

WHAT JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT WORSHIP

I. The Meaning of the Word Worship

Proskuneo was apparently connected with the word "kiss," especially kissing the earth as a sign of honoring earth deities. Since that involved bending or prostrating the word came to mean "to prostrate oneself as a sign of reverence" or "to do obeisance." Or it may indicate the idea of extending the hand toward someone (as throwing a kiss) as a sign of honor. Our English word is a shortening of "worthship" or ascribing worth to someone or something. Matt. 28:9 shows a posture of prostrating oneself in worship.

II. The Object of Worship

- A. Jesus who is God. By allowing worship of Himself, the Lord taught that He was equal with God.
1. He taught that only God is to be worshiped, Matt. 4:10.
 2. Jesus accepted worship on many occasions, e.g., Matt. 8:2; 9:18; 14:33.
 3. Therefore, He was accepting the acknowledgment that He was God.
- B. God who is spirit, John 4:24
1. This means that the true God is not material.
 2. This means He is not confined to any one place.
 3. This means He is not subject to the restrictions of time.

III. The Way to Worship, John 4:24

- A. In spirit. This answers 3 questions.
1. Where do we worship? Anywhere and everywhere. God is spirit and if we worship in spirit our worship is not confined to any single place.
 2. How do we worship? From our spirit. From the depths of our being. If we do this, it will, of course, show on the surface.
 3. What kind of worship is this? It is person-to-Person. It is showing from the depths of our being the worth of God.
- B. In truth.
1. The meaning of worshiping in truth.
This emphasizes the chief characteristic of our worship. It must be genuine, without pretense. Our Lord condemned hypocritical and empty worship in Matt. 15:8-9.
 2. The way to worship in truth.
Continually increase our knowledge of the truth and our conformity to it.
 3. The aids to worshiping in truth.
Anything and everything that instructs me about Him, and a sensitive will to obey that instruction.

John 4:23 ". . . true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth; for the Father seeks such to worship Him."