



INTRODUCTION

Whether it is based around a slab, a temple, an altar or a Sunday morning gathering, the worship of God is a subject that is often discussed and often misunderstood, because its contours and shapes are not being guided by scripture. Let's look long and hard at the patterns of worship that the returning exiles brought to the forefront in Ezra 3.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

True Worship is Rooted in Obedience (Ezra 3:2;4;10)

1. Read John 14:14-24. What comes before obedience? What ought to be the effect of love and worship of God? In what ways can you cultivate a heart of worship for God? How should that affect your obedience?
2. Read Matthew 28:16-20. What does being a disciple have to do with worship? How have you been disciplined to worship God with your whole life, being and identity?
3. In both of these passages and the Ezra text where does the authority come from on what, when, how and who to worship? What area of your life is God calling you to explore and surrender to God to see if you are worshipping and being obedient?

True Worship begins with Atonement. (Ezra 3:1-7)

1. Before we can worship, serve, and obey what must happen? Why? In what area of your life is God seeking to free you from exile? What keeps you from repenting?
2. In what areas of your life do you need to remember that your sins have been atoned for and you can walk in freedom?

True Worship Celebrates God's Presence. (Ezra 3:8-10)

1. Are you worshipping as the returned exiles were? Why or why not? Do you worship corporately with the same enthusiasm? Why or why not? Why is God showing this to you?
2. How can you take steps physically, mentally or spiritually to celebrate God's unmatched glory? How does that apply to a corporate worship gathering, like a Sunday morning service?
3. What can you celebrate about God's presence based upon Matthew 28:16-20 and John 14:14-24?