**A HEART OF WORSHIP** 2021-05-02

**JOHN 4:23(NLTSE)** But the time is coming, indeed it’s here now, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship Him ***that way***

* What would come out of our mouths, if God never answered another prayer we ever prayed?
* What would come out of our mouths if none of the promises of God in scripture, ever came to pass in our lives?
* Would we still be following Jesus?
* Is what Jesus Christ has ***already*** accomplished at the cross and who God ***already*** is, reason enough for us to keep on worshipping Him? Or are we only in this for what we’re still hoping to get from God?
* Worship is not when we sing songs, because good things are happening around us or coming our way, from the outside of us.
* Worship is when we allow the the power of Christ is us, to proclaim the goodness and reality of who God is, ***regardless*** of what’s happening in our lives
* A heart of worship has the power to carry us through any difficulty
* A heart of worship is one that praises God whether we get what we’re trusting God for or not
* God must be worshipped because He is God, not just because of what He does

**1 CHRONICLES 16:29(NLTSE) *Give to the Lord the glory He deserves***! Bring your offering and come into his presence.Worship the LORD in all his holy splendour.

**HABAKKUK 3:17-19(NLTSE)** “Even though the fig trees have no blossoms, and there are no grapes on the vines; even though the olive crop fails, and the fields lie empty and barren; even though the flocks die in the fields, and the cattle barns are empty, 18 ***yet I will rejoice in the Lord! I will be joyful in the God of my salvation!*** 19 The Sovereign Lord is my strength! He makes me as surefooted as a deer, able to tread upon the heights”

* This passage from scripture can be summed up like this: “nothing is going right and there’s every reason to complain, but I’m going to worship God anyway.
* A heart of worship, convinces an unbelieving world, of the existence of a living God of love
* Hebrews 11 is like the Bible’s “faith hall of fame” for all the heroes of faith who trusted God for great things
* Time and again this passage uses the phrase “by faith” and the things achieved through faith
* However verse 13 describes these people as not having received the promises of God:

**HEBREWS 11:13(NLTSE)** All these people died still believing what God had promised them. ***They did not receive what was promised,*** but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were ***foreigners and nomads here on earth***

* I believe these people had a heart of worship
* **HEBREWS 11:35-40** describes those who had a heart of worship, regardless of what was a happening in their lives:

“But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36 Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. 37 Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. 38 They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. 39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. 40 For God had something better in mind for us, so that they would not reach perfection without us”

* This is what it means to worship The Lord in spirit and in truth. Do we have a heart of worship, that worships The Lord in spirit and in truth?

**CARE GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. What do you think causes people to be grateful for something, or to complain about something? Why would we react with gratitude or complaints?
2. Why would God be looking for people who worship a certain way? Isn’t any worship good enough?
3. What would need to change in your heart, to be like those described from verse 35-40 of Hebrews 11?