

Divine Worship

John 10.31-39
“The Likeness of Christ (3): Stewards”

Preparation

“For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away.”

Silent Meditation

Matthew 25.29

Call to Worship

Joshua 24.14, 15

Leader:

Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and truth, and...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...

People:

As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!

Hymn of Praise

Psalm 105.1-11

(Warrington: [*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*](#))

Give thanks unto the Lord Most High; call on His Name, before Him cry!
Make known His deeds in every land; sing praise for all the works of His hand.

Glory in God, rejoice in heart, all you who seek His holy part.
Him and His strength and presence seek; His works proclaim, His judgments speak.

You holy children of Abraham, You chosen ones of Jacob, stand!
He is our Lord, of wondrous worth; His judgments are in all the earth.

He will His covenant faithfully guard – His oath, the promise of His Word.
That which He to our fathers swore, He will perform forevermore!

Invocation and Call to Confession

Leader:

O Lord Jesus, You have called us by Your Name, and we are Yours. The heavens are Yours, O Lord, and all the glory of them; but the earth You have entrusted to us, to cultivate and guard it, to exercise dominion over it, and to use the gifts You have given us to benefit our neighbors and glorify Your Name. As we come to You today, Lord, we recognize that what You require of stewards is faithfulness; and yet we have not always been faithful. We bow before You to confess our sins, that we may worship You in Spirit and in truth. **Hear our silent confessions, Lord.**

Silent Confession

All

Word of Assurance

Psalm 102.12-17

Leader: Hear these words of assurance from our Lord:

You, O LORD, shall endure forever,

And the remembrance of Your name to all generations.

You will arise and have mercy on Zion;

For the time to favor her,
Yes, the set time, has come.
For Your servants take pleasure in her stones,
And show favor to her dust.
So the nations shall fear the Name of the LORD,
And all the kings of the earth Your glory.
For the LORD shall build up Zion;
He shall appear in His glory.
He shall regard the prayer of the destitute,
And shall not despise their prayer.

Hymn of Assurance

Psalm 145.45

(Warrington: [*Give to Our God Immortal Praise*](#))

So let us all in our Savior confide, and in His holy Law abide.
Let us observe His glorious Word, and praise our sovereign, faithful Lord!

Prayers of Praise and Thanksgiving

All

All may offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord. **The Leader shall close by leading into the hymn of thanksgiving.**

Hymn of Thanksgiving

“Now Thank We All Our God” vv. 1, 3 by Martin Rinkart

(Nun Danken: [*Now Thank We All Our God*](#))

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Offerings to the Lord

Leader:

Let us now bring our offerings to honor the Lord and edify one another by His Word: a passage of Scripture which has been particularly helpful; a brief word of praise for some grace of God bestowed; an observation from creation which revealed the glory of the Lord; a word of appreciation for some aspect of the beauty, goodness, or truth of the Lord. When all have shared, the **Leader shall pray**:

We give You thanks and praise, O Lord, and offer our confession of faith together (**all together, saying the Apostles' Creed**);

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,

and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Doxology

All

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
Praise Him, all creatures, here below!
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts!
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Amen!

Prayers of the People

All may offer prayers of intercession or supplication, seeking mercy and grace to help in our time of need. **At the end, let the Leader lead the people in praying the Lord's Prayer.**

The Ministry of the Word

John 10.31-39

The Leader will read the passage for today, or ask another to read it. Have someone prepared to read each of the passages mentioned in the first paragraph of today's study.

Leader:

Let's read 2 Corinthians 3.12-18 and Philippians 2.12, 13.

The Holy Spirit, Who lives in each believer, is working to transform us into the likeness of Jesus Christ. We cooperate with the Spirit in this work, though it is He Who makes us willing and able to do and become that which is pleasing to God. The more clearly we can see Jesus, and the more consistent we are in working out our salvation, the more we may expect to increase in Him. In this series we have been looking at Jesus' earthly ministry according to the roles He fulfilled in it. We have seen that, as Jesus came to seek the lost, His disciples, and the Kingdom of God, so we must learn to be seekers as well. And, as He came to serve and not to be served, so we must learn the skills of serving others.

Jesus insisted that He always did the works of the Father. This introduces us to His role as a Steward of what God had entrusted to Him.

1. What makes someone a steward?

Jesus said it was because He did the works which the Father gave Him to do that we should believe in Him (Jn. 10.37, 38). Stewards do the works assigned to them by their master. Jesus insisted that this is what He was doing.

2. What works in particular indicate that Jesus was the Steward of His Father?

God the Father entrusted to Jesus the work of *reconciling all things* to God and *redeeming the chosen people* of the Lord. Jesus' faithfulness in both of these assigned works make it possible for us to believe and be saved. But they also require us to continue the work Jesus began to do as God's Steward.

3. According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 5.17-19, what work has been given to us? What can we learn from Jesus' example about what this work requires?
4. With what resources has God the Father entrusted you for doing this work of stewardship?
5. How can we make sure that we're always using our time and resources to honor and glorify our Father, like Jesus did?

We are sent into the world each day, just as Jesus was sent, to seek the Kingdom of God and to serve God and the people in our Personal Mission Field by being good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

6. How should we prepare for this work of stewardship each day?
7. How can we end our day as stewards, making sure God gets the glory He deserves?

Summarize in one thought what God wants us to learn from this meditation.

Hymn of Commitment

Psalm 18.29-32, 35, 36, 49

(I Am Thine: [*LA m Thine, O Lord*](#))

In Your strength, O Lord, I can leap a wall, I can stand against the sword.
For Your way is pure, You're a shield to all who depend upon Your Word.

Refrain

I will thank You, thank You gracious Lord, I will lift Your Name in praise
till the nations hear Your saving Word and amend their sinful ways.

Who is God but You, there's no other Stone where we find the strength to stand.
Let my hands and feet be for You alone as I walk in Your commands.

Refrain

You have saved me, Lord, and Your gentleness holds me up and makes me strong;
You enlarge my steps as You guide and bless and preserve me all life long.

Refrain

Benediction

Psalm 18.46, 49 (adapted)

Leader:

The LORD lives! Blessed be [our] Rock! Let the God of [our] salvation be exalted!

All

I will give thanks to the LORD throughout my Personal Mission Field, and sing praises to His Name!

"Divine Worship" is a free resource of The Fellowship of Ailbe, www.ailbe.org, prepared weekly by T. M. and Susie Moore. Readers are free to copy and distribute "Divine Worship" for their use in seeking the Lord. Visit our website, to discover more free resources to help you in your

Divine Worship: John 10.31-39

*walk with and work for the Lord. All psalms for singing are from [The Ailbe Psalter](#). Scripture taken from the New King James Version.
© Copyright 1982 by Thomas Nelson, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*