

## Devotions For Students

### Lesson 3: Worship In Action

#### DAY 1

*"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that confess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."* - Hebrews 13:15-16

If you check out the Old Testament very often you have probably heard of some of the sacrifices they made to God back then. Burnt offering sacrifices were made for the forgiveness of sin. (Today we don't have to give burnt offerings because our sin was forever taken care of when Jesus died on the cross.) Another offering in the Old Testament was the peace offering, which was given in the spirit of being a friend of God.

The phrase "sacrifice of praise" in the today's passage refers to the idea of the Old Testament peace offering.

**So what does this mean for you?** The worship we give God through a sacrifice of praise means we give it as a friend of God. That meant closeness in the Old Testament. For us today it means intimacy. The idea is to pour out our praise to God in a personal and intimate way because we are His children and His friends. It is worship plus intimacy.

**So what do you do?** As you worship God, pour out your soul to Him not as an acquaintance but as the most intimate of friends.

#### DAY 2

*"King Hezekiah and his officials ordered the Levites to praise the LORD with the words of David and of Asaph the seer. So they sang praises with gladness and bowed their heads and worshiped."* - 2 Chronicles 29:30

Have you ever heard your mom or dad say, "You need to work on your attitude?" It's true: Teenagers like most everyone else alive today sometimes struggle with having the right attitude. So what do you think is the right attitude to have when it comes to worshipping God?

The writer of today's passage notes that the people in King Hezekiah's day bowed down in worship to God. But look back and see what adjective was used to describe their praise. The word is gladness. Our praise should come from an attitude of thankfulness and gladness before God.

Ever thought about why you have reason to be happy in your worship to God? Here are a few thoughts:

- He created us.
- We get to enjoy living in the world He created.
- He sent Jesus to die for us.
- He created a way for us to have a relationship with Him.
- We get to spend eternity with Him.

Now take a few minutes to express your praise to God, keeping in mind your attitude of gladness which springs from the realization of all God has done for you.

#### DAY 3

*"Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever. Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the LORD or fully declare his praise?"* - Psalm 106:1-2

You are taking a standardized test at school, working hard to get all the answers down and the teacher says, "time." As you look over the test you realize you did not have time to answer some of the questions. You know with just a little more time you could have completely finished the test. Doesn't that just drive you crazy when that happens? You just needed a little more time.

The writer of Psalm 106 says we will never be able to fully declare a proper praise for God. God is so great and so awesome that the quality of our praise will never get the job done and the quantity of our praise will never do Him justice.

### Think About This . . .

Isaiah wrote about angels who have been circling God for all of time and singing praises to Him. That is a whole lot of worship. Does that mean we should not even try since our worship is so inadequate? NO! God loves the praise of His people. The psalmist wants us to take time to think about the fact that God is totally and completely amazing. Be sure to let this awesome wonder of God thread its way through your worship.

### DAY 4

**One aspect of our worship is to praise God for the great things He has done.** Here are some scriptures about the great things of God.

- *He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. - Psalm 107:35-36*
- *But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. - 1 Samuel 12:24*
- *Your righteousness reaches to the skies, O God, you who have done great things. Who, O God, is like you? - Psalm 71:19*
- *The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. - Psalm 126:3*
- *Be not afraid, O land; be glad and rejoice. Surely the LORD has done great things. - Joel 2:21*

**Now, take a few minutes to think about some of the great things God has done for you.** Make a list in the space below and be sure to praise Him for all of these GREAT THINGS.

### DAY 5

*"And they sang a new song: 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.'" - Revelation 5:9*

When you think about worship songs in the Bible you probably think about the Old Testament but in the New Testament God's people are commanded to sing a new song. Does that mean to completely do away with the old school songs? No, it just means that with Jesus all things in our relationship with God are new so it's time for some new expressions of worship to God.

**Notice the new song in today's passage states that Jesus blood purchased men for God.** Now, they could not sing that song in the Old Testament. But after Jesus' death and resurrection we are under the new law of grace and we can gladly sing that song. It has been 2,000 years since Jesus lived on the Earth and many things have changed in our culture and in our understanding of the world around us. Consider some of the changes below and write down a verse of a new song you can sing before the Lord in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

- We know more about the wonders world and the diversity of the people who live on this planet than any other generation that has lived on Earth.
- Each day we have the opportunity to look deeper and deeper into the Heavens, the Universe, and beyond.
- That we are "fearfully and wonderfully made" becomes more evident all the time as we continue to learn how the human body works.

As your knowledge of the vastness and beauty of God's creation continues to increase, continue to respond in worship with new songs of praise.