



Insights on Worship

By Bryan Trotter on November 24, 2022

READING: Matthew 2

Matthew 2 might seem like an unlikely passage to teach us about worship, but I think we can glean a few insights from the text. The first insight is that worship is costly. The magi traveled to Bethlehem. This was not a quick trip for them, but required planning and resources to travel. The gifts they brought to Jesus were not cheap, but very costly. The pursuit to worship Jesus cost them their time, resources and money. When we approach worshipping God, it is costly to us as well. Hebrews 13 refers to offering God a sacrifice of praise, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Whenever I feel like worshipping, I need to worship. Whenever I do not feel like worshipping, I need to worship. God is worthy of my worship regardless of my feelings or if I like the songs, volume or instrumentation. If my level of participation in worship is dependent upon my preferences being met, then my worship is about me and not God. Worship also costs us in that we humble ourselves before God. We cannot elevate ourselves while trying to elevate God. Either worship is about and for God or it is not. I make more of Christ as I make less of myself. As John the Baptist spoke in John 3, *"He must increase, and I must decrease."*

Second, everyone will worship. I love the imagery of this passage. Jesus was a child and grown men fell down before Him and worshipped. They were exceedingly glad in their worship. The magi were not forced to worship, but chose to worship. We are in a similar place now. We have the choice to worship, for now. There is a day that is coming when every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That day, it will no longer be optional to worship Christ. The choice is ours: we will worship God or we will be made to worship God. Personally, I want to worship now of my own free will.

Worship is costly and everyone will worship. I hope you will choose today and continue to choose to worship God. He is worthy of praise, adoration, attention and affection. Today, spend some time in prayer and give Him praise.

TOMORROW'S READING: Matthew 3

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