

A Worshipping Community

Outline:

The Worshipping Jesus

- In the gospels we see Jesus in
 - Corporate worship; we see that Jesus had times of private prayer and worship¹, he had the habit of going to the synagogue or temple².
 - Small group worship; Jesus and his disciples celebrated the Passover meal together, he prayed for them and also they sang a hymn.
 - Individual prayer and worship; Prayer preceded his important decisions such as calling the apostles³ and events, for example his night in the garden of Gethsemane⁴.
 - A life lived in God's Will and to God's Glory; He did nothing outside of God's will, direction and enabling; he sought to glorify God in all things

- He taught about authenticity and inner reality as compared to religious forms, rituals and traditions which were empty.

Mark 7.6-9 – read it: we will pick up on some of these themes when we look at the beatitudes together, starting next week.

In John 4 we learn about

- The Holy Spirit and Truth; rather than being a series of acts or rituals, which numb the pain of reality, to become as Marx put it 'the opiate of the people' – true worship is focussed around the internal reality of the Holy Spirit revealing God to us, and leading us towards truth and reality, true worship is a process of revelation and response, rather than denial and escapism.
- transcend location and form, we have places that we use for worship, but God is King over all creation and as Solomon observed, no building or temple is sufficient to contain him, we don't **go** to the right place, we **get in** the right place, to meet with God.
- comes out of our relationship with God as Father
- is inclusive, this woman was an outcast, racially, socially and spiritually, and yet Jesus revealed spiritual truth to her and invited her to respond, he wanted to welcome her home.

¹ Mark 1.35

² Luke 4.16

³ Luke 6.12-13

⁴ Luke 22.41-46

Baptists recognize the centrality of a vital relationship with God through prayer and worship, with the individual and corporate facets strengthening each other.

This will nurture our relationship with God and awaken us to the wonder of his salvation. It will open our hearts and minds to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, making us more ready to obey his Word and honour him in all aspects of our daily lives. It will also enrich our life together as the people of God by guiding and undergirding all we are and do.

Bugb slide worshipping community

BUGB slide of 5 core values

We have seen that true worship is a process of revelation by God, and then our response to it – before we move into our time of communion, I would like us to have a chance to respond to God in a prayer called 'walk your way' – it is enclosed with your notices and will also appear on the screen – I will read a portion, and then we can all respond using the words in BOLD type,

Lets pray together.