

Fanning it into Flame
Sunday, March 14, 2010
The Heart of Worship

Matt Redman, Christian artist and song writer, wrote a deeply insightful and beautiful worship song called ***"The Heart of Worship."*** Some of the key words go like this: *I'm coming back to the heart of worship 'cause it's all about you, it's all about you. I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it 'cause it's all about you, all about you, Jesus.* Worship is vertical. It's all about him and not about us. As a worship leader for many years, when I heard this song I knew just what Matt Redman was saying. We can enjoy the process so much that forget about the real purpose. It can easily slip into doing things for the way it makes us feel and the reward we get and lose sight of what God intended in the act of worship. There **is** a personal reward in worshipping God. It's his presence. He touches our heart and we come alive on the inside. He is our life. When we touch him it touches us and all that is good. The fine line is crossed when we look to reproduce the same emotion we felt when it was genuine, by doing the same song set, etc. for the same feeling. It must always be heartfelt.

The story of the woman at the well brings out the essence of worship as Jesus meets with this woman who had a shady past. When Jesus asked her for a drink of water she was quite taken back by his request because of the rift between the Samaritans and the Jews. Jesus doesn't blink at her sarcasm and goes on to intrigue her by saying, ***"If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water."*** (John 4:10) She slights him again but gets the same loving response with a prophetic word that the water he gives has an additional spiritual element of springing up to eternal life. When she says she wants it, Jesus tells her to get her husband, to which she replies that she doesn't have one. Jesus goes on to give her a Word of Knowledge telling her that she's had 5 husbands and the one she has now is not her husband. She is blown away realizing Jesus' prophetic gifting and then goes into the difference in the way Samaritans worship in contrast to the Jews. Jesus tells her that God is not interested in their differences, but only in people becoming true worshippers, so much so that God himself seeks them out. John 4:23, 24 ***Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.***

God created us for himself, not in some self-absorbed way, but to be his children who know him and love him and express it in genuine adoration because of his glory and goodness. God is worthy to be praised. Jesus is the Living Water and when we yield ourselves to him, his Spirit comes to dwell in us releasing us to be who God created us to be. This is the truth that sets us free! This is the life Jesus exemplified and wants us to experience just like he did, enjoying a loving relationship with our Heavenly Father.

When the disciples came back from town, where they went to get food, they were surprised to see Jesus speaking with this woman who was a Samaritan as well. They told Jesus to have something to eat to which he replied, ***"I have food to eat that you know nothing about."*** They wondered if somebody could have brought him food. ***"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work."*** God is our sustainer. Elsewhere Jesus said, ***"Man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."*** Moses was sustained without food and water on the Holy Mount. Jesus was sustained without the same when he was tempted in the desert. God wants to meet our every need by having us break out of the mundane paradigms we've created for ourselves and entering into the **Heart of Worship**. God will be glorified and we will be satisfied.

Make worship a daily priority, not just part of a Sunday service. God wants to meet us there and be more than we can possibly imagine. ***"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*** Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)