

We Are Like Who We Worship Isaiah 42:5-17

1. **Ralph Waldo Emerson** hit the nail on the head when he said:
THE GODS we worship write their names on our faces, be sure of that. And a man will worship something—have no doubt about that, either. He may think that his tribute is paid in secret in the dark recesses of his heart—but it will out. That which dominates will determine his life and character. Therefore, it behooves us to be careful what we worship, for what we are worshipping we are becoming.
2. By looking at what we have become, what gods would you say America is worshipping?
 - We've sacrificed millions of our babies as the ancients passed theirs through the fire to Moloch and Baal; **[I watched a recent video of pagans in Europe worshipping in a ceremony for Baal!**
 - We have sold out our principles and nation for Money, crushing the helpless; JUSTICE for all?
 - We have taken advantage of technology, medicine, education, Hollywood, Sports, the media, and politics to manipulate and control people [Low view of people; in addition to controlling, depopulate – **[Ladies at GA Guidestones “500 M is a good number.”** It is if you are in.
3. Worship is important:
 - a. It identifies our God – Ultimate choice **YHWH or Satan?** [**Albert Pike & Lucifer**
 - b. It transforms us into what/who we worship – **YHWH or Satan**
 - c. No wonder God said (**Exodus 20:3, NKJV**), **“You shall have no other gods before Me.”**
4. **Isaiah 42:5-17 (vv. 5-7 NKJV)**
⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house.
5. Worship was intended to be **Radical** and **Revolutionary** to the world in which we live.

I. **The IMPERATIVE of Worship (Isaiah 42:8-12)**

⁸ I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. ⁹ Behold, the former things have come to pass, And new things I declare; Before they spring forth I tell you of them.” ¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise from the ends of the earth, You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, You coastlands and you inhabitants of them! ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voice*, The villages *that* Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing, Let them shout from the top of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands.

A. **Worship Is Going to HAPPEN – Something inside of us wants to worship**

1. It may be the worship of God – **Exodus 20; Isaiah 6; Revelation**
2. It may be to the false gods of our day

Some **Ancient and Modern gods:**

Strange for us to think of idolatry as being something in the modern world but consider this:

There are actually people who worship crawling creatures: In a museum in Egypt, there is a monument to the **scarab beetle**. **10 plagues and gods** of Egypt.

Today you find that there are 330 million gods of the Hindus, 8 gods for every person.

In Thailand, there are 20,000 Buddhist temples. In one there is a 2-inch tooth supposedly saved from Buddha's funeral.

In **China, a Buddhist statue** actually fell on a man and the family sued. The statue was found guilty and along with 14 other statues was actually beheaded. IDOLATRY is rampant in our world. **[Abram as a boy in his father's idol shop – “He did it.”**

American idols illustrated by **Challenger** – humanistic view of man, technology, science, education, military, and political leaders (Reagan ordered the launch when it was inadvisable)

Someone has said that the god of the last half of the 20th century is **MATERIALISM**. I can't think of another generation that has spent more of their resources and time to accumulate more stuff

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than we do today. The rise in Storage Facilities – we run out of room in our houses. It is the reason many people go to school or choose the kind of work they do.

B. Worship SHAPES Us

1. HOW it shapes us depends upon what/who we worship – **Hosea 9.10c**

**But they came to Baal-peor
and consecrated themselves to the thing of shame,
and became detestable like the thing they loved.**

2. “*Hero Worship*” applies to false gods or YHWH? – **No other gods. . .**

In 2009 in Denver, A *Good Samaritan* who helped push three people out of the path of a pickup truck before being struck and injured has gotten a strange reward for his good deed: A jaywalking ticket. The 58-year-old bus driver Jim Moffett and another man were helping two elderly women cross a busy Denver street in a snowstorm when he was hit, suffering severe injuries, putting him in the hospital. The Colorado State Patrol issued the citation. Trooper Ryan Sullivan said that despite Moffett’s intentions, jaywalking contributed to the accident.

Moffett had been driving his bus when the two women got off. In the interest of safety, he got out and, together with another passenger, helped the ladies cross.

Moffett’s stepson, Ken McDonald, said the driver of the pickup plowed into his stepfather, but not before Moffett pushed the two women out of the way.

The other man also was cited for jaywalking, while the pickup driver was cited with careless driving that led to the injury. Sullivan said the two elderly women haven’t been cited but the investigation is ongoing. Ticketed or not, Jim Moffett is a hero because he was concerned about others, but he does not deserve worship, he cannot compare to Jesus.

3. Worshipping less than God = bar too low; fallibility of the worshiped; stifle creativity

4. Jesus kept disciples together by keeping their focus on Him (hero) and the things of God

II. The INADEQUACIES of Worship – Bring Actions of God (Isaiah 42:13-17)

¹³The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies. ¹⁴“I have held My peace a long time, I have been still and restrained Myself. Now I will cry like a woman in labor, I will pant and gasp at once. ¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And dry up all their vegetation; I will make the rivers coastlands, And I will dry up the pools. ¹⁶I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, And crooked places straight. These things I will do for them, And not forsake them. ¹⁷They shall be turned back, They shall be greatly ashamed, Who trust in carved images, Who say to the molded images, ‘You are our gods.’

A. Cultural Compromise

1. Most of the 7 Churches of Asia changed to fit their culture

2. We are called to be Salt of EARTH and Light of the WORLD; Leaven in the DOUGH

3. “*What you win them with, you keep them with.*”

4. Churches are all about Nickels and Noses and use gimmicks to fill pews; what would happen if churches “**. . . determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified**”?

5. Compromise with Baal worship, etc. led to:

Immorality

Military and Political Power

Sacrificing Children

Drunkenness

Works of the Flesh

B. WE and Our gods Hosea 8:4 (NKJV)

⁴“They set up kings, but not by Me; They made princes, but I did not acknowledge them. From their silver and gold, They made idols for themselves— That they might be cut off.

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1. America chose God and depended on His leadership in the beginning – no more – we outgrew Him and have removed Him, so He cuts us off.
2. We tend to make compartments for our lives : **WORK – FAMILY – RECREATION -- CHURCH**
3. Over what area of your life is Jesus NOT to be Lord?
4. I do what I want – “out there” as long as I get the actions right “in here.” **Isaiah 1.10-17 (NKJV)**

¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the law of our God, You people of Gomorrah:

¹¹“To what purpose is the multitude of your sacrifices to Me?” Says the LORD. “I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle. I do not delight in the blood of bulls, Or of lambs or goats.

¹²“When you come to appear before Me, Who has required this from your hand, To trample My courts?

¹³Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies — I

cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting.

¹⁴Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing *them*.

¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes. Cease to do evil,

¹⁷Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow.

Dysentery

There was a woman who went on a short-term mission trip to Kenya, helping the missionaries there. Before she left, she stopped at a remote village where she attended a medical clinic. As the native women outside the clinic began to sing together, she found herself deeply moved by their beautiful singing. The harmonies and rhythms seemed worshipful indeed.

She was so moved she began to cry. Since she wanted to capture the moment in her memories, she turned to her bi-lingual friend and queried, "Could you please translate the words to that absolutely beautiful song?"

Her friend stared at her and respectfully replied, "*If you boil the water, you won't get dysentery.*"

III. The IMPLICATIONS of Worship – Micah 6.6-8 (NKJV)

⁶With what shall I come before the LORD, *And* bow myself before the High God? Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings, With calves a year old? ⁷Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, Ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn *for* my transgression, The fruit of my body *for* the sin of my soul? ⁸He has shown you, O man, what *is* good; And what does the LORD require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?

[Paraphrase – Is God pleased with intricate worship services? Long services? Many contemporary songs/old hymns? Giving more than 10%? Sending my firstborn into the mission field?

A. Implication #1 – The CERTAINTY – God Is God, There is No Other, Worship Him

B. Implication #2 – The COMMITMENT is to GOD, Not to Self, Serve Him

1. Worship works inside – out
2. Purpose is to honor God, not get something

B. Implication #3 – The CONFORMITY to God, Live Like Him

1. Transformation – **Romans 12.1-2**
2. Become like Jesus – **Galatians 4.19**

I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!

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3. More than rule-keeping to appease an angry God

1. A Different God – A Different Man

James Michener, writing in his book, The Source, tells the story of a man named Urbaal, who, was a farmer living about 2200 B.C. He worshiped two gods, one a god of death, the other a goddess of fertility.

One day, the temple priests tell Urbaal to bring his young son to the temple for sacrifice—if he wants good crops. Urbaal obeys, and on the appointed day drags his wife and boy to the scene of the boy's "religious execution" by fire to the god of death.

After the sacrifice of Urbaal's boy, and several others, the priests announce that one of the fathers will spend next week in the temple, with a new temple prostitute. Urbaal's wife is stunned as she notices a desire written more intensely across his face than she had seen before, and she is overwhelmed to see him eagerly lunge forward when his name is called.

The ceremony over, she walks out of the temple with her head swimming, concluding that "if he had different gods, he would have been a different man."

2. Ancient Hebrew Prophets had a concern about WHO their people would worship.

3. Who/what is our God? Whom do we worship?

4. Quick test – are we becoming more or less like Jesus? We become like our God. [*Seen Me see Father*

a. Jesus came to do the will of his Father – Am I?

b. Jesus came to serve not to be served **To do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God** – Am I?

c. Jesus laid down his life – Am I? [**Pilgrims/Moravians**