

360 Discipleship

Sunday 9th May

Discipleship and Worship

Steve started by outlining the difference between praise and worship.

- Praise stems from recognising the good acts of God
- Worship is recognising who God is in himself

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday the people *praised* him for what they believed he would bring them (victory over the Romans) but they did not all understand him.

Conversely, the Wise Men, when they came to the infant Jesus, fell down and *worshipped* him, not because of what he could do with them but because of who he was.

Inherent to worship is a bowing down before God. In the Old Testament, when people meet with God their first response is always to fall on their faces in worship and awe.

Steve highlighted three elements of falling down for us:

- Acknowledging *who* God is
- Submission to God and accepting that Jesus is *Lord* – including over our lives
- Surrender

Following Jesus requires us to surrender control of our lives to God's will and being obedient to this. Jesus modelled true worship in Gethsemane when he prayed through sweat and tears "Yet not my will, but yours be done" (Luke 22:42).

We don't surrender because we have to but because we want to and this is itself an act of worship:

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship." (Romans 12:1)

Q. What areas of your life do you need to surrender to Jesus as you grow as his disciple or seek to grow other disciples?

Surrendering is hard but made possible when we encounter God and see his all-surpassing beauty: "The struggle to surrender is one of renouncing the lesser for the greater."

Let's pray that individually and as a church we would grasp the all-surpassing worth of Jesus and that this would lead us deeper into worship as we seek to love God and others.