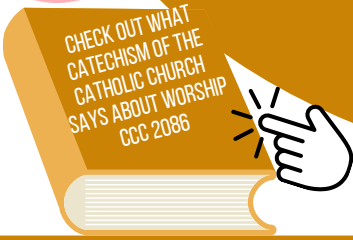




JOHN 2:13-25

God isn't someone on Instagram who is starved for Likes!
Fr Mike Schmitz



WORSHIP 101

THINK OF THE LAST TIME YOU TOLD SOMEONE ABOUT A MOVIE YOU ENJOYED, OR A GREAT MATCH, OR NEW BAND.



What did you say? How enthusiastic were you? What was their response?

WATCH THIS VIDEO FROM FR MIKE SCHMITZ "DOES GOD NEED US TO WORSHIP HIM?" AND REFLECT ON THE QUESTIONS THAT FOLLOW



ANTHROPOMORPHISE:

attribute human characteristics or behaviour to (a god, animal, or object).

What (or Who) did God reveal Himself to be?

Does God need anything? YES NO Does God lack anything? YES NO

Did God create humans because He was lonely? YES NO

Did God create humans because He was starving for attention? YES NO

WHY ARE THE SCRIPTURES SO FULL OF INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT HOW TO WORSHIP GOD THEN?

God knows what we are _____ for!

Our hearts are made for ultimate _____, ultimate _____, ultimate _____, ultimate _____ - basically hearts are made for _____!

When we put other things ahead of God, our hearts become _____ and _____. It is us who lack something!

4 REASONS GOD WANTS US TO WORSHIP HIM:



1 PRIORITY

God is inviting us to place Him first because that's _____.

2 EXPRESSION OF TRUST

In worship we are called to sacrifice, to give God our _____ fruits. Our first fruits represent _____ or _____. First fruits cost us something, so giving them to God is an expression of trust. Can you explain this in your own words?



3 EXPRESSION OF JOY

It's our human nature to want to praise anything we think is incredible. We also want to _____ to other people and ask them to _____. CS Lewis said "We automatically want to praise what we enjoy because the praise not only expresses the joy but in a certain sense _____ it." Can you think of a time you wanted to rave about something you loved, but couldn't find anyone to tell or who understood your joy? In a sense, your joy is incomplete!



4 ACT OF LOVE

We express our love for God when we _____ and _____ Him. Explain what it means to say God is a "jealous God".



WORSHIP 101

TO SUM UP: WORSHIP IS NOT FOR GOD, IT'S FOR US!

THE 4 REASONS FOR WORSHIP

- to place _____.
- to trust _____.
- to take joy in _____.
- to love _____.

Have you ever thought about worship like this before? Is worship a word you are familiar with using? What kind of difference do you think it would make to someone's faith to be more conscious of this?



Can you imagine what went through Jesus' heart and mind in today's Gospel story: to go to the one place where the Jews could worship God and see it polluted by greed-driven commerce and corruption instead of true love and worship for His heavenly Father? No wonder He cleansed the temple!

It's good for us to take time every now and then to examine our own hearts, especially since we are temples of the Holy Spirit. How fit for worship and praise is my temple for God? Are there things that are taking my attention away from God? Are there habits I've formed that are leading me away from who He created me to be? Am I more concerned about what others think than what God thinks of me? What needs to be cleared out of my life so that I can really worship God on His terms and not mine? Am I placing Him first, or just squeezing Him in if there's room? Do I trust in Him to provide for me or do I hold onto things tightly? Do I take joy in God or do I look for superficial ways to fulfil me? Do I love God, or at least try to love Him to the best of my ability and ask Him for the grace to love Him more? Maybe we need to do a bit of clearing out ourselves....



MISSION!

TAKE SOME TIME THIS WEEK TO EXAMINE YOUR PRIORITIES. HOW MUCH OF YOUR HEART DO THESE THINGS TAKE UP? ARE THESE THINGS BRINGING YOU CLOSER TO GOD AND TO BECOMING THE BEST VERSION OF YOURSELF? IF NOT, WHERE CAN YOU REDUCE OR REMOVE THEM? MAYBE YOU COULD EVEN MAKE A GOOD CONFESSION THIS WEEK AND AVAIL OF THE GRACES GOD WANTS TO OFFER YOU TO START AFRESH!



PRAYER TIME!

*Jesus, you know I want to make good decisions,
that I want to make a real difference in the world and help others.
I know you should be first in my life. Show me how to prioritise, and trust that
the path to holiness will bring me true joy, love and peace. Amen*



CREATE A PLAYLIST TO LISTEN TO AS YOU REFLECT ON WORSHIPPING GOD



- The Heart of Worship: Matt Redman
- Simplicity: Rend Collective
- Here's my Heart: David Crowder
- I will offer up my Life: Matt Redman
- Draw me to your presence
- Goodness of God: Bethel
- Great are you Lord: All Sons & Daughters
- Raise a Hallelujah: Bethel

11:58 MINS



Fr Patrick Cahill: Does it matter how I worship God?

9:15 MINS



Fr Mike Schmitz: What's the Point of Religion?



PRIORITIES

TAKE SOME TIME TO REFLECT ON YOUR HEART.

TAKE A **PENCIL** AND DIVIDE YOUR HEART INTO SPACES AND WRITE DOWN WHAT OR WHO OCCUPIES THOSE SPACES e.g. family, friends, hobbies, worries, socialising, screen time etc. SOME SPACES MIGHT BE BIGGER THAN OTHERS.



IS THERE ROOM FOR GOD? IS HE TAKING UP THE MAJORITY OF YOUR SPACE?

IF NOT, WHAT COULD BE REDUCED OR REMOVED?

GET OUT YOUR ERASER AND RE-DRAW THE LINES IF YOU CAN.