



7. O why should I adore Him?

“Where is the one who is born king of the Jews? For we saw his star, when it rose, and have come to adore him.”
(Matthew 2: 1-2)

NOTES & QUOTES FROM PODCAST

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem. The refrain of the popular Christmas hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” instructs us thrice to follow the example of the wise men. “O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!”

1. What is Adoration?

Adoration is the deep love and respect paid to someone we worship, usually a divine being. Most versions of the New Testament do not use the word *adore* in reference to our worship of God. They translate the Greek word *proskuneó* (pros -kooneh'-o) as “worship.” In Greek, *proskuneó* literally means “to kiss the ground in reverence before someone.” The Greeks, reserved such an honour for gods alone. With this in mind, *adore* seems to suit the word better, I am going to translate *proskuneó* as *adore* in this.

2. Adoration basics

A couple of quick points on adoration before, I reflect on why it is important to adore God. First, adoration is reserved only for God. This is what Jesus reminds Satan being tempted. “*It is written, ‘You shall adore the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.’*” (Luke 4:8). Such exclusivity of adoration ensures that every area of our life is under God’s authority and control. Second, adoration and praise are not the same thing, though they are closely related. Adoration goes far beyond praise and gets to the heart of how we see God. To truly adore, we must let go of our self and like David be willing to become a fool for God.

3. Why should we adore Him?

Now let’s get to answer the title of this reflection. O, why should we adore Him?” While there are many reasons for this, let me offer three.

4. Adore Him for who He is

Firstly, we adore Jesus for who He is, not just for what He has done or is going to do for us. Think about this: Would we continue to adore God if, from tomorrow, God’s miraculous mercy and wonderful blessings disappear from our lives? Would God still be worthy of our worship? For example, did the God we adore cease being God when the pandemic struck and our prosperous life became history? Do you and I only adore God for what he can do for us? I hope not, and I do hope like Habakkuk we can all truthfully say, “*Though the fig tree does not bud, and there*

are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails, and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.”

4. Adore Him as we become like what we worship

Secondly, we worship God because we become like what we worship! The psalmist while speaking of idols says, “*Those who make them have become just like them.*” (Psalms 115:8)

Our idols can be physical deities, or money, our jobs, or even movie stars.

If we adore them above God, our lives will become meaningless and worthless as the idols we pursue.

But, when we adore God, and give Him priority we can hope to become like God. As a bonus, all the other things we pursue, will be received when we adore God. Jesus promised us, “*Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*” (Matthew 6:33)

5. Adore Him as our acts of worship

Third and finally, when we adore the Lord, our daily activities become acts of worship. Only when our deepest love and adoration is reserved for our Savior will all other loves find their proper place. Yes, by adoring God we are able to really begin loving our families, colleagues and friends.

REFLECTIVE ACTIVITY

- Write down a short 250 to 300-word reflection on your thoughts about this video and need for adoration.

THE VALLEY OF DRY BONES (Ezekiel 37:1-10 abridged)

“In a world where there is so much noise, so much bewilderment, there is a need for silent adoration of Jesus concealed in the Host. Be assiduous in the prayer of adoration and teach it to the faithful. It is a source of comfort and light, particularly to those who are suffering.” (Pope Benedict XVI)

CONNECT WITH US

- Ask questions: bystillwaters.always@gmail.com
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/JaywantMichael>

This study guide was prepared by Jaywant Michael