

Week of April 6, 2008
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Monday

John 4:20 "Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

Pride may be the most difficult of all "old man" issues. In fact, pride seems to be the root of every sin. Pride was the source of original sin: "I can be like God." Pride even reveals itself in worship. Though God gives specific examples and instructions for gathering together as a church, in pride we seek to exchange His will for ours. Pride is the determining factor when I choose to worship God on *my* terms, in *my* place, in *my* way. "Pride check - altar One!"

Tuesday

Exod. 3:5 Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."

Worship is a holy endeavor, yet too often we treat it as if it is a common, profane practice. Our attitudes as we enter worship, our dress, our distractions, our focus upon "getting out," all these speak of our heart's true relation to God and to worship. "Holy ground" was God's term for the place of worship. What changes will be made in you when you begin to see worship as a holy time in a holy place before a holy God?

Wednesday

Matt. 6:10 'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Gathered! Worship is a time for the 'gathered' people of God. In the Old Testament, God's people assembled at the tabernacle or temple. In the New Testament, God's people assembled in the church. In heaven, God's people gather around the throne. God gathers His people for worship. It is strange indeed that any individual may convince him/herself that true worship may be consistently carried out apart from God's gathered people. Come worship in the midst of God's people where God has declared His presence and power.

Thursday

James 4:8-10 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning, and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.

It is reported that famed basketball coach Bobby Knight said, "Most people have the will to win, but few have the will to prepare to win." Such could be said of an encounter with God. In trouble or despair, people seek an encounter. They seek God's grace and power, but only on their schedule and terms. Then many grow angry with God when He fails them. *God encounters people on His terms*. When we fail to gather for worship, He has not failed us but we have failed Him.

Friday

Psa. 100:4 Enter His gates with thanksgiving, And His courts with praise. Give thanks to Him; bless His name. For the LORD is good; His lovingkindness is everlasting, And His faithfulness to all generations.

God offers to all the wonderful privilege of worship, just as He offers to all the wonderful privilege of grace and salvation. Foolish are those who fail to receive His offer, for God created us for worship. We are empty, hungry, and lonely without it. Still, like the anorexic we convince ourselves we are fine without the nourishment of corporate worship. Come enjoy the feast that God has prepared in worship. It is an invitation from the King to gather at His table. Rejoice in its bounty. Indulge in its treasure. Come. Thank God for He bids you come!