

## The Heart of Worship

### Introduction

1. Matt Redman is a well-known author of praise & worship songs.
2. Early in his career he was singing with his church's praise band when his pastor confronted them. They were proud of their musical performance, he said, but they were neglecting true worship. Insulted by the charge, the members of the band left the church—all, that is, except Redman. Shortly afterward, he wrote his hit song "The Heart of Worship."<sup>1</sup> (Show)
3. *I'm coming back to the heart of worship & it's all about you Jesus, it's all about you.*
4. Redman trying to teach us what worship is about. What is heart of worship?
5. Best passage know = John 4:23-24. (Show)

### Worship Is God-focused, John 4:23. (the Father seeks worshipers)

1. God is the object of our worship. He is the audience. We are the givers. He receives.
2. I never call worship an experience. Worship = something we do, not experience.
3. *Worship is not something we observe, it is something we do...worship occurs when we communicate with God, when we offer our praise, our love & our very lives to Him.*<sup>2</sup>
4. Pastor perceived that w/Matt Redman. Focused on performing, not focused on God.
5. *Draw near to God & He'll draw near to you.* That's worship. Focusing on God. 3 ways:
  - a. By expressing to God privately what we think of Him. (Show Hebrews 1:3-4)
  - b. By expressing to God corporately what we think of Him. *Let the redeemed say so.*
  - c. By expressing to God in how we live what we think of Him. (Show Colossians 1:10)
    - i. Interesting? Worship = giving worth to God. *Worthy* = showing God's worth.
    - ii. When tempted to be dishonest & choose honesty, that's worship.
    - iii. When tempted to be selfish w/Ellen & choose unselfishness, that's worship.
  - d. One of the great priorities of worship is to have how I live match what I say.

### Worship Is Scripture-based, John 4:23. (must worship in truth)

1. Scripture reading & teaching must be large part of worship. Pastor Hank pet peeve.
  - a. When we separate instruction from worship. Let's worship & then sermon.
  - b. Clearly Jesus didn't do that. *We worship in truth.* Instruction about God = worship.
  - c. We cannot worship a God we don't know. Worship includes teaching the truth.
  - d. Message = pinnacle of worship because now listening to God after speaking to Him.
2. Interesting how this guided the music the early church used. (Show Colossians 3:16)
  - a. There are three types of music early Christians had and we should have.
  - b. Scripture songs. *Psalms* = OT palms put to music. Kathy Johnson = favorite songs.
  - c. Hymns. *Hymns* = songs about Christ giving us doctrinal truth about Him.
  - d. *Spiritual songs* = songs of one's personal relationship w/Christ & walk w/God.
  - e. These then would be similar to much of our contemporary music.
  - f. But notice two very important things about Christian music.
    - i. Message must be clear. It's all about the message – *psalms, hymns, spir-songs.*

<sup>1</sup> Jack Hayford, Midday Connection (11-28-01), used with permission from the Moody Broadcasting Network; submitted by Steve Gertz, *Willing to Be Corrected*, [www.preachingtoday.com](http://www.preachingtoday.com). 9/1/05.

<sup>2</sup> Roberts, M., & Ogilvie, L. J. (1993). *Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther* (Vol. 11). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Inc.

- ii. It must teach us truth about God. **Sing with gratitude in your hearts to God.**
  - iii. We can't thank God unless the song teaches us something about God.
  - iv. Music that is all about us and little about God is unhealthy music.
3. **(Show humorous slide on church music)**<sup>3</sup> Funny, but for many it's a sad reality.
- a. One day neighbor called me over. *Do you do any teaching in your services?*
  - b. Odd question. *Yes. We do a lot of teaching. Our church very little, she said.*
  - c. *Attitude in our church is "Isn't the gospel wonderful?" But what is gospel?*
  - d. *It's never defined. I grew up in a church like that. Want more for my kids.*

### **Worship Is Heart-obedient, John 4:24. (must worship in spirit)**

1. Since God is spiritual, worship is spiritual. It is a matter of the heart.
2. It is not about places, forms, styles, outward acts. They assist but are not the essence.
3. Worship is learning of God w/my mind, rejoicing w/emotions, obeying God w/my will.
4. 1 Samuel 15:22-23 are two of my favorite verses on worship. **(Show)**
  - a. King Saul disobeyed God in the eyes of all Israel & then made excuses.
  - b. He said it was okay because he was going to offer sacrifices in worship.
  - c. God replied with the words of vv. 22-23. This is what worship is.
5. After being rebuked by his pastor, Matt Redman sought capture essence of this.
6. *I'll bring You more than a song, for a song itself is not what You have required, You search much deeper within through the way things appear. You're looking into my heart.*<sup>4</sup> **(Show)**
7. **The heart of worship = the worship of the heart.**

<sup>3</sup> 2006 Matt Glover. [www.mattglover.com](http://www.mattglover.com).

<sup>4</sup> C. 1999 Kingsway Thank You Music.