

Bible Study Three

Longing just to bring something that's worth...

*This is the third of six part bible study on worship using the first verse of Matt Redman's Song
"When the Music fades."*

Read 1 Chronicles 21:18-27

David realised an important factor of worship - It's costly. No matter what what we try and say there is no escaping the fact true worship is costly.

As you will probably well know In Romans 12v1 we are urged *"in view of God's mercy to offer our whole bodies to God, Holy and pleasing to God as our spiritual act of worship."* If we take that seriously and actually do that - that is costly.

Also what about Matthew 10v38-39:

"And unless you are willing to take up your cross and come with me you are not fit to be my disciples. If you try and save your life you will lose it. But if you give it up for me, you will find it."

I feel in the church we have been "selling" Christianity as this really easy thing; God made us for relationship with Himself, we messed up and turned away and became enemies of God, God sent His Son in the world to take our place so all our sin and mess was put onto him. Jesus was raised from the dead, If we believe and accept that, Jesus comes into our life, our relationship with the Father is now restored...we will go to Heaven.

Amen to that, that's true. But where I feel we get it wrong is we kind of leave it there at the conversion point and dare I say it just teach "Grace" I know I'm treading on thin ground here but just hear me out.

You see, I think there is a difference to being "saved" and being a "Disciple." We can not earn salvation that is the awesome Grace of God but we are also told in *1 timothy 4 "train yourselves to be Godly"*

Being "saved" is the start the start not the end! We need to pursue Godliness, the Greek word for "pursue" is to "Strive to gain or accomplish" The bible also says we need to be transformed by the renewing our minds, Romans (12v2) we need to see Christ as gain in life and death. (Philippines 1:21)

This is not easy, this is not just "being saved" this is a Godly pursuit, counting everything else as loss compared to the gain of knowing Him and doing His will. This is where we need to be humble, operating out of our "secret" encounters with God not out of our own strength.

Going back to our earlier passage, David could have easily accepted Arauanah's offer of the free land and even the free animals to sacrifice but would have God had reacted the same..? All I know is it does matter to God, just check out Cain and Abel, God was pleased with Abel's offering and but wasn't with Cain's. (*Genesis 4: 3-5*) It looks like Abel's sacrifice was costly, Cain's was just left over.

I wonder whether when we go to church if we hide behind the preachers offering or the worship leader's offering or do we come ready to pour out our own costly worship, worship that blesses God's heart like that of David and like that of Mary pouring out the expensive perfume over Jesus' feet or does the amount of worship we give depend on what we have left, whether we like the music style, whether the talk was entertaining or dependent on how we feel?

I long to see a church that offers costly worship that flows from humble adoring hearts driven from the "secret place."

Let's Give God what's right not what's left...