

Send Me

Study Guide

Summary

This sermon closes a series called "Worship Beyond the Ritual" by exploring how genuine worship is not confined to a church building but extends into every area of daily life. Drawing from Isaiah 6, 2 Corinthians 5, Hebrews 13, Psalm 96, and 1 Peter 2, the pastor shows that a true encounter with God always leads to a commission. Just as Isaiah was cleansed and then sent, believers who experience God's grace are called to carry that grace outward into their communities, workplaces, and homes.

The sermon emphasizes four key movements: worship leads to mission, worship becomes a way of life, worship sees the bigger picture, and believers are called to live the message. Using the image of the moon reflecting the sun, the pastor challenges the congregation to stop manufacturing a Christian image and instead stay close to God so that His character naturally shines through them. The closing reflection is a powerful question: if the only sermon people heard this week was the way you lived, what would they learn about Jesus?

Key Verses

- Isaiah 6:8
- 2 Corinthians 5:14-15, 17, 20
- Hebrews 13:15-16
- Psalm 96:1-3
- 1 Peter 2:9-12

Questions

1. Isaiah felt completely unworthy when he encountered God's holiness, yet God cleansed and commissioned Him. Have you ever felt too broken or too far from God to be used by Him? What happened, and how did God meet you in that moment?
2. The sermon describes worship as something that 'always moves toward God's mission.' In your own words, what does it look like when worship stays inside the church walls and never moves outward? What might be missing in that kind of faith?
3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV) says, 'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!' How have you personally experienced this transformation, and in what areas of your life is God still doing that renewing work?
4. Paul calls believers 'Christ's ambassadors' in 2 Corinthians 5:20 (NIV). What does it practically mean to represent Jesus in your neighborhood, workplace, or school? What is one specific way you could better reflect that role this week?
5. Hebrews 13:16 (NIV) reminds us, 'Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.' Why do you think it is easy to separate acts of service from worship? How can we begin to see them as the same thing?
6. The pastor used the image of the moon reflecting the sun rather than producing its own light. What spiritual habits or practices help you stay close enough to God so that His character naturally shines through you?
7. 1 Peter 2:12 (NIV) encourages believers to 'live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God.' Can you think of a time when someone's quiet, consistent integrity pointed you toward God? What made it so compelling?

8. The closing reflection asks: 'If the only sermon people heard this week was the way I lived, what would they learn about Jesus from me?' How does that question make you feel, and what is one area of your life where you sense God calling you to grow?

Life Application

Each morning this week, before you begin your day, pray this simple prayer: 'Lord, help me reveal Your character in this area today.' Choose one specific character trait of God, such as patience, compassion, generosity, or integrity, and ask Him to develop and reflect that trait through you in your interactions. At the end of each day, take a few quiet moments to reflect on where you saw God working through you and where you may have missed an opportunity. Keep a short journal of what you notice. The goal is not perfection but awareness, staying close to the Source so that His light can shine through you naturally.

Key Takeaways

- Worship leads to mission. A genuine encounter with God, like Isaiah's vision in the temple, does not end in the sanctuary. It ends with a commission to go and serve.
- Believers are called to be Christ's ambassadors. Because God has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus, He now invites us to carry that message of reconciliation into the world around us every single day.
- Worship is a way of life, not a weekly event. There should be no separation between who we are on Sabbath and who we are the rest of the week. Service, kindness, and integrity are all expressions of worship.
- Our identity in Christ is the foundation for our actions. God chose us by grace, not because we earned it. Loving Him and serving others flows from gratitude, not obligation or guilt.
- We are called to reflect, not manufacture. Just as the moon reflects the sun, Christians are not meant to produce their own light but to stay close to God so that His character shines naturally through their lives.