

Worship God with your Talents

Matthew 25:14-30

In his book, *Desiring God*, author John Piper makes the case for changing one word in the old tradition. Instead of saying, “The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever,” Piper states, “The chief end of man is to glorify God BY enjoying Him forever.” Piper believes that “*God is most glorified in me when I am most satisfied in Him.*”

In the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30), the faithful servant is invited to share his master’s joy (25:21, 23). Thus, one of the ways we can worship God and share in his joy is to serve him faithfully.

☐ God has entrusted each of us with many resources (14-18)

The type and amount is chosen for us and tailored to us

We are to accomplish as much as possible with what we have

☐ God will hold us accountable for what we do with his resources (19-30)

• Faithfulness will be rewarded (20-23)

God only expects what is appropriate

The rewards are not based on results, but on faithful service

The greatest reward is sharing the master’s joy

• Unfaithfulness will be judged (24-30)

Unfaithful people misunderstand God’s character

Unfaithful people lose not only rewards, but a relationship with God as well

Use all you have and all you are for God’s glory

Principles of Worship

We tend to equate worship with:

- Music. When the music stops, worship ends.
- Church building. We focus on corporate worship.
- Sunday. We limit worship to one hour per week.
- Our preferences. We dismiss anything outside our “likes.”

Worship is a celebration of God:

- Worship is focused on who God is and what he has done (Revelation 4:8-11).
- Worship is an active response to God whereby we declare his worth (Psalm 96:4, 8).

Worship should include a wide range of expression:

- Musical—stringed instruments (Psalm 98:5); trumpets, brass (Psalm 98:6); cymbals, tambourines, percussion (Psalm 150:4, 5).
- Verbal—praise, singing (Psalm 138:1-2); joy, gladness, singing (Psalm 100:1-2); creativity and new songs (Psalm 96:1; 98:1); continual expression (Revelation 4:8-11); silence (Habakkuk 2:20).
- Physical—bowing, kneeling (Psalm 95:6); dancing (Psalm 150:4); clapping (Psalm 98:8); service (Romans 12:1-2); gifts (Philippians 4:18).
- Emotions—joy, gladness, singing (Psalm 100:1-2); humility (2 Chronicles 7:3); brokenness (Job 1:20).

Definition of Worship:

Worship is an act of reverence (adoration) by men and women (creature) to God (Creator) made in response to God’s revelation of himself (his person and his works) expressed by an offering (sacrifice) of ourselves through our life (personality, abilities, gifts, obedience; Romans 12:1-2, 6-8), substance (time, resources, finances; Philippians 4:18), praise (adoration, thanksgiving; Hebrews 13:1), and service (good works, evangelism; Romans 15:16; Hebrews 13:16).