

Pastor Mark Mikels - September 8, 2019

WORSHIP: THE CROWN JEWEL"

"Worship Abba ... Individually"

(Romans 8:15-16; Matthew 6:6; Psalm 46:10; Revelation 1:10; Mark 1:35; Luke 6:12;)

Intro ... Consider with me ...

TODAY'S KEY WORSHIP ATTITUDE ...

"Worship Abba ... INDIVIDUALLY"

**INDIVIDUALLY... Personally, Privately, Independently
Discretely, Separately,**

"As though you were the only one worshipping Him"

And, of course, when we come before our Heavenly Abba individually,
all the previous worship attitudes we have discussed apply.

We are to come **reverently**, and **exclusively**, and **reflectively**, and
submissively and **confidently** and **thankfully** and **joyfully** and **receptively**.

However, as we come fully fortified by those wide-ranging worship attitudes,
we come to Him with this very special perspective:

"This Experience is between Him and me alone."

It's to be carried out (as we have already said)
**"Personally, and privately and independently
and discretely and separately."**

**It's Individual Worship - one on ONE worship!
And it is an anticipated part of our Life with Abba.**

Now this might be something that you haven't ever thought much
about - You might think that **'Worship is worship'** but it's not.

There's **'Individual Worship'** (today's focus)
and there's **"Corporate Worship"** (next week's focus).

Three Key Aspects of Individual Worship: (mine and yours)

I. MY FOCUS FOR INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP

*"I am a Born-Again **CHILD** of God" - Romans 8:16*

*"You are my Abba **FATHER**." - Romans 8:15*

*"All that **YOU** are is mine to **ENJOY**."*

Let's take those statements one by one and ponder them a bit for each of them expresses an incredible reality.

Here's the **FIRST** of those three 'Focus-Forming Statements' ...

"I am a Born-Again Child of God"

This is the reality that allows us to come in the first place.

Here's how the Scripture passage that supports it reads - **Romans 8:16**

"The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's Children."

Our personal, individual worship **begins** with that understanding!

Here's the **SECOND** 'Focus-Forming Statement' ...

"You are my Abba Father"

What earthly father cannot recall and did not delight in the moment when his child first recognized him as 'Daddy.'

Here's the Scripture passage that tells us how that recognition comes about with our Heavenly Father - **Romans 8:15:**

"... You received the Spirit of sonship. And by him, we (you) cry: "Abba, Father."

When our Heavenly Father gave us spiritual birth by His Powerful Holy Spirit, He planted within us an ability and a desire to relate to Him as Father ...

As our very special 'Daddy God' - our '**Abba Father**.'

Here now is the **THIRD** of those 'Focus-Forming Statements' ...

"All that YOU are is mine to enjoy."

Little children delight in discovering and declaring the amazing abilities that their father possesses. All that he is is for them to enjoy!

This is where our **Daily Worship Focus** list can come into play.

Over the course of a month, we remind ourselves of and delight ourselves in 30 incredible aspects of our Heavenly Abba's Nature.

Today's is:
"My Abba is Mysteriously Purposeful"
- Though never obvious, His plans are marvelous.

So that's '**My Focus for Individual Worship**' ...

Consider now what we are identifying this morning as ...

II. MY PRACTICE FOR INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP

(How should I go about doing it? - two Scriptural directives)

"Go into your **CLOSET** - Be **STILL** and **KNOW** that I am God."

(Matthew 6:6; Psalm 46:10)

(Three applications of those Scriptural Directives)

Be **PRIVATE** - "Just me and my **ABBA**"

Be **INTENTIONAL** - "I am not here by **ACCIDENT**"

Be **RELAXED** - "Nothing can **HARM** me or **STRESS** me"

Now let's take those **Three Applications** one by one:

"Be Private - Just me and Abba"

That's why it's called '**Individual Worship**.'

Our Abba Father desires to have a meaningful, enjoyable relationship with each of his Blood-Bought Children. There is a part of His Great Heart that is devoted to each of them.

Being an infinite Spirit, there is more than enough of Him to go around. You never need to feel that you are intruding on someone else's time with your Heavenly Father when you come to him in worship and prayer.

He is available to you whenever you choose to come, and He is available to you for as long as you choose to stay.

"Be Intentional - I am not here by accident."

Individual worship begins with a personal decision to remove yourself from the society of men and enter into the presence of God.

Open the door of your closet as it were and close it tightly behind you.
Here is where the stairsteps to your Father's Throne are found.
Climb them intentionally.

(By the way, journaling is one very good way to 'enter the closet.')

"Be Relaxed - Nothing can harm me or stress me."

"Be still and know that I am God."

That directive was given to the psalmist during
a great time of consternation in the Kingdom ...

It's a directive that we need to follow today ... Don't enter your prayer closet
with a copy of the New York Times or the LA Times in your hand.

Don't allow the anxieties of the moment to control your heart and mind.
Still yourself and remind yourself of the ONE to whom you belong.
Your life is in His hands - this world is in His hands.

Know that you have entered a Sanctuary -
a Safe Place when you enter His Presence.

Allow the Holiness and the Purposefulness of the place to calm you -to remind you
of all that you know about your Heavenly Abba - to assure you that He is more than
capable of caring for you and that He is committed to do just that.

Let this be ***'Your Practice'*** - Your Approach - to Individual Worship.

There's no doubt that ***'Individual Worship'*** should be part of
every believer's life ... Each of us should spent time
personally worshipping our Heavenly Abba ...

We've considered what ***My*** (and your) ***Focus*** for such worship
should be and what ***My*** (and your) ***Practice*** (or approach) for
such worship should be.

Consider with me now ...

III. MY MODELS FOR INDIVIDUAL WORSHIP

(Who can I see doing it?)

* The Apostle **JOHN** exiled on the Isle of Patmos

*"I was in the **SPIRIT** on the Lord's **DAY**..." Revelation 1:10*

Now we don't know if John had any friends with him during this period of exile, but we do know that this experience he describes here was singular - personal and individual. It took place on the Lord's Day and John was *'In the Spirit'* ... caught up in worship.

The things that he was told and shown filled the entire Book of Revelation ... Sometimes our personal, individual worship can lead to insights that we would not have otherwise gained.

This can certainly happen when you *'Worship Journal.'*

* The Lord **JESUS** himself ...

*"... Jesus got up ... and went to a **SOLITARY** place where he **PRAYED**." - Mark 1:35*

*"Jesus went out to a **MOUNTAINSIDE** ... and spent the **NIGHT** praying to God." - Luke 6:12*

Jesus had to work to find a 'Closet' ... He was hardly ever alone. Here we see him twice choosing Time with His Abba over sleep.

I'm positive he didn't spend the whole night in prayer because he had such a long prayer list ... He was renewing his relationship with his Heavenly Father and enjoying entering into the presence of the Almighty. Refreshment came and insights were gained as he spent those nights in personal - Individual - Worship.

Final Thot ...

All true worship is first of all **INDIVIDUAL**.
We come into the Father's Presence **ONE** by **ONE**.