



## What Do You Have?

Message by Tom Hadfield, 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

Acts 3:6

**Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you:  
In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."**

Exodus 4:2

**So the Lord said to him, "What is that in your hand?" He said, "A rod."**

A real dilemma: I didn't know what I had in my hand = nothing! = **Prayer and Worship**

John 4 – the Woman at the Well

The woman thought she had to worship at a place, a physical location – whereas Jesus said, "True worshippers will worship in the Spirit and truth".

Thus I believe God wants relationship with us that lasts wherever we go, whatever place we're in.

I had a person who said, 'God is always with us'. That's true, but I like to put it this way - We are always in God's presence. Is God always in our presence?

What I mean by this is: How often throughout the day do we think of God?

How often throughout the day do we focus our attention upon God?

How often throughout the day do we practise active worship?'

We are always in God's presence; how often is God in our presence? How often, during our day, do we give thought and attention to the presence of God?

### **Worship:**

- An expression of love

Do we have any idea of the beauty and the glory of God?

Psalms 89:6-8

**"Who is like the Lord among the heavenly beings? In the council of the holy ones  
God is greatly feared; he is more awesome than all who surround him. Who is like  
you, Lord God Almighty? ..."**

- Become what we worship
- Focus on God

Getting our eyes off ourselves, self-centredness, and getting our eyes on Jesus = God-centred.

Worship - expressing our love for God, must be a free choice on our part.

Luke 9:23

**Then he said to them all: “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.”**

**1.** The first thing to notice is that it has to do with desire, if you want to. You have to want to be Jesus’ disciple. There is no compulsion. Jesus has no compulsory disciples. There is no ‘have to’, it is completely voluntary. It is a choice that you have to make.

There is one thing God cannot do – He cannot force you to love Him. Love has to be a free choice, it has to be a willing, free choice. We are to be the author of our own decisions.

Joshua 24:15

**“... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve ...” = You have to choose.**

Acts 17:30

**“God commands all people everywhere to repent.”**

If you couldn't repent and turn to God, He would never command it.

It is a voluntary, free choice on your part. "If you want to ..."

**If you want to ...**

Notice also that it is something to be desired. Following Jesus is a desirable thing. There is nothing more wonderful in the whole world than to have the loving leadership, the previous guidance of dear, sweet Jesus in our lives. This is to be desired. It's a wonderful thing to welcome the Kingdom of God into our hearts. Jesus is someone to be desired.

**Psalm 84:1 “How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord Almighty!”**

To be with God - is a lovely, wonderful thing. As we develop our awareness of God, as we focus our heart and attention upon Him, we begin to understand how lovely and wonderful He is. It is the most wonderful thing in life to walk in the sweet and precious presence of God! To be wonderfully surrendered to Him.

**2** You must deny yourself and take up your cross daily.

**If you want to ... this is what you have to ....**

(Have to - with a good heart and spirit)!

**A denying of all our selfish desires.** A setting aside of all our selfish interests. A denying and dying to selfish pursuits, selfish endeavours, selfish ambitions. A dying to self importance. This is a daily thing. It is a continual process, every day.

Selfishness is the opposite of love. God’s love is other-centred, it is always focused on the other person. Eg. Trinity Other-centred, self-sacrificing; centred on the good of the other person. That’s the definition of love.

## **The Pursuit of Selfishness**

We see the dreadful involvement of the whole world in the pursuit of selfishness. We are just so concerned about ourselves - our own interests, our own happiness, our own importance.

We are talking about a self-centred life, a me-first attitude. And this is the great endeavour of satan.

This is the great lie of satan, of his own importance. Apparently he was the greatest created being that God had brought into existence, and apparently he was supposed to be the supervisor of all the world's activities. But he wasn't satisfied to be under God. He wanted to rise up and be god and receive the worship, and he declared to himself that he was going to be more important than God. His rule of life is me-first not God-first.

**And this is the GREAT DECEPTION - self-first.**

## **The Temptation in the Garden**

Genesis 3:5 **“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God ...”**

1 Timothy 2:14 **Eve was deceived and became a sinner.**

And so the whole world is living in the same deception, the pursuit of selfishness. Satan has successfully deceived the whole world. Deceived us into thinking that selfishness is the best way to live.

## **This then is salvation:-**

A complete change of thinking, a turning from putting ourselves first, giving up our self-interests, seeking our own self-importance - and rather making God supreme, making Him the most important in our lives.

Philippians 2:5-7

**“In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing ...”**

## **Sweet and complete surrender**

God's commands arise out of His goodness and his love for you. They are given for 'your own good'. Deuteronomy 10:13

God always has our best interests at heart.

Every word that God speaks is out of His great heart of love, guiding and leading us into what is good and best for our lives. The only intelligent thing is to live for our wonderful,

loving God and sweetly put Him first in our lives. We've got to let sweet Jesus determine our lives. Sweet surrender. That leads to our greatest happiness.

Matthew 6:33

**"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."**

We don't have to focus on our own needs!

**3 Follow Him.** Isn't it good to have someone to follow. He is the good Shepherd.

John 10:11

**"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."**

John 10:14

**"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me."**

He'll never lead us astray. He'll never lead us into wrong or something that is bad for us. He is the **good Shepherd**. The only intelligent thing to do is to follow dear, sweet Jesus.

Following Him is a full-time occupation. It is something we do all the time. We must constantly develop our awareness of God's presence and engage constantly in an attitude of praise and worship. It's our aim and goal, not just to be aware of God's presence during our morning devotions - but to be aware of His presence throughout the day.

Jesus came preaching the kingdom of God. If there's a kingdom, there's a king. In the Kingdom of God, Jesus is the King. I've got to give up my selfish ambitions, stop following my selfish pursuits, my own selfish interests. It's following dear, sweet Jesus and His wholesome, lovely interests – following where He is leading. It's not what I want but what He wants. You have to be willing to do that, to be His disciple.

**We were created to live other-centred, God first. This is the way of love. To love God first and supremely. We are part of His kingdom and He is the King.**

1 Samuel 16:7

**But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."**

God sees things in us that others can't. God sees things in us that we never see in ourselves. He knows us better than we know ourselves. which is why it makes perfect sense to trust God to run your life.

That's the heart of the Christian message; we do not know what's best for ourselves because we'll never understand ourselves to that degree. But God does. So it only makes rational sense to make God the master of our life and take direction from Him. He knows better than we do - who we are, what we need and what we need to be doing.

## **Focussing on God**

Our focus should be, and needs to be, on God.

And that happens as we worship.

Worship - expressing our love, our affection, should be, and should become our everyday, normal activity.

## **Praise - a sacrifice**

Hebrews 13:15

**“Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name.”**

....Offering the whole of your life, for the whole of your life.

What's in your hand?

What do you have?

WORSHIP