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## ***Made to Worship - Your Purpose in Life***

### **Main Verses:**

- [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#)
- [Matthew 6:21](#)
- [Exodus 34:20](#)
- [Deuteronomy 16:16](#)
- [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

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**Message Given:** Apr 23rd 2017

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**Teaching Length:** 67 Minutes 31 Seconds

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*This week, I admit, it was a fast-paced week last week, and this week was a little fast-paced as well. And I was struggling because I had not planned a message. You know, as people, we love to plan. Anybody like to plan, just to have an idea. We like to know what's coming ahead of time, know how things are going to go, the workflow, logistics. And here we are Tuesday of this week, and I'm sitting here... I don't know what I'm gonna, I mean, don't have a clue. I start reading the Torah portion. Hey, Father, reveal something to give us something that would be edifying for the fellowship. If there's something that you would want presented, if there's something that needs to be met, maybe just one individual, a willing vessel. I started reading this week's Torah portion starts out with Aaron raising his hands up to bless the people. And and raising our hands up we do it for a blessing when we bless the children or when we pray over everybody but do you know when when we also raise our hands when when the biblical narrative where in Israel raised their hands when when they were in worship and The father revealed several things to me in my own heart about our purpose In life about what we're supposed to be doing about what the vocation of adam was in the garden I mean,*

what was he supposed to be doing now? We know you know We know what it says. Fear God and keep the commandments. That's the whole duty of a man. That's what we're supposed to be doing. That's the expectation. Moral, when you get a job, you have the big chart that they usually stick in the bathroom because they have to put it up. Just the ethics and everything that you're supposed to. You can do this. You can't do that. You're supposed to follow these laws, so on and so forth. These are the commandments. These are not something that... These are not the goal. The goal is not to keep God's commandments. That's like the minimum. That's the bar. Especially as followers of Yeshua. We're supposed to be going above and beyond that. Anyone ever done a pull-up before? Right? Do a pull-up and then the goal, if you can do it, is to actually keep going. You build up real strong and keep going. That's a commandment. It's not your goal. You don't just hang on. You're supposed to pull up and go over it. You're supposed to be pursuing the will of the Father and the vocation that he put on mankind in the garden. And I'm going to assert today that we were made to worship. That was our vocation. When the Father was designing mankind, that's what he had in mind. I'm going to make these, I'm going to, Adam, worship. Adam, it's not good for you to be alone. Eve, what's her name? Chava. What's that mean? Chava? It has to do with life, bringing to life, right? She was the mother of, that's not enough. I want you guys, I want you guys to be fruitful and multiply. More worshipers. Fill the earth. Worshipers. You were made to worship.

And I hope, that this message is not taken in vain. I hope that the Father is able to reach someone like he has me with this message. And so we talk about the idea of worship, and we understand when we have praise and worship, we all come in here and we sit down, and Gideon says Shabbat Shalom, so then we stand up, and then Christy will start singing, or Gideon will start singing, or Selma will start playing the piano and singing. Worship was beautiful today, wasn't it? And we understand that this is a reverent time, and this is a time where we enter into corporate fellowship, meaning together, oneness. As a people, as a community, we're going to go as one before the Father and bring worship to Him. But unfortunately, in 2017, here in the U.S., we will lose sight of the depth of what worship is as a lifestyle, as an expectation. And so the word worship, is fascinating because it actually stems from the Anglo-Saxon word to be of worth or worth-ship, right? And it means to give worth.

Along with its counterpart value, it gives the impression of wealth, sustenance, rarity, something special. Give worth to. And so when we take this concept and we go before the Father and we give worth. How much is the Father worth? How special is your relationship with the King? Can you just go around and get another God as good as the God that we have? It's a rarity. It's special. And so in corporate worship, how do you respond to that when it's time? This is the time that we come together to worship. How do you respond in giving worth to God? I would hope it would be with passion and a very real sense of what is happening. It's not about the lights being turned on or off. It's not about the stage being high enough so you can see the leaders leading worship. It's not about the instruments, the singers. It's not about the building. It's about an opportunity to come together with other believers and say we are going to give worth to something that is undefinably priceless. How do we do that? In Exodus chapter 12, we have the Passover account and all the plagues are happening. And right before the last plague happens, Israel is acknowledging God that he's working in their midst. I mean, they're not out yet, but he's working in their midst. And Exodus 12, 27 says, And the people bowed their heads and worshipped. You guys know the root of the Hebrew word for worship is chava. It means to bring to life, to bring... bring to life or to give life to, just like Eve. And I found that fascinating because that's the foundation of the context of the heart of worship, is to rise up and become alive to what you were made to be, what you

were made to do as an image of God. Do you guys know Martin Luther, right? Maybe we're not a fan of him. Maybe we are a fan. I don't know how you guys feel about church history. He had a quote, and this was his His definition of basically having to do with worship. And what he says about worship, he talks about the God that you serve. He says this, your God is that which you most fear to lose. Your God is that which you most fear to lose. And so when you give worth to something, worship, you're esteeming, venerating the item that is most precious to you in your life. What is the item that you are most fearful of losing in your life today? It's a hard question. It's a very difficult question because the first thing we think of as parents is our kids, maybe our spouse, maybe our family. Then you get, you know, kind of into the secular securities of life, maybe your job. I don't know. I don't want to lose my job. Maybe your friends, your house, your car. I don't know. At what point, if someone asked you this question, what are you most fearful of losing? How far down would God be on the list? How long would it take you to get to that? Oh, and God, yeah, you know. Hey, what things do you love in life? I love my cat, my dog, my family. What about God? Oh, yeah, of course I love God. How far down on the list is the one thing that you should be most fearful of losing in your life? When we talk about giving life and worship being founded in that, where did the life of man begin? Not a trick question. Where did the life of mankind begin? Christi was talking about it up here the garden exactly right in the garden in the temple series remember we discussed the the the garden seemed to be akin to what a type of prototype of the Of the temple the temple series right of the temple exactly man's origins are found in scripture To be in the presence of god. That's where the origins of mankind began in the garden In the presence of god and man was created in the image of who? God, of course. And as God's image, his vocation was to reflect God's glory into all the world. Into all the what? All the world? Everybody, where? Where? All the world. So the job that mankind had was to be fruitful and multiply, right? Subdue the earth and fill the earth. No, no, no, no, no, no, no. Then that would mean they would have to leave the garden, right? They'd have to leave the garden to go fill the earth? Was that God's plan? That man would leave the garden? No, I wouldn't think so. then how are they going to subdue the earth and fill it with more images without leaving Eden? By expanding Eden. That was the call of mankind. You take the atmosphere of worship in the garden and you expand the borders. We see that done several times in Scripture. Wherever the front gate is, if you expand it, Samson grabbed the front gate and pulled it forward and expanded the borders of the city. That's why they couldn't kill him. The job that you were made to have was expand Eden. The place where God's presence is worshipped. Eden was the place of God's presence, and God's presence is a place of worship. The expansion of Eden is therefore an expansion of worship. Our job is to go out and worship God before all the world. Duplicate ourselves. Make other worshippers. And more and more and more. And multiply and fill the earth. We always think, oh, sex. It's not completely the context. Multiply. Fill the earth. JK Beale is a fantastic author on this very topic. He states that worship fuels the mission of Eden. Bearers of the image of God reflect his presence in worship and are propelled forward in their mission to fill the earth with the reflections of God's glory. Now I have a question. As believers, does the presence of God surround you or is the presence of God with you? I know it sounds like a bold question. Is the presence of God with you? The presence of God. Some people would say, no, we approach the presence of God in a sense.

John 14 has a very fascinating verse. It states, and I will ask the Father, this is Yeshua speaking, and he's speaking about a comforter that's coming, a helper that's coming, the ruach that's coming, and he will give you another helper to be with you forever, even the spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him or knows him. You know

him for he dwells with you and he will be with you. So, and I'm not going to go into the depths of digging through this verse and chopping it apart. I just have a simple question. If God's spirit is within you, is God's presence with you? So the spirit of God dwells within you as a believer. God's presence is within you. You're his image. That's what images do. If we want to all go back to the ancient Near East, carve out an image, right? Just like Jeremiah 10 talks about. And then you'd have a ceremony, maybe a mouth-opening ceremony like in Egypt.

And the pagan priest would invoke the idea of a spirit coming down from the heavenly throne of the pagan god and it would enter through the nostrils and the mouth of this little pagan idol. And the pagan idol would come alive. And of course they'd rush it into the temple after this inauguration and worship it and do all that pagan stuff. The original image of God was not some idol, was not some piece of wood overlaid with gold or silver. It was a heart of flesh. And so you're that image. Your purpose... Through Christ has brought you far from God and placed you near to him. That's the purpose. That's what's happened to you your journey. That's what Ephesians 2:13 speaks about. You've been restored to God's presence. You're a new creation. Just like Adam was you're the image of God. And so what does that mean? It means you are made to worship. I hope to impress and we're going to talk a little bit about some history here. I hope to impress on you today. And when I say that I hope you leave and you remember one thing that not all the stuff we're fixing to talk about with history or Israelites or anything, I want you to realize one simple fact that's of Scripture, and that is what you're supposed to be doing out there. You're supposed to be a reflection of the King of the Universe. Don't remember anything else. You can go to sleep at this point, I don't care.

Remember that point. That's what an image is. Reflection. How do people notice the shine? Worship. You don't just worship for 35 minutes when you come to fellowship, although it's nice.

You worship in the way that you carry yourself in the world. You worship by seeing someone that needs prayer. And not hesitating to reach out and say hey. It's okay. I'm an ambassador of the king. Let me pray for you. It's your purpose to not allow your own emotions or feelings to get in the way of the work of God. How many of you guys really like praying for folks sometimes? Me and complete strangers. We got a couple guys. Is it ever awkward? Sure. Is it kind of fun when it's awkward? I mean, sometimes, yeah, it's like a game. I know what I'm doing. Sometimes it's a little awkward because you know a person is a little hesitant. You don't know what's going on in their life. Maybe they're going to be offended. Maybe your heart isn't in it, but you know you've got to pray for him. Well, how are you going to pray for him if your heart's not in it, if you're not passionate about it? What words am I going to say? I might stumble around and not be excited. That's not your job to carry your emotions into work. It's nice if you're passionate about your job. It definitely helps. But as we're going to discuss in a few minutes, emotions follow motion. When you stick your hand out and pray for someone and they feel a connection, they feel love, they feel kindness, even if you don't love them and you don't want to be kind to them, it's irrelevant. They're still feeling those feelings. If they're not coming from you, who do you think they're coming from? God. Why? Because you're a vessel. And your only task is to be willing to be used by God as a conduit for his love, his mercy, his justice, his grace. Be the image. Be the mediator. Be the conduit for God's love. That's all that's required. And so this has to do with worship. That is a type of worship, living it out. Everything you should do shows God's worth to you. So what is God's value? It should be seen in every single thing that we do. Judges 3:7, this fascinating verse. It states that the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God, and they served Baals, Belim, and Asheroth. Now we read these names often in Scripture quite a lot during the time of Elijah. Um, Asherah was a, that's the Hebrew version of a, of a, or

Hebrew name for, um, a major goddess in Canaanite myth. Um, After the discovery of the Ugarit tablets in 1929, we know a lot more about her than we did before that previously. But she was a consort to a deity we call El in Canaanite myth. Now, El was the top dog in this pagan religion, right? And you guys know where Canaan is? The land of Canaan. We call it Israel today. It used to be Canaan. Abraham walked in there. It was Canaan. Israelites took it over. Same land. That's why it's relevant. That's why I'm talking about Canaanite paganism right now. And so Asherah was the consort to El. She was pretty high up. She was like a queen, if you will. At least in the older Canaanite pantheon. And she's not to be confused with Ishtar. Ishtar is another term for Ishtar. Everybody's heard of Ishtar, right? Floats around the internet. Asherah is not Ishtar. Asherah was a mother deity, right? Bare-breasted, big hips, mother deity. She was supreme mother, gave wealth, gave blessing, right? Pray to her if you want favor, if you will. Ishtar was more of a violent, feminine warrior spirit. Not related. Ishtar really wasn't even that big of a fertility deity. But Asherah was highly worshiped. We see it all through Scripture. Israelites loved Asherah. They'd get thrown, forget God, and they began to worship Asherah. Now, when I say fertility goddess, what do you guys think? I know what you're thinking because we're in America in 2017. What do you think? Having children. Okay, that is the correct definition of fertility most people think of Lust for some reason. I don't know a lot of people associate Fertility with sex and that is simply not true. It's it wasn't a Canaanite myth. It's it's still not true today We limit that terminology because we're it's all we know in our society What if fertility was more than just having children? I What if fertility was having wealth? We were sitting, my wife and I were sitting at the dinner table, breakfast table, dinner table, the table that we eat breakfast and dinner at, yesterday morning. And Jenny smiled real big and she was looking into our backyard and she said, oh, baby birds. I love animals. Where's the baby birds? I'm looking around. What are you talking about? She said, the mama just landed beside that bush and the little baby birds are pecking on the ground. And I look closer and I can see these little heads bobbing, itty bitty robins, just flying pecking the ground and there's a mama walking around and guys it was I've never seen I've seen baby birds in nests I've never seen them with their mother on the ground pecking food and it was one of those beautiful things I think I've seen it was anyone ever get like the little butterflies when they see little baby animals and I realized that wow it has been a year since I've seen little baby birds I wonder why it's been so long since I've seen little baby animals oh wait it's spring winter's over Birds laying eggs. They're hatching offsprings life is coming out in springtime. It's a Fertility season it is what it is That's why a lot of major deities like Asherah Bale if you will were based off Dagon were all based off agricultural Aspects because they were seen as fertility had nothing to do with offspring and so imagine viewing fertility as your crops are bountiful this year imagine seeing fertility as your bank accounts pretty big imagine being seeing fertility as you got all the new iOS devices in 2017 and the watch 2 baby imagine that being fertility and I want you to slide that over as a worship of a fertility deity such as Asherah before we go any further I want to talk about what do you guys think of this this is there we go this is our girl again right she look kinda like her dog yeah everybody goes kinda look alike right but these guys I mean yeah as I don't know the way the head look alike kinda sorta you guys see it is it in your brain I mean certainly like how do these two guys look like the gold dog is it in your mind right now are you seeing things scientific fact people tend to resemble their pets Matt you just drove off a bridge we're talking about Asher and now we're talking about dogs bear with me scientific fact people tend to resemble their pets why Personality, maybe spouses tend to resemble each other after a while. Not weird Start start mimicking each other what they look like So I look at a lot of these pictures and i'm like who is

resembling who is the dog changing? To resemble the human or is the human changing to resemble the I don't know. I mean Scientific fact why because we look like what we look at is what it is. We look like what we look at Guys, you start resembling, mimicking the little things, your wife's facial expressions that she has, you're golden. It means you are committed, right? I've heard stories, I don't know if they're true, about heartbeats syncing up. Now, our vocation was meant for us to resemble, was not really made for us to resemble our spouses or our pets, turtles, whatever, but spiritually to represent and resemble the God of creation on a spiritual level. Why? Because we're created in His. I don't know. Matt, you keep saying that. Well, I'm going to keep saying the word. We're created in his image. It's fascinating because we have a psalms that talks about this. Psalm 115, 4 through 8. It says this, speaking about, of course, Israel. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of human hands. They have mouths, but they do not speak. Eyes, but they do not see. They have ears, but they do not hear. Noses, they don't smell. They have hands, but they don't feel. Feet, but they can't walk. And they do not make a sound in their throat. Those who make them become like them, so do all who trust in them. We become what we worship. We become what we worship. The worshipers of Asherah, do you know how they portrayed their worship? How they acted out there? I mean, of course, I'm sure they could go to the temple and put on some good music and lower the lights a little bit, you know, put on a fog machine and they can go to town. I'm sure that's corporate worship. But when they left their pagan temple and went on with their life, how would they acknowledge the worthiness of this pagan god that they believed in? And the god was, she was a, what kind of goddess? Fertility, right? Big goddess. An older Canaanite myth, right? Big time. And so a worshiper of Asherah Would become what they worship in order to give back worship reflect back a worshiper of asherah Would seek to buy the latest and greatest gadgets and show them off to their friends and family Look, I gotta have this new iphone right now. I'm gonna stand in line for seven hours Why because I can't wait to show it to my friends and show everybody that new double camera feature on that new iphone 7 I'd like an iphone 7. I'm just saying i'm picking It's an older model That would be a characteristic of a worshiper of Asherah. But not just there. They wouldn't just stop there. They'd be the first one to buy that Mercedes, regardless of if they can afford it or not. Why? They want that image. They want to show how great their goddess is. Why? Because that's an attribute of the goddess. They want to be the ones living in that bigger and better home, even if they don't need it. What are you going to do with all that space? Whatever I want. Praise be to Asherah. She got it for me. Wealth, fertility. You set up to reflect where your wealth came from, the fertility deity that you worship. You know about keeping up with the Joneses? Anyone ever felt like they're trying to keep up with the Joneses? Man, they got this. Can we just try to get this too? I want a new car, man. They got a faster computer with a GTX 1080 in it. Why can't I have one? The Joneses in our age Canaanite myth would have been the worshipers of Asherah. Why? Because you become what you worship. You reflect what you worship. Yeshua said it best. This is always a provoking verse because every single one of us knows that our treasure, our finances, the things that we value in our life are not where they're supposed to be. Every single one of us. And so this verse is always condemning. Every time I read it, I could do better with showing God where my heart truly is. God also hated it when Israel worshipped a deity that became known as Baal, or Baal, if you will. It means master. That's not the deity. We know that the name of the deity was Hadad, and it became Baal-Hadad later in Canaanite myth. Regardless. Now, Hadad, I didn't put a picture up there. Hadad was represented. If you type in Hadad or Baal, B-A-A-L, Google or whatnot, you typically see a relief of him standing, and he's portrayed as standing with a little

funny-looking hat, and he's usually holding a rod that connects to the ground, and there's...  
...greenery growing up it... ...because he's giving life to the ground... ...but he also has his right  
hand up... ...the might of your right hand... ...his right hand held up... ...and sometimes it's  
holding a spear, a sword, a knife... ...usually it's holding a club or a fist... ...and this is for...  
...domination, glory... ...overtaking enemies... He was a storm god. And if he had a club, he'd  
bang it around, and that's thunder. He was kind of a god of war, but also kind of was in  
charge of giving rain for the crops, so kind of fertility. How would the worshipers of Baal  
appear to walk around in life? Well, as we know. Have you ever met someone who's totally  
and 100% focused on overtaking everybody in their path? Someone that comes against them,  
disagrees with them. They condemn as an enemy. I need to be right. I need to overtake them.  
Someone who is way too overzealous about stuff that should not be a thing. Someone who's  
not focused on pursuing God's kingdom and humility, but someone who's focused on  
building their own kingdom with power and violence. Glory. That would be the attitude of  
someone who considers battle their priority. God they run after. Why? Because you become  
what you worship. You reflect the God that you worship. Think about that. Because all of us  
here today say that we worship the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Yahweh, Hashem, the  
God of creation. All of us say that we do with our mouths, but our hearts are far from Him.  
And Yeshua says where your treasure is is where your heart will be. So where's your treasure?  
And that's where your heart is. Most likely, if it's far from God, then Where is it? What is your  
God? What are you giving worth to? What are you building up and changing your character  
to reflect? You should be able to spot it pretty easily. Now, our vocation... Let me do all this.  
What are our priorities? I'm sorry, what are your priorities? You were made to worship and  
reflect. When we could pass over... When the disciples were going through, right, and they  
were going to have this upper room. They were going to have supper with their rabbi, if you  
will, Yeshua. And they got all excited. And you guys ever been to Jerusalem? You ever walked  
down the street? I mean, the modern day Jerusalem. Some of us, maybe a couple of us. A  
couple of us went to Jerusalem, right? Does it get crowded? You guys ever walk through like  
the Arab market, right? I mean, it's crowded. You bumping into folks during high time tourist  
season. Now, I want you to imagine having sandals on. Okay, and walking through crowds of  
people in Jerusalem Just like that bumping into them you're watching your wallet. Don't  
touch my iPhone in my back pocket Keep it right bumping into people now. Everybody has  
an animal. Everybody has sheep or goats walking around Why because it's Pesach, right?  
You have the Pesach the Haggagai We have all the offerings that are going up to the temple  
mount So now all these people you're bumping into have animals walking through the  
streets of Jerusalem I'll give you one guess at this question. What do animals do they do do?  
And you got some chacos on, right? Little rainbows walking through the street. Do you think  
there is a chance? I don't know. Do you think there's a chance that among all the dust and  
mud being kicked up on your feet, that you're going to get a little bit of poo somewhere on  
your sandal, your shoe, your toes? Maybe. I don't know. I'd walk around the backyard to go  
get something out of the shed, stepping something. I mean, it's ridiculous. Looking. Hundreds  
of thousands of people during Passover week in the first century. Do you think there's a  
chance that your feet would get nasty? And they went up to the room. And Yeshua already  
had it all set up if you read the story. You know, he had the water beside the door. He had the  
cloth beside the door. I mean, it was set up. And you could just see him smirking. He's like, I'm  
so proud of them. I know they're going to pass this test. And you know, Matthew would  
probably walk in first, and he looks down, he looks down, got a turd all over his toe, I don't  
know, looks down and sees the water there to wash his feet. Yeah, but if I wash my feet, he's

always yakking about this servant stuff. Then I'm going to have to wash John's feet, and I know he'd be dink. I don't want to, Judas and all that. No, I ain't. So he just kind of walks past it. John walks in behind him, looks. Matthew walked past it, I'm going to walk past it, right? every single disciple walking up to the door and you could see Yeshua come on pick it up pick it up pick it up come on do it do what I taught you to do you can be number one in the kingdom you can be number one have the number one trophy if you pick this rag up right now and start scrubbing Judas comes in last looks down Yeshua really? Judas goes and sits down Yeshua walks over takes his robe off puts on a servant's cloth Picks up the water. You can almost see him having another rag on his foot. You ever have your kids run in from the yard, they're tracks in the kitchen, wiping it up as you're walking over to whip them? Carrying the bucket of water over to his disciples, one by one, taking their feet, scrubbing the sweat off, scrubbing the mud off, scrubbing the poo off between their toes. Yeshua, the master, the son of God, scrubbing crap off your feet. Because you weren't willing enough to take his teaching and implement it. No, you sure you can't wash my feet You're not part of my kingdom if you don't let me especially right now Peter the first will be last and the last will be first that is The vocation that God has given to you to be a servant It's not about winning but I want to win. Of course you do It's called flesh and it's of the devil that motivation of glory and dominating everybody is Yeshua may have went up there. Not one time we sat patiently and made a court of whips. The zeal of his father's kingdom wasn't for his glory. It wasn't for his glory. So when I talk about us being the image of God, I talk about God's will for us to stand in the job and be the employee of the month in the kingdom. How do you be number one in the kingdom? Be the last in the world. Grab the rag. You got some Dawn soap you can wash your hands after. Grab the rag and serve. No matter how dirty it looks. No matter if you want to or not. I don't want to do this. You think Yeshua wanted to do that? It doesn't matter. He had a mission and it was to bring heaven to earth. And he was the vessel to do that. It didn't matter if he wanted to or was happy about it. It didn't matter. He did it. Motion follows. Motion precedes emotion. And motion follows motion. Would you guys agree that an exchange takes place during services here? Right? A type of exchange? Right? See, we give God in worship. We come in and we're presenting our praises to God. And in exchange, He gives to us in His Spirit. He gives to us during the message when we're reading His Word and seeing something that pops out, the Spirit pricks our heart about something or the Spirit reveals something to us that is edifying, something that can build us up in His kingdom. Do you agree that this exchange takes place? That's what we give in service? Yes. Have you guys ever been impacted during services when we've read the scriptures? I sure have. Who is getting shortchanged in this exchange? If this is the case, and we are casual in our arrival. In the Torah, God said, it's a very compelling verse, and a lot of prosperity ministries use this verse. Do not come before me empty-handed. It's a commandment. When you come before the Father, you do not come empty-handed. When we come to his throne, we bring an offering of praise. In whatever form that is, we bring it. A gift of our worship. A gift showing him honor. Is he worthy? Showing him that we are focused on him to give us life. You are the one who gives us life. You are worthy. Knowing he is the only one that can instill true vitality within every breath that you take. How does it make you feel? Maybe you guys have never met someone like this. I've met many. How does it make you feel when you hear someone say that they intentionally come to their church or fellowship late just to hear the preaching or the sermon or the message and they don't want to sit through all that boring praise and worship stuff? Anybody? I mean, anyone ever met? Like, oh yeah, boring praise and worship stuff. I just want to come hear the message. Do we not learn the weight of the parable of the



ten maidens? Yet we still come late to to a corporate time of worship. Which maidens are we aligning ourselves with when we don't make an attempt to arrive with anticipation of going before the Father as a community, as a people? See, we can sit at home every morning and turn on worship music and pray to the Father, be on our face to the Father. That's awesome. That's a whole different ball game than when god said I want all of my people to come to me in a community in worship That's what fellowships are about their communities a corporate effort where we become one and declare the greatness of our god To declare at this moment.

We will stand as one and enter the throne room of god Presenting our worship presenting our praises. It's fascinating. Um I have a lot of discussion about this topic. Seed time harvest, right? We see this concept exploited in many progressive or prosperity fellowships. Seed time harvest. You plant a seed, you're going to get a harvest, right? Amen, brother! The reason why it's so exploited in so many churches today, especially mega churches, is the simple fact that it's true. It's true. It's a true concept. Even the secular world acknowledges it. They call it karma. It's a fact. That seed time harvest, whatever you give, you will grow a harvest from and reap back. Churches take this, exploit it. We know better than to simply call it karma. See, Yeshua said in Luke 6, 38, he says that if you forgive, you will be forgiven. If you give, it will be given back to you. In fact, he said, whatever you give will determine the great measure in what is given back to you. In other words, the more seeds you plant, the bigger harvest you will get back. Now, in the movement, we're tainted to think, oh, anytime someone's talking about seed and harvest, he's talking about money. Am talking about money, but I am NOT limiting that scope to money because money's like this much of The scope of what's the idea

of see time harvest is about whatever you plant in time whatever you plant in energy Whatever you plant in prayer whatever you plant in education or training others whatever you plant and giving of yourself Whatever you plant and scrubbing other people's feet that will determine the measure of what harvest is produced and given back to you if this principle stands Are we really going to complain when the following week the measure that we gave god in our attentiveness to prepare to go into corporate worship Is measured back to us in the measure that we gave I don't know what that would look like. I mean, it could be something Something that would just roll we wouldn't even notice going to the doctor We're supposed to be there on time the doctor all of a sudden He just had a busy day He didn't plan on and now we have to wait in the waiting room for an extra 35 minutes. I don't know I don't know. To wait till the doctor's ready to see us at our confirmed appointment. I don't know. It could be something worse. What will be the harvest when we do not fear losing God as our greatest fear in life? Last week we discussed the concepts of first fruits, giving our first fruits to God. You guys remember that? That was fun, right? And we know that speaks of finances, but not just finances first fruits of time and energy You guys know I learned this from pete.

Actually. I can't wait for for pete to speak again It says the the things you care about most you you give three things to time energy and money That's what the good samaritan gave to the guy who got beat up Loving your neighbor the things you love most you give these three things to these are the three things that we should give our first fruits Back. Are you giving your best to god? When you arrive 10 to 15 minutes late to enter into his presence at a scheduled time of corporate worship If we were worshiping in the temple, would you plan on getting there on time the temple right? I mean, let's just pretend let's just pretend Solomon's temple. Okay, the excitement and the joy Let's pretend that you have an opportunity to go and to be present there as the priests begin to start the prayers and the worship and the music and and you see people so excited with joy you know what time of season the temple is dedicated the season of our joy Sukkot the joy the atmosphere alright guys we're gonna start

at 11 a.m. that's when the services are gonna start at the temple would you be excited about that would you get there like you know I'm gonna get there on time I'll get there around 11 o'clock and you know and then casually walk in 20 minutes late would that would that be something you would do no you'd be there hours earlier I would. People hang out all night in front of Best Buy to buy a stupid TV on Black Friday. I'd be sitting out there for a week. Is it ready yet? Is it ready yet? I can't wait. I'm praising God out here, but it's not the same as going in with my community, with my brothers and sisters beside me, as one community. Is it too much? Is it too much to get to services that we are able to attend, the services of worship and praise with our brothers and sisters? Is it too much? To get to the only source we have. We don't have the temple. I mean, there's no main source. We have fellowships. Thank God we have brothers and sisters in the same area that can come together and lean on each other and pray for each other, speak words of encouragement into each other's lives. Isn't it cool to not have to sing the Shema alone on Shabbat? Is it too much to get to services 15 minutes before it starts in anticipation of joining and entering God's throne room? with worship and praise? What are our priorities when it comes to who and what we worship? Maybe it's not God that we're reflecting. That's an audit that we should put on ourselves daily. What is it that I'm reflecting? Sabbath is a relaxing day. It's a day of what? Rest. Are we so relaxed on the Sabbath that you devalue the time of corporate praise and worship to the very God that gave you the Sabbath? Psalms 134 is a song of ascents. Praise the Lord all you servants of the Lord who minister by night in the house of the Lord Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and praise God. Hey, bye lift up their hands not gonna do it worship We're gonna do it now. Yes, this is no Something like this is similar to what was done in the biblical narrative with the ancient cult of Israel This is what worship looked like raise your hands up. Okay, you guys getting tired. That's fine. Put them down. Praise the Lord. Oh Many scriptures, as we see, Lamentations and Psalms, speak about raising hands up in worship. Raising hands in blessing and prayer. Hands are important. Why are hands important? Jay, put your hands up. Or Jay, Jay, either one. Someone points a gun to you. Actually, don't even say get your hands up. Someone points a gun to you. What's the first thing you typically would want to do? Why would we want to do this? Just show that you... Show that you're vulnerable. You win. Oh, you win. You win. Open hands shows vulnerability. In the ancient world, it exposed vital organs. You got a gun? Please don't kill me. I don't have anything in my hands. I'm not a threat to you. I surrender. And in the ancient world during battle, listen guys, I give up. Vital organs, like a dog rolling over. Vital organs. You have the opportunity to kill me if you want. Please don't. I'm not a threat. I'm vulnerable before you. I place myself vulnerable before you right now because you have overpowered me. You are more powerful than me. You are sovereign. I surrender. You are me. Whatever you want me to do, show surrender. We see this relief from a tomb in Egypt. And we see the men showing their hands. I mean, this guy's flipped upside down. Showing their hands. It's a type of surrender, but it was also used in worship. for the same types of principles. Showing, admitting, and honoring the person whom you're showing your palms to where they are compared to you, right? And so in Persia, I was really, really, really excited to find this a while back in Persia. We have some reliefs from Persopolis. It's a huge city of Persian reliefs and artifacts, and it was amazing. have a few reliefs here. So this is a throne with a suzerain on top. You guys remember the suzerain vassal and the terminology? I'm going to do a message soon. So a suzerain is a supreme king. So there's a supreme king on top of this throne. And if you look, these are the legs of the thrones. I mean, who would want a throne like that? Throne of dignity right there. That'd be a throne of dignity. So we got these legs right here. And you notice all these people. And there's all different types of people

underneath the suzerain. So most likely it was either defeated kings or servants, different types of servants. These are vassals. These are servants of the king who are now under the king, serving the king. And look what they're doing. They have their hands up. And what are their hands touching? The bottom of the throne. Now I want you to look at the very bottom. This is interesting. This is what makes everything so special. See their feet at the very bottom? Are their feet underneath the bottoms of the throne? So the feet of the throne, you'll see, are lifted up above their feet. You see that? These men are lifting up the throne they are under. I lift my hands to you, God. What does that mean? Or at least in some cults in the ancient Near East, it meant, I serve you, God, and you are worthy, and I will lift up your throne, and I will carry you forward because you are worthy, and I serve you, and you are great, and you are awesome, and I will be a part of lifting up your throne to honor you. I have another release here at a tomb in Perjopolis. Here we go. This one's harder to see. We have the king up here, and of course we have the sun disk and the deity on top and everything, but it's still a big throne. And you have over on the right side, you can see the bottom of the throne stool and all the people underneath. And so I read a commentary that said the way that these people are standing, I don't know how they know this, but... The commentary basically said the way that these people are standing is in unison. They were one people. And it signified the way that their arms were slightly slanted, that it was a time of joy. They were joyful. They were collectively, joyfully coming together to stand underneath their king and raise his throne because he is worthy. How do you raise the throne? How do you lift up the throne? It's so worthy, it shouldn't even touch the ground. How do you do that? What do you got to do? You got to lift your hands. Be willing to say father. It's not about me It's about you because you are worth everything my king and lift the throne up collectively You'll see bumper stickers frequently or you're here about people saying name it and claim it right I claim this blessing from God in the name of Jesus anybody Anybody tried to do it. I'm a that'd be nice. You know, I claim it What are people wanting to claim in their life claiming the blessings of God? Oh? What does that mean? They want favor. People want favor. People who claim, I claim this, I claim that, they're petitioning the Father to give them a blessing. In order to have a blessing, you need to have favor. Would you agree? Would you agree? So essentially, when you see these things, it's a little misguided in the way that it's spoken or even the way that it's presented in a lot of churches because really people are just wanting favor. They're wanting God to notice them. And it's really not something we ask for. You don't ask for favor. You can't ask for favor. It's something that comes from being noticed. Favor comes from being noticed. Got any parents in here? Maybe you've got multiple kids. I want to raise your hand. But you can just nod. Have you ever favored one child over another? Not love. I know we love them equally. Favor. Have you ever favored? Maybe at some time. Have you ever had the impression that you favor one child over another? Maybe it's the child that is more obedient, more respectful. Maybe it's the child that seeks to please you, seeks to honor you, right? Maybe it's the child that seeks not to throw a temper tantrum in public like it's siblings and the child gets your attention. Would the child get your attention in a positive way? You would notice the child. If that child ever came to you, has favor with you, right? Because of their actions, because of how they obey and they follow you. If that child said, hey, I'd really want that new Xbox or I really want this part for my computer. I'd really like this bike. I really want one of those things. Would you be more apt to consider rewarding them for being the favored child because of the way that they are respectful and that they obey? Would you actually be excited? Man, I'm in favor. Anything you want is favor. It comes from being noticed. You want blessings in your life. And you know as well as I do that if you want to work something out of

your life or work something into your life after you pray, God facilitates opportunities for these things to develop. There's really no Harry Potter wand you can swing around magic trick. It's a formula that occurs. If you make the mistake of praying for patience... God will facilitate waiting. Perseverance comes through suffering and persecution. Faith comes from constantly being in times of need and seeing that God's provision is enough for you. The formula for blessings, something Torah speaks a whole lot about. God wants to bless people. That's what he says in the Torah. The formula for blessings is giving. Giving of yourself. Period. That's it. That's it. That's what the entire New Testament talks about. God's greatest blessing he gave to you involved giving him giving because you couldn't give enough it's about first fruits guys giving the first of your harvest ancient Israel understood that they had to give their first of their harvest before they could eat of the rest they understood how to bless the whole crop at the beginning of the year and not only that crop they understood that once that crop was blessed that that uh first fruits if you will was a standard for the rest of the agricultural season. They would bring their tithes after they harvested, but they couldn't even harvest the barley until they brought the first before God. Can't even eat of it, nothing. They understood how to bless the whole field. You want a better day? You want a better life? You want a better marriage? You give the first of it to God. You want your dollar to stretch? You give the first of it. Get out. Time, energy, give the first of it. Guys, there's nothing more life-changing than waking up in the morning and choosing To give the first of your breath of you being awake to the father Maybe you got kids and wife. You gotta wake up a little bit earlier shows dedication If you want to feel whole you give worship, it's a formula nothing magic about it Even the secular world understands it. It's never a need to be in need with God second Corinthians 9 I'm gonna read some scripture drive this point home just a little bit Paul speaking. He says the point is this so here's the what Wow. Wow. This is a verse that I read in our gratitude message a while back, but it's still true. And when Paul was speaking to Corinth, a lot of slaves. Most people were slave status in first century Rome, especially Judeans, pagans too. So when he's talking to people about the harvest, most of these people probably never had a harvest. Most of these people probably didn't have a big old salary they could just give from. They understood the principle that Paul was saying. If you are willing to give the first fruits of every aspect of God's blessing in your life in worship back to him, There will be a harvest. That is what Scripture says. I believe Scripture to be the divinely inspired Word of God. I don't know about you. This principle does work. It's a formula. Your time, your energy, your money, whatever. Understanding this, are you willing to be a worshiper like God created you and made you to be? Are you willing to give praise to Him before the world? At home, at the office, when people see you? Praise be to God. Are you excited to anticipate corporate worship with the other worshipers in your community here? It's a part of giving to God. We should never be reluctant to give our best to God, especially when it comes to worship. Scripture talks about 1 Peter 2:9 says this it says you are a chosen people of royal priesthood a holy nation and people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light Christi was up here and she was speaking about being in Eden as a Believe that we found ourselves back in Eden. I let me rephrase that I believe and maybe this is heresy for some folks I think the angels have lifted the swords and We have access to the intimate presence of God. Not only that, we have access to a spirit, a comforter that gives all peace from the Father in you. That's a lot better than some fruit. The exile from the garden ended on the cross. Jeremiah 23, the greater exodus, took place 2,000 years ago. Exile ended. We're back in the garden. We don't have an excuse being in the intimate presence of God, being a new creation. We don't have an excuse

not to take our vocation seriously, to be an image of God, to be the image bearer. I am going to be the image of God. I am going to be the thing that I was made to do. I was made to worship. And I was made to take the borders of Eden and spread it across all the world. But that can only happen if we're reflecting... the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of creation. Why? Because we become what we worship, and we reflect what we worship. And if we're not reflecting the glory of God in worship, if it walks like a duck, you may want to check what are you reflecting in your life? What image are you wearing? Because that's not going to produce blessing in your life, and it's going to take away the most fulfilling presence that you could ever experience, the most Definitive weight of the word shalom in your soul you become what you worship and I pray That you would double check yourselves to make sure that you're reflecting God that you're reflecting the kingdom we were made to worship that's Included here at fit at our community. It's included at home. It's included at work Your job doesn't have a nine-to-five limit on it your full-time salary big salary, too man, you guys are gonna make a ton of rewards and They're in heaven building up right now. But that's not the focus. The focus is to give worth to what is worthy through worthship or worship. And I hope that this message was at least impactful to some extent for those of you who understand the severity of what it means to disregard the vocation that we've been giving. Hey guys, I'm Matthew Vanderels, pastor at Founded in Truth Fellowship and I really hope you enjoy this message. If you would like to see more messages and teachings like this one, please subscribe to our YouTube channel by clicking here. You can also visit our website to find out more information about our ministry and what we do right here. And if this message has been edifying to you, please consider supporting us and the ministry through our secure online giving portal here. This will ensure this message along with many others will continue to reach those who find themselves far from God. If you'd like to write us, you can do so at Founded in Truth, P.O. Box 38042 Rock Hill, South Carolina, zip code 29732. You can also check out our Facebook page at facebook.com slash foundedintruth. I pray that you stay blessed. I pray that you guys stay encouraged. And I pray that you stay fit. Founded in Truth. We'll see you guys next time.

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