

Luke 4:5-8
Adoring the Father

Main idea: Childlike faith is expressed through worshiping God. This is more than singing; it's living in awe of your Heavenly Father.

Take a minute to draw a picture of your favorite thing.

- It can be your favorite possession, or your favorite pet, your favorite person...your favorite something.
- I need a few people stand up and do a quick show and tell of your favorite thing.
- Now, can your picture of that thing replace the thing itself?
 - No! The picture of the thing only has any significance at all because of the actual thing.
 - And yet, that's how many of us have come to treat worship.
 - All of us, at some point, and maybe even now, worship not the Creator, but His creation.
 - And yet, God calls us to worship Him only. To adore Him, as a little child adores his father.

It's amazing how much little children adore their parents, isn't it?

- I was reminded of that these last couple weeks, as I've been able to act as a father to a little baby.
- When holding her, or feeding her, or playing with her, sometimes she just gives me this look that says, "You're so awesome!"
- This is the look.

[Picture of Pastor Chris and baby]



But it's not just babies.

- Even if they're rotten little monsters, kids generally look up to their parents like they know everything, and can do anything.
- That's why I love beating my kids in arm wrestling, because then they're like, "You're so strong!"

As God's children, He wants us to look to Him in the same way.

- Worship is when we simply adore God for being who He is.
- God is awesome. God is strong. God knows everything and can do anything.
- And we worship God by just recognizing Him as the mighty and good God that He is.

You know, it seems like it's pretty easy to worship God when we're here.

- When we're here, almost everyone is singing, almost everyone is encouraging, and almost everyone is singularly focused on loving the Lord our God.
- But it's a lot harder to worship God outside of this place.
- It's like this.

[Video of Facing the Giants vs. School of Rock]



See the difference?

- The message here is that with God, nothing is impossible, so worship Him.
- The message of the world is that nothing is possible, so do whatever you want.
- So it's a lot harder to worship God outside of this place.
 - When there are temptations pulling us in different directions.
 - When even good things tempt us to bow down to something else.

The second commandment says this:

You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the Lord your God am a jealous God. (Exodus 20:4-5a)

Do you ever bow down to carved images?

- And before you say, "No," do you have one of these amazing little devices that can show images of anything in the earth?
- I mean, we literally bow down to them!
- A cell phone can be an idol that you worship when you adore it more than God.
- But I'm really not going to rant about the evils of technology, because they can be used for good or evil.
- But I just want to use that as an illustration of how we so easily neglect to worship God in our daily lives.

The question is simply this: will you allow yourself to be tempted to take your eyes off of adoring God?

Luke 4:5-8

And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, "To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.'" (Luke 4:5-8)

There are two aspects of worship: adoration and obedience.

- "Worship the Lord, and serve Him only."
- We're going to talk about obedience next week.
- But this week, we're talking about worship in terms of adoring God.

Immediately after Jesus was baptized, Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted.

- We know from Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus was tempted in every way that we are, and yet did not sin.

- That doesn't mean that Jesus faced every single temptation that we do.
 - There was no internet in 30 AD.
 - Nor were there guns to kill with, or cars to speed in, or Seven Elevens to rob.
- But it does mean that Jesus faced every kind of temptation that we do.
 - He was tempted to have pride, and greed, and lust.
 - In fact, I think all the temptations we face are basically the same as this third temptation in the wilderness.

Jesus was tempted to worship something other than God in order to receive immediate power and happiness.

- How are we tempted in basically the same way?
- What are some things that tempt us to enjoy immediate power and/or happiness apart from God giving them to us?

The answer to this kind of temptation, and every temptation, is to worship God.

- Worship is more than singing.
- It's even more than serving.
- It's looking to God, your Father in heaven, and adoring Him for who He is and what He's done.
 - That will lead you to sing.
 - That will lead you to serve.
 - But unless you also love Him, adore Him, all of these other things we do aren't worship.
 - But when you do love God, everything becomes worship.

Psalm 95:6

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! (Psalm 95:6)

Ok, we're going to play a little game called, "Where does it come from?"

- So the point is to name the most immediate place where something came from.
- Where does a chocolate bar come from? (Walmart)
 - Before that? (chocolate factory)
 - Before that? (Plant)
 - Who made plants?
- Where does a book from from? (Walmart)
 - Before that? (publisher)
 - Before that? (person's brain/ideas/computer)
 - Who made a person's brain?
- God created everything. and nothing was created except through him.

God invites us to worship Him, our Maker.

- What two actions does this verse invite us to do in worship?
- What do these actions symbolize?
 - God wants us to recognize His authority.
 - But God doesn't force us into this position.
 - He wants us to want Him.
 - "Come, LET US worship."
 - God could have demanded our worship. He has every right to.
 - But instead, He invites us to worship Him.
 - And, you know, we don't do that naturally.

- Naturally, we turn to worship other things: the creation rather than the Creator.

So Jesus died on the cross to show you the Father's love for you.

- He could have just demanded your worship.
- But instead, He took the first step.
 - Jesus died so that we, who were dead in our sins, would come alive.
 - He died so that we would be reborn not as children of the devil, but as God's children.

And then, childlike faith is expressed through worshiping God.

- This is more than singing.
- It's adoring your heavenly Father, every day, because of who He is and what He's done.