

The Prayer of Adoration

Series 3/6- Seeking the Intimacy We Need

Intro: Prayer is the human response to the perpetual outpouring of love by which God lays siege to every soul.

- A. Adoration: When our reply to God is most direct of all
 - 1. It is the automatic response of the heart to fall down and worship...
 - 2. On one hand, adoration is not a special form of prayer as it is the air in which prayer breathes.
 - 3. In another sense though, it is unlike any other kinds of prayer.
- B. The Prayer of Adoration: selfless devotion
 - 1. We seek nothing but His exaltation
 - 2. We focus on nothing but His goodness
 - 3. We love God for Himself, for His existence...

I. The two sides of Adoration (Thanksgiving & Praise)

- 1. Thanksgiving: Glory to God for what He has done for us • Praise: Glory to God for who He is in Himself
 - 2. They are woven together throughout Scripture - **Psalms 35:18**
 - 3. Simultaneously, thanksgiving and praise are spread all over true adoration
- A. Thanksgiving
 - 1. The OT is saturated with the language of thanksgiving
 - a. **1 Chron. 16: 4-36** King David chose certain priests to be minister before the Ark of the Lord:
 - b. It is hard to find a page in the Psalms that do not have the smell of thanksgiving
Psalms 106:1 Psalms 9:1 Psalms 30:1
 - 2. The NT also speaks of thanksgiving
 - a. Jesus was the ultimate grateful person **Luke 10:21**
 - b. Paul knew the spirit of gratitude **Romans 1:8 Ephesians 5:20**
 - B. Praise (lies on a higher plane than thanksgiving - Hallesby's classic - "Prayer" He observes the following:
 - 1. OT.- Packed with Praise **Deut. 10:21 Psalms 146:1,2 Psalms 34:1 Psalms 22:23 Psalms 40:3,**
 - 2. NT. urges us to praise- **Hebrews 13:15, Revelation 5:11,12**
 - C. Together Thanksgiving and Praise are the twin activities of the heart and mind
 - 1. They help us to understand the meaning of adoration. "**Psalms 100:4**

II. Tears in the eyes of God

- 1. If we could only see the heart of the Father, we would be drawn into praise and thanksgiving more often.
 - 2. It is easy for us to think that God is so majestic and so highly exalted that our adoration makes no difference to Him. To be sure, the self-sufficiency of God is a precious doctrine, but we should always remember the words of Augustine: "**God thirsts to be thirsted after.**"
- A. Our God is not made of stone- Tender and sensitive
 - 1. No act goes unnoticed
 - a. Cup of cold water
 - b. Mother is thrilled to receive wilted dandelions
 - B. Think of Jesus' reaction to gratitude
 - 1. The Ten Lepers
 - 2. The woman bathed Jesus feet with her tears
 - 3. The woman who anointed Jesus' head
 - C. But what about us? -Dare we hold back?
 - 1. It brings joy to the heart of God when we say "Thank you, bless you, praise you!"

Conclusion: The prayer of adoration must be learned -- Look at our children (Kids in the supermarket!)

- 1. True for us: Thanksgiving, praise and adoration are usually not our first words in our minds and mouths

Two stepping stones:

A. Begin right where you are (Nooks and crannies, fears and frustration of ordinary life)

1. Don't start w/cosmic power of God **"don't you know how much I've done for you?"**
2. Instead, pay attention to the little things God has created (Allis Renner- Bird, sea monkeys)
3. Don't try to study or analyze them, just watch
 - a. My family with sunsets and full moons...
 - b. If we begin to practice this with regularity and deliberately, thanksgiving, praise and adoration will flow naturally

B. Magnify God

- We simply cannot say too much about God's goodness or love- **Psalms 34:3 RSV**

Your prayer

O most high, glorious God, how great is my dilemma! In your awful presence silence seems best. And yet, if I keep my peace, the rocks themselves will cry out. But if I do speak, what will I say? It is Love that calls forth my speech, though it still feels like stammering. I love you, Lord God. I adore you. I worship you. I bow down before you. Thank you for your gifts of grace:

The consistency of sunrise and sunset,

The wonders of colors

The solace of the voices I know.

I magnify you, Lord. Let me see your greatness—to the extent that I can receive it.

Help me bow in your presence in endless wonder and ceaseless praise.

Scot Poirier

Minister

Chelmsford Church of Christ

205 North St.

Chelmsford Ma.

978-256-8901