***sThe Living Temple***

**Worship Series – Week 3**

 ***Solomon’s Temple***

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| **WORSHIP SERVICE OUTLINE**SEach worship outline contains all elements needed for your worship service. The order of each service presented is only a *suggestion*. No doubt changes will be needed to accommodate the flow and worship style of your corps. The outlines are flexible and allow opportunities to “cut and paste” as needed. If you are blessed with instrumental or vocal music resources, you may find there is more structured material here than needed. It is recommended that the headings of each section of the service be included in the bulletin. |

**Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

Are you educated and literate? Do you have food, clothing, shelter, a car, and some electronic equipment? Then you are among the privileged, the world’s truly wealthy. Why has God entrusted you with the privilege of wealth? For such a time as this. It’s no accident that you live in this time and place in history. Remind yourself again why the God of providence has entrusted you with so much: *Your plenty will supply what they need…You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion.* (2 Corinthians 8:14; 9:11, NIV)

Is that your destiny? Is God calling you to be a more generous giver? Is he calling you to be a generous “giving” evangelist, sharing with others the liberating joy of giving? Is God raising up a great army of givers today? If so, isn’t the fact that he’s entrusted us with so much wealth persuasive evidence that he’s called us to be part of that army?

(*Money, Possessions, and Eternity,* pages 412-413)

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| **HC#81 – O God of Burning, Cleansing Flame** | HC-81 | HCD7-T11 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#193 – Soldier’s Hymn** | HC-193 | HCD18-T13 |
| **HC#189 – Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing** | HC-189 | HCD17-T19 |
| **HC#181 – Onward, Christian Soldiers** | HC-181 | HCD17-T11 |
| **HC#171 – Stand Up and Bless the Lord** | HC-171 | HCD16-T11 |
| **HC#264 – Jesus shall reign** | HC-264 | HCD25-T14 |
| **SB#997 – This, our time of self-denial** | TB-438 – Hyfrydol | HTD1-T14 (3 vs.) |

***God’s Ownership***

**Responsive Scripture**

**Leader:** From the beginning to end, Scripture repeatedly emphasizes God’s ownership of everything:

**All:** *To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it* (Deuteronomy 10:14).

**Leader:** *The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants* (Leviticus 25:23).

**All:** *The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters* (Psalm 24:1-2).

**Leader:** *For every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills, I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine. If I were hungry I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it* (Psalm 50:10-12).

**All:** *The silver is mine and the gold is mine,’ declares the Lord Almighty* (Haggai 2:8).

**Leader:** Search and you won’t find a single verse of Scripture that suggests that God has surrendered his ownership to us. God didn’t die and leave the earth—or anything in it—to me, you or anyone else. And if we should think, well, at least I own myself, God says:

**All:** *You are not your own; you were bought at a price* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

**Leader:** God doesn’t just own the universe. He owns you and me. We are twice his—first by creation, second by redemption. Not only does God own everything, but he determines how much of his wealth he will entrust to us.

**All:** *Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who give you the ability to produce wealth* (Deuteronomy 8:18).

**Leader:** Stewardship is living in the light of these overriding truths. It’s living with the awareness that we are the managers, not owners; that we are caretakers of God’s assets, which he has entrusted to us for this brief season here on earth. How we handle money and possessions demonstrates who we really believe is their true owner – God or us.

**All:** *Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things* (1 Chronicles 29:12).

**Leader:** If we really believe he is the owner of all that has been entrusted to us, shouldn’t we regularly be asking him, “What do you want me to do with your money and your possessions?” And shouldn’t we be open to the possibility that he may want us to share large portions of his assets with those whose needs are greater than ours.

(*Money, Possessions, and Eternity*, pages 151-152)

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| **SB#361 – Fill thou my life, O Lord my God** | TB-246 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#168 – Offering** | HC-168 | HCD15-T18 |
| **SB#12 – Eternal God, unchanging** | TB-245 – AlfordTB-246 – Aurelia | No CDHTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **HC#163 – We Are an Offering** | HC-163 | HCD15-T13 |
| **HC#126 – My Desire** | HC-126 | HCD11-T16 |
| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-257 – My soul is now unitedTB-246 – Aurelia | No CDHTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#? – What shall we offer to our Lord** | TB-13 – Boston | HTD1-T4 (4 vs.) |

**Pastoral Prayer**

*Blessed are you, God of Israel, our father
      from of old and forever.
   To you, O God, belong the greatness and the might,
      the glory, the victory, the majesty, the splendor;
   Yes! Everything in heaven, everything on earth;
      the kingdom all yours! You've raised yourself high over all.
   Riches and glory come from you,
      you're ruler over all;
   You hold strength and power in the palm of your hand
      to build up and strengthen all.
   And here we are, O God, our God, giving thanks to you,
      praising your splendid Name.*

*But me—who am I, and who are these my people, that we should presume to be giving something to you? Everything comes from you; all we're doing is giving back what we've been given from your generous hand. As far as you're concerned, we're homeless, shiftless wanderers like our ancestors, our lives mere shadows, hardly anything to us. God, our God, all these materials—these piles of stuff for building a house of worship for you, honoring your Holy Name—it all came from you! It was all yours in the first place! I know, dear God, that you care nothing for the surface—you want* us*, our true selves—and so I have given from the heart, honestly and happily. And now see all these people doing the same, giving freely, willingly—what a joy! O God, God of our fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, keep this generous spirit alive forever in these people always, keep their hearts set firmly in you.*

(1 Chronicles 29:10-18, MSG)

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| **Drama: The Professional** |

**Tithes and Offerings**

***A Willing Heart***

**Reading**

**Reader 1:** The children of Israel spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. During that time they worshiped in the temporary tabernacle built according to the instructions God gave Moses.

**Reader 2:** Their wandering came to an end when they have crossed the Jordan to enter the Promised Land. In I Chronicles 21 you find the account of God showing David that he was to buy a piece of land from Ornan the Jebusite. This land is where God chose to build the temple that would be their permanent place of worship.

**Reader 1:** David was their king and while he made all the plans for building the temple, his son, Solomon, is the one whom God chose to actually build it.

**Reader 2:** *Then King David said to the entire assembly:*

**Reader 1:** *My son Solomon, whom alone God has chosen, is still young and inexperienced and the work is great; for the temple is not for man, but for the Lord God. Now with all my ability I have provided for the house of my God the things of gold, silver, bronze, iron, wood and all kinds of precious stones and alabaster in abundance. Moreover, in my delight in the house of my God, the treasure I have of gold and silver, I give to the house of my God, over and above all that I have already provided for the holy temple, namely, 3,000 talents of gold, and 7,000 talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the buildings for all the work done by the craftsmen. Who then is willing to consecrate himself this day to the Lord?*

**Reader 2:** *Then the rulers of the fathers’ households, and the princes of the tribes of Israel, and the commanders of thousands and of hundreds, with the overseers over the king’s work,* ***offered willingly****; and for the service for the house of God they gave 5,000 talents and 10,000 darics of gold, and 10,000 talents of silver, and 18,000 talents of brass, and 100,000 talents of iron.*

**Reader 1:** *Then the people rejoiced because they had offered so* ***willingly****, for they made their offering to the Lord* ***with a whole heart****, and King David also rejoiced greatly.* (1 Chronicles 29:1-9)

**Reader 2:** King David stood before the entire assembly to announce that his son, Solomon, would build the temple but that he would need help. The work was great – because the temple was not for man but for God.

**Reader 1:** King David told the people exactly how much he’d given to build the temple. The precise amounts of gold and precious stones contributed by the leaders were also made public. The people could rejoice only because they knew what their leaders and peers had given. They could follow their example in giving only because they were aware of how much each other had given. Unless we learn how to humbly tell each other our giving stories, our churches will not learn to give. (*Money, Possessions and Eternity*, page 412)

***Giving Stories***

**Testimonies**

***“I Will Dwell With Them”***

**Reading:**

*The trumpeters and singers joined in unison, as with one voice, to give praise and thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals and other instruments, they raise their voices in praise to the Lord and sang:*

*“He is good; his love endures forever.”*

*Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.* (2 Chronicles 5:13-14, NIV)

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| **HC#136 – We All Bow Down** | HC-136 | HCD12-T16 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#166 – We Fall Down** | HC-166 | HCD15-T16 |
| **HC#156 – Enter In** | HC-156 | HCD14-T16 |
| **HC#58 – Praise You** | HC-58 | HCD4-T18 |
| **HC#47 – As the Deer** | HC-47 | HCD3-T17 |
| **HC#199 – I Stand in Awe** | HC-199 | HCD18-T19 |
| **HC#186 – When I Look into Your Holiness** | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Message – Defining Moments with God**

***Transferring the Title Deed to God***

[Optional exercise for congregation – fill out the following form]

**Reading:**

God owns all things, whether we recognize it or not. But life becomes much clearer—and in some respects much easier—when we consciously recognize it. The question isn’t whether we theoretically affirm God’s ownership. The question is whether we’ve deliberately transferred the ownership of ourselves and all our assets to him. This self-surrender to God is the beginning of true stewardship. (*Money, Possessions and Eternity*, page 156-157)

***Transfer of Title***

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I hereby acknowledge God’s ownership of me and all “my” money and possessions, and everything else I’ve ever imagined belonged to me—including my family and loved ones. Instead of seeing myself as the ultimate recipient, I will see myself as God’s delivery boy or girl, enjoying what he intends me to keep and distributing what he intends to go elsewhere. From this point forward I will think of these assets as his to do with as he wishes. I will do my utmost to ask him and to prayerfully consider how he wishes me to invest his assets to further his kingdom. In doing so I realize I will surrender certain temporary earthly treasures but gain in exchange eternal treasures, as well as increased perspective and decreased anxiety.

 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Witness: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(*Money, Possessions and Eternity*, page 158)

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| **HC#186 – When I Look into Your Holiness** | HC-186 | HCD17-T16 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#173 – In This Quiet Moment** | HC-173 | HCD16-T13 |
| **HC#160 – I Surrender** | HC-160 | HCD14-T20 |
| **HC#130 – Lead Me, Lord** | HC-130 | HCD11-T20 |
| **SB#255 – I’m set apart for Jesus** | TB-246 – Aurelia | HTD3-T3 (3 vs.) |
| **SB#708 – I want the gift of power within** | TB-496 – Mozart | No CD |

**Benediction: (Congregation in unison)**

*LORD, I love the house where you live,
   the place where your glory dwells.*

*I lead a blameless life;
   deliver me and be merciful to me.*

*My feet stand on level ground;
   in the great congregation I will praise the LORD.* (Psalm 26:8, 11, 12, NIV)

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| **HC#109 – Total Praise** | HC-109 | HCD9-T19 |
|  **Additional Optional Songs** |
| **HC#76 – Shout to the Lord** | HC-76 | HCD6-T16 |

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| **Week #3** |
| **DRAMA****The Professional****By Joe Caddy**© Copyright 2002 by Joe Caddy. All rights reserved. Used by permission. |
| **Topic:** | Stewardship; Tithing |
| **Scripture:** | Deuteronomy 14:22; 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 |
| **Synopsis:** | A church hires an ushering service to motivate its congregation to give their ten percent tithe. |
| **Characters:** | **Alex** – A congregation member**Linda** – Alex’s friend**Pastor John** – the Pastor**Bruce –** A professional usher**Members of the Congregation –** Unsuspecting churchgoers |
| **Props/Costumes:** | Alex and Linda are in regular church clothes. Pastor John is in a suit, and Bruce should be in all black, with dark sunglasses. Bruce also has an offering plate and a name tag with his name on it. Linda has a $5 bill, and Alex has a watch. Various members of the congregation will be asked (by Bruce) for various items to be returned later. |
| **Setting:** | The scene takes place in a church congregation. Alex and Linda are sitting in the front row on the aisle or someplace where they will be most visible. Bruce will travel down the aisles as he delivers his lines.. |
| **Running time:** | 4 minutes |

[***Pastor John*** *walks to the podium as if he is just following a special music presentation.* ***Bruce*** *is at the back of the congregation as the scene begins.*]

**Pastor John**: Thank you, Ethel, for that stirring special music. It’s great to see believers giving back their gifts to God. Speaking of giving back to God, let us now give back to the Lord through the giving of our tithes and offerings. Can we have our special guest usher please come forward?

[***Bruce*** *struts forward with the offering plate.*]

**Pastor John**: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank you for the bountiful blessings you have bestowed upon us. Please bless this offering, as it is only a portion of what you deserve. Thank you, Jesus. Amen.

**Bruce**: [*To the whole congregation, yelling.*] Alright, now you’re all in trouble. Get out your purses and your wallets and get ready, ‘cause I’m coming to collect from you. [*Struts back down the aisle to the back of the congregation and* *begins collecting.*]

**Alex**: Who *is* this guy?

**Linda**: Oh, Pastor John was concerned that tithing is down, and the church is in a little bit of a budget crunch this year so . . . he hired a service.

**Alex**: A service?

**Bruce**: [*To an oblivious congregant.*] Is this all you’ve got? C’mon, don’t hold out on me.

**Linda**: An ushering service. This guy is a professional. I think he used to work in collections for the IRS or some other “organization,” if you know what I mean. He knows “how to get results.”

**Bruce**: [*To another congregant.*] What do you mean, “Do I have change for a 5”? How pathetic! [*Takes the money and throws it all in the plate.*]

**Alex**: Get results? You mean by threatening and guilting people into giving back to God? How much under budget are we? Can’t we get a corporate sponsor or a grant or something?

**Linda**: A sponsor? For church? That’s absurd!

**Bruce**: [*Announces to the congregation.*] Ooh! This guy just dropped a ten spot. Who can match him? Do I hear eleven?

**Alex**: It’s better than scaring your congregation half to death!

**Linda**: I don’t think it’s so much “scaring” as it is “motivating.”

**Alex**: Yeah, motivating people not to come anymore.

**Linda**: Motivating people to do something they should be doing anyway! The Bible says 10 percent, and we’re lucky if we get most people to give 5 or 6. You can only preach about stewardship so much before you have to take desperate measures.

**Alex**: Let me guess. Your dad’s the church treasurer?

**Linda**: *Assistant* church treasurer . . . but the treasurer has been out of town a lot lately, so Dad’s been a little busy.

**Alex**: Sounds like it.

**Bruce**: [*To a female congregant.*] Uh, ma’am? If you’re going to write a check, I’m going to need to see some picture ID. [*Proceeds to make her get out some* *ID.*]

**Alex**: I thought the whole idea of tithing was that you *voluntarily* give up part of your salary for the service of God. It wasn’t about how much you gave, but *why* you gave . . . to thank God by giving back a part of what he has given to you. Some people also think you can tithe by providing services or things like that . . . offering is just one of the ways to give back to God!

**Bruce**: [*Inspecting the ID.*] Oh wow, nice picture, lady. How many cans of hairspray does that take to do every morning? It looks like you’ve got a satellite dish attached to the front of your head or something.

**Linda**: Well, tithing USED to be like that, but people didn’t seem to be thankful enough when offering time came around. I don’t think the Plate Police back there will buy that excuse either. [*Glances backwards and then turns back* *around.*] Heads up! He’s almost to our row.

**Alex**: [*Reaches into back pocket.*] Oh no! I forgot my wallet! What am I going to do?

**Linda**: If he asks, I’ve never met you before in my life.

**Alex**: C’mon! You’ve got to help me come up with a reason or something before it’s too late!

**Linda**: Too late.

[***Bruce*** *stands at the end of their row, arms folded.* ***Linda*** *holds up a folded bill, and* ***Bruce*** *snaps it out of her hand.*]

**Bruce**: [*To* ***Alex***] Where’s yours?

**Alex**: Would you believe my dog ate it?

[***Bruce*** *is not amused.* ***Linda*** *ducks for cover. There is an awkward pause and silence throughout the congregation.*]

**Alex**: [*Stands and addresses the congregation.*] Can somebody help me out here? Does anyone have any offering I can *borrow*?

**Linda or Random Congregation Member**: No! We put it all in the plate already!

**Alex**: [*Even more uncomfortable, to* ***Bruce****.*] We have to be able to work out something, uh [*Looks at name tag.*] Bruce.

**Bruce**: Give me your watch and we’ll call it even.

**Alex**: Okay. [*Puts watch in plate - to* ***Linda****.*] Wow. Being thankful is more expensive than I thought.

[*Blackout*]

***The Living Temple***

**Worship Series Sermon – Week 3**

***Defining Moments with God***

**Text:** 2 Chronicles 5:11-14 (all scripture references NIV unless otherwise stated)

Recently, we honored the 10th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. Where were you when you heard? Do you remember the first time you saw the events on television? If you remember, there was a lot of confusion that day. But in an instant, New York City, our nation and the world were different places.

Moments after the blast, an unknown rabbi stopped to help an injured Muslim man. Stories flooded in of selfless and sacrificial generosity toward others. Firemen, airline employees and common citizens made extraordinary sacrifices to help complete strangers. As onlookers stared with hands on their heads in disbelief, New York City became a welcoming, caring community, a stark contrast from the rude reputation it had in the past.

Our country, once at odds about economy and politics, suddenly banded together against terror, inspired by new rallies like “Let’s Roll.” President Bush led the sentiment when he replied to rescue workers who couldn’t hear his message. He said, “I can hear you! I can hear you! The rest of the world hears you! And the people -- and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon!”

Yes, that moment changed us forever. It was a defining moment in our history.

Israel had a defining moment in their history as the new temple was completed.

As you remember, God wanted to have a place to dwell among his people. He provided the materials and skills needed, and he asked his people to bring an offering. Anyone whose heart moved him to give, gave, and they had more than enough.

In this way, Moses built a tabernacle. God provided. The people gave. God empowered. The people built. And the Lord, who was otherwise inaccessible to the people, dwelt among them. God revealed himself as a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day.

In this way, Solomon built a temple. God provided. The people gave. God empowered. The people built. And the Lord, who was otherwise inaccessible to the people, dwelt among them. “The house of the Lord was filled with a cloud so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud.” (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)

Have you ever experienced God’s presence in a dramatic way? You could sense him near, and you were overwhelmed? Temple building always results in defining moments with God.

Do you think that same pattern can work today? Do you think God wants to dwell with us like he did with Moses and Solomon? Or is God’s overwhelming presence something of the past, and only for Bible stories?

I believe that God’s presence and his power is available to us today, just as much as it was in the Bible accounts. I believe that God still has defining moments for you and for me and for our corps. I believe that he wants to dwell with us and bless us in an incredible way.

I believe that God wants to share his presence and blessing among us in such a dramatic way that nothing else will matter.

I believe that for someone here this morning, that defining moment is today. But it’s up to us isn’t it? Do you want that kind of defining moment with God today? Let’s take a look at how it happened for Solomon, and discover how it can happen for us today.

First, God provides. God made it possible for us to have what it takes to build his temple. Last week, we looked at how the Israelites receive gold, silver and clothing from the Egyptians as they left slavery – enough material to make the tabernacle, which was the place of worship for the Israelites while they wandered in the wilderness.

Today, we’re looking at the construction of the Temple in Jerusalem. As King David set aside gifts for the building project, he acknowledged the Lord as the source of all things:

11Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power

 and the glory and the majesty and the splendor,

 for everything in heaven and earth is yours.

Yours, O LORD, is the kingdom;

 you are exalted as head over all.

12Wealth and honor come from you;

 you are the ruler of all things.

In your hands are strength and power

 to exalt and give strength to all.

13Now, our God, we give you thanks,

 and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:11-13

When you take a look at what you have, do you see your possessions, or things that God has entrusted to you? When you receive your paycheck, do you look at it as something that you earned and that you are entitled to, or as something that God provided you?

This is a fundamental principle that is crucial to understanding the way God provides. It is also absolutely essential to receiving the blessing of his presence in our lives. Once we acknowledge that everything we have comes from God, we look at him in a different way. He’s not just a heavenly Santa who merely gives us what we want, but he’s the father who wants to get involved in our lives.

So, we understand how important it is to realize that everything we have comes from God.

Second, we choose to give back to God. Hannah prayed to God that he would give her a son, and God honored her request with her son, Samuel. In thanks to God, Hannah dedicated Samuel to the Lord and gave him back for service in the Temple. In a sense, that’s what we do when we dedicate a baby in The Salvation Army. We understand that this precious gift of a child is from God, and we give him back, pledging to do our best to raise the child in the knowledge of God.

As God gives to you, how do you acknowledge that? Do you ever stop to think that some of God’s provision is given for the express purpose of building his house? Does it dawn on you that part of his goodness to us is so that he can dwell among us and lead us through defining moments in our lives?

We do have a choice. We can give back to God, or we can keep it for ourselves. We talked last week about that same choice that confronted the Israelites. In their impatience, rather than keeping the resources God provided for them to build the Tabernacle, they chose to build a false God. But by doing this, they forgot about God and decided to look for blessings on their own.

Have you been on your own in building your own blessings? If so, what does that say about your faith? God still gives us the choice. It is the choice between worship and selfishness. The choice between building a temple or building your own castle. The choice between drawing closer to God and running away from him. The choice between receiving God’s defining moments and relying on what little you can scrape together on your own.

It has been said, “You can’t out-give God.” But today, we are discovering that “You can’t out-bless God.”

So the first key to experiencing God’s defining moments is understanding that God provides all things. And the second is that we are given the choice as to whether to give or not.

The third key to experiencing God’s defining moments for our lives is to worship him. Our scripture passage today talks about a tremendous worship service at the dedication of the Temple. There was singing and a brass band and percussion and fancy uniforms. And suddenly, the priests couldn’t do their job of ministering. Because God showed up.

What is the last time that the worship service had to stop because God came in his fullness? What’s the last time that what was written in an order of service had to be put on hold because God was there? What’s the last time that we had to shut our mouths because God had something to say?

Maybe that’s what true worship is all about. Not lifting our voices up, only to wonder if they rise farther than the roof. Not going through the motions, hoping that God takes notice of us from afar. It culminates in a defining moment.

September 11th was a defining moment for our country. Because of that event, our country will never be the same. While that was a terrible event, God has plans for a beautiful event. He wants to come to us in his fullness and change us so that we will never be the same.

Real worship begins when we realize that all we have comes from God. Real worship begins when we make a choice to give back to God in order to build his Temple. And real worship begins when we really connect with the presence of God and receive what he wants us to have.

Maybe today is your day. Maybe today you will find forgiveness from your sins. Maybe today you will find victory over a habit in your life. Maybe you will find direction for a difficult situation in your life. Maybe you will find the strength to overcome something from your past that has been holding you back.

God wants to dwell among us, and he wants to do it right now.