



SERIES: JANUARY – BECOMING SPIRITUALLY FIT

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Scripture: Acts 16:22-25

TITLE: True Worship

On a recent flight, I sat at the front of the plane. Once the service was over, the two stewardesses sat down and began to chat. One asked the other, “so, where did you meet your wife.” I thought, “this will be interesting.”

She said, “Oh, I met her at church.” The young woman didn’t even bat an eye at her comment. She just kept on in the conversation, and it just got weirder as it progressed.

You see, there is a serious disconnect today in the world. People want to worship God on their terms. They want to do life and religion their way. They try to set the rules on what God desires and what constitutes worship.

But Jesus disagreed. Listen to what Jesus said about true worship in John 4:23-24 (CSB).

“But an hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Yes, the Father wants such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and in truth.”

You see, this is the deal. In order to be truly worshipful, you must engage in true worship. What does that mean? I like what Theologian D.A. Carson said. Carson said it must be God-centered. It is focused on God. And when it’s focused on God, it is aware of Him, His character, His expectations, and therefore conformity to them. This begins with a personal relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. It is only then can we call Him Father. It’s only then we desire God’s standards. It is only then we live by the Spirit and by truth. This is when we will worship him in Spirit and in truth. This is true worship.

It’s easy to see how this woman I mentioned was off. She was living a lifestyle apart from God’s design for sex and marriage. She was attending a church that created God in their image.

But we can do the same thing in our own lives. It can be in the area of money. It can be with our jobs. We do life on our terms. We worship other things. We worship in our way. Jesus says this is not worship. True worship is focused on God, as the Bible reveals.

So here’s my challenge for you today: engage in true worship. How have you engaged in false worship? How have you done it on your own terms? Confess it to God and then get back to the Bible to understand who God is and how to live your life in worship of Him today.

When we worship God in Spirit and Truth, God wins the day.