

Seeking the Lord

#5 – *Worship and Revelation*

Worship and revelation are meant to be inspired by creation.

“For since the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood by what was made so that men are without excuse.” - Romans 1:20

“When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers...” - Psalm 8:3

Scriptures: Psalm 1 & 8 & 19 | Romans 1:18-25 | Matt. 6:25-34 | Eph. 1:17-18 | Hebrews 8:1-5

It Started in a Garden

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. - Genesis 1:1

Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground – trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. - Genesis 2:8

There is so much that can be said about the creation account, the implications, the lessons and the failures of man. But I simply want to point out that man's existence began in a garden, not a dirty crowded city. I don't know about you, but I find it necessary to get away from the hectic hustle of city life. I need the peace of the ocean's waves, the sound of forest creatures buzzing about, the cool of the wind on a mountainside. It makes my soul feel refreshed and renews my sense of awe and wonder towards God.

How about you? What part of creation inspires that sense of wonder?

If you stop to consider that God created all things, is it not true that creation would bear his fingerprints? When you write something, draw something, sing something, put your hand to a task, isn't the final result a reflection of you?

Thus, we understand a foundational truth: *God's ways and character are revealed through creation.* The Bible tells us this in more than one place. The heavens, the trees, the ocean, the stars, the birds of the air, gravity and the whole earth all testify to the greatness of the Creator.

The Work of His Fingers

David makes this famous statement in Psalm 8, he says that when he considers the work of God's fingers revealed in all that he has made, he asks why God even cares about man. Man is so small in comparison to his majesty. It's a question of humble awe and also one that rejoices in the truth that we are indeed known by our magnificent Creator! (Read the Psalms now)

This world has been hand crafted by God. Isn't that amazing? Do you realize that no two snowflakes are alike? Your fingerprints are different than everyone else's on planet earth.

My brother likes to play guitar. He has a Martin acoustic. After an instrument has been finely crafted, it is given a brand... an identifying stamp. That instrument also has a voice.. *and so does creation*. Do you get it? Creation is the work of his fingers.

It is branded by the Creator so that when you look at it, hear it, experience it, you know who made it!

What is Worship?

A former pastor of mine when preaching once said that worship is *worth ship*. It is the ascribing of worth to another. In the Word of God, worship is given to God through:

- a) sacrifices, offerings, gifts
- b) praise, song, dance, and thanksgiving
- c) humbling or prostrating ourselves
- d) obedience to his commands

Worship is about exalting another, giving them worth and the highest honor. When we humble ourselves, we are exalting God. When we offer him thanks, we are showing value (worth) for who he is and what he's done. When we sing to him, we make him the center of our attention and ascribe worth to him for who he is. When we give up something precious to him, we show that he is worth more than the object of our sacrifice. When we obey his commands, we show worth to him as the Lord of all and value his wisdom above our own. (Read Romans passage now)

The refusal to worship God and give him thanks results in the curse of a darkened, foolish mind.

How then does this tie into creation? When we get into creation, it reminds us of the immense value and worth of all God has made. It testifies that *there is a God*. And if creation is merely a reflection of the Creator, then how much more awesome, glorious and worthy is he? It inspires us to enter into times of worship. Make it a regular habit to get away and gaze at the stars, listen to the crashing waves, go on a hike, spend time on a mountainside or in a garden. You will find it does your spirit good. It will make it easy to draw near and worship God.

The Way Jesus Taught

Jesus used creation to explain profound truths through parables. Jesus also often taught and prayed in nature. (read Matthew passage now)

What I want you to see is there's something between the lines we can miss. Jesus says, "*Consider the birds of the air... look at the lilies of the field.*" What did David say? "*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers...*" In addition to the teaching about God's provision you just read, there's another hidden truth here that the mature have learned.

We are meant to receive revelation through creation.

The creation bears God's stamp and signature. The creation tells us about the Creator. Thus... if the birds are taken care of... why would we doubt we would be? This is why Jesus rebukes them for their lack of faith. They are not seeing the obvious and that can only be attributed to a hardened heart.

There is much more that could be said, but I simply wanted you to realize that you must draw revelation from the world around you. Go out into the woods, the wilderness, the snowy mountains or on a hillside on a starry night. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. What revelations about who God is await you?

A Pattern of Heavenly Things

(Read Ephesians and Hebrews passages now) In the Hebrews passage we learn that the earthly Tabernacle was a specific pattern given as a reflection of the Heavenly Tabernacle. Isn't it amazing that the writer of Hebrews was so filled with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation that he began to perceive these things? You can read more in the 8th and 9th chapters of Hebrews.

As believers we are to ask for and seek wisdom and revelation.

As we have already learned throughout this whole study, God reveals himself through the things here on earth. What's important to note is that the purpose of revelation is that we would *know him better! That we would understand heavenly things.*

As you continue this glorious quest of seeking the Lord, ask for the spirit of wisdom and revelation to fill you. Then you will begin to see those things here on earth that are a pattern of heavenly things. You will begin to draw revelation from creation. The ultimate purpose is that you would know God more intimately. Lastly, revelation comes as we meditate upon the Word of God. It is dangerous to think that we can just discover our own revelation apart from God's Word. This is how people are led astray to false doctrines, cults, and error. The test is whether or not the revelation we believe we are getting is consistent with the pattern given us in Scripture. Stick to that and you will do well.

Let It Overflow

As we seek to know God more, let us have open eyes and ears to the world around us and ask for God to grant us revelation and a heart of worship as we discover his divine nature. Worship and revelation are meant to draw us closer to God and into a life of overflow.

Questions and putting it into practice

1. What is your favorite place to be in nature? Why? What do you believe it tells you about who God is?

2. Take a one hour break this week and go somewhere in nature that you ***don't normally go***. Spend an hour in silence and observation and ask God to speak to you about his nature, beauty and ways. Write down what you receive.

3. If the heavens declare the glory of God, then why do some so called scientists fail to see him? It may be helpful to re-read the Romans passage and Psalm 19. Are they true scientists?

4. Write a Psalm to the Lord. Use something from creation as inspiration to give him thanks, praise, or to declare his glory!