



LOVE GOD

WORSHIP GOD

Part 1: Removing the false objects of worship

*“My people have committed two sins:
They have forsaken me, the spring of living water,
and have dug their own cisterns,
broken cisterns that cannot hold water.
Jeremiah 2:12-13*

In biblical times, cisterns were wells or reservoirs that were dug into the ground or in the cliffs of rocks to collect and store water. They were very important in the land of Israel due to the long dry seasons and very few natural springs. Occasionally, a cistern would be dug and would crack or be broken in some fashion and would then be almost worthless. The only purpose it could serve then would be to use it as a tomb.

God uses this imagery of a broken cistern to show what the Israelites had been doing in turning to things that would never fill or satisfy them. They had created false objects of worship, or broken cisterns. They turned to these instead of God, who offered a spring of living water which would always satisfy.

Reflect on and answer the following:

1. What are some of the broken cisterns you've run to or are running to in order to be filled?

2. Are they working?



3. In what ways do they fill or satisfy? In what ways are they broken or in the end, actually leave you dry?

Part 2: Be filled with real life

Instead of drinking out of a broken well that will never satisfy, God invites to be filled by Him. Listen to God's invitation to you from the following verses:

*“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters; and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Is. 55:1-2*

*Jesus said “whoever drinks this water will be thirsty again,
but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst.
Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water
welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13-14*

*“Taste and see that the Lord is good.
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him”
Psalm 34:8*

Reflect on and answer the following:

1. What in the above passages stands out to you?



Jesus knew we might be tempted to get things backward, so when asked what is most important in all of Scripture, he said:

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment.
(Matthew 22:37-38)

We could simplify it and say, "Love God first, then appreciate the gifts. Our hearts were designed to love and be loved by something infinite, something grand, something eternal. We were designed to be filled by and worship God.

1. What are the things you are worshiping / looking to as a god to satisfy you eternally? Are you willing to fire "these objects of worship" from their position as gods?



2. Write a “termination” letter to each “object of worship” you are needing to fire from the role of playing god in your life. Example...

- “Dear food, this is your notice that you are fired, effective immediately, from the role of being god. You have failed miserably in meeting the deepest longings of my heart by...”
- “Dear sex,”
- “Dear job, ...”
- etc.

3. Write a surrender letter to God asking Him to be the One to truly be God in your life & to be the One to fully satisfy your soul.

Example...

“God, I’m so sorry I have turned to so many other false objects of worship or false gods. They have all failed miserably at being god or satisfying my soul. I want you to be the object of my worship & I want to worship you with my life.”



Part 2 – Worship God with your life

Worship is so much more than singing songs to God on Sunday mornings. We can worship God in an infinite number of ways. We can worship God through our work by working heartily unto Him. We can worship God in our fun by inviting him into our adventures and enjoying Him as we play together. We can worship and honor God by obeying what He's calling us to do. Worship cannot be contained to the box we have previously held it in.

How can you enlarge your picture of worship?

How can you worship God in your work this week?

How can you worship God in your family this week?

How can you worship God in your fun / play this week?

How can you worship God by your obedience this week?

How can you worship God with your creativity this week?

How can you worship God with your mind this week?

What are other ways you can worship God this week?

