

# LIVING BEYOND THIS LIFE - WORSHIP PART II

## “HEALING WORSHIP”

May 24-25, 2008

### **Ice Breaker**

What are some of the feelings or emotions you experience during worship?

### **Introduction**

If we really stop and think about it, worship should be an emotional type of experience. Just as Isaiah was overwhelmed in his meeting with God, we should not be surprised if we are overwhelmed when we move towards God and encounter Him in worship. It is healthy for us to be reminded as we worship of how incredibly great God is, and how unworthy we are in comparison to His Holiness. It is while we are positioned in this place and see our need, that God meets us and provides healing, restoration, and wholeness.

### **Worship Thought**

Read Psalm 8 together and reflect on the majesty and holiness of God. Try to put yourself in the place of Moses in front of the burning bush (Exodus 3:2-6), or when God's presence passed by him on the mountain (Exodus 33:19-23). While it may be impossible for us to fully comprehend God's holiness, it is important for us to try and be aware of it.

### **This Week's Memory Verse**

**Matthew 22:37**, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

### **Life Example**

Recently I read an article that painted such an overwhelming picture in my mind that, by the time I reached the half-way point, I was moved to tears. With two runners on base, five foot two inch, Sara Tucholsky of Western Oregon University knocked one over the center field fence, something she had never done before, in high school or college.

But triumph turned to tragedy when in her excitement she missed first base and as she started back to tag it, she collapsed with a knee injury. Crawling the rest of the way to the base, she could move no further. The first base coach said she would be called out if her teammates assisted her or, the umpire said, a pitch runner could take her place and the three run homer would count as a single.

Then an amazing thing happened. Two players from the opposing Central Washington University team, first baseman Mallory Holtman, the career home run leader in the Great Northwest Athletic Conference, and shortstop Liz Wallace, picked up Sara, and as gently as possible, carried her around the bases, stopping to lower her good leg at each base. As they reached home plate the spectators were in tears. As a result of Tucholsky's home run, Western Oregon University won 4-2, eliminating any chance of Central Washington advancing to the playoffs.

While being carried around the bases, Sara recalled all she could think of was the pain. It wasn't till later that she realized the extent of their sacrifice.

Much in the same way, when we choose to worship in spite of our own hurt and pain, we can experience God lifting us up and carrying us through towards victory. It is amazing that while worship is something we are giving to God, as we exalt and lift Him up, as a loving Father, He lifts us up.

### **Key Passages**

Isaiah 6:1-8

### **Discussion Questions**

- What is the primary reason or purpose we worship? What does it mean to live a life of worship?
- In Psalm 63 and Acts 16:25-26, how does worship lead to healing or release? Why and how is worship able to heal us?
- Have you ever experienced any type of healing through worship? How did God prepare your heart to receive healing through worship? What kinds of worship bring you healing?
- Read Daniel 10:6-8 and Luke 5:8-9. What was their reaction to God? Have you ever been overwhelmed by God?

### **Prayer/Ministry**

Allow time for an extended time of worship here. As Pastor Dan pointed out, worship brings restoration to our lives. As we seek Him, He enters into our shortcomings and brings wholeness. Whether it be singing along with music, quietly listening along, reading Scripture, or praying - try to really focus on who God is, what He has done, how great He is, and how much He loves you.

### **Going Deeper**

One of the forms of worship that is not emphasized as much today as in the past is sacrifice. Yet we see the importance of sacrifice all through the Bible, starting with Abel and the blood sacrifice of animals (Genesis 4:4) and continuing through the blood sacrifice of Jesus on the cross for our sins. What other forms might sacrifice take?

Read Hebrews 13:15

Throughout the Old Testament God's people are instructed to give a "sacrifice of praise" for the purpose of giving thanks, and to help them recognize the blessing of God in their life. Do you think that the meaning here in the New Testament is the same?

Do a word study on how sacrifice is used through the Old and New Testaments.

### **Next Week's Memory Verse**

**Psalm 16:11**, “In My presence you will find fullness of joy.”