

# SRMBC Family Bible Study

## Worship – Discovering What Scripture Says

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### **Lesson 6: All to Jesus      Luke 20:20 - 26 ,45 - 47; 21:1 - 4**

We want to draw closer to Jesus, but we don't know how. Often, we flip between anxious striving and hopeless inaction, and of course neither helps us to know his acceptance or to worship him more fully. What if the answer was as simple as honesty? Though the Lord knows everything in our hearts whether we show him or not, our showing him is a sign of trust and deepens our relationship with him as well as our worship.

**Group Discussion.** How easy is it for you to be honest with God? Do you talk to Jesus as often and as openly as you would a good friend?

#### **Reasons Why We Are Dishonest With God:**

- Usually we are dishonest when we believe there's no other way to get what we need or want.
- We don't trust that God will provide for us.
- We may put on appearances because we don't trust that Jesus or others will accept us as we are.

Nothing escapes the notice of Jesus. He sees all—our attempts to evade or trick him and our attempts to honor and trust him. **Read Luke 20:20-26.**

1. The chief priests, teachers of the law and elders had challenged Jesus' authority to throw out moneychangers and to teach in the temple. Jesus never let them get the upper hand. How are they now trying to trap him? What do you think about their attempts?

Jesus had previously exposed their hypocrisy in front of all the people (20:1 – 19). As religious as they pretended to be, they still missed the Spirit of the Word – that clearly pointed to Jesus as the promised Messiah the Jews were looking for:

- First, they sent “spies” folks: hired to look pious and religious, but they have an ulterior motive (hidden agenda) - to discredit and destroy, rather than to build up.
- They are attempting use Jesus Words to trap Him and turn the people against Him (Get the Word right).
- By asking the question about paying taxes Caesar – if Jesus says no, they could report to the Romans and have justification for His arrest. If He says simply yes – the people would revolt and call Him a false teacher.

Like the trap question wives asks “Does this dress make me look fat?” “Have you stop beating your wife – yes or no?” “How old do you think I look?”

2. What does Jesus immediately know about the spies, and how does he avoid their trap?

- Jesus knows their hearts, thoughts and their motives – He knows our hearts thoughts and motives too. How foolish it is to try to fool God – who knows everything.
- Jesus instead emphasized that they and all people, being imprinted with God’s “image,” belong to God and therefore need to give their lives over to him.
- Jesus highlighted Caesar’s idolatrous claim, in the coin’s inscription: “Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus.” (Even what is Caesar’s is in reality – God’s).
- He gave a nod to paying taxes while challenging anything less than full commitment to God, and they had nothing with which to accuse him

3. If we are stamped with the likeness of God, what does it mean for us to give to God what is His?

- Every aspect of our beings—body, mind, soul, heart. (relationships, time, money, possessions, education, career, future, food, how you use your body and mind etc.).
- God wants to have input in every area of our lives because he made us and knows what will benefit us most.
- As we take time to listen to the Holy Spirit in worship and prayer we will be able to give our whole selves to God’s will, and become more and more like Jesus

#### **Read Luke 20:45-47**

4. From Jesus’ description of the teachers of the law, what would you say they value most? How does their attitude manifest itself in worship?

- “The seats in the synagogues” refers to the bench in front of the enclosure that contained the Torah. Those who sat there could be seen by all who worshiped in the synagogue.
- Like the spies earlier, these religious leaders are concerned about sounding good (when they pray), not being genuine.
- They want to be noticed and esteemed – but Jesus deceive and exploit widows, presumably by taking their money when they should be helping to provide for them.

A true believer ought to be seen worshipping – Not worshipping simply to be seen

#### **Read Luke 21:1- 4**

5. How do you respond to what Jesus says about those giving their offerings?

#### **The Rich Men’s Offering**

- The rich gave of their leftovers – what they could afford to give that was not sacrificial or painful
- They demonstrated that they trusted in themselves and in their money more than they trusted in God.
- They gave great amounts in order to be seen as “super – religious” to others.

### **The Widow's Offering**

- It's not the amount that matters but the amount of trust in be able to give her all she had to live on
  - The widow's humble pennies are worth more than all of the wealthy people's gifts combined because she has given her all to God
  - She is in a position of needing to trust God one hundred percent, and she does—and that doesn't escape Jesus' attention and praise.
6. How does Jesus' awareness of the widow and her situation encourage you about a situation you now face (or how might you encourage someone else with Jesus' words)?
- I love how Jesus knows about my need/our need here at SRMBC (The building fund, the needs of our people).
  - I can praise Him in advance for the coming answers to prayer – even when I can't see yet. I can praise Him Even Louder!!!
  - When I put my whole trust in Him and worship Him from a pure heart it pleases the Lord. O you can't get god to love you more – but you can always please Him more!
7. What common themes and contrasts run through Jesus' interaction with the spies, His warning about the teachers of the law and his affirmation of the poor widow?

### **Themes of the Passages**

- Jesus knows our hearts, thoughts and Motives – even we think He doesn't.
  - When it comes to worship – honesty is the best policy
  - Even the smallest, insignificant offering – when offering in sincerity, pleases the Lord.
8. From this passage, what do you think God wants from his worshipers? What do you think God wants from you?
- He wants the whole deal—every area of our lives and one hundred percent trust
  - He doesn't want pretense but genuineness. This means being honest in our prayers, confession, giving—in the whole way we present ourselves to him.
  - For many of us, there is a temptation not to be honest with God about our faults and shortcomings or questions and doubts.
  - To be honest requires humility, courage and faith and we would receive His grace, which would in turn deepen our worship.

*Ask God to help you have no pretense with Him and to make you more like the poor widow. Pray as simply and honestly as you know how.*

### *Keys For Living*



In order for us to offer the worship that God requires and deserves, we need to come to Him with a pure and honest mind and heart.



We can trust that Jesus knows us – really knows us. Yet, He still loves us and wants each of us bring all of our issues- great and small to the Him in prayer and worship.



When it comes to worship, it is not the amount or the magnificence that counts but the motivation of the heart. No matter how small our offering is when we give it sincerely and sacrificially, it pleases the Lord.