. None of us are here today by accident. God has set up divine intersections for us in church today. He has prepared a gift for each us to receive and it is up to us to make sure that everyone who is here today receives it.

Did you realize that you are worshipping in a replica of the heavenly worship space? The temple where Jesus threw out the money changers was to be a house of prayer and it was built to be a copy of the heavenly realm. So you are here experiencing a sample of heaven, and you can either join in the celebration or be a spectator. Since God wants you here to be part of the worship, you should not be treating the service like you are Blake Shelton or Gwen Stefani, judges on the Voice, but rather you should be the proud hosts of this party to honor God and all that He has done for us.

What I'm getting at is that our attitude can make all the difference in what kind of a worship experience we have. If we don't feel that we have gotten something out of worship, it could be because we really didn't get to the heart of worship.

Matt Reddman story about "The Heart of Worship"