



KINGS | Week 5  
Brent Hatchett | 05.14.2023

**BIG IDEA | Worship isn't an activity. It's a lifestyle.**

**Definition of Worship: Worship is when you give God whatever God wants.**

**Romans 12:1-2 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup>And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. <sup>2</sup> Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.

**1 Samuel 15:1-31 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> One day Samuel said to Saul, "It was the Lord who told me to anoint you as king of his people, Israel. Now listen to this message from the Lord! <sup>2</sup> This is what the Lord of Heaven's Armies has declared: I have decided to settle accounts with the nation of Amalek for opposing Israel when they came from Egypt. <sup>3</sup> Now go and completely destroy the entire Amalekite nation—men, women, children, babies, cattle, sheep, goats, camels, and donkeys."

<sup>4</sup> So Saul mobilized his army at Telaim. There were 200,000 soldiers from Israel and 10,000 men from Judah. <sup>5</sup> Then Saul and his army went to a town of the Amalekites and lay in wait in the valley. <sup>6</sup> Saul sent this warning to the Kenites: “Move away from where the Amalekites live, or you will die with them. For you showed kindness to all the people of Israel when they came up from Egypt.” So the Kenites packed up and left.

<sup>7</sup> Then Saul slaughtered the Amalekites from Havilah all the way to Shur, east of Egypt. <sup>8</sup> He captured Agag, the Amalekite king, but completely destroyed everyone else. <sup>9</sup> Saul and his men spared Agag’s life and kept the best of the sheep and goats, the cattle, the fat calves, and the lambs—everything, in fact, that appealed to them. They destroyed only what was worthless or of poor quality.

<sup>10</sup> Then the Lord said to Samuel, <sup>11</sup> “I am sorry that I ever made Saul king, for he has not been loyal to me and has refused to obey my command.” Samuel was so deeply moved when he heard this that he cried out to the Lord all night.

<sup>12</sup> Early the next morning Samuel went to find Saul. Someone told him, “Saul went to the town of Carmel to set up a monument to himself; then he went on to Gilgal.”

<sup>13</sup> When Samuel finally found him, Saul greeted him cheerfully. “May the Lord bless you,” he said. “I have carried out the Lord’s command!”

<sup>14</sup> “Then what is all the bleating of sheep and goats and the lowing of cattle I hear?” Samuel demanded.

<sup>15</sup> “It’s true that the army spared the best of the sheep, goats, and cattle,” Saul admitted. “But they are going to sacrifice them to the Lord your God. We have destroyed everything else.”

<sup>16</sup> Then Samuel said to Saul, “Stop! Listen to what the Lord told me last night!”

“What did he tell you?” Saul asked.

<sup>17</sup> And Samuel told him, “Although you may think little of yourself, are you not the leader of the tribes of Israel? The Lord has anointed you king of Israel. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord sent you on a mission and told you, ‘Go and completely destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, until they are all dead.’ <sup>19</sup> Why haven’t you obeyed the Lord? Why did you rush for the plunder and do what was evil in the Lord’s sight?”

<sup>20</sup> “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul insisted. “I carried out the mission he gave me. I brought back King Agag, but I destroyed everyone else. <sup>21</sup> Then my troops brought in the best of the sheep, goats, cattle, and plunder to sacrifice to the Lord your God in Gilgal.”

<sup>22</sup> But Samuel replied,

“What is more pleasing to the Lord:

your burnt offerings and sacrifices

or your obedience to his voice?

Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice,

and submission is better than offering the fat of rams.

<sup>23</sup> Rebellion is as sinful as witchcraft,

and stubbornness as bad as worshiping idols.

So because you have rejected the command of the Lord,

he has rejected you as king.”

<sup>24</sup> Then Saul admitted to Samuel, “Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the Lord’s command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. <sup>25</sup> But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the Lord.”

<sup>26</sup> But Samuel replied, “I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the Lord’s command, he has rejected you as king of Israel.”

<sup>27</sup> As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. <sup>28</sup> And Samuel said to him, “The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. <sup>29</sup> And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will

he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!”

<sup>30</sup> Then Saul pleaded again, “I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the Lord your God.” <sup>31</sup> So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the Lord.

## **2 Samuel 12:1-13 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> So the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: “There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. <sup>2</sup> The rich man owned a great many sheep and cattle. <sup>3</sup> The poor man owned nothing but one little lamb he had bought. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man’s own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. <sup>4</sup> One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing an animal from his own flock or herd, he took the poor man’s lamb and killed it and prepared it for his guest.”

<sup>5</sup> David was furious. “As surely as the Lord lives,” he vowed, “any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! <sup>6</sup> He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity.”

<sup>7</sup> Then Nathan said to David, “You are that man! The Lord, the God of Israel, says: I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. <sup>8</sup> I gave you your master’s house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. <sup>9</sup> Why, then, have you despised the word of the Lord and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah the Hittite with the sword of the Ammonites and stolen his wife. <sup>10</sup> From this time on, your family will live by the sword because you have despised me by taking Uriah’s wife to be your own.

<sup>11</sup> “This is what the Lord says: Because of what you have done, I will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man before your very eyes, and he will go to bed with them in public view. <sup>12</sup> You did it secretly, but I will make this happen to you openly in the sight of all Israel.”

<sup>13</sup> Then David confessed to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won’t die for this sin.”

### **Psalm 51:1-19 (NLT)**

<sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
because of your unfailing love.

Because of your great compassion,  
blot out the stain of my sins.

<sup>2</sup> Wash me clean from my guilt.  
Purify me from my sin.

<sup>3</sup> For I recognize my rebellion;  
it haunts me day and night.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, and you alone, have I sinned;  
I have done what is evil in your sight.

You will be proved right in what you say,  
and your judgment against me is just.

<sup>5</sup> For I was born a sinner—  
yes, from the moment my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup> But you desire honesty from the womb,  
teaching me wisdom even there.

<sup>7</sup> Purify me from my sins, and I will be clean;  
wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.

<sup>8</sup> Oh, give me back my joy again;

you have broken me—  
now let me rejoice.

- <sup>9</sup> Don't keep looking at my sins.  
Remove the stain of my guilt.
- <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God.  
Renew a loyal spirit within me.
- <sup>11</sup> Do not banish me from your presence,  
and don't take your Holy Spirit from me.
- <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and make me willing to obey you.
- <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach your ways to rebels,  
and they will return to you.
- <sup>14</sup> Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;  
then I will joyfully sing of your forgiveness.
- <sup>15</sup> Unseal my lips, O Lord,  
that my mouth may praise you.
- <sup>16</sup> You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one.  
You do not want a burnt offering.
- <sup>17</sup> The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit.  
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.
- <sup>18</sup> Look with favor on Zion and help her;  
rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
- <sup>19</sup> Then you will be pleased with sacrifices offered in the right spirit—  
with burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings.  
Then bulls will again be sacrificed on your altar.

## **GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Has there ever been a time when you were given specific

instructions but only followed part of them? What happened and why didn't you follow all the instructions? Were there any consequences?

2. Does your life at church look the same as your life at home? Why or why not?

3. Read 1 Samuel 15:24-25. Why can it be easy to focus on what the people around us think instead of focusing on what God says?

4. Where have you been giving God only some of what God asks instead of all that God asks?

5. Pastor Brent posed the question, "How does God feel about the way I've been living?" Discuss how you think the God feels and if there are any areas of your life that you might want to change.

### **DIVING DEEPER**

While Saul did participate in some worship activities, his approach to worship was not focused on a personal relationship with God and was used to gain favor with the people. In contrast, David's worship expresses his personal expression of gratitude and adoration to God.

- How would you describe your approach to worship? Does it align more with Saul's approach or David's? Why?
- What do you do outside of the weekend services to worship God?