

SERIES TITLE: Acceptable Worship

PART 5: HONEST

TEXT: MARK 7:1-23

INTRODUCTION.

When is worship acceptable? The only way we can discover this is to see how Scripture defines it. As David Peterson writes, “We cannot simply determine for ourselves what is honoring to God.” We need a biblical and theological perspective. Of the ways God has revealed himself—creation, Conscience, Christ—he has given us objective truth in the written Word. Through these 7 weeks, we will consider a minute portion of what the Bible declares or demonstrates about worship. This is a crucial subject for every single follower of Jesus. Why? As Erwin Lutzer stated: “If we haven’t learned to be worshippers, it really doesn’t matter how well we do anything else.” May we become the kind of worshippers that God the Father seeks.

DISCUSSION.

Have you ever experienced a family tradition that had more negative impact than positive?

EXAMINATION.

- 7:1-13 There were Old Testament cleanliness laws. How do we know that the religious leaders were going beyond what was required?
- Why did Jesus give such a strong rebuke?
- 7:14-23 How does Jesus’ idea of being unclean differ from that of the Pharisees?
- How does the fact that Jesus “declared all foods clean” speak to his authority?

APPLICATION.

- What are some common ways that people today try to deal with self-doubt, personal value, and spiritual uncleanness?
- How can religious practice actually prevent you from worshipping God acceptably?
- What must be true for “inside-out” worship to take place?
- What are some external things you have mistaken for worship?

- How can you tell when you are responding to truth about God and not something or someone else?
- When was the last time you responded with worship to a truth about God, and what was the response?
- How can you give back to God in each of the following areas: Doing (actively)? Thinking (intellectually)? Feeling (emotionally)?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?