



The Mission Of Worship

*Tupos Student Ministries
Wednesday Night Live – January 18, 2012*

Acts 17:16-23 = "The longer Paul waited in Athens for Silas and Timothy, the angrier he got—all those idols! The city was a junkyard of idols. 17-18 He discussed it with the Jews and other like-minded people at their meeting place. And every day he went out on the streets and talked with anyone who happened along. He got to know some of the Epicurean and Stoic intellectuals pretty well through these conversations. Some of them dismissed him with sarcasm: "What an airhead!" But others, listening to him go on about Jesus and the resurrection, were intrigued: "That's a new slant on the gods. Tell us more." 19-21 These people got together and asked him to make a public presentation over at the Areopagus, where things were a little quieter. They said, "This is a new one on us. We've never heard anything quite like it. Where did you come up with this anyway? Explain it so we can understand." Downtown Athens was a great place for gossip. There were always people hanging around, natives and tourists alike, waiting for the latest tidbit on most anything. 22-23 So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. "It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I'm here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you're dealing with." (Msg)

I. The Mission

a. This "Unknown God"

- i. I believe this is what our culture today is worshipping
- ii. You/Your friends = all about sports, video games, drinking, partying, texting, sex, relationships, cheating, gambling, school, etc = *it's their "god"*
- iii. They are searching for fulfillment!



b. They Need To Know

- i. We need to tell them who He is (like Paul did)
- ii. How are they gonna meet Jesus if they don't hear His Word preached? How they going to hear it preached if they don't come hang out at cool places like this church? How they gonna make it to church if you don't invite them? (**Romans 10:14**)
- iii. It's not about saying the right things to get them here... just invite them!

Video = "Johnny & Chachi's Church Invite" (Igniter, Vol 11, 3:30)

- iv. You don't need some special formula to get people to Jesus... just invite them!
- v. Being on mission begins with worshipping Him

II. Our Worship

a. Worship 101 (Back to the Basics)

- i. Worship defined = "adoration, love, respect, reverence, devotion"
- ii. More than a song, more than a service, more than a place, more than an hour, more than a camp!
- iii. Is that what we are doing? "Worshipping"

b. The Why & How Of Our Worship

- i. Ever wondered why we worship the way we do? How we should? "That's how it's always been" =

Two young newlyweds were preparing to enjoy their first baked ham dinner in their new apartment. After unwrapping the meat and setting it on the cutting board, the wife chopped off both ends of the ham with a butcher knife, tossing the two small ends in the garbage can.

"Wait a minute," said the mystified husband. "Why did you do that? Why did you just cut off the ends of the ham like that?"

"I don't know. My mother always did," answered the wife. "Maybe it helps bring out the flavor."

Unsatisfied with this answer, the husband called his mother-in-law. "Can you tell me why you cut the two ends off of a ham before you cook it?"

"Well," said the mother, "I'm not really sure why. That's just the way my mother did her ham, and it was always delicious."

As soon as he hung up he called his wife's grandmother. "Grandma, we have an important question for you. Can you tell us why you cut the ends off of a ham before you cook it?"

"Oh my yes, dear," answered Grandma in her quiet thin voice. "I cut the ends of the ham off so it would fit in my pan."

Traditions shape our lives, but it's important to know why we do them. "Because we've always done it that way" doesn't provide enough meaning to keep our traditions from becoming stale and meaningless.

We may have received our worship traditions from great great-grandparents, but for us to offer authentic worship we want to understand the meaning behind the traditions. Jesus urged his followers to "worship in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). If worship seems lifeless and dull to us, perhaps we're just going through the motions instead of being empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Similarly, God welcomes creativity and fresh approaches to serving him. God wants to use you in ways that he has never used anyone before. Let God's Holy Spirit lead you to take risks and try new ways of serving him. **(Hot Illustrations 1.0, Grandma's Ham)**

ii. Maybe we just need to get back to the heart of worship!? "It's all about you, Jesus..."

c. Worship Should Lead Us (3 Acts of Worship)

- i. Worship means we know who God is
- ii. Worship means we love Him for what He's done
- iii. Worship means we share with others about Him
 1. "Treasures like God are not to be hoarded. They are public domain, a shared commodity that is not diminished by the sharing. Those who really know God will want Him to be known." (W the K, Oct 28th)

III. The Mission Of Worship

a. From Worship Comes A Mission

- i. "The mission trip began in a prayer meeting. The church at Antioch has been worshipping – 'ministering to the Lord' (Acts 13:2). And whenever people truly worship, the desire, even the compulsion, to make know the God they know takes over. So Paul & Barnabas were set apart for the work of proclaiming the gospel in distance territories. It was the beginning of a lifetime of Greco-Roman evangelism." (Worship the King devo, Oct 28th)
- ii. True worship = truly being on mission (serving Him)
- iii. It's how we live when we leave here that matters:

b. Who Are You Making Famous?

- i. **Closing song** = "Famous One" (Him/me famous?)
- ii. Wrong version 1st: "I am Justin, the famous one, famous one, great is my name in all the earth.... my youth group declares, I'm awesome, so awesome... great is my name in all the earth."
 1. (No! Forgive me, Lord!)
- iii. He's the Famous One = 1 Chronicles 16:29 = "Give to the LORD the glory he deserves!" (NLT)



Tupos Student Ministries Small Group Life Application Sheet



Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2012

Lesson Theme: Evangelism

Lesson Objective: Missions and Worship are probably the 2 biggest buzz words in churches today. We will study about the mission of worship tonight... actually living out our worship, much like Paul the Apostle teaches us in this encounter with the lost people of Athens.

Lesson Text: **Acts 17:16-23** = "So Paul took his stand in the open space at the Areopagus and laid it out for them. 'It is plain to see that you Athenians take your religion seriously. When I arrived here the other day, I was fascinated with all the shrines I came across. And then I found one inscribed, to the god nobody knows. I'm here to introduce you to this God so you can worship intelligently, know who you're dealing with.'" (vv.22-23, Msg)

Discussion Question:

1. Name 1 person you know who is worshipping this "unknown god" (doesn't know Jesus). What are you gonna do about it?

Prayer Time: Ask God to make you bold and to help you share Him...



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I. The _____

a. This "_____ God"

- What are the "gods" in our culture today?



b. They _____ To _____

- We need to tell them! = Romans 10:14
- Being on mission begins with worshipping Him

II. Our _____

a. Worship _____

- Worship = _____

b. The _____ and _____ Of Our Worship

- Ever wonder why we worship like we do?
- Maybe we just need to get back to the heart of it!

c. Worship Should _____ Us

- Worship means we _____
- Worship means we _____
- Worship means we _____
- "Treasures like God are not to be hoarded. They are public domain, a shared commodity that is not diminished by the sharing. Those who really know God will want Him to be known." (Worship the King devo, Oct 28th)



III. The _____ Of _____

a. From Worship _____ A _____

- True worship = truly being on mission for God.

b. Who Are You Making _____?

- 1 Chronicles 16:29 = "Give to the LORD the glory he deserves!" (NLT)