

What was the point of the message on Sunday? If for some reason you missed it,

## ***Here's The Point ...***

“The Heart of Worship is a Desire for God That is Satisfied in Christ.”

### ***1. The Appearance of Our Worship***

Imagine a wife who knows it's her and her husband's wedding anniversary and so to merely satisfy a custom, she gives him a romantic card that is filled with words like ... “I love you. I adore you. I cherish you. You're all I ever wanted.” She gives him the card, but her heart isn't behind the words. She's signed her name and given the card out of duty, hoping to merely satisfy the custom of card giving. And what Jesus is saying is that the same thing can happen when it comes to our worship. There can be an appearance of worship. He says, “You honor me with your lips” (v.8). People can place a high value on God. They can pay recognition to God. They can cherish God in praying. They can prize God in praising, but it may be only lip service. It may be only outward practices of religious duty. We can have the look of worship, but not the love. We can have the deeds of worship, but not the desire. We can have the appearance of worship, but not the affections, and that's the problem Jesus is dealing with.

### ***2. The Problem of Our Worship***

Jesus identifies the problem of worship in how we relate to God from our hearts. “Man looks upon the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart” (1 Sam. 16:7). Notice, the problem is not the appearance, but the heart behind the appearance, a heart that is “far from God” (v.8). When the Bible speaks of the heart, it refers to the place of our motives, our desires, our affections. Therefore, a heart that is far away from God is a heart that does not desire God for God. It's a heart that justifies itself and approaches God out of a sense of religious duty rather than relational delight. “It's Sunday so I go to church.” And so we can sing, but not sing. We can pray, but not pray. We can preach, but not preach. Sadly, we can worship, but not worship if our hearts are not yearning for God. How can we tell if we're delighting in God and longing for Him? One of the ways is when we forget that we are sacrificing at all. When Lindsay and I were first dating I remember talking on the phone, some nights till late in the morning. Even though both of us had to get up and go to work the next day. It didn't bother us. Why? We weren't conscious of any sacrifice, because it was such a delight. The problem with our worship is that we are so often desiring to fulfill a custom rather than simply desiring God in Christ.

### ***3. The Result of Our Worship***

The result of worship that is out of mere religious duty and customary lip service is emptiness. It leaves the soul empty. Jesus says, “In vain do they worship me” (v.9). Vain means empty or worthless. This type of worship is not really pleasing to the person offering it, and it's not pleasing to God who's receiving it. God wants people that come to Him with a desperate thirst and hunger, because God's desire is to fulfill our desire for Him. So, we must come with a yearning for God. “*As the Deer pants for the streams of water so my soul pants for you 'O God'*” (Ps.42:1). We must not be ashamed to come desperate for the forgiveness of God, the love of God, the holiness of God, the grace of God, the instruction of God, etc. And we must ask God to increase our desire for Him, and cause us to seek Him above all. For, when we do, our worship will not be empty, but it will be full.