



What Would Jesus Undo? – Hollow Worship

Date: Sunday 9th September 2018

Speakers: Jon Solway & Adam Pipe

Key Verses: Matthew 15:1-9

Talk Summary

- Jesus sees the Pharisees' hearts when they question Him. He sees that they worship with external actions, but their hearts aren't focussed on connecting with God.
- We can easily get caught up in style or preference or what worship looks like, but the important thing is the heart that you approach it with.
- There are loads of different ways to express your worship, many of which are specifically mentioned in the Bible, including kneeling, lifting hands, dancing, using instruments, shouting, and more.
- We worship with a sacrifice of praise. Even when we don't feel like worshipping, we remember that worship is based on His goodness, and giving thanks for what He has done, and so we look past our circumstances to worship Him.
- The most important expression of worship is presenting our lives as living sacrifices (Romans 12:1). In every action that we do, as we use our God given gifts in our homes, workplaces and during our week, we give Him glory.

Small Group Questions

You might like to discuss this quote:

'It is still possible for us as Christian believers to be saying the right things, singing God's praises, expressing worship and honour to him in prayer; and yet for our hearts all the time to be hardening, to be cold, because they are turning away from the living God. We can be caught up in "worship"; we can formulate correct doctrine; we can discuss all the latest Christian ideas; and yet the whole ethos can be empty and bogus, merely human, if we do not have a heart that is on fire with love for God.'

Some other questions for discussion:

- Why do we worship at all?
- What does a meaningful expression of worship in church look like for you? What expression of worship do you find easiest to do, or most relate with?
- When situations in your life get tough, how do you still choose to worship?
- Read Matthew 15:7-9: What do you think it would be like to live out everything we sing with our lips? Being honest with ourselves, do we surrender all, or do we surrender some?
- Do we ever use religious excuses to avoid following Jesus' law of love?
- Do we cling to things which give us a religious/spiritual feeling but, in reality, we are not loving our neighbour?

To ponder or pray about this week

God, what expression of worship are you asking me to grow in? What opportunities are you opening for me to grow in worshipping you, both in church, and in my life? How can I step out and reflect you to others more?

Write a note to God, thanking Him for everything He's done for you - the generic and the specific. If people are willing, get them to share it with the group.